



Dr. Janet Elliott, P.Eng.

Young Engineer Achievement Award

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idely recognized to be one of the engineering profession's up-and-coming superstars, Dr. Janet Anne Wade Elliott, P.Eng. is also an outstanding teacher and mentor.

When she is not conducting innovative research on tars sands oil extraction and the effect of gravity on the interfacial properties of oil, she inspires her students at the University of Alberta, and instils in them a lasting quest for knowledge.

Few others could have stood the pace Janet set for herself from the outset of her career, or can boast such a long list of accomplishments after just 11 years. She has trained astronauts, is one of the first 100 Canadians to fly on NASA's KC-135 microgravity flights, and has worked as the principal investigator on a Canadian Space Agency project to study the effects of microgravity on interfacial properties. Despite her heavy research workload, she also found the time to develop a new undergraduate engineering course on colloids and surfaces.

After earning an undergraduate degree in engineering science in 1990, Janet went on to complete a masters and PhD in mechanical engineering at the University of Toronto. She excelled as a student, receiving the Governor General's Gold Medal for best Ph.D. thesis in Science and Engineering, and subsequently the very prestigious Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada Doctoral Prize, one of only four such prizes awarded in 1997.

For the past four years, Janet has belonged to the engineering faculty at the University of Alberta, and is currently a tenured associate professor in the department of chemical and materials engineering. She combines her theoretical research in statistical rate theory with many applied engineering problems, and is involved in projects that span biology, transport processes and oil sands technology.

Despite her teaching and research commitments, Janet is an active – and recognized – volunteer. In 1996, she won the Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award for her participation on more than 15 groups and governing bodies at the University of Toronto. Today she is a fourth-year advisor for chemical engineering students at U of A and a director of the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering (CSCHE), with the education and student affairs portfolio.

A member of the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta, Janet holds a Canada Research Chair in Interfacial Thermodynamics. She is an outstanding mentor for graduate students, an inspiration to her peers and her students, and a great Canadian engineer.

