



# Women in Science and Engineering Atlantic Region

Winter 2018/Issue 18

The Women in Science and Engineering – Atlantic Region (WISEatlantic) program aims to shift gendered STEM stereotypes. We empower girls to consider Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)-based careers by raising their awareness of the diversity of jobs within these fields, and enabling them to visualize themselves working in these fields. WISEatlantic also supports early career women in STEM through professional development and networking opportunities.

## What's Coming Up:

### SSTAR Sponsorship



#### Shifting Systems Today for the Advancement and Retention of Women in Science (SSTAR) Sponsorship

WISEatlantic is committed to the advancement and retention of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) professions. To foster this commitment, the WISEatlantic program is offering annual sponsorships (maximum \$1,500) to individuals so they may host an event or workshop targeted towards post secondary students and/or post-docs in Science programs in Atlantic Canada. To be eligible, the applicant must be an undergraduate, graduate student, post-doc in a Science field OR a faculty member from an Atlantic Canadian Academic Institution. The event or workshop must have a clear theme for the advancement and/or retention of women in Science.

For more information go to [WISEatlantic.ca/SSTAR](http://WISEatlantic.ca/SSTAR)



#### Girls Get WISE Science Retreat - Saturday, April 7, 2018

The Girls Get WISE Science Retreat will be held on **Saturday, April 7, 2018** from **10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** at the Mount and will feature hands-on STEM activities and our ever-popular role model session! Girls in grades 7-10 can register beginning February 26, 2018. Limited capacity.

Visit [WISEatlantic.ca/events](http://WISEatlantic.ca/events) for registration information.

#### WinSETT Leadership Series

The WinSETT Centre delivers professional development workshops tailored primarily to early-mid-career female women in science, engineering, trades and technology. The program has been developed by professionals, based on the experiences of women and is grounded in research and practices that work. In the first half of 2018 the full WinSETT series, featuring the six workshops listed below, is scheduled for Halifax, NS; St. John's, NL; and Fredericton, NB in 2018.

##### Workshops Titles:

- Becoming Leaders
- Effective Communications for Women in SETT
- Negotiating for Success
- Navigating the Politics of the Workplace
- Emotional Intelligence
- Networks, Mentors and Sponsors



To learn more about these workshops and to register, visit [winsett.ca/programs/leadership-program](http://winsett.ca/programs/leadership-program)

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## What We've Been Up To:

### STEMaware Event Features Mount Science Alumnae



WISEatlantic and the Community SciMath Program at Mount Saint Vincent University co-hosted the first STEMaware event at the Mount on October 18<sup>th</sup>. This event brought together High School students in grades 9-12 with current Mount BSc students. The students had the opportunity to chat informally with Mount BSc Alumnae and learn more about their fields.

Prior to the students meeting Alumnae, the Mount's Career Services held a session for both High School students and Mount students that discussed STEM careers, the importance of networking, and preparing students with questions they could ask the alumnae.

Alumnae shared their current careers with students and how a degree in Science benefited their career paths. Thanks to everyone who came out for a great event - especially all our Mount Alumnae!

### Explore STEM Event for Aboriginal Youth

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, twenty-seven Aboriginal youth from across the province came to the Mount for a fun science exploration day. The youth participated in an engineering design challenge - building a windmill with limited resources. They also learned about a range of STEM careers by listening to STEM professionals from local aboriginal communities talk about their careers.

Several of the youth commented "it was really fun and I would love to come again".



### Women in Science Speaker Tour

The second Women in Science Speaker Tour for 2017-2018 is underway. Dr. Danielle Cox, Mathematician at the Mount, gave Research Seminars at UPEI November 6<sup>th</sup> and at St. FX. on November 20<sup>th</sup> entitled "Getting to the Root of the Problem". During the talk she explored reasons why roots are so interesting and some neat applications they have when studying graph theory problems.

Dr. Cox also did a Public Lecture at UNB Saint John on November 23<sup>rd</sup>; "The Mathematics of Puzzles & Games". There was a great turn-out for this event as she explored different hands-on games & puzzles and looked at how they relate to the mathematics we learn in elementary and junior high school. She also discussed how math is connected to current and exciting research

Dr. Nola Etkin, Chemistry Professor at UPEI will be doing our next Women in Science Speaker tour in the spring of 2018. Dates, titles and locations will be announced on our website when confirmed.

