

Introducing IEEE ComSoc Women in Communications Engineering (WICE) and First Workshop





IEEE ComSoc Women in Communications Engineering (WICE) [ad hoc committee](#) was founded in 2009. Its mission is to promote the increase in membership, visibility and roles of women communications engineers within IEEE Communications Society; and to provide a venue for the professional growth of women communications engineers. [WICE currently has a 80-member group on the ComSoc Community Site](#), and recently launched a [WICE Facebook page](#) to expand its visibility to the world .

WICE reports to the Vice President of Member relations for the IEEE Communications Society. Long time ComSoc volunteer Heather Yu spearheaded the founding of the group. The current officers are: Shaline Kishore, Chair; Anna Scaglione, Vice Chair; ComSoc Past President Celia Desmond, and Heather Yu (at large). The previous chair of this ad hoc committee is Sara Katie Wilson.

Women are significantly underrepresented in most engineering disciplines and signal processing and communications are no exception. There are even fewer women in visible senior leadership roles, e.g., full and chaired professors, Editors-in-Chief, Distinguished Lecturers, members of the Board-of-Governors of their professional society. Although the number of women in these positions has - with concerted effort - grown, it is still too small.

While there is no single way to increase the percentage of women in these research areas; WICE believes that targeted mentoring and networking can help with retention and increasing the number of women in leadership positions. One way to achieve this goal is a small workshop where junior researchers can interact and learn from more senior researchers. Such workshops foster the mentoring and networking that can make a difference in a career.

The first such event will be held later this July in Banff, Alberta, Canada. The workshop effort has been led by the organizing committee who are: Sheila Hemami, Cornell University; Urbashi Mitra, USC; Milica Stojanovic, Northeastern; and Sarah Kate Wilson, Santa Clara University.

Upcoming event -

The First Women's Workshop on Communications and Signal Processing

July 13-15, 2012 at the [Banff International Research Station in Banff, Alberta, Canada](#)

The following leaders in Communications and Signal Processing will be presenting technical seminars.

Sonia Assia, *Universite de Quebec*
Pamela Cosman, *University of California, San Diego*
Sheila Hemami, *Cornell University*
Shaline Kishore, *Lehigh University*
Urbashi Mitra, *University of Southern California*
Anna Scaglione, *University of California, Davis*
Milica Stojanovic, *Northeastern University*
Sirin Tekinay, *Consultant, Istanbul, Turkey*
Sarah Kate Wilson, *Santa Clara University*
Sally Wood, *Santa Clara University*

The tentative schedule for the workshop is as follows:

Friday Evening:

7:30 – 9:00 PM Welcome and Panel discussion

Saturday:

9:00-10:15 Welcome and Poster Session

10:15-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:00 2 Technical Talks

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:15 2 Technical Talks

2:15-2:45 Coffee Break

2:45-3:15 1 Technical Talk

3:45-5:30 Group Hike

6:30- Dinner in Canmore

Sunday:

9:00-10:15 2 Technical Talks

10:15-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-11:40 Technical Talk

12:00 Check out time and lunch

1:30-2:30 Panel discussion and wrap-up

Call for Posters:

WICE is soliciting poster presentations from junior, under-represented researchers in the area of communications and signal processing.

Space is limited and some travel grants (including accommodation) are available. To apply for the workshop please send the following to toskwilson@scu.edu

A two-page abstract of the proposed poster, a CV, the names of two references, with “Women’s Workshop” in the subject header and send your application by March 30, 2012.

This workshop is made possible by the generous support of the Banff International Research Station, the [IEEE Communications Society](#), and the [IEEE Signal Processing Society](#).

To be a fan of WICE on Facebook, visit: <http://www.facebook.com/ComSocWICE>

(Content submitted by Professor Sarah Kate Wilson, Santa Clara University)

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