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**USC Women in Science and Engineering Newsletter**

**June 1, 2010 (Published Bi-Weekly)**

**Issue 1.10**

See the last page of this newsletter for more photos from the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Reception of May 6, 2010. View our website for all the photos: [http://www.usc.edu/programs/wise/events/10th\\_anniversary\\_reception.html](http://www.usc.edu/programs/wise/events/10th_anniversary_reception.html).

**Calendar: WiSE Events**

**Mark your calendar for two events in Fall 2010:**

**2010 WiSE Fall Library Program**

Thursday, September 16, 2010  
 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
 USC Science and Engineering Library

**2010 WiSE Distinguished Lecturer: Dr. Rita Colwell**

Friday, October 22, 2010  
 Lecture: 2pm  
 Reception: 3pm  
[Click here for more information](#)

**Calendar: WiSE Networking Meetings**

**WiSE Faculty Networking Meetings**

- Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 12pm, HNB 107
- Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 12pm, HNB 107

**Calendar: Other Events**

**Association for Women in Science, LA-Ventura County Chapter (AWIS LAVC) Career Development Workshop: "Negotiation for Women"**

Thursday, June 3, 6-8pm

- Eldonna Lewis Fernandez, MSgt USAF Retired, Dynamic Vision International Inc.
- Co-sponsored and Hosted by AWIS LA-Ventura County and USC Keck School of Medicine
- *Networking Reception to follow; [RSVP](#) encouraged for this event*
- Aresty Conference Center, USC Health Sciences Campus, Norris Research Tower (NRT), LG Level, 1450 Biggy St, LA, CA 90033
- Parking available at – Biggy Street Structure (HSP, P6) 1334 Biggy St, Los Angeles 90033, Parking Costs -\$8; USC Cardinal and Gold permits- free.
- Visit [www.awislavc.org](http://www.awislavc.org) for [downloadable maps](#) and to [RSVP](#).

**AWIS LAVC Chapter June Social: Networking Meet and Greet**

Tuesday, June 8 (6:30-8:30 pm)

- El Torito Grill at the Sherman Oaks Galleria, 15301 Ventura Boulevard, Sherman Oaks, 91403
- To [RSVP](#) for this and event and for more information about our current Chapter activities and the upcoming elections, please visit our website: <http://www.awislavc.org>

**Opportunities**

**Call for Postdocs**

The following session has been accepted for the Society of Women Engineers conference in Orlando this fall (November 3-6). The grad students organizing the session are looking for additional panelists who have participated in a post-doc or specifically chose not to do a post-doc AND who are not too far beyond graduation (no more than 5-10 years out of school). If you or someone you know fits the bill, please contact the session moderator, Richelle Thomas at [richelle@che.utexas.edu](mailto:richelle@che.utexas.edu). Please feel free to pass this on to anyone interested.

**To Post-Doc or Not to Post-Doc**

Graduate students and undergraduates considering graduate school often find themselves questioning the benefits of completing a Post-Doctoral degree. They seem to be a great assets for certain career choices, while make relatively little impact in others. This panel will discuss the necessity or lack thereof for completing a Post-Doctoral degree. Designed to help current students navigate the post-graduate professional world, it will feature both academic and industry professionals with varying backgrounds in Post-Doc participation and sector (academic/ industry) to weigh in on the topic. Participants can expect a balanced discussion from both sides to aid in their decision making.

**National Science Foundation STEM Talent Expansion Program (STEP): Recruitment and Retention Workshop**

STEP is offering a free one-day workshop that informs university and community college faculty and administrators about best practices in STEM recruitment and retention. They will also be providing information that will improve your professional understanding of the STEP program and upon completion of our workshop you should be able to write competitive grant applications to future cycles of STEP funding. Sessions will include: best practices in recruitment and retention, proven STEP strategies, and writing an effective education proposal for NSF. A working session on outlining a STEP proposal will be conducted with feedback provided to participants.

These workshops are funded through a grant from the NSF STEP program and will be led by former NSF program officers with extensive experience on the STEP program.

Berkeley Where: University of California 2198 University Ave, Berkeley CA , 94720 <b>Room 775, Tan Hall</b> When: Thursday June 10 <sup>th</sup> 2010 Time: 8:30-4:00, Lunch will be provided	Louisville Where: Hyatt Regency 320 W Jefferson, Louisville KY 40202 <b>Room: Kentucky Suite</b> When: Thursday June 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2010 Time: 8:30-4:00, Lunch will be provided
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Space is limited. Please RSVP, to [evandam@sorbyandassociates.com](mailto:evandam@sorbyandassociates.com) by **June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010** for Berkeley or **June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010** for Louisville if you want to attend so that we can plan accordingly.

