



Society of Women Engineers

Quad City/Muscatine Section

Volume 5, Issue 4

December 2005

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2005-2006

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Letter from the President:

Hi All:

I can hardly believe it is December already. We have had great turnouts at our three meetings this fall. In November we had a great time making fleece blankets/pillows. Thanks, Brenda, for organizing this fun meeting. Please refer to the meeting schedule to view the exciting meetings we have planned for the upcoming year. We will be having two enthusiastic, inspirational speakers (Gail Leese and Gail Mote) and visiting John Deere's Virtual Reality Center, the Figge Art Museum, and either the Arsenal or Lock & Dam 15.

This spring there will be several activities in which you can demonstrate your pride in the engineering profession: Junior Achievement Job Shadow Day, Eweek, an Order of the Engineer ring ceremony, the Invention Convention, the Region H Conference, and the Horizons volunteer opportunity. Stay tuned for more information about these events.

If anyone is looking for a new job, we have been contacted by companies in regards to some available positions. These positions are in the fields of chemical, environmental, and structural engineering. If you would like more information, please contact me. Remember the SWE Career Center is available for members (<http://www.swe.org/>, click on "Career Center").

I hope to see you all at the January meeting where Gail Leese will speak on the "Five Essential Qualities of Women in Leadership!" Have a wonderful Christmas and Holiday Season!

Sincerely,
Heather Bishop
President
Quad City/Muscatine Section
Society of Women Engineers

Holiday Craft Workshop

The November SWE meeting was held at the Musser Public Library in Muscatine, Iowa, on Tuesday, November 22, 2005. Brenda Murphy provided us with instructions and help to create beautiful tied fleece blankets and pillows.



We had a great turn-out for the Pork Tenderloin meal provided by Scott's Catering of Muscatine.

Included here are photos of many of the beautiful and interesting blankets created by our members. It looks like we have some Iowa State and John Deere fans among our membership. The blankets and pillows were great fun to make.



Our thanks to Brenda Murphy for all her hard work selecting this year's holiday craft workshop idea and planning the meeting.

Regional News:

The Region H Conference will be held March 3-5, 2006 at Iowa State University, Ames, IA. The conference includes social activities in addition to the student and professional meetings, workshops, a career fair, on- and off-campus tours, a networking session, and a keynote banquet. Check out the SWE web site for information on the conference at:

<http://www.swe.org/regionh>

Young Women's Leadership Conference:

When: Wednesday, May 10, 2006
Where: The Lodge, Bettendorf, IA

Career Session 1: 10:10 – 10:40 am
Career Session 2: 10:45 – 11:15 am

Mississippi Bend AEA holds its Young Women's Leadership Conference in the spring as part of their HORIZONS program. HORIZONS targets female students in Grades 7-12 and focuses on career exploration and connection with role models.

For the conference, they hold career sessions and it would be great to have members from our group hold a "Careers in Engineering" session. Depending on the women from our group who would participate, we could highlight several engineering fields, or just focus on one field.

Contact Katie Ehrke at: EhrkeKathrynE@JohnDeere.com if interested or for more information.

Order of the Engineer Ring Ceremony:

An Order of the Engineer Ring Ceremony will be held on Friday, February 24, 2006 at 5:30 in the Sheraton Ballroom in downtown Iowa City. For more information, please contact Heather Bishop at:
heather.t.bishop@usace.army.mil.

Regional News:

The Region H Conference will be held by the Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa on March 3 – 5, 2006.

The theme for the conference is “Strengthen your Roots and Reach for the Sky.” It will be an exciting weekend filled with activities such as our diverse career fair, networking luncheon, developmental seminars (topics include Self Defense, Business Etiquette, and Technology and the Environment), and entertaining social events.

For more information, please visit the web site at:

<http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/swe/home.html>

Invent Iowa! Regional Invention Convention:

When: Saturday, February 25, 2006
Where: Family Museum
Bettendorf, IA

The regional invention convention is sponsored by the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency, located in Bettendorf, Iowa. The convention showcases over 140 student inventors in grades 1st-8th. Through a judging process, 28 of those inventors are invited to display at the State Invention Convention.

Judges will be needed for either a 9:00-11:30am shift or a 12:30-3:00pm shift. They start focusing on recruiting judges in December, but if anyone wants to sign up early they can.

Contact Katie Ehrke at:
EhrkeKathrynE@JohnDeere.com
if interested or for more information.

SWE 2005-2006 Meeting Schedule*

Date	Topic	Planner	Location
Thursday, Sept. 29, 2005	Ice Breaker/Tour of Lavender Crest Winery	Cabinet/Donna Jones	QC
Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2005	Speaker - Donna Gimm Tips on Organizing your Home/Office	Paula Raney	QC
Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2005	Holiday Craft Workshop Making Fleece Blankets	Brenda Murphy	Muscatine
Thursday, Jan. 26, 2006	Speaker - Gail Leese "5 Essential Qualities of Women in Leadership"	Katie Ehrke	QC
Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2006	Speaker - Dr. John Reid Deere's Virtual Reality Center	Paula Raney	QC
Tuesday, Mar. 28, 2006	Joint Meeting with IIE Figge Art Museum	Katie Ehrke	QC
Tuesday, Apr. 25, 2006	Speaker - Gail Mote Topic - TBA	Nancy Shell	Muscatine
Tuesday, May 23, 2006	Tour of Arsenal or Lock & Dam 15	Donna Jones	QC

*Depending on facility availability meeting topics may change.

