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1. Editor's Note

Dear colleagues,

As the 41st CDC is over and we are in 2003, Women-in-Control Standing Committee of IEEE CSS has lot to be proud of. Cheryl Shraeder is the second woman to be the IEEE CSS President. This issue of the newsletter summarizes this and many other significant achievements of the members of our society. Our congratulations to everybody!

The goal of this newsletter is to integrate more and more women in control theory/applications development and to keep everybody posted on events, so if you come across interesting articles, useful information on web, that you think might be useful for our community, please feel free to contribute. As well please don't forget about job openings in your schools, companies, new books, journals, software releases, conferences, workshops, etc. Just drop me a line following my references below:

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2. Message from WiC Chair Anna-Maria Perdon

Dear colleagues,

I am sorry for not being with you during the CDC02 luncheon, but my research money for travelling run short (the trip to Anchorage has been very expensive indeed and that to Barcelona not cheap).- Anyway, I am sure that the meeting was useful and pleasant, since it is the overall effort that is important and so many of you were there.

As brief report:

The joint IEEE CSS IFAC "Women in Control lunch" during the 15th IFAC World Congress in Barcelona. has been very successful (and at no cost for the CSS, since it has been offered by IFAC). 30 people attended from 15 countries, mostly European. It has been a good occasion to present the Society and to invite the women to join the Society and our group. I intend to carry on in the future the activities of the WIC also in relations with IFAC.

Thanks to the dedication of Elena Zattoni the WiC home page has been updated and restyled. Comments and suggestions for further improvement are welcome.

Although we are still a minority in the CSS, the visibility of women in the society is steadily increasing Cheryl is the President elect of the IEEE-CSS, Bozena, is the Chair of the CSS Technical Committee on Control Education, where she is doing a fantastic job. The passionate commitment she puts in won her the "Frank B Morrison Teaching Award for distinguished teaching and the profound impact made in students' lives" from the University of Kansas, 2002. This is probably the first time that such an award is given to a professor who teaches such a tough subject. She is also the recipient of the 45th HOPE (Honor for Outstanding Progressive Educator) Award, a highly prestigious award of the University of Kansas. For details click on <http://www.math.ukans.edu/~jinyasong/ksacg/group.htm>, and follow the link "Congratulations Bozena". Linda Bushnell is Secretary/Administrator of the IEEE CSS etc. Molly Shor is chair of Public Information Committee Françoise Lamnabhi-Laguarrigue and myself we have been elected to the CSS BoG for the period 2003/2005 thanks to your support.

Many others are volunteering for the society in several important positions, and I believe that one of our primary concerns should be to encourage an increasing involvement, especially of young researchers, in the WiC and CSS activities as a tool to make women present "where things are decided". Moreover, I think that an effort of the Society in convincing the women to get closer to our field and in making the academic and corporate worlds more gender-friendly could help to improve the actual situation, described by Raymond de Carlo as one of "declining membership, declining subscriptions to our transactions, increased dues costs and journal costs, and at least in the US, an unglamorous and poorly funded position in Electrical and Computer Engineering Departments".

Yours affectionately,
Anna Maria

3. Welcome to Cheryl Schraeder, President of IEEE CSS, contributed by Bozena Pasik-Duncan

On behalf of all members of Women in Control and all members of the IEEE Control Systems Society, it is my great honor to welcome Cheryl Schrader, Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Texas at San Antonio and former Chair of the Women in Control Group, as the New CSS President.

Cheryl, who holds the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, conducts research in adaptive systems and control, biomedical engineering, and engineering education. The list of her journal papers, book chapters, and conference contributions is very long. Her presentations at numerous international and national conferences have resulted in several Best Paper awards. In the past ten years, Cheryl has been awarded several million dollars in research funding from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. She has been cited and recognized for her leadership as a mentor for women in engineering education. Among her awards, there is one that is very notable. The San Antonio Business Journal named her one of the 40 Under 40 making a difference in their community.

