

===== WiC Newsletter =====

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Disclaimer: The newsletter will be posted on the web. Any material that people do not wish to appear on the web will be removed upon request.

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In this Issue:

1. 1. Women in Control luncheon: CDC 2010
2. 2. Special Education Events at the CDC 2010 in Atlanta
- 2.1 2.1 Pre-Conference Workshop for Middle and High School Students and Teachers
- 2.2 2.2 Special Education Session
3. 3. On-Ramps into Academia 2011 workshop
4. 4. A Letter from WiC member

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## 1. 1. CDC 2010 - Women in Control luncheon

Contributed by Elena Zattoni

For those who attend the CDC 2010 Conference, Atlanta, you are welcome to attend:  
Women in Control luncheon

Date and time: Thursday, December 16, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Venue: Grand Ballroom A

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## 2. 2. Special Education Events at the CDC2010 in Atlanta

Contributed by Bozenna Pasik-Duncan

Chair, CSS and AACC Technical Committees on Control Education

Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure and honor to invite you to the two Special Education Events at the CDC2010 in Atlanta.

The workshop for Middle and High School Teachers and Students on "Ideas and Technology of Control Systems: The Power and Beauty of a Field that Spans Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The Workshop will bring about 400 students from Atlanta School District. The detailed final program will be posted on the conference web page this week.

The second Special Education Event is Special Session on "Preparing Tomorrow's Scientists and Engineers for the Challenges of the 21st Century", see the announcements below as well as on the conference web page. I have just noticed that this Special Session overlaps with the WiC lunch. I will try to put together lunch for women in control and this special education session. I don't want to miss seeing you all.

These two education events are organized by the Technical Committees on Control Education of the CSS and AACC which I have a privilege to chair. Please contact me if you are interested in being a member of the Technical Committee on Control Education by sending a message to [bozenna@math.ku.edu](mailto:bozenna@math.ku.edu).

I am planning to organize the next workshop and special session on education at the next ACC'11 in San Francisco.

Thank you!

Bozenna

### **2.12.1 Pre-Conference Workshop for Middle and High School Students and Teachers**

*in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Control Systems Society (CSS) and American Automatic Control Council (AACC) Outreach Program*

#### **Title: "The Ideas and Technology of Control Systems"**

*The Power and Beauty of a Field that Spans Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)*

**Organizers and Chairs:** **Bozenna Pasik-Duncan**, University of Kansas and Chair of CSS and AACC Technical Committees on Control Education and **Bonnie H. Ferri**, Georgia Institute of Technology

**Sponsored by:** CSS, AACC, University of Kansas and Georgia Institute of Technology

**Time:** Tuesday, December 14, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

**Abstract:** This workshop is a part of the 2010 CDC. The purpose of this event is to increase the general awareness of the importance of systems and control technology and its cross-disciplinary nature among high school teachers and students. Workshop activities include presentations by control scholars, informal discussions, and provides an opportunity for high school students and their teachers to meet passionate researchers and educators from academia and industry. The talks are designed to be educational, inspirational, and entertaining showing the excitement of being a control engineer. This event follows a series of similar successful events and celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Control Systems Society and American Automatic Control Council Outreach Program.

### **2.22.2 Special Education Session**

Title: "Preparing Tomorrow's Scientists and Engineers for the Challenges of the 21st Century"

**Organizer and Chair:** **Bozenna Pasik-Duncan**, University of Kansas and Chair of CSS and AACC Technical Committees on Control Education

**Sponsored by:** CSS, AACC and University of Kansas

**Time:** Thursday, December 16, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm (Lunch will be provided).

**Abstract:** This Special Education Session will focus on multiple challenges and opportunities that are presented to young investigators preparing for careers in science and engineering and will address important control engineering education issues of balancing math, science and technology in engineering education. Invited international control engineering scholars and educators from academia and industry will share a word of wisdom in addressing the following and other related questions: How do we integrate research and education? 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 engineering? What kind of control engineering textbooks are popular among students? Do they need textbooks? This event follows a series of similar successful events and celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Control Systems Society and American Automatic Control Council Outreach Program.

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## **3. 3. On-Ramps into Academia 2011 workshop**

Contributed by Tannen VanZwieten

UW ADVANCE at the University of Washington, Seattle, is currently seeking applicants for the On-Ramps into Academia 2011 workshop, May 15-17, 2011 in Seattle, WA. This workshop is for PhD level women in STEM that are currently working in industry, research/national labs, or consulting, and would like to learn more about transitioning into a career in academia. (Please note, this workshop is NOT intended for current research faculty, Ph.D. students, graduate students, or post-docs on university campuses.)

Applications are being accepted online at <https://catalyst.uw.edu/webq/survey/khofmeis/107372>. Registration is free and some travel funding may be available to qualifying applicants.

