



The

Windy City Wire

Society of Women Engineers Chicago Regional Section

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www.societyofwomenengineers.org/chicago

Volume 10 Number 8

Please Support the Scholarship Endowment

Written by Christy Magerkurth

Once again, I am sending out a call for support in establishing our scholarship fund. Between our invested funds and donations to date, we have over 80% of the funds needed. This is great but we still have a ways to go. It is not too late to help! When registering for the Annual Awards Banquet online, you can choose to make an additional donation for the scholarship fund or if you will be unable to attend the Banquet, please consider donating the cost of attendance to support this worthy effort!

This fund will enable us to have a guaranteed student scholarship each year in addition to those we currently can provide. The Board of Trustees endowment requires \$34,000 for a \$1,500 scholarship to be awarded each year. The Section has \$27,000 in invested savings, primarily earned from the National Conference held in Chicago in 1993, that we would like to use for this effort. Therefore, we hope to raise \$7,000 to establish the scholarship fund.

If you are interested in making a donation via check, please make your check out to the Society of Women Engineers – Chicago Regional Section and return payment to:

SWE-CRS
P.O. Box 95525
Palatine, IL 60095-0525

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at cme@firstenvironment.com.
Thank you for your support!

Eighth FY 06 Issue

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president's letter

Wendy Landwehr, FY06 SWE-CRS President

Hello Chicago Regional Section. It is May now and I can't believe the SWE year is almost over. I am very proud of all the activities this section participates in. The next newsletter will have a summary of the past year and you will see what I mean.

The Professional Development Event was a big success. The speakers were very good and we had lots of time for networking. We heard nothing but good feedback from the participants. Thank you very much to the speakers and the members of the PD committee, who contributed to this awesome event.

In the next nine months you will be hearing a lot about the 2007 Region H Conference. Northwestern University Collegiate Section will be hosting the conference right here in Chicago. CRS will be partnering with them for the planning of the professional development program. Most likely we will combine the annual professional development conference with the Region H Conference. This is a very exciting proposition not only because we will be working with the NU-SWE section, but also because we will be able to plan the PD event for Region H. If you are interested in volunteering for this effort, email swe-crs@swe.org.

The last big event of the year is the Annual Awards Banquet June 8. This year the keynote speaker will be SWE President Elect Jude Garzolini. The SWE National Board of Directors will be having their fourth meeting that weekend and they will be invited to the banquet. This event is a celebration of CRS's past year. Our Scholarship recipients and corporate sponsors are recognized. Several awards are given including the Golden Family, Best Collegiate Section and CRS Section Awards. Think about attending this year, you never know, you might be one of the award recipients.

Soon you will be receiving the ballot for the FY07 SWE-CRS officers. Please take a few minutes to review the ballot and vote, put a stamp on the envelope, and mail it. This is very important because our members make SWE-CRS great.

SWE'et Home
Chicago

SWE-CRS Executive Council

Officers

President — Wendy Landwehr

Vice President — Diane LaFortune

Secretary — Athena Kotsanis

Treasurer — Christina Magerkurth

Section Representatives — Debra Evans,
Deanna Heffron, Cathy Pieronek

Committee Chairs

Awards — Debra Evans

Awards Banquet — Denise James

Career Guidance — Anne Lucietto

E-mail Network — Danielle Folkerts

Family Issues — Karen Preston-Wozniak

Finance Chair — Christina Magerkurth

IEC Representative — Cheryl Machnich, Daryl Farley Varney

Job Opportunities — Available

Logo Items — Anne Lucietto

Membership — Marika Alexakis

Mentoring — Kyla Jacobsen

Multicultural — Available

Newsletter Editor — Katie Amelio

Nominating Committee — To Be Determined

NW Indiana — Laura Cruz

PD Committee — Available

PO Box Mail Distribution — Jennifer Van Dyk

Programs — Amy Theis

Publicity — Danielle Folkerts

Scholarship — Laurel Jasek

Strategic Planning — Amy Theis

Student Liaison — Jennifer Van Dyk

Voicemail — Tracey Schocke

Webmaster — Rebecca Miller

SWE-CRS

2006 Annual Awards Banquet

June 8, 2006

Join the Society of Women Engineers Chicago Regional Section for an evening of networking, inspiration and celebration.

