



Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology

Empowering and Supporting Women in Science since 1981

SCWIST Newsletter

April—July 2007

Message from the President



On behalf of the SCWIST board and staff, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all members who contributed so generously during our inaugural fundraising campaign between October and December 2006. We are pleased to report that your donations have enabled us to rejuvenate the SCWIST brochure. Through the hard work of our Communications chair Suzanne Ferenzi and our dedicated volunteer Sherri Rogers we now have a stylish and professional brochure that will prove invaluable in our marketing and recruitment efforts. Our Events and Corporate Outreach committees are already putting it to good use! Your generosity is supporting membership growth, program awareness and partner development.

Your donations are also allowing us to upgrade our computer hardware and software resources.

We are currently reviewing proposals to purchase software that will enable our staff to work more effectively and better track membership and program data.

I also extend my gratitude to those members who donate their time to SCWIST. Without our extremely committed volunteers, the number of projects we have been able to complete this year quite simply would not have happened. One shining example is our brand new website whose creation and implementation was donated by *Seedlings Studio* (www.seedlingsstudio.com). To show our thanks to our volunteers, we will be celebrating their achievements during National Volunteer week. I hope all our volunteers join us at our Volunteer Appreciation Night on April 18th. (Be sure to RSVP on SPORG per your invitation.)

The 2007 nominations committee has been struck and over the course of the next six weeks we will be inviting interested members to become involved at the board level. There are a number of positions open and we encourage anyone who has a passion for promoting women in science to learn what you could accomplish as a SCWIST board member. Please contact scwist@sfu.ca in the coming weeks.

Happy Spring everyone!

Amanda Smith,
SCWIST President

It's that time of year again ... the next SCWIST AGM will be here before we know it. The date will be some time in late spring/early summer.

Stay tuned for details.

Facilitator Julie Stitt during the workshop *Strategies, Getting What You're Worth* — February 25, 2007



Would you like to attend SCWIST events?

Become a **member** today!

Visit www.scwist.ca for more details.

Is your membership about to expire?

Renew before your expiration date and be eligible for prize draws at this year's AGM.

Contact scwist@sfu.ca.

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2006 FUNDRAISING DRIVE — Perveen Biln

This past fall SCWIST launched its first annual fundraising campaign. Over a six-week period the Board contacted members via email and telephone to request financial gifts and contacts to approach for memberships. We had set a lofty goal of raising \$10,000 to be put toward the purchase of new computers, software and promotional materials. Although we did not reach our goal, we did raise \$4175, which we feel is a tremendous success for our first effort at fundraising! We are excited to have some of the funds needed to purchase tools that will enable the SCWIST Board to continue to grow and build our organisation to meet the needs of our members. We also look forward to continuing the great advocacy work that we've been doing without taking funds away from our valued programs such as ms. infinity.

One of the great benefits of this campaign was the opportunity Board members had to connect and speak with members about SCWIST. The Board was excited to hear your thoughts on SCWIST programs and to really hear the needs of our membership. We were happy to know that many of you were excited about upcoming workshops and seminar series. Some of you also had excellent ideas for future fundraising campaigns, and I would love to have you contact me. Email Brigitte if you would like to assist with our efforts and she will put us in touch. Unfortunately, although we tried, we were unable to reach some of you. If you did not hear from us and would still like to donate or have any questions please visit our new website at www.scwist.ca or contact us directly.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

A big thanks to some AMAZING volunteers:

Seedlings Studio has donated its services to re-vamp the SCWIST website. www.SeedlingsStudio.com

Michelle La Haye compiles all of the BrownBag data each month so that we can post concise minutes on the website.

Sherri Rogers is a graphic designer who redesigned our brand new promotional brochure.

Michelle Liew is working with the Grants committee.

Chris Kim spent 6 weeks in the office on an internship arranged through Wish Vancouver. Chris has now returned to Korea.

Sandy Eix provided *invaluable* help coordinating the successful XX evening on Tuesday March 6th!

Mari Takeda compiled the feedback forms from our March 5th ambition evening.

Sophie Boizard has compiled feedback forms from the JADE workshops.

Rashmi Mathur is currently assisting us with grant research.

Julie Sexton is reviewing our requirements for a new database management system for the office.

Thank you to CCNMatthews for in-kind media sponsorship (see page 6 for details). 



THANK YOU Starbucks at 891 Dunsmuir in Vancouver for donating coffee and snacks to the Women and Ambition workshop on March 5th.



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**IWIS
update**

Have you thought about mentoring? If you are interested in being paired with a scientific woman who has immigrated to Canada to share your experiences and expertise regarding your line of work, please contact iwis2@sfu.ca for further details.

BC and Canadian governments Support SCWIST!

SCWIST has been awarded two grants from the provincial and federal governments.

