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

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## **The EDGE Newsletter – June 2008 Issue**

*\* Equity and Diversity in Geoscience & Engineering \**

Dear DAWEG Members,

The summer has arrived, and DAWEG wishes you well as you enjoy the season and hopefully some “time off”. The board will be working to tie up some loose ends as the term for most directors comes to a close. Please review the details of events to be held by groups that DAWEG supports. And all those involved in the division’s past or interested in the division’s future should make a plan to attend the Annual General Meeting in September, this is one of the few in person events that will still be organized each year by the executive board.

*DAWEG Board*

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### **IN THIS ISSUE**

#### **Board News:**

- 1. June Board Meeting Brief**
  - 2. Introducing Director of Outreach**
  - 3. APEGBC Council Input**
  - 4. Reminder to Complete the 2008 Compensation Survey**
- 

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- 5. "Inspired to Act" - YWCA Connect to Success Mentoring Program Event  
Wednesday, July 9th**
- 6. Annual General Meeting – Thursday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup>**
- 7. Connecting your money with your values: A financial workshop by Kelly  
Oglow – Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**
- 8. DAWEG ITE Coffee Talk**

#### **Past Events**

- 9. Women in Engineering in Vancouver Region Games Night**
- 10. DAWEG Advisory Council Dinner**
- 11. PMC-Sierra Science Fair Fun Run**

#### **Other:**

- 12. Member Seeks Job Share Partner for Project Engineer Position**
  - 13. Awards Recognition**
  - 14. Sponsors**
-

## BOARD NEWS

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### 1. June Board Brief

Efforts to change, rejuvenate the division are still underway. Feedback on new communication strategies and format is welcome to [daweg.info@gmail.com](mailto:daweg.info@gmail.com).

The next main focus is on recruiting individuals to the executive for the upcoming year. The activities will be streamlined to fit interests and skill set of those who come forward, but in a nutshell we are hoping to fill the following positions;

**Communications** –collecting input for and preparing the newsletter, including minor editing of submissions and answering general email inquired (infrequent)

**Administration** – liaise with APEGBC staff, maintain membership list, book bi-monthly meeting room and equipment, arrange food for meetings, take meeting minutes and send in web updates.

**Events** – Organize details for DAWEG AGM in September, Holiday Social and Memorial in December and Advisory Council Dinner (by invite only) in January. This position is a coordinator role that serves the board between August and January (half year only) – working with volunteers to ensure the two main events open to the membership are well planned and hosted.

**Outreach** – Main focus of the position is arranging judges and awards presenters for BC Science Fairs (March through April in four regions), planning for one day booth at E-fest during National Engineering Week and organizing a team to enter the PMC Sierra Fun Run held each May. The role is another half year term starting in January and ending in June.

**Finance/ Sponsorship** – DAWEG has recently hired a bookkeeper, which makes this role about maintaining good relations with our corporate sponsors and helping prepare/update a budget for overall income and expenses. The finance director has signing authority for the bank account, as thus will make out cheques for expense claims. The day to day record keeping is handled by a professional accountant, who also prepares the financial reports.

If any DAWEG member has been inclined to step up and take a leadership role in the operation of the division, now is your chance. A planning session is being held to introduce new potential board members to our executive. A revised operating model and future directions for the executive will be discussed. Lunch will be held at The Cactus Club in Burnaby, with food and drinks provided by DAWEG. The date for this events is Sun July 20<sup>th</sup> - more details to come – interested attendees pls. contact [daweg.chair@gmail.com](mailto:daweg.chair@gmail.com)

Longtime DAWEG members and Advisory Council Members - Those who wish to provide input are also invited to the above planning session. Attendance can be for the whole event, including lunch, or just the morning planning session plus lunch or the lunch plus afternoon team building session (more fun). More importantly, you are requested to think long and hard to identify a new recruit for the board - Send contact info for the potential candidate you have in mind to [daweg.chair@gmail.com](mailto:daweg.chair@gmail.com)

### 2. Introducing Director of Outreach

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Meet our Outreach Director, Nicole Marie Bennett. Nicole graduated with a Masters in Applied Science from the department of Biological and Chemical Engineering at UBC in December 2006. Her thesis work investigated the concept of bio-ethanol production using extractives from pine pyrolysis oil as part of the Clean Energy Research Center's Bio-Process Laboratory. She has been actively involved in the engineering community as part of the Women in Engineering (WIE) group at Guelph University as well as an original member of Networking Engineering Women at UBC (now WIE). Nicole has experience as a Process Engineer in large multi-national




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food and pharmaceutical companies from Frito Lay to McNeil Pharmaceuticals (Tylenol); however has recently shifted gears into engineering education as part of the Engineering Co-op Office and Centre for Professional Skills Development, both at UBC. Her external commitments involve advocating for healthy and alternative lifestyles through bicycle advocacy and street performance (bcclettes.ca). Nicole is an adventurer at heart and takes opportune moments to explore the world around her. Earlier this year, she spent 100 days backpacking through Central America, from Panama to Guatemala, revitalizing her love for Spanish and Salsa. This summer, she will join a 7-day bicycle and camping tour of Vancouver Island, engaging with local communities along the way.

