

PD Conference Attendees Explore New Horizons

Written by Rebecca Miller

On Saturday, March 20th, women engineers from Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin gathered at Abbott Laboratories to enjoy the section's annual Professional Development Conference. The conference, Explore New Horizons... Rise To Your Full Potential was designed to help attendees further their skills personally, professionally and technically. And thanks to Abbott Laboratories, we did it in first-class comfort. Morning breakfast and coffee was provided by Abbott before we started with the motivating Keynote speaker, Missy Cummings. See Amy Theis' article (page six) for more information on this inspiring former Navy fighter pilot.

After the keynote address the remainder of the conference sessions were divided into three simultaneous tracks focused on personal, professional and technical development. Julissa Sirchis also provided the attendees resume critiquing at our SWE Resume Center, picture at right. The technical tracks were designed to apply to a wide range of disciplines, featuring the "LITENING II Targeting Pod" which is being used in Operation Iraqi Freedom from Craig Boyd, "Overview of the Biotechnology Industry, Past, Present and Future" from Jodi Flax, and "The Basics of Web Page Design" offered by Chris LaFortune.

The professional sessions provided a wide range of value from "Do I really need an MBA?" with Kristin Kraai-Keely, to networking with "Network to Your (and its!) Full Potential" with Lillian D. Bjorseth. Lillian was kind enough to donate a book that we raffled off at the end of the day. The last professional session was "Company Finances: How Do You Contribute to the Bottom Line?" with Ruth Ann Gillis from Exelon Business Services Company, who also kindly donated 125 books, "When Your Career Means Business", to each participant.

What great fun the personal tracks were when we participated in "Pick Your Target", led by Liz Pfau of IMPACT Chicago. IMPACT Chicago is a non-profit organization that provides self-defense classes to women of the Chicago area. Gail Sussman Miller had us all "Step into New Perspectives and Take Action" in her fun session as Frank Oddo gave us financial advice in "Plan For Your Future - Focus on Today."

The closing of the conference was provided by Micki Lewis in "Defining Inner Strengths to Achieve External Greatness." Micki also donated a book that we raffled off at the end of the day. The conference was a huge success with many comments pointing to the quality of speakers and the first-rate service Abbott provides. We couldn't have organized such a great event without a great team, so Thank You to the PD Conference Committee for your dedication. Many thanks to our company sponsors as well: Abbott Laboratories, BorgWarner, The Boeing Company and Northrop Grumman.

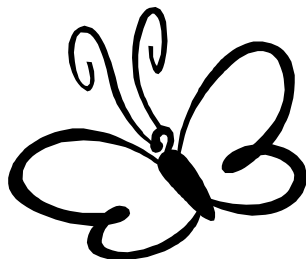
It's not too late to provide any additional comments, questions, or speaker ideas for next year. Just email us at swechicago@yahoo.com.



president's letter

Mayling Wong, SWE-CRS President

I cannot believe it is early April already! This past weekend I spent a day at the Girl Scout Badge Workshop, titled "What a Girl Can Be." The event was very large in scope, where over 500 girls, ages 5 through 14, attended. The workshop took place at the Joliet Junior College. As one of the technical volunteers, I helped with two events. In the morning I helped Brownies (ages 6-8) and Junior Girl Scouts (ages 8-11) make small, simple motors out of a battery, a refrigerator magnet, two paper clips, and copper wire. You should have seen the delight in the girls' faces when they watched their assembly work in the end. One girl commented, "I cannot wait to show this to my brother. He says I cannot make anything, but now I can show him what made!" In fact, I liked the motors so much, I made one for myself to take home. The teacher leading the activity did a great job explaining to the girls how to make the motors and encouraging them during the process. He was also very enthusiastic in meeting a women engineer who volunteered to help him. In the afternoon I helped the Brownies make "Butterflies" out of coffee filters. The girls drew simple designs on the coffee filters and then dipped the filter in water. They watched the water draw the colors together to make a "stained" design, witnessing colors mix as a simple application of chromatography. Gathering the filter up in folds, then clipping in the middle, the girls spread the wings of the butterfly to complete the project. They made two butterflies: one to keep, and one to send with a note to a soldier serving in Iraq. Throughout the day, I met other SWE-Chicago volunteers and technical volunteers from all walks of life.



