

IEEE WIE JANUARY 1999 NEWSLETTER

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JOURNAL OF WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CENTER FOR
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

IEEE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: SENIOR MEMBER

WIE COMMITTEE SCOPES OF INTEREST

WIE FORUM – FRIDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 1999, HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

The Westin Resort

Hilton Head Island

Port Royal

Two Grass Lawn Ave.

Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29928

Tele: (843) 681-4000

Fax: (843) 681-1087

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Dear Colleague:

The IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Committee would like to invite you to a forum "Changing the Academic Environment to Improve the Retention and Performance of Women in Engineering". The forum is scheduled on Friday, 12 February 1999 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. during the IEEE Meeting Series at the Westin Resort, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The forum is open to all and we strongly encourage both IEEE and non IEEE members to attend. WIE has held an open Forum at the Board Series Meetings over the past two years and each forum has been attended by more people than the previous! The increasing attendance is a good indication that people enjoy the open Forums (or is it the refreshments?!). In any case, please do join us at this Forum presented by Dr. Karan L. Watson, an educator who has worked for the last sixteen years in engineering education.

Forum Abstract:

As Professor on the faculty of the Electrical Engineering Department and Associate Dean in the College of Engineering, Dr. Watson is responsible for Undergraduate and Graduate Studies, and Special Programs. She will be discussing examples of successful student team-based collaborative learning environments which were developed by the Foundation Coalition efforts at Texas A&M University. These learning methods are being expanded to the full curriculum as a major effort to effectively enhance the acceptance, and, as a result, improve the learning environment, for women in engineering. The methods are based on integrated coursework and collaborative teaching of students, organized in teams. They also capitalize on the use of technology in the classroom. In addition to explaining the change in the learning environment and the impact on women, the presentation will also describe a difference in methodology used to create momentum for faculty, administrators, and students to change their behavior in order to induce this new environment.

If you are interested in attending, please respond to women@ieee.org to let us know of your attendance.

The forum is open to men and women, free of charge.

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STATEMENT BY DR. KAREN MOORE, INCOMING WIE CHAIR

It is with great pleasure that I look forward to chairing the Women in Engineering committee in 1999. I would like to start by welcoming our two new committee members, Sarah Audet and Monique Frize, and to thank our outgoing members, Cha-Mei Tang and Julie Shimer, for all their hard work over the past few years. We are very excited to have Sarah and Monique, but will miss both Cha-Mei and Julie. I would also like to thank Julie Sheridan-Eng for her excellent leadership and hard work for WIE over the past two years that she has served as chair. I would like to address what I see happening as we move into this year.

We will continue the activities that we have traditionally supported, such as women's forums at the IEEE Board Series meetings, e-mail support, receptions, and bi-monthly articles in IEEE's newspaper The Institute. Karan Watson is scheduled for the WIE forum at the February Board Series meeting. She will be speaking about "Changing the Academic Environment to Improve the Retention and Performance of Women in Engineering". More details are available in this newsletter. Also, this year at a forum Jan Brown will provide more details about the statistics of women engineering within the IEEE.

Our e-mail support network has been extensively utilized in the past, and we will continue that activity. It has been used for things as simple as providing a vehicle to send us job postings for women engineers, to issues as difficult as sexual harassment incidents and questions about retention of women in engineering. Please feel free to contact us at our e-mail at any time, women@ieee.org. We also use our e-mail network to distribute our monthly newsletter. Newsletter Publication and distribution will continue in 1999.

We continue to support receptions at technical conferences. We have had such receptions at meetings like the International Microwave Symposium, the International Electron Devices Meeting, and other. WIE can provide funding for such a reception to anyone who is willing to organize one. These receptions have proven to be a great way for technical women to get to know each other, to network, and to share ideas. Sometimes it is also nice at technical meetings, which (like the field of engineering) tend to be largely populated with men, to get to sit down in a room full of women. This helps us to remember that there really are a lot of women out there in engineering disciplines, just not as many yet as there are men.

Our Institute articles have been used to talk about a wide variety of subjects, from reasons why women do or do not choose math/science/engineering careers, to the statistics of women in engineering, to career advice for both men and women, to some of our educational programs. We will continue to have columns in the Institute every other month as we have in the past. Hopefully, these will continue to be informative and helpful for all engineers.

