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DAWEG News

By Cynthia Oldham E.I.T.

The summer social was a great success. Many members enjoyed each other's company and got reacquainted with what people are up to. Also, many tips and advice were swapped. A great time was had by all.

For those E.I.Ts who just graduated and those looking for work; have faith, there are jobs out there. For proof, check out the *Business in Vancouver* article "Engineering firms scramble to find personnel" (July 27-Aug 2; issue 770).

DAWEG AGM

September 25th 8AM-2PM

Executive Hotel 4201 Lougheed Highway

RSVP by Friday, September 17, 2004

The next DAWEG Annual General Meeting is upon us. The theme this year is "Rejuvenation: The Opportunity for Personal and Professional Development". Talks will be given by:

- Anne Garrette, P.Eng. the Executive Director and Registrar of APEGBC;
- Monica Rucki, the winner of the Women of Distinction Award.
- Caroline Dayyani, E.I.T., and Michelle Murphy participants of the CCWEST Conference

These are going to be really interesting presentations. More details and registration form is available on page 5&6 of this newsletter.

Highlights of Upcoming Events:

- DAWEG Executive Meeting Sept 7th
- DAWEG AGM September 25th
- DAWEG Stream at APEGBC Annual Conference, Oct 22nd

Edited By:

Manjit Neger, M.S.

Cynthia Oldham, E.I.T.

Jennifer Richards, E.I.T.



Enjoying the Summer Social

At the upcoming APEG annual conference DAWEG is co-ordinating a stream called "Better Business" that contains the following 4 sessions.

- Thinking Outside the Box: A New Model of Business Partnership with BC First Nations: by Marco Romero
- Networking and Marketing by Phyllis MacIntyre, P.Eng.
- The EQ-Performance Connection by David Cory
- Salaries and Fees: Are You Charging What You're Worth? By Moreen Singh

See you at the AGM.

**2004 Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering Science and Technology(CCWEST) Conference
by Michelle Murphy**

The 2004 Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering Science and Technology conference was held in St. Catharine's, Ontario, from June 11th to 13th. I am a first year engineering student who was fortunate to have been given the opportunity to attend through a generous scholarship awarded by DAWEG.

When I walked into the Brock University residence reception room for the welcome wine and cheese, I did what I normally do: melt into a wall. I knew that I didn't know anyone, that there was no one else there from the University of British Columbia, and that if I was going to talk to anyone, it would take a great effort on my part to approach someone. However, if I was going to get anything at all out of this conference, shy is one thing I couldn't afford to be. Besides, these were my peers, women of distinction and accomplishment, I shouldn't be afraid.

The first people I spoke to were from the opposite coast to mine. Michelle Brazil from Newfoundland introduced herself and, with a knack for uniting people, introduced me to some students from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Very quickly I forgot my fears and eagerly met the talented women chatting and laughing around me. I could see that there were women of all ages there, many of whom obviously knew each other from past conferences. Some were engineers, some were studying medicine, and others had worked in their fields of scientific research for many years and were close to retirement. Other women, like Michelle,

Top 5 best things about the conference:

1. Being inspired to promote women in the sciences
2. Being surrounded by amazing women
3. Well organized
4. So many workshops/seminars/paper presentations to choose from
5. The field trip to the Niagara locks system control room

worked in programs that promoted women in science or represented women in technology and trades.

The next few days were a whirlwind of information and confirmation. The theme of the conference was "Let's get Growing", but the unofficial theme that persisted throughout each presentation and in lunch-time conversation was 'how to balance work and family life.' I sat in awe as a young theoretical physicist named Dr. F.M. Kalamara, explained her life's work and research. She took what is an incredibly complex subject and not only made it accessible, but also made it interesting and even funny! This was not a lab coat and thick glasses speaking to us, this was a jean clad, spiky haired, dynamic woman talking about black holes and bending time. But this was also a woman who was so specialized in her work that the thought of taking time to have children would mean death to her career. I felt uneasy that this decision was essentially made for her by her scientific community.

I was equally moved by the second keynote speaker, Dr. Freda Miller. A woman at the height of her career in medical research, director of her lab at the University of Toronto, and also dynamic, interesting, accessible, and funny. She explained her ground-breaking research in the area of stem cells, but more importantly, stem cells in the skin. She also spoke of her balance of career and family life. Her advice? "Just do it." According to Dr. Miller, there really is no right time, no formula, but that if you wish to have a family and continue in your career in the sciences, then you will find a way to make it work.

