



# SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS HARTFORD SECTION NEWSLETTER

[www.swe.org/RegionF/sections/Hartford](http://www.swe.org/RegionF/sections/Hartford)

FY09 ISSUE 2

AUGUST 2008

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## SWE HARTFORD ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

Wednesday, August 13, 2008  
6:30 PM

MDC: Metropolitan District  
Commission,  
125 Maxim Road, Hartford

Join the SWE Hartford for our annual planning meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend! All ideas are welcomed.

Contact Liz ([elizabeth.garypie@swe.org](mailto:elizabeth.garypie@swe.org)) with ideas or to RSVP.



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## SAVE THE DATE!

**Aug 13**      **FY09 Planning Meeting**

**Sept 16**     **Joint Meeting with IIE**

**TBD**         **Professional Development Panel:  
Is Management Right for You?**



**Stay tuned for more FY09 SWE Hartford events!  
We're looking forward to having another busy and  
exciting year.**

If you are interested in helping coordinate an event, please contact Liz ([elizabeth.garypie@swe.org](mailto:elizabeth.garypie@swe.org)) or Michelle ([michelle.montepara@swe.org](mailto:michelle.montepara@swe.org)).

**Remember to check the website for more information!** <http://www.swe.org/RegionF/sections/hartford/>

The Hartford Section is a member of the SWE New England Region, Region F. <http://www.swe.org/regionf/>

## Newsletter Editor

Ashley Phillips  
[ashley.phillips@swe.org](mailto:ashley.phillips@swe.org)

# A NOTE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Hello Friends,

SWE Hartford continues to be active this summer with a well attended hibachi night. We had more new SWE Hartford members attend than returning members! The night was a great opportunity to meet some of our new members in a relaxing atmosphere while enjoying a delicious meal and cooking experience. Thank you to our treasurer Carol Coppa for organizing the event and also Ashley Phillips for her great event idea!

Speaking of ideas, we want yours! On Wednesday, August 13 SWE Hartford will be meeting to discuss possible ideas for next year's meetings and we could really benefit from your opinion! If you cannot attend, feel free to email Liz or I and we will propose your idea at the meeting for discussion. This meeting is a great way to start getting involved in the planning side of SWE Hartford or just come to share your ideas and help us layout a tentative schedule of events.

Hope you are all having a great summer! I just came back from a trip to Italy where I was able to see some engineering marvels such as the city of Venice (no cars, waterbuses that pull up to stations) and the Colosseum in Rome (started in 70 AD and still standing after years of earthquakes, gladiator games, and tourists!).

Wishing you a safe and fun rest of the summer,  
Michelle

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**CHRISTINE LAGREE** has recently relocated to Enfield, CT from Western New York. She graduated in May from Rochester Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Engineering degree in Industrial Engineering. She has just starting working for Hallmark Cards at their east coast distribution center. Her previous co-ops have led her to Phoenix, AZ and Orlando, FL. At RIT, she was involved in SWE serving as President, Secretary, and Conference Coordinator. She's looking forward to meeting people in the area and everyone in the section!

**CLAUDETTE HICKEY** has been a member of SWE since 2006 and lives in Marlborough, CT. She is the co-chair for the SWE Certificate of Merit Program. She graduated from RPI with a masters degree in Computer Science and from Canisius College with a degree in Mathematics. Claudette has worked for IBM for almost 23 years with both computer hardware and software technology ranging from computer networks to programming languages such as smalltalk and Java, to client server technology and most recently SOA. In 2007, she was appointed a Distinguished Engineer, responsible for almost 300 Software IT Architects across the Americas. She enjoys mentoring girls interested in math and science through IBM EXITE camps and participating in Engineering Week encouraging students to pursue careers in Engineering and Computer Science. She also donates her time to Girl Scouts where she is a leader for her daughter's troop. Claudette has two daughters, who are 11 and 13.



I love to spend time with my family, travel and read. We returned last summer from a trip to Italy and Greece. This summer we are off to Jackson Hole, Wyoming to our favorite Dude Ranch. I lived in Spain for a year after college and continue to enjoy exploring new places.

# LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

## HIBACHI MEET AND GREET

On Wednesday, July 23rd approximately twenty Hartford members met at Kyoto Japanese Steak House for some fun, dinner, and networking. Amidst the flaming hot hibachi grills and flying pieces of chicken were discussions about engineering and chopsticks! It was a great opportunity to meet many new members in a fun, casual, and social environment and welcome them to SWE and the Hartford area. We hope to see all the new faces at some of our exciting upcoming events. Thanks to Carol for coordinating the event! She did a great job and we look forward to this event again in the future.



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TIPS

## THREE TIPS FOR CAREER GROWTH TO SURVIVE CORPORATE CHANGE

Submitted by Deborah Walker



The biggest difference between today's employment world and that of our fathers' is the rapid pace of corporate change. Expectations of company stability and long lasting employment are a thing of the past. If one isn't tuned into the signals of corporate change it can mean an unexpected layoff and months of unemployment and job searching. Do you have a career management plan to ensure your career growth in times of corporate chaos?

**To prevent career disaster, live by these three rules of career management:**

- 1. Expect Change**
- 2. Adjust quickly to change**
- 3. Build a strong professional network in good times**

### **EXPECT CHANGE:**

Change in the work place is far less traumatic when it is expected as the norm. One of the most important career management skills is the ability to detect signs of corporate change.

For instance:

- Rumors of corporate merger or takeover
- Corporate profit levels spiraling downward
- No end-of-year bonuses given
- Hints of layoffs to trim the budget
- Upper management suddenly resigning
- Your peers jumping ship to the competition

Don't get caught off guard by holding on to a false sense of security or displaced loyalty. Those who fear change trust corporate loyalty rather than face the reality of their precarious position in the corporate food chain. Expect change and keep your eyes and ears open—or you could be the last in line when it's time to find new career opportunities.

Don't wait for change to strike. While your job is secure and your work environment is stable, take steps to keep your skills highly desirable in the job market.

For starters:

- Stay current with technology trends of your industry
- Get certified if appropriate
- Keep your resume current at all times
- Be ready to interview at a moment's notice



## **ADJUST QUICKLY TO CHANGE:**

Your ability to keep your career momentum building in the midst of corporate chaos depends on your skill at adjusting quickly to change. First, don't over analyze your dilemma. Too often valuable time is wasted trying to figure out ways to make a bad situation work. Second rule, don't take it personally, or you won't be able to plan your exit strategy clearly. Third, take action as soon as possible.



If your resume is kept current at all times you will be ahead of the pack when others consider moving on as well. Your resume should be updated every six months. For quick updating keep an ongoing record of your accomplishments as you overcome work challenges.

Maintaining confidentiality during a job search while still employed is a challenge that requires discretion and level headedness. Ideally, no one in your company should even suspect that you are looking for other employment. Resist the urge to speak to coworkers about your decision for action. Not only do loose lips sink ships, but why put ideas in the minds of others who may become your interview competition? Keep your regular work hours and try to schedule interviews during off-work time. Avoid posting your resume online where your employer may find it.

## **BUILD A STRONG PROFESSIONAL NETWORK IN GOOD TIMES:**

One thing that hasn't changed over the decades is the fact that a majority of people still get new positions faster through networking. What used to be called the "good ol' boy system" is as active in the job market as ever. Technology will never replace the need to be connected to a vast network of people who can help you find new career opportunities quickly.

The problem is that most people ignore their network until they need it. Bad idea. If you haven't kept in touch with former coworkers how will you know how to find them when you need them?

If your professional network is slim to none, get working on it right now. There are many great venues for building your network: professional associations, college alumni groups and former colleagues to name a few. Take time to meet with non-work people on a regular basis. Get to know them as friends and develop relationships built around mutual interests, friendship and trust. Make relationship building your lifelong habit and you'll never be without help when you need to make a career change.

More than ever, proactive career management is essential to professional growth. Keep these rules of surviving corporate change as the building blocks of your career management plan and you'll stay in control of your professional growth and income potential.

