



The

Windy City Wire

Society of Women Engineers Chicago Regional Section

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www.societyofwomenengineers.org/chicago

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National Engineers Week - Local Contest

Written by Rebecca Miller

Every year the women engineers at Northrop Grumman, many of whom are SWE members, help celebrate National Engineers Week with a contest. In the past, they have put on a popular Paper Airplane Contest. This year they put together a series of four contests: two that required preparation from home beforehand, and two walk-up contests. One of the walk-up contests featured building a boat out of clay. The boat that held the most weight (138.4 grams) won. The second walk-up contest was a brain teaser, where the contestants answered engineering-related questions the fastest.

The two do-ahead contests were building a bridge out of only spaghetti and glue, and to develop the software that would be used to judge those bridges. The software took a series of inputs - the bridge height, weight, length, style points and maximum load and calculated the winner. SWE member Rebecca Miller won the software contest. The highlight of the contest was definitely adding bags of sand to the bridges to see which held the maximum load. Even the weakest bridge held over 30 pounds, with the strongest bridge holding an amazing 208 pounds! SWE member and UIC Electrical Engineering student Preetha Thomas was on the team that built the bridge that held the 208 pounds. Not even 40 pounds of sand bags and a 25 pound bag of sugar could break the bridge. She is pictured with her Northrop Grumman teammates sitting on her bridge. Her team took home second place.



Call for Volunteers for the FIRST Midwest Regional Robotics Competition

Get ready to RUMBLE!!! The Robotics way, that is!!! The FIRST Midwest Regional Robotics Competition on March 25, 26 and 27. We are seeking volunteers to make this annual event a success. 56 teams representing 10 states will compete in this high energy robotic sporting event.

This year the competition will be held at Northwestern University's Welsh Ryan Arena, located at 2705 North Ashland Avenue in Evanston. Volunteers are needed on Thursday, March 25 for the practice rounds and on Friday, March 26 and Saturday, March 27 for the competition.

Volunteers are needed in many areas, including:

Referees	Announcers (Pit & Game)	Awards Assistant	Field Attendants
Field Repair/Reset	Team Queuing	Robot Inspectors	Pit Administration
Pit Technical Support	Registration/Information Table	Crowd Control	

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president's letter

Mayling Wong, SWE-CRS President

Hello, Chicago Regional Section of SWE! I write this column as National Engineers Week is wrapping up. SWE was involved with students at the DuPage Engineers Week event on February 28 at IIT-Wheaton. Over 250 children of all ages stopped by the SWE booth to participate in the ScavEngineer Hunt. They "hunted" for different types of engineers throughout the event so they could interview them. When they completed the hunt, they won a prize! Even though Engineers Week is over, volunteer opportunities to work with students are coming up throughout the next two months! You can judge a robotics contest for high schoolers at FIRST (more information at www.usfirst.org) during March 25-27. You can explain engineering concepts with activities at the Girl Scout Badge Workshop on April 3. You can speak to students during their school's Career Day or their Science Fair. Stay tuned with upcoming SWE-CRS email.

In addition to K-12 students, SWE-CRS helps students who decide to pursue engineering. SWE-CRS, along with corporate sponsors, will give out \$1500 scholarships to next year's freshmen or re-entry engineering college students. Applications are available online (www.swe.org/chicago/scholarship.html) and are due March 15. SWE-CRS members volunteer to judge the applications. Applications are rated using a standard system that all judges use. Scholarship winners are then announced at our June 18 Awards Banquet. If you are interested in judging scholarship applications, please contact Laurel Jasek (email swechicago@yahoo.com).

SWE-CRS also recognizes current engineering students who are members of their campus SWE Student Section. Time and time again, I find that SWE student members are very enthusiastic about engineering and show their enthusiasm with high energy activities. Despite their rigorous studies, they work to organize events and programs that advocate engineering and better themselves, their peers, and their greater community. Examples of such events include: corporate representative campus visits, mentor programs with professional engineers and a panel discussion with professional engineers about working. For this reason, we award a student section in recognition of their achievements during the year. The winning section receives \$450 that goes towards their general activities and is recognized at our Awards Banquet. Applications are available on our website (www.swe.org/chicago) and are due May 1.

For professional and student members alike, the month of March brings our annual Professional Development Confer-

(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

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Awards Banquet — Available

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Career Guidance — Anne Lucietto

E-mail Network — Available

Family Issues — Karen Preston-Wosniak

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IEC Representative — Cheryl Machnich, Daryl Farley Varney

Job Opportunities — Iris Adanuncio

Logo Items — Anne Lucietto

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Publicity — Rebecca Miller

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Strategic Planning — Nora Lin

Student Liaison — Cathy Pieronek

Voicemail — Rebecca Gorman

Webmaster — Rebecca Miller



Society of Women Engineers
Chicago Regional Section
Professional Development Conference
Saturday, March 20th
Abbott Laboratories, Abbott Park, IL

Register by March 8, 2004 to receive an early-registration discount!