If you have additional questions please contact:

Dr. Sheryl Sorby, Program Officer in the Division of Undergraduate Education from 1/2007 through 8/2009  
Professor of Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics  
Michigan Technological University  
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**News & Articles of Interest**

**NEWS at USC**

**Maja Matarić: Who's Your Robot?**

LA Weekly: LA Life, May 20, 2010

“Maja Matarić works and resides in Greater Los Angeles, but you might say that she lives in The Future. In her world, robots abound, and they "learn" to do more and more complex, sensitive, "human" tasks every day.”  
Matarić creates "socially assistive" robots that help victims of strokes, elderly Alzheimer's patients, autistic children and others without physically touching those they are helping.

[Click here for the full story.](#)

## **...NEWS at USC**

### **Katrina Edwards: Mistress of the Dark World**

LA Weekly: LA Life, May 20, 2010

“Katrina Edwards wears a baby tee and low-cut jeans, and pads around barefoot in her Craftsman-style home in South Pasadena, looking like a tousle-haired model for American Apparel. She's giggling – a warm, infectious sound – while explaining that some aspects of her hot new project were drawn on cocktail napkins. She describes a fun trip when "a few friends" met on Catalina to hammer out their plan. Her "few friends," it turns out, are top researchers from around the globe, their organization is the Dark Energy Biosphere Institute, and their mission is to understand the otherworldly microcritters who live beneath the ocean floor and, incredibly, comprise nearly half of Earth's biomass.”

[Click here for the full story.](#)

### **Valedictorian Liana Ching: Engineering a Good Life**

USC News, May 13, 2010

Ching is finishing up a distinguished career at USC that led her on a path straight to the podium during Commencement, when the USC Viterbi School of Engineering chemical engineering major gave a speech as the 2010 valedictorian. She also graduated with a minor in forensics and criminology. She will pursue a master's program in environmental engineering at Stanford University this fall after a busy summer continuing a Honduras Engineers without Borders program and an internship at Intel.

[Click here for the full story.](#)

### **Salutatorian Natasha Naik: Have Spanish, Will Travel**

USC News, May 13, 2010

Natasha Naik is going places. Graduating with a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering and a minor in Spanish, Natasha Naik will eventually head up the California coast to Stanford University, where she will attend medical school. But her first stop: Buenos Aires, where she will volunteer in a local hospital this summer, shadowing doctors and learning the basics of medical Spanish, while also learning about hospital systems in other countries.

[Click here for the full story.](#)

### **Meet Salutatorian Lisa Werth, a Grade-A Trojan**

USC News, May 13, 2010

One of this year's two salutatorians, Lisa Werth leaves USC with a perfect 4.0 grade point average - though she isn't really leaving. She will begin at the Keck School in the fall as a product of the elite baccalaureate/M.D. program that guarantees its members a berth at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. A biological science major with a minor in Spanish, Werth has a very clear goal: She plans to practice pediatric medicine in Southern California by working with the Latino community.

[Click here for the full story.](#)

### **Closing the Gender Gap**

USC News, May 12, 2010

USC College Ph.D. candidates Mihaela Ignatova of mathematics and Whitney Behr of earth sciences have earned 2010-11 USC Women in Science and Engineering Merit Fellowship awards.

[Click here for the full story.](#)

## **Other News & Articles of Interest**

### **A Toolkit for Women Seeking a Raise**

NY Times, May 14, 2010

“Even now, when women represent half the work force, they're still paid considerably less than men — and part of that pay gap may be a result of what happens at the salary negotiation table. That's assuming that women make it to the table, since research shows that they are less likely to ask for raises. Even when they do, their requests may be perceived as overly demanding or less agreeable.”

[Click here for the full story.](#)

**...Other News & Articles of Interest**

**The Way We Live Now: Judging Women**

NY Times, May 17, 2010

“If Elena Kagan is confirmed by the Senate, there will be three women on the Supreme Court for the first time. This is a measure of how far women have come. Two will be single and childless. This may be a measure of something else entirely.”

[Click here for the full story.](#)

**The Aging of Science**

Inside Higher Ed, May 25, 2010

New study asks: If research breakthroughs are coming later in life, and are less likely than ever to be the result of individual work, does science policy need to change?

[Click here for the full story.](#)

**House Passes America COMPETES Bill On Third Try**

National Journal, Tech Daily Dose, May 28, 2010; information from AWIS National

“The House Friday voted to pass a twice-stymied bill that would reauthorize research and education programs at key federal science agencies in an effort to boost U.S. competitiveness. The bill, which passed 262-150, would authorize \$85.6 billion in spending over five years.” The bill now moves on to the Senate. Of note, from AWIS Executive Director, Janet Bandows Koster: “The bill contains language that recognizes and addresses the persistent gender bias in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)...Of significance is the amendment submitted by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Sec. 124. *Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering*. This amendment provides funding for workshops designed to minimize the effects of gender bias at federally funded institutions.”

[Click here for the full story: National Journal.](#)

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