There are some other activities planned for this year that go beyond the scope of our "day-to-day" activities. One of the most notable is that we are co-sponsoring ISTAS'99. I am personally very excited about this conference. If the level of interest we have

had so far is any indication, this activity is extremely timely and should be a huge success. I would like to thank April Brown and Cathy Downer in particular for the work that they already have put into this conference on behalf of WIE.

I would like to increase the scope of a couple of our activities this year. First, I am interested in increasing the scope of our STAR program. Last year, many people from around the world expressed a great deal of interest. This year, we want to try to learn how to more effectively administrate this program in order to get the maximum utilization of the many people who want to participate, and to provide mentors to as many young women as possible. We are currently investigating ways to do this.

Our subcommittee activity also will be increased this year. Many times people will write us through our e-mail alias asking what they can do to help. If there is a particular area of interest, this would be one way for someone like that to become more involved in WIE. We will be looking this year for more volunteers to work on our subcommittees, including education, awards, workplace issues, liaison activities, and government/public policy activities. We are also now in a position to start creating "affinity" chapters, which are essentially local WIE-linked organizations. These affinity chapters are not necessarily technical, and should provide a nice vehicle for networking for professional technical women. We strongly encourage anyone interested in helping start such a chapter to contact us.

I would like to finish by encouraging people again to contact us through e-mail, for whatever reason, at women@ieee.org. We can provide assistance in a number of ways—through e-mail support, receptions, travelling exhibits, affinity chapters, our web pages, and through our subcommittee activity. We will continue to grow and change through 1999, hopefully to better serve the interests of all technical women, both present and future.

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST A WIE RECEPTION?

If you are an IEEE member, the IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Committee is looking for a person to host a WIE reception at the upcoming IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Conference and International Microwave Symposium. The MTT/IMS conference will be held in Anaheim, California during 13-19 June 1999. You need not be local to volunteer, all arrangements can be made by phone, fax, or email. This reception has been held for the last three years and has been an excellent opportunity for women to meet and make contacts with other women, as well as have a lot of fun!

IEEE WIE is unable to fund the person to travel to the conference and pay their expenses in attending the conference. IEEE WIE funds the costs of the reception. Guidelines for hosting a WIE Reception can be found on the WIE web site at www.ieee.org/women/announce.htm.

If you are interested, please contact
Elmira Ponti
741 Calle Plano
Camarillo, CA 93012
Phone: (805) 388-7404 or
E-mail: elmira@vitesse.com

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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY (ISTAS'99)

The International Symposium on Technology and Society will be held July 29-31, 1999 in New Brunswick, NJ. The conference: Women and Technology: Historical, Societal and Professional Perspectives, is co-sponsored by the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology (SSIT), the IEEE History Center, and the IEEE Women in Engineering Committee. The purpose of this meeting is to bring together women professionals and academics in science and engineering, historians, sociologists, psychologists and experts in women's studies. This meeting is different from most that we attend as engineers and provides an excellent opportunity to learn about

ourselves and how we function in our organizations. Among some of the types of presentations we expect are papers on the changing demographics of engineers, the impact of educational delivery approach and style on male and female engineering students, and the public perception of engineering and how this ultimately shapes career choices for men and women.

In addition we will develop a clearer picture of our historical role in technology development and how this role has been depicted. This may allow us to better understand our role in technology development today. A broad range of topics will be covered at this conference, including the impact of information technology on women and women's work, the role of and environment for women workers in industry and manufacturing, women in the engineering workforce, women faculty and students in science and engineering education, motherhood and technology, and historical and current perspectives on women and technology development.

We are planning student-focused sessions and paper awards. Invited speakers include Professor Mary Frank Fox, Georgia Institute of Technology, Professor Emeritus Thelma Estrin, UCLA, and Professor Martha Sloan, Michigan Technological University. The deadline for paper submissions is March 1, 1999.

For more information, please contact either:
David Morton d.morton@ieee.org d.morton@ieee.org or
April Brown april.brown@ee.gatech.edu.

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WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SERIES ANNOUNCED

The Women In Technology International Organization (WITI) is an organization which enables women to enhance their professional skills through innovative panels and sessions, keep up-to-date on the latest technology trends and career opportunities, and network with other women from every sector in technology.

Three WITI conferences are to be held in 1999. The first will be held on March 18 and 19 at The Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, Texas. The second will be held from June 9 to 11 at The Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, California. The third will be held on September 27 and 28 at The Hynes Convention Center, Boston, Massachusetts.

