



# Women in Science and Engineering Atlantic Region

Spring 2016/Issue 13

The NSERC Atlantic Chair's program for Women in Science and Engineering, WISEatlantic, aims to provide junior and senior high school girls access to role models active in the sciences and engineering fields through mentorships, webinars, science workshops and camps. We network with women from industry and academia, from science, engineering and technology disciplines at various stages in their careers.

## WISEatlantic Upcoming Events

### 5th Annual Girls Get WISE Science Summer Camp

Mark your calendars for **July 18-22, 2016**, for the Girls Get WISE Science Summer Camp. The camp returns with another great line up of hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities for girls going into grades 7 and 8. The girls will also get a chance to chat with female role models in various STEM careers. The camp is held at Mount Saint Vincent University from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Cost \$100.

**Registration is now open on the WISEatlantic.ca website but space is limited so register early!**

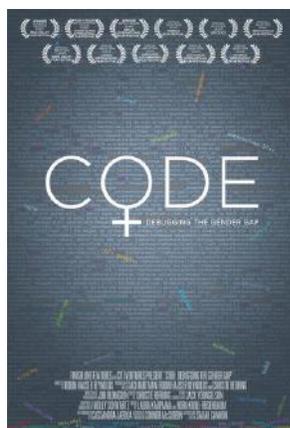


2015 Girls Get WISE Science camp

## In the Pipeline...

- Let's Talk Science Event at the Mount this fall.
- An online mentoring program for girls in junior and senior high school will launch in September 2016.
- WISEatlantic and Science Atlantic partner to start a Women in Science Speaker Tour. Two women will be funded each year, to visit universities in Atlantic Canada to speak about their research. One talk will be to the public. Visit: <https://scienceatlantic.ca/speaker-tours/> for more info.

## FREE Viewing of CODE: Debugging the Gender Gap



WISEatlantic will be hosting a FREE public viewing of the award-winning documentary **CODE: Debugging the Gender Gap** on **Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**. The screening will take place at Vinnie's Pub in the Rosaria Student Centre at Mount Saint Vincent University, **at 6:30pm**. There will be FREE popcorn provided! All are welcome but best suited to junior high and above. Visit [codedocumentary.com](http://codedocumentary.com) to watch the trailer.

CODE documentary exposed the dearth of American female and minority software engineers and explores the reasons for this gender gap and digital divide. The film highlights breakthrough efforts that are producing more diverse programmers and shows how a critical gender gap can be closed.

The screening is a satellite activity of **Science Odyssey Week**, formerly known as National Science & Technology Week, which brings together a series of fun activities across the country from **Friday, May 6 to Sunday, May 15, 2016**.

**SCIENCE ODYSSEY**  
SATELLITE ACTIVITY

## WISEatlantic Past Events

### Public Lecture with Dr. Renee Horton, NASA Engineer - Mother of three defies odds to work at NASA



*Dr. Frabz-Odendaal - WISEatlantic, Dr. K. Renee Horton, Sidney Idemudia - Imhotep*

Dr. K. Renee Horton, lead Space Launch System (SLS) Core Stage Metallic and Weld engineer with NASA, and mother of three, visited the Mount in February and shared her compelling story about what it's like to work at NASA. She talked about how hard work and a passion for math and physics led her to a career as an engineer for NASA. Her enthusiasm and zest for life were evident during the lecture and attendees left the lecture feeling inspired.

Renee currently works for NASA Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) in New Orleans, LA. She was the first African American to receive her degree in Material Science from the University of Alabama. Special thanks goes out to Imhotep Legacy Academy for co-sponsoring the event.

### Girls Get WISE Science Retreat another success!

Girls from grade 7 to grade 12 participated in the Girls Get WISE Science Retreat held at the Mount on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year we were fortunate to have the President of Lockheed Martin Canada, Rosemary Chapdelaine, deliver opening remarks. The girls participated in two hands-on sessions, Loop-the-Loop, an engineering problem solving challenge, and a coding session using the online platform Scratch. They also had round table discussions with 8 female role models who sat down with the girls and discussed their careers and career pathways. Careers explored through the session included a Physicist, Environmental Health Consultant, Geophysicist, Forensic Anthropologist and more! A huge thank you to the role models and volunteers who helped make the 2016 Girls Get WISE Science Retreat a success!



