



Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology

Empowering and Supporting Women in Science since 1981

SCWIST Newsletter

October 2009

Message from the President

The Generosity of Strangers In September I delivered a keynote address at the Creating Connections conference for women in engineering at Loon Lake in Maple Ridge, BC. It is an outstanding bi-annual conference that was organized this year by Elizabeth Croft, Kerry Black, Anja Lanz, Erin Biddlecombe and Jennifer Pelletier. As the first speaker, I felt I had a unique opportunity to put out a message of open-heartedness as the conference began. I spoke about the many ways that one could ‘connect’ in the context of the conference: having a meaningful conversation, learning of an opportunity, hearing a clarifying remark, remembering a dream. There was the potential of support and encouragement if each woman allowed herself to be a little vulnerable: being open to sharing a bit of herself and truly listening to others. There were over 100 women participating in the conference and I had a sense of each woman having her individual dreams and also possessing unique ways to help each other.



Standing before them I felt unsure of how, in two days, each woman would find the people she most needed to meet.

Before the conference Sabina Nawaz described an exercise to me that she had created called “The Trading Wall”. Sabina is an executive coach who focuses her work with women and men in leadership positions in technology – she knows about connecting people to their dreams, to their skills and to each other. On the Trading Wall each person receives a column of space and writes their “asks” on pieces of paper near the top of the column. Other people respond to the “asks” with their own information or offers of support. At the end of the exercise, the person who had “asked” retrieves all of the responses and contacts the people who responded to them.

As part of the keynote, I set up the Trading Wall and invited everyone to participate. It is not a trivial thing to be involved in a Trading Wall. One has to recognize what they want to ask, articulate it clearly and put it out into the world. And then it’s not trivial to respond to a request: one has to imagine themselves as having something to offer. The Trading Wall at the Creating Connections conference was like an art piece. Some people wrote professional “asks” (e.g., *looking for guidance on moving from IT into business development*) and others wrote personal asks (e.g., *just moved to Vancouver and looking for playdates for my 4 and 6 year old children*). But what was most remarkable were the offers. I reveled in the bounty that covered the wall. (*cont’d page 4*)

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THANK YOU!

**To all members
 who attended this
 year’s AGM on
 Thursday July
 16th.**

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 next year’s AGM. Contact scwist@sfu.ca.

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SCWIST Welcomes Two Volunteer Solicitors

SCWIST is thrilled to be the recipient of volunteer services from two Vancouver lawyers who are generously donating their time to advise on matters concerning privacy, board governance and policies and procedures.

Tamsin Miley, MA Oxon

Tamsin is an internationally qualified intellectual property lawyer with special expertise in advising universities on research and commercialization. She is an English solicitor, an Australian barrister and solicitor and was called to the Bar in British Columbia in 2009. Tamsin's new firm, Miley Law, is a Vancouver-based niche practice providing legal support to foster the research endeavour. Tamsin's services particularly focus on intellectual property advice, contract negotiation and risk management solutions to ensure research flourishes in the context of university-specific legal, financial, employment, safety and ethical regulation.

Tamsin sees herself not so much as a woman "in" science as a woman dancing on the edge of science. Volunteering with SCWIST offers another, more personal, way to support innovation. You don't have to wear a white lab coat and tape on your glasses to support scientists either! Having migrated twice, Tamsin strongly sympathises with SCWIST goals to assist women scientists who are new to Canada.

Denise Duifhuis, B.A., L.L.B.

Denise Duifhuis is the Director, Corporate Services for the Vancouver office of Stikeman Elliott. Denise is a member of the Canadian Bar Association and the International Paralegal Management Association. She received her B.A. from the University of British Columbia and her law degree from the University of Western Ontario. Denise was called to the bar of British Columbia in 1990. She was previously General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for a company establishing a stock exchange for real estate related securities. She was Senior Legal Counsel at the British Columbia Securities Commission for five years and before that practised corporate and securities law in Vancouver for over seven years.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

A big thanks to some AMAZING volunteers:

Seedlings Studio for providing web support for our site. www.SeedlingsStudio.com

AGM volunteers Ghazal Arefi Afshar and Hayley Ball for handling the evening's member registration.

Sunita Bhoonah for performing some much-needed research tasks for us.

Julie Wong has been invaluable in assisting with various Gala-related tasks and is also our new Volunteer Recruitment Facilitator who matches our volunteer requests with needs within the organization.

