

WIE NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2000

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUNG WOMEN'S LIVES

By Minori Jovel, WIE Committee Student Representative

Walking into the electrical engineering building for the first time at the University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin), Texas, USA, I was greeted by a wall of male electrical engineering professors' pictures. I also noticed there were only a handful of female professors. Not thinking about the issue any further, I went to my first class. I was very excited about college, and learning about the field of electrical engineering.

Out of curiosity, though, I counted the number of women in my class. There were five out of a class of 80. Feeling a little disappointed yet again; I tried not to think about the issue.

After class was over, I took the stairs to the first floor from the sixth floor. As I got to the fourth floor, I decided to stop by the restroom before my next class. Unfortunately, the women's restroom was nowhere in sight. Thinking that possibly there weren't any restrooms on that floor, I made my way to the stairs only to pass the men's restroom on the other end of the floor. Continuing to walk through the rest of that floor, I still could not find the women's restroom. A little bothered, I went to my next class. Later, I found out that the women's restrooms are only located on the odd-numbered floors.

Everything surrounding me seemed to say that I did not belong here. Could it be an issue with my college only? Full of curiosity, I did some research and it became obvious that my experience was similar throughout other colleges. Women only accounted for an average of 14 percent of all electrical engineering students in colleges even though it is one of the most demanded majors. Ever since I uncovered this information, I have had a desire to make a difference in the lives of people that I meet especially the women in electrical engineering.

In my second year at UT-Austin, my desire to create a support group for electrical engineering women was only getting stronger. Samantha, a study friend of mine, shared my feelings of being a little left out. We agreed to do something about it and decided that we are going to make a difference.

After speaking with the local IEEE chapter, we formed a group within it called WIE (Women in Engineering). This was the first time such a group had been formed that focused on the needs and concerns of the electrical engineering women at UT-Austin. The IEEE-WIE group has held many "company nights" events bringing women from industry to talk about their experiences. We've even held a golf workshop where Samantha and I taught golf to electrical engineering women. With WIE, the women in electrical engineering have come a bit closer together. I still feel as though there is quite a long way to go. When I think of top women leaders in the technical field along the lines of Bill Gates and Michael Dell,

I come up empty-handed. For some reason, saying to myself, "I want to be just like Bill Gates" just doesn't do it for me. Having role models in place will set the precedent of young women never feeling as though they do not belong.

There is a lack of association that I find when there is a lack of representation by women. However, there has been a wave of women in high technology roles breaking the pathway for the younger generation, for example, Carly Fiorina, the new Hewlett-Packard CEO. With women like her leading the way, who knows what the next generation is going to bring to the table? Maybe I can be the next leader of the high technology industry? We will just have to see.

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MARCH IS NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Presidential Proclamation

Last spring, three women astronauts paused during a shuttle mission to pay homage to the past. Thousands of miles into space, floating above the floor of the shuttle, they raised a women's suffrage banner and posed for a picture. Astronaut Ellen Ochoa, a participant in this special tribute and a member of the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History, said, "We wanted to show how far women have come in this century and to honor the people who fought for our rights." Each year during the month of March, citizens across our country pause to honor the many heroes whose diligence and determination have helped to forge our Nation and enable people like Ellen Ochoa and her colleagues to soar so high.

Women's History Month is about highlighting the extraordinary achievements of women throughout our history, while recognizing the equally significant obstacles they had to overcome along the road to success. It is about the women who bravely donned uniforms and fought for our country. It is about the passion and vision of women educators like Mary McLeod Bethune, who, with only \$1.50 in her pocket, founded a school for young black women. It is about the perseverance and pioneering spirit of women like Margaret Chung, the first Chinese American woman physician, who supported herself through medical school by washing dishes and lecturing on China. It is about Alice Paul's fight for the vote and Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich's campaign to end discrimination against Alaska Natives. It is about the writings of Zora Neale Hurston, the paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe, the leadership of labor organizer Dolores Huerta, and the trailblazing artistry of photographer Margaret Bourke-White. It is also about the millions of unsung women whose contributions have made life better for their families and their communities.

