IEEE WIE FORUM USA EAST

26-28 October 2023

Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square

https://attend.ieee.org/wie-forum-usa-east-2023/

IEEE WIE FORUM USA EAST

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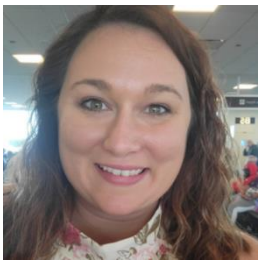

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THANKS TO ALL OF OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ONSITE VOLUNTEERS!

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, 26 OCTOBER			
03:00 PM – 06:00 PM	REGISTRATION		
04:30 PM – 06:30 PM	NETWORKING RECEPTION		
06:45 PM – 09:15 PM	SOCIAL EVENT		
FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER			
07:00 AM – 04:30 PM	REGISTRATION		
07:15 AM – 09:00 AM	BREAKFAST		
08:00 AM – 08:20 AM	OPENING REMARKS & WELCOME		
08:20 AM – 08:50 AM	KEYNOTE		
	TRACK 1: INNOVATION & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES	TRACK 2: PROFESSIONAL GROWTH & EMPOWERMENT	TRACK 3: LEADERSHIP & MENTORSHIP
09:00 AM – 09:30 AM	PRESENTATION	PRESENTATION	WORKSHOP
09:40 AM – 10:10 AM	PRESENTATION	PRESENTATION	
10:15 AM – 10:45 AM	BREAK & EXHIBITS		
10:50 AM – 11:20 AM	PANEL	WORKSHOP	PRESENTATION
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM			PRESENTATION
12:10 PM – 12:40 PM	PRESENTATION	PRESENTATION	PRESENTATION
12:50 PM – 02:00 PM	LUNCH & FIRESIDE CHAT		
02:10 PM – 02:40 PM	PRESENTATION	CAREER FAIR & EXHIBITS	PANEL
02:50 PM – 03:20 PM	WORKSHOP		
03:30 PM – 04:00 PM			PRESENTATION
04:00 PM – 04:30 PM	BREAK & EXHIBITS		BREAK & EXHIBITS
04:30 PM – 05:15 PM	KEYNOTE		
05:15 PM – 05:45 PM	KEYNOTE		
05:45 PM – 06:00 PM	DAY 1 WRAP-UP		
SATURDAY, 28 OCTOBER			
07:00 AM – 10:00 AM	REGISTRATION		
07:15 AM – 09:15 AM	BREAKFAST & KEYNOTE		
	TRACK 1: INNOVATION & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES	TRACK 2: PROFESSIONAL GROWTH & EMPOWERMENT	TRACK 3: LEADERSHIP & MENTORSHIP
09:25 AM – 09:55 AM	PRESENTATION	PANEL	PRESENTATION
10:05 AM – 10:35 AM	PRESENTATION		PRESENTATION
10:35 AM – 11:05 AM	COFFEE BREAK, EXHIBITS		WIE MEET & GREET NETWORKING EVENT
11:05 AM – 11:35 AM	PRESENTATION	PRESENTATION	
11:35 AM – 12:15 PM	PANEL		
12:15 PM – 12:45 PM	CLOSING WRAP-UP		

DETAILED SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, 26 OCTOBER

03:00 PM – 06:00 PM GRAND STATION BALLROOM 3 FOYER

REGISTRATION

04:30 PM – 06:30 PM GRAND STATION BALLROOM 3,4,5

NETWORKING RECEPTION

06:45 PM – 9:15 PM

SOCIAL EVENT – SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER

07:00 AM – 04:30 PM GRAND STATION BALLROOM 3 FOYER

REGISTRATION

07:15 AM – 09:00 AM GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

BREAKFAST

08:00 AM – 08:10 AM GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

OPENING REMARKS

Carole Carey & Helen Winfrey, *Forum Chairs, 2023 IEEE WIE FORUM USA EAST*

08:10 AM – 08:20 AM GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

WELCOME

Drew Lowery, *Region 2 Director, IEEE*

08:20 AM – 08:50 AM (KEYNOTE) GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

HOW TO ASK AND GET EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT, PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY

Laura Fredericks*, CEO & Founder, THE ASK*

Asking for anything can be difficult, but those hard asks—promotions, new contracts, advice, money, help—the ones that have you thinking and re-thinking in your head require a planned and proven approach. ASK expert Laura Fredricks understands the psychology of asking. She will show how there are 2 tempters and 3 devils that prevent people from asking. Next, she will demonstrate how her "5 Laws on Asking" can and will guide you through every ask, regardless of how challenging, anxiety-provoking they may be. Finally, Laura will share how her "2 Sentences and 1 Question" is the magic formula you need for any ask you make, personally or professionally. Armed with these new skills, you will be able to apply power asking to every aspect of your life.

DETAILED SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER

09:00 AM – 09:30 AM ELWOOD

TRACK 1: INNOVATION & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

STAND UP, SPEAK UP, POWER UP: GROWING YOUR CAREER, BUSINESS AND LIFE THROUGH SPEAKING

Debra Christofferson, *IT Security Consultant/Principle | Cloud Security Alliance*

Do you command credibility, presence and results, when you speak in a group, room, or on a stage? Do people listen when you talk? Can you take charge of the audience, wherever and whenever? Power up your voice to get what you want.

Is your voice holding you back? Take your spoken or written word to create industry leadership, demonstrate expertise, and strengthen your skills and knowledge. Use your platform and voice to create new growth paths, to transition to a new job, promote in a current role, or move into a new career in a different field, including cyber security opportunities for newcomers. When you open your mouth to speak, make it count. Stand up and stand out.

09:00 AM – 09:30 AM

TRACK 2: PROFESSIONAL GROWTH & EMPOWERMENT BRIGHTON 1/2

MANAGING UP AS A WOMAN IN ENGINEERING: EMPOWERING YOURSELF AND OTHERS FOR SUCCESS

Helen Percival, *Engineering Technical Lead | Calian Advanced Technologies*

In the ever-evolving world of engineering, managing up as a woman presents both unique challenges and exceptional opportunities. This talk explores the concept of managing up and its significance for women in engineering. We will discuss what managing up entails—proactively building productive relationships with superiors—and why it is crucial for career advancement and organizational success. Practical strategies will be shared on how to effectively manage up, including communication techniques, leveraging power skills, and navigating potential gender biases. Additionally, we will delve into empowering other women to manage up by fostering a supportive environment, providing mentorship, and advocating for equitable opportunities. By embracing the art of managing up, women in engineering can position themselves for success, overcome barriers, and contribute to a more inclusive and thriving industry.

09:00 AM – 10:10 AM (WORKSHOP)

TRACK 3: LEADERSHIP & MENTORSHIP GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

A NEW TOOL IN YOUR LEADERSHIP TOOLBOX: SETTING BOUNDARIES

Carrie Root, *CEO, Author & Visionary| Alpha UMi Inc*

We have demands placed on us all the time. Our jobs require our time and energy, and sometimes the job requires us to be away from home. Our families make demands and have expectations of us. Our communities ask for our time and talents. Our friends have expectations, too. And somewhere in that mix, we need to recognize our own needs.

To deal with all these demands, we set boundaries. The more we understand the importance of boundaries and how setting them influences the type of life we get to lead, the more willing we will be to set and enforce boundaries. Likely, this will make us better at recognizing and respecting other people's boundaries as well.

This interactive workshop will explore why we set boundaries, how to set them and include self-checks and exercises to explore the boundaries we set to achieve mindful balance in our lives.

FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER

09:40 AM – 10:10 AM

TRACK 1: INNOVATION & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES ELWOOD

LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS (LLMS) & ME

Katherine-Marie Robinson, *Assistant Design Researcher, Software Engineering Institute (SEI) | Carnegie Mellon University*
Violet Turri, *Associate Software Developer, Software Engineering Institute (SEI) | Carnegie Mellon University*

Large Language Models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT have become a hot topic among engineers and the public alike due to their ability to produce text with seemingly human-like accuracy. LLMs refer to deep learning models that can predict probable word sequences and generate new outputs based on prompts. LLMs include text-based models (e.g., ChatGPT, Bard) and multimodal models such as text-to-image models (e.g., MidJourney, DALL-E) or text-to-code models (e.g., Copilot). Although LLMs may appear to understand text, in reality, they rely on patterns learned from large text datasets rather than real comprehension. As a result, LLMs can produce unexpected inaccuracies. With the introduction of such powerful tools, central questions emerge with regards to their adoption. In this presentation we provide an overview of LLMs, present use cases to understand some of the benefits and risks, and discuss personal and organizational considerations for use.

09:40 AM – 10:10 AM

TRACK 2: PROFESSIONAL GROWTH & EMPOWERMENT BRIGHTON 1/2

ENGAGING WOMEN IN ENGINEERING AND RELATED MAJORS THROUGH MENTORING, OUTREACH, RESEARCH AND EVENTS

Joan E. DeBello, *Associate Professor and Chair, Division of CS | St. John's University*

A discussion of the many ways that universities and colleges can increase the number of under-represented students with a focus on women students through their university and college programs to apply and enroll in an engineering or related major. Utilizing their successful STEM faculty and students to promote a positive learning environment can inspire students to major in engineering or a related degree and through the MORE program (Mentoring, Outreach, Research and Engaging Events) students can be exposed to the programs admit, enroll, retain and persist until graduation.
In addition to the faculty and current students within the programs in the division, close collaborations with the Women in Science and Clare Boothe Luce Program, along with Career Services and the St. John's ACM student chapter are essential to the success of inspiring women in engineering and related majors to continue with their studies and pursue a career in the tech world.

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM

COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITS GRAND STATION BALLROOM 3/4/5

DETAILED SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER

10:50 AM – 12:00 PM (PANEL) GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

TRACK 1: INNOVATION & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

EMPOWERING WOMEN: THE RISE OF FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Moderator: Dena Haritos Tsamitis, *Director, Information Networking Institute (INI) | Carnegie Mellon University*

Panelists: Deboshree Dutta, *Founder & CEO | Criya (YC)*

Cynthia Kuo, *Associate Professor of the Practice, Information Network Institute (INI) | Carnegie Mellon University*

When Dr. Dena Haritos Tsamitis joined CMU's Information Networking Institute (INI) in 2002, there were two women in an incoming class of 34 students (under 6%). By Fall 2023, the INI will welcome a class with as many as 40% women. The result of intentional efforts to create an environment that attracts, empowers and supports women, INI graduates go on to maintain long-term relationships with each other, the INI and its students. In this session, Dena welcomes members of the INI community who have used this network to carve out a path to entrepreneurship. Panelists share how creativity and innovation, often stifled within traditional corporate settings, thrives when women create their own pathways or collaborate within supportive networks. By exploring the experiences of leaders to emerge from the INI, the panel examines factors necessary to shatter the glass ceiling, identifying strategies for advancing careers while uplifting others along the way.

10:50 AM – 12:00 PM (WORKSHOP)

TRACK 2: PROFESSIONAL GROWTH & EMPOWERMENT BRIGHTON 1/2

FORTIFY YOUR PERSONAL BRAND THROUGH CONFERENCE SPEAKING: WHERE TO START & HOW TO STAY ON TRACK

Gail Davis, *Director |Scarlino Speaker Strategies*

For engineers looking to elevate their personal brand through conference speaking, volumes of advice and tools can be found on how to be a better communicator, craft a presentation, and develop onstage presence. But few resources exist on how to find the right events in the first place and how to expertly pursue coveted speaking slots – not a simple task, given that many sought after events in technology and business have speaking submission acceptance rates as low as ten or even five percent. This workshop will take attendees through a three-step process designed to help them become credible, successful conference speakers in their given field, including: 1) how to define the parameters and your personal goals for speaking; 2) how to find, target, and secure speaking opportunities at the right events; and 3) how to track your speaking engagements and ensure you get invited back.

10:50 AM – 11:20 AM

TRACK 3: LEADERSHIP & MENTORSHIP ELWOOD

HOW TO BE YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF AS A LEADER

Mary Ann Saunders, *Engineering Manager | Rampart Communications*

Leadership is challenging, and in environments where no one looks like you it can seem downright impossible. But leadership is also highly rewarding when you can build a great team, support the growth and development of that team, and have a positive impact on the people and the company.

Women, and other minority groups, in technical fields are vastly outnumbered by their male counterparts. It can be intimidating for anyone in these underrepresented groups to raise their hand for leadership positions. If they manage to pass that hurdle, just feeling comfortable in those leadership roles can be an uphill climb. This talk will explore how to lead with confidence, clarity, conviction, and compassion.

DETAILED SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

TRACK 3: LEADERSHIP & MENTORSHIP ELWOOD

TIPS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR EARLY CAREER SUCCESS FROM AN INTERN MANAGER

Laura Fulton, *Design Researcher | Google*

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way many companies onboard new employees, including interns. In this session, Laura Fulton, an intern manager with experience hosting interns in both remote and hybrid work environments, will share her insights on how to support young professional growth in these new settings. Laura will discuss the opportunities of hosting and onboarding interns in hybrid and remote settings, and offer tips for interns and managers on how to navigate the process successfully. She will also share examples of how prioritizing learning and meeting coworkers helps form connections early on. This session is relevant to current students who are interested in taking on internships, as well as young professionals who are starting out in their careers. It will provide valuable insights on how to make the most of an internship or new job experience, regardless of the setting.

