



**Division for the Advancement
of Women in
Engineering & Geoscience**

**The EDGE Newsletter – March 2007 Issue
* Equity and Diversity in Geoscience & Engineering***

Dear DAWEG Members,

The Board is looking for some interim assistance with Administrative activities while the Administrative Director is on an out-of-town work assignment for several months. For more information, see <http://batman.mech.ubc.ca/~daweg/shorttermadmin.html>, or email the Chair, Maggie at wmaggie101@telus.net.

DAWEG Board

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BOARD NEWS

1. March Board Meeting Brief

Supporting DAWEG's strategic objective to promote networking, the Board decided to sponsor at the Gold level the NEW@UBC Building Communities Symposium in September. To increase and support the participation in DAWEG by members and sponsors, the Board is working on several professional development (PD) and networking speaker series, and APEGBC Conference Stream PD sessions. We recently awarded two science fair winners with DAWEG awards, and we are pleased to inform you that the ROV Program funding grant that DAWEG supported in order to increase the participation of girls in design and construction of robotics has been successful (refer to past issues for more info). The Board is starting to prepare for our next planning retreat, where we will decide the longer-term direction for DAWEG, and we invite member input (see details below). The Board is also looking for interim assistance with Administrative duties, as described in the welcome message. We thank all new and returning members for your support for 2007 – your \$20 annual fee supports all these and many more activities made possible through the dedicated work of a handful of volunteers. It's really amazing to get feedback that our initiatives are making a difference to individuals' lives and that our existence helps bring balance and diversity to the professions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2. Closing the Gap: A Workshop on Improving the Career Success for Women in Engineering

When: Thursday, March 22, 2007 - 2:00-4:00 pm

Where: Kaiser Building, Room 2030 (Tesla Room), 2332 Main Mall, UBC Campus

This workshop is sponsored by Networking Engineering Women at UBC (NEW@ubc). Please check DAWEG's website for more information on this event.

3. Energetic Women in Technology Networking Reception

Hosted by BC Hydro in partnership with DAWEG and SCWIST

Celebrate DAWEG's new relationship with BC Hydro!

When: Tuesday, March 27, 2007 - 5:30-7:30 pm

Where: 1400 - 666 Burrard Street, Vancouver (Powerex offices)

- Join in an evening of informal storytelling and inspiration.
- Learn of exciting career opportunities in the energy industry from some of BC Hydro's leading women.
- Connect with other women in industry while enjoying wine and cheese refreshments.

RSVP by Wednesday, March 21, 2007 to Heidi Propp at BC Hydro: heidi.propp@bchydro.com or 604-623-3686. DAWEG members, please also CC dawegaccount@hotmail.com when you email Heidi so know how many DAWEG Members will be attending.

4. Board Meeting

When: Wednesday, April 4, 2007 - 6:00-8:00 pm

Where: APEGBC Office, 4010 Regent St., Burnaby

The next DAWEG Board meeting will be open to DAWEG volunteers and Members who wish to join the Board members in discussion of DAWEG's business. If you would like to attend, please email dawegaccount@hotmail.com.

5. Victoria Chapter Meeting

When: Friday, April 13, 2007 - 6:00 pm

Where: UVic

If you would like to attend, please contact Daniela Constantinescu at danielac@me.uvic.ca.

6. DAWEG Spring Speaker Series

DAWEG is hosting an early morning speaker series, sponsored by BC Hydro during the last week of April, May, and June, 2007. The events will include breakfast and will feature talks by engineers and corporate managers from the utilities, manufacturing and alternative fuels industries around the theme of "Shaping the future now...for generations to come". The sessions will be held at a different central location each month across the Lower Mainland in an effort to make it convenient to attend at least one session. Everyone is welcome. For more information on dates/time and locations, please stay tuned!

7. Board Strategic Planning Retreat

At the upcoming Strategic Planning Retreat, the Board will develop a 5-Year Strategic Plan and a Board Succession Plan to shape the future of DAWEG. We invite 5 additional DAWEG Members to join us to provide further input. Please contact the Chair, Maggie at wmaggie101@telus.net, for info.

Meet fellow professional colleagues and find out more about what being on the Board is all about.

When: Sunday, May 6, 2007

8 am – 12 pm, lunch with a social / networking activity to follow

Where: TBD – Watch for agenda and venue updates on our website.