Time is flying by quickly, especially for SWE's fiscal year. We are already looking ahead to next year, which starts on July 1. This all means that it is that time of year again: SWE elections. At the national level, ballots are available for election of the next Board of Directors, two members of the Board of Trustees, and the Region H Governor. Three members from the Chicago Regional Section are on the ballot: Anne Lucietto for Treasurer, Kathy Cunningham for Trustee, and Nora Lin for Region H Governor. Show your support for your fellow members and send in your ballot! If you are a member, you should have received a letter from Betty Shanahan, SWE's Executive Director, explaining how to vote with either an electronic ballot or a paper ballot.

At the section level, the Nominating Committee was voted in

(Continued on page 4)

SWE-CRS Executive Council

Officers

President — Mayling Wong

Vice President — Deanna Heffron

Secretary — Lillian Chan

Treasurer — Diane LaFortune

Section Representatives — Nicole Eigner, Debra Evans
Wendy Landwehr

Committee Chairs

Awards — Sarah Corbin

Awards Banquet — Available

Bulk Mail — Susan Heilmann

Career Guidance — Anne Lucietto

E-mail Network — Available

Family Issues — Karen Preston-Wosniak

Finance Chair — Christy Magerkurth

IEC Representative — Cheryl Machnich, Daryl Farley Varney

Job Opportunities — Iris Adanuncio

Logo Items — Anne Lucietto

Membership — Diane Peters

Mentor — Deanna Heffron

Multicultural — Yolanda Matthews

Newsletter Editor — Katie Amelio

PD Conference — Rebecca Miller, Amy Theis

PO Box Mail Distribution — Danielle Lacko

Programs — Cecilia Pruteanu

Publicity — Rebecca Miller

Scholarship — Laurel Jasek

Strategic Planning — Nora Lin

Student Liaison — Cathy Pieronek

Voicemail — Rebecca Gorman

Webmaster — Rebecca Miller

Introduction To Online Networking

Written by Biana Babinsky

As more and more people get online, they realize that the Internet is no longer an obscure scientific playground. In fact, as an ever-increasing number of people log on, a vast array of services catering to different needs and desires of the online community are constantly appearing on the net. We all have used some of these services in real, "offline" life, but may have never realized that they could be translated (albeit slightly altered) to an online version. Popular online services include searching for a job, having groceries delivered right to your house, ordering pizza online and ... networking online.

Intrigued? What image do you conjure up when someone mentions networking? Chances are you envision a room full of name-tag-bearing people coming up to you to introduce themselves, give you their business card (and the ever-important 30 second speech) and generally mingle. How does all of this work online? There is a wide variety of avenues to network online, ranging from the highly interactive, like chat rooms, to delayed mechanisms like newsgroups, message boards, and a mushrooming number of sites tirelessly trying to prove that there really are only six degrees of separation between all of us. Typically, these online meeting places are designed to attract a particular interest group and are limited to certain topics. To mingle, you introduce yourself, and then offer your opinion on topics that interest you, ask questions and share ideas.

There are two distinct kinds of online networking: one is social networking, which includes finding dates, pen pals, and activity partners, such as somebody to complete your Thursday night's bridge game. Social networking enables you to exchange recipes, discuss the latest sushi-making techniques, find other Lord of the Rings fans, and locate singles groups in your area. Let us pause as we bring you a public service announcement: use common sense. It is very easy to create an online personality that is distinct from the offline one. If you decide to meet your online acquaintances in person, do so in a group setting in a public place.

The other kind is business networking, something that all business owners should participate in on a regular basis to promote their professional efforts. You can get exactly the same (or better!) results by participating in online networking as you might by face-to-face networking. Meet other business owners, discuss how to promote your company and industry better, offer advice, submit your articles to be published, talk about your business, and much, much more! Blatant self-promotion is discouraged, but subtle hints about the obvious superiority of your products and services may net you new clients.

