



Edited by  
Maggie Wojtarowicz, E.I.T.  
Sandy Cook, P.Eng.

# The EDGE Newsletter

Equity & Diversity in Geoscience & Engineering

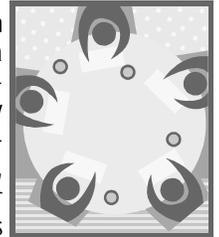
## DAWEG Annual General Meeting 2002

by Maggie Wojtarowicz, E.I.T.

The Annual General Meeting of DAWEG took place on September 28, 2002 at the Holiday Inn Metrotown. A special thanks to our guest speakers for sharing their knowledge and experiences. The guest speakers included John Watson, P.Eng., Sheri Plewes, P.Eng., Marg Latham, P.Eng., and Shirin Farrani, SFU student.

The DAWEG AGM was once again very well attended by over 30 members, and a large number of those who attended, committed to participating in this year's Executive activities. In fact, the growing enthusiasm of our members has allowed us to begin forming subcommittees to coordinate specific activities. This is a new working model for DAWEG, whereas in past years, such activities were typically spearheaded by one or two individuals. Some of the subcommittees include: the Newsletter Committee, the Social/Events Committee, the Fun Run Committee, and the Strategic Planning Committee. Spearheading these activities in groups makes volunteering for them more manageable—and more importantly, hopefully even more enjoyable—for the individuals.

The AGM was opened with a welcome address and a summary of the 2001 Executive Committee Activity Report, given by the outgoing DAWEG Co-Chair, Margaret Li, P.Eng. Four guest speaker presentations followed.



**Women in Science and Engineering need to achieve "critical mass"**

Past APEGBC President, John Watson, P.Eng., outlined the latest statistics and activities at APEGBC, and how these related to DAWEG. In particular, he pointed out the challenges and need for recruitment and retention of volunteers, and their valuable role in achieving the goals of any organization.

Sheri Plewee, P.Eng., the Vice President of TransLink, gave her insights about the four stages in a career (see article featured in this issue).

Marg Latham, P.Eng., the Vice President (Knowledge Management) of UMA Group Ltd., had a more technical topic, where she pre-

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### Did you know that:

- The Profession loses 50% of women engineers within the first 5 years of their careers.
- APEGBC has another DAWEG member on Council.
- There is a "leaking pipe" amongst the 2<sup>nd</sup> year undergraduate female engineering students.

## DAWEG My First Experience as Councilor of APEGBC

by Margaret Li, P.Eng.

Thank you for your votes and your support in electing me to Council. It is an honour and privilege to be able to serve the members by participating in Council business.

I'd like to share with you the highlights of my first experience as Councilor of APEGBC at the APEGBC AGM on October 24-26, 2002.

Meetings, meetings and meetings...

I attended my first Council meeting on the Thursday night as a Council-elect though I did not have voting rights until the formal installation at the AGM on Oct. 26. After a 6-hour meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 12 a.m., my joke is 'I must be sick to find these issues interesting'. I was tired but absolutely intrigued by the issues I am exposed to. I found that there are so many issues concerning our profession and many of the Council decisions

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## DAWEG AGM

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sented the Project Collaborator™ software she helped develop for her company. The software is a web-based tool for managing projects online, particularly useful for companies conducting business nationally and internationally.

The final guest speaker, Shirin Farrani, an SFU Engineering Science student, highlighted her experiences at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference for Women in Engineering and Science, where her attendance was sponsored by DAWEG. She emphasized the need for achieving “critical mass” of women in Science and Engineering, as well as the need to

“plug” the “leaking pipe” that occurs amongst 2<sup>nd</sup> year undergraduate women (full article may be found in the Sept. 2002 issue of The EDGE).

The AGM concluded with elections for Executive positions and sub-committee memberships, followed by a networking lunch.