Where:

The Hyatt Lodge

McDonald's Office Campus

2815 Jorie Boulevard

Oakbrook, IL

6:00 PM Networking

6:30 PM Dinner

Speaker: **Jude Garzolini**

SWE President Elect

The annual SWE-CRS banquet honors:

Scholarship Recipients

Company Sponsors

Golden Family Award

Student Section Award

CRS Individual Awards

Engineering Around the World

SWE-CRS 2006 PD Event

Written by Wendy Landwehr

SWE-CRS held their annual Professional Development event on Saturday April 8 at Abbott. Abbott is a great venue for this event and once again provided SWE-CRS with the facility and awesome breakfast and lunch. This year the PD Committee decided to try a different format and according to the surveys, was quite successful. The theme for the event was "Engineering Around the World." Nelly Sanchez was the MC and it featured three sessions that all of the participants attended.

The participants were greeted at the door by several Abbott SWE Members and treated to a continental breakfast buffet. Each participant was assigned to a table designated by a country to encourage networking with the participants. At the tables were the "Passport" program booklet, some session material and a reading light compliments of Macrovision Corporation.

The first session was an overview of the Engineers Without Borders (EWB) not for profit group titled "Building a Better World One Community at a Time - The Story of Engineers Without Borders" given by Erin Dugan and Jessica Kaminsky. They spoke about the types of projects the group does and how to get involved. A video was presented describing a project in Central America, where a group of EWB members went to a village and built a system to bring fresh water to the village. Many universities have EWB student chapters that do these types of projects in third world countries over the summer. It was very interesting and inspiring.



Jessica Kaminsky and Erin Dugan presented information about projects sponsored by EWB.

The second session was titled "Home and Away: Working with Global Teams." Karen Nowicki from Macrovision Corporation spoke about her experience with managing a team of engineers in several locations around the world. This session was filled with resolutions to situations she has been in and advice to others in this situation.



Karen Nowicki sharing her experiences with PD conference attendees.

The third session was a panel discussion featuring four engineers who have worked in different countries. Nelly Sanchez did a wonderful job as moderator, adding in some of her own experiences dealing with foreign customers. The panelist were Shannon Brown, who worked in Germany; Joe Wiseman who is working in the Far East, Singapore and Japan; Kristine Forsythe who worked in Germany and studied in France; and Judy King who worked in Guam. Each panelist spoke a little about their experience and opened the session for questions from the audience. There were some very intriguing questions including: How does one deal with different customs? Have you had an embarrassing moment? Has the language barrier affected your work?

After the third session a lunch buffet was served. Lunch included a great assortment of pasta,

sauces, bread, salad and delicious desserts. During lunch, the participants were encouraged to discuss several questions on the day's subject provided on cards at the table. When lunch was finished, Nelly asked the tables to share what they had discussed. Wendy Landwehr held the annual SWE-CRS membership meeting by summarizing the activities that SWE-CRS has done in the past year. Many left the event and headed to the outlet mall in Gurnee for some afternoon shopping. Overall it was a very successful event.



Panelists for the discussion "Living as an Engineer in Another Country" engaged the conference attendees with their humorous and insightful advice. Pictured from left to right are Kristine Forsythe, Joe Wiseman, Judy King and Shannon Brown.

Spotlight on SWE-CRS Committees

The spotlight on SWE-CRS Committees will provide information about SWE-CRS committees, their functions and opportunities to volunteer.



