

Newsletter

NSERC/Petro-Canada Chair for Women in Science and Engineering

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Chair Renewed

We were pleased to recently receive the news from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) that the Atlantic Chair has been renewed for a second five-year term, until August, 2007.

In our second term, the CWSE will operate with the same mission, objectives, personnel, and structure as in Term 1. The program will build on the information, experience, and credibility gained through the activities of the first five years. Emphasis in Term 2 will be on communication, program delivery and long-term results in areas including leadership development, focussed recruitment, gateway courses and core research.

We thank Petro-Canada and Memorial University for their strong endorsement of the work of the CWSE, and the many individuals and organizations who wrote in support of the renewal. ♦

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Getting the Job Career Success Workshop

Graduating women technology students are optimistically looking for successful careers in technology, science, or engineering. Beyond the basic information on resumé writing and interviews, what is additionally useful in convincing a prospective employer to hire a talented woman in these fields?

The latest in the CWSE/WISE Newfoundland and Labrador jointly sponsored Career Success Workshop series, *Getting the Job*, addressed these issues for an audience of senior women students from STEM programs at the College of the North Atlantic and Memorial University on March 23rd.



I really enjoyed the workshop and feel that it will help with future career success.

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Exciting International Conference

The CWSE and other partners from Newfoundland and Labrador will be a strong presence at the 12th International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists to be held in Ottawa, July 27-31st.

The ICWES12 Conference will bring together engineers, scientists, social scientists and students to challenge the world to a new vision of women's roles and contributions in the areas of science, engineering and technology.

The CWSE will be reporting on the Career Success Workshops, *Becoming Leaders Handbook*, diversity and thinking styles, the national Chairs initiative, and an international comparison of student programs, in four papers and a workshop. ICWES 12 will also be the site of the international launch of the *Becoming Leaders Handbook* (see page 3).

ICWES12 has received a record number of full paper submissions which will guarantee a successful program with seven plenaries per day and symposia on Ethics & Science, Global Climate Change, and Women's Studies. The ICWES12 Conference Banquet will feature the Canadian Astronaut, Julie Payette.

We encourage other organizations and agencies to sponsor representatives to attend this important event.

For more information about ICWES12 and to register for the conference, please visit the ICWES12 website at www.icwes12.org. ♦

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Facilitators Caroline Koenig, Joanna Barnard, Jane Kieley, Mary Williams and Carolyn Emerson gave valuable tips on making resumes convincing, preparing for an interview, handling challenging questions, and enhancing career success. The interactive format provided lots of opportunities for practice of techniques and discussion with professionals who have experienced both sides of the hiring process. ♦

Students Celebrate the Marconi Centenary

On Dec. 10th, 2001, junior high school students from the Avalon region joined in celebrations of the 100th anniversary of Marconi's reception of the first transatlantic wireless signal on Signal Hill, Newfoundland. Students participated in an IEEE sponsored contest testing the signal strength of crystal radios they had assembled from kits and everyday household items.



The kits were developed by the Instrumentation, Control and Automation Centre at Memorial University with the assistance of two WISE Summer Students, Corinna Freake (above centre) from Labrador City and Melissa Williams (above right) from St. Mary's Bay.



Students then attended an internationally broadcasted ceremony marking the centenary and were part of celebrations on Signal Hill that included a live hook-up with an astronaut on the Space Shuttle. The CWSE was part of the organizational team for the event. ♦



Laird Lecture Delivered

Humankind's earliest ancestors were the topic of the 11th Elizabeth R. Laird Lecture delivered by Dr. Pamela Willoughby on March 18th at Memorial University. In her public presentation, *The Great Rift Valley: East African Evidence for our Remote Past*, Dr. Willoughby discussed the fossil evidence for human evolution that comes from East Africa and examined its unexpected contribution to the origin of our own species. Dr. Willoughby is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alberta and a Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer.

