

September 2005 WIE Newsletter

IEEE Women in Engineering Newsletter -- Number 6 -- September 2005

In this issue

[Candidates for IEEE President-Elect Speak to IEEE Women in Engineering](#)

[Cast Your Vote in 2005 IEEE Annual Election](#)

[This Month's Question: Do you have experience juggling career and family?](#)

[WIE Welcomes Eleven New Affinity Groups](#)

[WIE Membership Highlights](#)

[WIE Congratulates IEEE Senior Members](#)

[IEEE Student Ethics Competition Expanded to IEEE Sections](#)

[Call for RAB Award Nominations](#)

[Region News](#)

[Website Highlight of the Month](#)

[Renew Your WIE Membership](#)

[New Member Benefit: Online Access to *IEEE POTENTIALS MAGAZINE*](#)

[Engineers Week 2006](#)

[WIE Welcomes New Administrator](#)

[Newsletter Contributions](#)

[WIE Committee Members, Coordinators & Liaisons](#)

CANDIDATES FOR IEEE PRESIDENT-ELECT SPEAK TO IEEE WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

By Emily Sopensky

As the liaison to the IEEE Women in Engineering Committee for both the IEEE-USA (Regions 1-6) and the IEEE Awards Board, I was curious how this year's candidates for the IEEE President-Elect post would respond to three questions of interest to WIE members and the IEEE WIE organization.

The following are the questions posed.

- 1) Why have so many WIE chapters been created in the last 3 years? What value do they see in IEEE? What value can IEEE bring to these members?
- 2) How can IEEE help attract more female engineers [to its membership]?
- 3) What can WIE and IEEE do to have more women receive IEEE's highest awards?

See information about the annual elections [here](#).

Leah Jamieson

IEEE traditionally provides value through access to information and support for members' careers. I believe, however, that the single most significant value that IEEE brings to women and through WIE chapters is the opportunity to be part of a community. WIE chapters create a place where women, and those who care about the success of women in engineering, can meet, network, learn, and share a sense of community. They also provide great opportunities to develop leadership skills.

There are two striking observations about the new chapters: the geographic distribution and the incredible growth in student chapters. These chapters affirm the transnational nature of the IEEE and the global importance of addressing issues of women in engineering. This also creates an opportunity to weave these local communities into a network of interconnected communities. IEEE can be one of key ways in which our members form not only local networks, but also meet – physically or virtually – colleagues around the world.

There is one more critical factor in the recent growth in WIE chapters. The WIE committee, leadership, and staff are doing a superb job in energizing the community through the WIE newsletter, virtual community, and email list. There's a real sense of excitement about the growing level of activity in WIE.

Our technologies have changed the world. This is important to many young women, yet we most often talk about the technologies themselves rather than the impact of our field on society and the human condition. To leverage our efforts, we should be collaborating with engineering associations around the world. We need to create a strong, effective message about the impact of engineering and we need to create opportunities for students of all ages to have hands-on experiences on engineering projects that can excite them.

The most important step is ensuring that women are nominated, not only for the highest awards, but for the ladder of awards that lead up to the top awards. In my six years on two different IEEE medal committees, I've never seen a nomination for a woman. Award selection is a deliberate, considered process. Award nomination depends on the individuals who take the initiative to prepare nominations. WIE can be proactive: Publicize the nomination deadlines. Nominate women for awards at all award levels: the highest awards often look for recognition via prior awards. Create WIE awards liaisons throughout IEEE's structures: Societies/Councils, Regions, Sections. And explicitly call on senior leaders, both women and men, to identify and nominate women.

Gerald (Jerry) Peterson

I view membership diversity to be a fundamental key to success in all organizations. The IEEE as a global organization has the full range of human diversity, and women are an important part

of each and every group making up that diversity. The fact that WIE is growing rapidly bears testimony to the active interest held in the subject of Women in Engineering, and in the active interest of women members of the IEEE. Clearly the IEEE provides a valued forum to bring together women in engineering who are employed in one or more of the IEEE designated technical fields. The IEEE brings value to all engineers and others who seek technical information and the opportunity to engage in peer activities that contribute to the expansion of knowledge and to the application of that knowledge to the benefit of society.

The IEEE continues to focus on the value it offers to all members and, with the exception of value that has Regional specific goals, that value is offered without restrictions that would advantage or disadvantage either gender or other elements of human diversity. This has been our tradition and I believe will continue in our future. Application of IEEE's value and its evolution must be moved into a highly visible position so that it will be seen by all members of our global society. This visibility must have a broad range of delivery so that women and others are attracted into our fields of engineering and technology.