12:10 PM – 12:40 PM

TRACK 1: INNOVATION & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES BRIGHTON 3/4

INTERRUPTING YOUR SPIRAL - STOPPING NEGATIVE THOUGHTS IN THEIR TRACKS

Meagan Lambertson*, Technical Writer | Rampart Communications*

When our worries overwhelm us, we can get stuck in a loop where we focus on the same, often self-loathing, thoughts and replay the same upsetting and unhelpful scenarios over and over in our minds. When our negative thoughts and feelings spiral out of control like this, it can be difficult to pull ourselves out of it, and it can hinder our ability to utilize our power skills, such as critical thinking, or effective communication. This workshop will provide attendees with a set of tools that they can utilize to not only halt this thought spiral, but to constructively analyze their biggest stressors and build a more positive mindset so that they can tackle the things they are capable of changing. Attendees should come prepared to work through one of their stressors during the workshop.

12:10 PM – 12:40 PM

TRACK 2: PROFESSIONAL GROWTH & EMPOWERMENT BRIGHTON 1/2

THE GLASS CLIFF AND THE PANDEMIC: HOW TO NAVIGATE THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEW WORKSTYLE

Michele Heyward, *CEO |PositiveHire Inc.*

The talk "The Glass Cliff and the Pandemic: How to Navigate the Challenges of the New Workstyle" will explore the impact of the ongoing pandemic on the Glass Cliff phenomenon and how it exacerbates the challenges faced by professional women in technology. The Glass Cliff refers to the phenomenon where women and other under-represented minorities are more likely to be appointed to leadership positions in challenging and precarious situations. The speaker will discuss how the pandemic has affected the workforce and the workplace, and how it has increased the prevalence of the Glass Cliff.

The talk will provide attendees with strategies for managing the new workplace, promoting work-life integration, building a support system, and developing resilience and adaptability. It will also explore ways to reframe the work world by redefining success, challenging traditional leadership models, advocating for diversity and inclusion, and building a culture of empathy and understanding.

12:10 PM – 12:40 PM

TRACK 3: LEADERSHIP & MENTORSHIP ELWOOD

LEADING THE CHANGE MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE IN THE DIGITAL ERA

Lauren Harrington, *Industry Director, Hybrid | Rockwell Automation*

Organizational change is a constant in companies of all sizes. Change is an invitation to experience uncertainty and not everyone responds to the invitation in the same way. It can be daunting to understand and decode the resistance. It can be especially complex when taking a multi-billion dollar, 120-year-old company through an innovative digital transformation journey. This session offers valuable insights and lessons learned from women leaders on managing the conflict and resistance to organizational change amidst a rapidly evolving digital landscape, all while honoring the value of legacy and tradition.

DETAILED SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER

12:50 PM – 02:00 PM — GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

LUNCH

01:15 PM – 02:00 PM (KEYNOTE) — GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

CHIPS FOR AMERICA FIRESIDE CHAT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. Department of Commerce

Join us to learn how the resurgence of the U.S. domestic semiconductor industry is creating thousands of new, good-paying jobs in the sector. In this fireside chat, we'll hear directly from Department of Commerce officials leading the charge to build up America's semiconductor industry with historic investments through the bi-partisan CHIPS & Science Act.

02:10 PM – 02:40 PM

TRACK 1: INNOVATION & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES — ELWOOD

USING GENERATIVE AI (CHATGPT) AS AN IEEE VOLUNTEER

William Fowlkes, *Region 1 Treasurer| IEEE*

"Using Generative AI as an IEEE Volunteer" presents the groundbreaking applications of OpenAI's ChatGPT within the IEEE community. The talk will demonstrate how this advanced AI has been successfully employed in creating recommendation letters and job descriptions. It will further explore potential uses, including assistance in career management, academic review, event planning, proposal writing, and project management. The talk will also address ethical considerations in AI use, particularly regarding data privacy and algorithmic bias. Attendees will be guided on how to access and use ChatGPT. The aim is to demonstrate how AI can enhance efficiency, ease volunteer tasks, and foster innovation, encouraging an insightful discussion about AI's potential in shaping the future of volunteering in engineering.

02:00 PM – 04:30 PM — GRAND STATION BALLROOM 3/4/5, AND GRAND STATION BALLROOM 2/3 FOYERS

TRACK 2: PROFESSIONAL GROWTH & EMPOWERMENT

CAREER FAIR

02:10 PM – 03:20 PM

TRACK 3: LEADERSHIP & MENTORSHIP (PANEL) — GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

STRATEGIES FOR CAREER MOMENTUM FOR WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

Moderator: Nancy Mead, *Fellow and Adjunct Professor of Software Engineering | Carnegie Mellon University*
Panelists: Anita Carleton, *Division Director, Software Engineering Institute | Carnegie Mellon University*
Carol Woody, *Technical Manager of CERT, Software Engineering Institute| Carnegie Mellon University*
Robin Yeman, *Space Domain Lead, Software Engineering Institute | Carnegie Mellon University*

This panel session will focus on the challenges women face in defining their own successful career paths in technology. Examples of these challenges are finding mentors, finding collaborators in competitive environments, work/life balance issues, and the "two-body" problem. The panelists were each able to define their own successful career paths in technology at a time when there were no roadmaps or "standard" methods for doing this. Each panelist carved out their own unique career path, despite, or maybe because of, the challenges that we each faced at various points in our careers. The panelists will share their experiences with the WIE Forum attendees, along with suggested strategies for overcoming these kinds of challenges, which very much still exist today.

DETAILED SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER

02:50 PM – 04:00 PM (WORKSHOP) ELWOOD

TRACK 1: INNOVATION & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

LEARN TO CODE WITH CHATGPT

Chang Liu, *Professor | Ohio University*

Large Language Models (LLM) such as ChatGPT possess knowledge not only about human languages but also computer languages. It is now possible to introduce programming basics through ChatGPT. We propose a workshop activity in which the participants are invited to join an interactive adventure into the world of LLMs and learn how to code with ChatGPT as a co-pilot. In this interactive, hands-on session, the participants will take a guided tour to see live actions of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT in code generation and problem solving. If participants bring a laptop computer, they can follow along and learn coding in their own OpenAI accounts. Otherwise, they can watch the live interactive session and contribute their own ideas about how to guide the AI to help with coding. Python and other programming languages will be used, although no prior programming experience is required.

03:30 PM – 04:00 PM BRIGHTON 1/2

TRACK 3: LEADERSHIP & MENTORSHIP

WHAT TYPE OF LEADER DO YOU WANT TO BE?

Pete Eckstein, *Region 1 Secretary| IEEE*

What is the difference between a leader and a manager? Because a manager's focus is very different from that of a leader, they seldom make good leaders. However, there are times and circumstances when a good leader must assume the role of a manager.

So, what kind of leader do you want to be? There are seven different leadership styles. There are seven different leadership styles ranging from narcissistic to relationship oriented. Four of them, Narcissistic, Toxic, Laissez-Faire, and Autocratic should never be used. But which of the remaining styles, Participative, Task-oriented or Relationship-oriented, should you adopt? There is no one style. The answer depends on the people who you are leading, and the specific circumstances at that time. This talk will discuss the differences between the different styles and when and how to apply them.

04:00 PM – 04:30 PM

COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITS GRAND STATION BALLROOM 3/4/5

04:30 PM – 05:15 PM (KEYNOTE) GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

THE WOMEN BEHIND PITTSBURGH'S GRID

Moderator: Maria Chis, *Substation Control Engineering| Duquesne Light*

Panelists: Anna Slobodnyak, *Substation Asset Management Engineer| Duquesne Light*

Michelle Antantis, *Senior Consulting Engineer | Duquesne Light*

Jessica Valentine, *Advanced Grid Solutions Engineer |Duquesne Light*

05:15 PM – 05:45 PM (KEYNOTE) GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

Jane Barr, *Vice President Global Industry | Rockwell Automation*

05:45 PM – 06:00 PM (CLOSING) GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

DAILY FORUM WRAP-UP

Carole Carey & Helen Winfrey, *Forum Chairs, 2023 IEEE WIE FORUM USA EAST*

DETAILED SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, 28 OCTOBER

07:00 AM – 10:00 AM — GRAND STATION BALLROOM 3 FOYER

REGISTRATION

07:15 AM – 09:15 AM — GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

BREAKFAST

07:50 AM – 08:00 AM — GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

OPENING REMARKS

Celia Shahnaz, *2023-2024 Women in Engineering (WIE) Committee Chair | IEEE*

This presentation will focus on IEEE WIE's most recent activities, new initiatives and powerful resources to promote Engagement-Research-Innovation-Entrepreneurship for WIE members and beyond. In collaboration with Technical societies/councils, steps to launch IEEE WIE Distinguish Lecturer (DL) Virtual Program, launching of Inaugural WIE day, joint webinars with IEEE entrepreneurship committee, IEEE WIE Climate Tech Big Idea Pitch Competition in collaboration with IEEE Life member committee to address climate change assessment and sustainability are great examples of membership development and engagement IEEE WIE has launched Humans of IEEE WIE, a mentoring platform for upskilling and empowering women to lead the smart world. The overall impact in around 35,601 WIE Members among 1,188+ WIE Affinity Groups and WIE Student Branch Affinity Groups as of July 2023, a 13.8% increase in WIE membership Year-over-Year (YoY). IEEE WIE's visibility has increased to other OUs leading to many collaborations for a sustainable future.

08:00 AM – 08:15 AM — GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

A LOOK AHEAD INTO 2024 IEEE WIE FORUM

Bala Prasanna, *Region 1 Director-Elect | IEEE*

Charlotte Blair & Rhonda Green, *2024 Forum Leaders | IEEE WIE FORUM USA EAST*

08:15 AM – 09:15 AM (KEYNOTE) — GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

WOMEN ENGINEERS AT PITT

***Opening Speaker**: **Mary Besterfield-Sacre,** Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Swanson School of Engineering | University of Pittsburgh*

***Moderator: Anne Robertson,** Associate Dean for Faculty Development, Swanson School of Engineering | University of Pittsburgh*

***Panelists: Mai Abdelhakim**, Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Swanson School of Engineering | University of Pittsburgh*

***Kara Bocan,** Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Swanson School of Engineering | University of Pittsburgh*

***Susan Fullerton**, Associate Professor, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, Swanson School of Engineering | University of Pittsburgh*

***Jun Yang,** Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Swanson School of Engineering | University of Pittsburgh*

***Peipei Zhou,** Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Swanson School of Engineering | University of Pittsburgh*

The panel will start with a brief opening speech about efforts to promote women in Swanson School of Engineering (SSoE) at the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt), by Dr. Mary Besterfield-Sacre, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs - SSoE at Pitt. Followed by a panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Anne Robertson, Associate Dean for Faculty Development - SSoE at Pitt. In this panel, female professors at Pitt will talk about their career paths, research, teaching, mentoring, and outreach activities. The discussion will highlight the broad areas of engineering and the various opportunities for women at different stages of their careers. The panelist will talk about strategies to overcome obstacles along the way and achieve a work-life balance.

DETAILED SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, 28 OCTOBER

09:25 AM – 09:55 AM BRIGHTON 3/4

TRACK 1: INNOVATION AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

IN THE FUTURE, WE ARE ALL ENTREPRENEURS

Nikki Green, *Life & Business Resiliency Expert | Green Chameleon Collective*

Change is the Uber in your driveway. Do you know your destination? Those of us at the forefront of technology see these changes daily, but how often do we plan for them in our careers? To become the current of transformation that forges a new path forward, not just for ourselves but for generations to come.

Our career seems linear. Go to school, get your degree, maybe two. Gain employment. Work hard, and repeat, year after year, hoping to get noticed for a promotion or praying to be ignored during layoffs. These alterations are out of employees' control but highly probable in today's working environment.

Instead of waiting for the inevitable, we should view our careers as entrepreneurs. Create a business plan that adapts to our needs and helps us become more resilient and embrace change, to step boldly into our careers with an entrepreneur's passion.

09:25 AM – 10:35 AM GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

TRACK 2: PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND EMPOWERMENT

BREAKING BARRIERS: IMPOSTER SYNDROME, LEADERSHIP, AND PROMOTING DIVERSITY

Moderator: Michelle Gellert*, Director Professional Development | Rampart Communications*
Panelists: Julia Andrusenko, *Senior Communications Engineer | Rampart Communications*
Meghana Doddapaneni*, DSP Engineer | Rampart Communications*
Mary Ann Saunders*, Engineering Manager | Rampart Communications*
Lauren Johnson*, Human Resources Manager | Rampart Communications*

This panel brings together Rampart Communications experts and leaders from diverse career backgrounds to discuss vital topics shaping women's experiences in engineering and STEM fields. It will explore key subjects including Imposter Syndrome, Leadership, Workforce Guiding Principles, Mentoring and Retention, and Cultural Diversity.