## WISEatlantic - A Year in Review & Five More Years!

2017 was a big year for WISEatlantic! The program was renewed for another five years and in June we celebrated the beginning of our next five-year term. We also undertook the redesign of WISEatlantic.ca and launched the new website in September, thanks to Code + Mortar for the awesome site! We also expanded our camp program by offering a new Girls Get WISE Science Summer Camp for girls 15 & 16 years old, which we plan to continue for the next four years. WISEatlantic's involvement with the Mount's Community SciMath Program enabled us to host two new events; STEMaware in October and Explore STEM in November. 2018 proves to be another fantastic year with several new initiatives, such as our SSTAR Sponsorship and Partnerships Program.

### In 2017 we engaged:



We want to thank all the students, teachers, parents, partners and sponsors for continuing to support WISEatlantic!

## WISEatlantic Partnerships Program - Congratulations to the Successful Applicants



The WISEatlantic Partnerships Program is an opportunity for community organizations and individuals in Atlantic Canada to apply for one-year sponsorships for new activities and/or projects that promote the outreach, recruitment, and retention for girls, young women, and industry professionals in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM). The intention of the funding is to help establish or expand programs, and it is expected that projects have a plan for continuation after WISEatlantic Partnerships Program funding ends.

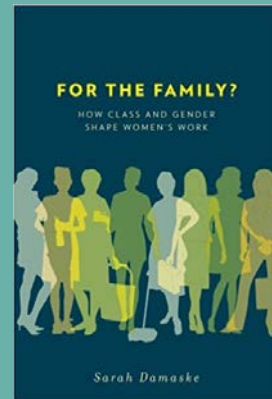
This was the first year for the new Partnerships Program and we received six applications. The following three were successful in receiving funds for innovative programs in 2018:

*Women Scientists in Agriculture and Fishing* - Faculty of Agriculture - Female Leaders in Academia Dalhousie University, Truro, NS

*WISE NL Speaker Series* - WISE NL, St. John's NFLD

*In School STEM Workshops* - Education 20/20, PEI

## WISEatlantic Reading Picks



**For the Family**  
How Class and Gender Shape Women's Work  
by Sarah Damaske

Research based on interviews with women about how their relationship with work changed over the course of their lives.

**The Man Who Loved only Numbers**  
by Paul Hoffman

Based on a National Magazine Award-winning article, this masterful biography of Hungarian-born Paul Erdos is both a vivid portrait of an eccentric genius and a layman's guide to some of this century's most startling mathematical discoveries.



# News from Across the Region

## Nova Scotia

**Techsploration 20 year Anniversary Launch** - We congratulate one of our partners, Techsploration, on their 20th Anniversary Launch November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and on Mayor Savage proclaiming November 24<sup>th</sup> as Techsploration Day!

**Soapbox Science - Call for Speakers** - Soapbox Science brings cutting edge science to the public, in an accessible, fun, and welcoming way. At the core of Soapbox Science is the promotion and support for women in STEM. The events feature an all-female speaker list. Soapbox Science Halifax is looking for women in all areas of science (PhD students, professors, entry-level researchers, entrepreneurs, etc.) who are passionate about their work and want to spread the word. Application for speakers will close mid-February. Please visit <http://soapboxscience.org/2018-2/> for more information.

**Community Sci Math Program** - MSVU faculty and students are working with two Aboriginal Communities to host two - 2 day camps in spring 2018.

**Science Circles** - Monthly evening meet-up for junior & senior high school students (teachers too!) to explore hands-on Science at the Mount. Free pizza is always provided! Learn about the Jan and Feb sessions here: [msvu.ca/sciencecircles](http://msvu.ca/sciencecircles).

## Prince Edward Island

UPEI's School of Sustainable Design held a **Go ENG Girl** event on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, led by Dr. Amy Hsiao. Participants spent the afternoon learning about the wonderful world of engineering, meeting women currently studying engineering, learning about some of the amazing things female engineers are doing, and participated in cool hands-on activities!

## National

### **Gender Summit - Montreal - November 2017**

From November 6 to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 675 advocates of gender equality from science, innovation and development participated in the Gender Summit 11 North America, held in Montréal, Canada. Those present had the opportunity to engage in fruitful discussions under the over arching theme of "Embracing pluralism and thriving through diversity – shaping science and innovation". The five NSERC Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering attended the event, as did Science Minister Kirsty Duncan & Chief Science Advisor Mona Nemer. Check out <https://gender-summit.com/gs11-about> for further details.

**CCWEST 2018 - May 31-June 2, 2018** - The Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology invites you to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> CCWESTT Conference in Edmonton, Alberta. The conference theme is **Learn. Grow. Act.** Presentation abstracts are now being accepted from individuals or organizations engaged in improving women's participation and experiences in science, engineering, trades and technology. Early bird registration is also now open. Visit [ccwestt2018.com](http://ccwestt2018.com) for more information.

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

