

2009 Asilomar Conference Session Schedule

Coffee breaks will be at 10:10 AM and 3:10 PM, except on Tuesday morning when refreshments will be served outside Merrill Hall from 9:45-10:15 AM.

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

CONFERENCE WELCOME AND PLENARY SESSION 8:15 – 9:45 AM

1. Welcome from the General Chairperson:

Prof. Maite Brandt-Pearce
University of Virginia

2. Student Paper Contest:

Dr. John W. Pierre
University of Wyoming

3. Session TA1a Distinguished Lecture for the 2009
Asilomar Conference

The Infinity Project: Ten Years Later

Delores M. Etter
Southern Methodist University

Geoffrey Orsak
Southern Methodist University

Sally Woods
National Science Foundation

Abstract

The Infinity Project is a leader in high-tech engineering for secondary schools. Developed in 1999, it now reaches over 400 schools in 38 states. This presentation will discuss the initial goals of the program and the challenges of introducing engineering into secondary school curricula. It will also discuss the importance of providing a full package – cutting-edge curriculum, outstanding instructional materials, hands-on design projects, low-cost high impact classroom technology, and best-in-class professional development. We include an assessment of the impact of the Infinity Project – in quantitative and qualitative terms. Finally, we present a

glimpse into the next phase of The Infinity Project, and its audience.

Biographies

Delores M. Etter holds the Texas Instruments Distinguished Chair in Engineering Education at Southern Methodist University (SMU). She is also the Director of the Caruth Institute for Engineering Education. Before coming to SMU, Dr. Etter was a faculty member in the Electrical Engineering Department at the United States Naval Academy. From 2005-2007 she was the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition. She is also a former faculty member at the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of New Mexico, and was a Visiting Professor at Stanford University. She is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a former member of the National Science Board.

Geoffrey Orsak is Dean of the Lyle School of Engineering at SMU. He is one of the founding members of the Infinity Project, and provided the leadership for this program over the last 10 years. He was formerly an Associate Dean of Engineering for Research at SMU, and a member of the Electrical Engineering Department. He is a former faculty member at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA.

Sally Woods is currently a Program Director at the National Science Foundation. She is a former Dean of Engineering at Santa Clara University, and a member of the Electrical Engineering Department there. She is also one of the founding members of the Infinity Project, and leads the effort for the new edition of the Infinity textbook.