

Opportunities for women, contributed by Bozena Pasik-Duncan

Dear Friends,

The CSS Technical Committee on Control Education would like to invite the Standing Committee on Women in Control for collaboration on the following two projects:

1. Joint with Standing Committee on Women in Control project on " NSF-CSS Mentoring Travel Grants for Women " The Technical Committee on Control Education is in the process of discussing with the NSF and preparing new Proposal. The objective of the NSF-CSS Mentoring Travel Grants is to help junior women to develop a long-term working and mentoring relationship with a senior engineer. This relationship should help the junior engineer to establish her research program and eventually receive tenure. Each grant will fund travel, accommodations, and other required expenses for an untenured woman engineer to travel to an institute or a department to do research with a specified individual for one month. The full proposal will be submitted to the executive committee with endorsement from the Vice-President of Technical Activities and the Vice-President of Membership Activities. The project has been discussed in the Women in Control Group for over two years.
2. Joint with Standing Committee on Women in Control project on CSS Workshop for Women Graduate Students and Recent Ph.D.'s in Honor of Cheryl Schrader, the 2003 President of CSS. Proposal: the TCCE would like to honor Cheryl Schrader, the President of CSS in 2003 by organizing the First Workshop for Women Graduate Students and Recent Ph.D.'S in conjunction with the 2003 CDC. We would like to initiate a series of Workshops for Women Graduate Students and Recent Ph.D's in conjunction with major control conferences. Proposal for the Workshop to be submitted to NSF and CSS Executive Committee FORMAT: The Workshop will consist of a poster session by graduate students and two or three mini-symposia featuring selected recent Ph.D.', plus an informational mini-symposium directed at starting a career. The graduate student poster sessions will include all areas of research, but each mini-symposium will have a definite focus selected from the specified research areas. Funding for travel and two days subsistence for the selected participants would be most desirable. All control (female and male) will be invited to attend the program. Departments will be urged to help graduate students and recent Ph.D.'s obtain supplementary institutional support to attend the workshop presentations and the associated CDC .

DISCUSSION GROUP LEADERS: We are planning to seek volunteers to lead discussion groups and to act as mentors for workshop participants.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for selection (and possible funding), a graduate student must have begun work on her thesis problem, and a recent Ph.D. must have received her degree within approximately the last five years, whether or not she currently holds a postdoctoral or other academic or non-academic position. All non-US citizens must have a current US address. All applications should include a cover letter, a summary of research work (one or two pages), a title and abstract (75 words or less) of the proposed poster or talk, and a curriculum vitae. A supporting letter of recommendation from a faculty member or control researcher who knows her research will be required for graduate student applicants, and will be recommended but not required for Ph.D.'s.

SELECTION PROCESS: The CSS Technical Committee on Control Education will be in charge of selection process. All selected (and possibly funded) participants are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the full one or two -day program. Those individuals selected will be notified by the Chair of Control Education Activities and will need to submit a title and abstract with name, affiliation, address, etc. by mid-June or July to the CDC Program Chair for the meeting program; instructions with the notification will be provided. Some advice on the application process will be provided on the CDC web site.

I hope that you will find these projects interesting and important. Your feedback on this will be highly appreciated,
With my very best wishes for the best year for you – Bozenna