The IEEE awards process is a paramount example of an organization driven to excellence in itself and in those it recommends be honored with one of the IEEE high awards. As a past member of this group I can say all IEEE awards processes are driven with a keen sense of responsibility and the value and need to seek the broadest possible range of diversity in the individuals recommended to receive an award. Women engineers are growing both in number and in the value of their contributions to engineering, technology and society. This is how and why I believe we will see an increasing number of women receiving IEEE's highest awards.

I extol all to constructively engage the full diversity of our global society to attract the best minds to become and remain valuable contributors to the social value derived from engineering and technology.

James (Jim) Tien

First, in regard to WIE growth, I would like to congratulate WIE for adding over 64 chapters or affinity groups in the past three years, up from 11 in 2002. The more difficult task will be to sustain their value to the chapter members. Inasmuch as most of the chapters are at universities, a possible approach is to individually link the 12K student members and 3K associate members with mentors from the other 17K women members or from the 270K regular IEEE members. Students are always seeking respected mentors and role models.

Second, in regard to attracting more female engineers, the IEEE – through the 10K strong WIE and the IEEE Educational Activities Board – should develop more pre-college programs that are targeted at young female students; we must all seek to enhance the quantity, quality and diversity of the engineering pipeline. Consequently, we must not only focus on the graduates of the last decade but also on the graduates of the next decade.

Third, in regard to obtaining more IEEE technical awards for women engineers, we must first increase the number of women IEEE Fellows; unfortunately, among the 17K regular IEEE women members, there are only 135 Fellows or 2.5%. The other critical problem is, as indicated earlier, the low number of women engineering students; clearly, we need more women enrolling in engineering, more women entering into the engineering work force, more women joining the IEEE, and more women being nominated for well-deserved IEEE awards.

CAST YOUR VOTE IN 2005 IEEE ANNUAL ELECTION

IEEE is a professional association of over 365,000 electrical and electronics professionals in 150 countries. As a member, one of your benefits and rights is to vote in this annual election.

To learn more about this year's candidates, visit the IEEE election site, <http://www.ieee.org/elections>

Each candidate for president-elect has a Web site.

Leah Jamieson at <http://www.ece.purdue.edu/~lhj/ieee>

Gerald Peterson at <http://ghpeterson.home.att.net>

James Tien at <http://www.jimtien.com>

Ballots for the 2005 IEEE Annual Election of officers were mailed on or before 1 September. If you are a voting member, you will have several ways in which to cast your vote. To access election material electronically, visit <https://www.directvote.net/ieee/>.

Ballots must be received by 12 o'clock noon, Central Time USA (18:00 GMT) on 1 November 2005.

Remember to Vote!

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION: Do you have experience juggling career and family?

WIE members are looking for tips on balancing work-life issues. If you have experiences you wish to share, please send it to women@ieee.org. WIE will share responses in an upcoming newsletter.

WIE WELCOMES ELEVEN NEW AFFINITY GROUPS

Since June 2005, eleven new WIE Affinity Groups have formed. Welcome to the following newly established groups:

Student Branch Affinity Groups:

K U Leuven, Belgium (Region 8)

Universidad de Sevilla, Spain (Region 8)

Universidad Catolica Andres Bello, Venezuela (Region 9)

Universidad Simon Bolivar, Venezuela (Region 9)

Universidad Tecnica Particular de Loja, UTPL, Ecuador (Region 9)

Universidad Militar Nueva Granada, UMNG, Columbia, (Region 9)

Universidad de Carabobo, Venezuela, (Region 9)

Vishwakarma Institute of Technology, India, (Region 10)

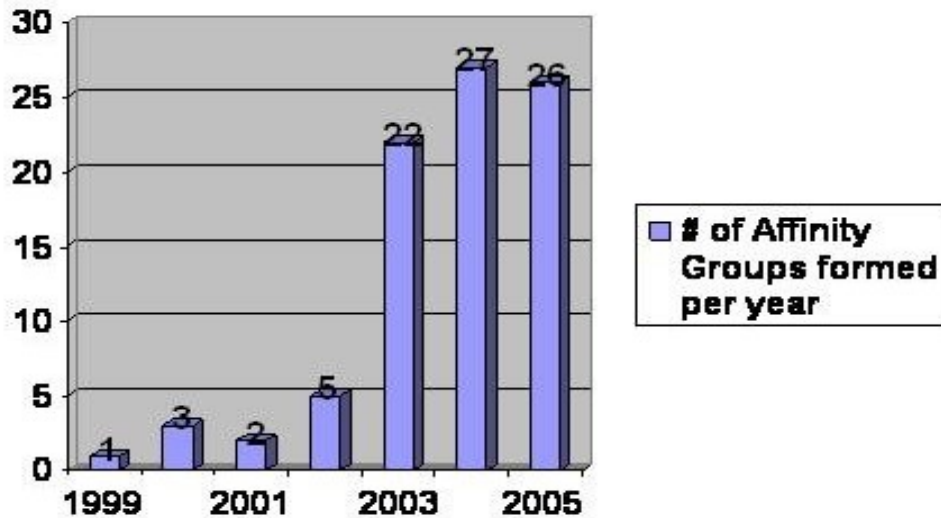
Institute of Space Technology, Pakistan, (Region 10)

