
Report of the Outreach Initiative

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Main highlights

- Mission: to provide events and services that address needs and encourage participation of our underrepresented demographics, while being of interest and use to the community at large
 - Main current vehicles:
 - Events at ISIT and Allerton
 - Communication of our events through our website, now attached to the IT website, with an associated mailing list
 - Future plans:
 - Active plans for recognition of our senior members
 - Formal mentor/mentee network
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Events

- ISIT 2008



- Allerton 2008 (jointly with our student committee)



- Planned for ISIT 2009 – an event centered on the experience of women in industrial careers, led Christine Pepin of DoCoMo (thanks to the ISIT 2009 organizers for their enthusiastic cooperation)

Web site

- The purpose of our effort is to increase the visibility of our women members within the society, to publicize our activities and to serve as a platform for connecting members and building community
- We have an associated mailing list



Women in the Information Theory Society

[Members](#) | [Events](#) | [Links](#)



Women in the Information Theory Society

The WithITS program has as its mission to provide events and services that address needs and encourage participation of our underrepresented demographics, while being of interest and use to the community at large.

If you would like your website added to the list please send an email with the link to [withits_add](#)



- *Women in the Information Theory Society*

Maite Brandt-Pearce,
Anne Canteaut
Agnes Hui Chan
Laura Cottatellucci
Michelle Effross
Elza Erkip
Elona Erez
Nadia Fawaz
Christina Fragouli
Andrea Goldsmith
Tracey Ho
Dina Katabi
Mari Kobayashi
Ivana Maric
Urbashi Mitra
Una-may O'Reilly
Lucile Sassatelli
Serap A. Savari
Emina Soljanin
Sirin Tekinay
Daniela Tuninetti
Sennur Ulukus
Aylin Yener
Rong Zheng

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Plans for the future

- Continuation of current activities:
 - Planning of events at IT venues, when when appropriate in combination with the Student Committee
 - Grow organically the WithITS website
 - New initiatives:
 - Identify and promote potential members for appropriate recognition, in particular by coordinating their nominations for IEEE Fellow
 - Creating a formal mentor/mentee network, in particular for junior professional members of the community
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Promotion of our senior members

- Our data shows a lower fraction of female Fellows than SP and a proportion of senior members below that of our sister societies

	GSM-F	Mem-F	SM-F	Fel-F	LF-F	GSM-M	Mem-M	SM-M	Fel-M	LF-M
IT	25	101	22	9	1	178	1613	435	204	137
SP	79	473	134	30	0	613	8176	1828	440	160
COM	330	1385	211	19	2	2331	22039	3458	606	327

- As a Society, we have started identifying candidates for IEEE Fellow nomination, encouraging these to obtain SM status if they have not done so already (effort by Effros, Goldsmith, Medard, Mitra)

Mentor/mentee network

- Mentoring of junior members in academia and industry
 - Our recent Allerton event identified the need for and the frequent difficulty of securing good internal and external mentoring
 - We propose to establish a formal mentor/mentee network:
 - Formal mentor/mentee relationship of 3 years
 - E-mail contact a few times a year for checking in and providing advice (e.g. going over CAREER proposal, providing introductions to potential collaborators)
 - A yearly mentor/mentee event at ISIT after the program has been established
 - Use the WithITS web site to request a mentor or offer to be one
 - Coordinate the matching and shepherd the process
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