Announcing the 2017 ICAN-WISE Scholarship Recipients

ICAN-WISE is the Integrated Collaborative Academic Network for Women in Science and Engineering.

Through this scholarship program, the Prairies CWSE facilitates mentor-mentee academic partnerships in which female undergraduate students carry out science and engineering research projects under the guidance of their women role models.

The 2017 ICAN-WISE scholarship winners are: Tinsley Douglas and her mentor Dr. Jay Kormish (Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba), Taryn Goff and her mentor Dr. Kate Congreves (Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan), Morgan Moe and her mentor Dr. Mozhdeh Shahbazi (Geomatics Engineering, University of Calgary), Amanda Ronnquist and her mentor Dr. Cherie Westbrook (Geography and Planning, University of Saskatchewan), Candace Toner and her mentor Dr. Michelle DeWolfe (Geology, Mount Royal University), and Sachi Villanueva and her mentor Dr. Bernadette Ardelli (Science, Brandon University). The scholarships are valued at $6000 per student.

Congratulations and well done to all the recipients of the ICAN-WISE Scholarship!

Inside this issue:
2. The Prairies CWSE Sponsors / Hosts Indigenous Youth in the Verna J. Kirkness Science and Engineering Program at University of British Columbia, University of Saskatchewan, and University of Manitoba
3. WISE Kid-Netic Energy Hosts 4th Annual Make Your Move Event / MSSS Celebrates 60 Years
4. Celebrating a Fantastic MCWESTT 2017 Conference and Pre-Conference Workshop / The WinSETT Centre Leadership Series is Coming to Calgary
5. Science Odyssey/Science Rendezvous 2017 / NSERC Awards Ceremony Celebrating Canada’s Top Natural Sciences and Engineering Researchers
6. Wishing Everyone a Happy Field Season / Prairies CWSE Hosts Leadership Workshop at University of Alberta
The Prairies CWSE Sponsors/Hosts Indigenous Youth in the Verna J. Kirkness Science and Engineering Program at University of British Columbia, University of Saskatchewan, and University of Manitoba

The Verna J. Kirkness Science and Engineering Education Program initiated at the University of Manitoba in 2012. The program offers Indigenous Grade 11 students from across Canada the opportunity to spend a week participating in laboratory activities in Science and Engineering laboratories. Since 2012 the Chair has played an important role in growing the program within the University of Manitoba and in expanding it to the University of Saskatchewan (2015) and the University of British Columbia (2016).

Earlier in May, before hosting her own group of Kirkness students at the University of Manitoba, Dr. Farenhorst travelled to the University of Saskatchewan and the University of British Columbia to get to know each of the participating laboratory groups and learn what kinds of research projects the Grade 11 students are exploring. This year the University of Saskatchewan hosted 12 Kirkness students, the University of British Columbia hosted 28 Kirkness students, and the University of Manitoba hosted 44 Kirkness students. As part of the CWSE Prairies ongoing efforts to provide opportunities for Indigenous girls to explore their interests in science and engineering, Dr. Farenhorst ensures that all Indigenous girls who are interested in the program have the opportunity to participate.

Dr. Farenhorst’s Soil Science laboratories hosted four Grade 11 girls from Manitoba and New Brunswick. The students conducted various experiments on water samples they collected from different sources around the University of Manitoba campus and from the Red River. They also learned some about soil science and visited two farms.

Thank you to The Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation, participating Universities and laboratories, and all the mentors and helpers who made the 2017 programs a success!

Paparazzi in the Laboratory!

On Tuesday May 30th CTV News came to the lab to watch our Kirkness students in action.

Here they are being filmed plating out water samples.

The video clip can be seen here: http://www.ctvnews.ca/mobile/video?clipId=1135801
WISE Kid-Netic Energy Hosts 4th Annual Make Your Move Event

The 4th Annual Make Your Move event was held on Saturday, March 11th, 2017 in the Engineering Atrium at the University of Manitoba and hosted by the WISE Kid-Netic Energy Program. CWSE Prairies coordinator Lena Yusim organized the event. Each year, this event in conjunction with International Women’s Day brings together 60 Grade 8 girls from Winnipeg and surrounding communities and teams them up with 20 engineering professional mentors to take part in hands on engineering challenges. The event was emceed by the wonderful Nesta Matthews from Kiss FM in Winnipeg, and there was a DJ playing music all day, a photo booth during the lunch hour, and great food to keep everyone energized.

The students and mentors are grouped into teams of three students and one engineer, with a total of 20 teams. The team sponsored by CWSE Prairies took first place in the design competition! Guest speakers included the Honorable Minister Rochelle Squires and Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba’s President Lindsay Melvin. Each team showed an immense amount of creativity and determination, and remarkable design projects were built and put to the test.

Thanks to all of the staff, crew, mentors and sponsors for making Make Your Move 2017 a success!

MSSS Celebrates 60 Years

Dr. Farenhorst and her students celebrated with the Manitoba Soil Science Society celebrated for its 60th Anniversary with a special evening from on February 2nd, 2017. As part of the evening, they highlighted the role that women have played in the MSSS over the years by presenting their current research, sharing experiences, and celebrating their successes. Considering the original mandate for the MSSS referred to the role of “soils men”, the MSSS has come a very long way as an organization!