Top 5 reasons to attend a CCWEST conference:

5. Make contacts in your field
4. Make contacts across a whole network of fields
3. Learn that you are not alone in facing problems in the work place or at school
2. Realize that you can make a difference
1. Realize that being a woman in the sciences is the right place to be

2004 CCWEST cont

These two viewpoints mingled in my head and the topic of work and family life wove its way through most of the seminars and conversations during the conference. I met many young women either in school or just beginning their careers and this was at the forefront of their minds.

I have no answer to the question of how to balance work and family life, but I have a network of women to draw on for advice and strength.

I came to engineering late in the game. I was uncertain if my move from journalism to the sciences was a sound decision. Attending the CCWEST conference left me with no doubt. I realized that I am among a national rank of women who are, just by pursuing careers in the sciences, making important changes to what has traditionally been a male-dominated sector of professions.

I left the conference with a list of names and contact numbers and a web of connections. Maybe in two years in Calgary, I'll be the one introducing a newcomer to her family of women in engineering, science, technology, and trades.

Top 5 things I learned:

1. If anything is going to change, women need to enter the sciences, and stay in the sciences.
2. Most mines have no facilities for women. Mandatory safety equipment for underground mine work does not fit women's bodies
3. A scientist is a citizen with a toolbox.
4. I might be typing at a computer, but if I put a black hole behind my computer, I am both typing and not typing and both would be true.
5. SpinFoam doesn't come in cans (it's a 'spacetime network')

Michelle Murphy is entering her second year in civil engineering at UBC. She also has a BA in English and Political Science from the University of Western Ontario and a Master's in Journalism from Carleton University. She has a very interesting article published in this month's issue of Innovation (July/Aug 2004 issue) called "Engineering a Better World: Making a Difference That Lasts."

Another Picture From the Summer Social

Karen and John enjoying the Summer Social

Editors's Note: OpenOffice.

My hard drive crashed and I needed to install a new word processor. After some investigation I tried OpenOffice. It is wonderful.

- The program is licensed under [LGPL](#) (GNU Lesser General Public License) and [SISSL](#) (Sun Industry Standards Source License); meaning you can use it for free.
- It downloads and installs easily like most Windows programs (no need to compile).
- Some general advantages include being able to export files as PDF (without buying Adobe) and as HTML. It is also able to read simple word documents.
- Some advantages for serious layout include easier to use interface to sections and frames.
- It seems to need a bit more RAM

I am converted. This newsletter was laid out in it, and I am not going back to Word. Cynthia

Playing in the Dirt: This EIT's Last Summer Outside

By Jennifer Richards, EIT

When kneeling in front of the Chancellor of Queen's University, accepting my hard-earned degree in Civil Engineering, I would never have imagined that my job would take me to Chilliwack, British Columbia more than four years later. Nor did I imagine that in Chilliwack, I would be playing in the dirt.

Some may say that engineering is a very modern, dynamic and rewarding career. Let's not forget that the practical applications of our designs can lead to new and 'glamorous' versions of ourselves. How else would you describe my new summer look? At the best of times I'm in jeans that have absorbed a greater volume of dust than is capable of being produced in a single day on the job site, a purposely ill-fitted shirt, a snazzy orange vest and of course, a trendy plastic hard hat. My favorite accessory this summer? The perma-burn.

The goal on any construction site is to gain and retain the respect of the Contractor. With two, outwardly-obvious disadvantages, I've found that I have worked a little harder than usual to earn this respect. Firstly, I'm female and therefore an oddity in their realm. Secondly, according to the Contractor, I look like I just graduated from highschool.

As many of you know, construction is a game of distributing and fitting into pre-designated roles as quickly and as efficiently as possible. The sooner everyone on-site understands each other's positions and levels of authority, the sooner the job can

progress. Unfortunately, the Contractor on my subdivision site could not understand that I was both the project manager and inspector. You cannot fault someone who has not encountered this duality in the past but on the other hand you can quickly open their eyes to the changing dynamics of this booming sector.

This subdivision project is my second long-term inspection stint. Last summer I was shipped away to an hour north of Fort St. John. I've also inspected part-time on several other jobs but I find you learn the most from administrating a job from start to finish.

I tend to have varying opinions of inspection. It is often exhilarating to see your designs being constructed but it can be somewhat devastating, especially to a young and fragile ego, to recognize design flaws once the practicalities of construction identify them for you. The good news is that you'll be a better designer because of the ability to visualize the actual construction of your design.