- Imposter Syndrome, a psychological phenomenon affecting many women in engineering, will be examined to understand its impacts and strategies for overcoming it.
- Leadership will be discussed to highlight the importance of empowering women to take on leadership roles and promote gender equality in the field.
- Workforce Guiding Principles' discussion will focus on promoting inclusivity, equity, and diversity to drive positive change.
- Mentoring and Retention will explore effective strategies to support and retain women engineers.
- Cultural Diversity will emphasize diverse perspectives and how to foster an inclusive engineering community.

09:25 AM – 09:55 AM BRIGHTON 1/2

TRACK 3: LEADERSHIP AND MENTORSHIP

BUILDING YOUR RESILIENCY SKILLS AND DUAL CAREER LESSONS LEARNED

Noel Schulz, *Chair in Power Apparatus and Systems in the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science | Washington State University*

The word "resiliency" has been used often over the last several years as the world adapted to a global pandemic. As a woman engineer, how are you developing your resiliency tools as well as helping others you lead advance their resiliency skills? Additionally, more and more women engineers are part of dual career couples working to advance both careers as well as manage personal opportunities for both partners. This talk will discuss ways to increase your personal and professional resiliency and will share dual career lessons learned over 35+ years.

DETAILED SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, 28 OCTOBER

10:05 AM – 10:35 AM BRIGHTON 3/4

TRACK 1: INNOVATION AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

SMART POWER FLOW CONTROLLERS – A NECESSITY FOR FUTURE POWER GRID

Kalyan Sen, *President and CTO | Sen Engineering Solutions*

Power flow control techniques have been practiced, from using inductors, capacitors, transformers and load tap changers in the earlier days of electrical engineering to power electronics-based solutions in recent years. Even though the costs and complexities of the available solutions vary widely, the basic underlying theory of power flow control is still the same as it has always been. The correct solution requires one to know what the true need is. The power industry's pressing need for the most economical ways to transfer bulk power along a desired path may be met by building new transmission lines, which is a long and costly process. Alternately, it may be quicker and cheaper to utilize the existing transmission lines more efficiently. The key is to identify the underutilized transmission lines and harness their dormant capacities to increase the power flows to the lines' thermal limits using the most cost-effective and time-tested solutions.

10:05 AM – 10:35 AM BRIGHTON 1/2

TRACK 3: LEADERSHIP AND MENTORSHIP

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN ENGINEERING: NURTURING LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

John Adair, Chief Cybersecurity Engineer | Marymount University

This paper delves into the critical issue of empowering women in the engineering field by focusing on the development of leadership skills. It addresses the unique challenges encountered by women in engineering, such as gender disparities, career barriers, imposter syndrome, and lack of representation. By nurturing leadership qualities, women engineers can overcome these obstacles and achieve success. This paper highlights the importance of leadership development in engineering careers, emphasizing the advantages it brings and the opportunities it creates for breaking through gender biases and glass ceilings. Strategies for nurturing leadership skills are discussed, including mentorship, self-confidence building, effective communication, resilience development, and continuous learning. Case studies and success stories of exemplary women leaders in engineering provide inspiration and practical insights. Additionally, the paper explores the creation of a supportive ecosystem through promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity in the industry. By empowering women with leadership skills, we can cultivate a stronger, more diverse engineering workforce.

10:35 AM – 11:05 AM GRAND STATION BALLROOM 3/4/5

COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITS

DETAILED SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, 28 OCTOBER

10:35 AM – 11:35 AM (KEYNOTE) ELWOOD

TRACK 3: LEADERSHIP AND MENTORSHIP

IEEE WIE REGIONAL MEET AND GREET NETWORKING EVENT

Come and chat with the Celia Shahnaz, WIE Committee Chair; WIE Regional Coordinators; local WIE Affinity Group Chairs and many other WIE members. During this time, take a break, enjoy dessert, participate in some games, and learn about the new opportunities for WIE Affinity Groups while attending this casual networking event.
"WIE" would love to get to know you!

11:05 AM – 11:35 AM BRIGHTON 3/4

TRACK 1: INNOVATION AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

HARNESSING AI TO SHARPEN YOUR SUPER POWERS FOR SUCCESS

Rhonda Farrell, *CEO & Transformation Strategist | Global Innovation Strategies (GIS)*

In today's digital age, harnessing the power of artificial intelligence (AI) has become an essential strategy for individuals and organizations aiming to maximize their potential and achieve unprecedented success. In the captivating talk, "Harnessing AI to Sharpen Your SUPER Powers for Success," participants will discover how AI can amplify their skills, talents, and capabilities to supercharge their personal and professional journeys.

11:05 AM – 11:35 AM GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

TRACK 2: PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND EMPOWERMENT

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING IN INSTRUMENTATION, CONTROLS, AND ELECTRICAL DISCIPLINE AT SHELL

Arshiah Yusuf Mirza, *Senior Electrical Engineer | Shell Techworks*
Tobenna Emecheta, *Team Lead Instrument & Analyzer | Shell Techworks*

The WE in ICE is a group of Women Engineers in Instrumentation, Controls, and Electrical Discipline across the globe at Shell. The purpose of this group is to improve and sustain an inclusive workplace for men and women and to empower women in leveraging their full potential through personal development, mentoring, and business engagement. This group is open to all who support the success of women engineers, especially in the ICE discipline. This presentation shares the mission and goals of the group, organization, and activities.

11:45 AM – 12:15 PM (PANEL) GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

BALANCING ACT: HOW WOMEN LEADERS EXCEL IN LIFE, CAREER, AND SENIOR IEEE ROLES

Moderator: Melanie Ford*, Associate Professor, Penn State Behrend*
Panelists: Kathleen Kramer, *President Elect Candidate | IEEE*
Jill Gostin*, MGA Vice President | IEEE*
Kathy Herring-Hayashi, *Region 6 Director | IEEE*
Theresa Brunasso, *Region 3 Director | IEEE*

Learn from our esteemed panel of IEEE Senior Leaders how they have balanced successful careers while serving as a volunteer at the highest levels in IEEE, the world's largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity

12:15 PM – 12:45 PM GRAND STATION BALLROOM 1/2

FORUM WRAP-UP & CLOSING REMARKS

Carole Carey & Helen Winfrey, *Forum Chairs, 2023 IEEE WIE FORUM USA EAST*

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FORUM KEYNOTES

JANE BARR

Vice President of Global Industry Practice | Rockwell Automation

Jane Barr is vice president of Global Industry Practice. She provides sales leadership and strategic direction for our global commercial teams focused by core vertical industry: Consumer-Packaged Goods, Life Sciences, Automotive & Tire, and Heavy Industries. Jane is responsible for supporting customer outcomes at strategic accounts and industry verticals while helping to secure Rockwell Automation as our clients' digital solution partner.

Sales and Marketing is the company's customer-facing organization, bringing together global sales regions, Channels and Marketing, Customer Care, Customer Experience, Sales Operations and focused selling resources across the industrial manufacturing eco-system.

As an engineer growing up on the plant floor of an automotive manufacturing plant in Detroit, Jane built her passion for manufacturing in these early years and created a steadfast empathy for the challenges and pressures industrial manufacturing face. For the past 25 years, Jane has led global business and sales teams here at Rockwell Automation. further intensifying her commitment to partner with industrial manufacturers to build more productive, connected and sustainable manufacturing practices.

Jane is a member of SWE, Professional Women's Council, Global Voices Council, and is the executive sponsor of Advance for the Field and an active advocate on Rockwell's inclusion journey. Jane has a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Illinois, a Certificate in Industrial Distribution Management from Texas A&M University, and a Certificate in Digital Transformation from MIT.

MARY BESTERFIELD-SACRE

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs | University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Mary Besterfield-Sacre is the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Nickolas A. DeCecco Professor in Industrial Engineering. She is also the founding Director of the Engineering Education Research Center (EERC). Mary has a B.S. in Engineering Management from the University of Missouri – Rolla, a M.S. in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University, and a Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. Her principal research is in engineering education assessment, funded by the NSF, Department of Ed, Sloan, EIF, and NCIIA. Regarding assessment, Dr. Sacre conducts primarily quantitative analyses and statistical modeling; this work is well-published in engineering education literature. Dr. Sacre's current research focuses on three distinct but highly correlated areas – innovative design and entrepreneurship, engineering modeling, and global preparedness in engineering. She has been awarded the WEPAN Betty Vetter Award for Research and the ASEE Sharon Keillor Award for Women in Engineering Education for her engineering education research. She also serves on the advisory board for the AEE Journal and is a Fellow of the ASEE.

FORUM KEYNOTES

LAURA FREDERICKS, JD

CEO & Founder | THE ASK©

Laura Fredricks, JD, who as CEO and Founder of THE ASK© and an international consultant, trains, and coaches individuals, businesses, and nonprofits on How to ASK and GET exactly what you want. She is the first to combine the most trusted professions, law and philanthropy. "Laura's 5 Laws on ASKing" have brought resounding sustainable monetary success worldwide. She has helped hundreds of global executives, industry trailblazers, marketing and communication leaders, boards, fundraisers, entrepreneurs, teenagers, artists, philanthropists, and everyday people get their Best Professional and Personal Life Possible, through THE ASK.

Laura's newest book, her 7th: "Hard Asks Made Easy: How to Get Exactly What You Want" (Advantage June 2023) is Amazon's #1 New Release for Business Negotiating and #1 Fundraising, and received a 5 Star Rating from Readers' Favorite.

The ASK© has placed Laura on national and international speaking circuits and has also led her to TV and radio appearances on national and local talk shows, and national publications such as CNN, Fox News, ABC News, Self, Yahoo Finance, Dow Jones, Bloomberg, Women's Health, WSJ, and the NYT.

She was bestowed the Ralph E. Chamberlain Award for extraordinary leadership in the field of fundraising and lifetime of service to the profession and New York Nonprofit Network's 50 Over 50 Award for excellence in Media and Philanthropy. Laura recently became a member of the Catskill 3500 Club having summited all 35 high peak mountains in the winter season. She also hikes in the Adirondacks and loves to kayak.

Learn more about Laura: www.ExpertOnTheAsk.com

CELIA SHAHNAZ

2023 IEEE Women in Engineering Chair

Celia Shahnaz, SMIEEE, Fellow IEB, received Ph.D. degree from Concordia University, Canada and is currently a professor at, Department of EEE, BUET, Bangladesh since 2015. She was the winner of Canadian Common Scholarship for pursuing her Ph.D study in Canada and recipient of Bangladesh Academy of Science Gold Medal for her contributions in science and technology. The World Academy of Science (TWAS) members have elected her as a Fellow of TWAS for the advancement of science in developing countries, effective 1 January 2023. Recently, her nomination has been approved and she has been inducted into IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu as a Professional Member into the Eta Chapter of the Board of Governors.

She has been elected as 2022 IEEE WIE Committee Chair-Elect and she is serving as the 2023-2024 IEEE WIE Committee Chair. She has been appointed as 2022-23 Member, IEEE New Initiative Committee, 2021-23 Member, IEEE History Committee, Liaison between IEEE History Committee and IEEE WIE. She has served as 2021-23 Chair, IEEE SPS Women in Signal Processing, 2021-23 Liaison between IEEE SPS and IEEE WIE, 2021-22 Member, IEEE Educational Activities Board Faculty Resource Committee, 2022 Member, IEEE WIE Strategic planning Committee, 2021 Chair, IEEE WIE History Subcommittee, 2020-21 Member, IEEE WIE Senior Member Elevation Drive and 2019-2022 Member, IEEE WIE WePower Subcommittee. She has served as an Editorial board member, IET Signal Processing From 2018 to date. She is the immediate past Chair, IEEE Bangladesh Section, Co-founder & Chair, IEEE EMBS, IAS, RAS, SSIT Bangladesh Chapters, Co-founder & Vice-Chair, IEEE SPS Bangladesh Chapter, Founder and Advisor, WIE AG, and founder and Chair of SIGHT group FLASH, IEEE Bangladesh Section.

She is the recipient of the 2021 IEEE MGA Achievement Award, 2021 Inspiring Women in Academia Award from Bangladesh brand forum, 2019 R10 Humanitarian Activities Outstanding Volunteer Award, 2016 MGA Leadership Award 2015 WIE Inspiring Member Award, 2013 R10 WIE Professional Volunteer Award.

She has more than 22 years of experience (22 years as an IEEE volunteer) in leading impactful Technical, Professional, Educational, Industrial, Women Empowerment, Humanitarian Technology, Power and Energy-related Projects at national/international levels.