The growth and continued well-being of a business, whether online or off is predicated on developing long-term, productive relationships with other business owners and individuals in your target market. Such relationships are invaluable, as people who like you and are confident in the quality of your products or services will be eager to recommend your business to other prospects in your target market. Most likely you would have never met these potential clients otherwise. Word-of-mouth advertising really does work, as long as you do it right!

Online business networking is an exciting new way to expand the growth potential and support systems of your business. In future articles we will discuss business networking in depth, venues for business networking, setting goals and expectations, and everyone's favorite: getting results from business networking!

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Biana Babinsky is the Principal of Avocado Consulting, Inc. Avocado Consulting provides superior online marketing services, user-friendly web design, and innovative technical consulting. For more information and to subscribe to our Newsletter, visit us at <http://www.avocadoconsulting.com>.

president's letter (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

by the membership at the Professional Development Conference on March 20. Cecilia Pruteanu is the Chair, and Anne Lucietto, Karen Preston-Wozniak, and Nelly Sanchez make up the voting members of the committee. The committee is working hard on putting together the ballot of next year's officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Section Representatives). Are you interested in serving as an officer? Do you know someone who you can recommend? If so, contact Cecilia so that the committee can make the appropriate contacts. The Nominating Committee must have ballots ready to present to the membership by April 30.

Be sure to cast your ballot! This is my plug to encourage you to vote. This is the time that you have direct say on the future of SWE-Chicago – take advantage of it!



SWE Web Seminars

On March 2, 2004 SWE had a web seminar, "Advance Your Career from the Cubicle to the Corporate Office," by Ms. Deb Grubbe with DuPont. SWE has provided a link where you can register to hear a replay of the seminar - go to www.swe.org, then click on the appropriate link.

This seminar is the first of a series organized by the National Professional Development Committee.

Women's Network at Work: A SWE-CRS/Motorola Panel Discussion

SWE-CRS and Motorola will have a joint event titled "Women's Networks at Work." This will be a panel discussion on women's networking groups in the workplace. Panelists from Chicago-area companies will share the format and nature of groups in their companies. Whether you are interested in starting up a new group or in learning about new ideas in how your group can network, please join us for this discussion and question/answer session.

WHEN: Thursday, May 13
6:30pm - 8:30pm

WHERE: Motorola, Schaumburg, IL

RSVP: Email swechicago@yahoo.com or phone 312-409-1978. For more information, contact Mayling Wong at swechicago@yahoo.com

SWE CRS Annual Awards Banquet

Friday June 18, 2004
Hyatt Lodge in Oakbrook

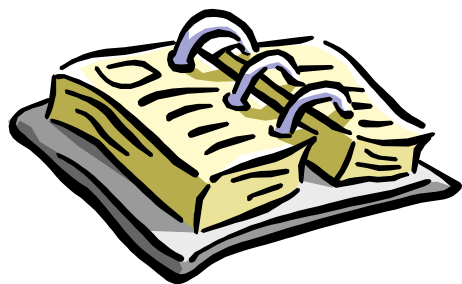
Guest Speaker is
Rodica A. Baranescu, Ph.D.
Manager Fuels and Lubricants Engine Group
International Truck and Engine Corporation

National SWE Officer Elections



Make your voice heard. Please follow the instructions in the letter sent by Betty Shanahan to SWE members for casting your vote.

Upcoming Events



UIUC Symposium on Gender in the Science, Mathematics, and Technology Pre-College Classroom

The Women in Engineering program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign will host the first annual **UIUC Symposium on Gender in the Science, Mathematics, and Technology Pre-College Classroom** for current and pre-service educators, administrators, and policy advocates on **Friday, April 23, 2004** on the UIUC campus.

Featuring AAUW researcher Dr. David Sadker (<http://www.american.edu/sadker/bio.htm>), this free practitioner-focused event is aimed at providing future and current educators and stakeholders with important tools and perspective that will allow them to understand and effectively encourage the potential of their female students within science, mathematics, and technology.

Registration is required, and enrollment space is limited. However, generous campus sponsorship allows this important development opportunity to be free, and open to all in-state future and local educators and stakeholders.