## DAWEG Executive Committee 2002-2003

| Name                                    | Position                                       | Employer                            | Work Phone      | Work Fax       | Email Address                    |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Daniela Constantinescu                  | Co-Chair                                       | UBC, Electrical Engineering         | 822-9215        | 822-9209       | danielac@ece.ubc.ca              |
| Nancy Reid                              | Co-Chair                                       | Northwest Hydraulic Consultants     | 980-6011 x 214  | 980-9264       | nreid@nhc-van.com                |
| Margaret Li                             | Past Co-Chair                                  | Telus                               | 432-5817        | 434-4142       | margaret.li@telus.com            |
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| May Chew                                | Secretary / Membership Coordinator             | Between Jobs                        |                 |                | maychew@telus.net                |
| Carol Campbell                          | Secretary / Membership Coordinator             | David Nairne + Associates Ltd.      | 984-3503        | 984-0627       | cmccampbell@shaw.ca              |
| Maggie Wojtarowicz                      | Newsletter Committee / Operations Manual       | EcoSmart™ Project Consultant        | 488-1637        | 666-8123       | wmaggie101@yahoo.com             |
| Kara Hurting                            | Newsletter Committee                           | Northwest Hydraulic Consultants     | 980-6011 x 215  | 980-9264       | khurtig@nhc-van.com              |
| Sandy Cook                              | Newsletter Committee                           | Cook Engineering Inc.               | (250) 260-7971  | (250) 260-7972 | cookeng2002@yahoo.com            |
| Kathy Kishimoto                         | Web Page Coordinator                           | Phase Technology                    | 241-9568 x 335  | 241-9569       | mobileuser@shaw.ca               |
| Elizabeth Croft                         | Strategic Planning Committee / Salary Seminar  | UBC, Mechanical Engineering         | 822-6614        | 822-2403       | ecroft@mech.ubc.ca               |
| Cathy Marr                              | Strategic Planning Committee / SCWIST Liaison  | Natural Gas Transportation          | 731-7187        | 731-7187       | cmarr@istar.ca                   |
| Diana Cheng                             | Strategic Planning Committee                   |                                     | 522-7777        |                | diana_cheng@telus.net            |
| Helen Chan                              | Social/Events Committee                        | Associated Engineering (B.C.)Ltd.   | 293-1411 x328   | 291-6163       | chanh@burnaby.associated-eng.com |
| Nancy Hill                              | Social/Events Committee                        | PIA Consulting                      | 1-778-881-9874  | 228-0058       | nancy_e_h@yahoo.com              |
| Megan Leslie                            | Social/Events Committee                        | Jacques Whitford                    | 436-3014        | 436-3752       | mleslie@jacqueswhitford.com      |
| Grace Cheng                             | Social/Events Committee                        | Telus                               | 454-5269        | 454-5290       | grace.cheng@telus.com            |
| Shirin Farrahi                          | Fun-Run Committee                              | SFU                                 | 630-6000 x 1305 |                | sfarrah@sfu.ca                   |
| Dana Kulic                              | Fun-Run Committee                              | UBC, Industrial Automation Lab      | 822-3147        |                | dana@mech.ubc.ca                 |
| Phyllis Macintyre                       | School Interaction Coordinator                 | Self-Employed                       | 222-8099        | 222-8053       | pmacintyre@telus.net             |
| Heather Crow                            | School Interactions Committee                  | Golder Associates Ltd.              | 296-4331        |                | Hcrow@golder.com                 |
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| Lianna Mah                              | CCPE/CCWEST Representative                     | Associated Engineering (BC) Ltd.    | 293-1411        | 291-6163       | mahl@burnaby.associated-eng.com  |
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| Roya Rahbari                            | SCWIST Liaison Committee                       | National Research Council of Canada | 221-3057        | 221-3001       | roya.rahbari@nrc.ca              |
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| <b>Other Useful Contact Information</b> |  |                                     |                 |                |                                  |
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| DAWEG Voicemail                         |  |                                     | 878-7755        |                | daweg@mech.ubc.ca                |
| DAWEG Newsletter                        |  |                                     |                 |                | dawegnews@yahoo.com              |

## Experience on Council

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have such long term consequences that I really have to take my responsibility as councillor very seriously.

Friday started with a National Round Table at 7:00 a.m. There were association representatives from other provinces, Washington State and Alaska. While listening to the various reports, my feeling was that 'we are not alone'. There are many issues common to us, though with variations, issues such as examinations, software engineering, continuous professional development, accreditation of foreign-trained professionals, etc. This underscores the importance of communicating with and sharing of information between organizations.

The Branch Representatives meeting on Friday afternoon enabled representatives from various branches to share their experiences and communicate with Council on issues important to members. It was a good opportunity for me to start getting involved in some branch activities.

### Issue worthy of your attention:

One thing I would like to ask all members to watch for is the on-going news on the discussion of the APEGBC/ASSTBC Merger. This was the dominant issue at the Special Issues Forum on Saturday after the morning AGM. Opinions ranged

from 'supporting' to 'totally against'. There are still lots of issues to be clarified and resolved, as the impact on the future of the engineering and geoscience profession is profound and lasting.