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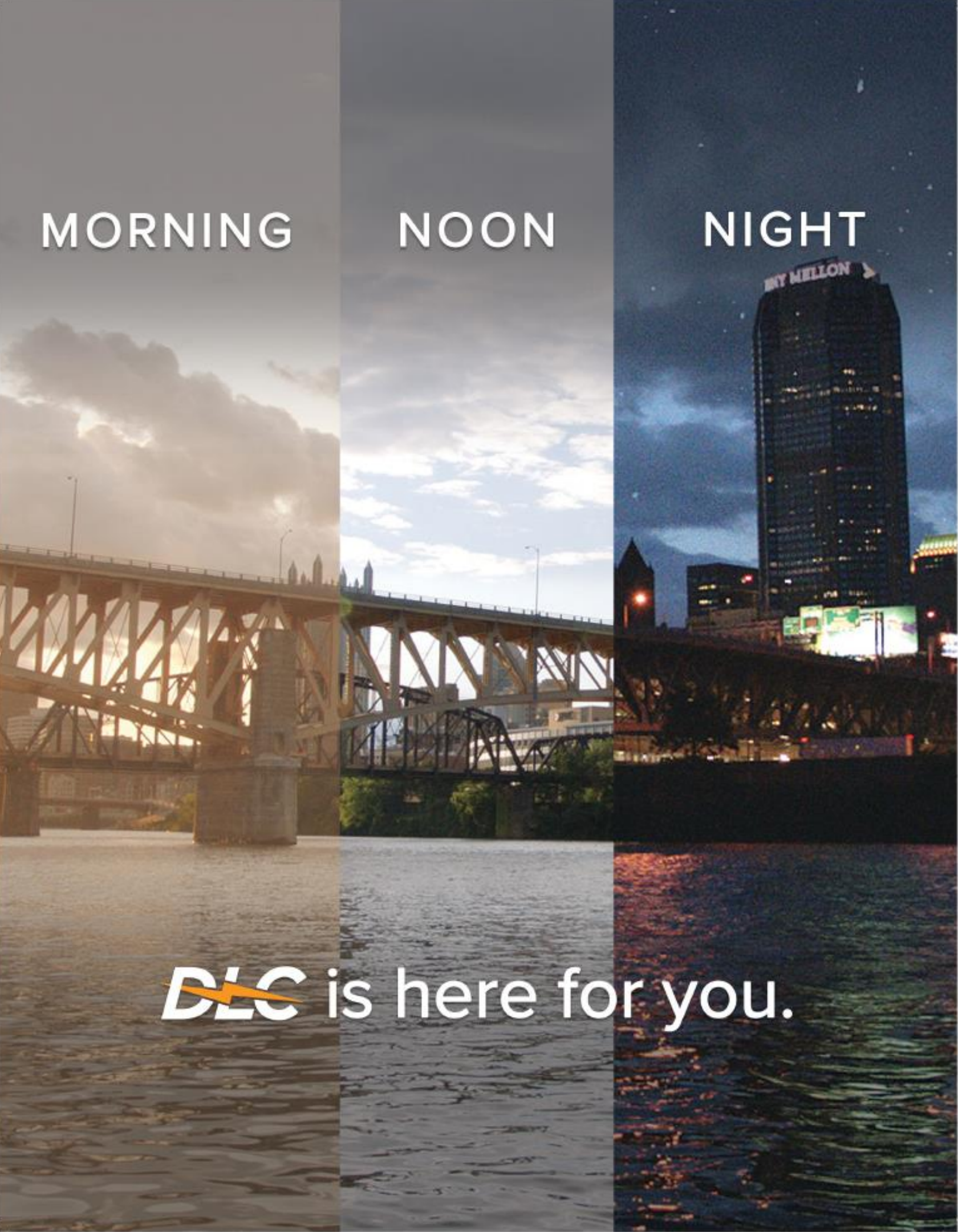
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IEEE Pittsburgh Section

Welcome to the Pittsburgh section of IEEE. The Pittsburgh section covers the southwest corner of Pennsylvania, a portion of eastern Ohio, and much of northwestern West Virginia. This area is well known for higher education, technology companies, and healthcare and related companies, all important feeders of IEEE membership. The Pittsburgh section has about 2,500 members and is very active, including about 50 unique events in each of the last 5 years. People live in Pittsburgh for many of the same reasons that you are visiting Pittsburgh - it has so much to offer you in your leisure time, from sports to museums to animal-related attractions. Hopefully, the leaves will be in full color during your visit in late October. We welcome attendees of the IEEE WIE Forum USA East and hope that you will enjoy your time in Pittsburgh!

IEEE young professionals

IEEE Young Professionals is an international community of enthusiastic, dynamic, and innovative members and volunteers. IEEE is committed to helping young professionals evaluate their career goals, polish their professional image, and create the building blocks of a lifelong and diverse professional network. In the Pittsburgh Section, we have approximately 300 young professional members which are active in different facets of the IEEE. We are thankful for the opportunity to present ourselves through the IEEE WIE Forum East and welcome everyone to Pittsburgh.

RAMPART COMMUNICATIONS

Rampart Communications is a small business building fundamentally new technology at the intersection of Digital Signals Processing, Information Security, and Cryptography, and we're looking to grow our team. We, as a company, thrive on solving complex problems. We think deeply about simple, foundational challenges in systems, signals, and science. We are looking for motivated and curious professionals who can bring fresh ideas and new perspectives to the work we are doing. Lastly, and most importantly: we are an equal opportunity employer who actively celebrates diversity and who is committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.

We have some ambitious goals. Our roles offer unique opportunities for our engineers to broaden their experience and to use their talents to tackle challenges. Working here, you will contribute to the foundation of next generation wireless capabilities.

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For more information about Samtec visit: https://www.samtec.com/ or Samtec's product overview here: samtec_product_overview_brochure.pdf

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Westinghouse Electric Company is shaping the future of carbon-free energy by providing safe, innovative nuclear technologies to utilities globally.

Westinghouse is a leading provider of fuel, services, technology, plant design and equipment across the nuclear energy industry. Westinghouse supplied the world's first commercial pressurized water reactor in 1957 and the company's technology is the basis for approximately one-half of the world's more than 430 operating nuclear plants. Over 135 years of innovation makes Westinghouse the preferred partner for advanced technologies covering the complete nuclear energy life cycle.

Visit www.westinghousenuclear.com/careers and join our quest to confront what may be the most compelling test of our time – the need to reimagine, renew and reshape the way we generate tomorrow's energy.

FORUM SPEAKERS

MAI ABDELHAKIM

Assistant Professor | University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Mai Abdelhakim is an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt). She received her PhD in electrical engineering from Michigan State University (MSU), and bachelor's and master's degrees in electronics and communications engineering from Cairo University. Following her PhD, she was a postdoctoral research associate at MSU. She later was a research scientist at OSRAM research center working on Internet of Things protocols, authentication mechanisms, and indoor positioning systems. At Pitt, she teaches courses on information security, machine learning, computer networks, among others. Her research leverages stochastic modeling, information theory and artificial intelligence to model and design secure, reliable, and efficient Internet of Things and cyber-physical systems. Her research interests include cybersecurity, cyber-physical systems, artificial intelligence, and reliable decision-making under uncertainty. She is currently a senior member of the IEEE. She received the University of Pittsburgh's Innovation in Education award in 2023. Dr. Abdelhakim serves as an Associate Editor of IET Communications since January 2023.

JOHN ADAIR

Chief Cybersecurity Engineer | Marymount University

John's remarkable career spans over three decades, encompassing distinguished service in three branches of the U.S. military and significant contributions to cybersecurity in the private sector. Among his many achievements, his operational support to Houston during Tropical Storm Allison and his multiple distinguished military awards exemplifies exceptional leadership and commitment.

Born in Saint Louis, Missouri, John's roots lie in the heartland of America. His education includes a BS in Business Information Systems, an MA in Leadership and Management, an MBA, and an MS in Cybersecurity; he is pursuing a Doctor of Science in Cybersecurity from Marymount University.

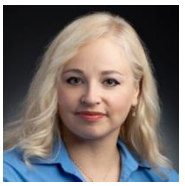
John's military experience is broad and profound, beginning with his service as a vital member of the extraction team during the United Nations Operation in Somalia II. Throughout his time in the Marines Corps (AD), Air Force Reserves, and Army Reserves, John held numerous leadership positions, from Platoon Sergeant to Senior Enlisted Advisor. His technical skills as a Radio Chief, Counterintelligence Special Agent, and Cyber Forensics CI Agent further contributed to his diverse and impactful career.

From serving as Platoon Sergeant in the Marines to Chief Cybersecurity Engineer at Compatible Technology Solutions (CTS), John's career has been marked by continuous advancement and diverse leadership roles. His service in disaster relief, pioneering work in cybersecurity, and leadership in various military operations have significantly impacted both the military and civilian sectors.

John's leadership is defined by adaptability, strategic brilliance, unwavering commitment, and the ability to inspire and guide those around him. His leadership philosophy and remarkable achievements inspire current and future leaders in the military, cybersecurity, and beyond.

In conclusion, John's career is a compelling narrative of leadership, innovation, and selfless service, marked by distinguished military awards, significant contributions to cybersecurity, and an enduring commitment to excellence. As he prepares to take the stage at the Women in Engineering (WIE) forum for 2023, John's story stands as a testament to what can be achieved through dedication, vision, and exemplary leadership. His insights promise to resonate with and inspire a new generation of engineers and leaders.

FORUM SPEAKERS



JULIA ANDRUSENKO

Senior Communications Engineer | Rampart Communications

Julia Andrusenko received her bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Drexel University. She currently serves as a senior communications engineer at Rampart Communications. Previously, Julia was a senior communications engineer at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL) and the Chief Engineer of the Mission Critical Communications group of JHU/APL. Ms. Andrusenko has over 20 years of experience in communications theory, wireless networking, satellite communications, Radio Frequency (RF) propagation prediction, communications systems vulnerability, computer simulation of communications systems, evolutionary computation, genetic algorithms/programming, MIMO, and millimeter wave technologies.

She also has substantial experience in developing electronic warfare methodologies for various advanced commercial communications systems and military data links. Ms. Andrusenko is a published author of several technical papers and has co-authored two books: "Wireless Internetworking: Understanding Internetworking Challenges" through Wiley/IEEE Press and "Cognitive Electronic Warfare: An Artificial Intelligence Approach" through Artech House. Ms. Andrusenko is a senior member of IEEE, a member of the IEEE Communications Society, and a voting Member of the IEEE 1900.5 Working Group (WG) on Policy Language and Architectures for Managing Cognitive Radio for Dynamic Spectrum Access Applications. Ms. Andrusenko has served as a session chair and organizer, technical reviewer, invited speaker, and panelist for various conferences. Ms. Andrusenko has also served on the steering committee for the annual IEEE/APL 5G Technologies for First Responder and Tactical Networks Workshops.

MICHELLE ANTANTIS

Senior Consulting Engineer | Duquesne Light Company

Michelle S Antantis is a Senior Consulting Engineer for the Grid Optimization & Strategy team at Duquesne Light. She has thirty-four years of electrical utility experience including execution of many large-scale construction projects. She is responsible in driving and providing oversight to all transmission, distribution, and substation projects through concept creation, engineering design, and construction management. Michelle holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from Gannon University and is a registered professional engineer in the state of Pennsylvania.

FORUM SPEAKERS

KARA BOCAN

Assistant Professor | University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Kara Bocan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. Her primary focus is teaching with a secondary focus on engineering education research. She received her PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 2017, and her BSE in Electrical Engineering and Bioengineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012 with a minor in Neuroscience. She performed her dissertation research on wireless implantable medical devices with the RFID Center of Excellence, where her use of computer-aided design was an entry point to the field of computational modeling. As a postdoc, her research focused on the use of computational modeling to enhance understanding of complex systems, and on the development of effective and usable modeling software. She began teaching courses for the Pitt ECE Department as a Visiting Research Assistant Professor in 2018, and has been teaching full-time as an Assistant Professor since 2020. She currently teaches courses on digital systems, data structures and algorithms, software engineering, and simulation and modeling. Her engineering education research interests include gameful learning and universal design to increase student engagement and accessibility.

THERESA BRUNASSO

Founder | D&S Microwave

Theresa Brunasso, Founder of D&S Microwave, is a 30-year veteran in the field of Electrical Engineering. Prior to starting D&S Microwave, she spent more than 20 years at EMS Technologies. At EMS, Theresa served as Microwave Engineering Manager, Director of Technology Development, and provided innovative design and development expertise for numerous programs, including JSTARS, XM Radio, DirectTV, DarkStar, NSTAR, Milstar, Advanced EHF, IntelSat and the Mars Science Lab. Theresa holds an Engineer's Degree and M.E. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Utah, and a B.S. in Physics from the University of West Florida. She has served as the IEEE Atlanta Section Secretary, Vice Chair and Chair, and currently serves as the Director for the Southeastern US Region.

CAROLE CAREY

Founder &CEO | C3-Carey Consultants, LLC

Carole C. Carey, IEEE Senior Member and Eta Kappa Nu Honor Society.

Carole chairs the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBS) Technical Committee on Standards, an Associate Editor of the Open Journal EMBS, IEEE EMB Translational Engineering and Healthcare Innovation Steering committee, IEEE SA Industry Connections Program Committee member, and currently IEEE Region 2 WIE Coordinator/Chair.

