



Society of Women Engineers

QC/ Muscatine HOLIDAY EDITION

Letter from the Secretary:

Happy Holidays! This month's newsletter will be short and sweet - I'm just including some upcoming events and updates on what our group has been up to lately. Everyone's time is short this time of year, so we do not have a December meeting. The next time we'll be together as a group will be on January 24 for our eagle watch and clock tower tour at the Rock Island Arsenal. This will be a meeting where we can bring family and friends, which should be lots of fun!

December is the time when we begin to think of New Year's resolutions - I'm looking for some ideas for our chapter. Our chapter has been growing and we are on the verge of becoming a medium size section. If you have ideas of ways to improve the newsletter or communication to the group in general, meeting topics, ways to reach out to more women in the area, or anything else, please let me know!

I wish you a happy and safe holiday season, and look forward to a new calendar year in SWE!

Megan Mathias
Secretary

VOLUNTEERING EVENTS TO CHECK OUT:

U of Illinois Extension Volunteering Events

Science Siesta – Jan. 30, 7-9:20 pm, Botanical Center in Rock Island

Volunteers are needed to speak to young 5th and 6th grade girls about their engineering career- what their job is, the education they need, etc. Short hands-on activities can be part of the presentations that will last about 20 minutes to 15 girls at a time.

4-H Tech Club – Feb. 19, Mar. 19, Apr. 16

This is a group that meets monthly to explore different topics for youth in 5th-8th grade who have an interest in technology. Topics include wind energy, robotics, bridge building, rocketry, and more. They are looking for volunteers to present at a meeting during the above dates.

If you would like to help with either event, please contact Jennifer Holldorf at 309-796-0512 or Holldorf@Illinois.edu .

Girls' Night Out: The Road to Engineering

St. Ambrose is looking for women engineers to help inspire high school students to choose engineering as a career. It is on Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 5:30-8 pm at the Rogalski Center. Volunteers would be part of a panel to answer questions by the students. See attached flyer.

If interested, please respond to Miranda Nelp, NelpMirandaK@sau.edu.

Opportunity to inspire – First Lego League

ISU is looking for volunteers to judge a LEGO robot to accomplish the tasks set in the challenge. The event is on January 17, 2009, in Howe and Hoover Halls. This is an all day event (8am to 5pm) filled with approximately 750 young student excited to compete and learn, making this a very energetic and fun environment. For more detail information and to register as a volunteer go to www.isek.iastate.edu, or contact Julie Fisher.

November Meeting Summary:



We had 18 women attend the November meeting on Tuesday, November 25 at Longview Park Greenhouse in Rock Island. Rock Island parks department's horticulturist Marc led the group in making our own Christmas wreath out of fallen trees. Marc's group collects trees from the public and builds many wreaths and pieces of garland for holiday decorating each year.

It was amazing how each wreath had its own personality even though we used much of the same type of trees! Wreath making is a very simple process, involving building bundles of material and wiring it to a metal ring. We made 30" wreaths – just the right size for a front door. See pictures of our members in action below.



Megan Mathias and Rochelle Trefry



Heather Bishop



Donna Jones, Nancy Shell, Amy Shell

Festival of Trees Setup Summary:

Our section helped again this year with setup for the Quad City Arts Festival of Trees on November 11, 2008 from 6 until 8 pm. The theme of this year's festival was "Santa Claus is Coming to Town". Members helped wrap Isabel Bloom Snowmen figurines and attach Christmas lights to signs for Santa Claus' workshop at the North Pole.

The Festival of Trees was held from Thursday, November 20, 2008 through Sunday, November 30, 2008. A parade kicked off the festival on Saturday, November 22, 2008.

Members helping at the Festival of Trees were Donna Jones, Michelle Puzey, Nancy Shell, Nitashi Bali, Laura Baures, Brenda Murphy, and Julie Fisher.



Laura Baures and Donna Jones



Julie Fisher

SWE08 National Conference Summary:

WE08, Women Leading a Technical Revolution, our National SWE conference, was held November 6-8, 2008 in Baltimore, MD. Paula Raney, Karen Pang, Ellen Huntley, and Nancy Shell from our section attended.

The conference was attended by 5,800 SWE members from around the country and around the world. It was an exciting and interesting conference. Over 250 companies had booths and the Career Fair held during the conference. Workshops were held covering a diverse range of topics such as Engineering Your Future, Energy in the



Karen Pang, Nancy Shell, Ellen Huntley,
Paula Raney



Nancy Shell, Karen Pang, SWE
President Virginia Connolly, P.E.

21st Century, Encouraging Your Peers Returning to Work After Cancer Treatment, Smart Travel Tips for Women on the Go, and How to use Six Hat Thinking in Problem Solving.

Interesting tours were held to places like John Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, Conowingo and Muddy Run Hydro Stations, and Baltimore Orioles Camden Yards.

Our section received the 2008 SWE Region H Membership Retention Award for Small Sections and an Honorable Mention Membership Growth Award for Small Sections.

Some of the conference presentations can be reviewed by going to:
http://www.we08.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=41&Itemid=36



Paula Raney, Ellen Huntley, Karen Pang

SWE 2008-2009 Meeting Schedule			
Date	Topic	Planner	Location
Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009	Eagle Watch at the Rock Island Arsenal	Donna Jones	Quad Cities
Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009	Speaker – Gayle Roberts, Stanley Consultants President	Nancy Shell	Muscatine
Tuesday, March 24, 2009	Alcoa Tour	Donna Jones Anne Zemo	Davenport
Tuesday, April 28, 2009	Speaker – Donna Meade, HNI Corp Vice President	Brenda Murphy	Muscatine
Tuesday, May 19, 2009	Potluck / Recipe Exchange	Brenda Murphy	West Lake Park, Davenport