

*EDITOR'S NOTE*

JOANNA BARNARD, Newsletter Editor

Welcome to the first issue of the Division for the Advancement of Women in Engineering and Geoscience (DAWEG) Newsletter. This newsletter was established via a motion at the first DAWEG AGM. It's primary objective is to inform the membership of upcoming events, ongoing activities of the Division, and other issues of interest. The newsletter will be a way of improving communication with members outside the lower mainland who can't make it to the meetings.

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Each issue will include some or all of the following material information:

The newsletter will be issued approximately the first of every other month, i.e. February, April, June, etc. Submissions for inclusion in a particular issue should be submitted at least three weeks before the date of issue.

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- announcements of coming DAWEG events
- announcements of other events of interest to members
- reports of DAWEG meetings
- reports from DAWEG programme committees, eg social, mentoring, school counselling and outreach
- letters and articles submitted by members.

*IN THIS ISSUE ...*

- First DAWEG AGM*
- Project for Women in Engineering*
- Membership Information*
- Social Corner*
- School Counselling Workshop*
- The Mentoring Programme*
- Members' Page*

If you have a strong opinion about an issue and you want to know if others agree or disagree (or care!), or if you hear about a program or event that you think would interest DAWEG members, please write a letter or article and send it to me at the following address:

## FIRST DAWEG AGM

CATHERINE ROOME, Secretary

On October 5, 1991, the newly created Division for the Advancement of Women in Engineering and Geoscience held its first Annual General Meeting at Science World in Vancouver. It was attended by more than 50 men and women. Participant Christopher Frances later said, "I attended the AGM because I was curious about what was being done to encourage women to consider engineering as a career - what shocked me the most was hearing that only 2.2% of the registered engineers (in B.C.) are women. That's the reason any engineer should get involved. A number like 2.2% is appalling".

"We hope to address five main issues: mentoring, school counselling, social networking, child care, and career advancement," said former Chair Karen Savage in her opening remarks to the members.

The AGM was held to elect the new executive committee (see list below) and to vote on a number of initiatives such as a bi-monthly newsletter, membership dues, and an information package for interested individuals and organizations, including prospective members.

The Division activities do extend beyond the AGM initiatives. Sheri Reed has established the school counselling programme - an ongoing enterprise where engineers actively participate with elementary and high school students, discussing engineering both as a career choice, and as a process which touches their lives daily. And the Division has established a mentoring programme, pairing up engineering students with EITs and EITs with older Professional engineers for personal development, networking and career advice.

Newly elected Chair Jane Hildebrand explained that the Division was formed in response to feedback from individuals who attended the public forum "Barriers and Bridges", in November 1990, which was sponsored by the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers. "Participants expressed a

strong interest in continuing networking opportunities with other people on issues relating to women in engineering". She added, "There are many different perspectives within the Division membership. Some members are interested in particular issues and want to work towards implementing change, while others' interests focus on the social networking aspect of the Division. The Division provides an opportunity for all members to meet and share ideas."

The following people were elected to the Executive Committee:

Chair:	Jane Hildebrand
Vice Chair:	Patti Turner
Past Chair:	Karen Savage
Secretary:	Catherine Roome
Treasurer:	Andrea Zaradic
Newsletter:	Joanna Barnard
Social:	Diana Noble
School Counselling:	Sheri Reed and Nancy Paris-Seeley
Mentoring:	Frances (Beattie) Evans and Karen Levine
Outreach:	Marjorie Buckley

*We would like to hear from you. Please send questions or comments to the Division for the Advancement of Women in Engineering and Geoscience, care of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia.*

**PROJECT FOR WOMEN IN ENGINEERING**

**SARAH DENCH**

The Faculty of Applied Science at the University of British Columbia is taking measures to address the low number of women in engineering. The Faculty and the Women Students' Office at UBC have embarked on a joint Project for Women in Engineering, which I co-ordinate. The project is based on comprehensive programs in place at U.S. universities such as Purdue and the University of Washington. The objectives are multi-faceted and include:

- assessing the quality of the learning environment,
- sensitizing faculty and staff to issues pertaining to women students,
- recruiting young women into engineering,
- examining patterns of retention for women engineering students,
- implementing some initial support activities for women enrolled in engineering at UBC.

A specific goal of the Faculty is to raise the number of women enrolling to 30% by the mid-90's. Enrolment in first-year for 1991 has risen from 14% last year to 20% this year. The average over the last six years was 12%. As yet, there are no other comprehensive programs for women in engineering at Canadian universities, although some have been proposed. At UBC we hope that the number of women enrolling will continue to increase, and that the number of women graduating from engineering will be consistent with enrolment figures. The Project for Women in Engineering is a significant step in ensuring that happens.

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

One of Marjorie Buckley's tasks as Outreach Co-ordinator is to develop procedures for attracting members to the Division. She'll be targeting engineers currently registered as well as new graduates and engineers new to the province.

Until we have an established membership, APEGBC have agreed to fund the printing and mailing of this newsletter to people and organizations identified as potential DAWEG members. This subsidy will be for a limited time only, so in a future issue you will be asked whether or not you wish to become a member and continue to receive the newsletter.

If you know people who are interested in the Division, but aren't on our mailing list, please give them a copy of your newsletter and ask them to contact Marjorie or Catherine Roome, via the Association, to get their names added to the mailing list.

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**SOCIAL CORNER**

**DIANA NOBLE, Social Committee**

DAWEG hosted its first annual Christmas dinner on December 3, 1991 at the Engineer's Club. The thirty-eight attendees enjoyed a terrific Christmas feast including turkey and all the trimmings. Annette O'Shea Roche, president of First Target Marketing, entertained us all with her talk entitled "Man Handling", a discussion of the differences in communication styles of men and women. Congratulations to the winners of the door prizes.