As an EIT about to earn their professional designation, the opportunities to perform construction inspection will dwindle as I progress into my role as project manager. If I can offer any advice those new to our profession, do seek out and take advantage of any inspection opportunities that come your way. I promise you that the benefits to your career will reveal themselves time and time again, long after your time in the field has ended.

Enviro Facts: Did You Know...?

(All of the following facts are referenced from the 'BEST' (Better Environmentally Sound Transportation) website.

On the topic of cars...

For every \$100 of retail spending in the year 2000, Canadians spent an average of \$36 on motor vehicles, gas, parts and service.

Between 1996 and 1999, rush-hour traffic on main roads and bridges in the Greater Vancouver Regional District increased by 8%. The region's population growth was only 4% during this same time period.

On the topic of cycling...

Approximately 32% of all trips made in downtown Vancouver in 1999 were by bicycle!

Nearly 2/3 of Canadian would like to cycle more often if they could. Lack of proper bicycle infrastructure is a deterrent to many would-be bikers.

On the topic of air quality...

The Chief Medical Officer for the Cities of Vancouver and Richmond estimates between 15-150 people die every year in the Lower Mainland from air pollution.

DAWEG Annual General Meeting

Saturday, September 25, 2004, 8 am – 2:00 pm
Executive Hotel
4201 Lougheed Highway
Burnaby, BC, V5C 3Y6
Tel: (604) 298-2010



*The Division for the Advancement
of Women in Engineering and Geoscience*

RSVP by Friday, September 17, 2004

Our theme this year is “Rejuvenation: The Opportunity for Personal and Professional Development”.

We will hear Anne Garrette, P.Eng. the Executive Director and Registrar of APEGBC, talk about all the recent changes taking place at APEGBC and the new policy governance model she has been implementing. We will see what role DAWEG will play in supporting the new model.

We will also hear Monica Rucki, the winner of the Women of Distinction Award. She is an overseas volunteer and Co-President of the UBC chapter of Engineers Without Borders. Monica has been the driving force behind the introduction of a course on International Development within the Applied Science Program at UBC. She has also launched an IT training program in the Downtown Eastside and volunteers her time teaching one on one computer classes at the Dr. Peter Centre.

There will be a seminar on professional development presented by professionals in this field specializing on women’s challenges.

We will also have a networking game in which teams of attendees will solve a hypothetical professional challenge problem.

Do not miss this opportunity to come, have fun and network.

Registration Fee:

(Continental breakfast and buffet lunch are included in the registration fee.)

Members: \$25

Non-members: \$35

Students & folks on Parental Leave
or in-between jobs: \$10

Register by one of the following methods:

Register on line at

<https://host.softworks.ca/AGate3/event?f=APEGBC.0012>

this link is also available off the DAWEG home page:

<http://www.mech.ubc.ca/~daweg>

or

Mail registration form and payment to:

Mitra Salimi

1036 Madore Avenue

Coquitlam, BC, V3K 3B5

If you have any questions please contact

Mitra Salimi at msalimi@smartire.com

DAWEG AGM Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Company: _____

Engineering discipline: _____

Registering as:

DAWEG Member _____

Non-DAWEG Member _____

Student/other _____

Bringing kids? Y / N

How many? _____

How old? _____

Tentative Agenda for DAWEG Annual General Meeting

Saturday, September 25, 2004, 8 am – 2:00 pm
Executive Hotel
4201 Lougheed Highway
Burnaby, BC, V5C 3Y6
Tel: (604) 298-2010

- 8:00 am – 8:30 am Registration/Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 am – 8:45 am Welcome address and Executive Committee Activity Report
Maggie Wojtarowicz, E.I.T., DAWEG Chair
- 8:45 am – 9:15 am DAWEG Report (Budget)
Grace Cheng, P.Eng. and Cathy Marr, P.Eng.
- 9:15 am – 9:45 am Guest Speaker
Anne Garrett, P.Eng. APEGBC Executive Director
- 9:45 am – 10:00 am Coffee Break
- 10:00 am – 10:30 am Guest Speaker / Inspirational/ Promoting engineering and Geosciences
Monica Ruckie, volunteer and Co – President of the UBC chapter of Engineers
without Borders. Winner of YWCA’s women of distinction award.
- 10:30 am – 10:50 am Guest Speaker
Caroline Dayyani, E.I.T. and Michelle Murphy, CCWEST Conference Student
Sponsorship Winner, UBC
- 10:50 am – 11:30 am Networking game [Waiting for ideas](#)
- 11:30 pm – 12:30 pm Lunch (grouped by discipline)
- 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Seminar
Moreen Singh
- 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm Elections of the new DAWEG Executive Committee