Inspired by the courageous pioneers who came before them, women today continue to shape our Nation's destiny. Last year, Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Collins became the first woman commander of a space shuttle mission. American violinists Sarah Chang, Pamela Frank, and Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg were the first women to take home the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize in its 25-year history. And, in a game attended by the largest crowd of all time for a women's sporting event, the U.S. women's soccer team captured the World Cup. Today, 58 women hold seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, and 9 women are United States Senators. More women hold high-level positions in my Administration than in any other in history. And in the private sector, women own nearly 9 million small businesses, employing millions of Americans and contributing significantly to the strength of our economy.

As we honor the past and celebrate the present, we must also focus on the future. Our choices today will have an enormous impact on the destiny of our daughters and grand-daughters, our sons and grandsons. We must rededicate ourselves to forging a society in which gender no longer predetermines a person's opportunities or station in life. We must shatter the glass ceiling; eradicate wage discrimination; and ensure that every American has the tools to meet both family and work responsibilities and to retire in security. By breaking down the remaining barriers and opening wide the doors of opportunity, we can make the future brighter for women and for all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the

authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2000 as Women's History Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, and to remember throughout the year the many contributions of courageous women who have made our Nation strong.

For more information regarding Women's History Month you can visit the Women's History Project's website at: <http://www.nwhp.org/>

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CALL FOR PAPERS

The Journal of International Women's Studies (JIWS), a new on-line journal, seeks submissions for its May edition as well as subsequent editions. JIWS is an interdisciplinary publication featuring scholarly articles, poetry, narratives and book reviews exploring the relationship between feminist theory and activism. Submissions can be sent via e-mail to womenctr@mcla.mass.edu attention Diana Fox, Managing Editor, or by regular mail. Send three hard copies and Microsoft compatible disk copy to Journal of International Women's Studies, Susan B. Anthony Women's Center, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 375 Church Street, North Adams, MA 01247. Papers should be double spaced, with endnote format and citations appropriate to your discipline. For the May edition, please forward articles by April 1, 2000. The journal can be accessed via the Mass. College home page at www.mcla.mass.edu, click onto publications, click onto Journal of International Women's Studies.

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IEEE RECEIVES \$35,000 GRANT FROM SLOAN FOUNDATION

The IEEE has been awarded a US\$35,000 grant by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. This grant enables IEEE Educational Activities to produce a video for students which provides an overview of the myriad career opportunities in the computing and information technology fields.

This new production will complement the videos and CD-ROMs that IEEE has already produced with funding from the Sloan Foundation. These include two videotapes, "What's Out There" and "Getting Ready." The CD-ROM kit, "Careers for Electrical Engineers & Computer Scientists," includes profiles, databases of college programs and companies, a career development exercise and more. The IEEE Careers Web site at <http://www.ieee.org/sloancareers> highlights some of the materials contained in the CD-ROM. A Q&A service is administered by IEEE Regional Activities. The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation funded the Career Cornerstone Series to help college students studying engineering, mathematics, and physical science make a successful transition from studies to work.

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CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

81st Women's Engineering Society Conference, Human Interface with Machines

University of Central Lancashire, Preston

Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd September 2000

The annual WES Conference offers the opportunity for engineers to meet with others practicing in the same fields with enough time to learn from each other. The multi-disciplinary nature of the WES Conference offers the chance to look at wider engineering issues, and to learn about interesting and useful developments in other fields. The theme of the WES Conference 2000 is Human Factors

Papers are invited on engineering topics related to the theme of Human Factors or interesting local projects.

For further information please contact:

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e-mail e.j.kelly@uclan.ac.uk

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WIE Jobs File for March 2000

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: www.ieeeusa.org/jobs.html.

*IEEE Careers & Education Web Site: "Careers & Education, Enabling Careers through Life-long Learning" can be accessed at www.ieee.org/organizations/eab/careeresource.htm.

*Women in Technology International (WITI) web site at www.witi.com. WITI has joined forces with Advancing Women www.advancingwomen.com and Career Mosaic ® to create two new co-branded sites devoted to the employment needs of women.

