



Women in Science and Engineering Atlantic Region

Fall 2020/Issue 26

The Women in Science and Engineering – Atlantic Region (WISEatlantic) program aims to shift gendered STEM stereotypes. We empower girls to consider Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)-based careers by raising their awareness of the diversity of jobs within these fields, and enabling them to visualize themselves working in these fields. WISEatlantic also supports early career women in STEM through professional development and networking opportunities.

What's Coming Up:

Biodiversity Bonanza! - A Science Literacy Week Event

September 21, 22, 24 at 6:30 pm (ADT)

To celebrate Science Literacy Week in 2020, we've scheduled three separate 'Ask-a-Scientist' virtual events with three amazing scientists via Zoom! The theme for this year's celebration is 'Biodiversity' so each of the scientists joining us will be discussing their research and the diversity within the field or organisms they study.



Sept. 21 - Dr. Alana Pindar will discuss her research on bees and bee species, and answer the question, 'Have you ever wondered why bee's sting?'

Sept. 22 - Dr. Erin Cameron, Environmental Scientist, will discuss her research on soil biodiversity answering the question, 'Have you ever wondered what biodiversity is in the soil beneath your feet?'

Sept. 24 - Sandra Klement N'Guessan will answer the question 'Have you ever wondered if aquatic animals urinate?' as she talks about her research that focuses on the roles aquatic animals play in the cycling of nutrients.

Are you interested in joining any or all of these discussions? **Please RSVP to Sally at WISEatlantic@msvu.ca** to receive the Zoom details.

Stepping Forward Workshop for Postdocs

November 26 & 27, 2020 from 1:00-4:30 pm (AST) each day

We are pleased to offer the first Stepping Forward Workshop for female Postdoctoral Fellows in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. This virtual workshop aims to give female Postdoctoral Fellows in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields the tools and advice they need to take the next step in their careers, whether that be in academia, industry, or government.

Each day will feature a mix of panel sessions, speakers, and break-out sessions and will feature topics such as:

- Creating Stellar Applications
- Professional Resiliency
- Cover Letters 101
- Networks, Mentors, and Sponsors



Registration is required to attend. Please RSVP on our Eventbrite page at steppingforward2020.eventbrite.ca

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Career Corner: Virtual Role Model Sessions

First Wednesday of each month, starting October 7th at 6:30 pm (ADT)

After the success of our first virtual role model session this past Spring, we are happy to announce that we will begin hosting Career Corner, virtual role model sessions that will happen on the first Wednesday of the month starting **October 7th!** Each session will be a half-hour long, starting at **6:30 pm (ADT)** and will feature two different female STEM role models who will discuss their careers. Be sure to mark your calendars!

RSVP will be required to participate, you can RSVP for individual sessions OR for the full year to **Sally at** WISEatlantic@msvu.ca

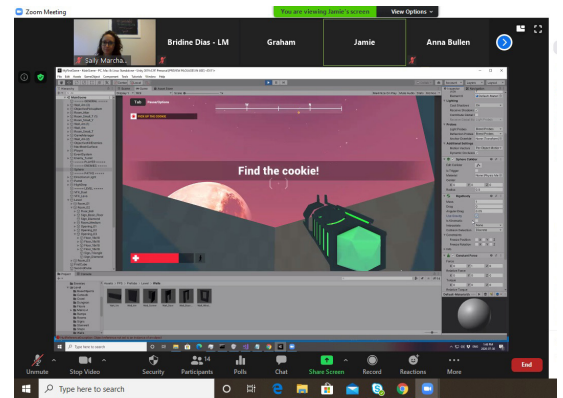
What We've Been Up To:

Junior Virtual Girls Get WISE Science Summer Camp

The 9th annual Girls Get WISE Junior Summer Science Camp was held virtually from July 27-30th. The camp brought together girls from across the country and included two hours of online activities each day. Participants constructed their own Foldscopes (paper microscopes!) and put them to use by collecting small organisms from their backyards, while also learning the basics of Taxonomy. They tried their hands at making their own Rube Goldberg machines for our engineering design challenge this year and the results were impressive!

Our camp sponsor, Lockheed Martin Canada, lead a coding activity with the girls where they worked together to manipulate aspects of a video game.

One of our other activities had Dr. Danielle Cox discussing the Fibonacci sequence and leading some cool math tricks. The girls also got to enjoy a virtual role model session where they had the opportunity to speak to four women in various STEM fields including Biology, Engineering, Computer Science, and biomaterials.



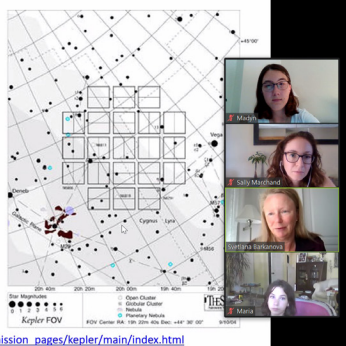
Senior Virtual Girls Get WISE Science Summer Camp

Our 4th annual Girls Get WISE Senior Summer Science Camp was held virtually from August 10-13th. While the camp was virtual this year, it provided us with the unique opportunity to host girls from across Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom! Participants enjoyed doing activities together from their own homes like tie dying using natural dyes and making ice cream. They were able to explore the night sky with Dr. Svetlana Barkanova who spoke on her career in Physics and introduced the girls to the Kepler Star Wheel, as pictured below. Also, WISEatlantic Chair, Dr. Franz-Odendaal, lead a session on Developmental Biology, and Dr. Sophia Stone discuss her research with us and also lead an activity on plant development and genetics.