Topics addressed include translating industry skills and research to an academic setting, best practices for building a research or a teaching program, why academe is a great place to work, and crafting a research

statement and a C.V. New for the 2011 workshop: moving from industry into leadership positions in academia. Speakers include Dr. Cherry Murray, Dean of the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and former executive at Bell Laboratories and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Visit the web site at [www.engr.washington.edu/onramp](http://www.engr.washington.edu/onramp) for more information. Details about the application process can be found at <http://www.engr.washington.edu/onramp/Application.htm>. Apply online at <https://catalyst.uw.edu/webq/survey/khofmeis/107372>.

On-Ramps into Academia is funded through National Science Foundation grants HRD-0819407, project title "ADVANCE Partnerships for Adaptation, Implementation, and Dissemination (PAID) Award: On-Ramps into Academia" and CNS-0950585. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

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#### **4. 4. A letter from our member**

Contributed by Bozenna Pasik-Duncan

6 December, 2010

Dear Friends,

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The Holiday Season is approaching very fast. We were just celebrating a beautiful Thanksgiving Day. We decided to escape from the cold weather in Kansas and went to Mexico (Riviera Maya) for four spectacular warm days. Dominique, our daughter joined us and she brought her beloved little dog, Bruno. He is a lovely, well behaved, 2 year old pug. We had so much fun with him and we had a wonderful time while biking, swimming, exercising and having delicious food.

Today is St. Nicholas Day. It brings my joyful memory from Poland where kids and adults treat each other with good quality candy. I brought candy to my calculus class of 40 students today and we enjoyed this special day as much as I did in Poland. I tried to cheer up myself as much as I could today because yesterday was a different day being three months since my mother died. On that Saturday, September 4, when I called her as I did every single day no matter where I was, Japan, China, Italy, or any other country, for the last four years, mother was so happy. The three of us, Dominique, my husband Tyrone and I were planning to come on the following Tuesday for the two different conferences to which all of us were invited. She was happy that she would see her beloved and only granddaughter whom she raised (mother came each year for 19 years to USA and each time she stayed for several months, I wouldn't have been what I am without her tremendous help). Then something wrong happened that night. Dominique and I stayed on the phone with mother until a few minutes before she passed away. She died on Sunday, September 5 in the morning and she died as she wanted, at her home, and as her caregivers reported she smiled when she heard Dominique's voice. We were only two days late... After a beautiful funeral we drove to my beloved Tatra mountains, where my husband gave his lecture in the morning, dedicated to "Bozenna's mother who helped us to raise our daughter". He touched my heart deeply with his words.

We returned to Warsaw for the conference for Ph.D and Young Scientists at which Dominique, the fourth year doctoral student whose research focuses on the mathematical and statistical analysis of the brain gave a lecture. She wanted so much to help grandma... she believes that she can help so many others including her own parents... Our September visit to Poland was the most memorable.

I would also like to share with you my feelings about how lucky I was that I had the opportunity to spend a beautiful week in July with my mother, singing (my mother lost ability to speak easily in July) and dancing "Tango Milonga", my father's favorite song and dance. He used to sing it to her 32 years ago for the last time and 32 years ago when he was dying his only wish addressed to me was to take care of mother. I did it. And mother's only wish to me was to die at her home. It was not easy to keep my promise this time as my family in Poland thought that it would be better and easier to put her at a nursing home. I am so happy and proud that with help of the local church and the most devoted two care givers whom mother adopted as daughters, everything worked well and I was able to keep again my promises. The last words that she said to me were: "remember you were born to be a teacher and you were born to help others" so I do. She was our hero, she survived two world wars, she lost her first husband at the concentration camp in Oswiecim, she saved the life of a 13 year old Jewish girl putting the whole family at risk, she saved her mother and my

beloved grandmother's life during the World War II, she taught my daughter Polish and unlimited love for Poland, she loved children, she always helped those who needed help, she was "prawdziwa matka" (real mother) as we say in Polish. I miss her tremendously ... and I am aware that the feeling is so strong because I had her for a long time... She was 98.

I devoted this year to my mother, Janina Pasik. I have the best semester, better than ever before in my 40 year teaching career, I coordinate a huge calculus class with 10 graduate teaching assistants, I visited all sections last Friday and today and I promised students that they will be prepared better than ever before. With the help of so many others I believe that I will reach my goal to help each and all students in this large course. The final exam is on Wednesday, December 15. I will be making the trip to Atlanta twice the next week. I will come for the pre-conference workshop for almost 400 teachers and students on Tuesday, going back to Kansas on Wednesday for the Final Exam and grading that night and taking the first available flight at 5:50 am on Thursday to Atlanta so I will be able to join you for lunch and the special session and enjoy being with you.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you in Atlanta and listening to your stories.

Enjoy every single moment with your family during this very special season!

I wish You and Your Family Very Happy Holiday Seasons and Very Happy New Year!

Bozenna Pasik-Duncan

Founder of the WiC Group and the First Chair of the WiC Committee

(Words from the Editor:

Dear Bozenna,

Many thanks for your seasonal greeting to our members and sharing your ideas with us. Also, I would like to thank you specially for your support to our WiC newsletter and activities.

Wish you a very best Christmas.

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