The IEC Committee

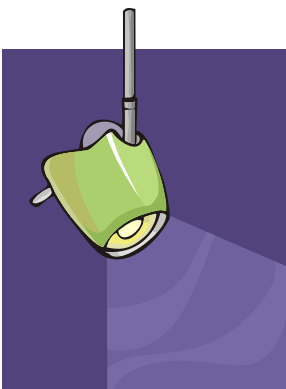
Written by Daryl Farley Varney

The Chicago Regional Section of SWE is a member of the Illinois Engineering Council (IEC). The IEC is comprised of twenty professional engineering societies representing over 20,000 members. The Council was founded in 1938 “to further the public welfare wherever technical and engineering knowledge and experience are involved, and to consider and act upon matters of concern to the engineering and allied technical professions.” In recent years, the focus of the IEC is to act as an advocate on matters of education, registration and public policy in the State of Illinois. Particular emphasis has been placed on efforts to promote and publicize engineering accomplishments to the general public. One such vehicle for promoting engineering accomplishments has been publishing the “Illinois Engineer Journal” in association with National Engineers’ Week held in February. Additionally, the council has been working on establishing an Illinois Engineering Hall of Fame. The IEC also works to monitor proposed legislation affecting the engineering profession and recommend candidates for professional engineering examining committees in the State of Illinois.

Each year the IEC recognizes outstanding engineering projects completed in Illinois, capturing the innovative and dynamic spirit of a profession dedicated to public service; demonstrating interdisciplinary engineering accomplishment and creativity as well as social benefit. Each year the IEC sponsors an annual banquet in September to bring the Illinois engineering community together and to honor the Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award winners. The banquet is great opportunity to learn about interesting engineering projects outside of your technical field. Previous years’ recipients have included:

- IDOT District One Communications Center Upgrade and Redesign - Chicago
- LITENING Infrared Surveillance Camera System – Rolling Meadows
- One Technology Plaza – Peoria
- Directional Infrared Countermeasures (DIRCM) Nemesis – Rolling Meadows
- Lower Boneyard Creek Improvement Plan – Champaign
- Caterpillar – Hard Surface Test Track – Peoria
- Unicom Thermal Technologies District Cooling – Chicago
- River Front Festival Park & Gateway Building Plant – Chicago
- Chicago Sun-Times Newspaper Production Plant – Chicago

Serving on the IEC is a great opportunity to learn what is happening in the engineering profession as a whole and work with fellow engineers from many different disciplines and societies. If you are interested in serving as a SWE delegate to the Illinois Engineering Council or for further information on activities please contact either SWE IEC Director; Daryl Farley Varney at dfvarney@illinoisalumni.org, or Cheryl Machnich at ctmachnich@msn.com.



Tap Into Creativity—SWE-WI PD Seminar

Submitted by Susan Thomas Schlett

SWE-WI Professional Development Seminar "Tap Into Creativity" is June 10, 2006 at the Comfort Suites in Johnson Creek, WI.

"Creativity is a method of progress. Conformity . . . maintains the status quo." Kimball Wiles

In today's fast paced ever-changing environment, it is critical that organizations tap into the creativity of its people. To be more professionally valuable to your organization, you want to prepare yourself for creative thinking. This seminar will enhance the resourcefulness needed to strategically plan, solve problems, champion innovation, embrace excellence, increase productivity, orchestrate change, and generally improve operations.

This seminar will be well worth the investment. All original thought begins in the human brain and everyone has the capacity to contribute in a unique and distinctive way to the success of the enterprise. All members of a work team are responsible for the organization's vigor, success, and continued existence. Tools to mine the wealth of the collective mind will be presented so that you can take them back to your organization. This seminar will offer you:

- Processes to expand your own creativity.
- Methods to tap into the creativity of your team.
- Procedures to encourage creative thinking throughout your organizations.

"Creativity can solve almost any problem. The creative act, the defeat of habit by originality overcomes everything." George Lois

The connection between creativity and legendary individual performance is strong. The connection between creativity and organizational excellence is even stronger. If you are coasting, you are going down hill. One way to remain current and competitive is to apply your creativity and facilitate the flow of inspiration throughout your organization. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, laugh and leave a legendary legacy.

Our speaker, Professor Elaine Estervig Beaubien (www.elainetrain.com), is an award winning educator, an experienced corporate trainer, an accomplished speaker, a published writer and a successful entrepreneur. She is a member of the tenured business faculty of Edgewood College and is CEO of Management Training Seminars.

