One of the best things about being part of the IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) community is being able to learn and share the triumphant life stories of our members. Although no two stories are the same, the challenges we face are very similar, and our approaches to overcoming adversity share common themes: resilience and our inner strength to believe that we can achieve what we dream. Many people call us pioneers because we are always forging new paths and creating opportunities where none existed. We all know that being a pioneer is not easy, and the challenges we face oftentimes make us feel more like warriors. No one knows this better than world-renowned gender researcher and author Deborah Swiss.

In this issue of IEEE Women in Engineering Magazine, we share the historic story of women from Swiss’ book, *Tin Ticket*. In her book, she shows how women forced into a dismal situation took control of their destiny and reshaped a country. We thank Swiss for sharing her years of experience with us and giving our readers some career tools for success.

In 2012, I had the honor of representing the IEEE at the Clinton Global Initiative conference. This conference brings together world leaders and is held in conjunction with the United Nations meeting in New York City. The goal is to solve world issues facing humanity using the collective talents of many different organizations.

There were many prominent women in attendance at this conference. These women all shared a vision and a commitment to encourage more women and girls to pursue careers that will lead to healthier lives for themselves and their children and ultimately help them to build their countries’ economies through their entrepreneurial successes.

Tanya Wright is a popular actress who has made it a personal mission to help make greater social change for women. *IEEE Women in Engineering Magazine* was fortunate to interview Wright about her film, *Butterfly Rising*, about women who come from an oppressed situation in their personal lives and set out on an open road journey that leaves them transformed.

Two outstanding women from Serbia are also profiled in this issue. Bojana Lecic, an information technology student at the University of Belgrade, broke several stereotypes about the perceptions of smart women when she was named Miss Serbia in 2012. She is well rounded, talented, smart and yes, pretty. Society has wrongly impressed on young girls that this combination of qualities are not found in smart women, thus helping to drive young girls away from science, engineering, and technology. Lecic is single-handedly changing her country’s views on the abilities of women.

Jasna Matic, a special adviser for competitiveness and knowledge economy to the Ministry of Finance and Economy in Serbia, is a role model as a world leader. She has committed to use her leadership position to support and encourage young women to pursue math, science, engineering and technology careers. We are grateful to her for sharing her stories with us and for showing that women can attain the highest level of leadership. Her efforts have had a profound effect on changing social cultures and attitudes in her country.

In 2013, IEEE WIE marked a historic milestone by holding its first conference, “Enhancing the Sustainability of Women in Technology.” The event connected industry, academia, and entrepreneurs to exciting interdisciplinary engineering career opportunities, research, and state-of-the-art computing technologies. We thank Google for hosting and sponsoring the
conference and for providing their women leaders as motivational speakers for our attendees. We also thank IEEE Region 6 for cosponsoring the event. With the success of this initiative, we are confident that the conference will become an annual event in the future.

Finally, it is with great pleasure that IEEE Women in Engineering Magazine welcomes 2013 IEEE WIE Committee Chair Nita Patel. Patel is a licensed professional engineer and has served as an IEEE leader in many capacities across the institute. She has been recognized with many awards for her outstanding leadership and professional engineering skills. Her commitment to building a strong community supporting the advancement of women and her vast leadership experience will no doubt support the growth and prosperity of IEEE WIE. Congratulations Nita!

—Karen A. Panetta
IEEE Women in Engineering Magazine