

Building Women in Leadership Capacity



## Letter from Lata Chawla: President

*WICT New England*



**Welcome to this Year's first issue of the WICT New England Times.**

I am excited about serving as President of the WICT New England Chapter in 2008--and am equally honored to serve with a Board of Directors who desire to participate powerfully in the development of programs that will drive professional and personal success for woman

in the cable industry.

Looking back on 2007, we have had much to celebrate: record membership, record sponsorship, successful program launches (Branding You, Career Development, Tech It Out, the WICT Mentoring Program), and our stellar WICT New England Gala.

I'd like to thank those who served so faithfully in making last year a big success--and a very special thank you to Deena Vandenberghe who led the chapter as president for two successive years (2006 and 2007).

Looking ahead in 2008, we will continue providing exciting professional development opportunities for WICT New England members. Many of you have experienced the powerful connections (personal, professional, developmental) you can make while attending chapter events.

While events foster a spirit of community, let's not forget that the most valuable connection begins with you. As a leader, supervisor, mentor or friend, you can help someone move ahead on their own



Women in Cable  
Telecommunications<sup>sm</sup>

NEW ENGLAND

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career path when you demonstrate how the power of connection has helped you.

This year, I ask that you reach out to more women (and men) in the industry who have yet to access WICT for its membership, programs and perhaps most importantly, its growing community of woman leaders in New England. By providing others opportunities to connect and casting the spotlight on our profession, we truly support our mission of developing women leaders who transform our industry.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Sincerely,

Lata Chawla

## 2008 Mentoring Program

Last week, you all received our invitation to be part of the WICT New England program for 2008. The mentoring program is a wonderful opportunity to enrich your personal and professional life. Mentoring offers many rewards, from sharing your experience with others or helping them understand the industry from a different perspective. Becoming a protege will provide you with invaluable skills to enhance your career opportunities, fine-tune your leadership skills, gain greater confidence and expand your industry contacts. For more information on the program click one of the links below.

[Click to Become a Mentor](#)

[Click to Become a Protégé](#)

[Program Overview](#)

Deadline to sign up is March 18, 2008

Kick off event is April 8, 2008

Contact info: Caroline Bilodeau [caroline.s.bilodeau@disney.espn.com](mailto:caroline.s.bilodeau@disney.espn.com)

## Interview with Benita Fitzgerald Mosley



Since March of 2001, Benita Fitzgerald Mosley has served as President of Women in Cable Telecommunications (WICT)

Benita Fitzgerald Mosley manages all activities of the WICT association and the WICT Foundation to include staff, budget, fundraising, research, programs and events, marketing, member services and the oversight of 23 Chapters.

Benita's professional success was preceded by an equally successful career as a world-class athlete. Benita won a gold medal in the 100-meter hurdles in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, CA.

I had the opportunity to speak with Benita and we talked about the challenges many of us face in trying to live a healthy lifestyle and maintain a work life balance.

**Camela:** . What do you do to keep yourself healthy? Why is this important to you and do you feel that maintaining a healthy lifestyle has helped to contribute to your successful career?

**Benita:** I actually take a Pilates class twice a week and make it a top priority. I have two children and a husband that are completely supportive. When you eat properly and exercise you have more energy and more self confidence. I feel I should set an example for women in WICT by having a well rounded life style.

**Camela:** I have seen many people go through leadership development programs and get motivated to really try to incorporate exercise and a healthy diet into their lives but after a few weeks the challenges of work creep back in and they are back to skipping meals, no exercise and high levels of stress. What advice

## Membership

WICT New England is off to a great start! Our membership goals for 2008 include adding 125 new members and renewing 90% of our membership from 2007. As of February 15, we have already added 36 new members this year! Remember that January - March is renewal time and we would like all our New England Members to renew by March 31. Renewing your membership is easy! To renew online with no changes from last year, visit the WICT website at [www.wict.org](http://www.wict.org) and you can renew with your WICT i.d. and password. If you have any changes or questions regarding your membership, you can email [membership@wict.org](mailto:membership@wict.org) or call WICT at 703-234-9817 for Donna or 703-234-9811 for Robin.