### 3. APEGBC Council Input

APEGBC Council identified as a Strategic Initiative for the 2008/9 year, to identify issues that impact the professions going forward, both internal and external. As part of this initiative, Council requested that each board, branch, committee and division identify the major issues facing the professions of engineering and/or geoscience that concern it the most. Listed here is the input collected from individual members of the advisory council and/or executive and submitted online by the chair of DAWEG.

RESPECT/REWARD FOR APEGBC INVOLVMENT - Volunteer service with APEGBC needs more recognition and appreciation both from within the association and from industry/institutional employers. Pride in profession and a commitment to betterment of the professional led people to spend time, effort and energy but seemingly at the possible expense of greater career success. Dedicated service to our division doesn't have an adequate 'payoff' in the current market and thus times spend any unpaid/non career related capacity is a detriment to 'advancement' – which is the vision on which the org is based.

APPATHY AMONG APEGBC MEMBERS REGARDING SUPPORT FOR DAWEG - Despite the attempt of the division to appeal to the ENTIRE membership to promote diversity and support/celebrate women in the profession, it seems that the majority stands on the side lines or turns their backs. Ideally many persons, both men and women regardless, would feel compelled based on personal values to advocate for and embrace changes that improve the climate and opportunities for women. It should be noted that backlash and opposition to the group is apparent and vocal from BOTH genders, yet active support and involvement is more one sided.

ENGINEERING EDUCATION/PRACTICE REFOCUS - Consideration of setting a “higher bar” – to allow for the development of engineers who understand and are empowered tackle issues of public policy, economics, project management, social issues. Making sure the voice of engineering profession is heard on public policy issues relating to sustainability, climate change, livability, transportation, environment etc.

MARKETING THE PROFESSION. Raising the profile, recognition for value of work and making the profession more attractive. Keeping both women and men in the profession who have broad scope of interest and leave in search of jobs "that are closer to their personal values of helping society"

Other issues recently identified to bring forward for consideration by the APEGBC Council and /or Staff;

Absence of on-site childcare as an option at the APEGBC Conference and Annual General meeting. A letter writer to Innovation identify this an opportunity for the association to take a very progressive position of the behalf of the many working professionals also juggling the responsibility of young families. This is especially pertinent for single parents or for spouses both registered as Engineers or Geoscientist, likely not to both attend on account of shared family commitments.

Also brought to light was the fact that an APEGBC registrant whose maternity leave straddled two years was not able to pay a reduce yearly fee to the association in either year, because the leave did not fall entirely in one calendar year. This item deserved further investigation with the staff at APEG, and maternity leave is a time period in which in all likelihood professional duties are **not** at all being performed or remunerated.

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**Attention Sustainability Committee of APEGBC!** Many EIT / GIT or P. Eng / P. Geo's are married to a someone of a similar professional, at least in my own network circle, therefore two issues.....It would evidently be of great benefit for someone of APEGBC to cross reference the mailing addresses of their recipients and ensure only one Innovation magazine is sent to our family or household. This is a great opportunity to reduce redundancy and paper. A credit can be given towards membership dues in exchange.

#### **4. Reminder to Complete the 2008 Compensation Survey**

APEGBC's 2008 Compensation Survey will remain open for member input until Monday, June 30, 2008. If you haven't already completed the survey, DAWEG encourages all members (working or not) to take a few minutes to participate.

Visit <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/compensationsurvey>

The survey data is compiled and available sorted by gender, which gives insight into the status of women in the professions. Responses remain anonymous and allow APEGBC to perform an analysis of member compensation relative to employment responsibility level, giving members and employers a point of reference for comparison to other professionals in BC and across Canada.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **5. "Inspired to Act" - YWCA Connect to Success Mentoring Program Event Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>**

Invite your girlfriends - make some new ones - join us for an inspired evening on our rooftop garden!

Get to know our mentors and mentees

Share some summer-time hors d'ouvres

Celebrate in the gifts that challenges reveal and the power of an inspired act

Date: Wednesday 9th July 2008

Time: 5:30 - 8pm

Location: Rooftop - 535 Hornby Street

RSVP BY 30th June 2008 for you and your guest(s)

Need child-minding? please let us know the age(s) of your child(ren)

[connect@ywcavan.org](mailto:connect@ywcavan.org)

### **6. Annual General Meeting**

Save the date for this year's DAWEG AGM!

**When:** Thursday, September 25, 2008

### **7. Connecting your money with your values: A financial workshop by Kelly Oglow – Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**

Date: Thursday Jul 10, 2008

Time: 6:30 - 9:00 PM

Co-presented by SCWIST and WiE(VR) hear Kelly Oglow from Raymond James discuss finances from the female perspective. Networking to follow.