Keynote Address: Achieving Is All About Believing

Missy Cummings will discuss her career progression from a small town southern belle to the military warrior ranks as one of the U.S. Navy's first female fighter pilots, and how this amazing experience led to a career as an engineering professor. She will emphasize her lessons learned and how they apply to careers in engineering, and will conclude with a discussion of how every individual can achieve their true potential.

Mary (Missy) Cummings received her B.S. in Mathematics from the United States Naval Academy in 1988, her M.S. in Space Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1994, and her Ph.D. in Systems Engineering from the University of Virginia in 2003. A naval officer and military pilot from 1988-1999, she was one of the Navy's first female fighter pilots. She is currently the Boeing Assistant Professor in the Aeronautics & Astronautics Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Closing session by Micki Lewis: Defining Inner Strengths to Achieve External Greatness

Professional Track:

Do I really need an MBA? And, what do I have to do to get one?!
Network to Your (and its!) Full Potential
Company Finances: How Do You Contribute to the Bottom Line?

Technical Track:

LITENING II Targeting Pod
Overview of the Biotechnology Industry, Past, Present and Future
The Basics of Web Page Design

Personal Track:

Plan For Your Future – Focus on Today
Pick your Target
Step into New Perspectives and Take Action

Also Available: Resume critiquing

For more information and to register:
<http://www.swe.org/chicago>

president's letter (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

ence, coming up on the 20th. I am proud of the committee who organized this event. They put together an exciting day-long program. I look forward to hearing what Missy Cummings, our keynote speaker, has to share with regards to her experiences, which includes being one of the Navy's first female fighter pilots and currently as an engineering professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. There are a variety of one-hour seminars that fall under professional, technical, or personal topics which aim to help attendees "Explore New Horizons and Rise to Your Full Potential." The conference is a great time to meet engineers and students from all over the section, even from all over the Midwest. Once again, Abbott Labs is hosting the event with a great setting and providing us a delicious lunch. I encourage you to check out this year's program. Details are posted online (www.swe.org/chicago/pdconf4/index.htm). Perhaps you will learn about a new skill which can further your job or career. Perhaps you will catch up with old friends that you have not seen in a while. Perhaps you will walk away with a new book that one of the speakers is giving to each attendee (so I hear...). In any case, I hope to see you on March 20.

Here is a bit of news about the section's membership: As of January 31, the section has 266 members. This is up from 240 members at the same time last year. Our section is one of the largest in Region H! In light of our size and our close proximity to Wisconsin, it is fitting that CRS offer to help SWE-Wisconsin as they start preparing for the SWE National Conference, coming up on October 14-16, 2004 in Milwaukee. If you plan on attending the conference and would like to volunteer, contact them at swewi@idcnet.com

SWE-CRS Student Section Awards for 2003-2004

On behalf of the Chicago Regional Section (CRS) of SWE, the student sections are invited to participate in the 5th Annual Best Student Section Award program. The purpose of this program is to recognize and encourage the achievements of the area's student sections.

Please complete the **2003-2004 Best Student Section Award Entry Form** and submit with an essay to be considered for the award. The winning section will receive \$450 towards their SWE related activities and a plaque to display at their school.

The application must be **postmarked by May 1, 2004** and sent to the following address:

Society of Women Engineers
Student Liaison Committee
PO Box 309
Yorkville, IL 60560

Just for submitting an application, each section is invited to send three representatives as guests of CRS to our annual **Awards Banquet** to be held on **Friday, June 18, 2004**. The winning section will be announced and awarded during a ceremony at the banquet. Formal banquet invitations will be sent in early May. The banquet information will also be available on our website, <http://www.swe.org/chicago>. You may RSVP via the website or voice mail, (312-409-1978) at least two weeks prior to the banquet date. Any questions can be directed to Cathy Pieronek, CRS Student Section Liaison.

Network Luncheon In Northwestern Indiana

Date: Saturday, April 17, 2004

Time: 12:00 to 2:30 pm

Location: Purdue University – Calumet's cafeteria

Cost: Cost of the lunch

Do you sometimes feel that you are not connected with the Chicago Regional Section because you live in Northwestern Indiana? Do you feel you cannot participate in our section's activities because of the locations of the events? Do you want to meet our section's President, officers and/or committee chairs and share with them your needs, ideas and suggestions? If you live in Illinois, do you sometime wonder exactly how many members we have in Northwestern Indiana area and who those members are?

If your answer to any of the above questions is YES, this event is designed for you. We will meet in the cafeteria of Purdue University – Calumet. Lunch will be catered from a nearby restaurant. Participants will share the cost of the food and the estimated cost is about \$10. Please RSVP to Nora Lin no later than Thursday, 4/15/04 by sending an email to nora.lin@swe.org or leaving a voice message at 312-409-1978.

SWE-CRS Executive Advisory Board (EAB) Meeting

TOPIC: Benefits My Company Has Received When Supporting SWE

WHEN: Tuesday, March 30, 2004, 4-6 pm

WHERE: GM-EMD, 9301 W. 55th Street, LaGrange, IL
(The U.S. Headquarters Building in the Customer Conference Center)

Do you ever wonder why your company should support the Society of Women Engineers and how your company will benefit when doing it? Please come and join the SWE-CRS upcoming EAB meeting with our industry partners. Representatives from **Boeing, GM-Electro Motive Division and Northrop Grumman** will share their experiences in supporting SWE. A Q&A session will follow the presentations as well. This meeting will be a great opportunity to learn how other companies are connected with SWE and how they benefit from it. Bring your boss as well as representatives from your HR department too!

