



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

The EDGE Newsletter – Spring 2010 Issue

** Equity and Diversity in Geoscience & Engineering **

Dear DAWEG Members,

Spring has arrived, and DAWEG wishes you well as you enjoy the season and changing weather. Newsletters are coming less often now, in part because the DAWEG executive committee has been operating with a skeletal group for some time. However we still have news to share, input to get, issues to address and events to advertise. So be sure to look through each of the items below and act accordingly. I would especially like to draw your attention to 'DAWEG Support of NSERC WISE Chair' as it has both major financial implications for the division and the outcome could influence the **continuance, restructuring or disbanding** of the division as we know it.

Also APEGBC Compensation Survey is coming in May – more info below. Please, spread the word.

Bernadette, DAWEG Chair

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BOARD NEWS

1. DAWEG Support for NSERC Chair WISE

A suggestion has come forward for the division to consider allotting funds from DAWEG finances to sponsor the pending NSERC Chair for Women in Science & Engineering, BC and Yukon region. I would like to provide some background info for consideration.

- Dr. Elizabeth Croft (UBC, Mechanical Engineering Dept.) has been awarded this chair for a period of five years (renewable for a further three years), and the required matching funding is \$70, 000, for each of the five years.
- The climate for raising funds has changed somewhat from past years. I think it is fabulous that Dr. Croft and UBC fundraising representatives have been able to get commitments for just over half the entire required amount, and have prospects for the rest.
- By allocating available funds to the NSERC Chair for WISE, we as a division can bring this chair that much closer to the fundraising goal and also ensure greater impact for this sponsorship because funds are matched by UBC and NSERC.
- The amount under discussion is between \$15,000 to \$20,000 of the remaining \$20,000 investment that DAWEG has kept on an on-going basis to sponsor attendees to conferences such as CCWESTT and APEGBC Annual Conference and AGM. The origin of the money was a surplus from a conference held in BC in 1998 organized by DAWEG founding members.
- Allocating available funds means that DAWEG would have substantially decreased reserve funds with which to pursue DAWEG initiatives. However, the planned activities of the chair (see attached proposal) are aligned with much of DAWEG's vision, mission and objectives, and the chair is committed to working with DAWEG and other organizations to advance those objectives.

Before we can proceed forward with this suggestion, as chair I need to do several things first;

- Discuss with APEGBC directorship the plan to transfer funds from the division in order to sponsor.
- Check with bank regarding liquidating the investments into cash so that a transaction can take place.
- Survey the DAWEG Advisory Council Members, so that we as group can make an inclusive and objective decision about how to proceed.
- **Inform the members of DAWEG regarding the plan, allowing an opportunity for input / objection or even possible membership refund.**

For more information about the NSERC WISE Chair, please contact daweg.chair@gmail.com and I can send you the full proposal and summary/ profile documents.

The division advisory council and chair would like to give members an opportunity to input and voice concerns or support personally for this plan (as per last step above). You can indicate your position and share your thoughts by sending an email to daweg.outreach@gmail.com for a reply that will be treated confidentially and not connected to your name. Please respond by Friday, April 30th.

If you would like to attend an upcoming board meeting, in person, to be involved in the discussions and deliberations regarding this proposal please send your intentions to daweg.chair@gmail.com.

2. Input for APEGBC Salary Survey

The APEGBC Compensation Survey is conducted every two years and the next survey will take place in May, 2010. The 2008 online compensation survey was completed by over 2,300 APEGBC members working in BC, across Canada, and around the world. These members took the time to provide valuable information on their professional compensation and benefits (the response rate of the most recent survey was approximately 10%).

Analysis of the data can measure how compensation for APEGBC members compares to inflation. The main breakdown of the data is for total compensation by responsibility point range, but many other deductions and comparisons can be made, for example by industry sector or region or degree earned. You can determine your own responsibility point value by using APEGBC's Online Employment Responsibility Evaluation.

Inclusion of the gender questions allows for statistical collection and comparison on this basis for individuals at similar responsibility levels. Of course for the information gleaned from the survey to be valuable, the highest possible response rate is required. In some sectors and at high point levels, the responses from women might be few and far between. This causes trends and conclusions to be regarded as statistical anomalies – in fact the data table will show N/S – *Insufficient Sample Size* in these cases. It is VERY important that you make every effort to complete the survey during the online period and encourage/remind all other colleagues and professional contacts to do the same. It is possible NOT to opt to declare gender on the survey, but this is NOT helpful for analysis – so please be sure to indicate F (female) or M (male). DAWEG will send out a quick reminder email when the survey is open, please forward that email only immediately after taking the survey, with the Subject Title “I have done it, have you?” or something like that ☺! – This might mean some individuals will receive multiple reminders – Yup, that is the point.

