

# IEEE Women in Engineering Newsletter

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## Otherism: Handling Diversity in the Mostly White, Male American Engineering World

IEEE Women in Engineering Committee (WIEC) Forum and Reception was held on 21 June 2001 at the Hyatt Regency New Brunswick, NJ, USA. Forum speaker, Ms. Ethel G. Romm discussed 'Otherism: Handling Diversity in the Mostly White, Male American Engineering World'.

'Otherism', the state of being different from the norm around you. You may be the best engineer in the company, with the best people skills, but you are also the only female in the department, or the only black, or the only one over 50, so how can they make you a manager?

Or, you may be managing people very different from yourself, which make you somewhat uncomfortable.

Sexism is in play, racism, ageism, anti-Catholicism, and the rest. There are many specific terms for the general condition of Otherism.

Ms. Romm covered the problems, the advantages, the psychology, the

physiology, and the culture. The emphasis is on strategies that work and those that don't. **GOAL:** How to foster an energetic work place, one that everyone is glad they come to every day.

For more information about upcoming IEEE WIE Forums, please contact WIE at [women@ieee.org](mailto:women@ieee.org). Past forum topics and abstracts are available at the WIE web site at [www.ieee.org/women](http://www.ieee.org/women).



***"Goodbye Otherism. It's up to you and me."***

*Ethel G. Romm  
IEEE WIE Forum*

*June 2001*



## Let IEEE Find Your Dream Job

Make the career of your dreams a reality with IEEE e-Recruiter (TM). This new IEEE members-only benefit connects technical job seekers with prospective employers. You can create a personal, \*confidential\* profile, including desired salary, job location and discipline. When an employer


posting matches your requirements, you'll automatically receive an email notification. In addition, you can search job postings at your convenience, and sort by company, job category and expertise.

Register today at [www.ieee.org/jobs](http://www.ieee.org/jobs).



## Goodbye Handwritten Letters

College seniors are the most wired group in the US, according to Harris Interactive. Their recent poll found that almost 100 percent use the internet--9 out of ten use email on a daily or frequent basis, but only 13% send hand written letter. This generation is truly web savvy: [www.nua.ie/surveys/?f=VS&art\\_id=905356805&rel=true](http://www.nua.ie/surveys/?f=VS&art_id=905356805&rel=true)



## Prepare for PE Exam

Learn preparation strategies, understand the examination format, and practice tested solution and analysis techniques. The review materials include the following PE Reviews: Machinery & Applications; Transmission and Distribution; Electronics; and Communications.

Available at the online IEEE Store at:  
<http://shop.ieee.org/store/product.asp?prodno=HV7058>



## 2002 IEEE Fellow Nomination Kits Available

The deadline to submit nominations for 2002 IEEE Fellows is 15 March 2002. To obtain the 2002 IEEE Fellow Nomination Kit, visit "[www.ieee.org/about/awards/fellows/fellows.htm](http://www.ieee.org/about/awards/fellows/fellows.htm)", send an email message to "[fellow-kit@ieee.org](mailto:fellow-kit@ieee.org)" or send a fax to +1 732 981 9019.

## What's New @ IEEE Celebrates First Anniversary!

On 1 June 2000, IEEE published the first issues of the "What's New @ IEEE" free electronic newsletter service. Fast forward one year later to June 2001, and see what the popular What's New service has achieved: Over 70,000 total subscriptions; The Gold Circle Trophy Award from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE); and very positive reader response with the average subscriber opting-in to three newsletters! There are a total of ten What's New @ IEEE newsletters to choose from.

To subscribe to an additional newsletter, visit [www.ieee.org/whats-new](http://www.ieee.org/whats-new).



## US\$44,500 in grants for Pre-college Teacher In-Service Training Program

Verizon Foundation has just granted US\$21,000 to the IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB) to expand the Pre-college Teacher In-service Training Program, bringing the total to US\$44,500. Previously pledged support of US\$12,500 came from the IEEE Life Members, US\$10,000 from the IEEE Foundation, and US\$1,000 from IEEE-USA.

