

# WIE Newsletter

December 2003

## Profile of the Month

Wing-Kam Li

IEEE WIE Committee Student Member

### Who am I

I was born and raised in the Pearl of the Orient – Hong Kong. It is quite a unique city with a mix of Chinese traditions and British culture. This beautiful city, my family, my education, and my friends have shaped me the person that I am today. At the age of 16, I came to the US to be an exchange student. This experience was very important to me as I learned many valuable lessons during this period of time and changed my perspectives in many aspects. I then continued my university education in the US where I have worked hard and played hard.

### Growing Up

As I was growing up, my parents never really forced me to study. My parents believed that my sister and I should pave our own path for the future. I was always interested in mathematics and problem solving because I enjoyed solving for the masteries. Back then, the emphasis of the education system was placed on memorization instead of creativity and critical thinking and I found the opposite in the US. In secondary school (grade 7 through 13), I found myself more interested in mathematics, physics and chemistry as these subjects made much sense to me and I did not have to memorize. I then took on the opportunity to explore the world outside of Hong Kong as an exchange student.

### School Days

Living on my own in a different country and being 17,000

## IEEE WIE & Kerala Section GOLD Affinity Group Joint Activity

College of Engineering, Chengannur, Kerala, India, 11 October 2003

IEEE GOLD and Women in Engineering (WIE) organized a workshop on "Group Discussions and Interviews" on 11 October 2003 at College of Engineering, Chengannur, Kerala, India. The speakers were Mr. Pramod Chandrashekar, Mr. Aju Thomas Abraham, Ms. Shilpa A. Rajan, Ms. Deepthi R., Mr. Ratish Ravindran and Ms. Deepa R. S. 96 participants attended the workshop including 89 students, 7 faculty members and non-IEEE members.

The program began with Mr. Aju Thomas Abraham, IEEE Kerala Section GOLD Affinity Group Chair, with a welcome and introduction on IEEE GOLD and its activities. Mr. Pramod Chandrasekhar began the workshop discussing various interview concepts including stress interviews.

Ms. Shilpa A. Rajan began the second session outlining common mistakes made during interviews by the interviewee. The next session, "Orienting oneself on resume writing and attending corporate interviews", was designed to help in the job hunt process for an information technology company. A "mock" interview followed in which 2 panels of 3 members each interviewed attendees while the others watched. During the mock interview participants were advised on which areas to improve upon.

Ms. Deepa R.S. addressed the students on the benefits of forming IEEE WIE - Student Affinity Groups on behalf of the IEEE Women in Engineering.

The afternoon session began with Ms. Deepthi R. introducing the concept of Group Discussions (GD). The discussion focused on why companies use Group Discussions and parameters used for the evaluation and tips for attending Group Discussions. This was followed by mock GD sessions for the participants. After each round, the participants were asked to assess themselves and the group on their performance. It was then combined with audience feedback. At the closing, Ms. Deepa and Mr. Ratish gave individual feedback to participants on their participation in the group exercises.

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**IEEE Women  
in Engineering**  
— www.ieee.org/women

miles away from home made me an independent person. I realized that although having sponsored by several scholarships, my parents worked very hard for my tuition; I was also the only person who attended college in my family so I did not want to disappoint my parents. I did well for myself as I enjoy pushing my own limits and find that I can accomplish more than I ever dreamed of (including coming to the US, going to college and graduating with summa cum laude). I enjoyed very much of my school days where I met many people from different countries and I learned how to work smart and play hard.

### Why Engineering?

I love mathematics. My passion towards mathematics has given me the chance to explore the world of engineering. While I thought mathematics was too abstract for me, I chose engineering as my major in college instead. As time went on in college, I have come to realize that being a female in the engineering world is quite a challenge and an exciting opportunity. Although a tough job, I would like to bring a different perspective to this male-dominated field of engineering. I also realized that engineering is involved in basically all aspects of our lives and I hope to contribute and help others through engineering.

### Proud Moments

- Attended universities in the US with scholarships (from Northwestern Michigan College (NMC), Michigan Technological University (MTU), Society of Women Engineers, Case Western Reserve University and Medtronic)
- Paid for my own ca
- Awarded Certificate of Achievement – Engineering (Student of the Year awarded at NMC)
- Formed the first WIE Student Branch Affinity Group in the US at MTU
- Received 2003 "Woman of Promise" Honor from MTU Electrical and Computer Engineering Department (ECE)
- Received the Carl Schjonberg Outstanding Undergraduate Award from MTU ECE
- Selected to be a Medtronic Scholar
- Graduated with summa cum laude from MTU
- Serving as the Student Member of WIEC (and having fun!!)

### My future plans and goals

I will graduate from Case Western Reserve University with a Master of Engineering and Management degree in May, 2004. I plan to get a job as an electrical engineer. I want to start out as an engineer to build up my technical background and move onto a leadership position after a few years. I think there are much to learn in engineering and facilitating a group of people. Therefore, I am excited to go into the real world to take up the opportunity to learn!❖

The participant's feedback about the program was very positive. The IEEE Kerala Section is receiving many calls from other colleges requesting similar sessions around their region. IEEE WIE has planned a repeat session during November end or early December 2003. ❖

## IEEE Virtual Museum Makes PC Magazine's "Top 101" List

PC Magazine has named the IEEE Virtual Museum one of the "Top 101 Most Incredibly Useful Sites" of 2003. The museum was among the eight sites chosen in the "Computing - Everyone" category. Some of the museum's recent featured exhibits include stories of women in technology and how sounds are recorded and played.

Check out the latest IEEE Virtual Museum exhibits at: <http://www.ieee.org/museum>

## Introduce a Girl to Engineering

The fourth annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is Thursday, February 26, 2004. More than 125 organizations will mobilize 11,000 women engineers -- along with strong support from their male colleagues -- to reach an estimated one million girls that day and throughout the year with direct, hands-on mentoring activities. "Girl Day," as it's known by most engineers, is the centerpiece of National Engineers Week's annual outreach to encourage underrepresented groups to consider a career in engineering. The campaign is led by 2004 National Engineers Week co-chair, The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE/IEEE-USA), with major sponsors Agilent Technologies, Inc., and the Elizabeth and Stephen Bechtel, Jr. Foundation. More information, resources for volunteers, and a roster of Girl Day activities are available at [www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org).

### At-A-Glance U.S. Engineering Statistics

- Women are 46 percent of the U.S. workforce, and 48.6 percent of the total college-degreed workforce, but are only 24.7 percent of the Science and Engineering workforce.
- Fewer than one in ten engineers -- 9.48 percent -- are women. That's up slightly from 1993 when it was 7.85 percent.
- Of the 25-30 percent of entering U.S. college students who intend to major in science and engineering fields, fewer than half complete a degree in those fields within five years.

*Source: National Science Foundation*

Do you know of similar events in another country? Do you have engineering statistics you would like to share? We would like to hear from you. Contact us at [women@ieee.org](mailto:women@ieee.org). Thank you. ❖