Congratulations on 60 years of MSSS.

To learn more about Manitoba Soil Science Society, please visit their website: http://www.manitoba-soils.ca/
Celebrating a Fantastic MCWESTT 2017 Conference and Pre-Conference Workshop

On May 5th Prairies CWSE partnered with the Manitoba Committee of Women in Engineering, Science Trades and Technology to host the 2017 MCWESTT conference. On May 4th, Prairies CWSE hosted a pre-conference workshop entitled “Effective Communication for Women in SETT” facilitated by the WinSETT Centre of Canada as part of their Leadership Series. Guest speakers at the pre-conference workshop were Trish Jordan, Public Affairs Director at Monsanto Canada and Dawn Nedowin-Macek, Project Portfolio Engineer at Manitoba Hydro. The workshop had 30 participants, its maximum registration limit, and the conference was attended by more than 260 inspired participants.

This year’s conference theme was CONNECTIONS – Create. Foster. Lead. Our Master of Ceremonies for the day was Winnipeg based comedian Dana Smith, who runs a successful Women’s Open Mic show in Winnipeg. MCWESTT was proud to host some amazing keynote speakers including Susan Auch, a three-time Olympic medalist from Winnipeg, Shari Graydon, an award-winning author, advocate, and speaker, and Sarah Neville, a nationally acclaimed communication expert.

Thank you to everyone who participated in organizing and attending this fantastic biennial conference and its pre-conference workshop.

The WinSETT Centre Leadership Series is Coming to Calgary

If you are a woman in Science, Engineering, Trades or Technology (SETT) and you want to improve your leadership skills to reach your potential, this is the program for you. Built upon the experiences of Canadian women in SETT and proven across the country, this is the first time the full series will be offered in Calgary. Modules are:

- Introduction to Leadership Skills – Sept. 22nd, 2017
- Effective Communication – Oct. 27th, 2017
- Negotiation Skills – Nov. 24th, 2017
- Navigating Politics at Work – Jan. 19th, 2018
- Networks, Mentors & Sponsors – Mar. 2nd, 2018
- Emotional Intelligence – Apr. 6th, 2018

Contact annemieke.farenhorst@umanitoba.ca for further information, including sponsorship packages available to women academics at the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Manitoba, University of Regina, and University of Saskatchewan.
Science Odyssey / Science Rendezvous 2017

Science Odyssey is Canada’s largest celebration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Science Odyssey, brought to us by NSERC, is a ten day event from May 12th-21st. Events took place across Canada, including science-to-the-street celebrations, labs opening their doors to the public, science fairs, talks and conferences, school field trips, encounters with researchers and scientists, visits to museums and science centres, community organizations hosting scientific events, online activities, and much more.

The University of Manitoba celebrated Science Odyssey in a number of ways, including their annual event, Science Rendezvous, on Saturday, May 13th, and CWSE Prairies was there to join in on the excitement! The University of Manitoba was delighted to partner with several local organizations to host Science Rendezvous, including CWSE Prairies, CREATE H20, WISE Kid-Netic Energy, St. Boniface Research Centre, to name a few.

The CWSE Sign Campaign

As part of Science Odyssey, the CWSE Prairies, along with the CWSE national network, spearheaded a twitter campaign celebrating women who are funded by NSERC and working in science and engineering. Below are examples of some fantastic submissions we received.

Well done to all the organizers of Science Odyssey!

NSERC Awards Ceremony Celebrating Canada’s Top Natural Sciences and Engineering Researchers

Dr. Farenhorst and the other regional Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering joined the Honorable Kristy Duncan, Minister of Science, and NSERC representatives at the NSERC Awards ceremony Celebrating Canada’s Top Natural Sciences and Engineering Researchers in Ottawa on February 7th.

"It is an honour to recognize the incredible accomplishments of these distinguished research leaders, whose groundbreaking discoveries and innovations act as a symbol of Canada’s commitment to science and its scientists. The breakthroughs made by the researchers we celebrate tonight have had a tremendous impact on the world today, and their future discoveries are bound to support a stronger, vibrant middle class."

- The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science
Wishing Everyone a Happy Field Season!

The field research season is in full swing at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Farenhorst and her students wish you a happy summer!

Prairies CWSE Hosts Leadership Workshop at University of Alberta

On May 2nd, the Prairies CWSE, in conjunction with the University of Calgary Faculty of Science and Schulich School of Engineering, hosted a day-long Women in Science and Engineering Advancement Workshop at the University of Alberta in Edmonton in the Donadeo Innovation Centre for Engineering. 40 female Assistant, Associate and Full Professors in science and engineering departments attended this national workshop to seek advice, support and information in the effort of strategically driving their careers forward.

The workshop had invited lectures, brainstorming sessions, networking opportunities with distinguished faculty members from across Canada, and a chance to ask mentors anything one-on-one. Topics were related to achieving and sustaining a successful academic career and work-life balance, overcoming obstacles and building confidence, and developing an equitable and inclusive work environment.

Words of welcome from the wonderful Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this fun and educational workshop!

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Thanks to the generous financial support of the Prairies CWSE, the CWSE network and the University of Alberta Faculties of Science and Engineering, all registration fees were covered for this event.

Please visit our website for Prairies CWSE newsletter archives: cwse-prairies.ca

Our Sponsors

Thank You