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1. Editor's Note

Dear Fellow Women in Control,

This newsletter summarizes recent contributions I have received. The goal of this newsletter is to integrate more women in control theory/applications development and to keep everybody posted on events. Please feel free to contribute information that you think might be useful for our community. This can include interesting articles, information on web, job openings in your schools, companies, new books, journals, software releases, conferences, workshops, etc. Please send any contributions to me following my reference below. Also, if you have any items that you would like to see discussed or things that you would like to see added or changed in the newsletter, then please feel free to share them with me, even if you do not have time to submit something for the newsletter.

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2. Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

As you have surely remarked, the newsletter comes out less frequently than usual. This is due to the fact that Naira was more “determined” in asking for contributions, but mainly because, when something interesting happens, a message is sent to all the people in the mailing list, without waiting for a newsletter issue. Since we are all afflicted by so much junk mail... if there is nothing new to say I prefer to wait. Another possible explanation is that the contributors are always the same and we need new ideas and new contributions from those of you that joined us more recently. Please, write us about your problems, about the topics you should like to discuss

You will find in the following a short report written by Helen Ryaciotaki-Boussalis on the Workshop held in Cyprus this June, before ISIC and MED 2005, entitled “Encouraging Young Women towards Engineering and Applied Sciences“. This issue has become more and more important in the States and in Europe, and many programs have been implemented toward this goal. We’ll speak about some of them in Seville.

I hope that many of you will participate to the WiC Lunch in Seville, during the ECC-CDC where we have prepared for you an interesting (hopefully) panel:

“Making Research Breakthroughs and Breaking Glass Ceilings”

Wednesday, December 14, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm , The Terrace Room

You’ll find more details about it in the newsletter in Bozenna’s contribution.

I am happy to announce that Bonnie S. Heck and Anna G. Stefanopoulou has been elected to the Board of Governors of Control Systems Society for 2006-2008. Congratulations Bonnie, Congratulations Anna.

Congratulations once again for a very important award to our dear friend and past president **Cheryl Schrader**, who is a recipient of the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM).

With my warmest regards,

Annamaria

Chair of the WiC Committee

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3. WIC Lunch Session at the CDC/ECC'05 in Seville, Spain
Contributed by: Bozenna Pasik-Duncan, University of Kansas

"Making Research Breakthroughs and Breaking Glass Ceilings", WIC Lunch Session

Wednesday, December 14, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm , The Terrace Room

Organizers: Bozenna Pasik-Duncan, Technical Committee on Control Education
Anna Maria Pardon, Standing Committee on Women in Control

Part I

Keynote Speaker: Diana Carlin

Making Research Breakthroughs and Breaking Glass Ceilings: The Communication Challenges of Women in Higher Education

Diana Carlin is Dean of the Graduate School and International Programs and a professor of Communication Studies at the University of Kansas. Prior to being appointed dean in 2000 she served as an interim assistant provost and an acting department chair. Her research interests are in political communication and gendered communication. She has taught courses on communication and gender and women in politics and has conducted research on attitudes toward women politicians. She is a frequent speaker for professional women's associations on topics related to gender and communication and women in organizations.

Part II

Women in Research Funding - Panel Discussion

Although the overall proportion of women funded is comparatively low, statistics show that this is more a reflection of the number of proposals received from women, rather than a bias against women at the funding stage. Through a presentation of some of the recent trends and statistics, we hope to generate discussion on issues such as how the low numbers of women receiving funding may affect students and younger researchers, why fewer women submit proposals, and what the community can do to improve the situation.

The Panelists:

Fahmida Chowdhury and Mary Ann Horn - NSF Program Directors
Fahroo Fariba and Sharon Heise - Air Force Office of Scientific Research
Alkis Konstantellos - European Union Program Director

Part III

Honorary Speaker: Cheryl Schrader

Cheryl Schrader is a recipient of the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM)--a program supported and administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF). She is a professor and Dean of the College of Engineering at the Boise State University, has a distinguished record of mentoring at both her present institution and the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). She has demonstrated an enduring, strong, and personal commitment to providing students with useful faculty guidance.

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4. Invitation to CDC-ECE Panel Session on "Math, Science and Technology in Control Engineering Education"

Contributed by: Bozenna Pasik-Duncan

You are invited to join us in this important discussion with international senior scholars and educators on

"Math, Science and Technology in Control Engineering Education"

Tuesday December 13, 6:00 pm -7:30 pm, The Terrace Room

Organizer and Chair: Bozenna Pasik-Duncan, Technical Committee on Control Education

The session will address important control engineering education issues of balancing math, science and technology in engineering education. The session has been organized as a part of the ongoing national and international dialogue after some "alarming reports" have been issued in the United States.

