

AaeE 2007: Eighteenth Annual Conference of the Australasian Association for Engineering Education

Women in Engineering Session

(prepared by Dr Rebecca Gravina Immediate Past Chair WIENC 2008)

The Australasian Association for Engineering Education held its annual conference at the University of Melbourne from 10-14 December 2007. The conference included the Women in Engineering session chaired by Dr Rebecca Gravina, 2007 chair of the Engineers Australia National Committee for Women in Engineering

The following five papers were presented in the session:

‘Strategic Collaboration and Retention of First-Year Technology Students: An Instrumental Case Study of Woman-Friendly Peer Mentoring in a Mixed-Sex Classroom’, by Mara Wasburn

‘Would You Choose an Engineering Degree Course If Given the Choice Again?’ By Julie Mills, Virginia Mehrrens, Elizabeth Smith and Valerie Adams.

‘Women, Men and the Practice of Engineering’, by Lesley Jolly.

‘Do Female and Male Engineers Rate Different Competencies as Important?’, by Sally Male, Elaine Chapman and Mark Bush.

‘Remembering Not to Forget Why There Are So Few Women in Engineering: The Women in Engineering Program, UTS 1981-’ by Bronwyn Holland.

The Women in Engineering session provided valuable discussion on how to attract and retain women in engineering. The topics discussed ranged from female participation rates in undergraduate programs, culture of engineering workplaces, and questions on ‘what is real engineering practice’. An outcome of the session was the need for engineering educators to play a role in the improvement of recruitment and retention of female engineering students.

The majority of the papers from the WIE session can be found on the Engineers Australia Women in Engineering website



Women in Engineering Presenters, from left to right, Bronwyn Holland (University of Sydney), Carol Jelly (University of Queensland), Julie Mills (University of South Australia), Sally Male (University of Western Australia), , Rebecca Gravina (RMIT University)