The ms. infinity program will receive \$60,900 of PromoScience funding over the next three years. The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's (NSERC) PromoScience program offers financial support to organisations that provide hands-on science and engineering learning experiences to young Canadians. ms infinity was one of 61 successful organisations selected from 137 applicants across Canada, with the average award being \$59,000. PromoScience funding enables ms. infinity to expand current programming and develop three new initiatives: ms infinity conferences in inner-city schools, outreach to aboriginal communities, and outreach to younger audiences such as Brownies. For the sixth year running, SCWIST was successful in obtaining a Direct Access Grant from the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch of the Province of British Columbia. Direct Access Grants fund organisations that provide direct service to communities. The one-year \$15,000 grant will support the SCWIST Resource Centre and the IWIS program.



**ms. infinity
update**

The ms. infinity program held its first Brownie Science Day at TELUS World of Science on March 10th. It was a fun morning and 14 young Brownies were given the opportunity to earn a special interest science badge. We offered two workshops - one involving making a gloopy-gloppy mess practicing chemistry and the other puzzling where food comes from to learn more about sustainable agriculture. The girls were quite sad to leave when the day came to an end.

The success of this Brownie Science Day is encouraging and msoo will continue to offer these days to Brownie troops around the Lower Mainland. Brownie Science Days are modeled on our successful Guide Science Days, which msoo has been providing for a few years. Are you involved with Brownies? Do you know a unit leader? You can help us promote this expanded program.

This summer, msoo will be bringing science workshops to Camp Kanaka on June 3rd and to SOAR from July 21 – 28. Camp Kanaka is in Maple Ridge and there will be approximately 500 girls in attendance. SOAR (Spirit of Adventure Rendezvous) is located in Parksville and will include more than 2000 Guides and Pathfinders from all over BC. There will also be girls from the rest of Canada, the Northwest United States, Alaska and other countries as well. Whew, that's a lot of workshops!

With all of these Brownie and Guide activities we are in the process of designing a msoo trading badge to hand out to the participants of the workshops. A trading badge is not earned like their other badges, but instead given for participation or for promoting a certain event or place. If a girl has more than one kind of badge she can "trade" it for one she doesn't have.

Our partnership with Girl Guides of Canada is a strong one and we are looking forward to more Science Days with Brownies and Guides in the future. Please contact [Monique](#), ms. infinity coordinator if you are interested in volunteering at Camp Kanaka or SOAR.

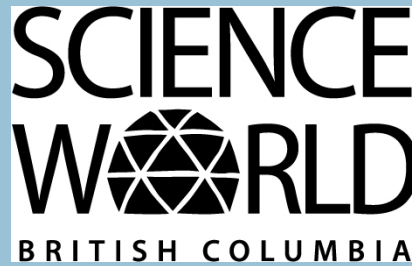


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XX Evening 2007

Our sincere thanks to Telus World of Science for hosting this very successful event for us again this year!



As well, we'd like to thank the following companies who generously donated door prizes for the event!



Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP / s.r.l.



Author Elaine Humphrey



Membership lapsed? Renew online today so that we can continue to provide quality programs! Visit www.scwist.ca

**Want to get more involved?
Volunteer at SCWIST!
Contact scwist@sfu.ca for details.**

**No time to volunteer?
You can still support SCWIST:
Donate online (and receive a tax receipt)**



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Events, Events, Events

The Events Committee is pleased to report that the new Personal and Professional Development Events series for members got off to a great start in 2007!

The first event in this series had been scheduled for January, but was postponed due to illness. It was instead held at the YWCA on Feb 25th 2007 and featured Julie Stitt. The topic was "Getting what you're worth – strategies for negotiating salary and benefits". Thirty-five women attended and it was an all around great success, a lot of energy and enthusiasm was generated and participants were interested to hear more!

The second of the workshops in the series was held on March 5th 2007 and featured Lil Blume speaking to the issue of "Women and Ambition". This was a slightly more intimate affair with 18 participants, and again was a great success.

SCWIST members can expect to see one Personal and Professional Development workshop for members approximately every other month except during the summer. The next workshop in the series is titled "Increase Your Networking Savvy - Skills to Move Your Career from 'Good to Great'" and will be held on May 23rd 2007, at the Bjornson-Kajiwara Gallery on W Third Ave. Details on registration can be found on our website. We hope to see you there!

SCWIST BrownBag Series a Success!

The BrownBag Series, a discussion about various polemic topics related to women in science and technology held monthly during lunchtime at diverse locations around BC, kicked off with great success last October. Five lunches have taken place, and so far the discussions have been lively and well attended. The first two topics discussed were "Have women achieved equality? – Discuss" and "Status, credentials, power, success: do all these things make it easier or harder to find a partner?" Turnout was excellent with nine and six locations respectively and approximately 100 participants from a range of backgrounds. In January, we had a frequent and universal topic among women: "When is the best time to have a baby?". This discussion brought to the table, pros and cons of postponing family for the advancement of career. Finances, childcare and health were some of the concerns exposed from women in academia and industry. During February, the topic "Negotiating a move" covered the complications of two-career relationships and some cultural differences surrounding this topic of separation for career. March examined "Is it sexism or is it funny?" question.

