



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

The EDGE Newsletter – June 2009 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”. As chair of the small (but diligent) executive committee I will be looking to recruit new faces to the group. The term for our remaining coordinators (outreach, finance and administration) is coming to a close and I am pleased to report that individuals from the exec have made a commitment to remain active within the women in engineering and geosciences community, such as by serving on APEGBC committees and WIE(VR) organizing team. 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 the early fall. This is one of the only “in person” events that will continue to be organized on a yearly basis by DAWEG, as long as the division membership is active.

DAWEG Chair

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BOARD NEWS

1. June Board Brief

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. New volunteers and/or potential coordinators are invited to attend the DAWEG Advisory Dinner this coming Wednesday, July 15th (see details next page)... - interested attendees pls. contact daweg.chair@gmail.com asap.

Recruiting individuals to the executive for the upcoming year is the main focus of the division effort presently. Activities and responsibilities 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 / 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. 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 – The finance coordinator has signing authority for the bank account, as thus will handle expense claims. DAWEG has recently hired a bookkeeper, which reduces this role to maintaining records, co-signing the odd cheque and submitting receipts to the bookkeeper. The day to day record keeping is handled by a professional accountant, who also prepares the budget and financial reports. DAWEG is no longer seeking corporate sponsorship – so maintaining records and commutation with sponsors is no longer required.

Chair - A leadership position that connects the efforts of the other coordinators and organizes the resources of the executive to get things done. The person ideally has previous experience on the DAWEG board, however it need not be recent or of significant duration !! Willingness to step up to the plate is very thing and of course the 'past chair' remains as an official exec member for the duration of the year to offer assistance.

A full planning session will be held in September to introduce new executive members to APEGBC staff liaisons and to go over the DAWEG policies and procedures and develop strategic goals for the year.

All DAWEG members and Advisory Council Members are requested to think long and hard to identify a new recruit for the board. Please forward this newsletter to non-members and/or send contact info for the potential candidate you have in mind to daweg.chair@gmail.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2. DAWEG Advisory Council Dinner – July 15th, 2009

The Advisory Council dinner will be held at the home of the DAWEG executive committee chair in Surrey, BC this coming Wednesday evening. Several DAWEG founding women (Advisory Committee members) will be in attendance and give input into the changes that are forth coming in operating as a division of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientist of BC. The time of the meeting is 6:30PM – 9:30PM. Indian cuisine will be served for dinner, along with salad and rice side dishes. Dessert and drinks will be offered after dinner, during the discussion period.

New volunteers interested in getting a good first impression of the group of women that have shaped this organization should not miss this invite to sit in on the meeting... Please send email **today** to daweg.chair@gmail.com for the address and directions. Please include a short bio or background paragraph about yourself, your experience with DAWEG membership and interest in serving with the division.

3. Annual General Meeting – Pick & Save the date for this year's DAWEG AGM!

Check your calendars, the selection of a date for the annual general meeting will be taking place over the summer. As part of an online survey regarding changes to the division structure and leadership of the organization – a question will be included about which date (weekday evening or weekend morning) suits you best.

Give your preference at survey time and then save the date for this year's DAWEG AGM!

OPTIONS: Wednesday, Sept. 23rd or 30th, Saturday Sept. 26th or Saturday October 3rd 2009

4. Building Communities Symposium - SAVE THE DATE!

2nd Biannual Building Communities - A Networking Symposium for Women in Engineering in BC September 18 - 20, 2009 in Maple Ridge, BC

5. The Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science Trades and Technology Conference Update

Plans for the 2010 CCWESTT Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba are well underway. The conference will be from Thursday May 13 to Saturday May 15, 2010. The theme is "Leading the way: empowering women and building communities".

PAST EVENTS

6. PMC-Sierra Science Fair Fun Run

The Fun Run is the largest timed 5K race in BC and is one of the technology industry's biggest fundraising events. The PMC-Sierra Science Fair Fun Run has raised over \$400,000 to date for The Dr. Michael Smith Science Fair Endowment in support of Science Fair programs across British Columbia. After the tenth annual run, participants enjoyed free giveaways, live entertainment, face painting for children and free admission to the TELUS World of Science. "Without funds from events like the PMC-Sierra Science Fair Fun Run, 60,000 students who participate in local fairs across BC each year would not have the opportunity to

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advance their projects and develop important skills like entrepreneurship, creativity and confidence,” says Patti Leigh, executive director of the Science Fair Foundation of BC. “Given the economic climate, it’s even more important to invest in our future, and we’re doing that by helping students become the great minds that will drive BC’s innovation economy into the future.” Every year, DAWEG sponsors awards presented to bright young scientists across Metro Vancouver, South Fraser, Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island – see info on the award winners below. 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>.



DAWEG Outreach Coordinator and Chair finishing the “Fun Run” on a beautiful sunny morning.

7. BC Science Fair Photos and Awards

Spring is science fair time in the province, DAWEG is honoured to sponsor several awards at the junior and senior level in regions across the province. Our executive board coordinators act as judges and award presenters. Serving in this role is inspiring and enlightening, to see young people with some dedication to studies, such intelligent and enthusiasm for science and the

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world around them. This is a volunteer role that could easily be filled by any member of DAWEG or the engineering community, right in your community. Next year, we hope to be flooded with offers to volunteer at the various fairs in the following regions. Here is a brief summary of some of the project and winners.

Fraser Valley – UCFV – March 4th (Abbotsford)

Junior winner - Macauley Chapman (Grade 4 shown below with Bernadette, Chair)

Project: “Blast of Bottles” included homemade plastic rockets in different shapes and sizes that showed a keen interest in the sciences & engineering field.



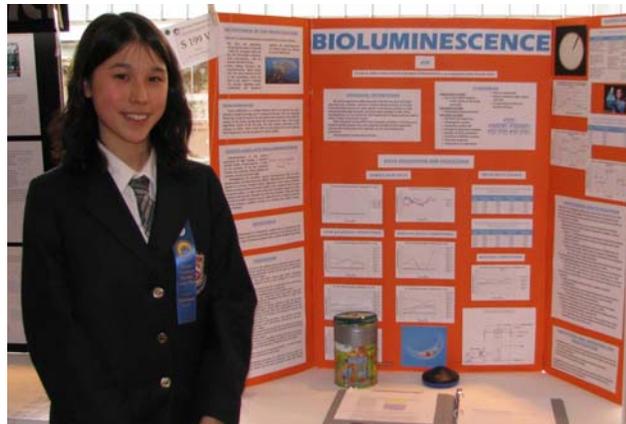
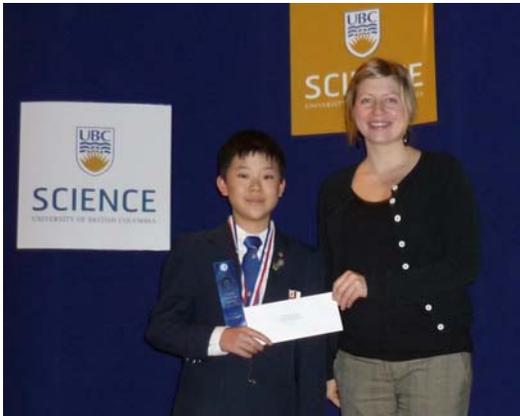
South Fraser [Surrey/Delta] – April 4th (SFU Surrey Campus)

Merve Fattah (shown above with Lana, Finance Coordinator) - Project: “Which is the most durable brick?” – taking the material science of construction very seriously.

Greater Vancouver - April 10th (UBC)

Parker Nann (shown below with Nicole, Outreach Coordinator)

Project: “Burning Down the House”



Charlotte Clegg (shown above)

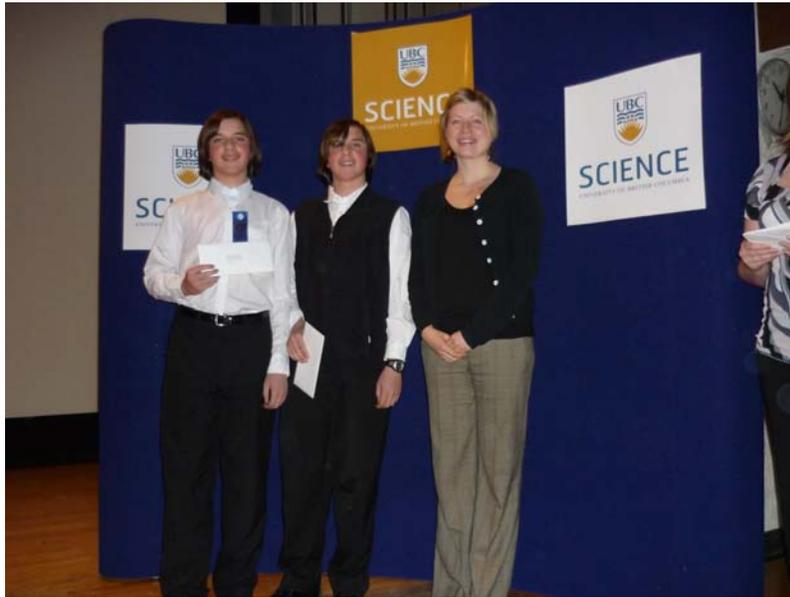
Project: “A study of the effect of ocean pH on the degree of bioluminescence in the dinoflagellate species *Pyrocystis lunula*” – what a mouthful, very thorough science.

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Damian & Jason Spence (shown below) Project: “Goey Glue-y Slime - A Report on Cross-linked Plastic Polymers” – good but gross, from two brothers.



Vancouver Island – U Vic - April 7th (University of Victoria)

Amy McQuarrie - Project: “Evaluation of Erosion Control Methods” – clearly a budding geoscientist.

8. DAWEG Executive Committee Introductions Continued

Here is a short biography for Lana Levitskaia – the coordinator of Finance for the past two years on DAWEG exec.

I am Russian Electrical Power Engineer. I came to Canada 14 years ago and was enjoying my job as a full time single Mom untill my son who has Mild Cerebral Palsy turned 7 years old. I graduated from Kwantlen College in 2004 as Electrical/Arcitectual Drafter. After that I was teaching Mad Science to Elementary School students all over Mainland. In 2007 I completed 2 years Technology Teacher Education Program at BCIT and untill now I was working as an Engineering Assistant in Electrical Design Department for the City of Vancouver. Right now I am looking for an Engineering job again as my contract ended.



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