For more information, please contact:
Women In Technology International
4641 Burnet Ave.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
www.witi.org
TELEPHONE: 800-334-WITI
FAX: 818.903.3299

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UPDATES FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; "COMMUNITY UPDATE" *“DIVERSITY IS THE FOCUS OF JANUARY’S SATELLITE TOWN MEETING”

On its next broadcast from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. Eastern time on January 19, 1999, the focus of U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley's Satellite Town Meeting will be the challenges and opportunities posed by the increasing diversity of the nation's student population. The first program of the new year is entitled "Learning Together: Diverse Skills Building One America" and will feature a live discussion with school and community leaders who will share their advice and experience.

Topics scheduled for discussion include: encouraging family involvement in a diverse school community, recruiting a more diverse teacher corps, model efforts for reaching students and parents who are limited English proficient; and other issues. The discussion will also feature the findings of the President's Initiative on Race.

The U.S. Department of Education produces the Satellite Town Meeting series in partnership with the National Alliance of Business, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Committee for Economic Development, with support from The Bayer Foundation and The Procter & Gamble Fund. Broadcast and cable partners include Discovery Communications, the Public Broadcasting Service and Channel One. The program will be closed-captioned and simulcast in Spanish.

For satellite coordinates, additional information, or to register your participation, call 1-800-USA-LEARN or visit the U.S. Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/stm>.

Winter Satellite Town Meeting Schedule:

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999 8:00-9:00 p.m. Eastern #57 "Learning Together: Diverse Schools Building One America:

*Tuesday, February 16, 1999 8:00-9:00 p.m. Eastern #58 "Teaching Reading: Success Stories from School & Home"

*Tuesday, March 16, 1999 8:00-9:00 p.m. Eastern#59 "High Standards at Work: Comprehensive Approaches to School Improvement" (NOTE: topic changed from May).

If you don't have access to a satellite dish, or if your community cable or school board channel isn't regularly broadcasting the Satellite Town Meeting, here are two more options for watching the program:

- The Learning Channel, now available in more than 70 million cable homes, rebroadcasts the Satellite Town Meeting after the program is aired live. For an up-to-date schedule of times that the program will appear on The Learning Channel, call 1-800-USA-LEARN.
- The Satellite Town Meeting also can now be viewed on a live cybercast, thanks to the generosity of NASA's Quest project. To view the program, visit <http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/stm/>.

Viewers of the live cybercast can also post questions to Secretary Riley and his guests during the show. Archived portions of the most recent program are also available on this site.

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UPDATES FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; "COMMUNITY UPDATE"
*"THE E-RATE HAS ARRIVED AND AMERICA'S SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ARE STARTING TO BENEFIT"

On November 23, a bipartisan group headed by Vice President Al Gore, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, Federal Communications Commission Chairman William E. Kennard, Senator John D. Rockefeller (D-WV), and Representatives Constance A. Morella (R-MD), Calvin Dooley (D-CA), Tim Roemer (D-IN), and Xavier Becerra (D-CA) announced the first wave of funding commitments for the E-Rate discounts. The E-Rate will help empower every school and library across the country by providing discounted access to advanced telecommunications.

Research has demonstrated that as a result of appropriate use of new technology, test scores in math are higher, attendance rates have improved, students' writing has improved, teachers have access to better training, and parents have become more involved in their children's education. The E-Rate, which is administered by the Schools and Libraries Corporation (SLC), will provide \$1.925 billion in discounts during an 18-month period. The discounts, which range from 20 percent to 90 percent, cover internal wiring costs for the neediest applicants and subsidize Internet access and telecommunications services for all eligible applicants. Due to a large number of awardees, the discounts are being sent out in waves between November 1998 and January 1999. The first two weeks of the E-Rate announcements included more than 6,000 funding commitment letters totaling almost \$150 million in discounts.

The "digital divide"—the increasing disparity between those who have access to this technology, and those who do not—is centered along socioeconomic and geographic lines. In an effort to bridge this gap, the E-Rate makes the nation's poor and rural schools and libraries eligible for the deepest discounts.

Vice President Gore and Secretary Riley also announced the Department of Education's Technology Literacy Challenge Fund, which provides \$425 million in grants to states and local communities. This fund complements the E-Rate by allowing local communities to purchase modern computers, train teachers to effectively integrate technology, and utilize high-quality educational software. Together, these programs will support effective integration of technology throughout the curriculum.

The application window for E-Rate funding in 1999 began December 1 and will last until March 19, 1999. For more information, visit the SLC's Web site at <http://www.slcfund.org> or contact them at 1-888-203-8100.

