



Region F News

Greetings from Afghanistan!

Our very own Region F Collegiate Interests Representative, Richalie Griffith, is not like most professional members. She works for the US Army Corps of Engineers. She has supported the corps in Katrina relief in New Orleans, Iraq, and now she has been transferred from the United States to Afghanistan. She has sent us our first update on her adventure. If you would like to send something to Richalie, please contact her at Richalie.griffith@gmail.com!

From Richalie:

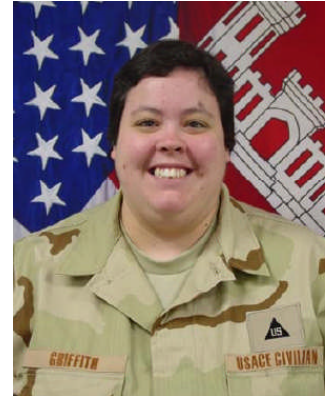
I have made it. Well actually I arrived on Monday. I left Winchester, VA and flew with a group to Dubai. Well there is where the fun started. I arrived at 8:30 pm local time and was suppose to leave the next morning (well a noon time flight), but check in is 3 hours early. So the group got settled in the hotel rooms and got some dinner. The next morning when we went to check in, the flight was cancelled due to weather. So that meant another night in the airport. Oh by the way, the hotel is a "pay by the hour" hotel. It was very very nice. Well worth the money. So Sunday the plane actually flew to Kabul, Afghanistan and landed in Kabul International Airport. What a joke! This is no where near what a normal international airport looks like.

So all of us went through customs and onto baggage claim, where we noticed a few of the bags had been opened. After we collected our belongings, it was off to Qalaa House, which is about 10 minutes from the airport. After arriving, I found out that the guys were staying in a tent and I had a room (no female tents). About those bags which looked

opened. Yup they were. It seems that someone in Dubai liked out of the 7 people's bags so much, that they thought they would seem what was in them. Well everyone had something taken. I was missing a lot of issue items, plus the worst part is, someone stole my socks and underwear.

On to Tuesday, it was full of briefings and paperwork. Well I thought I was staying in Kabul, but I found out that I was needed else where – Bagram Air Field (BAF as we call it). So basically from Wednesday to Saturday I sat around and did nothing waiting to go to BAF. Saturday came around and it was time to move to BAF. I had to be out front of the Qalaa House in the morning. There

was a small group of us that made the trip. What a fun drive that was. Did I mention there are no driving laws in Afghanistan? I shot some video of the drive and will post it soon.



So I have arrived in BAF. Got my desk and living quarters. I like my living quarters in Qalaa house much much better. In Qalaa house I was in a room with two beds and a computers and a phone. Here am in a B-hut. The B-Huts are made for 8 people and the one is divided up into two sections, four on each side. I am the only female on my side (another female is coming in a 2 weeks). is a short walk to the bathrooms and showers and there is no internet or phone in any of the B-Huts. I am hoping too move in the next two weeks. But who knows.

I have returned from my first night here at BAF. The B-Hut was not that bad when I got it somewhat cleaned. It is a short walk to the showers and bathrooms. Although if you are not in the shower first thing in the morning, forget about hot water, you will be lucky to get luke warm. I was lucky and got in there at 6:00 am and had very hot water.

So what happened today? Well the good news is it snowed. Yes I said snow. I don't think I have ever seen such large flakes as these. It sure is nice to see it, although it makes things real muddy over here. There is mud and slush everywhere. I wanted to go out and make a snowman, but there was work to be done. Like cleaning off the satellite dish on the roof so we can have email and phone services or the large number of meetings and the tour of the base I got.

I am also looking for pictures to decorate my new room with. As you can see, I look at plain walls, and frankly that gets boring. So please send photos of you and some places that I miss.

Well I guess that's about all for right now. I am going to be posting photos up on the site today, link is: <http://photos.yahoo.com/censtudent> just look for the folder call "Afghanistan".

~Richalie

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REGION F WANTS YOU!

Regional Collegiate positions will be open for nominations soon. If you are an energetic leader in your SWE section, you should consider this! The positions have great benefits:

- * Transportation stipend to attend the national conference in Nashville in Oct 2007
- * All-expenses paid trip to Baltimore in August for SWE Future Leaders training
- * Work with SWE professionals and other collegiate members

throughout the year -- great way to build your leadership and teamwork skills.

