



# SWE NEW YORK

*The New York Section of the  
Society of Women Engineers*

WINTER / SPRING 2007

Section website: <http://www.swe-ny.org>

Section email: [SWE-NY@SWE.ORG](mailto:SWE-NY@SWE.ORG)



### SWE MISSION:

- To stimulate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders
- To expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving quality of life
  - To demonstrate the value of diversity

### ABOUT SWE NEW YORK:

Other engineering societies are discipline-specific and focus on the "technical."

SWE covers all disciplines and focuses on the non-technical side. It is an engaging, supportive forum for anyone interested in networking, being more well-rounded, taking on new leadership roles, and reaching out to the community.

We're a dynamic, diverse group of engineers & students in over a dozen disciplines & various life stages. Our events include professional/personal development, networking nights, social activities, mentoring/outreach, & fundraisers.

To learn more, email us & check out our calendar. We look forward to hearing from you!

### Upcoming SWE Events at a Glance

#### April

Thursday April 26: LI Networking Happy Hour

#### May

Thursday May 3: NYC Networking Happy Hour

Saturday May 5: Revlon Run-Walk for Women's Cancers

Tuesday May 22: Stress Management Seminar (LI)

Thursday May 31: LI Networking Happy Hour

#### June

Saturday June 9: Joint Event with SWE Mid-Hudson

Thursday June 28: LI Networking Happy Hour

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear SWE New York:



As I sit in my pajamas and fluffy slippers on a very cold February Saturday morning with a cup of coffee, thinking about this quarter's theme for my President's message, all that comes to mind is, "*Engineers really do know how to party!*" No, I'm not drinking Irish coffee, and I have not suddenly become the Carrie Bradshaw of engineers [Editor's note: *Carrie is the character on Sex and the City played by Sarah Jessica Parker, if you are unfamiliar with the show*].

I'm referring to a weeklong extravaganza of parties, festivities, celebrations, and downright "hoopla" at the end of February (this year, from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>) that we know as "Engineers Week."

"Engineers Week," you ask? What is Engineers Week? It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all that is beautiful about engineering and share it with others – especially those who might not understand what we do. There are national organized activities associated with Engineers Week, with a [website](#) and even a message from [President Bush](#)! Locally, my company has celebrated Engineers Week with a paper airplane competition (awards for distance, accuracy, and flight time), trivia contests, speaker events, and award ceremonies.

Personally, I enjoy reaching out to my sister's kindergarten class and sharing my love of engineering with them. I've scheduled a lesson about engineering, airplanes, and paper airplanes (with a fly-off at the end of the class) the Friday before Engineers Week. I have also been granted permission to teach a lesson about engineering in my father's fifth grade class, pending approval of lesson plans. Hmm- for the first time ever, I might need to ask my little sister for help with this homework!

In the spirit of Engineers Week, I encourage you to take this opportunity to help your husbands, children, boyfriends, fiancés, in-laws, nieces, nephews, friends, sisters, brothers, and parents [and anyone I possibly left out!] understand what we do 40+ hours per week.

A little anecdote: when I wrote my masters thesis and received the beautiful bound copy (the culmination of a year of research) I proudly showed it to my mom. She spent some time carefully flipping through the 100 or so pages of my blood, sweat, and tears. She smiled, found the acknowledgements, and said, "Finally, something in English that I can understand." Humbled, I explained using as little technical vocabulary as possible, the outcome of my thesis, entitled "Nucleation and Growth of the Plastic Zone in Single Crystal Silicon." Opportunities to educate are everywhere.

Best Regards,

*Suzanne Boglioli*

Suzanne E. Boglioli, P. E.  
President SWE-NY, FY07

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### “AFTER THE HOLIDAYS” PARTY – JANUARY 13, 2007

BY CHRISTINE CHAPPELL

Wow! What a great turnout for the (third annual) SWE New York “After the Holidays” party! This year, we went to the Heartland Brewery in Manhattan, and like every year, we had a great turnout. SWE members and their loved ones came from other sections, including Connecticut, Twin Tiers, Hartford, Mid-Hudson, New Jersey, and as far as Vermont to join in the festivities. As our President Suzanne said when she welcomed us to the party, we were like “the veritable United Nations of SWE.” What fun!