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WIE JOBS FILE FOR JANUARY 1999

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 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.

We are pleased to offer other IEEE sites that contains job listings:

The IEEE USA Jobs Listing Service on the www at:
<<http://www.ieee.org/usab/DOCUMENTS/EMPLOYMENT/employment.menu.html>

The IEEE Careers & Education Web Site: "Careers & Education, Enabling Careers through Life-long Learning" can be accessed at <http://www.ieee.org/eab/>.

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CALL FOR PAPERS ISSUED BY VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY, JOURNAL OF WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Carol J. Burger, Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief of The Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering Center for Interdisciplinary Studies is now welcoming submissions for Volume 6, the Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering. The Journal publishes original, peer-reviewed papers that report innovative ideas and programs, scientific studies, and formulation of concepts related to the education, recruitment, and retention of underrepresented groups in science and engineering. Issues related to women and minorities in science and engineering are consolidated to address the entire professional and educational environment.

Subjects for papers submitted can include:

Empirical studies of current qualitative or quantitative research; historical investigations of how minority status impacts science and engineering; original theoretical or conceptual analyses of science from feminist, racial, and ethnic perspectives; reviews of literature to help develop new ideas and directions for future research; explorations of feminist teaching methods, minority student/white teacher interactions; cultural phenomena that affect the classroom climate.

To receive guidelines for manuscript preparation or to submit a curriculum vitae, or if you are interested in reviewing papers for the journal contact:

Editorial Assistant
Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering
Center for Interdisciplinary Studies
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0227

Phone: 540-231-6296
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FAX: 212 213-8368

Sample Contents of Volume 5, 1999:

Race, Gender and the Baccalaureate Origins of PhD Chemists by Willie Pearson, Jr., Craig Ness and Emily Hoban

Proportions of Women Faculty and Students in the Mathematical Sciences; A Trend Analysis by Institutional Group by Norean Radke Sharpe and Gerhard Sonnett

Feminism and Science Education: An Interdisciplinary Knowledge and Practice Project by Maralee Mayberry, Leigh Welling, Jaime Phillips, Cheryl Radeloff and Margaret Rees

Black Women in the Agronomic Sciences: Factors Influencing Career Development by Diann Jordan

If I Knew Then What I Know Now: A Portable Mentor for Women Beginning Professorial Careers in Science and Engineering by Catherine Riordan, Linda M. Manning, Anne Marie Daniel, Susan L. Murray, Philip B. Thompson and Elizabeth Cummins

Using Technology to Strengthen Mathematics and Science Instruction in Elementary and Middle Schools by Sharon Sherman and Robert Weber

Supporting Minority Mathematics Achievement; The Emerging Scholars Program at the University of Texas at Austin by Susan E. Moreno et al

Using Technology to Strengthen Mathematics and Science Instruction in Elementary and Middle Schools by Sharon J. Sherman and Robert Weber

The Effects of a Summer Mathematics Enrichment Program on Hispanic Mathematical Achievement by Betsy McShea and Maureen Yarnevich

Girls Summer Lab: An Intervention by Dale R. Baker, Robert Lindsey and Colleen Blair.

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IEEE Membership Information: Senior Member Senior Member is the highest IEEE membership grade that may be obtained by application.

Why Apply?

- for recognition of accomplishment by peers
- for professional advancement
- for personal satisfaction

Who should apply?

Engineers, scientists, educators, technical executives or those in IEEE designated fields who have

- at least ten years active professional practice, with five or more years of significant performance,
- accomplishments in engineering, publications, management, education or professional contributions.

We highly recommend all qualified IEEE members to apply for Senior Membership. Another reason to apply for Senior Member grade is that Senior Member grade is required before one is eligible for IEEE Fellow nomination.

To obtain Senior Member Application forms, please contact:

IEEE Operations Center
Admission and Advancement Committee
445 Hoes Lane
PO Box 1331
Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331
Tel: (732)562-5502 / Fax: (732)981-0225
E-mail: rab.aa@ieee.org

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WIE Committee Scopes of Interest:

Scope 1:

Gather and disseminate information regarding the status of women and initiatives for, by and on behalf of women in engineering and science.

Scope 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.

Scope 3:

Increase the participation and membership of women within IEEE.

Scope 4:

Address ways to improve the climate for women in IEEE and the workplace.

IEEE Women in Engineering Committee
445 Hoes Lane, PO Box 1331, Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331
URL: www.ieee.org/women/ E-mail: "women@ieee.org"