*Participants, role models, and volunteers at the 2016 Girls Get WISE Science Retreat!*

### Public Information Sessions at Local Libraries

WISEatlantic held two information sessions for parents, teachers and girls in grades 9-12 at the Halifax Central Library and Keshen Goodman Library this winter. The topic *10 Common Myths Girls have about STEM and How to Bust Them* was received with enthusiastic discussion. If you missed the sessions, don't worry! Visit [WISEatlantic.ca](http://WISEatlantic.ca) to watch the recorded video.



*Halifax Central Library session*

## Role Model Videos



Sophia Stone, a Plant Biologist is our most recent participant in our role model videos. Check it out on our video page, [WISEatlantic.ca/videos.asp](http://WISEatlantic.ca/videos.asp) Thank you to Sophia for spending the day with us.

Another new video for the Techsploration Women in Action Video Series will be coming this summer. This video focuses on several different careers within the computer science field.

**Teachers**, email us for our Breaking Stereotypes in STEM lesson plans that utilize these amazing videos.

## Research Update

Phase I of our research study entitled, *Career Choices and Influencers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math: An Analysis in the Maritime Provinces* has been published in the Canadian Journal of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education.

Phase II - Currently under analysis. If you would like to receive the Executive Report or attend the release event, please contact us.

## WinSETT Leadership Series Wraps Up in Nova Scotia

This March the WinSETT Series of Leadership Workshops wrapped-up in Halifax. This was the first time that the full suite of workshops in the WinSETT Leadership Series was offered in Atlantic Canada. In total, 85 women participated in the five workshops, with several taking more than one workshop. Seven participants completed the full five workshops (pictured below with the certificates). WISEatlantic was a co-sponsor of the series along with Emera NL and Engineers Canada.



Participants of the final WinSETT workshop of the Halifax Series

## WISEatlantic Chair Reading Picks Grab a cozy blanket and a coffee...



### Gender Diversity in STEM

A briefing on Women in Science and Engineering  
by *Rebekah Parker, Jennifer Pelletier, Elizabeth Craft*



### FORWARD to Professorship in STEM: Inclusive Faculty Development Strategies That Work

by *Rachelle S. Heller, Catherine Mavriplis & Paul S Sabila*

# News from Across the Region

## Nova Scotia

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** - WISE Acadia held their first Girls Get WISE Science Retreat. 30 girls participated in the day-long event which featured hands-on activities around the theme of tidal energy. WISEatlantic was a co-sponsor of this event. Another event is being planned for August, 2016

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** - The CBU WISE group held their 6th annual Women in Science Event. Over 100 girls participated in the day-long event which featured hands-on STEM activities and special guest Science Minister Kirsty Duncan as the keynote speaker! WISEatlantic was a co-sponsor of this event.

## Prince Edward Island

**April 29<sup>th</sup>** - WISEatlantic co-sponsored a Girls Get WISE Science Retreat at the University of Prince Edward Island. 50 girls participated in Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering hands-on activities!

## New Brunswick

**May 27<sup>th</sup>** - **UNB Fredericton Communications WinSETT Workshop** for female graduate students in Science and Engineering at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, Head Hall (B8), from 8:00AM to 4:30PM. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch and snacks.

## Newfoundland

**April 21<sup>st</sup>** - WISE NL hosted a gathering of women from the WISE community to honor and acknowledge the contributions of the late Mary Williams, the first NSERC Atlantic Chair for women in Science and Engineering. The participants also reflected upon Mary's vision and values, and described their individual and collective actions to advance her legacy.

## National

**May 6-15<sup>th</sup> is National Science Odyssey Week.** Science Odyssey is a collaborative event geared to engage and inspire Canadians of all ages with accomplishments and activities in science, technology and engineering and mathematics. Events are happening all over the country, visit [science.gc.ca/scienceodyssey](http://science.gc.ca/scienceodyssey) to find an event near you!



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### Stay Connected:

For resources, videos, and info about upcoming events: [www.WISEatlantic.ca](http://www.WISEatlantic.ca)



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