Kepler's challenge: find terrestrial planets.

Kepler's field of view: a region in the Cygnus and Lyra constellations, with more than 150,000 stars.

Confirmed exoplanets less than twice Earth-size in the habitable zone: **21**



Three female scientists participated in our role model session and spoke about their careers in Marine Biology, Vhemistry, and Industrial Engineering. We introduced the girls to the Matilda Effect and challenged them to research various female scientists who were overlooked for their scientific contributions. Though we couldn't be together in person, participants still shared their enthusiasm for STEM and eagerly engaged with each other to make a truly memorable camp experience.

Don't Forget!

Partnerships Program 2020-2021

It's that time of year again! We are accepting applications for the 2020-2021 year from September 4th to October 23rd.

The WISEatlantic Partnerships Program is an opportunity for community organizations and individuals in Atlantic Canada to apply for one-year sponsorships for new activities and/or projects that promote the outreach, recruitment, and retention for girls, young women, and industry professionals in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM).

Please note that due to COVID-19, we are now accepting applications for virtual programming as well as for in-person programming.

Visit [WISEatlantic/partnerships-program/](https://wiseatlantic.ca/partnerships-program/) for more information.



Past Partnership Program recipient, Terranaut Club

SSTAR Sponsorship

WISEatlantic, is committed to the advancement and retention of women in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) professions. To foster this commitment, the WISEatlantic program is offering annual sponsorship to individuals to host an event or workshop targeted towards graduate students and/or post-docs in Science programs in Atlantic Canada.

Intake for this sponsorship is on-going and you could receive up to \$1500 in sponsorship for your initiative.

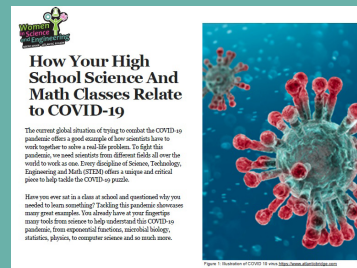
Examples of eligible events include professional development workshops, EDI workshops, book clubs.

For more information on eligibility requirements and how to apply, please visit [WISEatlantic.ca/sstar/](https://wiseatlantic.ca/sstar/)

WISEatlantic Reading Picks

How High School Science and Math Classes Relate to COVID-19

by Molly Murray, WISEatlantic Assistant & past participant



Molly, our program assistant, created this series about how science and math are involved in learning how the COVID-19 virus spreads, how cases

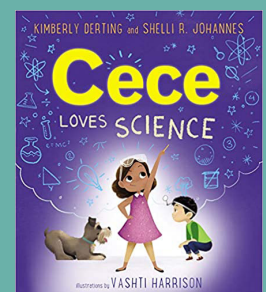
are tracked and how the virus functions in the human body. This wonderful resource is available for download on the resource page of our website.

And for younger readers...

Cece Loves Science

by Kimberly Derting & Shelli R. Johannes

In this STEM-themed picture book, Cece asks one of life's most pressing questions: Do dogs eat vegetables? Cece and her best friend, Isaac, head to the lab to find out



News from Across the Region

Nova Scotia

We are excited to announce a new initiative with our program partner Techsploration starting this Fall! **Insight-2-Inspire** is a virtual speaker series open to both Techsploration alumnae and role models participating in Techsploration's Online Alumnae Mentorship Program. The goal of the sessions is to provide actionable information for career development from the guest speakers. WISEatlantic is proud to sponsor this new program. For more information, please visit techsploration.ca/.

Our friends at **Women in Aerospace Canada (WIA)** are hosting a Virtual Roundtable Conversation "On the Intersection of Gender Leadership & Innovation in Defense" on September 29 from 1:30-3:00 pm (ADT). WIA has selected an article by Defence and Leadership expert, Alice Bromage, about gender, skill sets and the importance of mindset in tackling complex challenges. Similar to a book club, the article – On the Intersection of Gender, Leadership and Innovation in Defence– will be used to anchor the conversation. For more information and to register, please visit: WIA-Canada.org.

National

While the in-person **CCWESTT Conference 2020** has been cancelled, you can still register for their Virtual Speaker Series taking place throughout the month of November. You can find out more and register at ccwesttconference.org.

The **Canadian Association for Girls in Science (CAGIS)** has re-vamped their membership structure and are offering virtual programming for the 2020-2021 year. Did you know that there is a Halifax Chapter of CAGIS? This chapter will be hosting their own monthly virtual meetings as well! To learn more and to sign-up visit girlsinscience.ca

Canadian Black Scientists Network - WISEatlantic Chair Dr Franz-Odendaal has been instrumental in the launch of the Canadian Black Scientists Network, which officially launched on July 31st. This network aims to support Black scientists in Canada through mentorship, professional development, networking, and increased visibility. The next national meet-up will be announced soon! Visit www.blackscientists.ca/

If you have an event you would like featured in our next newsletter, e-mail WISEatlantic@msvu.ca with your submission and we'll try our best to include it.

If you no longer want to receive our newsletter, email us with the subject "unsubscribe".

Contact Us



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For resources, videos, and info about upcoming events visit: www.WISEatlantic.ca



To our sponsors & partners, thank you for your on-going support!