This will be one of the main Council business in the coming year. Funding has just been approved to have the process project-managed to ensure rigor. Information is available on the website but still relatively unnoticed by many. The recent survey in August 2002 indicated that 53.64% 'Agree/strongly agree' that the two organizations should proceed to merge under a One Act/Once Organization model. However, only 53.45% 'agree/strongly agree' that APEGBC has provided sufficient information on the merger proposal on the APEGBC website. Therefore I urge all members to pay attention to the development of this merger discussion.

### Going forward:

Apart from participating in Council business, each councillor has to be on one of the following committees: Communications, Registration, Professional Practice, or Geoscience. I am in the Registration Committee for the next two years.

I am looking forward to participating at Council and in various Council business. I will provide you with more news in future. If you would like to be in touch with me, please email me at [margaret.li@telus.com](mailto:margaret.li@telus.com).



**Congratulation to another  
DAWEG member on Council**

**Margaret Li, P.Eng.  
Past DAWEG Co-Chair**

### *Women in E-Press*

***Powering the Electrical  
Revolution: Women and  
Technology***

<http://www.ieee-virtual-museum.org/exhibit/exhibit.php?id=159251&lid=1>

***Not Your Mother's  
Mammography***

<http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/careers/careerstemplate.jsp?ArticleId=p100102>

## **DAWEG** Executive Grows—A New Newsletter Editor from Vernon, BC

edited by Maggie Wojtarowicz, E.I.T.

Sandy Cook, P.Eng.—mechanical engineer from U of Toronto, with a degree in kinesiology from U of Waterloo, licensed both in Canada and the US.

Moving from Thunder Bay, Ontario to Vernon, BC about seven years ago, Sandy has been tending to her family, and as a result, temporarily putting her engineering career on the backburner. She loves engineering work, has seldom done the same job twice, has made some very good friends, and hopes to resume her passion to a greater extent. In the near future

Not having had much contact with other female engineers during her career (aside from the brief 6-moth encounter with 2 young female engineers passing through her office in Thunder Bay), Sandy is surrounded by engineers within her family—her younger sister is an electrical engineer, both her father and brother are mechanical engineers (incidentally her greatest mentors), and her daughter just now studying engineering. Also never having had a female mentor, or having known a female engineer further down the track than her, Sandy wonders whether mentoring is important. "It is important to have someone to talk to that understands your situation," she says, "we are all unique – it

can be male or female.'

Sandy has been promoting engineering for about 20 years through her involvement with science days and science fairs. "I generally enjoy talking to teachers and students about science and engineering," she says.

"I am also a quilter. I love the puzzle solving of quilting and design with fabric. It's very mechanical," Sandy muses.

**Welcome to the Newsletter Team,  
Sandy!!**

## DAWEG AGM Presentation: Stages of an Engineering Career

by Cathy Marr, P.Eng.

In the keynote address at the 2002 DAWEG AGM, Sheri Plewes described the four stages of an engineer's career. Sheri, who is currently Vice President of Contracts and Acquisitions at TransLink, drew on her 20 plus years of engineering career experience to challenge and inspire the AGM attendees just as she had been inspired 20 years earlier by a senior female engineering executive who challenged her to succeed. Sheri's enthusiasm for the engineering profession was obvious as she described the profession as one that presented a wide variety of opportunities to contribute to society in honorable and relevant ways.

### Stage One - Early Career as an EIT (graduation to 4 years)

The engineer at this stage brings enthusiasm to the workplace together with considerable flexibility in their personal lives and can focus on professional development. The primary challenge is the lack of professional experience and judgment. It is crucial to receive appropriate levels of supervision and guidance from supervisors at this stage. This can be a vulnerable stage of a woman's career with the profession historically losing 50 % of women engineering graduates within the first 5 years. She noted that EITs find that they may experience long working hours in the field under challenging working conditions. They must be careful not to attribute the difficulties experienced to gender as the experience is often the same for male as well as female EITs.

### Stage Two – Junior Career (4 to 10 years)

This is the point where engineers start to benefit from their hard work. They experience increasing confidence as well as more awareness of the profession and the options available. The challenge at this stage

is to make good choices in projects, training and in the people that influence the engineer. Having and choosing the right mentor is a key career objective at this point. A good mentor is one that the engineer respects and has a good personal relationship with. Sheri believes the engineer should choose their own mentor rather than going through a formal program and that the gender of the mentor is irrelevant.