- * Represent your fellow collegiate members at SWE meetings throughout the year: Region F Council summer meeting and teleconferences, Council of Representatives meeting at the National Conference, and Region F Council meetings at the National Conference and Region Conference.

Feel free to contact Char Laughlin

(RCR) via email at:

Charleen.Laughlin@students.olin.edu or Priya Bakhru (RCNE) via email at bakhrp@rpi.edu if you have questions about these positions. I can't stress enough what a great experience it is.

Article provided by Emily Synk.



Region C LOGO:

<http://www.societyofwomenengineers.org/regionc/default.asp>

Be creative: Design the Region F LOGO!

Wake up the creativity in your brain. Region F introduces the Logo Contest! We've all got pride in SWE, and many have pride in the region— so show that pride and create something absolutely Fantastic!

For an example of what type of a logo the region is looking for, please refer to Region C's logo. The weblink is to the side. All artwork should be submitted to Emily Synk electronically at Emily.synk@swe.org by

April 1, 2007.

The winning logo will be chosen at regional conference!

GOOD LUCK!!!!!!!!!!

FROM YOUR RCNE: A hodge podge of topics

I couldn't decide on which topic I wanted to share my thoughts on with the region. So I decided to dedicate a few paragraphs to each topic and see where that left me.

First,, let's start with some RCNE fun. In a few months, my term will be up and I will need a successor. This position has helped me improve in several areas and has also been more fun than I could ever imagine.

Some of the bigger advantages included meeting people from across the country in August, so I automatically had a group to start networking with

others became a lot easier at national conference. Networking, in general, has become much easier. A second advantage is that you have the ability to communicate with so many people, and it gives you the opportunity to improve those communication skills that are so important. If you may be interested in running for RCNE, definitely ask questions. The position is fun and an experience worth having.

Switching gears, I'd like to ask for students to start looking at the newsletters, and pick their favorite one so far. In May, I have to submit 2 for the Regional

Newsletter Award and I would like it to be a consensus among region members which 2 should be submitted. E-mail me back with which newsletter is your favorite so far! (There are only 2 left this semester!)

As always, comments and feedback are great. I received feedback from members asking for more "professional members profiles" I have asked a whole bunch of professional members to answer questions, and have featured two in this newsletter. Hopefully more will reply and this will be helpful to everyone.

If you have received

funding, from the Region F Funding committee, and are supposed to be submitting an article, please get it in for the March or April newsletter since those are the only two left this year.

Also, if anyone has any suggestions of information that they would like to see, I'd be more than willing to put it in.

Good luck with the last rounds of exams and projects before spring break! I hope everyone has an awesome spring break and stays safe!

Regional Conference 2007: REACH FOR THE STARS!!!!

Registration for the 2007 SWE New England Region Conference is now open!

Reach for the Stars
Saturday April 14
Northeastern U - Boston, MA

Highlights from the conference schedule:

- * Keynote speaker Kathryn Thornton, former astronaut and current Associate Dean for Graduate Programs at the University of Virginia School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
- * Addresses by SWE National President Jude Garzolini and SWE President-Elect Michelle Tortolani
- * Six concurrent workshop tracks: Professional Development, Technical, Technical Tours, Reaching

for Excellence, SWE, and Collegiate Development. Topics range from a nanotechnology lab tour to a "Managing Managers" workshop to a panel discussion on balancing career and motherhood. There is something to meet the interests of all conference attendees.

- * A career fair with 20 companies, including Raytheon, Draper Labs, BAE Systems, Medtronic, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, and many others.
- * Networking dinner with other professional and student members
- * Region F business meeting from 9-11 on Sunday, April 15
- * Ride sharing organized through SWE for those interested

Find out more on the conference website:
http://www.coe.neu.edu/Groups/swe/swe_conf/index.htm

Register online:
<http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?binid=1&bevalD=125545>



EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DISCOUNT- THROUGH MARCH 2 ...
so don't delay!