SWE-CRS Tours Dial Corporation Plant

Written by Katie Amelio and Diane LaFortune

Friday April 7th, 2006, a handful of SWE-CRS members made the trek out to Montgomery, Illinois to visit the Dial Corporation Plant. A number of Dial employees from their Manufacturing Professional Women's Forum were on-site to welcome us to their facility, provide historical information about the company and show us the nuts and bolts of their operation.

We toured the outdoor process which consisted of large tanks holding the raw materials like tallow for the saponification process. The outdoor process runs 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Inside the facility, the lines operate during the week. The plant handles the entire process, from taking in the raw materials to putting out the pallets of boxes of soap. One of the bi-products of the soap making process is glycerin, which gets produced in pharmaceutical grade qualities and gets re-sold for uses in medicines and make-up. This site produces all of the bar soap products for the country that we see on the store shelves (Dial, Coast and Tone).

The evening was informative and SWE-CRS appreciates the time of the employees to share information about their company's manufacturing process and the bag of soap samples.

For more information about The Dial Corporation, visit the Company's Web site at www.dialcorp.com.

Farewell to SWE-CRS

Written by Diane Peters

When I moved away from my hometown, my mother gave me a framed artwork – a piece of calligraphy, with the message stating that "You never truly leave a place you love. Part of it you take with you, leaving a part of you behind." As I prepare to move away from Chicago, I realize that I am taking part of the city and its people with me, and leaving part of myself here with my friends.

As some of you know, I've decided to take my career in a new direction. After thirteen years as a design engineer for three different companies, I've decided that I want to become a professor of mechanical engineering at a university. To achieve this, I need a Ph.D. Over the past year I've investigated schools, taken the GRE, applied to schools, visited them, and have now made my choice. In the fall, I will be beginning the work for my doctorate at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Obviously, that means I will be moving; even in a city of ultra-commuters, that's just a bit too far to drive every day. As excited as I am about entering a new phase of my life, I do feel a bit sad about leaving Chicago. It's a nice city, with great museums, lots of restaurants, and fun places to go and things to see. But while I'll certainly miss things like the museums, what I'll miss most of all is the friends I've made in these years. I'm sure I'll see some of you at regional and national SWE events, but those are only once or twice a year – it just isn't the same as seeing people at regular intervals at meetings. Therefore, I'd like to take this opportunity to say good-bye to all of you, and thank you for being part of my life.

There are so many people in SWE-CRS who have been part of my life that I can't possibly name them all. There are those who welcomed me to Chicago, and into SWE-CRS, back in 1993. Others mentored me into leadership positions in the section, and yet others followed me in those positions when I moved on, and later when I was ready to step back. SWE members have celebrated my accomplishments with me, and listened when things weren't going so well. A SWE member helped me to get one of those three jobs I've had during these years in Chicago, and SWE members have helped me polish my resume each time I felt the need to switch jobs. I've learned from fellow members, hopefully taught something to others, and made friends who I know will remain close to me for many years to come, no matter where I go. To all of you, thank you for everything we've shared, and God bless you all.

Golden Family Winners

Written by Karen Preston

The Family Issues Committee of the Chicago Regional Section of SWE is please to announce the 9th annual Golden Family Award winner/s. The purpose of the award is to recognize a company in the Chicago Regional area for their outstanding support of Family Issues that includes helping their employees with the delicate balance of work and family. Each participating company, which includes medium and large companies this year were asked to provide information about their company, their philosophy, and its programs/benefits that accommodate the needs of a diverse workforce and ultimately motivate and retain a highly qualified workforce. The winning companies are Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory! They will be recognized at our SWE annual awards banquet along with numerous articles in SWE publications. If you are interested in this committee please contact Karen Preston at preston1122@yahoo.com or (847) 452-2989 for more information.

Exelon Corporation Plans Active Participation in SWE 2006 National Conference Sessions

Written by Jan Tramposch, Alliance Manager, Exelon Corporation

Exelon Corporation, the energy industry's most profitable company, is once again an active conference session participant in the SWE National Conference. Exelon supports the SWE's mission of "Aspire-Achieve-Advance" as a Corporate Partner and with an ongoing commitment to support SWE programming.

