

Women in Control Newsletter

December 1999

Chair: Cheryl Schrader
Newsletter Editor: Fahmida Chowdhury
Database Coordinator: Dawn Roberson
Mailing List Coordinator: Dawn Tilbury
Advisor: Bozenna Pasik-Duncan

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1. From the Editor

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope all of you are preparing for a wonderful Holiday Season. I know that all of us juggle many responsibilities and wear many different hats, so it is even more important that we take a nice long break and enjoy the many celebrations going on all around at this time. I wish all of you a wonderful, happy and peaceful time. And a Very Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Fahmida Chowdhury

2. Newsletter Editor Position Open

That's right! We are looking for a new person to take over, continue, and perhaps improve this newsletter. Please volunteer yourself, or nominate someone else, for this position. The job description is very simple: about once every couple of months, prepare the newsletter and send it out to the mailing list. Also, when new women members join the society and this group, send their email and other information to the Database Coordinator, Dawn Tilbury. If you are interested, please send email to fnchowdh@louisiana.edu.

3. Message from Chair

Greetings to All!

Since this is my last message to you as Chair, I want to wrap up some loose ends. First, let me say that our Women in Control (WiC) luncheon in Phoenix was a success. Not only did

26 women have a great lunch and opportunity to network, but we caused quite a stir! Due to a last minute change by the hotel, our luncheon meeting was held in a foyer at the bottom of the main stairs and across from the elevators. Anyone wanting to attend a meeting on that entire floor had to walk past us. During the meeting, I observed people come down the stairs, see our gathering, turn around, and change their plans rather than walk by our tables - - what an intimidating group! Later on I was approached by one of our colleagues, who firmly believed that my count of women at the luncheon was too low. He repeatedly stated that there must have been at least 40 women there and he was impressed!

Don't forget the WiC luncheon is typically scheduled on Wednesday at noon at the American Control Conference and at the Conference on Decision and Control. Plan now for 2000 in Chicago and Sydney. Hope to see you there!

This year's luncheon followed a presentation at the Control Systems Society (CSS) Board of Governor's meeting where I highlighted the distribution of women membership. I shared these statistics at our WiC meeting, and include them here for your reference:

Associate and Affiliate	72
Student	134
Member	300
Senior Member	19
Fellow	5
Total	530

Let's keep adding to our numbers in every category. Our by-line in the Control Systems Magazine made many aware of our recent growth and activities. WiC is being promoted as a model of how concentrated efforts benefit the society as a whole.

Once again I promised to pass on information regarding senior membership. The CSS is rather complacent in seeing that its members move appropriately through the ranks of the IEEE. A recent article in The Institute by David Green lists three reasons for becoming a senior member:

1. recognizing the IEEE's importance in our technical area and stating our continued commitment to the profession,
2. demonstrating our obligation to life-long learning and support of the profession, and
3. recognizing successful progress in our careers.

Senior membership requires 10 years of professional experience (or five years after your PhD), and five years of significant performance (research and publishing, faculty positions, team leader, etc.). If you are eligible, apply! Applications can be found at <http://www.ieee.org/organizations/rab/md/smelev.htm> If you are already a senior member, encourage your colleagues to apply and express your willingness to serve as a reference for them.

Finally, I wish to welcome our new Chair, Fahmida Chowdhury. Fahmida has most recently served WiC as newsletter editor and the society as a standing committee chair. I believe that under her apt leadership, WiC will continue to develop and serve its constituents.

Let me express my gratitude for your help over the years. I appreciate the opportunity to work with such dedicated professionals.

Best regards in the new year,

Cheryl B. Schrader

Chair, Women in Control

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<http://voyager1.utsa.edu/~schrader/women-in-control/>