Location:

Downtown YWCA, 4th Floor

535 Hornby Street, Vancouver

Registration Fee: \$5

On-line registration @ [https://www.sporg.com/pom/registration?cmd=event\\_info&event\\_id=110191](https://www.sporg.com/pom/registration?cmd=event_info&event_id=110191)

Contact: RSVP to [engineeringwomen@gmail.com](mailto:engineeringwomen@gmail.com)

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### 8. DAWEG ITE Coffee Talk

DAWEG Evening Coffee Talk - Network event for engineers looking for work, including Internationally Trained Engineers (ITE)

What about an opportunity to mingle with other peers? A great way to improve your professional network!

Event objectives:

- ✓ 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.

Are you interested? Then email [Daweg.ITE@gmail.com](mailto:Daweg.ITE@gmail.com) to let us know.

We will provide details soon, based on the responses received. Thank you for your support!

## PAST EVENTS

### 9. Women in Engineering in Vancouver Region Games Night - Thurs., June 26<sup>th</sup>

WIE(VR) hosted another night to relax challenge other women engineers to friendly competition in board games. Snack were provided and fun was had by all at the SFU (Burnaby Mountain) location.



### 10. DAWEG Advisory Council Dinner – April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008

It was wonderful to be with old friends and meet new ones at the DAWEG Advisory Council dinner exceptionally hosted by Bernadette! It had been a while since I last spoke with such a dynamic group of professional women and I must say it was rejuvenating. The focus was primarily the recent letter to the editor regarding the purpose of DAWEG in these modern times. The discussion at the dinner showed that there was some room for evaluation but there is no doubt that there is tremendous value still in having a supportive and promotional group of women engineers and geoscientist advancing the profession. I look forward to more dialogue and gatherings in the near future. – Nicole Kohnert



### 11. PMC-Sierra Science Fair Fun Run - May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The ninth annual PMC-Sierra Science Fair Fun Run raised \$50,000 and attracted almost 1,300 runners on Sunday, May 25, 2008. To date, the run has raised over \$360,000 for The Dr. Michael Smith Science Fair Endowment in support of Science Fair programs across British Columbia. After the Run, participants

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enjoyed free giveaways, live entertainment, face painting for children and free admission to the TELUS World of Science.

“Encouraging students to participate in science fairs lays the groundwork for the next generation of scientists to reduce the effects of global warming, find a cure for cancer or even set up a colony on Mars,” says Patti Leigh, Executive Director of the Science Fair Foundation of B.C. “The students and the Foundation are thankful for the money raised by participants and sponsors of the PMC-Sierra Science Fair Run Fun.”

This year, DAWEG sponsored 11 awards presented to bright young scientists across Metro Vancouver, South Fraser and Vancouver Island. The Fun-Run is a fabulous event and we encourage all DAWEG/APEGBC members to join the fun next year!

<http://www.sciencefairs.ca/funrun/index.html>.



## OTHER

### 12. Member Seeks Job Share Partner for Project Engineer Position

The 2 days per week (7.25 hrs/day) position with Metro Vancouver would involve: Engineering design, preparation of contract documents, project management and administration of construction contracts generally in wastewater treatment.

The position requires: P.Eng designation with degree in mechanical, process, chemical or environmental engineering. 5-10 years experience in water or wastewater treatment projects and project management would be ideal

Anyone interested in discussing this opportunity or forwarding their CV should contact Jane directly at [jane.adamson@metrovancover.org](mailto:jane.adamson@metrovancover.org)

### 13. Awards and Recognition

This month, we celebrate the successes of Dr. Daniela Constantinescu, a Past DAWEG Chair, in her May 2008 appointment to the CCWESTT Board of Directors as DAWEG’s representative, responsible for liaising between the two organizations. [CCWESTT](http://ccwestt.org/) is the Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology, and is the national umbrella organization for provincial groups like DAWEG. We also celebrate APEGBC’s 2006 RA McLachlan Memorial Award recipient, Dr. Rabab Ward, P.Eng., being recognized with the 2008 [YWCA Women of Distinction Award](http://www.ywcavan.org/content/Women_of_Distinction_Awards_/201/30/114) in the category of Technology, Science & Industry for her visionary role in the field of signal and image processing. The Award honours, encourages and recognizes women whose outstanding activities and achievements contribute to the health and future of the community. We celebrate your successes with you!

<http://ccwestt.org/>

[http://www.ywcavan.org/content/Women\\_of\\_Distinction\\_Awards\\_/201/30/114](http://www.ywcavan.org/content/Women_of_Distinction_Awards_/201/30/114)

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### 14. Sponsors

To support DAWEG or for further information please contact Svetlana Levitskaia, Finance Director at: daweg.sponsorship@gmail.com OR (604) 930-4592.

#### Title Sponsor:



#### Gold Sponsors:



Administration de l'aéroport international de Vancouver

#### Silver Sponsors:



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