5 Essential Qualities of Women in Leadership

January's meeting will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2006. Gail Leese will speak with us on the 5 Essential Qualities of Women in Leadership. More information on the meeting will be sent by email in early January 2006. At that time, signup information for the meeting will be provided.

When: Thursday, January 26, 2006

Where: John Deere Davenport Works

Carpooling to January meeting:

If interested in carpooling from the Muscatine area to the January meeting in the Quad Cities on Thursday, January 26, 2006, contact Nancy Shell at: shellnancy@stanleygroup.com.

Iowa Engineering and Land Surveying Examining Board Opportunity:

Governor Vilsack's office is looking for someone to fill a vacancy on the Iowa Engineering and Land Surveying Examining Board. They hope to find a woman to sit on the board and have contacted our SWE section first for candidates. This is a great opportunity for someone from our section!

The qualifications are:

- A licensed mechanical or civil engineer
- Licensed for at least 5 years, with the last three years having been in Iowa
- You must reside in the state of Iowa

This would be for a three year term with the opportunity to serve additional terms after that time. If you are interested and meet the qualifications, contact Rochelle Trefry (rochelle.trefry@swe.org) for more information. She will put you in contact with Tony Taylor at the governor's office.

SWE Mission (Adopted in 1986):

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

SWE Objectives (adopted in 1950):

- Inform young women, their parents, counselors, and the general public, of the qualifications and achievements of women engineers and the opportunities open to them.
- Assist women in readying themselves for a return to active work after temporary retirement.
- Serve as a center of information on women in engineering.
- Encourage women engineers to attain high levels of education and professional achievement.

Join the JA Learning Lab Volunteer Corps!

Roll up your sleeves and really help kids see what life is all about. At the JA Learning Lab, located in downtown Davenport, IA, students are experiencing the "real world" first hand. Adult volunteers are vital to the two main programs offered at the JA Learning Lab – JA Exchange City and JA Finance Park. Members of the volunteer corps are trained to serve as advisors to the parent volunteers, teachers, and students.

The JA Exchange City program allows adult volunteers to assist upper-elementary students in the operation of a mock city. JA Exchange City is in action throughout the fall and spring school semesters. Each day, a new group of students runs the City, learning first hand the value of business knowledge to succeeding on the job and in the community.

The JA Finance Park program utilizes adult volunteers to assist middle-grades students as they consider options available in planning a successful personal budget. During their visit, the students will have the opportunity to commit to a budget after determining their net monthly income and expenses based on a hypothetical life circumstance they are given. JA Finance Park is in operation throughout the fall and spring semesters, as well, and a new group of students experiences this program each day.

Junior Achievement relies on volunteers to help make each day a success. Volunteer corps members are put into a pool and called upon as they are needed.

To learn more about becoming a part of the JA Learning Lab Volunteer Corps:

- Email Dave Lewis, Vice President - JA Learning Lab, at: dlewis@jaheartland.org, OR
- Contact Katie Ehrke, Career Guidance Chair, at: EhrkeKathrynE@JohnDeere.com.

JA Job Shadow Day Host:

Do you remember what you wanted to do when you were in eighth grade? Help an eighth-grader learn about careers and the relevance of education in the workplace by participating in JA Job Shadow Day. This national program gives students a "first look" at the workplace and provides them with an opportunity to see how basic skills are used on the job.

The dates for JSD 2006 are as follows:

Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006

Muscatine and Louisa Counties
Central Middle School
West Middle School
L&M Junior High

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2006

Scott County Schools
John Deere Middle School, Moline

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Rock Island County Schools

Thursday, March 2, 2006

West Liberty
Wapello Junior High
Wilton Junior High

If you are interested in hosting a job shadow, please contact Katie Ehrke, Career Guidance Chair, at: EhrkeKathrynE@JohnDeere.com.

Regional News:

If you would like to receive emails from SWE Region H regarding upcoming activities and other Region H information, please email:

swe_regionh_secretary@yahoo.com

Ask to be included on the Region H "All Email List."

Important Dates:

Jan. 26	SWE Meeting
Feb. 23	JA Job Shadowing
Feb. 24	Order of the Engineer Ring
Feb. 25	Invention Convention
Feb. 28	SWE Meeting
Feb. 28	JA Job Shadowing
Mar. 2	JA Job Shadowing
Mar. 3-5	Region H Conference
Mar. 28	SWE Meeting
Apr. 25	SWE Meeting
May 10	Young Women's Leadership Conference
May 23	SWE Meeting

Membership info:

You can join SWE on the web. Go to <http://www.swe.org/membership>. Follow the easy instructions from there to join or renew your membership. Forms can either be printed or you can join online. The Online Application for new members will take you approximately 20 minutes to fill out. Keep in mind that many companies will pay dues for professional organizations, so be sure to ask!

Once you are a SWE member, you will then be able to log into the member directory to update your registration and search for other SWE member contact information.

You will be helping not only yourself, the regional organization and the national organization, but you will also be helping our section. Twenty percent of the funds comes back to our section.