The next social event will take place on **February 12** at 7 pm at the Engineer's Club. The speaker will be Wendy Baker, President of the BC Branch of the Canadian Bar Association. She will be speaking on current BC and Canadian initiatives in the study of gender bias in the legal profession and the justice system.

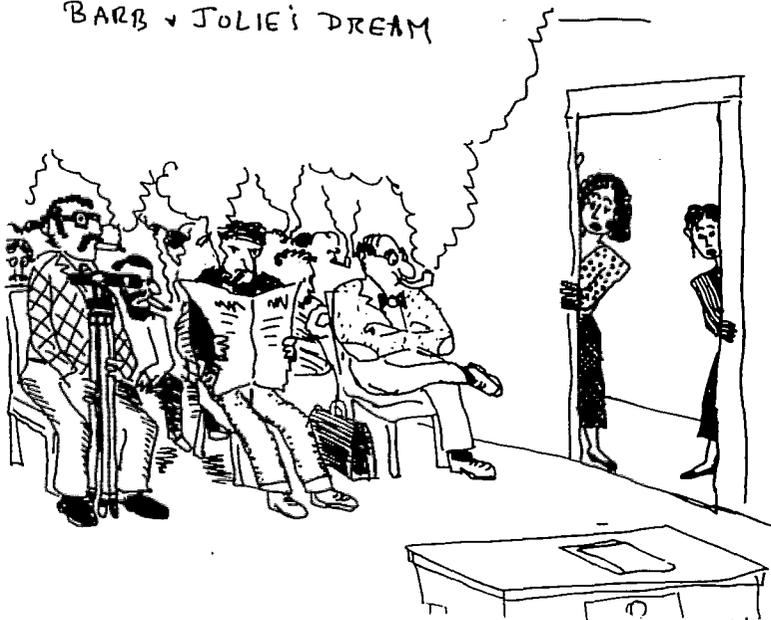
Hors d'oeuvres will be served and there will be a small cost, payable at the door.

**SCHOOL COUNSELLING WORKSHOPS**

**SHERI REED, School Counselling Committee**  
Cartoon by Tony Griffiths

When Barb and Jolie, two instructors from the Association for the Promotion and Advancement of Science Education (APASE), were approached to prepare a training workshop for engineers visiting schools, they envisioned the scenario depicted below. Much to their surprise, the twenty participants were all young, enthusiastic women. Stereotypes were meant to be shattered!

BARB & JOLIE'S DREAM



That pilot workshop may be the template for a regular training program for all interested APEGBC members around the province.

For more information on how to volunteer for this exciting program, or for a summary of the training material, please contact:

Sheri Reed                      City of Vancouver  
873-7296 (phone)  
873-7200 (fax)

or

Nancy Paris-Seeley      Vancouver General Hospital  
875-4764 (phone)  
875-4677 (fax)

**THE MENTORING PROGRAMME**

**KAREN LEVINE, Mentoring Committee**

We're off and running!

The mentoring programme orientation meeting was held at UBC on November 26, 1991. We had a great turn-out of 40 women, including 20 UBC undergraduate students. The workshop provided opportunities for brainstorming both in groups and in individual exercises. The aim was to establish realistic goals within the constraints of a mentor/mentee relationship.

Our next meeting will be in early to mid February (date T.B.A.). If you are interested in participating, please contact:

Karen Levine TDSA Ltd.  
681-2701 (phone)  
681-2702 (fax)

or

Frances Evans Teleconsult Ltd.  
684-1144 (phone)  
687-7289 (fax)

P.S. Have you and your mentor/mentee agreed upon your New Year Resolutions for 1992 ????

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**MEMBERS' PAGE**

This section is reserved for articles and letters submitted by DAWEG members. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the opinions of the executive or the membership.

*To the Editor:*

*I'd like to share a few things that have happened to me recently. I think they show (almost) the full range of encounters available in my field (construction/ geotechnical). I'll call them the Good, the Bad and the Ugly!*

*THE GOOD: I got flowers last week ... from a contractor on one of my construction sites to thank me for my "help, patience and understanding". (I asked my boss if it was a conflict of interest to accept them. He said it would make the funniest Discipline Inquiry ever held by the Association!) They were really nice and brightened my office all week.*

*THE BAD: "By the way, I'm not your 'honey', I'm an engineer" was what Jenny heard when she walked by my office last week while I was talking on the phone to some (obtuse) backhoe operator (she did a double-take). The usual misunderstanding; the weird phone calls that the receptionist can't make head nor tail of get put through to me for translation. More often than not, the people on the phone think they've reached another secretary. Usually, if I bulldoze brazenly through the conversation, spewing technical and construction jargon as I go, they see the light. Eventually that's what happened with this guy too, but I did have to be more ... explicit.*

*THE UGLY: I had (what I thought was) a reasonably pleasant conversation about footing subgrade preparation with a site superintendent (not the flower site). The person I sent to check the footing later said the site superintendent told him he wasn't going to take any 'crap' from a woman, and a bunch of other stuff. I felt a little sick to my stomach about going back to the site, but as it turned out, they had a run-in with the Workers Compensation Board and the site superintendent was utterly charming to me in hopes that I'd smooth things over with WCB. Poetic justice ... I love it! I understand from another technician who later visited the site that I'm not a bad engineer... for a woman.*

*Karen Savage*

*P.S. That's life!*