

IEEE Women in Engineering Newsletter – September 2006

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CALL FOR FELLOW NOMINATIONS

Forms and instructions for preparing nominations for IEEE Fellow grade membership are now available on the IEEE web site at www.ieee.org/fellows. Nominations may be prepared electronically or in hard copy form and must be submitted by 1 March 2007.

The grade of Fellow recognizes unusual distinction in the profession and is conferred upon a person with an extraordinary record of accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest. These accomplishments shall have contributed importantly to the advancement or application of engineering, science and technology, bringing the realization of significant value to society.

To recognize the entire spectrum of engineering activity, candidates are classified as Application Engineer/Practitioner, Research Engineer/Scientist, Technical Leader, or Educator, and judged accordingly.

At the time the nomination is submitted, the candidate must be a senior member who has completed five years of service in any grade of IEEE membership excluding affiliate membership. The nominee's dues must be current.

Anyone may submit a nomination. However, all nominations must be supported by at least five, but no more than eight, references from active IEEE Fellow grade members familiar with the candidate's work. If the candidate is from Region 9, the IEEE Fellow Committee will accept references from senior members.

NEW IEEE MEMBER BENEFIT: ON-LINE MENTORING PROGRAM

IEEE is now offering a new benefit to all members above the grade of Student Member: the chance to participate in an online mentoring program! Whether you want to share your wisdom and experience as a mentor, or learn from another IEEE professional as a mentee, this program can provide an enriching partnership.

To learn more or to sign up, visit

http://www.ieee.org/web/membership/benefits/products/prod_mentoring.html?cprod=67099

IEEE TV LAUNCHES

On 15 August, IEEE launched the Beta release of IEEE.tv – an Internet-based broadcasting network that will produce and deliver prerecorded, special-interest programming for engineers and technologists. A collaborative effort of IEEE volunteers, members and staff across the organization, the new service will initially be available only to members only through the myIEEE web portal, <http://www.ieee.org/myieee>. It will expand to provide select content intended for the general public starting in September.

IEEE.tv will feature original IEEE-produced content. Series include IEEE conference highlights, interviews with authors who publish books with IEEE, IEEE president-elect candidate debates, and introductions to new IEEE products. In September, general interest programs, including those promoting careers in engineering and demonstrating new technology in everyday applications, will be available to anyone who visits www.ieee.org/ieeetv. Contact tv@ieee.org for more information.

REGISTER FOR IEEE GOLD'S FREE PROJECT MANAGEMENT ON-LINE SEMINAR

IEEE GOLD will hold an on-line seminar on 27 September 2006 at 9:00 AM EDST (Eastern Daylight Savings Time) or 13:00:00 UTC/GMT. In other times around the globe: 15:00:00 in Stockholm or 12:00:00 in Singapore.

This online seminar is for everybody who wants to use Project Management to succeed in IEEE, at work, home, or in the community. Instead of leaving the success of your project to chance, hear from the expert and learn how you can make a positive impact on your projects! You will learn about the ten critical success factors of a project, the lifecycle of a project, how to run effective meetings and produce good reports.

The online seminar is being presented by Margaretha Eriksson, M.Sc.E.E, Consultant, from Irbis Konsult AB, Stockholm, Sweden. Margaretha Eriksson graduated 1988 in Electrical Engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), in Stockholm, Sweden. She founded Irbis Konsult AB 1989, and consults in Engineering Management, working with projects in telecom R&D, defense, and education.

She was the Chair of IEEE Sweden Section 2000-2002. She is a member of the IEEE Engineering Management Society Board of Governors, and since 2001 trainer of the IEEE Leadership Training Program. Margaretha has conducted workshops in many European countries, as well as in Egypt, Botswana and South Africa.

For additional information and to register for the free IEEE GOLD Online Seminar, visit <http://www.ieee.org/organizations/rab/gold/10successfactors.html>

Spotlight on WIE Members

2007 IEEE PRESIDENT LEAH JAMIESON APPOINTED PURDUE DEAN OF ENGINEERING

Purdue Provost Sally Mason said of Dean Jamieson, "Leah Jamieson is a world-class leader. She has performed at the highest level in every academic and administrative role she has undertaken at Purdue. Her colleagues throughout the nation recently acknowledged her leadership by electing her to be the 2007 president of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. This is a tremendous honor for Leah, but it also brings great recognition nationally and internationally to Purdue. I am confident she will build on the long tradition of excellence in engineering at Purdue."

For more information, visit <http://news.uns.purdue.edu/hp/Jamieson.dean.html>

IEEE WIE REPRESENTATIVE SPEAKS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Clementina Saduwa, Region 8 IEEE Women In Engineering Coordinator recently presented at the 59th Annual Department of Public Information (DPI)/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference on "Unfinished Business: Effective Partnerships for Human Security and Sustainable Development." The 2006 conference was held at the UN Headquarters in New York City from 6-8 September. Clementina who is from Lagos, Nigeria focused on "Nurturing Science/Technology/Engineering/Math Skills in Young Females in Developing and Developed countries."