As a part of that commitment, Exelon women will be participants or presenters in five conference sessions at the upcoming SWE 2006 National Conference in Kansas City, MO. The sessions include women from Exelon at every level of the organization from Vice Presidents to women engineers in the first five years of their careers.

Exelon's diversity commitment includes an employee group called "The Network of Exelon Women." This group's Executive Sponsor is Ruth Ann Gillis, SVP Exelon and BSC President. Ruth Ann states: "We are interested in fostering a respectful and nurturing environment where every individual may grow personally and professionally, where everyone's contributions are acknowledged and appreciated and where we celebrate the differences that make us strong as a company."

Come and meet the women of Exelon at the following sessions:

- (1) Successful Career Planning
Session # 124.2
Date/Time: Thursday, 10/12/2006, 10:15 - 11:45 a.m.
Track: Professional Development
Panel Moderator: Janet Tramposch, Alliance Manager

- (2) Operations Management: Making The Most of a Great Opportunity
Session # 124.3
Date/Time: Thursday, 10/12/2006, 1:15 - 2:15 p.m.
Track: Professional Development
Speaker: Susan Landahl, LaSalle Site Vice President

- (3) Power Industry: What's Next in Electric Power
Session 124.4
Date/Time: Saturday, 10/14/06, 10:15 - 11:30 a.m.
Track: Technology
Speaker: JoEllen Burns, Vice President of Power Operations

- (4) Career Development: Taking Control of Your Career
Session: 124.1
Date/Time: Thursday, 10/12/06, 10:15 - 11:15am
Track: Career Transition
Speaker: Diana Sorfleet, VP Human Resources

- (5) Executive Plenary

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of the sessions. Please, stop by and introduce yourself to us!

Jan can be contacted at: Janet.Tramposch@exeloncorp.com

Exelon is the industry's most profitable company, earning \$923 million on \$15.4 billion in sales in 2005; its stock, recently at \$53 a share, has consistently outshone the S&P utility index. This year FORTUNE named Exelon America's most admired utility.

FY06 SWE-CRS Nominating Committee

Thank you to all of our members who took a few minutes to vote for this year's nominating committee members. The FY06 nominating committee will be:

Sarah Corbin, Chair
Dana Mui
Jenn Peck
Nelly Sanchez
Mayling Wong

Please give them your support in their efforts to help build a stronger and bigger SWE-CRS for next year.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help the Northwestern University SWE Collegiate Section with planning for the 2007 SWE Region H Conference. Have you ever wanted to work on a large scale conference? Are you a Northwestern University alumni who would like a way to help out the NU SWE Collegiate section? Are you interested in professional development? If you have answered YES to any of these questions, please consider this opportunity.

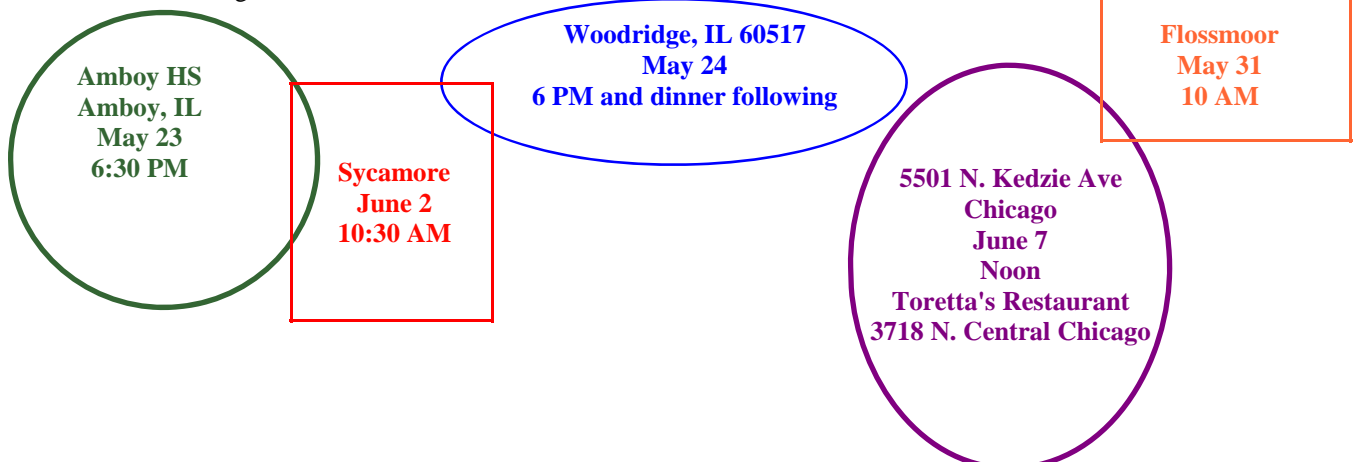
The SWE Collegiate Section of Northwestern University will be hosting the 2007 SWE Region H Conference the last weekend of January 2007. SWE-CRS is partnering with them to coordinate this event and is forming a committee to do so. We will be working with the students in coordinating the Professional Development speakers and the fund raising. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please send an email to swe-crs@swe.org containing your email address and phone number. The committee will start working soon to line up speakers.

