Final Report on SEEDS “You Choose” Award

Project title: Academic stimulus via industrial engineer speaker series
Project period: From April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010
Principle investigator: Eunji Lim

Summary of results: This project focused on inviting diverse speakers from under-represented groups and holding seminars for faculty members, undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Miami (UM). Dr. Hayriye Ayhan from the Georgia Institute of Technology was invited on Sep 17, 2009 as the first speaker of this seminar series. Before her talk on Queueing Networks with Cross-Trained Servers, Dr. Ayhan held individual meetings with faculty members in the Industrial Engineering Department at UM, including Dr. Murat Erkoc and Dr. Dingxi Qiu. After her seminar, the SEEDS mentoring event was held, in the presence of Dr. Kathryn Tosney, for undergraduate and graduate students, and junior faculty members from the Industrial Engineering Department and the Management Science Department at UM.

Dr. Amy Cohn from the University of Michigan planned to visit and give a talk at the University of Miami on Thursday, December 10, 2009, but had to cancel her visit due to her unexpected physical condition.

Conclusions: While inviting speakers for this seminar series, I was surprised by the fact that women and members of minority groups constitute such a small portion of the whole population in engineering and science. I believe that this seminar series provided a wonderful opportunity for the UM community to be exposed to an excellent female researcher in engineering, so it may encourage young women and young members of minority groups to consider a career in science and engineering.