"In September, IBM said it would back 100 employees financially to leave the company and become math and science teachers. In October, the National Academy of Science, the National Academy of Engineering and the Institute of Medicine in USA issued a report titled "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." It urged the nation to recruit 10,000 students to science and math teaching each year by creating scholarships. In return, program graduates would teach in the public schools for five years. Some other morsels from that report:

- More than 600,000 engineers graduated from higher education institutions in China last year, 350,000 from India – and 70,000 from the United States.
- U.S. 12th graders recently performed below the international average of 21 countries on general knowledge in science and math.
- Last year, chemical companies shut down 70 plants in the United States and designated 40 for closure. Today, of 120 large plants under construction around the world, 50 are in China. One is in the United States."

Several international control engineering scholars and educators will share a word of wisdom in addressing the following and other related questions: What we, scientists and educators, should do about cultivating student interest in science, math and engineering? Is it important for control engineering students to know math and science? Should control engineering education focus mostly on technology?

Panelists include: Michael Athans, Portugal and USA , Alain Bensoussan, France and USA, John Baras, USA, Sergio Bittanti, Italy, Tyrone Duncan,USA, P.R. Kumar, USA, Lennart Ljung, Sweden, Sanjoy Mitter, USA, Victor Solo, Australia and USA, Pravin Varaiya, USA

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5. CDC-ECC 2005 Roommate Location Service

Contributed by: May-Win Thein

On behalf of the Women in Control (WiC), I will be organizing a Roommate Location Service for CDC-ECC 2005. If you would like to share a hotel room and need assistance finding a roommate, send an email message to mthein@cisunix.unh.edu with your: (1) name, (2) gender, (3) email address and other contact information, (4) date arriving at the Conference hotel, (5) date checking out of the Conference hotel, (6) smoking preference, (7) any other information you wish to add.

This information will be compiled into separate lists for male/female respondents and distributed by email. You will be responsible for contacting and screening prospective roommates from that list and making your own hotel reservations and arrangements.

Please note that this service is a resource to merely locate potential roommates, not to match specific individuals together. In so doing, neither the organizer nor WiC will be held responsible for any situations that arise as a result of room sharing between particular parties. In addition, this service will end after November 18, 2005. Therefore, interested individuals should send the above information well before this date.

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6. Organizer Needed for Roommate Location Service

Contributed by: May-Win Thein

I am also looking for someone to take over as the organizer of the Roommate Location Service. (I've been doing it for several years now.) Any that is interested should contact me at the coordinates below.

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Department of Mechanical Engineering

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7. Congratulations to IEEE CSS Board of Governors Electees
Contributed by: Linda Bushnell

Congratulations to Anna Stefanopoulou and Bonnie Heck, who both were elected to the IEEE Control Systems Society Board of Governors for a 3-year term starting January 1, 2006.

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8. Cheryl Schrader, Guest Panelist Speaker at SWE Nat'l Conference
Contributed by: May-Win Thein

Our own past WiC Chair, Cheryl Schrader, was a guest panelist speaker at a University Women's Dean's panel during this year's 2005 Society of Women Engineer's (SWE) National Conference (November 3-5, Anaheim, California). Her panel was part of the "Professional Development" series. For those who are not familiar with the SWE National Conference, it is the largest professional development and career conference for women engineers in the US. Usually, more than 3,000 engineering professionals, students and corporate representatives attend. Way to go, Cheryl!

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9. ISIC and MED 2005 Special Pre-Conference Workshop Report
"Encouraging Young Women towards Engineering and Applied Sciences"
Contributed by: Maria K Michael

The great success of the special pre-conference workshop, organized on June 26th 2005 in the context of the Joint IEEE International Symposium on Intelligent Control (ISIC'05) and Mediterranean Conference on Control and Automation (MED'05) that took place between June 27 and June 29 in Limassol, Cyprus, send a very encouraging message to both participants and organizers of the event. The main organizers of the workshop were the Electrical and Computer Engineering Dept. of the University of Cyprus (UCY) (which was also the main organizer of the Joint ISCI/MED'05 conferences, along with IEEE and MCA), the Cypriot Ministry of Education and Culture, and the Electrical and Computer Engineering Dept. of the California State University, LA. The main objectives of the workshop were to address the issue of women under-