



Women in Science and Engineering - Atlantic Region

SEPTEMBER 2021 / ISSUE 32



Past WinSETT Workshop



SCIENCE
LITERACY
WEEK

WHATS COMING UP:

WinSETT Skill Builder Workshops

We are hosting two WinSETT Centre Skill Builder workshops for Graduate students and Postdocs in STEM Fields. Skill Builders focus on introducing crucial leadership skills in an interactive 90 minute virtual session. They are open to all genders. We are offering the Microaggressions workshop on September 9th and the Allyship for Everyone workshop on October 1. These workshops are FREE to participants, but seating is limited. To learn more about these workshops and to register, please visit WISEatlantic.ca/events/

Science Literacy Week

Science Literacy Week, a time when kids and families across the country can explore the diversity of Canadian Science, will take place September 20-26, 2021. The theme for this year's festivities is Climate. WISEatlantic is hosting an event with our partner, Halifax Public Libraries, on September 22 at 6:00pm, via Zoom. Youth aged 10-14 will have the opportunity to learn about local climate research from a WISEatlantic role model, and participate in an interactive activity called 'Fake News'. Visit WISEatlantic.ca/events for full details.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

Girls Get WISE Science Summer Camps

We were very excited to be able to offer our Junior and Senior Girls Get WISE Science Summer Camps in person this year! Our two junior camps ran from July 26-August 6, with 10 campers in each, and featured STEM activities such as QR code scavenger hunt, cryptography, algae strings, fake news, and of course zebrafish development. Our senior camp ran from August 16-19 with eight campers and featured activities such as microscope scavenger hunt, math games, cabbage juice indicator art, 3D kite building, and more! A big thanks to our camp assistants Tiffany, Molly, and Madyn, and to our photographer Jeanette for making the camps run so smoothly. Check out our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts (@WISEatlantic) for pictures from our camps.



FEATURES:

Save the Date - CCWESTT 2022

Great news, the national CCWESTT Conference will be taking place in Halifax, May 12-14, 2022 at the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel! WISEatlantic, along with Women in Aerospace Canada - Atlantic, will be co-hosting this event. The conference highlights activities by member organizations, industry partners and government initiatives that are working towards a more diverse and inclusive SETT workforce in Canada. A call for presenters will open in late September and registration early in the new year. To get involved, partner or sponsor this conference and show case your support for women in SETT, please contact Alexia McGill at amcgill@agendamanagers.com.

Career Corner is back, with a twist!

We are happy to be able to continue hosting our Career Corner sessions in 2021/2022. The sessions will still be virtual and feature two or three role models in various STEM careers, however, they will only be held when we have interest from junior high or high school teachers and their classes. So, teachers, if you are interested in having STEM role models join your class to discuss their careers and research, please reach out to us at any time (WISEatlantic@msvu), we would be happy to organize a Career Corner session for you!



Past Career Corner role models

WISEATLANTIC BLOG

Wally Funk's long-deserved trip to space

BY TIFFANY FIELDS

From the time she was 17, Wally Funk knew she wanted to be an astronaut. She had an attitude that made her excel anytime she was told she could not or should not do something, and in the 1960s when all NASA astronauts were male, she fought for herself and her colleagues to fly into space as well.

Unfortunately, that never happened. A group of thirteen women advocated for the opportunity to fly alongside the chosen male astronauts. These women were often deemed the "Mercury 13," a play on the name "Mercury," the name of the program sending the first astronauts into orbit from the United States during the Space Race between the US and the Soviet Union in the 1960s. Another name for the group, however, was the First Lady Astronaut Trainees (FLATs).

These women went through the same incredibly rigorous testing that the male astronauts did. Funk and others even surpassed the males in many tasks. Funk spent more than 10 hours in a sensory deprivation tank to simulate vertigo, and researchers ended the test only due to wanting to go home.

Despite the years of Funk and her colleagues proving they were fit to be astronauts, the United States did not send a woman into space until 1983 with Sally Ride, more than 20 years after Wally Funk fought for a chance to fly.

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