Carole is Founder and CEO of C3-Carey Consultants, LLC, consulting in medical device technologies, clinical trial protocol development, and regulatory intelligence to bring innovative and safe medical products to commercialization. Prior to this, she was a Peer-reviewed Expert Regulatory Review Scientist at the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Medical Device Program, Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH). Carole was active in the CDRH AED (automated external defibrillator) Task Force and made significant contributions to the AED Early Defibrillation and Public Access Program, a critical link in the Chain of Survival. Additionally, she was a Mansfield Fellow and a visiting regulatory scientist in the Government of Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) and the Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA). Post fellowship, Carole served as International Advisor and Director of International Staff. She has a BS in Electrical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University and Masters of Engineering Science (Computer Engineering) from Loyola University, Maryland.

FORUM SPEAKERS

ANITA CARLETON

Division Director, Software Solutions Division | Carnegie Mellon University

Anita Carleton is an Executive Leadership Team Member and Division Director of the Software Solutions Division at the Carnegie Mellon University Software Engineering Institute, with more than 35 years of technical and senior leadership experience in the software engineering industry. Carleton has leadership and operating responsibility for a diverse staff of more than 160 researchers, expert developers, and domain experts advancing software engineering through a $60 million research and development portfolio. She leads the software engineering research, development, and transition strategy for the Software Engineering Institute. Carleton has most recently led a national study engaging the global software engineering community to define a national agenda for software engineering research and development for the next decade titled Architecting the Future of Software Engineering: A National Agenda for Software Engineering Research & Development. Her seminal research in applying statistical process control techniques to the U.S. Space Shuttle software data led to Carleton's co-authored book Measuring the Software Process: Statistical Process Control for Software Process Improvement, published by Addison-Wesley Professional. Carleton received her bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics from Carnegie Mellon University and her MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management, where she was the recipient of the MIT Sloan Leadership Fellowship. Carleton serves on the IEEE Software Advisory Board and is an IEEE Fellow. She recently served as guest editor for two IEEE Software Special Issues: "The Future of Software Engineering" and "The AI Effect: Working at the Intersection of Software Engineering and Artificial Intelligence." She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her technical and leadership contributions in software engineering including from The Journal of the Quality Assurance Institute for her leadership in software measurement and from Dr. Barry Boehm, member of the SEI's board of visitors, for her leadership in defining the SEI Core Measures and a measurement program to facilitate data-driven decision-making for the U.S. Department of Defense. Carleton is a graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. and serves on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania.

MARIA CHIS

Manager, Substation Control Engineering | Duquesne Light Company

Mia has worked with DLC for nearly seven years after starting as an intern in 2016. Once Mia was hired as a full-time employee, she served as an individual contributor for five years before taking on her current role.

Her duties include leading the team of engineers responsible for designing protection and control equipment in all transmission, distribution and customer substations at DLC. This equipment shields transmission/distribution lines and major substation assets from electrical faults, and it provides the operations center a live view of the power flow on DLC's system both remotely and locally at the substation. These devices work in conjunction to maintain the reliability of the grid.

Mia also serves as a Co-Chair for DLC's Women's Business Employee Resource Group & is a member of DLC's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council. She received her Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering from Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, has her EIT certificate and is currently studying for her Professional Engineering License in the State of Pennsylvania.

FORUM SPEAKERS

DEBRA CHRISTOFFERSON

IT Security Consultant/Principle | Cloud Security Alliance

Debra Christofferson has 30 years in the cybersecurity industry with an early foundation in IT, and roles as a senior enterprise security manager across the globe. She is a current consultant and principle, with expertise in security strategy and leadership, and holistic risk management for any organization. Debra is a published author, a workshop leader, training content author, and industry speaker. Debra is a strong contributor to the industry as a chapter and international association leader, who serves the board as a Director for ISSA International, founded the local Cloud Security Alliance Chapter, served recently on the ISC2 Phoenix Chapter Board, and currently is helping fast-start the Phoenix ISSA Chapter as a renewed board member. Debra has previously led ISSA's CISO Advisory Council for their Cyber Executive Forum and many major initiatives. She currently leads the Women in Security Special Interest Group, and has published a Women in Security book.
www.linkedin.com/in/debbiechristofferson/

GAIL DAVIS

Director | Scarlino Speaker Strategies

As Director for Scarlino Speaker Strategies, Gail Davis has been helping companies manage their speaking programs for more than 15 years. She has managed corporate speaker programs and executive visibility initiatives for dozens of F500 companies, including Cisco, Dell, Hitachi Vantara, SAP, and Xerox. Gail also spent several years working in higher education, managing communications for Boston University's Global Programs office, and later as assistant director of Summer on the Cuyahoga, a non-profit organization facilitating summer internships in Cleveland, OH. She began her career in media relations.
Gail holds a bachelor's degree in communications and economics from Case Western Reserve University. She has spoken at events like Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing and serves on the executive board for Lakewood Child Care Center.

JOAN DEBELLO

Associate Professor and Chair, Division of CS | St. John's University

Dr. DeBello is currently an Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science and Chair for the Division of Computer Science, Mathematics and Science for the Lesley H. and William L. Collin's College of Professional Studies. She has received her Doctorate from Columbia University. While at St. John's University, she has taught various mathematics courses including College Algebra, Statistics and Calculus and various programming courses in Java and C++. She is also active in grant writing and was a former Center for Teaching and Learning Technology fellow. Additionally, she moderates the St. John's University ACM Student Chapter and is a board member and chairperson for the NY Metro ACM Chapter. She previously served as the chair of Education and the vice chair for the ACM New York Metro Chapter. She is also the faculty coordinator for the Women in Science Program at St. John's. Her various research areas include increasing the number of women and under-represented in computer science and mathematics, Internet of Things, Mathematics in Sports, computer science and cyber security education, computational mathematics, Ethics of AI, and Generative AI.

MEGHANA DODDAPANENI

DSP Engineer | Rampart Communications

Meghana Doddapaneni is a DSP Engineer at Rampart Communications. She received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and a B.S. in Mathematics from the
University of Maryland and is currently pursuing an M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. After graduating from UMD, she worked as a contractor for the Naval Research Laboratory and the Naval Observatory primarily as an FPGA engineer. She joined Rampart two years ago as the first engineer and she works on designing and maturing Rampart's technologies.

FORUM SPEAKERS

DEB DUTTA

Founder & CEO | Criya

As a solo, female, immigrant tech founder, Deb is the founder & CEO of Criya – a tech startup backed by the prestigious Y Combinator and top tier VCs. 98% of venture capital funding still goes to male founders, so Deb knows all-too-well how difficult it is for women to break through a male-dominated space.

Before she literally made empowering knowledge providers into her career, Deb, who has a computer science background and holds a Masters degree from Carnegie Mellon. With 13+ years of experience as a successful Product Executive at PayPal, Microsoft, Hitachi, Deb brings a wealth of knowledge and insights to the table. Her work has been recognized and featured on prestigious platforms such as Forbes, TechCrunch, New York Times, and Y Combinator. Additionally, she actively contributes to Forbes and leads the Women in Product chapter, where she mentors aspiring professionals through their Product careers.

As the Founder & CEO of Criya, a Y Combinator backed tech startup that helps knowledge providers such as coaches, course creators and consultants to record their learnings in AI-versions of themselves, saving their legacy for so people around the world can connect with their mentors and learn from them 24×7. Deb has translated her experiences into a business venture that she knows will give millions of Experts the opportunity to turn their knowledge into a continuous revenue stream, without any additional effort. Deb's vision has always been to create and build technology with the purpose of empowering anyone to embrace careers of their choice. She has cracked the code when it comes to monetizing talent and passions in an AI-enabled technology platform. Aside from that, Deb actively mentors women to develop their skills in product management, entrepreneurship and fundraising.

PETE ECKSTEIN

Secretary | IEEE Region 1

Peter Eckstein is an engineering management professional with extensive experience in the design and development of sophisticated electronic and electromechanical systems. He is retired from Northrop Grumman Corp., where he held various engineering managerial positions of increasing responsibility involving U.S. Navy electronic warfare system avionics. In addition, Eckstein is an Adjunct Professor of Physics at Suffolk County Community College, where he is responsible for lecture and lab development of calculus and algebra-based physics courses, at Queensborough Community College, where he teaches physics and astronomy, and at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, where he teaches physics and engineering.

Eckstein received the B.S. degree from the New York Institute of Technology, an M.S. in Physics from Adelphi University and an M.S. in Engineering from Long Island University.

An IEEE Life Senior Member, Peter Eckstein has been active in various volunteer roles at the Section, Region, Society and IEEE Board-levels. Among these he has served on the IEEE Board of Directors as the Region 1 Director, on the MGA Board of Directors, on the IEEE-USA Board of Directors as Vice President, Government Relations and as IEEE-USA President.

FORUM SPEAKERS

TOBENNA EMECHETA

JOB TITLE | COMPANY NAME

Ms. Tobenna Emecheta is a Technical Authority in Instrumentation and Automation with over 15 years of experience. She started her Shell journey in 2004 and has occupied several roles within the instrumentation and automation space, including Turnaround Instrument Supervisor, Field Support Instrument Engineer, Control & Safety System Support Team Lead and Head of Instrumentation. She also provided Functional Safety Training at the Rijswijk training center, to instrumentation and automation graduate engineers, rotating equipment engineers, maintenance engineers and contractors. She is a Regional Subject Matter Expert for Functional safety, actively supporting the ICE PTE, in driving improvements in Functional Safety management in Shell, globally, a Functional Safety Engineer, a Certified SIF Facilitator, and a GIAC Certified Global Industrial Cyber Security Professional. She is the mentoring Coordinator for Americas in Women Engineers in Instrumentation Control and Engineering disciplines at Shell.

RHONDA FARRELL

CEO & Transformation Strategist | Global Innovation Strategies

Entrepreneur | Innovator | Transformation Strategist | Change Advocate | Change Evangelist | Influencer | High Performance Breakthrough Coach and Consultant

Dr. Rhonda Farrell's leadership career has spanned 30+ years, serving the USMC and Fortune 500, state, civil, and Federal government agencies. Innovation methodologies, principles, and approaches have been applied in the areas of cybersecurity, engineering, operations, quality, change, management, and organizational development.

She is the CEO of Global Innovation Strategies (GIS), and the Founder of Cyber & STEAM Global Innovation Alliance (CSTGIA), a partnership of 50+ organizations providing awareness, education, apprenticeships, and elevation opportunities for girls, youth, women, and veterans. She has served the non-profit community (ASQ) in an Innovation leadership role spanning half a decade, helping to build community and offer value-laden programs globally.

She is active in industry working groups and has contributed to the DoD CIO body of knowledge on Digital Modernization, Cloud Strategy, and the DoD Enterprise DevSecOps Reference Design, as well as being a contributing author for many ISSA Journal articles, the Women in Security, Changing the Face of Technology and Innovation within the Women in Engineering and Science series, and the Guide to Security Assurance for Cloud Computing.

Connect with her at linkedin.com/in/rhondafarrell or at her website www.gblinnovstratllc.com

BILL FOWLKES

Consultant | IP.com

Dr. William Fowlkes consults at IP.com, a software and services company that provides innovation solutions for the Intellectual Property and engineering communities. Prior to that, Dr. Fowlkes worked for the Eastman Kodak Company as an Intellectual Property technology leader supporting Kodak's patent related activities from IP generation to value extraction. He is an inventor on 32 U.S. patents; he is also co-author of Engineering Methods for Robust Product Design, Addison-Wesley Publishing Company.

FORUM SPEAKERS

MELANIE FORD

Associate Professor | Penn State Behrend

Mrs. Melanie Ford is an associate teaching professor in Computer Science and Software Engineering at Penn State Behrend. Ford also serves as the Director of Youth Education Outreach and the Engineering K-12 Outreach Centers. Her passion for outreach focuses on career exploration for kids of all ages particularly in the STEM to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) fields. Through her work with the outreach centers, the team engages over 25,000+ youth and educators a year across the STEAM fields.

Mrs. Ford won the 2010 Penn State Women in the Sciences and Engineering (WISE) Institute Faculty Recognition Award for her work in helping women and girls excel in engineering and the sciences. In an interview following the award Mrs. Ford was quoted as saying: "Our goal for K-12 outreach is to interest all students in the different careers of engineering. Research shows that many kids, including girls and minorities, do not pursue engineering as a career because they do not know what engineers do, or how they can help people. We want to keep students engaged in learning, as well as pique their interest in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields." She has been an active supporter of Women in Engineering, Math Options, and other engineering outreach programs for many years.

Mrs. Ford was the recipient of the Penn State Behrend Council of Fellows Excellence in Outreach Award in 2011, the School of Engineering Excellence in Outreach in 2009, 2016 and again in 2023 as well as the 2013 Math Options Vision and Passion Award. She received the B.A. in Computer Science and Mathematics from the State University of New York at Potsdam and her M. Ed. in Educational Leadership from Penn State University. She has years of industry experience at Day-Timers Inc., Chronologic Corporation and Caldor Inc. prior to her hire at Penn State Behrend.

SUSAN FULLERTON

Associate Professor | University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Susan Fullerton is an Associate Professor, Bicentennial Board of Visitors Faculty Fellow, and Vice Chair for Graduate Education in the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. She earned her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at Penn State in 2009, and joined the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Notre Dame as a Research Assistant Professor. In 2015 she established the Nanoionics and Electronics Lab at Pitt as an Assistant Professor, and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2020. Fullerton's work has been recognized by an NSF CAREER award, an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship, a Marion Milligan Mason award for women in the chemical sciences from AAAS, and a Ralph E. Powe Jr. Faculty Award from ORAU. For her teaching, Fullerton was awarded the 2018 James Pommersheim Award for Excellence in Teaching in Chemical Engineering at Pitt. For more information: http://fullertonlab.pitt.edu/

FORUM SPEAKERS

LAURA FULTON

Design Researcher | Google

Laura Fulton is User Experience Researcher at Google, driving innovation for wearable technology. She earned her Masters of Human-Computer Interaction from Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science and holds a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. Laura combines a deep understanding of both the technical and human aspects of product design. Within Google's Hardware Wearables Team, Laura plays a pivotal role in user experiences of cutting-edge products; released products include Google Pixel Buds Pro earbuds and the Google Pixel Watch. At Google, she has hosted summer interns and is involved with mentorship for new college graduates. Outside of Google, Laura's connection to academia remains strong. She presently serves as an Adjunct Professor at Carnegie Mellon University's Integrated Innovation Institute.

Her career journey spans across the tech sector. Former experience as a Product Manager at EA and Apple, as well as her role as a Mechanical Product Designer at Microsoft, have enriched her perspective on technology advancements as well as ability to collaborate within different organizations.

GREG GDOWSKI

Director | IEEE Region 1

Dr. Gdowski is the IEEE Region 1 Director and is a member of the IEEE, IEEE-USA, and IEEE-MGA Boards of Directors. He has worked in the academic research, industry, and incubation settings. He served on the faculty in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Rochester from 2001-2010 where he established a NIH-funded research laboratory in vestibular sensory processing. From 2010-2012, he worked at Blue Highway located at Syracuse University, where he managed medical device ideation, invention, incubation, and innovation opportunities for Welch Allyn. In 2012, he returned to the University of Rochester and serves as the Executive Director of the Center for Medical Technology & Innovation. The Center manages a MS program in Biomedical Engineering and coordinates educational and entrepreneurial activities related to the development of novel technological solutions to clinical problems.

His journey began in 1973 in Taunton, MA; within a business that his family started to manufacture silicone medical products including some of the first silicone urinary catheters, and wound drains on the market. Since that time, he has helped to innovate products in many different surgical specialties within his roles at the University of Rochester and Blue Highway/Welch Allyn. He has served on study sections for five different NIH Institutes; many focused-on biotechnology commercialization. As a NIH Study Section Chair, he has led diverse committees of scientists, clinicians, engineers and entrepreneurs tasked in reviewing SBIR and STTR biotechnology-focused commercialization grants. He has taught classes on biotechnology commercialization including identifying unmet clinical needs, technological evaluation, market and intellectual property landscapes, ideation, voice of the customer methodology, user centric design, risk analyses (ISO 14971), human factors (HE75), product development and quality systems (ISO 13485). Many of his former students are employed as clinical specialists, product development engineers, R&D engineers, quality engineers and regulatory specialists.

He is an AAMI Fellow and a professional member of IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu. He is currently the Past President of the Rochester Engineering Society. He also served on the Board of Directors of MedTech (an association of over 100 Upstate New York biotechnology manufacturers, research institutions, allied professional services and economic development organizations).

FORUM SPEAKERS

MICHELLE GELLERT

Director of Professional Development | Rampart Communications

Michelle Gellert is the Director of Professional Development at Rampart Communications, a role that supports the value she places on servant leadership and her passion for assisting others in achieving success in work and life by their definition. Michelle began her career in the accounting and finance industry, and prior to joining Rampart she worked at Skyline Technology Solutions, where she started as a Project Accountant then eventually made the transition to a Learning and Development Professional. In 2020 Michelle completed the Certified Professional in Training Management (CPTM) course and has since had the privilege of facilitating communication and leadership training programs for several different organizations.

JILL GOSTIN

Principal Research Scientist | Georgia Tech Research Institute

Jill I. Gostin is a Principal Research Scientist in the Software Engineering and Architecture Division of GTRI's Sensors and Electromagnetic Applications Lab. She has worked at GTRI since 1985, where her work has focused on algorithm assessment, software testing and evaluation, and open architectures, specifically related to sensor systems. Her work has encompassed multiple sensors (radar, sonar, IR) over her many years of experience. She has authored or co-authored multiple technical papers, has won technical and service awards, and has managed large technical programs. She was named the 2016 Women in Technology Woman of the Year for mid-size businesses, recognizing her accomplishments as a leader in business, a visionary of technology, and for making a difference in her community.

Ms. Gostin currently serves on the IEEE Board of Directors and is the IEEE Vice President, Member and Geographic Activities. She is the past Director of IEEE Region 3, and has previously served as a member of the IEEE Computer Society Board of Governors, the IEEE Aerospace and Electronics Systems Society Board of Governors, and as VP Finance for the IEEE Sensors Council. Other volunteer activities include multiple other positions within IEEE, panelist for discussions on Women in Technology fields, and extensive activities at her church, with the Girl Scouts, and in STEM outreach.

Ms. Gostin received her BA in Mathematics from Greenville College magna cum laude and her MS in Applied Mathematics from the Georgia Institute of Technology. She is a Senior Member of IEEE. Her current fields of interest include Open Architectures, Model Based Systems Engineering, and data analytics.

NIKKI GREEN

Life & Business Resiliency Expert | Green Chameleon Collective

Nikki Green is a Life & Business Resiliency Expert who has been in the international business industry for over 20 years and is a 4x published author. Nikki is an avid traveler, visiting 14+ countries and more than half the United States, she has completed 7 marathons, 3 ultras, and dozens of triathlons across 3 continents. She has been featured in USA Today, Podcast Magazine, and Authority Magazine. Nikki has dedicated her life to assisting others to reduce their fear to go after their dreams. She has worked with several notable C-Level executives in top Silicon Valley companies. Nikki received double promotions in 2 different Fortune 500 companies and The Golden Microphone Award. Nikki's greatest passion is empowering people to reach their fullest potential.

FORUM SPEAKERS

DENA HARITOS TSAMITIS

Director, Information Networking Institute | Carnegie Mellon University

Dr. Dena Haritos Tsamitis is an influential educator, mentor and strategic leader with more than two decades of experience building interdisciplinary engineering programs and initiatives, industry partnerships and inclusive global communities that continue to shape the next generation of the engineering and cybersecurity workforce.

Dena has led a trajectory of growth and continual transformation at Carnegie Mellon University's (CMU) Information Networking Institute (INI) where she has served as director since 2004. Dena has built and scaled the INI from a single-degree program into a world-class institution that educates and develops engineers through technical master's degree programs in information networking, security, mobile and IoT engineering and AI engineering. Dena was the first recipient of CMU's prestigious Barbara Lazarus Professorship in Information Networking and she is also a founding director of Carnegie Mellon CyLab, the university-wide security and privacy research institute.

Throughout her career, Dena has established programs, policies and practices fundamental to the advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion to create welcoming environments while actively addressing bias and discrimination, and has been a mentor and advocate for many students and alumni, regularly collaborating on engagement initiatives for young girls and women across the industry. In 2005, Dena co-founded INI's student organization, Women@INI (WINI), to address the unique challenges faced by women in the male-dominated field of engineering.

Dena has established the INI's partnership with Alta Associates' Executive Women's Forum (EWF) that offered invaluable networking and mentorship opportunities to develop women leaders in information security and privacy. Because of Dena's unwavering commitment to mentor and support women and other underrepresented groups in technology, the INI has partnerships and sponsorship with many leading organizations and conferences in addition to the EWF, including the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, Women in Cybersecurity (WiCys), Minorities in Cybersecurity (MiC), The Diana Initiative, the Society of Women Engineers and Tapia.

Dena was named 2018 Woman in IT Security Power Player by SC Magazine and received the 2008 Women of Influence Award, presented by Alta Associates and CSO Magazine. CMU honored Dena with the 2012 Barbara Lazarus Award for Graduate Student and Junior Faculty Mentoring.

LAUREN HARRINGTON

Industry Sales Director | Rockwell Automation

Lauren Harrington is an accomplished Industry Sales Director for Rockwell Automation, overseeing a North American team focused on urban optimization, driving sustainability and energy transition. She has over 25 years of experience and a diverse educational background encompassing engineering, organizational leadership, and MBA with a business analytics minor. Her ambition is to be a catalyst for change and innovation, leveraging technology and data-driven strategies to achieve urban optimization and environmental stewardship.

FORUM SPEAKERS

KATHY HERRING HAYASHI

Director | IEEE Region 6

Kathy Herring Hayashi has been involved in the semiconductor industry her entire career – developing, deploying, and analyzing advanced software tools used to create computer and mobile phone chips. At Unisys Corporation, she worked in research and development designing advanced in-house CAD software tools for the semiconductor industry. Through acquisition, she transitioned to Cadence Design Systems where some previous tools were incorporated into commercial EDA tools. She then brought her professional leadership as Director at Syntricity, an early innovator in enterprise hosted software, focusing on semiconductor yield solutions.

She currently works at Qualcomm Inc., working with semiconductor workflows in large scale compute environments. Kathy is the IEEE Director of Region 6 (Western Region of the United States) and a member of the IEEE Board of Directors.

MICHELE HEYWARD

CEO | PositiveHire Inc.

Dirt road born and raised in rural South Carolina, Michele Heyward's one of five children and was known for being quiet unlike the confident leader she is today. She is not your typical tech startup CEO. Michele may appear as an extrovert, but she's actually an ambivert at heart. And while she hated coding in school, she loved math and its endless possibilities.

As the founder and CEO of PositiveHire, Michele is dedicated to empowering Black, Latina and Indigenous women in STEM. Her innovative software, PH Balanced, focuses on retaining underrepresented women in STEM management positions. Through her work as a People Analytics Consultant and Certified ISO-30415 Diversity & Inclusion Professional, Michele helps companies create equitable and inclusive workplaces for all.

Michele holds a BS in Civil Engineering and an MS in Industrial Management from Clemson University. She has experience as a construction project manager in the energy sector building the power grid…it's women's work, so someone had to do it!

FORUM SPEAKERS

LAUREN JOHNSON

Human Resources Manager | Rampart Communications

Lauren E. Johnson currently serves as the Human Resources Manager at Rampart Communications. She is an accomplished professional holding a Master's of Science degree from Columbia University and SHRM-CP certification. With over a decade of experience in recruitment, learning development, and employee relations, Lauren possesses a profound understanding of the intricacies within the HR field.

Originally hailing from New York, Lauren recently relocated to Maryland amidst the pandemic, gracefully adapting to new challenges and embracing change. As a black American, Lauren's work is enriched by her unique perspective, drawing from her undergraduate studies in English and Africana & Latino Studies. This educational background has deepened her comprehension of cultural diversity and social dynamics.

Lauren is deeply passionate about promoting inclusivity and diversity, actively supporting equality initiatives as an open member of the LGBT community. She is dedicated to cultivating an inclusive work environment where individuals from all backgrounds can thrive. Moreover, Lauren possesses a strong ardor for teaching, firmly believing in the transformative power of education to empower individuals and drive positive change.

In her spare time, Lauren generously volunteers as a mentor and guest lecturer, sharing her expertise and insights with aspiring HR professionals. She is committed to helping others develop their skills and achieve their career goals. Beyond her professional endeavors, Lauren, a committed vegan, advocates for sustainable and ethical practices, extending her commitment to making a positive impact on the world.

With an unwavering dedication to personal growth and continuous learning, Lauren aspires to create a positive influence within the HR industry and beyond. Her multifaceted background, coupled with her passion for teaching and promoting inclusivity, positions her as an invaluable asset in any organization committed to fostering a diverse and thriving workforce.

KATHLEEN KRAMER

Professor of Electrical Engineering | University of San Diego

Kathleen A. Kramer is a Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of San Diego, San Diego, CA, USA. She is a Distinguished Lecturer for IEEE Aerospace & Electronics Systems Society (AESS) and chaired its technical panel on Cyber Security (2017-2019, 2020-2022). She has worked as a Member of Technical Staff doing research at several companies including ViaSat, Hewlett Packard, and Bell Communications Research. Her technical interests are in multisensor data fusion and applications of neural and fuzzy systems to navigation and data security. She is also internationally known as a leader in accreditation and has been named a Fellow of ABET for contributions to engineering accreditation criteria in graduate programs, robotics and mechatronics, and cyber security.

She received the B.S. degree in electrical engineering magna cum laude with a second major in physics from Loyola Marymount University, and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the California Institute of Technology.