Please **RSVP to Marika Alexakis by Friday, March 26th via email (swechicago@yahoo.com) or phone 312-409-1978 (voice mail). Directions will be provided after RSVP.**

Robotics Competition (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

The FIRST Robotics Competition is an exciting, nationwide competition that teams professionals and young people to solve an engineering design problem in an intense and competitive way. The program is a life-changing, career-molding experience-and a lot of fun. In 2004 the competition will reach more than 20,000 students on over 800 teams in 24 competitions. Our teams come from Canada, Brazil, the U.K., and almost every U.S. State. The competitions are high-tech spectator sporting events, the result of lots of focused brainstorming, real-world teamwork, dedicated mentoring, project timelines, and deadlines. You can find out much more about this exciting opportunity at <http://www.usfirst.org/robotics>.

To volunteer, please register at <http://www.usfirst.org/volunteer/>. Registration as a volunteer is a three step process. From the link above, you can request a password. After receiving the password, return to the link above, log-in and complete your user profile by filling out the required items such as phone number and contact information. Once your user profile is complete, click on "Express Signup for FRC Event", indicate your availability and desired positions. **BE SURE TO SELECT "Midwest Regional"** as your desired event. We recognize that this registration process is a bit lengthy and are working to simplify it. In the interim, if you have any problems registering, please drop us an email and we will help get your registration completed.

Thank you -- we welcome you to be a part of the team!

Barb Marutzky, FIRST Midwest Regional Volunteer Coordinator, 847-538-5315, cbm017@motorola.com

Last Call for Nominations Golden Family Award

2005 Region H Conference

When: February 11-13, 2005

Where: University of Notre Dame

The University of Notre Dame student chapter will be hosting the 2005 Region H conference, February 11-13, 2005. Our students competed against the students from the University of Iowa to host the event, and we'd love to have terrific representation from the SWE-CRS professional section.

The Family Issues Committee of the Chicago Regional Section of SWE will be granting its 8th annual Golden Family Award this year. 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 small, medium and large companies is asked to provide information about the 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 company will be recognized at our SWE annual awards banquet on June 18, 2004 along with numerous articles in SWE publications. We are also working on recognition in an article in the Chicago Tribune. If you would like to nominate your company or if you are interested in this committee please contact Karen Preston at karen.prestonwoz@interlync.com or call (847) 452-2989 for more information. The submission due date on all entries is March 20th, 2004, so please hurry to get your company submitted prior to the middle of March!

SWE-CRS at DuPage Engineers Week February 28, 2004



Nora Lin, Lillian Chan, and Amy Theis explain the Scav-Engineer Hunt. On the table are some of the prizes that the children win if they complete the ScavEngineer Hunt. Many thanks to all of the corporations who donated the prizes.



Children interview Elaine Petkovsek and Carrie Clancy to learn about environmental and electrical engineering as part of the ScavEngineer Hunt.

Best Wishes to the Jones Family



Baby Jones Has Arrived!

Date: January 20, 2004
Time: 6:48 PM
Name: Emily Ruth
Weight: 7 pounds 5 oz
Length: 20 inches

Emily, Holly and Bill are happy and healthy.

Volunteer Opportunities

Scholarship judging:

Volunteers are needed to judge Scholarship applications. We are asking you to read up to 5 applications and use our standard rating system. This takes about 2 hours of time. We are looking for judges to help in the last part of March or the first part of April. To sign up, please contact Laurel Jasek at swechicago@yahoo.com

March 25-27: CALL FOR FIRST ROBOTICS MIDWEST REGIONAL VOLUNTEERS

Get ready to RUMBLE!!! The Robotics way, that is!!! The FIRST Midwest Regional Robotics Competition on March 25, 26 and 27. We are seeking volunteers to make this annual event a success. See front page of this newsletter for more details.

April 3 - Girl Scout Badge Workshop, Joliet, IL

On April 3 from 9 to 4 we need you! Engineers, techs, techies or scientists! Can you come part of the day? Is your spouse, significant other or parent also a techie? Bring them too... we need all of you! There is a Girl Scout Badge Workshop planned with almost 600 girls signed up! Come support the Chicago Regional Section of SWE in organizing and helping with this event. The location is an easy on/off of I55 or I 80. It's 40 minutes from Schaumburg, 50 minutes from downtown Chicago and 30 minutes or less from the Indiana state line! If you have any questions or just want to sign up... contact me at anne.lucietto@swe.org! Lunch is free too!

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!



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.

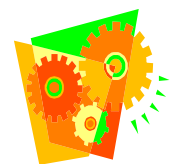
Erin L. Dugan
Jenene M. Francis
Karin M. Grage
Sarah L. Melsen
Ana Nikolla
Alwyn M. Sekhri
Cleopatra Felicia Wilkins
Deborah Lynn Zanchó



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

April 2nd

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





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