### Stage Three – Intermediate Stage (10 to 20 years)

The engineer's career path is generally well engaged by this point with increasing levels of authority, professional and supervisory or management responsibilities. A lack of skill sets for these new and emerging duties can be a challenge as the engineer finds that technical skills are not enough. It is important to identify skills that will be needed in the future and then to find interesting ways to develop them. Sheri's experience was that volunteering can be wonderful way of obtaining skills that are transferable to your professional life.

### Stage Four – Senior Stage (20 plus years)

At this point the engineer is operating at peak levels of productivity. The challenges at this stage include demanding schedules, the tenuous nature of senior positions in both private and public practice, mid-life evaluations of career choice and juggling family responsibilities. On the topic of balance Sheri quoted Thomas Moore's statement that "Life balance is a fallacy created by idealists." Sheri says she tries to make sure all the components of her life – career, family, community and personal – provide her with value; excite and sustain her so she can live life to the fullest.

Good advice for us all! For the full text of Sheri's address, please see the DAWEG website.

*Who are we?" and "Where do we want to go?" – The Language of Coaching*

by Phyllis MacIntyre, P.Eng.

*Earlier this year I completed a program in "executive coaching" at Royal Roads University. As a former strategic planner, I was attracted to coaching because of the similarities in the approach; whether it is an organization or an individual, the beginning questions are the same: "Who are we?" and "Where do we want to go?" Like strategic planning, coaching is intended to be a fluid process that encourages action that shifts organizational and individual behaviour in a way that moves us closer to a desired outcome. Coaching is a collaborative process in which the coach converses with another individual to establish and clarify purpose and goals and to develop a plan of action to achieve these goals.*

*In this article I would like to introduce the concepts and language of coaching to demonstrate the benefits that are relevant to career development for professional engineers,*

*In coaching we use language that promotes dialogue to build trust and rapport; and we ask questions to encourage discovery and mutual learning. When a manager uses coaching, the dialogue between the manager and*

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## DAWEG Book Review—Women in Afghanistan

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*the employee creates a productive, results-oriented context. Coaching provides the manager with real control and provides the employee with real responsibility.*

*The elements of communication that contribute to effective coaching include active listening, skillful questioning and providing feedback.*

*Active listening means showing interest in both the speaker and what is being said.*

*Skillful questioning is done with open questions, which encourage the sharing of ideas and information, and engage the individual in a conversation:*

*All of us require reinforcement for our successes and information about areas that need improvement if we are to make gains and develop in our careers. Most individuals welcome feedback; high achievers always seek feedback to track their success. Even negative feedback is better than no feedback.*

*Like coaching in general, good feedback emphasizes goals and is forward looking. It is an unending process that allows for review and continuous growth.*

*For full article on Coaching, please see the DAWEG website.*

*Future articles will focus on the learning and leadership concepts of coaching.*

by Cathy Marr, P.Eng.

*"Veiled Threat: The Hidden Power of the Women of Afghanistan"* by Sally Armstrong published by Penguin Books 2002.

On September 27, 1996 the Taliban marched into Kabul and seized power in Afghanistan. This book tells the story of the women of Afghanistan and their struggle against the Taliban. Author Sally Armstrong introduces the reader to several women, including a civil engineer, a school principal, a psychiatrist, a radio announcer and a doctor, who all lost their jobs on that September day and were forced into virtual house arrest. Many of these women never owned a burqa until that day. Sally tells how they had to wear shoes that made no sound as they walked, how they had to paint over the windows in their houses, how they would be beaten for showing their hands in public. She tells how their health was affected by depression, by bones softened from a lack of exercise and sunlight, and by being denied health care. She describes "Catch 22" situations in which women were required to be accompanied by a male relative if they went to a doctor but they were forbidden to speak of any gynecological problems in the presence of the same male relative. She tells how women fought to get the message about the Taliban's treatment of women out to the rest of the world: how they operated clandestine girls' schools; provided health care to women; and about their efforts to document the atrocities and human rights abuses they were faced with.

In particular, the book tells the story of Dr. Sima Samar a medical doctor who openly defied the Taliban by organizing and operating schools for girls and health clinics for women in spite of the death threats she received from the Taliban. In December 2001, Dr. Samar became one of five deputy ministers in the six-month

interim Afghanistan government.