More information and registration is available at <http://www.wie.uiuc.edu/april2004genderconference.htm>, or by contacting Aimee Rickman at arickman@uiuc.edu.

Tour of the Museum of Science & Industry

There will be a trip to the Museum of Science and Industry on Saturday, April 24 from 1 pm to 3 pm. All members and their families are welcome. Admission for the first 20 people to sign up will be free. Sign ups can be emailed to Lisa Ordenez or Cecilia Pruteanu. Email them directly if you have their address, or swechicago@yahoo.com. Web sign-ups will be available by Monday April 12th.

Networking in the Western Suburbs

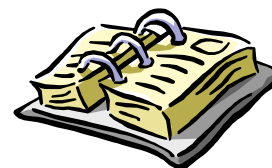
Back by popular demand, a Networking Night in the Western Suburbs will take place on Thursday, April 29. We will meet at the Rock Bottom Brewery in Warrenville at 6:30pm for a quick tour of the brewery, then sit down to good food and drink. RSVP to Mayling Wong at swechicago@yahoo.com by Tuesday, April 27. Hope you see you then!

G.A.M.E.S Summer Camp

The Women in Engineering Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will be host the seventh annual Girls' Adventures in Mathematics, Engineering, and Science (G.A.M.E.S.) Structures and Computer Science residential summer camps on the UIUC campus August 8-14, 2004.

The G.A.M.E.S. camps are designed to give academically talented 6th, 7th, and 8th grade young women opportunities to actively explore engineering and computer science in challenging learning environments with supportive role models.

Please visit www.wie.uiuc.edu/games for more information and registration.



Region H Conference Recap

Written by Wendy Landwehr

The Region H Conference was held February 6-7 in Madison, WI. The University of Wisconsin, Madison hosted the event. Seven Chicago Regional Section members attended. The professionals all agreed the students made the right choice by having the conference at the Concourse Hotel and putting the professionals on the Governor's club floors. The rooms were very nice, some of them with a view of the Capital. There was a common room that hosted a nice continental breakfast, a happy hour with free drinks and a dessert bar. It was a great place to socialize after the conference events. It was nice to "catch up" with the other women in Region H.

The conference started with a Hawaiian theme casino night on Friday night where some lucky students won some nice raffle prizes. The Student Region H meeting was bright and early Saturday morning. Naomi Brill gave the Student transition team report and the student COR and newsletter editor were elected. The competition for hosting the 2005 conference had Notre Dame competing against University of Iowa. We will be going to Notre Dame for the conference next year.

Three Section Vitality sessions were lead by Jennie Darnell, Region H Section vitality coach and the three Student section vitality coaches. The subjects covered were: Succession Planning, Leadership and "Benefits of SWE". The last session of the day was the professional Region H meeting where Naomi Brill, Region H Director, had a full agenda. We voted on the nominating committee chair and the committee was formed. Other subjects included the new region bylaws, Region H awards program, Section Vitality status and a report from the latest BOD meeting.

The festivities ended with the traditional banquet and a dynamic speaker, Antoinette Gawin former CEO of IMV, a General Electric Digital Energy acquisition based in Switzerland. We were serenaded by the "U of W Madhatters," a men's A Cappella group. It was time to socialize again after the banquet. Altogether the conference was a great event. It is a great venue to get to know our fellow Region H'ers. We are looking forward to Notre Dame in '05.

PD Conference Keynote Soars

Written by Amy Theis

It was a pleasure for us to have Mary (Missy) Cummings join us for this year's annual Professional Development Conference. She is currently the Boeing Assistant Professor at MIT and a former Naval fighter pilot. During her talk, she shared the progression of her career, including highlights, challenges and lessons learned.

Two of her career highlights were landing a jet for the first time on an aircraft carrier and graduating with her Master's degree. She said that obtaining her Master's degree instilled a sense of confidence in her that she did not have when she graduated with her bachelor's degree. Although none of us will probably ever be able to do it, she said there is no rush like landing a jet on an aircraft carrier. Her story was both inspiring and challenging - challenging us to do our best and also inspiring us that we can!