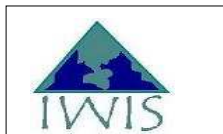
Brenda Garcia has taken on the role of SCWIST Volunteer Resource Manager.

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



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IWIS update

The IWIS program would like to introduce its Committee members for the 2009-2010 term:

- Gülnur Birol - Committee Chair
- Carla Beak - Strategic Planning
- Mayu Ishida - Resources
- Shabnam Rostamirad - Volunteers

They all come with experience as they served on the IWIS committee in 2008-2009 and are already planning to host networking events and peer workshops. Details to follow.

Also coming up: an IWIS blog site where registered members can log in to a Wordpress account and see what is coming up and access resources like our IWIS Information Package, a guide to career and settlement services for immigrant professionals in SETT. The Resource Guide was compiled by Committee member Mayu Ishida and will introduce readers to immigrant service agencies mainly within the Greater Vancouver Region of British Columbia and direct them to the websites of organizations and programs relevant to immigrant professionals in SETT via hyperlinks. Look for information on the Resource Guide and blog site to be released in the coming months.



ms infinity update

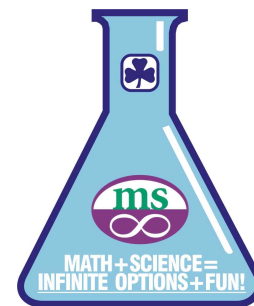
Hello, my name is Molly and I would like to introduce myself as the newest member of the ms infinity team! I was raised in several small towns across the province, including one with the title of most remote community in southern BC. Although I always knew I wanted to pursue math and science beyond high school, I had very few female role models to help me justify this path. After graduation I decided to embark on a four-year adventure across the country, attending Queen's University to study environmental chemistry. I was shocked (and inspired!) to encounter many female scientist role models on a daily basis, and discover that girls CAN be engineers.

One of the extracurricular activities I became involved with in third year was the Queen's University Solar Vehicle Team. In my role as Education Manager, I promoted renewable and sustainable energy use through showing off our two-seater solar vehicle at public relations events and local schools, and was heavily involved in the organization of a miniature solar car competition for students from southern Ontario. I was also fortunate to be able to join the team for a portion of the 2005 North American Solar Challenge - a race from Austin, Texas to Calgary, Alberta using only the sun's energy! This position eventually led me into a teaching role with the high school enrichment programs offered by Queen's. After moving to Vancouver to pursue graduate studies, I decided I would like to continue to inspire young people to pursue careers in science. I have worked with the Super Science Club after-school program at Science World, and currently spend my days in the beautiful Seymour Watershed working as an environmental educator for Metro Vancouver.

I feel very passionate about the work that SCWIST does, in particular through the ms infinity program. Science has taken me from the tundra of Baffin Island, remediating a contaminated site, to the shores of Burrard Inlet, sampling seal tissue for persistent organic pollutants. I hope I am able to use these experiences to reach girls in all corners of the province who, like me, may be unsure about their potential as a burgeoning scientist or engineer when choosing a career path out of high school.

There have been a lot of changes in the ms infinity program – we have three new volunteer committee members and we have another new employee, Molly Brewis. Cecilia Ana Ver has moved to Toronto to pursue more education. We have also applied for a NSERC PromoScience grant, which if successful will be our 4th installment of this 3-year grant. In writing the application we identified areas where we would like to grow; such as more inner-urban programming and recruiting some First Nation role models. To reach more girls in Vancouver we plan to partner with Big Sisters of the Lower Mainland for some conferences and to bring ms infinity's hands-on science activities to the Vancouver School Board after-school program starting this fall. What we learn from these partnerships will allow us to bring ms infinity to other urban centers around BC.

It's an exciting time at ms infinity and with all this new energy brought by Molly and our new volunteers it will be interesting to watch this program grow. If you have ideas about possible directions and/or connections for ms infinity do not hesitate to contact either Monique, program coordinator, at msinfinity.coordinator@gmail.com or Molly, outreach education coordinator, at msoo@sfu.ca





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CCWESTT

In May of 2010, the city of Winnipeg will be hosting the next CCWESTT conference titled "Leading the Way: Empowering Women, Building Communities". The 13th bi-annual conference is building on the success of the CCWESTT member organizations and their strength as a community empowering women to choose non-traditional careers.

