

# Conference to focus on women engineers

By NONI SRIDHARA  
The Battalion

The 1940s icon Rosie the Riveter's theme "we can do it" sets the stage for the Women in Engineering Conference in Rudder Tower on Friday and Saturday.

Jan Rinehart, assistant director of student engineering programs, said the conference's purpose is to provide women in engineering fields with a professional development experience.

She said the conference encourages female students to study engineering by providing them an opportunity to interact with professional engineers.

"Our main goals are [to expose the students] to mentoring and relationship-building," Rinehart said. "Women are underrepresented in engineering nationally. Only 9 percent of the engineering workforce is women, so there is a shortage of female role models, for women engineering students."

Rinehart said the first set of Texas A&M female graduates in engineering in the 1970s was comprised entirely of community college transfers.

"Four percent of the nation's engineers were women back then, and now women engineers make up 20 percent of the total," she said.

Dawna Putnam, president of the Society of Women Engineers and a junior mechanical engineering major, said she does not believe that there

Putnam said. "We have many more opportunities available to us now."

When asked whether she expects the percentage of women engineers in the workforce to reach 50 percent within the next five to 10 years, Rinehart said it would take a lot of work.

However, Rinehart said, the fact that women are getting better offers than men when they graduate is another step toward increasing the number of women engineers.

"We have noticed that women as a group overall generally graduate with higher GPAs than the average male engineer," she said.

"This, combined along with these women engineers' previous internships and/or job experiences, provides them with higher salaries upon their graduation."

Workshop topics include "Transitions from School to Work" and "Being the Best in Both Worlds: Family and Career."

Rinehart said the students will be teamed up with mentors who are industry professionals so they can network and develop long-lasting relationships.

Sponsors for the conference include DuPont, IBM and Lockheed Martin.

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— Jan Rinehart  
assistant director of student engineering programs

are competitive discrepancies between male and female engineers.

"We have made extremely significant progress throughout the years,"

**WHO:** Women engineers  
**WHAT:** Women in Engineering, Science & Technology Conference  
**WHEN:** Oct. 20, Banquet 6 p.m. Oct. 21, 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Rudder Tower

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**  
Bijan Afkami, motivational speaker  
Stacy Dadinis, mechanical engineer of field operations for DuPont  
Nancy Levitt, University Grants Program Administration

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

**Do you feel out of control when you are eating? Do you think you have problems with binge eating or bulimia?**

A short-term treatment program is now being formed at the TAMU Psychology Clinic to help with these problems. This will be an affordable and scientifically supported treatment that will address: gaining control over binge eating/vomiting, reducing weight and shape concerns, building self-esteem, and developing healthy eating patterns.

For more information call Michelle at the Texas A&M Psychology Clinic - 845-8017

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Thursday, October 19, 2000 • 10:00 - 4:00 (Come and Go at your leisure)

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\*\* Please pass this information on - everyone is invited!!! \*\*  
(free parking in the front (North) lot of Reed Arena)

**WORKING TOGETHER TO BRING IT HOME TO BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION!**

# Melanoma patients have new treatment

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Adding an immune system booster to chemotherapy might double the chances of some advanced melanoma patients surviving the skin cancer, new research suggests.

Melanoma is one of the most rapidly increasing cancers in the world and has one of the worst prognoses if it is not caught early. There is currently no treatment that improves survival for people whose melanoma has spread to other parts of the body.

Whether they receive chemotherapy treatment or not, only about 10 percent of those whose disease has spread survive.

But using chemotherapy in combination with the immune stimulant interleukin-2 could push that up to 20 percent, researchers told scientists gathered Monday at a conference of the European Society for Medical Oncology in Hamburg. The technique only helped those who, despite

their cancer having spread to other organs, did not yet feel sick, said the study's leader, Dr. Ulrich Keilholz. For those who already felt weak all over or were bedridden, it was probably too late to bolster the immune system, he said.

Boosting the immune system with interleukin-2 would not work early in the development of melanoma because microscopic single cancer cells are not enough to trigger an immune response, Keilholz said. Experts said Keilholz's findings were promising but preliminary and noted that the benefit the approach could provide seems limited. Scientists want to do better than 20 percent survival.

"It presents progress and it may turn out to be useful," said Dr. Huber Christoph, chairman of the oncology department at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany. "But it is not enough. It is one step, but it's not going to be enough."

leukin-2 we still don't know the optimal dose, and interleukin-2 can have side effects," he added.

At very high doses, interleukin-2 can result in a sharp drop in blood pressure, fever, chills and blood leaking into tissues. Keilholz said his team has not yet analyzed the side effects experienced by patients in the study.

Melanoma occurs when the skin's pigment cells become cancerous, most often after prolonged exposure to the sun. It is the deadliest of skin cancers, with some 90,000 new cases each year. It kills a total of 15,000 people every year in the United States, Europe and Australia.

It can be cured with surgery if it is caught when the tumor is thin and shallow. That happens in about 90 percent of cases.

"This is still meaningful because once you are out to two years, your chances are high you will have a stable remission," Keilholz said. "It is still a step upward."

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Women in Engineering Conference 2000  
October 20-21

- Meet and talk with practicing female engineers!
- Learn more about your discipline!
- Learn about planning a career path!
- Find out what companies are looking for in students!
- Attend workshops and panel discussions!
- First and second year women- sign up for a corporate mentor through MAPS!

Registration forms available in 204 Zachry  
Registration is \$10 (includes meals, snacks, fun stuff, and a t-shirt)  
Deadline: October 18

Sponsored by: American Airlines, Boeing, Cap Gemini Ernst & Young, Conoco, DuPont, ExxonMobil, FMC, Frito Lay, Halliburton Co., IBM, Parsons Brinkerhoff, Phillips, Schlumberger, Texaco, Union Carbide

**LIBERAL ARTS CAREER DISCOVERY NIGHT**

Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>  
224 MSC 6:30pm-9:00pm

**ALUMNI PANEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**

- Career Safari  
Choosing the Right Major - Student Counseling Services
- Leading the Way for Others  
Teacher Certification - College of Education
- On the Road to the Right Job  
Career Exploration - Career Center
- Another Step on the Journey  
Graduate School Plans - Office of Graduate Studies

**EMPLOYER RESOURCE TABLES**

Refreshments & Door Prizes

Sponsored by the Career Center, College of Liberal Arts & Student Counseling Services

**WEHNERFEST**

Wednesday- October 18, 2000  
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Outside Wehner Building on West Campus

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**CLOTHESLINE PROJECT**

The Clothesline Project is a visual display that bears witness to domestic violence. During the public display, a clothesline is hung with shirts. Each shirt is decorated to represent a particular victim's experience, by the survivor themselves or by someone who cares about them.

Decorated shirts are due back in the Gender Issues Education Services (211A YMCA) on October 19. Shirts will be displayed in the MSC Flagroom and the Academic Building Rotunda on October 23 and 24. If you would like to volunteer pass out information at the displays, please email sherrees@studentlife.tamu.edu.

For more information call 845-1107 or email gies@tamu.edu.

STUDENT LIFE  
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