

Women in Science Workshops March 2011

Let us help you find your way to a meaningful career! Attend this series to enjoy great company, great ideas, and a tasty organic vegetarian dinner!

Session One: Get the Job

Wednesday March 9: Professional women drawn from a variety of fields will discuss the job application and interview process, including the delicate topic of salary negotiation. Ample time will be provided for questions and discussion from audience participants.

Session Two: Keep the Job & Get a Life

Wednesday March 23: Our panel of professionals will discuss issues related to maintaining a work-life balance, seeking an experienced mentor, and more! Ample time will be provided for questions.

Time: Each workshop is 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Cost: \$5 per workshop

Register: Barb Lucente, SCI 317 – RSVP deadline is noon Monday before each date

Biographies of the women participating in the panel discussions

Wednesday March 9, 2011

Deanna Gibson

Dr. Deanna Gibson joined Biology as an Assistant Professor in January 2010. Her teaching focus at the undergraduate level includes Immunology, Virology and Medical Microbiology. She has recruited several graduate students and multiple undergraduates who work under her direction in her research laboratory. Prior to this, she completed her post-doctoral training in the Department of Gastroenterology at the Family and Child Research Institute, and her PhD from the department of Biochemistry and Microbiology at the University of Victoria. During her training, she was awarded several Post-Doctoral research fellowships from the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology, Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Fellowship as well as a graduate scholarship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Deanna has a young daughter and is very busy juggling the demands of a new career with the desire to spend time with her family.

Mary-Ann Olson-Russello

Mary Ann Olson-Russello is a Natural Resource Biologist with Ecoscape Environmental Consultants Ltd., in Kelowna. She has a Bachelors in Biology from the University of San Diego, California, and a Masters in Environmental Science from the University of New Haven, in Connecticut. Mary Ann has experience working in both biological research and consulting. She worked at the Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species (San Diego Zoo) as a research technician for 5 years prior to going back to school for graduate studies. Since moving to Kelowna in 2006, she has transitioned to consulting and now works for a small local company conducting biological based studies for clients such as BC Hydro and the City of Kelowna.

Natasha Neumann

Natasha Neumann is a doctoral candidate in the Earth and Environmental Science program.

Wednesday March 23, 2011

Miranda Hart

Dr. Miranda Hart is a microbial ecologist at UBCO. She is interested in below ground biodiversity and how humans are changing soil ecosystems. She was previously at the University of Guelph, where she received her PhD. She has research projects currently in Germany, Hawaii, China and BC. She has two small children and a very large dog.

Joan Cote

Joan Cote is a staff pharmacist for Save On Foods Pharmacy on Lakeshore Road in charge of the nursing home/medication packaging. She has been an employee of Save On for 21 years. Joan graduated in 1976 from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. Pharm and has been working in hospital and retail pharmacy in Alberta and BC ever since. Joan taught Pharmacology and Compounding at a pharmacy technician college in Kelowna and is on the advisory board at OC for the pharmacy technician course. Joan has two children (her daughter is also a pharmacist at the University of Alberta hospital), and she worked part time when they were preschoolers.

Jacqueline Foley

Jacqueline Foley is an Associate and Senior Hydrogeologist with Golder Associates in Kelowna.

Kristen Forsyth

Kristen Forsyth is an environmental scientist with Golder Associates Ltd. She graduated in 2009 from UBCO with a BSC in Earth and Environmental Science. Kristen primarily works on hydrogeology, groundwater monitoring and contaminated sites projects in the interior of BC.

The organising committee:

Trudy Kavanagh

Dr. Trudy Kavanagh teaches Physical Geography and Biogeography at UBCO. Trudy has been organising the Women in Science workshops for the past five years. Trudy's academic training was at universities in Ontario, but her field research has taken her all over Ontario, to tree line in the Rocky Mountains in Alberta, and to the tropical forests in Mexico and Belize. Trudy has worked for the Ontario provincial government, for environmental consulting firms, and has taught at both the high school and university levels.

Robin Whittall

Robin Whittall is a Career Advisor in UBC Okanagan's Career Centre. Her undergraduate degree was cobbled together from many universities while working, and resulted in a general studies degree emphasizing biology and educational psychology from Simon Fraser. Then she went on to do a Masters in Museum Studies at the University of Toronto. For much of that time, she worked at the Vancouver Aquarium as an educator and an animal keeper, then at the Royal Ontario Museum as program coordinator for the sciences. After her Masters, she took a job as Education Director at the Sacramento Zoo, California, for 13 years.

Jen Forsythe

Jennifer is an undergraduate student at UBC Okanagan and is currently finishing an Honours degree in Biology. She has been involved with the Women in Science workshops since 2008. She is interested in soil microbiology and ecology, and is currently focusing her research in arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi and plant interactions. She is hoping to start her Masters degree in ecology in May.