*Some of our attendees and their guests*

There were 35 of us altogether (like I said, a great turnout!) and the food was delicious. Let me share some highlights from my table. One of the other women told us about her recent article in Structure magazine, and about what went into getting the 2<sup>nd</sup> place award for “WOW-That’s Engineering!” from SWE National headquarters. (Editor’s note: see the information about Wow... at [www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org).)

I also got to hold Martha Shwerek’s (SWE New York Treasurer) infant son David until he fussed, at which point Dad took him back. Kelly Schumacher shared some of her experiences at the recent SWE National conference. At this point, my SWE friend Jeanne MacIvain, from Connecticut, told of our adventures at the SWE National conference in 2004. So many good memories!

Thanks to Kyrsten Brea, Alicia Licata, and Suzanne Boglioli for their hard work putting this event together. Suzanne, our current president, believes this event and the enthusiastic members from SWE New Jersey sparked interest in our Region E Conference, held on March 2-4 (Friday through Sunday) at New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in Newark, NJ.

With so many sections coming together, this was also a great opportunity to brainstorm best practices across sections, and discuss possible future joint-section activities. And on a personal note, we all sang “Happy Birthday” to Alicia. And my husband truly enjoyed the SWE New York After-Holiday party and is already looking forward to next year’s event. Please make plans for a good time and join us next year for our next “After the Holidays” party.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

### STUDENT UPGRADE NIGHT – FEBRUARY 28, 2007

BY HETAL SANGHVI and REBECCA GOLDBERG

If you're a professional grade SWE member, how did you first get involved with SWE? For many of you, the answer is, "I joined SWE when I was in college." One of our many SWE NY goals is to bridge the gap between student life and professional life. So we held a "Student Upgrade" night at Manhattan College to introduce local college students to our professional section, and encourage them to maintain their involvement with SWE after they graduate.

On February 28, we hosted a networking panel event for students in the New York City metro area. There were four professional women on the panel: Gerarda Shields, Kelly Schumacher, Vivian Peng, and Hetal Sanghvi. We had about 15 students attend, including some in their sophomore year. It's never too early to network!

We had a pretty informal, relaxed discussion, covering a variety of subjects, like working in a male-dominated engineering field, and balancing a family with a career. We also got to know a little more about the students, their aspirations, and what they are looking for in the near future. We emphasized to them the importance of finding talented and experienced mentors, and spoke as highly as we could about the value of networking. This is especially helpful by being part of professional organizations like SWE, NSPE (the National Society of Professional Engineers), and WISE (Women In Science and Engineering). And of course, attending our event was a great start!



We also held a raffle for one lucky senior to receive a free 1-year upgrade (from student to professional level) SWE membership. The winner was Liz Creamer. Congratulations Liz, and thank you to all of our panelists and students for attending this event!

Remember, students get reduced admission to all SWE NY events, and we are actively looking for SWE members to become student section counselors (see page 10.) Our section includes over a dozen colleges and universities, including:

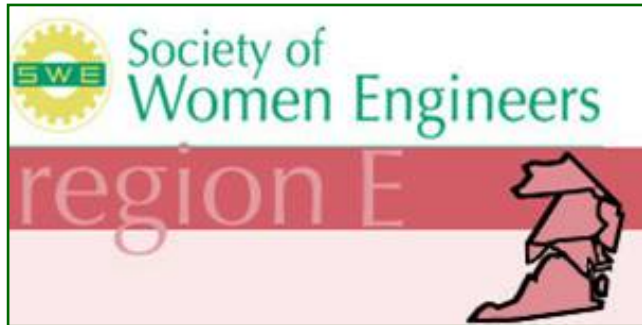
- City College, City University of NY (CUNY), Manhattan
- College of Aeronautics, East Elmhurst, Queens
- [Columbia University, Manhattan](#)
- [The Cooper Union, Manhattan](#)
- Hofstra University, Hempstead, Long Island
- Manhattan College, Riverdale, Bronx
- Nassau Community College, Garden City, Long Island
- New York Institute of Technology, Old Westbury, LI
- [Polytechnic University, Brooklyn](#)
- New York Maritime College (SUNY), Bronx
- [State University of New York, Stony Brook, Long Island](#)
- College of Staten Island, Staten Island
- Technical Career Institutes (TCI), Manhattan
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, Long Island

For more information about student sections, or if you have information on a student section that you would like us to advertise, please contact Gerarda Shields at [swe.nystudentliaison@swe.org](mailto:swe.nystudentliaison@swe.org).

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

SWE REGION E CONFERENCE – NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY – MARCH 2-4, 2007

FROM A PROFESSIONAL MEMBER'S POINT OF VIEW – BY SUZANNE BOGLIOLI



I had the honor of traveling to this year's Region E Conference with my dear friend and former SWE NY president, Karen Tyll in a relative "Presidential motorcade." My first seminar was **Winning the Game of Office Politics**, led by Jo Miller, CEO of *Women's Leadership Coaching*. Some people are uneasy about playing the "game" of office politics, but it is much easier when it's considered "Organizational Awareness," the ability to effectively navigate the human landscape. Ms. Miller reviewed the importance of self-promotion, and of having friends in high places. She also discussed how to map your office's "Shadow Organization," which identifies relationships: *who gets along with whom? how does influence flow?* We were

encouraged to generate our own shadow maps, determine where we fit into our own shadow organization, and figure out ways to improve the way we fit in.

Next, Tessa Anodide, of Lockheed Martin (and a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania, my alma mater) gave a seminar on **Improving Your Negotiation Skills**. She started off explaining some of the differences between how men and women negotiate. She then discussed the foundations of the negotiation process: bargaining style, goals and expectations, authoritative standards and norms, relationships, the other party's interests, and leverage. (*Editor's note: for more information on this topic, we have a great Negotiation Skills Seminar coming up on April 18 in Manhattan – see page 8.*)

My last seminar (again led by the dynamic Jo Miller) was **Becoming a Person of Influence**. You can exert influence in 6 ways:

- Expertise: with your background experience, education, such that you're the "go-to" person
- Relationship: such that you get backup from your colleagues
- Hierarchical: reinforcing your title, position, and responsibilities
- Resources: having additional staff to do mundane tasks, asking for professional development funding
- Information: being "in the know" with access to interdepartmental knowledge
- Coercive: the power to make people do things they don't want to do.

*Note: Coercive influence must not be used too much! Use it 1% of the time, carefully and appropriately, to avoid hurting your reputation.*

The conference also provided us with great opportunities to see the folks we don't get the opportunity to see often. I spoke with our Regional Governor Andrea Stenberg, and our President-Elect Michelle Tortolani, and gave them a quick "state of the section." I was sure to congratulate SWE-NJ Conference Chair Leslie Miller on a job well done. It was nice to see some of our neighboring

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

section presidents as well: Kate Cicchino from NJ and Jennifer Garner from PA, as well as students from SUNY Maritime and Hofstra University. Next year, consider taking a road trip to go to the conference!

### FROM A STUDENT'S POINT OF VIEW – BY LEONIE BARDEN

I recently had the opportunity to attend the SWE Region E Conference at NJIT's Newark campus. As a part-time student and a full-time employee who is seeking to change careers, I found that attending such an event was very enlightening. I attended several workshops and seminars, met some interesting women who all share the passion for engineering and technology, and I learned more about the structure of SWE and advantages of being a SWE member.