You can find summaries of past lunches at www.scwist.ca. Have a look around and also provide comments and suggestions for future topics.

The BrownBag Series continues until May. Upcoming topics include "Hard science doesn't come naturally to women" and "Cultural perceptions of gender – how do they affect your career?". Beyond simply offering an opportunity for women to get together and discuss these topics, one of the main objectives of the BrownBag Series is to have a diverse audience. Women are encouraged to pass along the event information and bring their friends and coworkers. If you would like to host a BrownBag event, please contact scwist@sfu.ca for further information.



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Energetic Women in Technology Networking Reception

On March 27th, BC Hydro hosted a wine and cheese networking reception in partnership with SCWIST and DAWEG (Division for the Advancement of Women in Engineering & Geoscience) at Powerex's office in downtown Vancouver. Approximately 60 women were in attendance at our first joint SCWIST/DAWEG event with BC Hydro.

The evening was filled with inspirational stories from some of BC Hydro's leading women. As well, BC Hydro discussed some of the exciting career opportunities in the energy industry. For more information about BC Hydro visit www.bchydro.com.

The evening was a great opportunity to network with other energetic women in technology, discuss employment opportunities at BC Hydro as well as learn about DAWEG and SCWIST. SCWIST board members – Linda Dong, Elana Brief, Tatiana Romero-Castanon and Suzanne Ferenczi, at left – were in attendance to answer questions about SCWIST as well as sign up new members.



SCWIST thanks BC Hydro for sponsoring the networking reception and its continued support for SCWIST programs such as the BrownBag Series held at BC Hydro's Edmonds site.

SCWIST is interested in developing partnership opportunities with other corporations. If your organisation is interested in working with SCWIST – please contact us!



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Tools for Transition:

How Women Graduate Students and Postdocs Benefit from Discussing What Matters Most

We are often called upon to make important decisions during times of change, and yet many of us fear the unknown and resist change. How can we use times of change to navigate the current challenges and opportunities without sacrificing what we care about most? Transitions can be unsettling yet also hold potential to identify what is most important while letting go of values and beliefs that may not work for us anymore. Building on the one-day JADE workshop *Tools for Transition*, (November 4th) participants in this series of workshops will have the opportunity to deepen their

exploration of key career and life questions.

During the workshops, participants have reflected, discussed and actively engaged with other women in science and technology who are also facing key changes and decisions. Sally Halliday, the workshop facilitator, has helped the participants understand a practical model of change and decision-making, in which they have learned to identify what they need to put in place before making career moves. In a respectful and encouraging environment, women graduate students and postdocs have reviewed their past

decisions and influences, clarified personal and work values, explored specific themes such as Money and Success, identified constraints that may limit new plans, and created grounded action plans for the future.

If you know a woman graduate student or postdoc who may be interested in the remaining workshops (April 23rd and May 31st) please direct them to www.sfu.ca/~bridging for more information. Tools for Transition has been made possible by the generous support of SCWIST and JADE (www.jadeproject.ca).



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SCWIST Member Benefits

Are you getting all you can out of your SCWIST membership?

- **Workshops** for women in science and technology (receive reduced rates for members)
- **Leadership opportunities** in a supportive environment (telementor a girl interested in science, volunteer for a committee, offer an idea for an initiative or event)
- **News from our website** (post and learn about events of interest for women in science)
- **National communication** (contribute articles or ideas to the newsletter)

SCWIST's charitable status

SCWIST is a registered charity and issues tax receipts for all donations.

We invite you to contact scwist@sfu.ca if you wish to make a gift to support our programs for girls and women.

What's the difference between a Sustaining and Professional Membership?

A sustaining membership (\$100) combines a professional membership (\$40) and a \$60 (tax-deductible) donation to SCWIST. Sustaining members truly sustain SCWIST by supporting the charitable programs we run.

Who we are

The Society of Canadian Women in Science and Technology is a non-profit, voluntary association established in 1981 to promote, encourage and empower women working in science and technology.

Our Mission Statement

- To promote public awareness of the opportunities for women in science and technology by providing information and resources which aim to influence public policy and present positive messages about women's achievements and potential in this area.
- To encourage the full participation of girls and women in all aspects of science and technology education, through the provision of programs and activities which are developed and implemented in partnership with relevant community members.
- To increase the representation, retention and status of women in the science and technology workplace by providing networking and mentoring opportunities and advocating for women-friendly workplaces and education policies.

Membership Fees

Fees can now be paid online through: <http://www.scwist.ca>

Student/Retired/Unemployed	\$20/year
Professional	\$40/year
Sustaining (see panel)	\$100/year (including \$60 tax receipt)

Let us know what you think

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