A little background about CCWESTT. The Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology (CCWESTT) started back in 1987 as the Canadian Conference of Women in Engineering, Science and Technology. Five conferences were held across Canada to promote women in all roles related to science and applied science. In 1992, based on the success of these five early conferences, groups across Canada with similar goals joined together to help build a national coalition. Among the seven founding member societies was SCWIST. Since the early days CCWESTT had held nine conferences and now has 25 member societies. And continuing with the great work that has been done in the past, CCWESTT's latest initiative the WinSETT (Women in Science, Engineering, Trades and Technology) project is to establish a more permanent and actively ongoing resource for the continued efforts to further enable women's careers in SETT.

The CCWESTT conferences are a great way to bring together the strength and energy of Canadian women in SETT to discuss, learn, share and grow the efforts to improve SETT careers for women. As a past attendee to the conference in 2008, I can say that the conference was fun, informative and inspiring and I look forward to attending the next conference in 2010. One of the highlights of attending the last CCWESTT conference was the diversity of the women I met. They came from all over Canada, with their own unique stories of triumphs and perseverance, sharing their courage and resilience. The workshops and sessions provide the opportunity for growth, and the presentations and publications serve a strong reminder of how far women in SETT have come and how much work there is yet to be done.

For more information about CCWESTT go to their website at www.cwestt.org and for more information about the upcoming conference in Winnipeg go to www.cwestt2010.ca.

Michelle La Haye
SCWIST representative on the CCWESTT board

President's message cont'd Some of the offers were straight-forward (e.g., *I have a friend who works in that company – email me for more information or I can give feedback on your resume – give me a call*). My favorite was a lone ask and offer pair. The ask was from someone looking to work in geotechnical engineering in the Lower Mainland. The offer was *"I'm looking for the same thing – let's be in touch and we can look together."*

The Trading Wall broke apart the many ways we are isolated from each other – and from ourselves. It gave permission to people to have dreams and desires. It gave a venue for putting one's request out into the world. But even more importantly it demonstrated that each person, whether faculty, professional, student or underemployed, has something to give. The wall was populated with exchanges between people who had never met, but felt committed to helping others realize their dreams. And the generosity was inspiring.

I think this is the power of our networks of women in science, engineering and technology. We have replaced competition with collaboration, and we are all learning together how to ask and receive.



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Making the World a Better Place – and Getting a Tax Break While Doing It

Donating Appreciated Securities

Winter is rapidly approaching and with it the holiday season. It is the time of the year when people typically think about giving to their favourite causes. Have you ever considered doing so by donating an appreciated stock or mutual fund?

The benefits of making charitable donations are countless – from helping those in need to the personal satisfaction we feel when giving something back to a worthwhile entity we feel passionate about. With proper planning, you can reduce your total income tax liability and maximize the value of your donation. In an effort to increase charitable donations, recent federal budgets have fully eliminated the capital gains tax on donations of publicly traded securities to a registered charity(1). Qualified securities include shares, bonds and mutual funds listed on a prescribed stock exchange.

As with cash donations, the fair market value of property donated will reduce an individual donor's taxes through a charitable donation tax credit. The maximum donation an individual can claim on their tax return each year is 75% of net income. Donations that cannot be claimed in the year may be carried forward for up to five years. For donations in excess of \$200 the tax credit is calculated at the top marginal rate regardless of the marginal tax rate of the donor(2).

If you are planning to make a charitable donation this year, consider this additional tax-savings strategy. The table below illustrates how the special incentive increases the impact of a charitable donation when the property donated is a qualified security instead of the cash from the proceeds from the sale of a security. The example assumes an individual owns a security with a current value of \$50,000 and a nil cost base. It further assumes that the capital gain realized on the sale is \$50,000 and the entire \$50,000 proceeds are donated to a charity. In the first column, the security is sold and the cash proceeds are donated. In the other column, the security is donated directly to a charity.

Tax Benefit of Donating Appreciated Securities				
	Sell Security and Donate Cash		Donate Security	
Tax on disposition				
Capital Gain on sale of security	\$50,000		\$50,000	
Taxable portion	50%		0%	
Taxable Capital Gain	\$25,000		\$0	
Income Tax (46%)(3)		(\$11,500)		(\$0)
Donation Credit				
Charitable donation amount	\$50,000		\$50,000	
Add tax savings from donation (46%)(4)		<u>\$23,000</u>		<u>\$23,000</u>
Net tax savings		\$11,500		\$23,000
Net cost to donate \$50,000		\$38,500		\$27,000

As shown, a donation of securities may be preferred over a cash donation of equal value, particularly if you have already decided to dispose of the securities during the year. To donate securities to SCWIST, please follow the "Donate" link on the SCWIST home page.