She has written a book entitled "Hornets Nest" and it is available for FREE download from the web at <http://www.authorsden.com/visit/viewwork.asp?id=663>. I encourage you all to check it out. If the book is half as good as her talk, it will be amazing!

We thank Missy for being with us and encouraging us to soar to new heights!



SWE-CRS Member Profiles

Biana Babinsky

Biana went to high school and got her Bachelors degree on the East Coast, but decided to explore the Midwest for graduate school and has been in the Midwest ever since. She holds a BS from Cornell and an MS from Purdue. Both degrees are in Computer Science. She has worked as a Software Engineer at United Airlines for a while, and she enjoyed being challenged to use innovative technology to solve business problems. In 2002 Biana opened her own business, Avocado Consulting, Inc. She specializes in helping business owners solve business problems through effective use of technology, web design and online marketing. She also writes articles and gives presentations, covering a wide range of topics, including online marketing, networking and business ownership.

Biana has always been passionate about bringing more women into engineering, science and technology fields, and she has been a part of SWE since college. Back then regularly returned to her old high school to encourage girls to choose careers in science and engineering. She is looking forward to being involved with SWE and getting to know Chicago SWE members.

Nora Lin

Nora was born and raised in Taiwan and came to the United States in 1976. She holds both BS and MS degrees in Physics. She started her career as a Scientific Programmer at McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing-St. Louis) and later became a Software Engineer, Software Manager, and is now the Manager of Supportability Engineering at the Northrop Grumman Rolling Meadows Site. She loves working in the engineering industry because there is never a lack of challenges and problems to solve.

Being part of SWE has been a great experience for Nora. She joined SWE in 1997 and, through her involvement, has found many role models and made many good friends. SWE inspires her to achieve her potential, allows her to enhance her professional skills, and gives her more self-confidence
. Nora has also enjoyed working with many talented SWE members on various projects.

Nora is a past Section President (FY01) and has served as the Region H Leadership Coach in FY02 and FY03. Currently, she is the section's Strategic Planning Committee Chair and the SWE Section Vitality Task Force chair. She has also initiated a company-wide SWE group within Northrop Grumman Corporation and currently serves as chair of that group. She also works closely with SWE student sections in Illinois and Indiana via her company's outreach and recruiting programs. With the section's election just around the corner, Nora encourages members to take this opportunity to sharpen their skills by serving as an officer or committee chair. The experience in SWE is guaranteed to be fun and rewarding!

Nora is happily married to her husband, Pao, and has two daughters, Carol and Susan. Pao is a licensed real estate broker and agent and has his own real estate company. Carol is a past SWE-CRS scholarship recipient and earned a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in 2002. Susan, despite her Mom and sister's influences, graduated from Northwestern University with a double major in Communications and Economics in 2003. While Carol and Susan are currently working and enjoying their independent lives, their parents are enjoying the days of no tuition payments!!! ☺

If you would like to submit a member profile, please send an e-mail to the SWE-CRS newsletter editor at kamelio@CTLgroup.com. A member profile is an easy way for SWE-CRS members to get to know one another.

FIRST Robotics Competition

Northwestern University, March 2004

Written by Mayling Wong

The setting could come from a March Madness game: The arena is filled with excited fans cheering on their players. The music is pumping up the crowd. The players work the balls intently during the fast-paced competition, showing that this game is definitely a contact sport. This is not a college basketball game. It is the scene of the FIRST Midwest Regional Robotics Competition, which took place at Northwestern University's McGaw Hall on March 25-27, sort of a March Madness for the Mind. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition is a nationwide program. The Midwest Regional Competition brought fifty-two high school teams from eleven states and one team from Brazil to the Windy City. Winners of the regional competition will go on to Atlanta for the National Championship on April 15-17.

In January, each team received a kit containing parts and software for their robots. The teams then had 42 days to build a robot for the competition. During the competition, an alliance of two robots went head-to-head with another alliance in a two-minute competition. Human "drivers" remotely controlled the robot. Scoring happened in one of three ways: The robot moved 13-inch diameter balls to an opening in the field wall so that a human from the team could take the ball and shoot it into a basket in the field. Points were earned for every ball in the basket. The robot also earned points by picking up one 30-inch ball and placing it on top of a stand that is 8-feet tall. Finally, the robot could maneuver itself so that it grabbed onto a bar that is 10-feet in the air and raise itself above a 6-inch platform that sat underneath the bar. The playing field was 48-feet by 24-feet.