The CWSE was pleased to be a co-sponsor of this event, established by a bequest from Dr. Elizabeth Laird, prominent Canadian physicist who held posts at Yale, Cambridge, Chicago, Mount Holyoke and Western Ontario, in the first half of the 20th Century. ♦

Regional Chairs Meet

The five NSERC/Industry Chairs met in Ottawa in November, 2001 to discuss regional initiatives and national issues. BC Chair, Maria Klawe reported on the success of the ARC (Alternative Routes to Computing Science) Program at UBC and an introductory course in computer science using applications in biology, art, etc. A successful regional conference with 180 attendees was a highlight of the activities of the Prairie Chair, Elizabeth Cannon. In Ontario, Monique Frize is chief organizer of the upcoming ICWES 12 event, with her Chair continuing to support other ongoing activities such as graduate recruitment lunches. OPUS (Outils

Pédagogiques Utiles en Sciences), a site for teaching resources for physics teachers has been a major effort of Claire Deschenes, Chair of the Quebec Region. And the *Becoming Leaders Handbook* and workshops were described by the Atlantic Region's Mary Williams. Complete information on individual Chair's initiatives are available on their websites accessible through links at

<http://www.mun.ca/cwse/regional.html>. CWSE 5 will meet next at ICWES 12 in Ottawa. ♦



Regional Chairs Mary Williams, Elizabeth Cannon, Claire Deschenes, Maria Klawe, Monique Frize.

"Becoming Leaders" Coming this Summer

June will see the local unveiling, and July, the international launch of *Becoming Leaders: A Handbook for Women in Science and Engineering and their Mentors*. The book, whose principal author is F. Mary Williams, is a co-publication from the CWSE and WISE Newfoundland and Labrador, and represents a legacy initiative from the *2000 New Frontiers, New Traditions National Conference*, with support from Petro-Canada.

The Handbook and the series of Career Success Workshops (see p. 1) jointly support the academic and professional development of women by engaging them directly – raising confidence to take charge of their careers and providing the tools to achieve positive results.

Becoming Leaders is intended for busy people, whose interest is primarily their careers or the development of the human resources in their organization. The Handbook content grew from issues identified by women as priorities, frequently asked questions by interested managers, and insights from women leaders.

Distribution will be focussed on women in science and technology studies and careers and on organizations that seek to support and strengthen their diversity initiatives. ♦

Atlantic Activities

In February, 2002, Mary Williams was an invited speaker at the Atlantic Federal Science Managers Forum in Halifax. Her presentation, *Creativity, Diversity and Tradition in Science*, explored the creative thinking processes in science: what we think they are, what they are, and what they could be through the awareness and diversification of the culture of science.

In the fall of 2001, the CWSE hosted a Nova Scotia Roundtable in Halifax. Deans and faculty members from four universities, as well as representatives from the provincial department of education, APICS, and business, provided feedback on CWSE analysis and programs. The results are plans to exchange information and to collaborate on specific projects. The CWSE also delivered two *Career Success* Workshops and a presentation to Managers at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography.

Later, in November 2001, Dr. Williams was part of an advisory group to discuss future strategies for the Hypatia Project -

www.mun.ca/cwse/Armour,Nan.pdf,

and gave presentations to BIO and the Dalhousie University Faculty of Engineering. A meeting with science faculty and department heads at Acadia University resulted in plans for participation in a future Acadia Conference on Teaching. ♦

CWSE Advisory Board

An important part of the CWSE is our Advisory Board. Board members are individuals from the extended university community who are recognized for their experience and contacts in an area which is important to the work of the CWSE. These areas include secondary school, university, provincial government, resource development, information technology, science promotion, finance, and the industry sponsor.

At semi-annual meetings, the Board hears presentations on activities and issues in the work of the CWSE, and provides advice and feedback in an interactive setting. The Board also enables the CWSE to communicate directly with representatives in the education, science, and technology communities from across the province.

Current members include:

Christopher Loomis - Memorial University (Chair)

Jack Botsford – Operation ONLINE

Mildred Brown - Human Resources & Employment

Heather Bruce-Veitch – Iron Ore Co. of Canada

Roxanne Gleason – Memorial University

Rita Janes – Mathematics Consultant

Kim Keating – WISE Newfoundland & Labrador

Bill Lahey – Abitibi Consolidated

Robert Lucas – Memorial University

Sheree MacDonald – Women's Policy Office

Alison Noftall – Mount Pearl Senior High

Joe Price – Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans

Greta Raymond – Petro-Canada

Geoffrey Rayner-Canham – Grenfell College, MUN

R. Seshadri – Memorial University

Susan Sherk – AMEC

Marilyn Stack – Merrill Lynch Canada

Lori Stead – Memorial University

