

## Winning the 2010 Vale Masters Scholarship in Engineering

I am a mother of three, who went back to university in my mid-40's when an ex-colleague (professor Marty Hudyma, Laurentian University) approached me to be his first master's student. As a geological engineer that fell into this industry, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to fill in some technical gaps in the field of rock mechanics. I was fortunate that in the nine years I spent living in Sudbury, WISE Sudbury (Women in Science and Engineering Sudbury) had provided me with lots of opportunities for volunteer work. Volunteerism is the key requirement to winning this scholarship.

This scholarship is one of several managed by the Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation (CEMF). CEMF "is committed to creating a world where engineering meets the needs and challenges of society by engaging the skills and talents of both women and men alike," and "they are dedicated to attracting women to the engineering profession so they may fully contribute to the development of our society. In so doing, they also honour the memory of the 14 women from l'École Polytechnique whose contributions to Canada ended on December 6, 1989." ([www.cemf.ca/history.html](http://www.cemf.ca/history.html)).

The monetary value of the scholarship cannot be underestimated. Having relocated to Saskatoon, the scholarship provided me with funding to attend MEMO 2010 ([www.cim.org](http://www.cim.org)) where I co-presented a paper, with Vale engineers Samantha Espley and Theresa Nyabeze, entitled "*Gaining Insight into Career Satisfaction for Women in Mining.*" I never would have gotten through this experience without my family's help and this will be a way we can all celebrate this accomplishment together!

I am looking forward to the professional/job experience by applying my newly acquired skills in analyzing seismic data. I have been fortunate to be working with global hardrock datasets while doing my thesis. I finally get to apply my newly acquired/developed skills to an orebody (Garson Mine), where I can work with mine personnel with an interest in expanding the use of existing seismic systems.

CEMF is professionally run, and I believe so much in their goal to inspire women to be in the engineering profession. CEMF really has lived up to the claim on the CEMF website (<http://www.cemf.ca/ValeMastersWinners.html>) of providing job, travel and professional experience to the recipient. I am still inspired by the experience of going to Vancouver to receive the scholarship. Eleven of the different CEMF scholarship winners were flown to Engineer Canada's AGM to receive the awards together CEMF's Annual Awards Luncheon. Their stories of volunteerism were outstanding. Whoever created the criteria for this scholarship was savvy, requiring the winners to make presentations to students about engineering. It encourages giving people to have a reason to give more! I truly believe that Vale is doing a service to mining by supporting this scholarship. They have turned a dark moment in the history of Canada and engineering into a tool that promotes both mentoring, and the advancement of mining technology.