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USC Women in Science and Engineering Newsletter

June 14, 2010 (Published Bi-Weekly)

Issue 1.11

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 24th, 12pm, HNB 107
- Thursday, July 29th, 12pm, HNB 107

WiSE Postdoctoral Networking Group

- Friday, June 25th, 12pm, RRI 121: Job Search Strategy Discussion
- Friday, July 23rd, 12pm, RRI 121: Dean Michael Quick discusses Writing Effective Cover Letters

Opportunities

2010 Scalable Data Analytics IBM Innovation Award

DEADLINE: August 8, 2010

IBM is pleased to announce the 2010 Scalable Data Analytics IBM Innovation Award program, an international award competition designed to increase the use of open source and open standards-based tools for academic curricula and research. Since 2003, IBM has provided Innovation Awards to faculty worldwide for the purpose of furthering teaching, research, and community building around key technologies such as Eclipse and Unstructured Information Management Architecture (UIMA).

Beginning June 7, 2010, IBM will accept proposals for the 2010 Scalable Data Analytics IBM Innovation Award. Deadline for sending an email to awards@us.ibm.com to initiate a proposal is August 8, 2010.

Proposals will be accepted through August 15, 2010. Cash awards are valued between \$10,000 and \$30,000 USD.

To qualify for these awards, the submitter must be a full-time faculty member at an accredited college or university which offers Baccalaureate, Masters or Doctoral programs.

For program details and instructions on how to submit proposals, please visit the following website: [2010 Scalable Data Analytics Innovation Award](#).

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. 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.

NEWS at USC

Space Probe Peers Into Dark Cosmos, Elena Pierpaoli Looks On

USC News, June 8, 2010

“Imagine watching the birth of the universe - the Big Bang - from the outside. What would you have seen? At that moment and for the next 380,000 years, a Big Nothing, as photons and particles clung to each other in a high-energy dance that kept any light from escaping. USC College’s Elena Pierpaoli and 200 other physicists are trying to find out what went on during those dark days with the Planck mission - the most advanced space-based telescope designed to study the early universe...As the graduate student of one of the mission’s first proponents in the early 1990s, Pierpaoli was grandfathered into the worldwide community behind the telescope.”

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

Science Students Earn Trip to Catalina

USC News, June 3, 2010

“Environmental educators at USC have been showing the university’s research facilities on Catalina Island to hundreds of students from middle schools and high schools since the conclusion of the 2010 QuikScience Challenge, a team competition designed to spark the interest of young people in science. The event features an extended stay at the USC Wrigley Marine Science Center for the teams that won first and second place. It also offered something new - a one-day trip to the island for every team that submitted a complete project.”

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

Other News & Articles of Interest

Daring to Discuss Women in Science

NYTimes, June 7, 2010

“The House of Representatives has passed what I like to think of as Larry’s Law. The official title of this legislation is ‘Fulfilling the potential of women in academic science and engineering,’ but nothing did more to empower its advocates than the controversy over a speech by Lawrence H. Summers when he was president of Harvard.”

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

Why Do Women Leave Science And Engineering?

Forbes.com, June 8, 2010

“The research suggests it’s all about pay and promotion opportunities, or lack thereof. American policy analysts are concerned about the declining U.S. share in world patenting and scientific publishing. Many trace this to the perceived failure of the U.S. to educate as many scientists and engineers as ‘competitor’ countries.”

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