Due to the complexity of the robot assemblies, adult mentors, usually an engineer, coached the teams. Students learned in a team setting how to create and read engineering drawings, program in C, assemble and test their robots. Watching the competition play out, I witnessed a lot of offensive and defensive strategy, depending on the strengths of the robots. I also witnessed great cooperation between teams on and off the playing field. For instance, in between games, when the announcement went out that a team needed an extra part, something like five teams ran over with the part and a lot of help. Companies and universities provided economic and professional support by sponsoring a team.

Ten years ago FIRST began with a robotics competition in New Hampshire involving 28 teams. Today over 800 nationwide and international participate. Seeing how much fun and excitement the students had at Northwestern University this spring, I wish FIRST was around when I was in high school so that I could participate on a team. Perhaps next year, I will look into mentoring a team or organizing an event. Hope to see you around as well! For more information about FIRST (video clips of competitions, ways to volunteer, sponsorship information), check out their website: www.usfirst.org

"How SWEet It Is"

2005 Region H Conference

The Notre Dame student chapter of SWE is in the midst of planning the 2005 Region H Conference for the weekend of February 11-13, 2005, and would like to extend an advance invitation to all professionals involved in the Chicago Regional Section. A particular focus of this year's planning committee is to make the 2005 conference equally exciting for professionals and students, so the conference chairs would greatly appreciate any input that would help in fulfilling this goal. Specific areas of interest are the Saturday sessions and weekend entertainment.

For instance, there will be three tracks for the Saturday sessions: technical, personal, and professional. Are there any specific session topics (within or aside from these disciplines) that you would find especially interesting or informative? Would you like to present in one of the sessions? Furthermore, do you have any preferences in terms of entertainment? Are there aspects of past conferences that you have found particularly enjoyable or in need of improvement?

The conference planning committee greatly appreciates any input that you may give toward the coordination of a "SWEet" 2005 Region H Conference. Please reply to RegionH_2005@yahoo.com with any suggestions.

Volunteer Opportunities

On-going - Helping to organize SWE National Conference in Milwaukee, WI:

SWE-Wisconsin is looking ahead to hosting the National Conference in Milwaukee on October 7-9, 2004. Please email them at swewi@idcnet.com if you are interested in helping with the National Conference!

Your response is requested...

The PD Conference Committee is collecting information on why attendance has dropped in recent years. If you didn't attend the PD Conference and would like to share information as to why, please contact us at swechicago@yahoo.com. All comments will be collected and kept anonymous.

SWE-CRS Section Awards



It is time once again to start thinking about nominating your fellow volunteers for the SWE CRS section awards. These will be presented at our annual awards banquet on June 18. There are several awards categories to allow us to recognize different contributions to SWE. The categories include career guidance, membership, and communications, as well as newcomer awards and long time service awards. I'll send out an email announcement when all of the information is posted on the website. Nominations will be due May 7, 2004. If you want more information or you are interested in helping with the awards committee, please contact Sarah Corbin at sarah_corbin@baxter.com.

May Planning Meeting

Date: Saturday, May 22nd, 2004
9:30 ~ 11:30 AM

Place: Deanna Heffron's house in
Evergreen Park

RSVP: Required by Thursday, May 20th.
RSVP via e-mail (swechicago@yahoo.com) to receive directions.

During the planning meeting, we'll discuss the Chicago Regional Section's financial status, upcoming events, committee activities, etc.. All officers, representatives and committee chairs are encouraged to attend, and all members are welcome.



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.

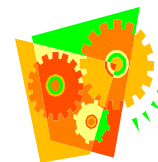
Nora M. Bertram
Lauren C. Davis
Anne M. Knurek
Devanxi B. Shah
Michelle M. Wilson
Ingrid Del Wright
Chenn Qian Zhou
Lisa M. Zurawski



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

May 14th

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





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Printing and mailing of this newsletter are generously supported by: