



## WISEST 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations: Dr. Peter Hackett

> **October 19, 2008**

> **Location: Jubilee Auditorium – Main Foyer**

Dr. McBlain, Dr. Armour, Dr. Taylor, Honoured Guests, Students and Alumni, congratulations on the silver anniversary of the Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology!

You know that a silver anniversary is quite something. Being 25. Alberta Ingenuity is eight this year. We're that cute kid that everyone loves, bright eyed and bushy tailed, keen to try everything, always getting in the way. WISEST is now an adult, graduated, moving out of town, starting a life of its own – thinking about moving back in with its parents.

Seriously, Alberta Ingenuity works with a lot of wonderful organizations across our country and in our Province. And those organizations that bring young people into science are especially dear to our hearts. Among them, I would say that we are proudest of our work with two organizations here in Alberta; our work with the Alberta Science Fair Foundation led by Kay and Debra Jauch supporting exceptional work in our high schools, and also of our work with WISEST .

Why is WISEST important to us?

Well WISEST brings young women into science and engineering, and science and engineering needs the ingenuity of young women.

The Outreach program with the 600 volunteers at WISEST has made a difference to over 15,000 students by showing them the opportunities available in science and engineering. Working with teachers and rural communities at the grassroots level, we know the young women who participate will bring dynamism and a point-of-view to Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology.

And that dynamism and point-of-view will change the world.

We have recently increased our sponsorship of WISEST to the \$25,000 level allowing us to increase the number of summer researchers from two per year to five. Because it's a program that brings the ingenuity of women to the big opportunities and issues facing our Province.

And what a difference these women make. Little by little, one step at a time, they are changing the face of innovation in our Province.

And what does that face look like? I'd like to show you. A long long time ago, when I was leaving high school and entering university of Southampton in England, we were very poor. So poor that only one or two of us in our class could buy the latest music. There was no iTunes. We had to buy the whole collection. It came on these funny flat plastic discs –kinda like Frisbees - we called them LPs. And we used to gather round and listen to whatever the latest LP was by Jimmy Hendrix, The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, and the Beatles. I don't know if you know the Beatles but after 40 years in the music business, Paul McCartney was invited to perform at the Grammys – late bloomers I guess. Anyway a classic Beatles LP was the White Album.

Around Ingenuity we have our own White Album. And this Annual Report tells the story of the people that we work with that have done some special things in science and engineering in our Province.

People like Nadine Cyr, who is currently the Director of our HQP program, started with a degree in engineering. But instead of building bridges, she works to build the futures of our students. Nadine now leads our integrated graduate student scholarships program, providing \$11 million a year of support for graduate students in Alberta.

People like Stephanie Bale, a former participant of the WISEST Summer Research program. She was awarded funding and spent a summer in a research lab studying nanotechnology with Julian Buriak, and I know her potential in the sciences is limitless.

People like Margaret-Ann Armour, past Vice-Chair and Founding Member of WISEST. Her passion and commitment to this organization has led to her recognition as a leader in promoting the sciences, both locally and nationally. Margaret Ann took her PhD at the University of Alberta.

Whenever I see her I think of Jean Brodie – or better yet Maggie Smith – a role model for you, a role model for me, and a role model for us all.

People like Leslie May, a former Ingenuity Scholarship recipient at the University of Calgary a current Industry Associate at Baker Petrolite. She personifies the drive to move beyond the research lab into industry, making Alberta that much stronger.

People like Stephanie Czub, recruited to Alberta to head the National BSE test laboratory at the CFIA labs in Lethbridge.

And people like Jennifer Adams, founder and Director of Gushor, a petroleum biogeology company which has gone gangbusters in Calgary. Her work has led to her being named one of the Brightest and Best by MacLean's magazine.

Watch out Margaret Ann the next generation of role models is well on their way!

All of these women of achievement show that you can make a difference with a career in science and engineering. That you can make the world a better place through science and engineering. And that you can make that better world through science and engineering right here in our Province.

Once again, congratulations to WISEST on your 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We like what you have done and we like what you have planned.

Lets all get to work now on the next Album. And let me finish with some words from the White Album:

*"You say you want a revolution.*

*Well you know*

*Love can change the world".*

Thank you. Well done WISEST.