A leader within IEEE, she chairs the 2023 IEEE Ad Hoc on Innovating Funding Models. She served as the 2019-21 IEEE Secretary & Director – and in that role led governance for the over 400,000-member global organization. She is a past IEEE Director for Region 6 (Western USA). She serves as the AESS society liaison to the IEEE Women in Engineering Committee and is an active leader-volunteer advancing related goals with related WIE society- and council-based efforts, including Women in Systems, Women in Control, and Women in Nanotechnology.

FORUM SPEAKERS

CYNTHIA KUO

Associate Professor of the Practice | Carnegie Mellon University

Cynthia Kuo is an Associate Professor of the Practice with Carnegie Mellon University's Information Networking Institute. Based out of CMU Silicon Valley, Cynthia brings industry experience as a startup founder, product lead and user experience researcher. She uses sensors to invent new, impactful technologies.

Cynthia co-founded Vibrado to create truly smart apparel. Vibrado brought the best skill development coaches to athletes, with real-time motion capture and instant verbal feedback. During the 2015-2016 season, University of Maryland basketball players who practiced with Vibrado's smart sleeve saw a 12% average in-game increase in their free throws (vs. 4% without). Vibrado has been featured in media outlets such as CNN, CNET and CBS Sports.

Cynthia designed the first version of Google Safe Browsing, which officially launched in 2007 as the first major phishing (web forgery) warning. Today, Safe Browsing protects billions of devices each week as part of Chrome, Safari and Firefox.

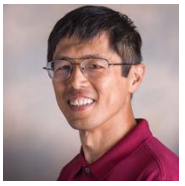
Education: Ph.D. Engineering & Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University, 2008
M.S. Engineering & Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University, 2006
B.S. Symbolic Systems, Stanford University, 2000

MEAGAN LAMBERTSON

Technical Writer | Rampart Communications

Meagan Lambertson is the Technical Writing Team Lead at Rampart Communications where she works with people all across the organization to produce quality documentation. Prior to joining Rampart, she worked in the automotive industry for a Tier 1 Supplier where she got her start working on engineering documentation, and as a General Manager in Training for a franchise owned McDonald's where she staffed and managed a team of over 50 employees. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Professional and Technical Writing from Saginaw Valley State University, a Master's in Business Administration from Northwood University, and a Bachelor's of Hamburgerology from Hamburger University (McDonald's training institution).

Meagan has spent the past several years doing a deep dive study on mental health and wellness to support her own personal and professional development goals. Her studies have included both theory and an analysis of practical tools which can be used for various mental wellness practices. She will touch on a few of these tools in her presentation.



CHANG LIU

Professor | Ohio University

Professor in Computer Science - Ohio University - Liu received his Ph.D. in Information & Computer Science from the University of California at Irvine in 2002. He is currently a Professor in Computer Science at Ohio University. Dr. Liu is a software engineering researcher working on the intersection of software engineering, artificial intelligence, mobile and virtual applications.

Dr. Liu has volunteered for the IEEE community for over ten years. He has served as IEEE Region 2 West Area chair, Region 2 Young Professional Coordinator, IEEE Region 2 WIE East Area task leader, and IEEE Columbus Section Young Professional Coordinator. In addition, he had served on the IEEE vTools committee for one year.

FORUM SPEAKERS

DREW LOWERY

Director | IEEE Region 2

Andrew D. Lowery has 12 years of experience in electronic and controls systems and applications. During his career he has participated in research in the areas of design and controls, sensing and power equipment, antennas and electromagnetics, and engineering education, resulting in peer reviewed publications, including 30 conference proceedings and journal or bound papers. Lowery is a Visiting Scholar and Adjunct Professor and Visiting Scholar in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources at West Virginia University.

As a member of Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE, StM'01, M'13, SM'18), Dr. Lowery is active in the Pittsburgh section serving as the Treasurer (2015), Vice Chair (2016), and Chair (2017) to its 2500 members, and is currently the Region 2 Student Activities Coordinator. He is also a member of the Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, and The Society of Automotive Engineers.

Lowery has received degrees of Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering (2012), Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering (2006) and dual Bachelors of Science degrees in Computer and Electrical Engineering (2004) from the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources at West Virginia University.

Currently, Dr. Lowery is the Lead Scientist and Chief Technology Officer of Plasma Igniter, LLC

Dr. Lowery is the Founder of the IEEE Entrepreneurs Network – Pittsburgh.

NANCY MEAD

Fellow & Adjunct Professor of Software Engineering | Carnegie Mellon University

Nancy R. Mead is a Fellow (ret.) at the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) and an Adjunct Professor of Software Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. She is known for her work in software and security requirements engineering and the development of software engineering and software assurance curricula. She also served as Director of Software Engineering Education for the SEI from 1991 to 1994. Her research interests are in the areas of software requirements engineering, and software assurance.

Prior to joining the SEI, Mead was a Senior Technical Staff Member at IBM Federal Systems, where she spent most of her career in the development and management of large real-time software systems. She also worked in IBM's software engineering technology area and managed IBM Federal Systems' Software Engineering Education department. She has developed and taught numerous courses on software engineering and software assurance topics, both at universities and in professional education courses.

Mead has authored more than 200 publications and invited presentations. Her awards and honors include: IEEE Fellow, Distinguished Member of the ACM, IEEE TCSE Distinguished Educator, Parnas Fellow at Lero the Irish Software Research Center, IEEE Distinguished Visitor Program. She is currently Executive Vice Chair of the IEEE TCSE Executive Board and Treasurer for the IEEE Savannah Section. The Nancy Mead Award for Excellence in Software Engineering Education is named for her.

Mead received her BA, MS, and PhD in Mathematics from New York University.

FORUM SPEAKERS

ARSHIAH MIRZA

Senior Electrical Engineer | Shell Techworks

Dr. Arshiah Mirza is a Senior Electrical Engineer at Shell Techworks, Boston, MA. She got her PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering from University of Connecticut in 2022. Her research focuses on power electronics, motor drives and medium voltage insulation testing that enabled safe transportation electrification and renewable energy integration. She is the recipient of Outstanding Senior Women Academic Achievement Award, selected by Dean of Engineering, sponsored by Office of the Provost, UConn Alumni, and the Women's center. She received the NSF iREDEFINE fellowship and General Electric (GE) – Graduate fellowship for Innovation and several other travel grants during her PhD. She has been extensively involved with outreach and science communication in and outside IEEE. She is a Diversity TAB liaison for IEEE Women in Engineering for Power Electronics Society, Education committee chair for IEEE Power Energy Society, Boston and Focal point for Americas in Women Engineers in Instrumentation Control and Engineering disciplines at Shell.

HELEN PERCIVEL

Lead Systems Engineer | Calian, Advanced Technologies

Helen Percival is a Lead Systems Engineer for Calian, Advanced Technologies in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Drawing from her diverse background, she designs cutting-edge software solutions for the control of communications satellites. After joining Calian in 2017, Helen has embraced various roles and responsibilities, developing and leading a close-knit team over the past two years which has delivered many successful projects. With a Master's in Applied Science with a focus in Quantum Information from the University of Waterloo, Helen combines her technical expertise with a passion for cultivating innovation through collaboration.

Helen is passionate about fostering interest in engineering and empowering other young professionals in their careers. She currently serves as the Women in Engineering Chair for the North Saskatchewan Section, and co-chairs the young professionals' Employee Resource Group, nurturing an inclusive space for emerging talents to thrive.

BALA PRASANNA

Director Elect | IEEE Region 1

Mr Bala Prasanna's professional career of over 35 years includes working in institutions like SUNY-State University of New York, AT&T and IBM in various roles in senior technical and management positions. He volunteers his time at IEEE- Region 1 as a member of Board of Governors. He has also served as a board member at IEEE-USA during 2016-17. Mr. Prasanna is a proud to be a member of IEEE HKN Honor Society.

He cherishes his time talking to students and career professionals specifically on the importance of career management skills and technology frontiers. As IEEE national speaker, he has spoken at various US and international universities and colleges on career management skills to survive and thrive in today's workplace.

His passions are photography, reading biographies and meeting people of accomplishment. He is also a regular writer for a monthly magazine in his mother tongue language Kannada on variety of topics.

Mr. Bala Prasanna is currently serving as IEEE Region 1 Director-Elect (2022-23) and will be Director during 2024-2025. He can be reached any time at bprasanna@ieee.org.

FORUM SPEAKERS

ANNE ROBERTSON

Distinguished Service Professor | University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Anne Robertson is a Distinguished Service Professor and William Kepler Whiteford Endowed Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science at the University of Pittsburgh. The focus of Dr. Robertson's research is understanding the relationship between structure and mechanical function in biological soft tissues and using this knowledge to improve treatments of disease. She co-directs a multi-national program on cerebral aneurysms that is supported by the NIH and engages four clinical centers and three universities. She held a four-year term as a standing member of an NIH Study Section in the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. She has held visiting faculty positions at institutions including the Bernoulli Center at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL), the Politecnico di Milano, University of Aachen, and Instituto Superior Tecnico, Lisbon. Dr. Robertson earned a B.S. at Cornell University and her M.S. and PhD degrees at U.C. Berkeley, all in Mechanical Engineering. She was a President's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Chemical Engineering, also at U.C. Berkeley.

KATIE ROBINSON

Assistant Design Researcher | Software Engineering Institute (SEI) at Carnegie Mellon University

Katherine-Marie Robinson is an assistant design researcher in the AI Division at the Software Engineering Institute at CMU where she is actively engaged in a variety of projects and helps to bring a responsible AI lens to the work she conducts. She has had opportunities to share her work through presentations, blog posts, podcasts, and webinars. Katherine-Marie received her MSc in Digital Transformation and Innovation in 2022 from the University of Ottawa along with a BASc in Biomedical Mechanical Engineering ('20), and a BSc in Computing Technology ('20) also from uOttawa.

CARRIE ROOT

CEO | Alpha UMi

Carrie Root, Ph.D., Founder and CEO of Alpha UMi, spent over two decades as an engineering consultant and high-level trouble shooter for the Department of Defense and NOAA. Today, she is bringing innovative professional development curricula to tomorrow's workforce. She is committed to providing the opportunity for human skill development to all who desire it. Her company, Alpha UMi, develops and delivers relevant, engaging, and transformative learning experiences in topics such as leading without authority, generational intelligence, leadership, emotional intelligence, and interpersonal communication.

Dr. Root was recognized as a Commander's National Award Winner for Science and Technology. She recently was inducted into the Eta Kappa Nu honor society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) in recognition of her work bringing transformative leadership skills training to IEEE's Women in Engineering and to engineering students. She is an engaging speaker and has articles, podcasts, and a recently published book, The Other Soft Skill: How to Solve Workplace Challenges with Generational Intelligence. Often sought as a writer and speaker on generational challenges at work, her favorite interview was published in the article "On a Mission to Combat Ageism in the Workplace", which addressed questions of ageism that were triggered by William Shatner's venture into space, published by Rethinking65. Her most recent article, Viewpoint: How to Create a Boomer-Friendly Workplace, was published in April 2023 by the Society of Human Resource Management.

A few other fun facts: She is a second generation American from Swedish stock who loves to cook, connect with friends, alone time, and good coffee.

FORUM SPEAKERS

MARY ANN SAUNDERS

Engineering Manager | Rampart Communications

Mary Ann Saunders is the Engineering Manager at Rampart Communications where she leads a highly talented team developing revolutionary technology. She has over a decade of experience working in the wireless communications domain for the U.S. Government and has a technical background in radio frequency communications and systems engineering. Prior to joining Rampart Communications in 2023, she spent over 11 years at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL) leading projects to develop quick reaction communications capabilities and deliver them to deployed operators. Mary Ann also has extensive experience building, growing, and leading technical teams.
Mary Ann earned her Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Lehigh University and a Master's in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

NOEL SCHULZ

Chair in Power Apparatus and Systems in the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science | Washington State University

Noel N. Schulz is the Edmund O. Schweitzer III Chair in Power Apparatus and Systems in the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Washington State University. She has a joint appointment at PNNL as part of the PNNL/WSU Advanced Grid Institute (AGI). In August 2021, she started her role as Co-Director of AGI. In August of 2023, she was named the Inaugural Director of WSU's new Institute for Northwest Energy Futures (INEF).
Dr. Schulz has been active for over 30 years in teaching, research and service at six U.S. universities. Her research interests include smart distribution systems including storage and renewables, intelligent system applications to the power grid, and rural electrification and microgrids. In research and graduate studies, she has graduated 45 MS and 15 PhD students; published over 175 papers and 2 book chapters; and brought in over $40M in external research through individual and collaborative projects including a U.S. National Science Foundation CAREER award. She is the US administrative lead for the US DOE funded $30M project, US-India Collaborative for Smart Distribution System with Storage (UI-ASSIST), involving 16 US partners and 15 Indian partners. She is a Fellow of IEEE and the American Society for Engineering Education. Dr. Schulz spent 12 years on the IEEE PES Governing Board including two years, 2012 and 2013, as PES President.
In addition to her technical activities, Dr. Schulz has been very involved in activities related to the recruitment, retention and advancement of women students and professionals in STEM fields. She received the IEEE HP Harriet B. Rigas Award in 2014 and was recognized recently as the inaugural IEEE Women in Technology and Leadership Award recipient. She is also an advocate for advancing power engineering workforce.

