



Society of Women Engineers

Quad City/Muscatine Section

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Letter from the President

Hi Ladies!

We had a very fun and interesting meeting in October at the Pearl Button Museum in Muscatine! Thanks to Nancy Shell for putting this meeting together.

Our schedule is set for the remainder of the year and we have included some great career development topics along with some industry tours and a few "just for fun" topics. We hope you can join us over the remaining months! A big thanks to all who have volunteered to help in the planning of our monthly meetings!

We have a couple of great activities this month including a volunteer opportunity for our section as part of the set up crew for the Festival of Trees. We have had great response for this event and I know we'll have a lot of fun!

Our November meeting is going to be held at Fireworks in Moline! This will be a fun meeting to make something for the holidays. Vonda Johnston has worked to set this meeting up and provided more information in our meeting announcement in this newsletter!

I attended the SWE National Conference in October, along with Ellen Huntley and Jodi Goddale. The Wisconsin section did a great job putting the conference together! I got to attend the regional and national meetings and learned a lot about the overall SWE organization! Our Region (Region H) has the largest number of professional members (~1200) and a large number of student members (~1500).

I'll see you all at our November meeting in Moline!

Sincerely,
Rochelle Trefry

President
Quad City/Muscatine Section
Society of Women Engineers

November Meeting

Pottery Painting

Who: Women Engineers and Women who work in Engineering Related Fields and their children/grandchildren

When: Tuesday November 23, 2004
6:00 – 8:00 pm

Where: Fireworks Coffeehouse and Pottery Painted by You
2139 16th Street
Moline, Iowa



Menu: Sandwiches, Gourmet Pizza, Hot dogs, Soup, and a Variety of Coffee Drinks

Cost: variable

The November meeting will be a social meeting and take place at Fireworks Coffeehouse and Pottery Painted by You. It looks to be a GREAT time! Please feel free to attend even if you do not want to paint.

To paint, you pay for the piece(s) you want (such as a vase, pot, bowl, etc.) plus a studio fee. The price for individual pottery pieces varies. Here are some examples:

\$4.50 – Christmas Ornament

\$9.00 – Bud Vase

\$20.00 – Large Dinner Plate

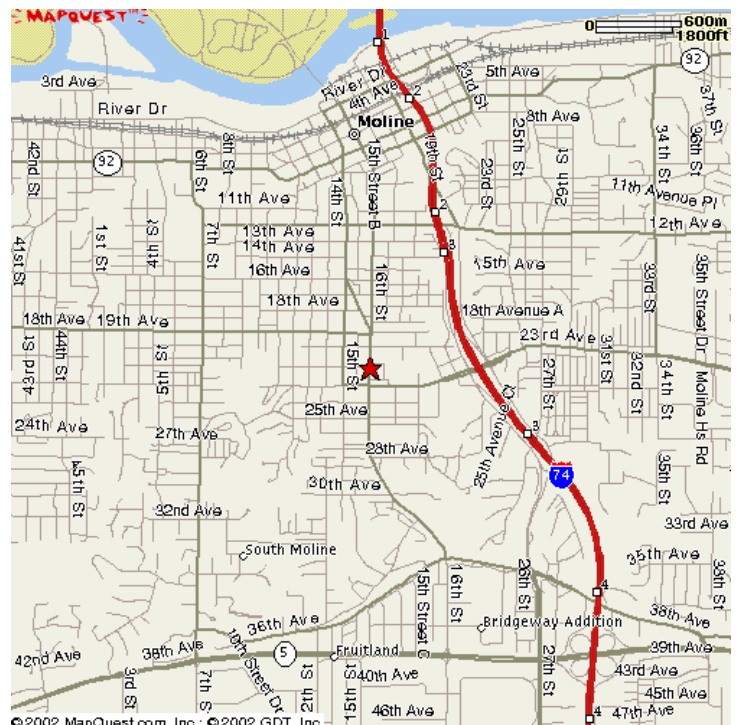
The studio fee is \$9 for adults and \$6 for children for the two-hour time period that we have reserved the room.

Fireworks serves food and drinks. They have gourmet sandwiches (\$4.25), gourmet stuffed pizza (3.95/slice), hot dogs (\$2.95), and soup (\$2.95). They also serve a variety of cookies, brownies, and pastries. They also serve many different kinds of drinks from mochas, lattes, cappuccino, to soft drinks and bottled water.