More info can be found at

<http://www.apeg.bc.ca/services/employmentcentre/compensationsurvey.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

3. WIE(VR) – Speaker Night – May 6th, 2010

WIE(VR) – Women in Engineering (Vancouver Region) in collaboration with SCWIST invites you to a workshop on International Engineering Careers, presented by Margaret Malewski.

Margaret Malewski is the author of "GenXpat: The Young Professional's Guide to Making a Successful Life Abroad". She has lived, worked and studied in over 10 countries in the past 15 years. Born in Canada, she completed a M. Eng. in Warsaw, Poland and later an MBA at INSEAD in France and Singapore. She is currently CEO of Liquivision Products, Inc, a manufacturer of technical diving computers, based in Burnaby BC.

Are you hoping to work abroad as part of your engineering career?
Do you work as part of an international team of engineers?

If so, this workshop is for you!

For those of you who wish to go abroad, we'll look briefly at the main ways of getting an international position, and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of such a career move. We will also look at some of the common work and personal challenges involved in working abroad.

For those of you who wish to work as part of an international team, we will discuss some of the rewards and challenges of doing so. The session will begin with a short presentation, and then will follow into group activities and questions from the audience.

Date: Thursday, May 6th, 2010

Time: 6:30-9:30pm, workshop starts at 7pm

Place: YWCA, Welch room 1&2, 535 Hornby Street, Vancouver BC

Map: <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&ll=49.29023,-123.117256&spn=0.012148,0.027637&z=15&msid=101601515073721886770.00044fc2b9d60644d0e1e>

Cost: \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door

Registration: send an email to scwist@sfu.ca to pre-register (fees will be collected at the door, \$8 if pre-registered by noon on May 5th, otherwise \$10)

Sandwiches, snacks, and hot and cold beverages will be provided.

For more information visit our website, www.wievr.ca, or email us at engineeringwomen@gmail.com

4. The Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science Trades and Technology Conference – May 13th - 15th, Winnipeg, Manitoba

The theme is “Leading The Way: Empowering Women and Building Communities”. Representatives from some engineering faculties and programs will be attending, along with Megan Leslie, APEGBC and DAWEG's representative on Engineers Canada's Women in Engineering Advisory Group (WIEAG). Registration is still open, for more info see

www.ccwestt2010.ca/index.htm

In the issue, DAWEG features a biography of our representative on WIEAG.

Megan Leslie, P.Eng., LEED® AP

Engineers Canada Women in Engineering Advisory Group (WIEAG) Representative



Megan is an environmental engineer working in the areas of contaminated site assessment and green building consulting with Stantec Consulting Ltd. Megan has a Bachelor of Engineering in Biological Engineering from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In her spare time, Megan is involved with APEGBC, DAWEG, the UBC Engineering Tri-Mentoring program, the Society for Canadian Women in Science & Technology (SCWIST), the YWCA, Math Challengers, Science World's Scientists and Innovators in the Schools (SIS), the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

(CCFF), and the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS). In her spare time, Megan enjoys traveling, biking, skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, camping, and whitewater kayaking. Megan also recently spent two weeks in Whistler volunteering for the Olympics!

Megan has been representing APEGBC and DAWEG on Engineers Canada's WIEAG since 2006. The group consists of representatives from each of the provincial and territorial professional engineering associations (Constituent Members) as well as Engineers Canada staff. Other regular attendees at meetings include a NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering (CWSE), a member from the National Council of Deans of Engineering and Applied Science (NCDEAS), and a member from the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students (CFES).

WIEAG provides a forum for the Constituent Members of Engineers Canada to discuss women in engineering issues, share activities, and recommend action in order to foster understanding and growth in the representation of women in engineering across the country. WIEAG supports the primary mandate of Engineers Canada's policy on women in the engineering profession approved by the Engineers Canada Board of Directors in September 2000. This policy states: "The engineering profession supports principles of fairness and equity in all aspects of engineering culture, practice, and education. Diversity, through the incorporation of women, in the engineering profession, which is reflective of Canadian society, enhances our profession and society-at-large."

WIEAG communicates through regular conference calls and meet on an annual basis to collectively develop new ideas and exchange information on current and planned activities.

Megan's goal for attending the upcoming WIEAG meeting and the preceding CCWESTT conference is to connect and reconnect with women in engineering groups from across Canada and to learn what these groups are doing to attract and retain women in engineering, science, trades, and technology.

