Report on Exposure to Female Role Models
Event I, Event II, and Event III
(Cost share by Dean Tien)

Speaker/Mentor I: Josephine Cheng, IBM Fellow and Vice President, IBM Research – Almaden
Date: Spring 2011

Speaker/Mentor II: Cynthia Barnhart, Professor and Associate Dean, MIT
Date: Fall 2011

Speaker/Mentor III: Deborah Nightingale, Professor, MIT
Date: Spring 2012

Host: Nurcin Celik, Department of Industrial Engineering

The series of seminars and mentoring events that are followed by these seminars focusing on the issues of energy, sustainability, and smarter planet took place as part of our 3-seminar 3-semesters SEEDS plan. Please find the highlights of the SEEDS mentoring events as the following:

- There were a total of 11 participants, 15 participants and 12 participants for Events I, II and III, respectively.
- Overall, they were very successful in terms of exceeding both students’ and faculty’s expectations as can be seen from the evaluations received.
- As you will see from the very positive comments of the participants, everyone seemed to enjoy getting know these speakers better. They have provided lots of very practical advises.
- These speakers have become an inspirational female role model for all of the attendees even though we have the students and faculty attending from different disciplines.
- Discussion has progressed in a very interactive manner, partly due to the personalities of attendees.
- Many questions were asked and answered related to their professional as well as personal lives. One point that has been noted by all of the attendees was the balance between the work and personal life; and how important it is to spare some time to only yourselves in between the rush of the work, and family life.
- Another point highlighted by all of the speakers was that “you should do what you have a passion for regardless of the conditions, but be sure to remember that there might be multiple things that you really like to do”. This discussion was mostly for the senior Ph.D. students who have asked about their options after gaining their Ph.D.s.
- The attendance is lower than what we have expected even though we have tried every possible way we can to advertise the event. It is mostly due to the reason that College of Engineering students are in class during those hours on Thursdays. Still, there seems to be some room for improvement.

Contact Dr. Nurcin Celik at celik@miami.edu for questions.
The faculty and students who attended these events as well as the host, Nurcin Celik is very grateful for the opportunity that SEEDS has presented. We are hoping to have these events to be eminent in the College of Engineering and the entire UM.

Regards,
Dr. Nurcin Celik
Department of Industrial Engineering
The University of Miami
305-284-2391 (Phone)
305-284-4040 (Fax)
http://www.ie.miami.edu/celik/

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