8. Building Communities Symposium

Students involved in NEW@ubc are planning a two day symposium for women in engineering in BC, sponsored, in part, by DAWEG and the Jade Project: Bridges Programme.

Building Communities is a project to plan and implement a two day symposium (September 15 and 16, 2007) for women in engineering in BC. This event will involve workshop sessions on how to develop networks, build mentoring relationships, develop leadership skills, and create communities. On the second day of the workshop participants will self organize and plan, develop and create web pages for their own networking/community/interaction event. Participation from women at all levels of student and industry/academic careers in engineering will be canvassed.

NEW@ubc's Vision for this event is such that women should leave with both enhanced networking skills, networks started/strengthened, and a sense of purposeful, positive action for their personal and community networks.

More information can be found at the website: www.mech.ubc.ca/~wesymposium

PAST EVENTS

9. Victoria Chapter

At the Victoria Chapter meeting held on February 16th, the importance of increasing the visibility of women in the profession through having more women speakers at the APEGBC Conference and AGM was discussed.

On February 28th, the Victoria Chapter along with UVic's Women in Engineering and Computer Science (WECS) hosted a workshop entitled "Live ambitiously: Degrees, Careers, and Our Personal Lives", moderated by Lil Blume. They had 20 participants: 4 undergraduate and 7 graduate students, 1 post-doc, 3 UVic technical staff, 2 UVic faculty, and 3 working professionals. The feedback was extremely positive and included: more time to explore the issues; future workshops like this; most appreciated benefits were the opportunity to network, to learn that others face the same challenges and how they deal with them, and to overcome the feeling of isolation in professional life.

The Victoria Chapter held it's most recent monthly meeting on Friday, March 9th at UVic. The main topic was preparation for the Show-and-Tell for female elementary school students on Saturday, April 21st. If you would like more information on this event or would like to attend the next Victoria Chapter meeting, please contact Daniela Constantinescu at danielac@me.uvic.ca.

10. National Engineering Week - E-Fest and BC Hydro

DAWEG attended E-Fest on Saturday, February 24, 2007 held at Vancouver Public Library's main branch, along with industry representatives, engineering organizations and student projects. We had a display booth and shared our booth with NEW@UBC to support this young active group. Board members Megan, Maggie, Bernadette and Saghi answered lots of questions from interested passersby. School children and their parents stopped by to get more information on engineering as a career choice for them and what is it like to be a woman in engineering. We handed out lots of our information cards and registered a few new members.

DAWEG proudly represented the female face of the professions at BC Hydro's E-Fest day at their Edmonds office on Thursday, March 1, 2007. Several BC Hydro employees expressed interest in DAWEG membership, either for themselves or their spouses, and all who stopped by our booth enthusiastically shared BC Hydro's efforts and successes to support the advancement of women in engineering and geoscience.



11. Salary Seminar & Industry Reception

The 2007 Vancouver Salary Seminar and Industry Reception was held on Wednesday, February 28th at UBC. More than 100 students and 40 professional engineers attended the seminar and reception. Students showed huge interest in salary negotiations skills and networking opportunities. DAWEG registered a number of new members using the new computer-based registration form.



OTHER

12. APEGBC EIT/GIT Mentoring Program Survey

Some of you may have received an email from APEGBC a couple of weeks ago. It appears to have been sent out to EIT and GIT members. DAWEG encourages those responding to the survey to let APEGBC know that they should expand their mentoring program to include the possibility of junior P.Eng./P.Geo. members being mentored by more senior P.Eng./P.Geo. members. DAWEG would like to provide a mentoring program to our members, but due to limited resources, we would like to encourage and potentially work with APEGBC to offer this for all APEGBC members. However, this possibility is not currently available in the current APEGBC Mentoring Program setup, in part due to apparently low level of interest expressed to APEGBC for such an expansion to date.

13. Okanagan Chapter

If you are interested in hearing about Okanagan Chapter activities, please contact Darlene Atkinson at Darlene_Atkinson@golder.com.

14. Sponsors

New Title Sponsor:



Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsors:



Vancouver International Airport Authority
Administration de l'aéroport international de Vancouver

Vision Statement - *The face of our profession reflects the face of our society. In our work environment, individuals are valued and their lifestyle choices are respected. That women advance, excel and thrive at all levels in our profession.*

Core Values - *Professionalism · Equity · Inclusiveness*

Mission - *To make Engineering and Geoscience Appealing, Rewarding and Equitable for women so that women are attracted to and are practicing at all levels in our profession.*