Cheryl's record of academic service at UTSA is extensive and varies from being a faculty advisor Student Chapter of the Society for Women Engineers to a member of the Electrical Engineering Program Committee. The Control Systems Society is proud of Cheryl's many important contributions. In 2000 and 2001 she served as Vice President of the IEEE CSS and Chair of the Conference Activities Board. She has served on the IEEE CSS BoG for the past seven years and as former Chair of Student Activities and Chair of Women in Control. She has served on the Conference Editorial Board, the Member Activities Board, and the Organizing Committees for the 32nd, 34th, 35th, and 37th IEEE Conferences on Decision and Control. She was the Program Chair for the 39th IEEE CDC held in Sydney, Australia. I was involved in nominating her for that particular position. The Society was in an "emergency situation." We needed a replacement for someone who had resigned at the last moment. I asked Cheryl, who was kind enough to accept with such little time left. She did amazing work and greatly helped the society. I cannot think about many members who could have done that work under those difficult circumstances.

On top of all of these duties she is a wonderful mother, wife, daughter, sister, niece... I had the privilege to meet and talk with her lovely family at the CDC banquet last December in Las Vegas. Her whole family came and was with her to show their beautiful support for her at that historical and memorable moment of starting her duty as President. Cheryl is the second female President in almost 50 years of the history of the Control Systems Society. In 1989 Jane Cullum became the first female President of the CSS.

Cheryl's great strength is having beautiful support from all of the people around her. She is a remarkable young lady who can stand as a role model for all girls and women, for our daughters, including mine, for our female students, and of course, for us.

Dear Cheryl,

The Control Systems Society and Women in Control Group, in particular, are lucky having you as our member. You are a big asset to our Society and we are proud of you. I am especially very proud of you. I know that you will be the best President.

Thank you for being an important friend and an important mentor. I will always remember our first time on the Executive Committee meeting with just two women. It was fun and the best "how to fit in" lesson. With you, an expert at making changes, we made a change in our Society. We created a friendly place for women, and you will make an even better place for women and for all members of the Control Systems Society. I learned from your interview in the October 2002 issue of Control Systems Magazine that you have several ambitious goals for your presidency. One of them impressed me truly: "The CSS must take an active and vocal role in suggesting to help IEEE get back on its feet financially and to raise an awareness of the importance of technical societies and CSS in particular. Our Society could lead these efforts." I believe that you will reach this important goal.

We wish you luck and great success, but also joy and...that you will feel and look as gorgeous in Hawaii, at the end of your presidency, as you did at the beginning of your presidency, in Las Vegas.

From the bottom of my heart all the best to you, Cheryl, and congratulations from all of us,
Bozena Pasik- Duncan

4. Women in Control luncheon in CDC02, Contributed by: Linda Bushnell and Elena Zattoni

The CSS WiC members met on December 11, 2002 at the "Canaletto Ristorante Veneto," which was in the Venetian Resort-Hotel-Casino, the venue for the CDC'02. Umit Ozguner, the General Chair of the CDC'02, and Leonard Shaw, the 2002 CSS President, joined the group of 40 for a wonderful lunch in a nice (but noisy!) room overlooking the "St. Mark's Square" of the Grand Canal Shoppes. The lunch consisted of "pane veneto, insalata, choice of main course (pollo allo spiedo, rigatoni al ragu, tonno e fagioli), dolci and caffe e te." Both Umit and Len gave brief welcoming statements to the group. Elena Zattoni then read a message from WiC Chair Anna Maria Perdon, who could not attend the meeting. Linda Bushnell encouraged everyone to attend that evening's CSS Awards Ceremony to congratulate WiC members who were receiving awards (see related message below). We encourage everyone to attend the next WiC meeting at the ACC'03 in Denver, CO, on Wednesday, June 4, place TBD.

5. Women Awarded in CDC02, Contributed by: Linda Bushnell

Please join me in congratulating the following award winners from WiC, who received their awards at the annual IEEE CSS Awards Ceremony at The Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas, NV on December 11, 2002.

IEEE Fellow:

Anuradha M. Annaswamy, for contributions to adaptive control theory, neural networks, and active-adaptive control of combustion systems.

Maria D. A. Di Benedetto, for contributions to the theory of nonlinear and hybrid control system design.