"We are pleased to have been invited to address the United Nations community," said Mary Ellen Randall, IEEE WIE Committee Chair. "Encouraging young females to study science, math and engineering is an important outreach activity for many of our 118 worldwide WIE Affinity Groups. Clementina is personally involved in outreach activities and did an outstanding job in expressing how these activities change young lives."

Further information on the conference and program can be found at <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/index.asp> .

WIE MEMBER TESTIMONIAL

WIE members, of IEEE Member grade and higher, receive a WIE Membership pin upon joining. The WIE Committee was pleased to receive the following enthusiastic response from a new WIE member.

WIE Member Lolia Amakiri (Nigeria) writes:

Dear IEEE Women,

Thanks for the Engineering pin I just received from you. Everyone keeps asking why I put on the pin, and it always gives me joy to explain the need for women to be encouraged to study engineering and sciences – though here the challenge is to encourage women even to go to school. Many still argue that the place of a woman is in the home (kitchen). Well, we have a long way to go.

Many employers now give ladies better options - maternity leave, off hours daily to breast-feed babies. The fear is that a woman in engineering will not have quality time in the home for the kids. Parents encourage their daughters to go into catering, nursing, education etc. I think this is one area this group should take up. Engage employers on this.

To be honest I have been a passive member, but this has really gotten me interested. This will make me be active in IEEE activities here. I would like to be involved in career talks. Another way is to organize quiz competitions, debates from primary to secondary schools – you know, get them young.

Thanks,
Lolia

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

SUMMER BRINGS TECHNOLOGY CAMPS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

The WIE July newsletter

(http://www.ieee.org/portal/cms_docs/committee/women/newsletter_files/july06.pdf) reported on some of the technology camps held for young girls over the summer.

Here are a few more:

- Microsoft's Digigirlz camp for high school girls was held in August. More information at http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/business/281416_msftgirls16.html.
- IBM EXITE camps were held throughout the world this summer. The Australia camp is profiled here: <http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php/id:274192769:fp:2:fpid:1>

The WIE Toronto Affinity Group Chair Visda Vokhshoori writes of the IBM camps:

"We find a great need for technology and innovation to make life better for everyone. Engineers are the people who create such technologies. However, the engineering profession is facing not only a dearth of engineers in general but a lack of diversification. Many women don't consider engineering simply because they feel isolated in the male dominated engineering profession.

IBM's annual EX.I.T.E. — Exploring Interests in Technology and Engineering — camps are an extension of IBM's commitment to reach groups that are under-represented in the work force. The EX.I.T.E. camps, conducted in 51 different locations in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe and Asia, teach young girls the impact technology is making on everyday life through tangible examples and exercises.

IBM supports women's groups both external and internal to the company. IBM has partnerships, memberships and strong relationships with different Women's Professional groups and associations especially those involved with technology, in Canada and around the world."

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN INITIATES COMPUTER SCIENCE DIVERSITY PROGRAM

The University of Wisconsin is introducing a new program, Wisconsin Emerging Scholars in Computer Science, to increase representation of women and under-represented minorities in Computer Science. To read more about their initiatives, visit

<http://www.news.wisc.edu/12767.html>

REPORTS ON WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RELEASED

The world's academies of science, engineering and medicine must take immediate action to help remedy the widespread and persistent under-representation of women in scientific and technical fields, according to a new report by the InterAcademy Council (IAC), an organization created by 90 science academies across the globe. As a start, the report says that academies themselves need to implement internal management practices that encourage and support women, and influence policymakers and other leaders to bring about broader change. On the whole, the disproportionately small number of women in the science and technology (S&T) enterprise, particularly in leadership positions, is a major hindrance to strengthening science capacity worldwide. The report is available online at

<http://www.interacademycouncil.net/CMS/Reports/Women4Science.aspx>

Companies with well-managed gender mainstreaming policies often see an improvement in their economic performance, according to a report on Women in Science and Technology (WiST).

The WiST report examines what can be done to attract more women researchers into industry.

To download the report, visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/pdf/wist_report_final_en.pdf

The Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology has released a report titled Increasing Women in SETT: The Business Case, which reviews the recent literature and presents statistics from various sectors to show the economic benefits of women's enhanced participation in SETT fields. To download the document, visit:

<http://www.ccwestt.org/sett/infoPDFs/The%20Business%20Case%20for%20Increasing%20Women%20in%20SETT%20June%2006%20Final.pdf>

“PINK AND BLUE:” BLOG POST AGAINST GENDER ESSENTIALISM

This post reprinted with permission from Rosa Carson and FairerScience.org. The original can be found at http://www.fairerscience.org/fs-blogs/2006/08/current_affairs_not_inevitable.html.

