

Women in Control Newsletter

December 2000

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1. Editor's Note

Dear colleagues

The goal of Women-in-Control Newsletter is to involve as many as possible women/girls in the general area of control. This CDC in Australia helped us to notice that our Society does not have registered members from Australia. So, a request to those of you who are going to attend CDC in Australia: please take some time during CDC to present our Society there to attract Australian women for control. We will be looking forward to your feedback for the next newsletter. As always, please drop me a line and your contribution will be credited. My contact information is:

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2. Message from WiC Chair Fahmida Chowdhury

Greetings, Colleagues and Friends!

In the previous newsletter, a survey question was posted, which is repeated below. We received two replies, one from Michele Basseville and the other from Claire McCullough - both are given below.

- Survey of WiC members: At the last WiC meeting (ACC 2000, Chicago), it was decided that WiC members would be urged to act as "ambassadors" in their own communities (professional and social) for encouraging girls/women to be more interested in science and engineering in general and control systems in particular. From my own experience, I know that young people (middle school, high school) have no idea of what engineers actually do, particularly controls engineers/scientists. I would like to hear from all of you - "Your plans for encouraging young girls to appreciate mathematics, science, and engineering". Why "girls" only? I think, because, boys typically get more exposure to science/technology in school - girls miss out due to many different reasons. Perhaps we - each one of us - can make a difference! At this point, I am simply trying to collect information from you.
- Response from Michele Basseville:

This message is to bring your attention to several initiatives in Europe.

1. The European Commission is undertaking a series of measures to promote women's participation in research:

http://www.cordis.lu/improving/src/hp_women.htm See the documents

http://www.cordis.lu/improving/src/women_documents.htm

2. In September, the French Ministry for Research has published a note entitled 'La place des femmes dans la recherche' (The place of women in research). Last week, Roger-Gérard Schwartzberg (French Minister for Research) delivered a speech at a conference entitled: 'Sciences et technologies : Pourquoi les filles ?' (Sciences and Technologies: why girls ?) <http://www.recherche.gouv.fr/discours/2000/filles.htm>

Best regards,

Michele

Michele Basseville

IRISA - Campus de Beaulieu - 35042 Rennes Cedex - France.

- Response from Clair McCullough:

Have just had a project selected for funding by NSF that we're calling Adventures in Computers, Engineering, and Space (ACES) to attract girls (some from economically disadvantaged and minority populations) into these fields. Several years ago, ran a similar program to attract under-represented groups (not just girls).

Dr. Claire L. McCullough, PE

Associate Professor of Engineering

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

3. WiC meeting/lunch (Dec. 13, 12:00 noon), Linda Bushnell

As always our colleagues put special efforts to organize a WiC luncheon during CDC in Australia. Please check with the registration desk on details regarding location during the conference. This time it will be organized by Linda Bushnell.

For details of meeting rooms etc., check out Pradeep Misra's web site:
<http://www.wright.edu/~pmisra/CSS/minutes/1200/index.html>