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**Division for the Advancement  
of Women in  
Engineering & Geoscience**

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## **The EDGE Newsletter – Fall 2010 Issue**

*\* Equity and Diversity in Geoscience & Engineering \**

Dear DAWEG Members,

It is my pleasure to send out the Edge Newsletter for the fall 2010. This past fall has been spent by working with APEGBC to change the focus of the division. Over the last few years DAWEG has seen a decrease in participation and volunteers for activities associated with the division. We no longer hold PD events for women members, however we encourage women to attend APEGBC branch events and be active within the association. This can be completed by serving on committees and/or volunteering in the community. DAWEG will still be holding the December 6<sup>th</sup> event. It is the only remaining annually held social event by DAWEG and hopefully this event will become popular in the future with all APEGBC members, both men and women. This issue will provide you with some information about DAWEG's upcoming December 6<sup>th</sup> event as well as other event information and ways you can get involved with other branches and the community. I hope that you all enjoy the last bit of fall and have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Elizabeth, *DAWEG Chair*

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## Board News:

### 1. The Future of DAWEG

Over the past year DAWEG has undergone changes to streamline the committee, simplify the member structure and update the focus of the division. The executive has been reduced to include past chair, current chair, and a member at large to aid with administration. They are guided by the Advisory Council which includes a number of the DAWEG founding and former executive committee members. Our financial model has adjusted to suit the organization changes and DAWEG no longer seeks corporate or any other type of sponsorship.

DAWEG plans to continue division membership chiefly to maintain a distribution list to share information, solicit responses, recruit volunteers, and encourage members to seek opportunities for mentorship and professional service. Through email communication, we hope to facilitate networking opportunities by promoting attendance at specific APEGBC branch events and PD offerings.

This represents a shift away from initiatives organized with DAWEG resources by committee volunteers for the members, to a focus on urging individual members to be active in their respective fields and professional circles.

DAWEG still has a mission to promote and facilitate opportunities for women to succeed in engineering and geoscience. Should you have any questions or concerns about DAWEG's changes please feel free to contact the DAWEG chair, Elizabeth at [daweg.chair@gmail.com](mailto:daweg.chair@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events:

### 2. DAWEG December 6<sup>th</sup> Memorial and Social

Please mark your calendars for December 6, 2010.

DAWEG will be hosting the Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> Memorial and Social to mark the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the tragedy at Ecole Polytechnique. This event is for all APEGBC members, male and female. It is a great evening in which we can share and acknowledge our professional and personal accomplishments. A portion of the registration fee goes to the Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation.

Feel free to invite work associates and friends that may be interested in attending as well.

Date: Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Time: 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Elephant & Castle Pub, 385 Burrard Street, Vancouver

Cost: Students/Looking for work \$10, Employed Members: \$15

Registration: Online through APEGBC ([www.apeg.bc.ca/services/divisions/daweg](http://www.apeg.bc.ca/services/divisions/daweg))

Deadline: 5:00 pm, Friday, December 3, 2010

Appies and sweets will be served during the event. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

**Vision Statement** - *Making Engineering and Geoscience appealing, rewarding and equitable for women so that women are attracted to and excel at all levels in our profession.*

**Core Values** - *Professionalism · Equity · Inclusiveness*

**Mission** - *To promote, enhance and facilitate opportunities for women to succeed in engineering and geoscience.*

### 3. November 25, 2010 - Sea-to-Sky Branch Christmas Dinner Event

The Sea-to-Sky branch is hosting their annual Christmas Dinner Event on November 25, 2010. This event has remarkable speakers and great food. Details surrounding the event are provided below:

Special Guest: Henry Gao, P.Eng., Ph.D

Topic: Possibility to prevent progressive collapse of high multi-story buildings

Mr. Gao describes this talk as: “As a structural engineer especially interested in seismic design, after 911, I tried to do something to contribute in solving this building collapse problem that is still threatening human life, especially in the event of future earthquakes.”

Feature Event: APEGBC President’s Visit

In addition to Mr. Gao’s speech, the APEGBC President, Frank Denton, P.Eng., will speak and take your questions regarding current APEGBC affairs including an update on Council initiatives.

Date: Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Time: 5:30-9:00 pm

Location: Cheers Restaurant, 125 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, North Vancouver

Credit: 1.5 Professional Development Hours (PDH)

Cost: \$30 online, \$35 at the door

Registration: through APEGBC ([www.apeg.bc.ca/services/branches/seatosky](http://www.apeg.bc.ca/services/branches/seatosky))

Deadline: 4:00 pm Tuesday, November 23, 2010

## Announcements:

### 4. Call for Volunteer Presenters for Career Awareness Sessions

The Sea-to-Sky Branch has received a large number of requests for School Visits on the North Shore. The sessions will take place starting November 2010 until June 2011 and cover the North and West Vancouver school districts.

If you are interested in donating a small portion of your spare time, please contact our Past Sea-to-Sky Chair Mihai Georgescu for details on how to get involved. email: [mihaig@ca.igm.com](mailto:mihaig@ca.igm.com) or phone (778) 327-7632.

### 5. Call for Volunteers for the 2011 BC Regional Science Fairs

DAWEG will be looking representatives to judge the DAWEG Special Award to deserving candidates in both the junior and senior categories at the 2011 BC Regional Science Fair. The science fairs take place in Abbotsford, Surrey, Vancouver, and Victoria in the spring (usually March and April). This is a great opportunity to be involved in your own region and only requires 1-2 hours of your time. If you are available and interested please email send an email to [daweg.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:daweg.outreach@gmail.com) More details will be provided as the dates of the science fairs near.

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## 6. NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering

The September/October 2010 Innovation magazine included an announcement of the NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering for the British Columbia and Yukon Region, Dr. Elizabeth Croft, P.Eng. Please read the article below. DAWEG is very excited for Elizabeth Croft and what lies ahead with her involvement.



### Croft named NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering

Dr Elizabeth Croft PEng has been named Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Chair for Women in Science and Engineering for the British Columbia and Yukon Region. Dr Croft is a professor of mechanical engineering at the University of British Columbia.

The primary goal of the Chair is to increase the participation of women in science and engineering and to provide role models for women active in, and considering, careers in these fields. In her new role, Dr Croft will focus on awareness and outreach programs to recruit women and under-represented minorities into engineering and technology-related sciences; develop strategies for educational mentorship and support; and create networks for advancement as professionals.

Dr Croft is a past recipient of APEGBC's professional service award (2005). A past chair and long-standing member of APEGBC's Division for the Advancement of Women in Engineering and Geoscience (DAWEG), Dr Croft is a passionate advocate for increased participation and retention of women in the engineering profession. Additionally, Dr Croft was a faculty founder of UBC's unique Tri-Mentoring Program, which connects students with both graduate and industry mentors. Dr Croft also co-founded UBC's Women in Engineering (WIE) program. WIE organizes speakers, brown bag socials and a two-day retreat for women in engineering, "Creating Connections," that has attracted more than 100 participants.

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## 7. Sparking the Joy of Science Discovery in Aboriginal Kids – Aviva Community Fund

The NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering Prairie Region is requesting that you take 5 minutes to vote for a very worthy project in the prairies, reaching out to Aboriginal kids. The projects which get the most votes will receive funding by Aviva Insurance. See below for instructions:

- 1) Click on: <http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf6722>
- 2) Register
- 3) Follow instructions you receive by email.
- 4) VOTE (you can vote every day until Nov 26)

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