On a broader level Sally also examines what the Koran says about the rights of women and how that contrasts with the interpretation of the Taliban. These were largely uneducated young men whose only life experience had been as soldiers. She notes how the UN administration in Afghanistan chose to ignore the plight of the Afghani women, citing the abuses as pre-existing cultural practices. Their motive in picking their battles with the Taliban was to gain their cooperation on other issues. In the book she lays out the case for why a society cannot thrive without the full participation of its women.

The women in this book were professional, university educated women. Although Afghanistan had already been going through tremendous problems with years of devastating war, drought and poverty prior to the Taliban taking over, I was struck by the suddenness of the Taliban's impact on the lives of these women. Before the Taliban yanked it all away from them, the women Sally meets and describes in the book were earning a living, raising children and going about their lives with some of the same issues and concerns I have as a Canadian working woman. The courage of these women and the enormity of the challenges they faced gave me inspiration for dealing with what, in contrast, seem to be much less threatening day-to-day issues. It was particularly inspiring to hear how women around the world, especially Canada, worked together to try to change the plight of the women of Afghanistan and to insist that women had to play a key role in any government installed after the Taliban were routed out.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants insight into how the women of Afghanistan have dealt with the extreme challenges they have been faced with over the past decade.

## DAWEG & Sustainability

by Christy Love, E.I.T.  
—APEGBC Sustainability Research Engineer

The APEGBC Sustainability Committee is pleased to announce that "Sustainability in Professional Engineering and Geoscience: A Primer" is now available for viewing or downloading at <http://www.sustainability.ca>. The primer is an excellent

resource for members seeking practical ways to apply sustainability principles in their engineering and/or geoscience practices.

Your comments regarding this document are welcome and should be sent to [info@sustainability.ca](mailto:info@sustainability.ca).

### Sustainability News

#### e7 Sustainable Energy Development Scholarship Program

A new scholarship program is available for outstanding students from developing countries and economies in transition who plan to undertake studies at the Masters level or Post-Doctoral level in areas directly related to sustainable energy development.

The scholarship is sponsored by the e7, which is an organization of leading electricity companies from the G7 nations that have formed an association to cooperate on sustainable development issues, with an emphasis on climate change and the environment.

For more information, please visit [www.e7.org](http://www.e7.org).



Sustainability—there is so much that YOU CAN do!!

*Whatever you do,  
whatever you endeavour,  
have fun.*

(Michael Francis (King)  
Clancy)

## DAWEG Volunteering Opportunity—MIT Women's Visit

by Daniela Constantinescu, E.I.T.

Volunteers are needed during the MIT Women's Initiative visit to Vancouver and Victoria in January 2003.

In collaboration with DAWEG, several high school teachers from the Lower Mainland and Victoria have invited the MIT Women's Initiative to visit their classes in January 2003.

The goals of the MIT Women's Initiative are to:

- encourage high school girls to pursue stud-

- ies and careers in engineering,
- empower and motivate high school girls to take the most challenging math and science courses in high school,
- teach students about the field of engineering and challenge its common stereotypes, and
- encourage high school girls to realize their potential for success.

Two groups of bright and enthusiastic women from the Engineering School at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will visit the classes that invited them

over the course of two weeks in January 2003. DAWEG will be their contact with the teachers and will organize their stay.

If you want to meet the women from the MIT Women's Initiative and you want to contribute to organizing their visit, please send an email to [daweg@mech.ubc.ca](mailto:daweg@mech.ubc.ca) by December 15, 2002.

## DAWEG Employment Corner

Job Postings

E-mail employment opportunities for DAWEG members to [dawegnews@yahoo.com](mailto:dawegnews@yahoo.com).

Available for Employment

Looking for work? E-mail brief self-promotion ad for inclusion in the next issue of The EDGE.

*Career Tips for Young Engineers*  
<http://www.graduatingengineer.com/>

*Electrical Engineers Salary Survey*  
<http://www.theworkcircuit.com/sr/ss/OEG20020926S0017>



## Girl Guides Finding Interest in Engineering

by Jennifer Ross, Chair, UBC Links  
—Girl Guides of Canada

The Girl Guides of Canada program has recently developed a new badge for the nine to eleven year old Guides to learn - the Engineering Interest Badge. Its purpose is to "promote... interest in the many aspects of engineering," and the UBC Links are making sure it does just that. These university aged women in Guiding, many of whom are students in or recent graduates from engineering, have created a workshop teaching the badge (and a little more!) to Guide units in the Vancouver and Richmond area. "We want to make sure it's fun," says group Chairwomen Jen Ross, "and that the girls get as excited about engineering as we are. It's important that they see engineering as a career option open to them."