National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences (IEEE-NUCES) -

Lahore, Pakistan (Region 10)

Section Affinity Groups

Worcester County, MA (July 2005)



This brings the WIE Affinity Group Count to 86 throughout the world. The following is a breakdown of the Affinity Groups by Region and type, and the growth of Affinity Groups since the first WIE formation in 1999.

WIE AFFINITY GROUPS			
Region	Regular	Student	Total
R1	3	0	3
R2	3	0	3
R3	2	1	3
R4	2	2	4
R5	3	0	3
R6	2	0	2
R7	4	5	9
R8	6	17	23
R9	2	20	22
R10	5	9	14
TOTAL	32	54	86

WIE MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

As of 1 September 2005, WIE membership totaled 9882 members.

The following is a breakdown of the WIE membership.

Grade	
Higher Grade	
Fellow	25
Life Members	54
Associates	315
Members	2088
Senior Member	151
Student	7249
Total	9882

Region	
US (1-6)	3844
Canada	535
Europe, Africa & Middle East	1969
Latin America	1573
Asia & Pacific	1961
Total	9882

Gender	
Female	7026
Male	2821
Not Provided	35
Total	9882

WIE CONGRATULATES IEEE SENIOR MEMBERS

IEEE Women in Engineering congratulates the following women recently elected to Senior Member grade:

Region 1

Dilek Z. Hakkani-Tur, North Jersey Section

Elizabeth L. Creed, Princeton/Central Jersey Section

Desiree A. Awiszio, WorcesterCountySection

Region 2

Sreela Sasi, Erie Section

Region 4

Marisa Ruffolo, Chicago Section

Shu-i Wang, Chicago Section

Liang Xi Downey, Southeastern Michigan Section

Anna Stefanopoulou, Southeastern Michigan Section

Region 5

Kimberly E. Newman, Denver Section

Carolyn E. Schaff, Houston Section

Region 6

Pic-Wen Fong, Santa Clara Valley Section

Region 7

Ha H. Nguyen, North Saskatchewan Section

Region 8

Elizabeth Burd, U.K. & Republic of Ireland Section

For information on how to become an IEEE Senior Member, visit the [IEEE Senior Member Program](http://www.ieee.org/organizations/rab/md/smprogram.html) website. <http://www.ieee.org/organizations/rab/md/smprogram.html>

IEEE STUDENT ETHICS COMPETITION EXPANDED TO IEEE SECTIONS

At its June 2005 meeting, the IEEE Board of Directors approved increasing funding from five to ten Student Ethics Competitions to be held each year. This additional funding provides IEEE Sections, or other Organizational Units, the opportunity to request funding if they wish to host a competition. Previously, the event was limited to IEEE Regional Events. Funding consists of \$600 US to be used for prizes for first place and runner-up winners.

There is limited funding still available for 2005 competitions, so organizational units are encouraged to contact the EMCC if they wish to hold a competition by year end.

If interested in holding a competition in either 2005 or 2006, contact the IEEE Ethics & Member Conduct Committee (EMCC) at ethics@ieee.org with your event plan. Include date, location and audience. In all cases the EMCC will review requests on a first come, first serve basis. Visit the EMCC webpage for more information, including competition guidelines: www.ieee.org/ethics.

CALL FOR RAB AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Regional Activities Board (RAB) is currently accepting nominations for a number of RAB Awards. The deadline for nominations for these awards is 15 October 2005.

- * RAB Achievement Award
- * RAB GOLD (Graduates Of the Last Decade) Achievement Award
- * RAB Innovation Award
- * RAB Leadership Award
- * RAB Larry K. Wilson Transnational Award

The RAB Awards and Recognition Program seeks to honor the outstanding efforts of some of the most invaluable IEEE Volunteers who have made substantial Regional contributions through innovative projects, exemplary

leadership, service, and by fulfilling the goals as related to Transnational Activities. Each prestigious award has a unique mission and criteria, and offers the opportunity to honor distinguished colleagues, inspiring teachers and corporate leaders. These are NOT technical achievement awards. More information and nomination forms are available at the RAB Awards Website at <http://www.ieee.org/rabawards>.

REGION NEWS

New Region 6 Coordinator Appointed

Diana Huffaker has recently been appointed as IEEE Region 6 WIE Coordinator by Region 6 Director, Robert Baldwin.