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INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

September 2000 Braunschweig, Germany

Women in Engineering - Preparing the Future Congress Organization / Conference Office

VDI - Verein Deutscher Ingenieure / The Association of engineers
Frauen im Ingenieurberuf / Women in Engineering
Langer Kamp 19 b
38106 Braunschweig
Fax: [+ 49] - 531 / 233 79 74
E-Mail: icwe@vdi.de
[http: www.vdi.de/icwe](http://www.vdi.de/icwe)

Place and Dates:

Braunschweig, Germany (about 40 miles east of Hanover)

September 15th - 17th, 2000

The event will take place during the EXPO 2000 in Hanover, Germany.

Program:

The program will include:

- Invited Papers on the program's major themes
- Contributed Papers

- Multidisciplinary Panel Discussion
- Exhibits
- Trips to local enterprises
- Social Program and Special Events

The congress will address some of the topics from the World Engineers' Convention that will take place from 19 - 21 June, 2000 in Hanover, and discuss them from the viewpoint of women in engineering. There will be many opportunities to network.

This is VDI's 10th national congress of women in engineering and it will be organized as the 1st International Conference of women in engineering. We expect about 400 participants from all over the world. English will be the conference language.

The congress will be conducted in two general sessions and five concurrent workshops. The first general session will open the conference and will present two invited theme presentations on "MOBILITY", "THE FUTURE OF WORK" and "COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY". In the five concurrent workshops contributed papers with the themes listed below will be presented. In each workshop, there will be a general introduction in the form of an overview followed by a couple of short reports on experiences in the related field of work. There will be an ample opportunity for discussions.

Topics of the five concurrent workshops:(overview and personal experiences)

- Virtual Enterprises
- Female Entrepreneurs
- Dual Responsibilities :career- families
- Female Engineers in Management (e.g. working for "global players" in international teams, new technology changing the way we work such as job sharing around the globe)
- New Technology for transportation and information/communication -
- opportunities for female customers and female engineers

The congress will conclude with a keynote lecture (invited or contributed) and a panel discussion on the theme of: "A HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING ALL OVER THE WORLD": How do we achieve it? What is the role of women and women engineers?

Call for Abstracts

Women who would like to present a paper in one of the workshops or to take part in the panel discussion are requested to submit an abstract paper to the conference office.

Abstracts must be received before March 20, 2000. Abstracts should be limited to 200 words, single-spaced, and should not contain any figures or photos. They should be submitted by e-mail to: icwe@vdi.de or a hard copy faxed to the Conference Office Fax: [+ 49] - 531 / 233 79 74

Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by April 15, 2000.

Proceedings:

Conference proceedings will include abstracts of contributed and invited presentations and will be issued in a bound abstract volume that will be distributed at the conference.

Additional Information:

1. Tours of local companies on September 15, 2000 (afternoon):

The tours will probably include:

- Volkswagen
- GBF (biotechnology)
- Technology Center at the airport

2. Social Events:

Reception by the mayor of Braunschweig in the medieval town hall on September 15 2000. Conference dinner with entertainment on September 16, 2000. Guided tour of the city

3. Registration fees

170 DM (85 E) for members of VDI
210 DM (105 E) for others

95 DM (47.5 E) for students, who are members of VDI
110 DM (55.0 E) for students, who are not members of VDI

Contributors to the conference will not have to pay the fee.

Abstract contributors requiring funding should feel free to address our conference office.

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New Web Site Lets Kids Explore The World Of Engineering

How does a CD player work? What puts the muscle in musclecars? What keeps roller coasters on track? What, in effect, is the essence of so many of the things that play a role in the lives of young people?

Now, a new web site launched February 22 during National Engineers Week—Discover Engineering Online at <http://www.discoverengineering.org>—lets adolescents investigate a host of engineering achievements. Aimed at inspiring interest in engineering among America's youth, the site is a vast resource that its developer, Eastman Chemical Company, co-chair of 1999 National Engineers Week, hopes will tantalize its users to take a serious look into the world of engineering.

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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 088551331
Tel: (732) 562-5502 / Fax:(732)9810225
Email: 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
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