Many conference workshops are geared towards students, as opposed to full-time professionals, so Suzanne and I did not attend the same seminars. The workshop that I found most interesting and helpful was **How to Work a Career Fair**. Very often, when job hunting, we attend these types of functions but we don't get too much out of it. Jane Gaertner of NJIT Career Development Services provided us with a lot of good guidelines:

- how to prepare yourself to gain the most from attending a career fair
- how to present yourself to prospective employers
- recommendations for following up

Though the workshop was geared to students, we got several pointers that professional members can also use:

- Pre-register. Review the list of participating companies, if there is one. Review the company websites to learn their missions, products, and services. Note the ones which are looking for people with your major and who match your interests. Then tailor your resume, if possible, to that company's openings.
- Prepare your resume – it's a good idea to have different versions, and hand out the most appropriate one to each company. Prepare a 30-second commercial about yourself – why are you interested in a particular company, and why would you be a good employee? Practice your commercial alone or with friends until you are comfortable saying it again and again.
- A few websites to use for researching companies are [www.hoovers.com](http://www.hoovers.com), [www.vault.com](http://www.vault.com), and [www.wetfeet.com](http://www.wetfeet.com). Any employer at a career fair will expect you to know the basic facts about his/her company in order to take you seriously.
- Ask for a business card. Note who you spoke with, and send a "thank you" to any good prospect. When 150 executives at the nation's 1000 largest companies were asked, "*what is the best way for a job seeker to follow up with a hiring manager after submitting a resume?*" the top responses were via email, telephone, and handwritten note.

I'm glad that I was able to attend the conference, and encourage all of you to attend SWE conferences whenever possible. The experience is one not to be missed!



A view of the NJIT campus

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

### TIME MANAGEMENT – MARCH 22, 2007

BY JOANNE SKLAR

We recently held a seminar on Time Management, at the campus of SUNY Farmingdale. Part of what made this meeting worthwhile, was the fact that we had the pleasure of having two Past Presidents of SWE National as guest speakers!



*Suzanne with our guest speakers*

Rachel A.B. McQuillen, P.E. is Vice President at the URS Corporation Salt Lake City, Utah office, and was SWE National President from 2002-2003. Alma Marinez Fallon is the Director of Sourcing at Northrop Grumman Newport News, and was SWE National President from 2003-2004.

The meeting was informal, and the audience was encouraged to give their input and ask questions.

Alma stressed the importance of prioritizing your values to help with managing time. For instance, one of Alma's personal values is "to be home on the weekend." So at work, she makes sure to delegate tasks as needed in order to achieve this priority.

Alma also spoke about how decisions have consequences. Before making a decision, we should think about how the decision could affect our job or our family. For instance, the decision to take on other coworkers' problems could affect the time you have to efficiently complete

your own work. It's nice to want to be helpful, but you need to make sure that you don't over-extend yourself to the point where you can't fulfill your own personal tasks.

Next, Rachel spoke about how you should manage your email, and not have email manage you. Both of our guest speakers agreed that it was important to either take time in the morning to plan your day, or take time on Fridays to plan for the following week.

Finally, the meeting ended with Alma giving a wonderful, brief presentation on her job at Northrop Grumman Newport News and about the next generation aircraft carrier. All in all, it was a fun and informative evening.



*Our guest speakers with some of the attendees*

## MEMBER NEWS



Two SWE NY members have been selected as some of "Long Island Business News 40 Under 40 Class of 2007." This honor is bestowed on a select few of Long Island's rising stars who demonstrate leadership in business, support for not-for-profit organizations, and commitment to their communities. Jackie Peranteau is a civil engineer-project manager at Bohler Engineering. Raechel Zipagan is a design engineer at Northrop Grumman Corporation. Both women received their awards in a January 25 ceremony.

Board member Alicia Licata has relocated to her company's branch office in the UK for several months. She is sharing her NYC Professional Development Chair duties with Kyrsten Brea, who herself recently made the switch into the construction industry and accepted a new position with Skanska USA Building.

