



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

The EDGE Newsletter – November 2007 Issue

** Equity and Diversity in Geoscience & Engineering **

Dear DAWEG Members,

Welcome to DAWEG's new fiscal year, 2007-2008. A real changing of the guard has taken place in the ranks of the DAWEG executive board. We would like to thank the retiring directors and volunteers. Let's continue achieving good things!

DAWEG Board

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BOARD NEWS

1. November Board Meeting Brief

A real changing of the guard has taken place in the ranks of the DAWEG executive board. A handful of the directors that served for several years, have moved on. Megan is now the Engineers Canada liaison for APEGBC and Maggie will undoubtedly become even more pivotal in APEG committees such as, what else, sustainability. I am pleased to be joined on the board but a full compliment of new directors; many of them are new to DAWEG at the same time as new to an organization executive. I look forward to a year of learning by all and some refreshing changes in the way we do things, in part due to the infusion of new blood and in part due to the apparent need to reinvent our position with the engineering community. One goal that I have set for our group is to continue programs that are true to the DAWEG vision and mission while changing the image of the events we hold. I believe the events should be planned as opportunities to networking and highlight or celebrate successes. As such, the crowd we attract should include men and women at all levels of the professional. Think of the upcoming Dec 6th Memorial and Social as being hosted **by** DAWEG not **for** DAWEG and invite other accordingly. In this issue, you will read about the elections of two women to the most prominent positions on APEGBC Council. This is promising for those of us that believe in and devote time to the advancement of women. It certainly is the most concrete sign I have seen that political and societal barriers within the profession are lifted.

DAWEG board members are using new email addresses that are dedicated to DAWEG business and allow greater storage and easier communication between the board and from the members at large. The gmail format consists of the word daweg and the role of the director separated by a period. Use it to get in touch with us anytime. I hope whether you are local or across the province, that each of you reading will one day cross paths with either myself or one the board members you will read about over the year. Please feel free to join us at any time, as a board observer, to get involved with a special project you are passionate about or to volunteer with ongoing initiatives or take on a regular duty within the organization – I assure you that you will get back what you put in.



In keeping with the theme of recognizing individuals, I would like to use the newsletter to introduce the new board members. In order to share some personal and professional details the individuals, we decided to profile one director per issue. Carolina is an EIT with Read Jones Christoffersen Ltd (RJC) working in the Building Science and Restoration Department. Her role as a building envelope consultant has been mainly acting as the construction administrator for large-scale building envelope restoration projects, and conducting evaluations, investigations and assessments of buildings of various types and ages of construction. She graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1999 and began her career as a structural designer for Wardrop Engineering where she worked in the design of a new vehicular bridge for the City of Winnipeg. She moved to

Victoria in 2004 when she joined RJC and has recently transferred to Vancouver in May of 2007. Carolina joined the board of directors for DAWEG in the fall of 2007 and will be performing the role as the Membership Director.

To join DAWEG or to renew your membership you can send your registration form to Carolina at daweg.membership@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

2. Memorial and Holiday Social

Please join us in remembering the 14 female engineering students killed in Montreal on December 6, 1989.

When:

Thursday December 6th, 2007, 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Where:

So.Cial at Le Magasin Restaurant. 332 Water Street Gastown, Vancouver, V6B 1B6

[Click for map and directions](#)

(Two blocks from Seabus/Skytrain Waterfront station)

We encourage you to bring a potential DAWEG member and/or your significant other. Appies and one beverage served with each ticket between 6:00 and 6:30 pm.

Registration opens from Nov 15th and closes on Dec 5th.

Registration Fee:

\$14 to symbolize the 14 engineering women and \$6 from each registration will go to the CEMF - the Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation.

For registration, please visit: www.apeg.bc.ca/event

WOMEN and MEN WELCOME!

3. Parents Coffee Talk

The Parents Coffee Talk is a very casual get-together for those working (part-time or on-leave) with of young children. I thought it would be a nice idea to hold a coffee talk to kick off the holiday season. For a brief moment I thought about us all going to a mall to get our kids pictures taken with Santa...and then I remembered what an insane mad women I always am during that particular activity. So a relaxed get-together will be held at my home in the morning of either Tues Dec 11th, Thursday Dec 13th, Friday Dec 14th, Tues Dec 18th, Thrs Dec 20th or Friday Dec 21. The date will be picked when the most can attend, if you are interested, please send an email to daweg.chair@gmail.com to with your date preference. The activity for the event will be building a gingerbread house with the little ones. Beverages provided, pls. bring a small kid friendly snack to share. Please invite other engineering parents who may not yet be DAWEG members.

4. DAWEG ITE Coffee Talk

Network event for engineers looking for work, including Internationally Trained Engineers (ITE)

Would you be interested in attending a monthly Evening Coffee Talk with other peers to improve your professional network?

The objectives are:

- ✓ Build a supportive and informative network for engineers looking for work
- ✓ Create a forum for discussing and sharing ITE-related information
- ✓ Promote inclusiveness in the engineering community in BC.

If you are interested, please let us know sending an e-mail to Daweg.ITE@gmail.com by Nov. 30th. Based on the responses received, we will provide details in the next Newsletter.

Thank you for your support!

PAST EVENTS

5. Annual General Meeting 2007

On September 27, 2007, over thirty distinguished women joined together at Science World for DAWEG's annual AGM. It was my first DAWEG event, and I was pleased to see ladies from all stages in their career representing all disciplines. After some friendly networking and introductions, accompanied by delicious hors d'oeuvres, we assembled for business. Maggie Wojtarowicz opened with the Board Report. Highlights included presenting the recently revised mission and vision statement. The financial report from Caroline Andrewes identified opportunities for additional expenditures; somewhat due to new, and renewed, sponsorship acquisitions. BC Hydro was welcomed as our Title Sponsor, and the first non-engineering sponsor, Investment Group, was announced. This was followed by a successful election of the new board – who you can meet by visiting our website. Newly elected chair, Bernadette Currie followed with an overview of the events DAWEG has planned for the upcoming year. The evening's spirit continued by Celebrating Successes with two accomplished and candid panel presenters Diana Klein and Janet Benjamin. Diana is a sustainable design consultant and currently piloting Green Bricks, a DAWEG

sponsored green building education program for grades 10-12. Janet, APEGBC Council Presidential Candidate is known for being a co-founder of the Power Smart program, and continues to make energy waves as an electric-hybrid vehicle consultant. Both women shared with us their professional path to success. And women both concur it is a convoluted yet rewarding journey.



New DAWEG Board Members

OTHER

6. APEGBC Council Election Results – Women at the Helm



History is being made again at APEGBC this Fall of 2007 with the election of only the second female APEGBC Council President. Moreover, the Vice President is also a female, making it the first time that both positions in the lead are held by women. DAWEG congratulates Janet Benjamin, P.Eng, President, and Margaret Li, P.Eng, Vice President for their achievement, successful election platforms based on their passions and past work, and dedication of their professional and personal lives to the engineering and geoscience profession. We look forward to working with Janet and Margaret on raising the profile of the profession, ensuring that the public and the government is aware that the profession includes women at all levels, and on engaging members in their profession and Association through Branches and Divisions, including through DAWEG.

Janet Benjamin, P.Eng, APEGBC President

We asked Janet to share with DAWEG Members some of her thoughts about what she would like to accomplish in her role as APEGBC President, how that relates to DAWEG's goals, and what DAWEG can do to assist her in this.

Q: What would you like to achieve in your new role?

A: Primarily to help fulfill our mandate of protecting the public, and do it in a way that makes the professions of engineering and geoscience better for its members.

Q: How can DAWEG's vision , *"Making Engineering and Geoscience appealing, rewarding and equitable for women so that women are attracted to and excel at all levels in our profession,"* help deliver this?

A: I think that there is great synergy between my objectives and those of DAWEG. One of the greatest ways that APEGBC members can help the public is through interpreting science and technology for the public, and putting it in its proper context. By really understanding the holistic nature of the problem – and that includes the social and economic aspects as well as the technical – APEGBC members can be sure that they are not only solving the problem right, but that they are also solving the right problem.

It has been my observation that, in the thirty years since I graduated, women engineers and geoscientists have been interested and effective at using their communication skills to refine the technical challenge and also explain the solution. The result benefits both society and the professions. So the more that DAWEG's enables women's success at all levels of the professions, the more public welfare and APEGBC are strengthened.

This sets up a "virtuous circle": more women see this result, more are attracted to the professions. And on it goes!

Q: How might DAWEG assist you with achieving your goals for your new role?

A: DAWEG is already doing a great job with scholarships, awards, school events, and should continue doing it! As for other ideas, maybe getting media profile for prominent women APEGBC members, or doing guest editorials on op-ed pages: *Day in the life of women engineers and geoscientists*.

Janet's views are fully supported by Margaret Li, P.Eng, Vice President.

7. Celebrating APEGBC President's Award Winners

DAWEG congratulates all of this year's winners of the APEGBC President's Awards, presented at the October Awards Gala in Whistler. In keeping with DAWEG's Strategic Goal of celebrating the successes of women in Engineering and Geoscience, DAWEG would particularly like to extend warm congratulations to Stella Chiu, P.Eng for recognition with the Young Professional Award, and Glynnis Horel, P.Eng and Nicole Kohnert, P.Eng, who were both recognized with Professional Service Awards. Thank you for your contributions to our profession and to society, and enjoy your successes!

8. Collaboration with APEGBC

DAWEG is working with APEGBC on a future article submission that will look specifically at the lives and careers of a handful of women in the profession. Are you are interested in having a telephone interview and answering questions about your education, field of work and life balance. We are looking for individuals at the P.Eng and EIT status (also P.Geo and GIT), those with growing families and single women, full time or part-time employee in industry, self-employed or in academia. The timeline for a writer to contact the participants is soon, so send an email to daweg.chair@gmail.com by Nov 30th.

9. Sponsors

Title Sponsor:



Gold Sponsors:



The Plan



Investors Group Financial Services Inc.



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

Silver Sponsors:



Vision Statement - Making Engineering and Geoscience appealing, rewarding and equitable for women so that women are attracted to and excel at all levels in our profession.

Core Values - Professionalism · Equity · Inclusiveness

Mission - To promote, enhance and facilitate opportunities for women to succeed in engineering and geoscience.