News from our Regions

Region 2

Baltimore Section

By Chair Tina Kohler

We have a joint meeting with SWE planned for the fall where a person from SWE will be the speaker. Other plans for the fall are a golf clinic and tour of a radio station.

South New Jersey (SNJ)

By Past Section Chair Joe Burns

The new Chair is Dana (pronounced Donna) Whicker. The SNJ WIE has been active in going to schools over the past year.

NoVa Section (Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia Area)

By Chair Murty Polavarapu

A planning meeting was held on July 14th at Tysons Corner Marriott to chart out a course for local WIE activities. A second planning meeting with interested WIE members took place on August 25th at Mitre. There was a lot of interest in continuing activities.

The first major meeting of WIE will be the Sept 27th talk by Emily Sopensky who was the 2004 IEEE-USA Fellow at State Department. The Communications Society chapter is organizing this meeting with WIE along with the Society for Social Implications of Technology Chapter as co-sponsors.

We are also looking for a new group of officers. Current WIE members assisting in the revival efforts are Debi Siering and Beverly Thompson.

Region 10

WIE Japan Council

By Secretary Masumi Shibata

The Woman in Engineering (WIE) of IEEE Japan Council was inaugurated recently. The mission of WIE is to support women engineers who participate in various activities in Japan. WIE provides appropriate information and assists you in networking.

As a first event, we are going to hold a lecture by Dr. Claudia Eckert, Director of Fraunhofer SIT (Institute for Secure Information Technology). Through her talk, she will give an overview of the situation of woman engineers in Germany. This event will also offer the first opportunity for networking and communication between the participants. Both IEEE WIE members and nonmembers are welcome.

WEBSITE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Are you looking for informative but fun resources to help young students plan careers in technology, engineering & science? Visit www.gettech.org. Designed to help prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow, the site contains games, lesson modules and information on the daily activities of engineers.

RENEW YOUR WIE MEMBERSHIP

Renew your IEEE Membership by 15 November and be entered into a chance to win a Dell™ Inspiron™ laptop!

The IEEE 2006 Membership Renewal is now underway. Make sure you stay connected with Women in Engineering by renewing your WIE membership.

WIE dues are \$25US per year and free to students and life members.

Renew today! www.ieee.org/join

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT: ONLINE ACCESS TO IEEE POTENTIALS MAGAZINE

Beginning this month, all IEEE members receive online access to IEEE Potentials magazine as part of their basic IEEE membership. IEEE Potentials provides information on the latest research and innovation in a wide range of engineering and technology topics. It also features items on professional development and career issues, and includes tutorials on the implications of new technology.

To access the online version of IEEE Potentials, visit:

<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/RecentIssue.jsp?punumber=45>

ENGINEERS WEEK 2006

Mark your calendars, Engineers Week 2006 will be celebrated February 19-25. To stay informed on the latest news as EWeek 2006 approaches, and to see how you might get involved, visit the National Engineers Week Foundation website at <http://www.eweek.org/>

WIE WELCOMES NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Keyana Tennant has joined the IEEE staff and will be the primary support and point of contact for WIE activities. You can contact Keyana by sending an e-mail to women@ieee.org.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send your contributions for the newsletter to women@ieee.org

Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month for the following month's edition.

WIE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, COORDINATORS, AND LIAISONS

2005 WIE COMMITTEE

Mary Ellen Randall, 2005 Chair, (USA)

Magdalena Salazar-Palma, Past Chair, (Spain)

Jan Brown (USA)

Margaretha Eriksson (Sweden)

Sarah Ann Rajala (USA)

Jyothi Ramaswamy (India)

Anna Zyzniewski (Canada)

Jasmina Bujaroska, Student Member, (Macedonia)

Regional Coordinators

Jean R.S. Blair (Region1)

Carole Carey (Region 2)

Joey Duvall (Region 3)

Sandra Candy Robinson (Region 5)

Diana Huffaker (Region 6)

Anna Zyzniewski (Region 7)

Clementina Saduwa (Region 8)

Nury Gabriela Ramirez Cely (Region 9)

Liaisons

Carole Carey, Regional Activities

E. Michel-Tzanakou, Technical Activities

Tania Quiel, Publications Services and Products Board

Sarah Ann Rajala, Educational Activities

Emily Sopensky, Awards and IEEE-USA

Society Coordinators

Parveen Wahid, AP Society

Vidi Bar-Natan, EMC Society

Sylvia Mergui, NPS Society

Asha Hall, UFFC Society

WIE Newsletter Editorial Committee

Newsletter Editor: Margaretha AK Eriksson margaretha.eriksson@ieee.org

Editorial Committee: Mary Ellen Randall, Sarah Rajala, WIE staff

WIE Newsletter Archive

Past issues of the WIE Newsletter are available at:

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