The monies will enable EAB Pre-college Project Manager Doug Gorham to help IEEE Sections to replicate the successful pilot program run this spring by the Florida West Coast Section (USA). Training tips will include strategies to enable the Sections to continue offering their programs. Volunteers from FWCS planned and coordinated two programs to instruct teachers in methods of conveying engineering, design, and technology to their students. FWCS was able to influence 40 teachers and

through them will be able to raise the level of technological literacy of an estimated 5,000 students.

Training for Section volunteers will take place on 28 July in Chicago, Illinois. Several US Sections and one from South Africa have already confirmed attendance. If you are interested in volunteering for this project, contact Doug Gorham at [d.g.gorham@ieee.org](mailto:d.g.gorham@ieee.org) or at +1 941 753 4758. For the full story of the pilot run by FWCS see [www.institute.ieee.org/INST/may2001/fflorida.html](http://www.institute.ieee.org/INST/may2001/fflorida.html).

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## Prepare to Enter a New Career in Industry or Government

The IEEE Foundation and North Carolina State University have joined forces to develop a videotaped seminar series entitled "The Engineering Profession Videotape Series." The seminar is targeted for graduating seniors to prepare them for entering new careers in industry and government. The volume is composed of the following seminars:

- Job Search for the New Graduate

- Interview Strategies for the New Graduate
- Professional Registration
- Planning for Retirement: A Career-Long Challenge
- IEEE Standards: Process, Opportunity, Impact and I 'Are' an Entrepreneur.

Available at the IEEE Online Store  
<<http://shop.ieee.org/store/product.asp?prodno=EV5519>>

## Leadership Lessons From an Antarctic

What lessons can be gleaned from Shackleton's shipwreck? Filled with anecdotes, diaries, and interviews, "Shackleton's Way: Leadership Lessons from The Great Antarctic Explorer," now available from IEEE Fatbrain <[www.ieee.org/ieefatbrain](http://www.ieee.org/ieefatbrain)> shows us Shackleton's leadership strategies in overcoming obstacles. You can apply these valuable lessons and learn how to hire a crew, get the best out

of each individual, deal with a crisis, and more.

IEEE Fatbrain, a members-only site offering discounts on the most popular technology titles from the leading publishers in the field, is offering FREE standard shipping on all orders during the month of June.

## WIE Scopes of Interest

1. Gather and disseminate information regarding the status of women and initiatives for, by and on behalf of women in engineering and science.
2. Enable mentoring and education programs within IEEE. Make available information regarding gender-related educational issues, which may improve the entry and retention of women in engineering programs.
3. Increase the participation and membership of women within IEEE.
4. Address ways to improve the climate for women in IEEE and the workplace.

## WIE Jobs File

WIE has initiated a WIE Job Posting File with job postings that have been forwarded to us, unsolicited. If you would like to subscribe to this monthly posting file, send a message to [majordomo@ieee.org](mailto:majordomo@ieee.org) and type: subscribe women-jobs. This file will be maintained on a monthly basis. If you have any comments on the file, or would like to submit posting information, please submit to WIE at [women@ieee.org](mailto:women@ieee.org).

## Your Comments are Welcomed

IEEE welcomes your comments and suggestions about IEEE Women in Engineering. Please direct all correspondences to [women@ieee.org](mailto:women@ieee.org).

## Update Your Contact Information

Visit the Web at [www.ieee.org/update](http://www.ieee.org/update) to update your contact information at any time. You can also email your changes to [address-changes@ieee.org](mailto:address-changes@ieee.org).



## Online Poll

**New!** Visit the IEEE Student Concourse and take the online poll: "Who would you give the highest marks for innovation?"

Vote today and view the results to date at [www.ieee.org/students](http://www.ieee.org/students)