FORUM SPEAKERS

KALYAN SEN

President & CTO | Sen Engineering Solutions Inc

Kalyan Sen is the President & Chief Technology Officer of Sen Engineering Solutions, Inc. (www.sentransformer.com) that specializes in developing SMART power flow controllers—a functional requirements-based and cost-effective solution. Kalyan worked 33 years in academia and industry. He was a key member of the Flexible Alternating Current Transmission Systems (FACTS) development team at the Westinghouse Science & Technology Center for which he became a Westinghouse Fellow Engineer. He contributed to concept development, simulation, design, and commissioning of FACTS projects at Westinghouse. He conceived some of the basic concepts in power flow control technology for which he was elevated to the IEEE Fellow grade with the citation: for the development and application of power flow control technology. He is the Co-inventor of the Sen Transformer.

Kalyan received BEE, MSEE, and PhD degrees, all in Electrical Engineering, from Jadavpur University (India), Tuskegee University, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute, respectively. He also received an MBA from Robert Morris University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania and New York. Kalyan has authored or coauthored more than 25 peer-reviewed publications, 8 issued patents, 2 books, and 3 book chapters in the areas of power flow control and power electronics.

Kalyan has served many organizations. He has been serving as an IEEE Power & Energy Society (PES) Distinguished Lecturer since 2002. In that capacity, he has given presentations on power flow control technology more than 170 times in 17 countries. He is an AdCom Member of the Power Electronics Society (PELS) and serves as the PELS Regions 4-6 Chair. He is the IEEE Division II Representative to the Board of Governors of Society on Social Implications of Technology (SSIT).

Under his Chairmanship, the IEEE Pittsburgh PES, Industry Applications Society (IAS) and PELS Chapters and the Section received the "Outstanding Large Chapter and Section" awards. He received the IEEE Pittsburgh Section Outstanding Volunteer Service Award (2004 and 2023) and PES Outstanding Engineer Award (2004). He has been serving as the Boy Scouts of America Leader for a decade. He is a Distinguished Toastmaster who led District 13 as its Governor to be in the top10 worldwide.

ANNA SLOBODNYAK

Substation Asset Management Engineer | Duquesne Light Company

Anna Slobodnyak is currently a member of Substation Asset Management, Maintenance Program Planning at Duquesne Light Company (DLC). In this role, she focuses on maintaining DLC's station control batteries which provide DC power to the substation's protection and control systems. Prior to this role, Anna was a NERC and PJM certified switching dispatcher – DLC's second woman to hold this role.

On behalf of DLC, Anna has participated in the Carnegie Science Center's Sci-Tech Days and Engineer Your Future events for local schools; her favorite event was conducting a tour of the DLC Operations Center for the CSC's Tour Your Future program which was specifically created for local middle and high school girls to visit universities and businesses and experience a day in the life of women STEM professionals.

Anna graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2017 with a BS in Electrical Engineering, Power Concentration.

FORUM SPEAKERS

VIOLET TURRI

Associate Software Developer | Software Engineering Institute (SEI) at Carnegie Mellon University

Violet Turri is an associate software developer in the AI Division at the Software Engineering Institute at CMU where she leads machine learning engineering research with an emphasis on explainability, test and evaluation strategies, and computer vision. Turri holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Cornell University and has a research background in human-computer interaction.

JESSICA VALENTINE

Advanced Grid Solutions Engineer | Duquesne Light Company

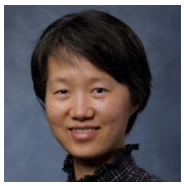
Jessica Valentine is an Engineer for Duquesne Light Company's Advanced Grid Solutions team, where she leads battery energy storage pilot projects, electrification analyses, and other grid modernization projects. She also manages DLC's funding opportunity program, with a focus on pursuing grants to accelerate improvements to electric infrastructure across the service territory. Prior to Duquesne Light, Jessica was a contractor for National Energy Technology Laboratory, where she developed energy systems analyses for novel energy processes, like hydrogen power plants, carbon capture, and energy storage. She has over five years of energy sector experience and is a chemical engineering graduate from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Her current areas of interest are utility scale energy storage, electrification, and community resiliency.

CAROL WOODY

ICERT, Software Engineering Institute | Carnegie Mellon University

Dr. Carol Woody has been a senior member of the technical staff at the Software Engineering Institute since 2001. Currently she is the technical manager of the CERT Cybersecurity Engineering team which addresses security and survivability throughout the development and acquisition lifecycles, especially early in design and engineering. Her research focus is on building capabilities for measuring, managing, and sustaining cybersecurity for highly complex networked systems and systems of systems. Prior to joining SEI, Woody was a strategic planner for New York City. She has 25 years of project management and systems development experience with large complex environments including government, academic, manufacturing, and financial organizations. She has coauthored, with Nancy Mead, a book Cyber Security Engineering: A Practical Approach for Systems and Software Assurance published November 2016 as part of the SEI Series in Software Engineering. In addition, she has published a wide range of technical reports, blogs, and white papers on topics including cybersecurity for DevSecOps, measurement of software assurance, using software bill of materials to improve cybersecurity outcomes, and acquisition security methodologies to improve supply chain risk management. She has delivered webinars and podcasts on these and other related topics. Most are available at http://www.sei.cmu.edu. Woody holds a B.S. in mathematics from the College of William & Mary, an M.B.A. from Wake Forest University with distinction, and a Ph.D. in information systems from NOVA Southeastern University where she was elected to Upsilon Phi Epsilon, the international honor society for computing and information disciplines. In June 2021 Dr. Woody was inducted into the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Eta Kappa Nu (HKN) international honor society. Founded in 1904 by Maurice L. Carr at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, HKN recognizes individual excellence and meritorious work in IEEE fields of interest.

FORUM SPEAKERS



JUN YANG

Professor | University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Jun Yang is a Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. She earned her PhD from the University of Arizona in 2002. Her expansive research portfolio covers a wide array of subjects in computer architecture, with a recent focus on GPU designs, architecture level security, secure machine learning, memory technology, and quantum computing. Dr. Yang is an esteemed recipient of the NSF CAREER award (2008) and the IEEE MICRO Top Picks award (2010). She took on the role of Program Co-Chair at the prestigious ACM/IEEE Symposium on Microarchitecture in 2020, and has been an integral part of its steering committee ever since. Beyond those, she has served on the editorial board of IEEE Transactions on Computers, ACM Transactions on Architecture and Code Optimization and IEEE Computer Architecture Letters. Her expertise has been sought after by several Organizing and Technical Program Committees for symposiums such as ASPLOS, ISCA, MICRO, and HPCA, where she has served for numerous years. Her achievements and contributions have led to her inclusion in the Halls of Fame for both MICRO and HPCA.

ROBIN YEMAN

Software Engineering Institute | Carnegie Mellon University

Robin Yeman is currently the Space domain lead at Carnegie Mellon SEI. She is considered an expert in Agile and DevOps with over 28 years' experience in software engineering. She was a senior technical fellow at the largest defense contractor where she focused on building safety-critical cyber-physical systems that include everything from submarines to satellites.

Robin was an early adopter of Agile at scale with experience dating back to 2002 where she led a team of teams to obtain 3 straight years of obtaining 100% award fees from her customer. Her early success led her to continue applying Agile in more diverse environments and moved beyond applying Agile to software only projects to applying Agile to cyber-physical systems with stringent safety requirements. She evolved to learning and applying DevOps and further into DevSecOps on large government programs which reducing lead time in delivering multiple systems across a wide variety of domains. Her enthusiasm for learning is applied both internally and externally where She advocates for continuous learning with multiple certifications including SAFe Fellow, SPCT, CEC, PMP, PMI-ACP, and CSEP. She is a Systems Engineering PhD candidate at Colorado State researching best practices to deliver complex safety critical solutions using Agile and DevSecOps.

She provides mentoring, guidance, coaching support, and conducts training classes to enable digital transformation for customers and teams. Key areas of focus include Systems Thinking, Digital Engineering, DevSecOps and Agile. She has also led several efforts in Agile program execution and continues to lend her expertise on the development of Safety Critical Systems using Digital Engineering, DevSecOps, and Agile techniques and processes on management, schedule, cost, and technical performance.

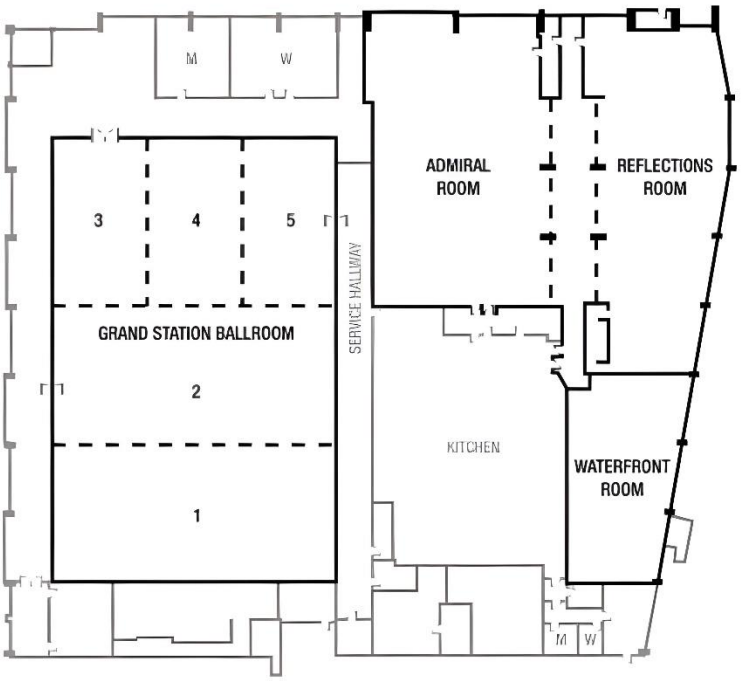
PEIPEI ZHOU

Assistant Professor | University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Peipei Zhou is an assistant professor of the Electrical Computer Engineering (ECE) department at the University of Pittsburgh. She has over 10 years of experience in hardware and software co-design. She has published 20+ papers in top-tier IEEE/ACM computer system and design automation conferences and journals including FPGA, FCCM, DAC, ICCAD, ISPASS, TCAD, TECS, TODAES, IEEE MICRO, etc. She won the 2019 Donald O. Pederson Best Paper Award from the IEEE Council for Design Automation (CEDA), the 2018 IEEE ISPASS Best Paper Nominee and 2018 ICCAD Best Paper Nominee. Her major interest is in Customized Computer Architecture and Programming Abstraction for Applications including Healthcare, e.g., Precision Medicine and Artificial Intelligence.

HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM LAYOUT

LOBBY



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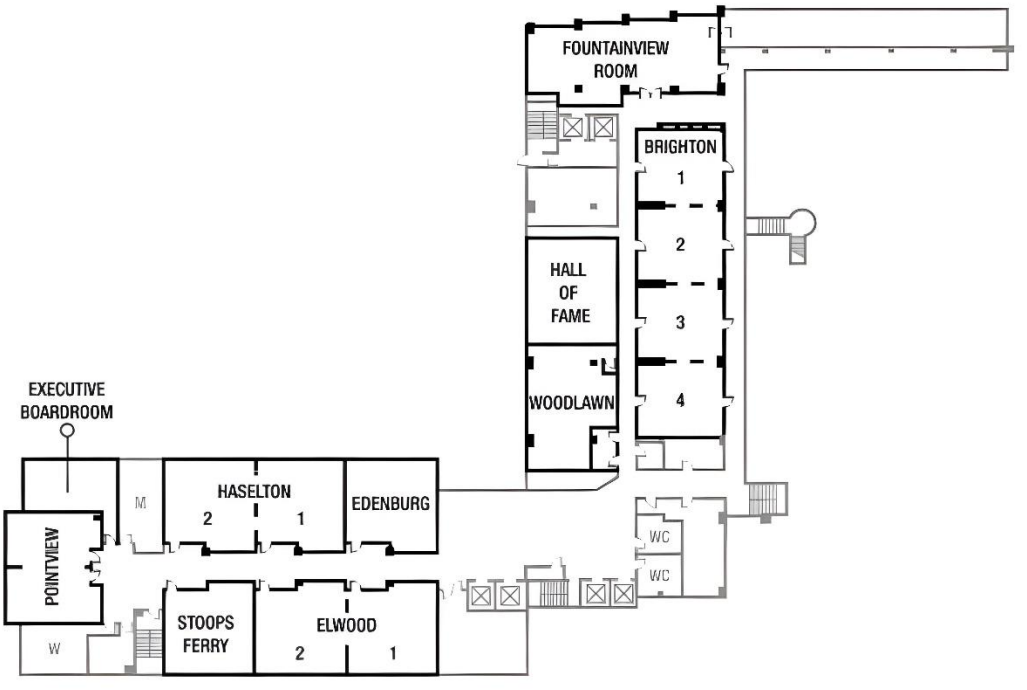

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