5. PMC-Sierra Science Fair Fun Run – Sunday May 30th, 2010

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 BC. After the annual run, participants enjoy free giveaways, live entertainment, face painting for children and free admission to the TELUS World of Science.

The Fun-Run is a fabulous event and we encourage all DAWEG/APEGBC members to join the fun this year! See <http://www.sciencefairs.ca/funrun/index.html> for more info.

Are you are planning to enter the run as an individual, with friends or with your family? Although DAWEG exec will not enter a team this year, we can coordinate participants who might wish to register and connect on the day of the event, contact daweg.chair@gmail.com.

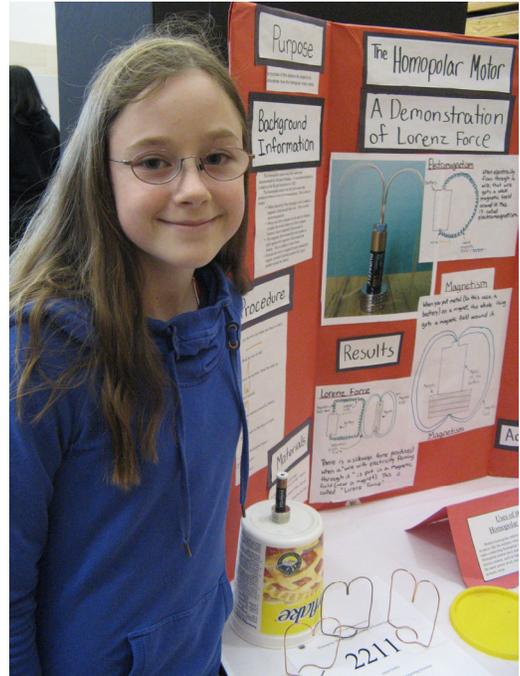
6. BC Science Fair Photos and Awards

Spring is science fair time and DAWEG is honored to sponsor several awards at the junior and senior level. Our executive board coordinates judges and award presenters in a handful of regions across the province. Serving in this role is inspiring and enlightening, to see young people with dedication to studies, such intelligent and enthusiasm for science and the world around them. The division is committed to continue sponsoring Science Fair Awards in the future either with reserve funds, collection of division dues or optional foundation donations made by APEGBC members. We will work with the association and at the branch level to make sure that this happens. This is a volunteer role that could easily be filled by any APEGBC member, right in your community. Next year, we hope to be flooded with offers to volunteer at the various fairs in the following regions. See the following page for a brief summary of some of the project and winners.

Fraser Valley – March 24th (University of Fraser Valley, Abbotsford)

Thanks to judge Bernadette Currie

Junior (\$50 cash)
 Topic: The Homopolar Motor:
 A Demonstration of Lorenz Force
 Student: Anna Gorby



**South Fraser [Surrey/Delta] – April 8th
 (Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey Campus)**

Thanks to judges Megan Leslie and Elizabeth MacLanders

Junior (\$50 cash)
 Electricity from Wheel Movement
 Students: Graham Bailey , Tyler Anaya
 School: Pacific Academy

Senior (\$50 cash)
 Student: Laurel Stothers
 School: Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary
 From the Bottom Up: Self-Assembly by Lateral Capillary Forces II

Greater Vancouver - April 8th (University of British Columbia)

Thanks to Mahnaz Niazi and Winnie Lai-Fong for volunteering.

Junior
 Topic: Direction and Collision
 Student: Symphony Huang
 School: Moscrop Secondary

Senior
 Topic: Man-Made Muscle
 Students: Matthew McRoberts , Nicholas Mani-Flower
 School: Sentinel Secondary

Vancouver Island – April 11th (University of Victoria)

Thanks to Sharlie Huffman for volunteering.

SPECIAL MENTION

Elementary: Kaitlin Rogers
 Topic: The Power of Poo.

Kaitlin extracted methane gas from waste which could then be burnt for various uses. A very disciplined project for the elementary level.

Intermediate: Ann Makosinski

Topic: Fire or Ice – Electricity for an Emergency.

Ann provided a low cost, simple method, through temperature differential) of getting enough electricity from a candle to run a radio. She also was able to use ice but it was short term as it melted. Ann was extremely articulate and knowledgeable about her subject.

DAWEG AWARD

Junior: Vicki Kleu Topic: Are you Being Haunted by Phantom Power?

Vicki tested various materials for insulating properties, with surprisingly good results for scour pads.