

CWSE-PRAIRIES NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2012
VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2



*The goal of the
NSERC CWSE – Prairies*

*is to develop and successfully lead
strategic activities that promote
greater opportunities for women,
particularly Aboriginal women, in
science and engineering across the
Prairie Region.*



Find out more about CIPWIE and APEGM through <http://www.apegm.mb.ca/>

Annemieke Farenhorst joined the Committee for Increasing the Participation of Women in Engineering (CIPWIE). CIPWIE is one of 24 committees under the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba (APEGM).

CIPWIE meets on a monthly basis to discuss outreach activities, as well as research initiatives and networking opportunities designed to increase the participation of women in engineering.

The twelve women who serve on the CIPWIE are planning a 2013 conference in Winnipeg that will focus on improving the participation and experiences of women in science, engineering, trades and technology programs and professions.

The meetings are great fun and the lunches provided by APEGM are delicious. If you would like to learn more about CIPWIE, or have an interest in volunteering, please contact Annemieke or the APEGM office (apegm@apegm.mb.ca).



COFFEE, WOMEN, AND LIFE:

MEET THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE WOMEN OF
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

**What are your plans for after you
have completed your masters?**

"Argh, you sound like my father"

**What advice do you have for
women working in a male
dominated field?**

"Just do the job, and do it right"

Check out our monthly profiles of women in Science and Engineering. Discover what their goals were, how they accomplished those goals, or ended up in an unexpected place

**As an academic, why did you choose
to take your husband's name?**

*"Do you know how many 'M.B. Webb's
come up when you search on Pub. Med?"*

Why did you choose ecology?

*"It opened my eyes to a world I
hadn't seen before"*

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ON THE INTERNET!

The CWSE-Prairies has been averaging about 70 visitors per week. About 40 of those are returning, meaning about 30 visitors to the site are new each week.

A new addition to the CWSE-Prairies web site is a list of scholarships and awards from Universities on the Prairie Provinces. We hope that having this list will make it easier for high school and university students from around the world to choose the Prairies as their place of study!

The CWSE-Prairies Facebook page has nearly 40 users and counting. An average of 30 people check out our posts, and some users are posting links to articles, blogs, and events.



CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE

Working to "nurture the discipline of soil science in Canada and ensure its relevance in the future".



Canadian Society of Soil Science
Société Canadienne de la science du sol

The last meeting of the Canadian Soil Science Society (CSSS) was held jointly with the Association québécoise de spécialistes en science du sol (AQSSS), June 3 to 8, 2012 in Lac Beauport, Quebec.

Congratulations to our female graduate students in Soil Science who all presented at the event: Inoka Amarakoon, Alison Murata, Lindsey Andronak, Carolyn Baldwin, Geethani Amarawansa, and Rezvan Karimi Dehkordi. Rumour has it that someone won some prize money.....

CCWEST 2012

CCWESTT envisions a future where all stakeholders work closely together to increase the participation and retention of women in Science, Engineering, Trades and Technology (SETT).

Jenna Rapai and Annemieke Farenhorst took part in the 2012 Canadian Coalition for Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology (CCWESTT) Conference in Halifax, May 3-5, 2012. About 98% of the participants were women.

The women-centred Policy Forum on March 3 included a discussion on issues that affect the participation, retention and advancement of women in SETT, including examples of harassment that SETT women have experienced in the workplace, and what they did to stop it.

March 4 and 5 consisted of presentations and workshops on a wide range of topics: Diversity in the Workplace, Why Women Stay in Engineering - Building on the Positive, Exploring Non-Traditional Careers Through Mentorship, Negotiating Equality at Home, Acting Through the Hiring Practice, Facing Conflict with Confidence, Extending the Reach of Your Outreach, Making a Sea Change for Immigrant Female Graduate Students in a University Setting and many other.

Jenna presented a poster entitled 100 Years to Wait. The title refers to a recent article published in the journal Science that suggests that everyone needs to work harder to recruit and retain women in STEM fields.

The 15th Biennial CCWESTT Conference "Open Opportunities: Mentoring the Future" will be held May 20-25, 2014 in Regina, Saskatchewan, at the Delta Regina Hotel & Conference Centre. ccwesttregina@gmail.com Hope to see you there!!!



LOGO CONTEST

As part of the NSERC-CSWE program a logo contest was initiated. It was a joint venture between CWSE-Prairies and the Aboriginal Student Centre at the University of Manitoba. Students at high schools, Colleges and Universities in the Prairie Region were eligible for a chance to win \$500 for the best design.

Logo designs were expected to highlight the main focus of the NSERC chair program which is to promote greater opportunities for women in science and engineering in the Prairies, while emphasizing Aboriginal culture and celebrating diversity.



Some of the submitted logos are shown here. The winning logo will be announced in the next newsletter – stay tuned!



WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP



On Tuesday, March 20, 2012, the CWSE-Prairies, the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists, and the University of Manitoba Watershed System Research Program, co-hosted a personal development plan workshop for women in agriculture. The purpose of the workshop was for participants to spend a full day discussing and developing their short term and long-term professional and personal goals, and examining ways by which those goals can be achieved using Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis. Dr. Selena Randall guided the workshop and we thank her for her great leadership. Participants represented a cross section of women including graduate students, administrative staff, and professors.



SYMPOSIUM: CHERISHING WATER, CLAIMING HEALTH

Cherishing water and claiming health was the theme of a research-planning meeting held in The Pas May 9-10, 2012. The meeting was supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Canada Research Chair in Narrative, Community and Indigenous Cultures, and the CWSE-Prairies program.

The meeting was the result of a coordinated effort by the University of Manitoba's Centre for Human Rights Research, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak. The meeting focused on the water and sanitation challenges many First Nations communities in Canada are experiencing. The meeting enabled members of 10 Manitoba First Nations communities to discuss those challenges with researchers from the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, and University College of the North. The participants also brainstormed ways individuals, communities and research teams might be able to help solve water and sanitation challenges.

Discussions directly related to the CWSE-Prairies program included how to get youth more involved in science. For example, resources and encouragement should be given to First Nations youth to get hands on experience in assessing drinking water quality, and in measuring water levels in wells and rivers on their lands.

A summary of the event can be found on <http://chrr.info/events/263-research-planning-symposium-on-water-rights-may-9-10>.

OUTREACH



We have converted space in the Department of Soil Science so it can be used for outreach programming.

The outreach programming provides high school students and other groups with demonstrations, and hands on experience involving water related science.

For example, two groups, each of approximately 20 high school students, were hosted as part of the University of Manitoba's Science, Engineering and Technology Day.

Jenna Rapai also travelled to Clifton Elementary School. There she presented, to a large group of grade 5 and 6 students, a talk on environmental research, and on the importance of women pursuing studies in science and engineering.

MANITOBA PORK — MANURE MATTERS

Have a look at our major sponsor's most recent educational video: "Manure Matters". It demonstrates how pork producers in Manitoba "are part of the solution".

http://manitobapork.com/manure_matters.aspx

It outlines what swine manure injection is, and explains the technologies and methods involved by describing the process from planning all the way through to application.

The mindset is on maximizing nutrient value of the nitrogen and phosphorus that's in the manure and ensuring that farmers can grow great crops with this valuable resource.



SAPOTAWEYAK CREE NATION COLLABORATION

The Chair is participating in the project *Our right to clean water: First Nations youth test water quality*. The project was recently approved under the Drinking Water Quality Program, Health Canada for \$50,000 funding. The project is led by the Sapotaweyak Cree Nation Health Authority.

As part of the project, Jenna Rapai, Annemieke Farenhorst Annette Schultz (professor, Faculty of Nursing) and undergraduate students Isca Spillett and Pepper-Mackena Pritty made a 1,600 km round-trip to visit their research collaborators at Sapotaweyak Cree Nation.

The purpose of the project is to empower the youth of the Sapotaweyak Cree Nation to address the challenge of water security in their community by engaging them in Indigenous and academic perspectives on drinking water, including what water quality is, why water quality is important, and how they can design their own studies to monitor the quality of water in our community.

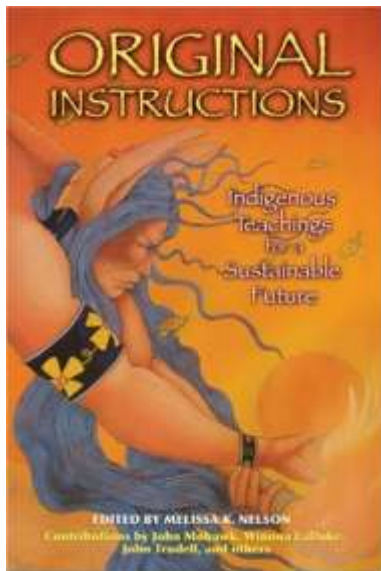


CWSE-PRAIRIES STAFF READ PICK


Ross Recommends:
Original instructions: Indigenous Teachings for a Sustainable Future.

Editor: Mellisa K. Nelson.


Nelson writes:
"This book is focused on illuminating the Indigenous Knowledge intrinsic within the Original Instructions and oral traditions of first nations Indigenous Peoples of the world."



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CONTACT US

Do you want to collaborate with us and co-host an event for women in science and engineering? Do you want to work with us to enable more Aboriginal women to consider careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)? Do you have ideas how to encourage more high school girls to consider careers in STEM? Do you want to become a mentor for women in STEM? Please contact us: cwse_prairies@umanitoba.ca