The one and one half hour workshops cover what engineering is, what disciplines are at UBC, the differences between an engineer and a scientist, and some basic engineering principles. The evening culminates in a fifteen minute design competition, where the Guides and their leaders build "Marshmallow Movers" using supplies like pop-sicle sticks, elastic bands, and straws. The movers are tested, of course, by a marshmallow war.

Two workshops have already taken place, with very positive feedback from both the girls and their leaders, and two more are scheduled in the near future. For more information on the UBC Links and the workshops, please see <http://paradox.homeip.net/ubclinks>, or email [ubc\\_links@paradox.homeip.net](mailto:ubc_links@paradox.homeip.net).

*To always plunge into something new and somewhat frightening is to keep growing, and I can't imagine middle age—or any age—without that sort of growth.*

(Joe McGuinness)

## DAWEG Mailing List Update: Lost E-mails!!

by Elizabeth Croft, P.Eng.  
DAWEG Mailing List Moderator

We no longer have valid email address for the following persons. If you recognize someone on this list, please let them know that they can re-subscribe to the DAWEG mailing list any time using their updated email address.

Subscription details are at <http://batman.mech.ubc.ca/~daweg/maillinglists.html>. If you need help subscribing, email to: [owner-daweg-general@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:owner-daweg-general@interchange.ubc.ca).

[sverjee@reid-crowther.com](mailto:sverjee@reid-crowther.com)  
[rsharifi@horizonengineering.net](mailto:rsharifi@horizonengineering.net)  
[nhope@victoria1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:nhope@victoria1.gov.bc.ca)  
[brigid.canil@gems5.gov.bc.ca](mailto:brigid.canil@gems5.gov.bc.ca)  
[lebert@ada.com](mailto:lebert@ada.com)  
[nking@gmcl.bc.ca](mailto:nking@gmcl.bc.ca)  
[kathleen.hagley@cominco.com](mailto:kathleen.hagley@cominco.com)  
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[gwyncathyl@aol.com](mailto:gwyncathyl@aol.com)

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## An Interesting Book—Women on the Moon???

submitted by Sandy Cook, P.Eng.

*Excerpts from an October 12, 2002, Globe and Mail article by Stephanie Nolan on a book entitled "Promised the Moon" by Stephanie Nolan.*

Stephanie Nolan reveals some surprising facts about the early NASA space program. The demographics of the first astronauts: white Protestants from small towns, married with children, etc. She introduces a young woman who, in 1959, at 28 was a pilot for the Aero Design and

Engineering Company. An award winning and record setting aviator with a long blond ponytail, Geraldyn Cobb did not look like the ideal pilot.

Gerry Cobb was the first of 13 women that all matched in their extraordinary test scores – psychological and physical. The women had a distinct advantage over men for the early program, as their weight, oxygen demand and food requirements were lower than men.

The women made arrangements for

children and careers to go to Pensacola. Then on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1961, the program was canceled. Astonishing comments came from astronauts such as Col. John Glenn and others to quash the hopes of the women throughout a hearing that followed. President Lyndon Johnson killed off their last hopes only months before signing the Civil Rights Act making it illegal to discriminate on the basis of gender.

The book was scheduled to go on sale Oct. 23, 2002.

## Calling All Women in Transportation—WTS Comes to BC

by Melanie Perkins, P.Eng.  
—Founding Member of DAWEG

The Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), was conceived in 1973 by four women in rail in Washington, DC. They recognized a mechanism was needed to enhance professional and personal development, and to develop industry and government recognition of the increasing involvement of women in the field of transportation. Today WTS has well over 3,500 members (men and women), having grown in the intervening years at a rate of up to 12%. There are 35 Chapters across the US. The website is: <http://www.wtsnational.org/>

Last August, Pippa Woods of NJ Transit and national (US) Chair of Chapter Development, WTS, contacted me. She wished to pursue a Chapter in Canada, the first Chapter outside the US!

The focus of the organization is to "actively train future leaders in the crucial skills necessary to advance the transportation industry. WTS empowers its members through formal and informal conferences, monthly local programs, the WTS national Directory, and a comprehensive program that guides and assists women in obtaining senior positions in national, state and local transportation agencies as well as on private corporate and governmental boards".

