



WITS

women in technology
and science

WITS UPDATE

Summertime 2003

rsvp asap !

It is not too late to submit your application for the **WITS TALENT BANK DIRECTORY**. The deadline for submissions or nominations for consideration for the Talent Bank is JULY 31st, 2003.

Selection Criteria - Women who are recognised experts or leaders in their field of science, engineering, or technology (SET), with preferably 8-10 years or more experience. Some experience participating on high level committees within their organisation, or at national, international or E.U. level would be desirable, as would experience working with or serving on a Management Board. Whilst a foundation in SET is generally a prerequisite, it is also acknowledged that someone with a high profile in the SET arena, but who does not have a formal SET qualification could be considered also. Finally, it is important, that if selected, they would be willing and available to serve on decision-making bodies.



WITS Chairperson, Dr. Eucharia Meehan (L), Minister of State for the Department of Justice, Equality, & Law Reform, Willie O'Dea (C), and Talent Bank Project Manager, Ms. Elizabeth Creed (R) at the Official Launch of the Talent Bank Project, on March 12th, 2003, at the RDS.

The **ultimate aim** of the Talent Bank Project is to increase the contribution made by qualified women in decision-making roles in the Science, Engineering, and Technology arenas by increasing their participation, i.e., their numbers.

Interested ? - Contact Ms Elizabeth Creed, Project Manager, WITS Talent Bank, P.O. Box 2, Kinsale, County Cork or send an e-mail to wits@iol.ie.

For more information, visit the WITS website, <http://www.witsireland.com>.

Commemorative Plaque Unveiling in Honour of Dame Kathleen Lonsdale (1903 - 1971) - Newbridge, County Kildare

On April 29th, 2003, in association with The National Committee for Science and Engineering, WITS unveiled a commemorative plaque in honour of the late Dame Kathleen Lonsdale for her contributions to chemistry.

Dame Lonsdale is regarded as one of the foremost scientists of the 20th century and she earned an international reputation for her work in x-ray diffraction and crystallography. She used x-ray diffraction to show that all the benzene ring C-C bonds were of the same length and all internal C-C-C bond angles were 120 degrees. This had a tremendous impact on organic chemistry.



Cont'd.



WITS

women in technology
and science

WITS UPDATE

Summertime 2003

Dame Lonsdale *Cont'd.*

Kathleen was the youngest of ten children and her father was the Postmaster at the Newbridge Post Office. Her mother was a Christian of the strict Baptist persuasion! Kathleen entered the University of London at the early age of sixteen, where she finished first in the BSc Honours exam. She graduated in physics in 1922. She continued on in her education and career to become the first woman professor at University College London and Head of the Department of Crystallography from 1946 to 1968.

The plaque was erected at Charlotte House, the Lonsdale family home. WITS was honoured to have Madeleine Jacobs, Editor-in-Chief for the American Chemical Society's *Chemical News and Engineering*, perform the unveiling.

WITS is also grateful to Di-Vad International, the current occupants of Charlotte House, for their contribution towards the cost of the plaque and for providing a warm welcome and reception for attendees.



From Left to Right - Mr. Tom Kinsella, Di-Vad International, Dr. Eucharia Meehan, WITS Chairperson, Madeleine Jacobs, American Chemical Society, Editor-in-Chief, and Cllr. Colm Feeney, Mayor of Newbridge, with the unveiled commemorative plaque.

"Ten Lessons from a Lifetime of Communicating Chemistry"

After a successful unveiling of the plaque dedicated to Dame Kathleen Lonsdale, visiting Madeleine Jacobs, Editor-In-Chief of *Chemical and Engineering News*, gave a presentation to WITS members at the Fitzwilliam Hotel that evening, on personal lessons learnt from a lifetime career in chemistry. Madeleine's talk was well received and left every attendee with something to take away with them for further thought. For those of you who were not fortunate to hear her insightful and inspiring talk, here are the lessons!

1. Never do anything just to please your mother - or anyone else for that matter.
2. Follow your intuition. It is often better than looking only at the facts.
3. Never take NO for answer.
4. Believe in yourself. A lack of self confidence and a lack of self esteem are nearly universal problems that haunt young women at some stage in their development and can still be the root of problems for furthering a career for experienced, professional women
5. Never burn bridges and know when it is time to move on, and then do it. No one can make these choices for you. Be open to change.
6. Never allow yourself to become a martyr or to be victimised by anyone. Take control of your career and make it happen.
7. Get a life! That is, a life in addition to your work life. And, if you don't enjoy going to work everyday, ask yourself why. Decide what gives you satisfaction in life, and then make it happen.
8. No matter what career pathway you choose, you should do it for something other than money.
9. Carpe Diem! Don't let a day slip by without doing something to advance your career. Today is the first day of the rest of your life - make the most of it. *Cont'd.*



WITS

women in technology
and science

WITS UPDATE

Summertime 2003

"Ten Lessons from a Lifetime of Communicating Chemistry" *Cont'd.*

10. "I believe that the best and the brightest are desperately needed in the sciences, and I hope that those of you who are on your way in this career will see it through to the end. To help you take this message to heart, I'm leaving you with the lyrics of a Cole Porter tune from 1933 - It's called *Experiment* "

*Before you leave these portals,
To meet less fortunate mortals,
There's just one final message
I would give to you.
You all have learned reliance
On the sacred teachings of science,
So I hope, through life, you never decline
In spite of Philistine Defiance
To do what all good scientists do.
Experiment.
Make it your motto day and night.
Experiment.
And it will lead you to the light.
The apple on the top of the tree
Is never too high to achieve.
So take an example from Eve,
Experiment.
Be curious,
Though interfering friends may frown.
Get furious
At each attempt to hold you down.
If this advice you always employ
The future can offer you infinite joy
And merriment.
Experiment
And you'll see.*

Jobs for Girls - Role Model CD Launch - May 28th, 2003

WITS produced a CD containing the career profiles of 40 women. The CD is part of the Role Model Project, which aims at encouraging more schoolgirls to consider studying or working in the areas of science, engineering, and technology (SET). On May 28th, 2003, the CD was formally launched by WITS and Noel Dempsey TD, Minister for Education & Science. The Role Model Project initiative is funded by the Department of Education & Science under the National Development Plan.

The Minister took the opportunity of the CD Launch to announce the setting up of a new committee to advise on policies, strategies, and actions needed to increase the number of girls studying at second level, and the number of women choosing SET courses at third level. The Minister invited WITS to be the first organisation to join the new committee!



At the Dublin City Centre Launch were school transition year students Michelle Kavanagh (Front Left) and Selina Glynn, both from St. Dominic's Girls School, Ballyfermot. Dr. Eucharia Meehan, WITS Chairperson (Rear Left), Ms Trish Madigan Science Teacher, St. Dominic's (Rear Right), and Minister for Education & Science, Noel Dempsey.

Read more about the Role Model Project and read the Minister's Speech and the Press Release at <http://www.witsireland.com>.