Becky Gillman got married to Dan Goldberg in March.



### **Congratulations to all our members who have good news to celebrate!**

If you have good news – big, small, professional, personal – we welcome it all. [Let us know](#) and we'll post it in our next issue!

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## Interested in Joining SWE? Do you know someone who might be?

SWE was founded in 1950, when "housewife" and "secretary" were women's most popular "careers", and engineering was a laughable choice at best. Things have changed a lot since then, and being a woman is not the huge handicap it once was. But women are still vastly outnumbered in technical fields like engineering, & it's a huge help to have a built-in support system.

**For 57 years, SWE has been the place to network and meet like-minded friends, mentors, and mentees. SWE is also a great place for personal/professional development, with event topics like: Financial Health ~ Negotiating ~ Balance Life/Career ~ Assertiveness ~ Build "Buy-in" with Difficult People ~ Managing Stress**

SWE members also get reduced event rates, free access to online seminars, and discounts at many companies (like Geico). Apply online [here!](#)

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## SWE NEW YORK BOARD NOMINATIONS – DUE MAY 1, 2007

The Board of SWE New York is an excellent, supportive place to start or continue working on networking and leadership skills. Do you, or someone you know, want to be part of our Board next year? All positions are open for nominations, which are due May 1. The nomination form can be found [here](#). And keep an eye out for our upcoming elections!

## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

### April 2007

Thursday, April 26: LI Networking Happy Hour, Library Café, Main Street at Conklin Street, Farmingdale

### May 2007

Thursday, May 3: NYC Networking Happy Hour ~ Sui Water Lounge, 54 Spring Street, Manhattan

Saturday, May 5: Revlon Run-Walk for Women's Cancers [www.revlonrunwalk.com](http://www.revlonrunwalk.com) Team 3089 "SWE - New York"

Thursday, May 22: Stress Management Seminar, 100 Sunnyside Boulevard, Suite 100 Woodbury, LI)  
*Learn immediately how to manage stress, improve your energy level, and better your life!*

Speaker: Jim Arnoff, Certified Life Coach ~ [RSVP Here!](#)

Thursday, May 31: LI Networking Happy Hour, Library Café, Farmingdale

### June 2007

Saturday, June 9: Joint Event with SWE Mid-Hudson and Capital sections (Upstate New York)  
*Join us for a private tour of the Dia Museum (a satellite of the NYC museum) up in Beacon in the Hudson Valley, followed by a walk to a nearby restaurant for a late lunch/early dinner.*

Beacon is located on the Metro North train line. More details TBA. For information on the museum, go to [www.diacenter.org/bindex.html](http://www.diacenter.org/bindex.html)

Thursday, June 28: LI Networking Happy Hour, Library Café, Main Street at Conklin Street, Farmingdale

Flyers for upcoming events are now on our [website](#).

For Networking Happy Hours, RSVPs are requested (so we know what size table to reserve) but walk-ins are also welcome.

For any TBA details, please be sure to watch later newsletters, SWE Bits emails, and [www.swe-ny.org](http://www.swe-ny.org).

We hope this makes it easier for you to attend!

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETING CALLS

Wednesday May 2 ~ Monday June 4 ~ 6:00-7:00 pm

The Board uses these calls to "meet" and discuss current / new items. All SWE NY members are welcome to listen in and participate on these calls. Email [Suzanne Boglioli](mailto:Suzanne.Boglioli) for information.



## INTEREST TOPIC: A LOCAL MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Lou Cuglietto is the principal of JFK Magnet School for Math, Science, and Technology in Westchester. He recently contacted SWE New York about a possible partnership with his elementary school, involving their 8<sup>th</sup> annual “MST Olympiad” to be held in the Spring of 2008.