An easy mistake for everyone, including researchers and journalists, to make is to think that the current state (of society, nature, or anything, really) is the destined result of a natural process and is, therefore, somehow morally or naturally correct. This can be seen clearly in thinking about the process of evolution and natural selection, where people tend to think that humans are the end point of a process that has led directly and inevitably to where we are.

This kind of thinking comes out in hundreds of small examples in reporting on science and gender. For example, last winter, the Times Online published an editorial by Anjana Ahuja suggesting that little girls' preference for "pink fluff" is a biologically determined feature of girlhood.

Perhaps Ahuja is not aware that this premise is not universally supported:

“There has been a great diversity of opinion on the subject, but the generally accepted rule is pink for the boy and blue for the girl. The reason is that pink being a more decided and stronger color is more suitable for the boy, while blue, which is more delicate and dainty, is prettier for the girl.”
[Ladies Home Journal, June, 1918]

The mere fact that some feature of gender difference exists now is not proof that it is biologically determined or some neutrally-valued "natural" state.

The same point can be made with regards to more serious suggestion of gender difference, like that of Larry Summers two winters ago. The fact that there is a measurable gender difference in,

for example, high-end scientific achievement tells us nothing about the inevitability of that difference, much less its source.

It is important for science journalists and gender researchers to keep this in mind when addressing or reporting on the current understanding of gender difference and similarity. The current state is not necessarily meant to be; it simply is the way things are right now. Next year, they may be different.

COMPUTERWORLD: DIVERSITY GOOD FOR BUSINESS

This ComputerWorld article argues that diversity is good for business, focusing particularly on representation of Latinos in IT:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9002272&source=NLT_CAR&nid=5

FAMILY CONCERNS KEEP MANY WOMEN FROM ENGINEERING, SCIENCE

A Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International study following women from the high school class of 1990 shows the effects of family concerns on their career choices:

<http://www.localtechwire.com/article.cfm?u=14846>

NEW TV SERIES SEEKS INDIVIDUALS WITH TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE

Steve Christiansen is a series producer/writer working for an Australian television production company called Beyond Productions. Beyond has a long established relationship with the Discovery Network and has produced numerous television series over many years.

They are looking for two or three highly skilled engineers who are 25-35 years of age- in particular, who can combine build skills and technological know how, with "blue sky" thinking and an attitude that would appeal to viewers. In particular, they need an electronics expert.

The show is called Prototype. The idea is to each week put together two inventions that might solve an everyday problem or meet some need people have. The inventions may not necessarily be the sort of things that corporations would want to manufacture, they can be a prototype, but be able to achieve a proof of concept at least with most of the builds.

If you are interested, please email Steve Christiansen at steve_christiansen@beyond.com.au

WANT TO BECOME A WIE MEMBER?

Member dues are \$25 annually - free for Student, Graduate Student & Life Members.

To join WIE visit <http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/committee/women/join.html>

MEMBERSHIP AND AFFINITY GROUP STATISTICS

As of August 2006, WIE Membership is up (5.3%) from Aug 2005. Students remain the largest membership segment, making up approximately 80% of WIE's Membership.

Grade	Aug-05	Aug-06
Fellow	26	30
Life Members	57	94
Associates	301	373
Members	2,049	2,459
Senior Member	158	214
Student	7,374	7,256
Total	9,965	10,426

Region	Aug-05	Aug-06
US	3,963	3,806
Canada	532	494
Europe, Africa & Middle East	2,021	2,334
Latin America	1,398	1,987
Asia & Pacific	2,051	1,805
Total	9,965	10,426

Gender	Aug-05	Aug-06
Female	7,163	6,845
Male	2,767	3,051
Not Provided	35	530
Total	9,965	10,426

WIE AFFINITY GROUPS

WIE now has 118 Affinity Groups throughout the world.

WIE AFFINITY GROUPS

Region	Regular	Student	Total
R1	5	0	5
R2	3	0	3
R3	2	1	3
R4	2	2	4
R5	3	0	3
R6	2	0	2
R7	6	6	12
R8	8	25	33
R9	4	25	29
R10	9	15	24
TOTAL	44	74	118

Call for WIE Newsletter Contributions

The WIE newsletter welcomes your contributions, including WIE conference announcements and reports, news of WIE members' accomplishments, and other items related to women in engineering and technology. Please send your article submissions and contributions for the newsletter to women@ieee.org. Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month for the following month's edition.

WIE Newsletter Archive

Past issues of the WIE Newsletter are available at:

<http://www.ieee.org/committee/women/archive.xml>