We will honor another WICT New England member at the 2008 Gala with the *Recruiter of the Year* award! This award will be presented to the WICT New England member who recruits the most new members between 10/31/07 - 10/1/08. WICT national tracks renewal information and this data will be used to honor this year's award winner. To help inspire you, here are some comments from last year's **Recruiter of the Year**, Cindy Lawless:

*I was on vacation in Idaho celebrating my granddaughter's first birthday and was unable to attend the 2007 Gala event. When I returned to work, I was pleasantly surprised and honored to learn that I was selected Recruiter of the Year. The surprise was partly due to the fact that I never really set a goal for myself to go out and become the top recruiter nor did I keep a tally of potential members. I believe my success in recruiting new members was the result of my own personal association with WICT last year. My excitement and involvement as a volunteer for the Branding You seminar and the Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk encouraged me to reach out to my coworkers and colleagues to invite them to become involved and participate in these events, as well. I took those opportunities to promote the WICT organization and encouraged them to consider becoming members. They apparently considered well and joined the organization, many becoming key contributors in the New England chapter events last year. Participation promotes excitement. Excitement promotes chatter. Chatter promotes interest. Interest promotes involvement.*

Also in 2008, we have created the WICT NE Ambassador Program. We are looking for volunteers to serve as WICT NE Ambassadors. The Role of the Ambassador will be to reach out to new WICT NE members and to non-members. For new members, the Ambassador will reach out and explain the benefits to being a WICT member,

## Keep Your Profile Updated!

These updates will automatically be made to our database and the online membership directory  
[Click Here](#)

would you give to women?

**Benita:** *I apply the same discipline to keeping my exercise schedule as I did when training for the Olympics. It really takes a lot of effort.*

**Camela:** *What advice would you give to women who are looking to advance their careers?*

**Benita:** *"Never take a job you are qualified for, make it a stretch." If you are not looking for a new job then always look for that next stretch assignment within your current position. You can always take what you know and apply it to a new situation. I would encourage women to use their membership in WICT to help build new skills that will help them now and in the future.*

**Camela:** *What are you looking forward to in 2008 within WICT?*

**Benita:** *We are trying to create a journey for WICT members. We want to provide programs that WICT members need and want. We are going to update our website and with more information and provide more opportunities.*

## National Program Executive Development Seminar

**NEW!**  
Seminar Added  
June 18-20  
Register Now!

The Executive Development is a distinctive learning experience equipping women the tools necessary to enhance their successes in the cable industry. You will practice strategies to build relationships in business, learn to embrace and appreciate differences among your peers, understand specific time management strategies to make the most out of time on the job, and focus on bringing complicated work situations back to the basics. In this 3-day journey you will recognize your

remind them of upcoming events and encourage them to attend, spend time with them at events and introduce them to other WICT NE members, and assess their interest in getting involved as a volunteer or in participating in the mentor program. For non-members who attend an event, the Ambassador will reach out to get their feedback about the event and find out if they would be interested in joining WICT as a member. Being a WICT NE Ambassador is a great way to get involved with WICT NE, to meet new people and to get more out of your WICT membership!

Volunteers are needed! If you are interested in working on the membership committee and/or being a WICT NE Ambassador, please contact Kara Hughs, Membership Director at [kara.j.hughs@disney.espn.com](mailto:kara.j.hughs@disney.espn.com) or at 860-766-9569.

## WICT New England Chapter *Governing Board*

WICT New England is committed to developing women leaders who transform our industry. The WICT New England Chapter maintains its own governing board and provides programming which specifically addresses the needs of its members.

### **Our 2008 Executive Board is as follows:**

**President** - Lata Chawla

**Vice President** - Kristen Raybould

**Secretary** - Jody Rose

**Treasurer** - Jenn Kirkwood

**Immediate Past President** - Deena Vandenberghe

**Regional Advisor** - Pam MacKenzie

### **Board of Directors:**

**Advocacy Program Directors (NECTA)** - Kristen Roberts & Shanda Hinton

**Award Gala Directors** - Georgiann Bergamini & Karen Campbell

**E-Newsletter Director** - Camela St. Gelais

**Website Director** - Nichole Chapais

**Marketing Directors** - Alecia Coffin & Shaelagh Florence

**Executive Membership Directors** - Joy Williams & Regina Greenquist

**Membership Director** - Kara Hughs

**Student Outreach Directors** - Caryn Sullivan & Shannell Boyd

**Mentoring Program Directors** - Amy Brisson Caroline Bilodeau

**Professional Development Directors** - Donna Dombrowski, Lucy Santana & Meg Green

**Sponsorship Directors** - Kathy McConnell & Vicki DeSantis

**Volunteer Outreach** - Brooke Driskill

### **Our goal in 2008 - The New England Board is committed to:**

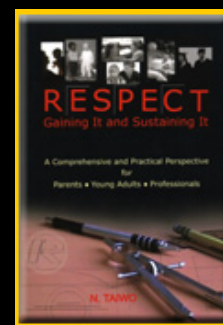
- Continue offering quality programs and networking events
- Hosting a number of showcase events that will engage and

unique contributions as a female, renew your energy that has been depleted by multiple life demands, reconnect with other industry women who face the same challenges.