To learn more, please contact: Zoe Adrian and Jan Canning Associate Investment Advisor and Investment Advisor BMO Nesbitt Burns
Zoe.adrian@nbpcd.com 604-443-1594

(1) Or other qualified donees. The 2006 federal budget fully eliminated the capital gains tax on qualifying gifts to public charitable foundations or organizations after May 1, 2006 and the 2007 federal budget extended this incentive for qualifying gifts to private foundations after March 18, 2007.

(2) In Alberta, the tax credit for donations over \$200 exceeds the combined top marginal rates to provide additional charitable incentives.

(3) Based upon an assumed top marginal tax rate.

(4) Assumes individual has made other donations of at least \$200 in the year and has sufficient other income to avoid the limit on donation claim to 75% of net income (100% in the year of death).



2009 SCWIST award winners at Regional Science Fairs

Congratulations to the following recipients of the awards administered through the Provincial Awards program of the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia.

Carly Redford - *The Beat of Your Heart* - Cariboo/Mainland

Kirstan Cruse and Lindsay Dimler - *Solar Separation: The Production of Eco-Friendly Fuel* Central Interior

Katherine Harries - *Losin' It* - Central Okanagan

Jemimah Ascason and Hilary Grimsrud - *Traction Materials* - East Kootenay

Jory Smallenberg - *Do You Know What You're Touching?* - Fraser Valley

Daman Gill - *Firemania!* - Greater Vancouver

Jacquie Gulevich - *Will Women's Wicking Wear Work?* - Northern BC

Natasha Steenhof - *Hyperfrenia: Your Brain on Media* - Pacific Northwest

Catrina Thomas - *Does conversational-therapy improve mental acuity and quality of life for the elderly?* - South Fraser

Gillian Maycock - *Deaf By Music* - Vancouver Island

Isreal Millar - *SLS Is it good bad or ugly?* - West Kootenay & Boundary

ARE YOU INSPIRED TO CONTRIBUTE BUT DON'T KNOW HOW?

WANT TO BRING YOUR HEART & HEAD TO SCWIST?

Contact scwist@sfu.ca and we'll match you with a volunteer position suited to your interests and skills, and the skills and experience you would like to gain.



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Women in Engineering (Vancouver Region) / SCWIST event

Salary Negotiation Workshop: Getting Past the No

October 22, 2009

6:30-9:30 pm

YWCA Welch Room - 535 Hornby St. (4th floor)

Vancouver

Presented by Carrie Gallant

Advance Registration: \$8 available at <http://www.gifttool.com/registrar/ShowEventDetails?ID=1641&EID=3914>

Carrie Gallant specializes in helping women leaders and professionals to imagine and achieve extraordinary outcomes. A former practising lawyer who has also held a number of key leadership positions, Carrie has unique insight and understanding of the challenges facing women leaders. Her expertise in negotiation, mediation, conflict resolution, and career management provides a rich foundation to her passion for helping others to uncover what really matters and to solve problems creatively. A complete biography for Carrie is available at <http://www.wievr.ca/nexthevent.html>

For more information visit <http://www.wievr.ca> or email engineeringwomen@gmail.com

Zwisters

Members of SCWIST from the 1980s and 1990s get together for the occasional luncheon or dinner. The group has adopted the name Zwisters, combining a new term for the older generation, zoomers, with swisters, or scwist sisters.

The photo was taken at the University Golf Club where nine of us met for Brunch on September 25, 2009. The next event will be held in October. We welcome anyone who would like to reminisce, reunite with and remember good friends. Contact Hilda Ching at hlching@shaw.ca

Zwisters: Maria Issa, Jenny Getsinger, Judy Einstein, Evelyn Palmer, Hilda Ching, Joanne Melville, Barbara Moon, Judy Myers, Jan Lucas (clockwise)

SCWIST recognizes long-standing members who provide exceptional contributions to the organization and its mission with a life-long honorary membership. To view a list of all honorary members of SCWIST, including several Zwisters, please visit

<http://www.scwist.ca/index.php/main/honorary-members>



The BC Government generously supports SCWIST and IWIS.





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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 (e-mentor 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 (\$60) and a \$40 (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. Our mission is to promote, encourage and empower women and girls in science, engineering 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	\$60/year
Sustaining (see panel)	\$100/year (including \$40 tax receipt)

Let us know what you think

SCWIST Resource Centre

scwist@sfu.ca

ms infinity

msoo@sfu.ca

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