Deborah Walker, CCMC is a career coach helping job seekers compete in the toughest job markets. Her clients gain top performing skills in resume writing, interview preparation and salary negotiation. Learn more about Deborah Walker, career coach at: <http://www.AlphaAdvantage.com>

Do you have a professional organization you belong to that you think would be of interest to other SWE Hartford members? Please let Ashley ([Ashley.Phillips@swe.org](mailto:Ashley.Phillips@swe.org)) know and we'll include it in the newsletter next month.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SWE HARTFORD PLANNING MEETING

Wednesday, August 13, 2008

6:30 PM

**MDC:** Metropolitan District Commission, 125 Maxim Road, Hartford

Directions and information about MDC: <http://www.themdc.com/trainingcenter.htm>

Join the SWE Hartford Executive Council for our planning meeting. Come prepared to share your ideas on how we can improve upon last year's events! Stay tuned to the SWE Hartford website and your email for more information about this meeting. Hope to see everyone there! If you are unable to make the meeting but have ideas or suggestions to share, contact Liz ([elizabeth.garypie@swe.org](mailto:elizabeth.garypie@swe.org)).

**Pizza and soda will be provided so please RSVP to Liz by the 13th!**

### SEPTEMBER MEETING PREVIEW

**Co-sponsored by Central CT IIE & SWE-Hartford**

Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

5:30 PM

MDC Training Center, 125 Maxim Road, Hartford CT



Jatin DeSai, Co-founder & CEO of The DeSai Group will be discussing 'Creating Living Organizations Thru Innovation & Learning', based on his company's "Strategy-Driven Innovation" framework.

DeSai is a seasoned business executive, strategic advisor, and a coach for senior leadership teams with extensive field experience in the areas of strategy alignment, corporate innovation, talent management, culture development, and information technology. DeSai's business practice areas offer solutions for Enterprise Innovation and Enterprise Talent Management.

**PREVIEW:** "Innovation makes a big difference. But some companies are much more successful in innovating than their industry counterparts. Companies that focus on the innovation with focused management & rigor greatly improve their business performance compared to companies that see innovation as something best left to chance."

"Innovation excellence means making a clear choice between three sources of value creation and then aligning innovation efforts towards one of those choices. Each one requires unique approaches to be successful towards building a predictable innovation engine"

Intrigued by what the 3 sources are? What are the unique approaches? These and other questions will be addressed at this provocative presentation.

### OPEN FY09 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

We need FY09 committee chairs to round out our SWE Hartford Executive Council. Openings include:

- **Professional Development Chair**
- **Publicity \ Membership Chair**
- **Bylaws Committee**

If you are interested in any of these positions or want more information, please contact Liz ([elizabeth.garypie@swe.org](mailto:elizabeth.garypie@swe.org)) or any of the other officers.

# VOLUNTEER!

## ARE YOU PHOTO SAVVY?

Do you like seeing pictures of SWE and local events in the newsletter? Do you have a camera? If so, please email Ashley ([ashley.phillips@swe.org](mailto:ashley.phillips@swe.org))

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Are you new to the Hartford section? Do you know someone who you would like to share with us? Have an exciting story or event occur and you would like to be profiled? Let us know if you, or someone you know, would be interested in our new Member Spotlight section. We'd love to get to know everyone and grow our SWE Hartford family. Email Ashley ([Ashley.Phillips@swe.org](mailto:Ashley.Phillips@swe.org)).

## WELCOME OTHER PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Do you have a professional organization you belong to that you think would be of interest to other SWE Hartford members? Please let Ashley ([Ashley.Phillips@swe.org](mailto:Ashley.Phillips@swe.org)) know and we'll include it in the newsletter next month.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST A SWE HARTFORD MEETING?

We will be planning great events in FY09, but now we need places to hold them! If you are interested or have suggestions, contact Liz ([elizabeth.garypie@swe.org](mailto:elizabeth.garypie@swe.org)) or Michelle ([michelle.montepara@swe.org](mailto:michelle.montepara@swe.org)).



## CALLING ALL ARTICLES!

The SWE Hartford Newsletter is always looking for new and interesting material for its pages.

If you have something you think would be of interest or would like to see included, email Ashley ([Ashley.Phillips@swe.org](mailto:Ashley.Phillips@swe.org)).

**Deadline for the September newsletter:**

**August 25th**

**Engineers like to solve problems. If there are no problems handily available, they will create their own problems.”** ~ Scott Adams



Society of  
Women Engineers

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