***The Founders Inn & Spa  
Virginia Beach, VA***

## **First Chapter Event**

***Lunch and Learn Seminar Series  
"The Value of Respect in the  
Workplace"***



**Niyi Taiwo  
author of**

**"Respect: Gaining it and  
Sustaining it"**

Our first Lunch and Learn Seminar Series was held March 17, 2008 at the Comcast facility in Manchester, NH and on March 18 at the ESPN facility in Bristol, CT.

Niyi Taiwo is a continuous improvement management consultant based in Boston, MA. He was a highly engaging speaker and presented a comprehensive view on the topic of Respect.

Respect is a major driver of success in life. Niyi identified the fundamental components of Respect and reassembles them in a very logical and practical manner.

There were then questions and answers and each member of the audience received an autographed hard cover book.

Niyi has a website where he publishes monthly newsletters and encourages all to

involve all levels of leadership in the New England area. This will allow visibility, networking and learning opportunities for senior, mid level and emerging leaders that they normally would not have.

- Developing programs and networking events targeted specifically for WICT\_NE executive members. This initiative will allow executive members to network and connect with peers within the industry throughout New England.
- Increasing student membership. We will be looking at ways to attract college students who are interested in getting into the cable telecommunication industry. Our goal in 2008 with this effort is to develop a membership pipeline of talented women who will be excited about (and have access to) potential careers within the industry.
- Exploring alternative platforms for delivering programs to our members who are unable to attend live meetings. There are many people in the industry who are not able to access or attend programs. Our efforts in this area will allow these members development opportunities in the comforts of their office

view.

[www.ntaiwo.com](http://www.ntaiwo.com)

## Call For Volunteers

**Volunteers needed  
for upcoming events and  
subcommittees**

Email: Brooke Driskill  
[Brooke\\_Driskill@discovery.com](mailto:Brooke_Driskill@discovery.com)

## WICT New England Awards

### WICT New England Receives Two Chapter Awards at the 2008 WICT Chapter Leadership Conference

- WICT Inspire Award
- WICT Best Chapter Programming of the Year - 2nd place



Pictured from left to right: Jennifer Kirkwood, Lata Chawla, Kristen Raybould, Karen Campbell, Pam Mackenzie, Deena Vandeberghe, Jody Rose

The 2008 WICT Chapter Leadership Conference which took place January 14 and 15, 2008 at the Grand Hyatt in Atlanta, Georgia. over 100 WICT Chapter leaders, Board Members and WICT staff participating. Attendees were able to take part in discussions involving the Model Chapter Business Plan and WICT's new database technology, as well as, the PAR Initiative and Speed Networking.

The 2007 Awards Presentation took place at Murphy's Restaurant in the Virginia Highlands. The WICT New England Chapter received the following awards for 2007:

## Member Accolades Congratulations Deena!



Deena Vandeberghe was awarded the Lucille Larkin Fellowship this year.

The recipient of the **Lucille Larkin Fellowship** is selected based on the applicant's ability to most effectively demonstrate the value of the contributions they have made to WICT and the industry as a whole.

**WICT Inspire Award**  
**WICT Best Chapter Programing of the Year - 2nd place**

In addition, the following people also won WICT National Recognition Awards for 2007:

**WICT Chapter leader of the Year - Deena Vandenberghe**  
**WICT Chapter Volunteer of the Year - Shirley Chamberlain**  
**WICT Future Leader of the Year - Jennifer Kirkwood**

## WICT

For over twenty-five years, WICT has partnered with cable and industry leaders to provide programs and professional advancement opportunities for women. With over 6,800 members, WICT is the oldest and largest professional association serving women in the cable and telecommunications industry. WICT develops women leaders who transform our industry through highly regarded professional events, educational programming and networking opportunities. WICT has 20 local chapters across the country. For more information, visit [www.wict.org](http://www.wict.org)

## Touchstone 1: Know Yourself



Know what you stand for. Know where you're going. You must understand who you are before you can decide who you want to be. So take stock of your strengths and your weaknesses. Know your limitations. Set realistic goals for yourself, keeping in mind that a balance between work and life makes for a healthy leader. And, above all, know what you stand for. Maintain your own morals, values and ethics, so you can hold yourself - and others - to the standards you set. Then unleash the leader within you. Take your career by the horns and steer it in the exact direction you want to go.

### How: **Be Present - Be Aware**

*Learn Something About Yourself*  
*As You Give - You Receive*

## Thank You to Our Sponsors





**WICT NE**  
**Women in Cable Telecommunications - New England Chapter**

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