CDC Best Student-Paper Award:

Sonia Martinez, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Advisor: Francesco Bullo)
Design of Oscillatory Control Systems

Please see the IEEE CSS web site for deadlines for nominating CSS members for awards.

6. Control Education Activities- Bozenna Pasik- Duncan

Another year has passed very quickly. Happy New Year to You and your Families!

I was very disappointed that I could not attend our traditional lunch at the last CDC in Las Vegas. In fact, it was the first time that I missed our get-together since we started arranging it. The reason why I missed it is that I organized the first workshop for high school students and teachers of Las Vegas. It was a terrific experience and an incredibly successful event. (For more information about the Workshop visit the Workshop's web page at <http://www.math.ku.edu/ksacg/CSS/caworkshop1202.html>). I received many thank you messages from students and teachers, I selected 3 of them. Students have started asking for assistance on research so I have started building students/researchers network.

Dear Bozenna,

What a wonderful day, my students all were greatly impressed with the level of knowledge presented, the achievements of the young students, and the many ways that math could be applied. Of course, the soccer team was the favorite, but among my students it seems that most of the presentations were a favorite with a smaller group of students. Also you were high on the list of favorites, they loved your enthusiasm. Education is a very hard sell in Las Vegas. We compete with some very high paying jobs that require only strong feet or maybe an extra curvaceous body so the kind of exposure you offered our students was most welcome. Thank you again for the invitation.

Karlene McCurry
Anatomy/Genetics Instructor
CHS A.M.S.A.T.

Bozenna,

It was wonderful meeting you last week. The students had wonderful things to say about you and the speakers we heard at the Venetian. Thank you for taking the time to arrange this very worthwhile event for us. One of the teachers wrote an article about the event for our newsletter. I will e-mail you the article with picture and I'll send you a newsletter when it is printed in January. Hope your trip home was safe. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Shirley McLees, Magnet Coordinator
Clark High School

Dear Professor Pasik- Duncan,

My name is Keith English and I talked to you at the 2002 Control Awareness Program. I discussed briefly about how I wanted to study epileptics and find a way to have them play video games. I wanted to search for a way to have them wear glasses or something to where they can see all of the flashes and play. I was told that this would be too dangerous because this could harm many subjects. Professor Pasik- Duncan, I ask you to help me start this I am willing to find a way to help the many people that would like to have the fun like I have. I enjoyed talking with you and the Presentations today were very impressive. I was very happy to attend this event. Thank you and I will be waiting for your reply.

Thank you from myself and all at Clark High School

Over one hundred students, along with their teachers, attended a full day workshop. Big thanks go to the members of the Technical Committee on Control Education, including members of our group: Deana, Dominique, Jing, Molly, Cheryl, and Linda. Their assistance, help, presentations, welcomes, etc. are highly appreciated. We will be organizing more of these types of workshops: The Workshop for High School Teachers at the 2003 ACC in Denver and The Workshop for High School Students and possibly even elementary school students at 2003 CDC in Hawaii. Would you like to join us in these activities? Are you interested in organizing a special session at CDC ? Please let me know, and I will be more than grateful to you for helping us. The more people who are involved in Control Education, the better our society will be. Let us help Cheryl, our new president, to meet her important goals related to control education (see her interview in the October issue of the Control Magazine). I fully agree with Cheryl that "Control is a hidden discipline in times when it should be at the forefront of communication about technological advances. We need to be marketing how control applies to biotechnology, finance, transportation, communications, and network security. Along with providing summaries, synopses, and stimuli to our media and leaders, we should be speaking at elementary and secondary schools, interacting with teachers, providing courses on control for the non-engineer, and contributing to an awareness of how control is involved in everyday life. These are valuable activities. They require us to be 'control proud' and to reach out to diverse groups. And these are activities that will disseminate the joy and motivation we find in our own research." You will hear more about Control Education Activities this year in next issues of our WIC Newsletter. Once again I wish each of You and All of You
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Bozenna

7. Opportunities for women, contributed by Bozenna 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.'s, 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 – Bozena

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