Fostering diversity is a major objective of WTS. It strives for a balanced representation from all walks of life/transportation modes as well as members from academia, the public and private sectors, etc.

Canadians have played a great part in the success of this American organization. The current President of the vibrant Puget Sound Chapter (Seattle) is a transportation engineer originally from Calgary. I have been a member for 12 years, throughout which time I remained resident in Canada. The current national Chair of Chapter Development, is originally from Vancouver, graduated from UVic and worked for the CRD's regional transportation authority, when there was one. An employee of the Canadian Embassy in Chicago is also a member. These women all have very encouraging words for their counterparts in Canada.

Pippa, who is coordinating the development of at least four new Chapters simultaneously, has

provided a few reasons for joining the organization:

- *Through WTS, you have access to a national initiative to provide and promote female candidates for appointment to top federal and state transportation leadership positions, as well as appointments to private sector Boards of Directors.*
- *Through WTS, you are eligible to apply for an all-expense paid seat at the annual Eno Transportation Foundation leadership conference in Washington, DC. Here, you will work with and learn from federal transportation leaders, legislators, and policy experts and gain intimate insight to "transportation on the Hill." (see website <http://www.enotrans.com/>)*
- *Through WTS, you are eligible to apply for an all expense-paid (except travel), three-day intensive leadership development class developed specifically for WTS. This is not a "one size fits all" program. It is a customized program for women in transportation who want to better understand and hone their leadership skills in order to manage people, politics, and policy as they advance in their careers.*
- *Through WTS, you have access to a national network focused on the professional development and promotion of women across all modes of transportation. Unlike other organizations, WTS programs and conferences are not narrowly focused on a technical application. WTS addresses a broad spectrum of issues affecting air, surface, rail, water, pedestrian, and freight transportation.*

WTS also provides supportive paperwork necessary to achieve society status, as well as a speakers bureau in order to facilitate presentations by the best and brightest in the industry at WTS meetings.

Here are a couple of my personal favorite reasons for joining:

- Renew old friendships. Two women were brought together again through WTS who lived on opposite sides of the continent. They were coworkers 17 years ago and had attended grade 4 together.
- Celebrate your accomplishments! All

too rarely do we pause to do this. WTS serves to draw public attention on the considerable contributions and accomplishments of women in transportation. You deserve it!

- Are you an academic? Come and learn what life after college is like. Come and find out how you can better tailor courses to make them more relevant to students' needs. A (female) transportation professor in southern California undertook such an effort. One of her classes was based on national research and titled "Ethics in Transportation Forecasting".
- Moving? Want instant contacts with people with whom you have everything in common in a new city across North America? Join WTS.
- And the number one reason to join WTS – its good FUN!

There are dozens of other reasons to sign on (at least one for every member!).

The formative meeting of the Georgia Straight Chapter WTS will be held on January 4, 2003 at the Best Western Tsawwassen Inn, 1664 56th Street, Delta, BC. P- 604-943-8221

NOTE: This hotel runs a FREE shuttle to the BC Ferries terminal in Tsawwassen

The speaker, Dr. Kate Hunter-Zaworski, Oregon State University (UBC graduate) will tentatively speak on "sustainable Olympic transportation".

Thirty-one women have formally responded to the call for a BC Chapter including the new CEO of TRANSLINK.

If you or any of your friends work in the transportation field and are interested in WTS, please contact myself, Melanie Perkins, to register [melanie.perkins@gems2.gov.bc.ca](mailto:melanie.perkins@gems2.gov.bc.ca).

I look forward to hearing from you!

## DAWEG Connects with Women in Bangladesh

by Margaret Li, P.Eng.

One of DAWEG's mandates is to liaise with other organizations increasing the participation of women in engineering, science and technology. Most of our contacts so far are in North America. Participation of DAWEG representatives in ICWES12 (12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Women in Engineering and Science) in Ottawa allowed DAWEG members to connect with similar organizations from many parts of the world.

Late September, DAWEG received a request to provide funding for Professor Lutfor Rahman (Executive Director, Association for Advancement of Information Technology (AAIT), Bangladesh) to present a paper at the Institute for Women and Technology's 4<sup>th</sup> Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference, October 9-12, 2002 in Vancouver. As a gesture, DAWEG provided a small honorarium at short notice. Though there was not enough lead time to organize any major event, Professor Rahman attended the DAWEG executive meeting on Oct. 8 and presented his paper on "ICT Training to Improve Health Care

of Rural Populations".