Please RSVP by November 19th to Vonda Johnston at JohnstonVondaK@JohnDeere.com, if you plan on attending. If you plan on purchasing a meal at Fireworks, please inform Vonda when you RSVP so the staff at Fireworks has enough food available.

Vonda Johnston is planning this fun meeting.
Thanks Vonda!



Please note that 23rd Avenue in Moline is now called The Avenue of the Cities.



October Meeting

At the October SWE meeting, participants were treated to a private tour of the Muscatine Pearl Button Museum given by Melanie Alexander, Director of the Museum. We learned why Muscatine was referred to as the "Pearl Button Capital of the World" in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

In 1887 John Boepple, a German immigrant, started the Pearl Button industry in Muscatine. He discovered that bend of the Mississippi River near Muscatine was host to a rich supply of mussels, the shells of which could be used to make beautiful buttons.

Plastic buttons eventually replaced pearl buttons. There are no button factories left in Muscatine today, but Muscatine remembers its proud heritage as the "Pearl Button Capital of the World."

Following the tour of the Pearl Button Museum, the group adjourned to Floodwaters where we had the SWE business meeting and ate dinner. There were several issues discussed at the SWE business meeting including: Festival of Trees volunteer opportunities, meeting planning opportunities, and the SWE national conference.

SWE Fast Fact

SWE consists of nearly 100 professional sections, 300 student sections, and members-at-large in all engineering and technology disciplines, making SWE a preeminent not-for-profit organization respected among the engineering community and technical societies.

Regional and National News:

Region H is working on a succession plan. A candidate database is being created for anyone who is interested in holding a position at the Regional level. If interested, please contact a cabinet member and we will provide the form and contact information for the Region.

A few items of interest from the region meetings:

- The Region is working on a bylaws update that will be completed by the end of FY05.
- A fund development committee was created to develop ways to help fund student travel to national and regional conferences.
- Region H conference: Notre Dame, Feb. 11-13, 2005

Items of interest from the national meeting:

- Joint memberships will be offered for SWE and NSBE and SWE and SHPE.
- Mega issues discussed:
 - Corporate Retention of Women Engineers
 - SWE assistance to Unemployed Members

Membership info:

Congratulations to Ellen Huntley for winning the membership drawing! She will enjoy a gift certificate to any Heart of America restaurant!

You can join SWE on the web. Go to www.swe.org. Click on "Join SWE" and "Apply for Membership On-line" or "Renew your Membership On-line". This process gets you to the on-line application. Once there, it 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!

You will then be able to log into the member directory to update your registration and search for other SWE member contact information.

Our Section Needs You

Are you looking for an easy way to get involved with SWE? We have a great opportunity for you! This year we are having a meeting planning committee where each person plans a single monthly meeting. Heather Bishop is our meeting planning committee chair and will coordinate with our volunteers. The responsibilities of the committee members are:

- Arrange the speaker, tour or activity
- Set up the location
- Arrange the meal and determine the
- member cost
- Write a brief meeting description for the
- newsletter (& send it to Tami Wilcox)
- Keep Heather Bishop informed of the plans
- Track the RSVPs and send an email
- reminder before the meeting

Planning a meeting typically takes four or five hours spread out over a month. Take a look at the meeting schedule for the dates and topics. All we need are some members to help put it all together! All of our topics are already set for a specific month, but we need someone to plan the remaining details. So pick a month and help make this a great year!

The following meeting topics need a planner!

- Dale Carnegie speaker (set for the January meeting)

Planning a meeting is a HUGE contribution to our section, and a great way for you to practice some of your leadership and organizational skills!

SWE 2004-2005 Meeting Schedule*

Date	Topic	Planner	Location
Tuesday, September 28, 2004	Healthy Eating	Cabinet	QC
Tuesday, October 26, 2004	Pearl Button Museum Tour	Nancy Shell	Muscatine
Tuesday, November 23, 2004	Holiday Craft Workshop	Vonda Johnston	QC
Tuesday, January 25, 2005	Dale Carnegie Speaker		John Deere Parts Distribution Center (PDC) Milan, IL
Tuesday, February 22, 2005	Cooking Class	Jodi Goodale	Muscatine
Tuesday, March 22, 2005	Speaker: Gale Mote	Nancy Shell	Muscatine
Tuesday, April 26, 2005	John O'Donnell Stadium Tour	Donna Jones	QC
Tuesday, May 24, 2005	Rinker Materials Tour	Heather Bishop & ASCE	Buffalo, IA

*Depending of facility availability meeting topics may change.