Each year, JFK and the Port Chester School District sponsor an outstanding MST competition that draws students from all over Westchester County. This year’s competition was held on March 29 and was highlighted in the local newspaper, *The Journal News*. The article can be found here:

<http://lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070330/NEWS02/703300396/1024/NEWS08&template=printart>

64 children (16 teams) in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades from 8 different schools were put into teams of 4 (no two students from the same school are on the same team!) and were asked to solve “constructivist tasks” in the areas of math, science, and technology.

What’s an example of such a task? *“You have 40 minutes, and these 12 materials, to figure out how to propel a plastic shampoo bottle as far as possible across this 6-foot tube of water.”* The solution? A chemical solution, to cause a reaction inside the bottle and create a pseudo-rocket. As some of the kids explained to *The Journal News* reporter, the solution was actually very simple – “like a volcano... or the reaction of Mentos with Diet Coke.”

Another example for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders was to begin with 24 1-foot squares (12 red, 12 green). Teams were expected to build a model that satisfied 6 conditions related to square footage, the numbers of vertices and sides, and symmetries. They were then expected to build a digital model using the smart board. Pretty neat stuff!

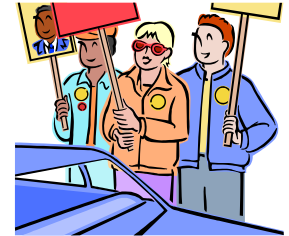
Mr. Cuglietto and his students would very much enjoy bringing our society of engineers into their family (IBM is already a big sponsor) and he has specifically mentioned asking SWE NY members to help volunteer at next year’s event (*we’ll be sure to put out the call for volunteers as the time approaches*). Kids and adults all have a great time, and there is a luncheon with a wonderful awards assembly in the afternoon. Watching the students rely on teamwork and be creative is an absolutely fun and endearing way to spend the day. And as Lou says, many of us engineers were once like them!



## CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS

### Student Section Mentors Wanted

One of our goals as a section is to bridge the gap between students and professionals, and we need your help. Each New York-area college/university with a SWE chapter needs a Section Counselor to offer advice, help set up lectures/field trips, or anything that the chapter needs to be successful. If you are interested, or if you have any questions, please contact Gerarda Shields at [swe.nystudentliaison@swe.org](mailto:swe.nystudentliaison@swe.org).



### Judges Wanted for the SWE Emerging Leader, Manufacturing, and Construction Award

The SWE "Emerging Leader, Manufacturing, and Construction Award" panel is looking for volunteer judges. The Selection Panel will receive nomination packages, award score sheets, and selection criteria on April 30. The Selection process will go from April 30 through May 11, and score sheets will be due on May 11. If you are interested, please contact [Jessica Snyder](mailto:Jessica.Snyder@swe.org).

For more volunteer opportunities, please see [www.swe-ny.org](http://www.swe-ny.org) or email [Margaret Tang](mailto:Margaret.Tang@swe.org).

The most current volunteer request information can always be found on our [website](http://www.swe-ny.org).

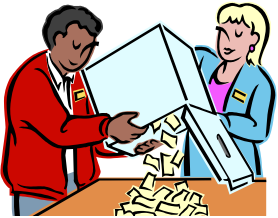
Thank you for your help – the more involved you are, the better we will become!

## UPCOMING MEMBER SURVEY

How can SWE New York better serve you, our members?

Please let us know when our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual SWE NY Member Survey comes out this May. Details will be announced in future issues of *SWE Bits*.

Also - if you have any ideas for future events, please let us know at [swe-ny@swe.org](mailto:swe-ny@swe.org). We'll include your idea as a question in the survey, and your idea for an event may end up on our calendar!



## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

New writers and ideas are always welcome!

If there's anything you want to write or read about, or if you have an achievement to announce (an award, a promotion, your PE license, you gave birth), we welcome all of it.

[Do you have anything to write in our newsletter?](#) The deadline for the Spring/Summer issue is Monday, June 4.

Thank you!