Jumping into the Robotics Revolution

It’s more than just toys and entertainment

Just a few years ago, the field of robotics was considered in the realm of science fiction and visible to the general public only in the form of toys and entertainment.

Furthermore, anyone wishing to pursue a robotics career was typically steered towards mechanical engineering.

As engineers, we know that robotics is an interdisciplinary field requiring us to be adept with many areas of engineering as well as math and science. In this issue, we will introduce you to some amazing engineers who are demonstrating just how exciting and all encompassing the field of robotics truly is.

Whether it is music, medicine, security, entertainment, or automation, you will learn how the field of robotics requires engineering expertise from all the IEEE fields of interest including electrical and computer engineering, computer science, physics, biology, and mathematics.

We will focus on the individuals developing revolutionizing robotic technologies and how their work is becoming prevalent in every aspect of our lives.

What is even more exciting is that many women engineers are at the forefront of the robotics revolution. These incredible women not only serve as role models to help attract more women into the field but are also exemplary entrepreneurs.

IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) now has 186 Affinity Groups around the world and gained over 200 new members in 2008. It is our goal to bring our worldwide community closer together by highlighting the people and events that are making IEEE WIE the most celebrated international community of support for women in engineering.

In this issue, IEEE Women in Engineering Magazine will highlight our visit to Dubai and the IEEE Region 10 GOLD/WIE/Student Congress in India. The rich traditions and outstanding work of our WIE members in these regions are inspiring reminders of our responsibilities as engineers to improve the quality of life for all individuals and to protect our environment.

IEEE WIE Clementina Saduwa Scholarship

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION:

Selection criteria will be reviewed by the IEEE WIE Committee. Scholarship applicants must:

- be female
- be a student from Africa, in good academic standing, and must provide information on involvement with academic, extracurricular, civic responsibilities, and outreach efforts to other women (scholarship open to all IEEE fields of interests)
- maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.8 on a 4.0 scale
- submit two referral letters from individuals who are qualified to evaluate your academic accomplishments (e.g., teachers, administrators)
- provide a personal statement (750-word maximum) that reflects your career goals.

The scholarship offer will be made to the selected candidate one time only. There will be two scholarships in the amount of US$500 paid from the IEEE WIE budget through 2008. In addition to the monetary scholarship, WIE will pay IEEE membership for the selected candidates for one year.

The recipients will be selected by the IEEE WIE Committee. If suitable applicants are not available, no scholarship will be awarded for that year. Judgment will be based on the review of the application, endorsement letters, and personal statement and reviewed by the Selection Committee. Voting will take place under the leadership of the chair and the outcome will be based on majority vote.

Please send all scholarship nominations to Keyana Tennant, program administrator, WIE, at keyana.tennant@ieee.org. The deadline for nominations is 31 August 2008.

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IEEE Women in Engineering Magazine will share the stories and experiences of our WIE members in these regions and will show the impact our student members are having in their communities.

During one of my presentations in India, I was asked what the most important role I envision for myself as the chair of the WIE Committee and editor-in-chief of IEEE Women in Engineering Magazine. Oddly enough, my role has always been clear even long before I was honored with these titles. The most important role is helping to inspire and develop future generations of IEEE engineers. Thankfully, I am not alone in this mission.

After meeting our talented and energetic students in Dubai and India, I am happy to report that our future engineering leaders are well on their way to success. IEEE Women in Engineering Magazine wishes to commend the IEEE mentors, advisors, and their companies for volunteering their time and providing professional experiences for our IEEE student members. Your guidance and commitment has helped these aspiring young engineers make contributions to their communities that most people dream of achieving in a lifetime.

—Karen A. Panetta, Editor-in-Chief
IEEE Women in Engineering Magazine

Correction

In the December 2007 issue of IEEE Women in Engineering, the byline for the article “Monkey See, Monkey Do” was incorrectly attributed to Karen Panetta. The correct author was Leslie Prives.