BEST PRACTICE HIGHLIGHT: SWE QUIZBOWL, RPI



E-Week is upon us! Does your school celebrate engineering? How about your SWE section? Well, RPI SWE has Engineering Spirit! RPI SWE puts on an annual quizbowl extravaganza for the entire institute. What about funding? A corporate sponsor funds the entire event. In return,

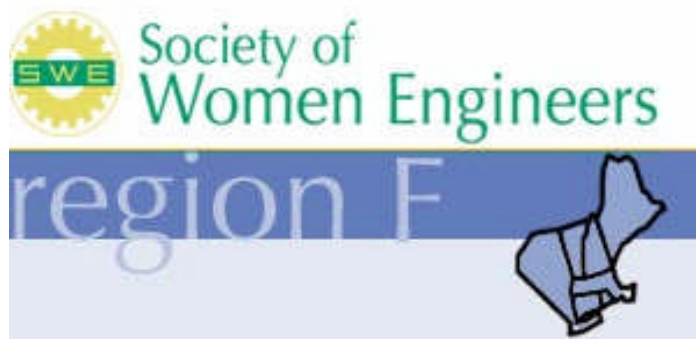
students are asked questions based on that company. Teams of students, ranging from one student to five students are allowed to compete for prizes. First prize is \$300, second prize is \$200, and third prize is \$100, to be divided among the members of the team as they please. This provides great motivation for

compete. Besides corporate sponsor questions, teams are also asked about general engineering, SWE, RPI, Pop Culture, and current events. Many students come and watch and get their favorite team pumped for each round. It's a great time, and has become an RPI SWE tradition for E-Week!

Regional Conference 2008: Where should Region F go next?

Do you want to host the Region F Conference at YOUR school in 2008?

SWE members at Northeastern, RPI, and Smith can tell you how much fun they had helping to plan the conference at their school. You work with a team of professionals from across Region F and plan the program schedule, meals, speakers, career fair ... everything! It is a great way to build your leadership skills, get industry contacts, and showcase your



school. For instructions on the bid process, see the presentation on the Region F Students SWE forum. Contact emily.synk@swe.org if you have questions.

(www.swe.org/sweforum, then go to SWE Message Board > SWE Regions and Sections > Region F Students > Region F Conference Bid Procedure)



Professional Profile: KIMBERLY VECCHIONE

I emailed professional members on the Region F Council and asked them 10 questions. Here are the questions asked, with the responses by Kim! Kim is our Region F Member at Large

Representative. Hope everyone enjoys reading about her experiences.

Q. What college did you attend? What was your major?

Clarkson University, BS in Chemical Engineering

Q. How long have you been involved with SWE? Who/ what got you to join SWE?

Since 1999, freshman year of college. They had an overnight welcome event when I was visiting the college.

Q. What has motivated you to take an active role in SWE?

As a member at large it is hard to stay active so I act as the COR representative to the members that do not live near sections. I also like giving back to the community.

Q. What have you taken away from SWE for your own personal use/knowledge?

Knowledge, both with professional development and some technical skills. I enjoy talking to other SWE members about the pros and cons of being an engineer in manufacturing.

Q. What advice would you give an aspiring engineering student?

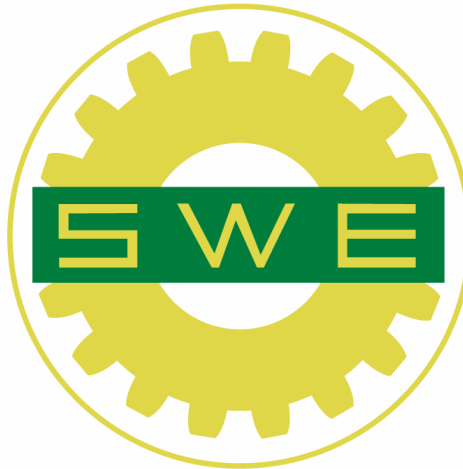
Try to get internships in engineering. They offer good experience and help you get a job when graduating from college. In school you may need to memorize lots

Q. Can you tell us a little bit about family, what you do for fun, etc. ?

I golf, play volleyball, softball, take adult dance class and scrapbook.

Q. How did you get to where you are today?

After college I took a job in a lab and was not happy so I continued to look for jobs. I found my current job in the local newspaper and have been here for 3 years.



Q. How do you balance work, family, SWE, everything else you do?

Time management. Always make time for yourself. You don't have to go to every activity/event. It is okay to say no sometimes.

Q. Who has been a motivator or inspirational for you as you faced obstacles in engineering/life?

Other SWE members have helped motivate me to be more active in my region. Other SWE members also listen to my problems and share similar problems they have had at work or home.

If you know someone who is interesting and wouldn't mind being profiled, please send me their name and a method to contact them via email at bakhrp@rpi.edu! Thanks!!