### Highlights from the paper:

A training program in Bangladesh trained female medical professionals to use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in their respective fields and health care sectors. A survey identified their training needs. Training modules and materials were designed in the context of Bangladesh, based on the need identification survey. The courses were held at the capital city, Dhaka, and in two regional towns, Bogra and Rajshahi.

The main purpose of empowering the female medical professionals with ICT is to benefit the people that they serve. Specifically, these women serve people who live on the islands and in the highlands of the remote areas.

Three training courses for women scientists were offered at basic and more advanced levels at various venues in Dhaka between July 1997 and May 1998 using locally based trainers. Ninety percent of the trainees were found to be applying their newly ac-

quired knowledge in their respective areas of work. Uniformly, employers expressed satisfaction with the trainees' advanced expertise.

Recognizing the importance and success of the courses, the Commonwealth Science Council (CSC) sanctioned further funds to encourage more women professionals in Bangladesh to attend ICT courses. As a result, in 2000, further training courses were organized in the northern region for 52 women. The women were recruited from medical colleges, universities, hospitals and clinics across the country. These courses are the beginnings of a team of doctors who are empowered to implement telemedicine and telehealth care across Bangladesh. At the recommendation of the participants, a project has been initiated to train 2000 medical scientists to use ICT, highlighting its importance in health care and medical sciences.

For the entire paper by Professor Lutfor Rahman, please see the DAWEG website.

## White Ribbon Days

submitted by Maggie Wojtarowicz, E.I.T.

The Fall White Ribbon Campaign is in high gear once again! Thousands of supporters around the country and around the world will organize education and awareness activities with the goal of ending men's violence against women.

Most people coordinate their activities around White Ribbon Days, which run from November 25th up until December 6th. Schools, community centres, businesses, unions and faith groups participate by spreading the word through ribbon and flyer distribution, poster signings and fundraising activities to help local women's anti-

violence organizations. Men wearing the white ribbon make the pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.

Organizing a campaign can be as simple as distributing White Ribbon information and ribbons in your workplace or encouraging the use of the White Ribbon Education Kit in your school. Encourage your municipality to proclaim November 25th-December 6th as White Ribbon Days. Ask them to have ribbons and materials available at the municipal office. All of our educational materials are available for viewing on the White Ribbon website at <http://www.whiteribbon.com>.



Do your part to get involved in helping to end violence against women

DIVISION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN  
ENGINEERING AND GEOSCIENCE

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See page 5 for subscription details.

**We're on the Web!!**  
**[www.mech.ubc.ca/~daweg](http://www.mech.ubc.ca/~daweg)**



## DAWEG Strategic Plan

**V**ision Statement: To make Engineering and Geoscience Appealing, Rewarding, and Equitable.

**M**ission: To advise our profession on issues which impact on women in Engineering and Geoscience.

**C**ore Values: Professionalism & Equity & Inclusiveness

See DAWEG website for more information.

### CALL FOR INPUT FROM THE INTERIOR

*As one woman engineer from the Interior, I would like to hear from others in regards to events and activities in your area. In meetings with other engineers in the Okanagan, it appears to be typically difficult to find other sole practitioners. They tend to work from home, as I do, and are not easily seen. Is this a situation found in other regions as well? Are you participating in Regional Science Fairs as Judges, promoting math and sciences to classes? Do you find it difficult to find other women in your profession? Let us know what is important to you, how you have or could have dealt with distance, etc. Drop me an email at cookeng2002@yahoo.com.*

C.R.Sandy Cook, P.Eng.

## DAWEG Christmas Party

This is an invitation to all DAWEG members, families, partners, and friends to the annual DAWEG Christmas Party.

Thursday, December 5, 2002  
6:00 pm

Steamworks Brewing Co.  
375 Water Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 5C6  
Tel: 604-689-2739  
<http://www.steamworks.com>

Format  
Dinner and Kris-Kringle

(please bring a wrapped Christmas present  
—value not to exceed \$15—  
for the gift exchange)

RSVP to [daweg@mech.ubc.ca](mailto:daweg@mech.ubc.ca)  
**by November 29<sup>th</sup>**

For more information,  
contact Nancy at [nancy\\_e\\_h@yahoo.com](mailto:nancy_e_h@yahoo.com)  
or at (778) 881-9874  
(cell number—new BC area code)



Bring your families,  
gift to exchange, and  
seasonal joy!