

Women in Engineering

Ferdinanda Ponci, WIE Liaison for the IMS Magazine

IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) counts about 13 300 members as of Sept. 2014 and aims at facilitating the global recruitment and retention of women in technical disciplines. WIE celebrated its 20th anniversary throughout the year in 2014 and with a special ceremony at the Sections Congress. The diverse gender composition of the IMS AdCom has facilitated the reciprocal support of IMS and WIE. This connection is formally maintained by the IMS Liaison-to-WIE who is also a member of the WIE Committee. Monthly teleconferences guarantee continuous updating. WIE offers to members an Award winning magazine (4 times APEX Award of Excellence in the category of New Magazines and Journals, between 2008 and 2012), and ancillary support to local initiatives. On a larger scale, the major upcoming event is the 2nd IEEE WIE International Leadership Conference, to be held April 23-25, 2015 in Silicon Valley at the San Jose Marriott, San Jose, CA. Details are listed at www.ieee-wie-ilc.org. The first edition of this conference was held May 1-3, 2014 in San Francisco, CA, USA with 375 attendees.

WIE has produced and posted to YouTube over 25 videos, receiving currently over 92000 likes and over 11 million impressions on Facebook! This material, also linked on the IEEE WIE webpage, supports in a very tangible way the outreach to females in the technical area, particularly students. I encourage instructors, mentors (and parents) of the IMS to use this content to motivate and energize younger women.

In terms of membership by region, WIE presence in Region 10 is very significant (more than the U.S. and Region 8 together), although fluctuating. And even more interesting is WIE presence in Latin America, currently comparable to

Region 8, which is on a steep growth: +8% from Sept. 2013 to Sept. 2014. This is a vibrant community and we want to connect with them.

As we strive to make the most of each trip and activity we support, we joined the kick-off event of the newly founded IMS Chapter in Puebla, Mexico on January 13, 2015 with a WIE-IMS event. Kristen Donnell, the IMS VP Membership, was in Puebla to energize the new Chapter and spoke at the WIE event as well. This was a great opportunity for IMS to reach out to a broader public and strengthen its connection with local active IEEE volunteers. Dr. Pilar Gómez Gil was the local contact for this event.

IMS or WIE Members who would like to organize activities within the scopes of IMS and WIE are warmly invited to contact the IMS Liaison to WIE, Ferdinanda Ponci at FPonci@eonerc.rwth-aachen.de, to learn about available resources.

Recently, our very own Wendy Van Moer has organized and moderated the “Women in Measurement Panel” at I²MTC 2014. The panel session was held on April 14 in Montevideo, Uruguay at the Radisson Montevideo Victoria Plaza Hotel & Conference Center. The panelists were Irene Pazos Viana (Uruguay Catholic University, Uruguay), Sabrina Grassini (Politecnico Di Torino, Italy), and Octavia Dobre (Memorial University, Canada). The topics of discussion were focused on the mentoring of young female students. Experiences were shared, and tips and tricks were provided to manage the work and life balance of mothering and engineering.

A new edition of the Panel “Women in Measurement Panel” is also on the way for I²MTC 2015 in Pisa, Italy!