Volunteers Needed—Career Guidance

Annually the Career Guidance Committee supports local youth by providing schools with certificates to recognize students for their achievements in math and science. We send certificates and offer to present them to the students. Sometimes they ask for a SWE member to come to their awards banquet to present those certificates—pretty easy deal—we send, you present. It's really quite a good time and it's great to interact one on one with some of the most promising of students.

We've been doing the Certificate of Merit Program for 13-14 years and I've actually met new graduates that have said that they were inspired by this program to study engineering! Wow, what an opportunity to spread the word! Please look the following locations and dates over, if they fit your schedule please let me know and I will forward appropriate contact information. You call/email and let them know you are going to come! Thanks for taking the time for our "future engineers"!

Anne Lucietto
Career Guidance Chair
Chicago Regional Section - SWE
Anne.Lucietto@swe.org





New Members Join SWE CRS

Please welcome the following members to the section, who have either newly joined, upgraded from student membership, or moved into the section.

Helen Andreatos	Pooja Nayan Metha
Kelly J. Andrews	Amanda J. Reilly
Allison H. Berger	Jessica L. Snyder
Vennela Challa	Sharon Spade
Stephanie Marie DeRuntz	Sheri L. Walters
Sarali Joshi	Amy Louise Wheaton
Kristine E. Martin	Xiaoli Yang
Kendra L/McCoy	



SWE-CRS Upcoming Events

We have several events planned these next few months, so please mark your calendars and plan to join us. Upcoming events:

- MAY** 20 Mother Daughter Tea party
InterContinental Hotel Chicago
- JUNE** 8 Awards Banquet, Hyatt Lodge,
Oakbrook, IL
- 10 Cement Plant Tour
- 24 Meeting & Year-End Party, AH, IL
- JULY** TBA Annual Planning Retreat
- TBA Fermilab Tour

Cement Plant Tour

Saturday, June 10
10:00 AM—Noon
Buzzi Unicem USA
490 Portland Avenue
Ogelsby, IL

This is a fantastic opportunity to observe a cement plant first hand. We will see an introductory video, tour the control room to get an operations overview, and then visit the plant and quarry. Closed-toed shoes and long pants are required for the tour (no sandals, open-toes shoes or shorts). Steel-toed shoes can be worn, but are not required. Safety glasses and hard hats are required and will be provided (feel free to bring your own prescription safety glasses). The plant is only 5 miles from Starved Rock State Park, so make a day out of it and plan to do some hiking after the tour!

Year-End Party

Saturday, June 24
11:00 AM—2 PM
Wendy's house
Arlington Heights, IL

As many of you know, the SWE fiscal year ends June 30. This party will commemorate the success of this year, be a thank you to the members that have contributed, welcome new members (including many student upgrade members) and look forward to what next year might hold. Bring a side dish, appetizer or dessert for lunch.

Directions will be sent upon receipt of RSVP.
RSVP online at <http://www.swe.org/chicago> by June 20th.

All members are encouraged to submit articles or announcements that may be of interest to our membership. The next article deadline is

July 7th

Send articles to:
Kamelio@ctlgroup.com
SWE CRS Newsletter Editor

