

Illinois Engineering Council Awards Banquet



SWE members who attended the Illinois Engineering Council Banquet (from left to right) Iris Adanuncio, Cheryl Machnich, Diane Peters and Karen Preston-Wosniak

Written by Diane Peters



At its 65th annual Awards Banquet, the Illinois Engineering Council (IEC) honored four outstanding engineering achievements, with a fifth project receiving an honorable mention. The four winning projects were the Wacker Drive Reconstruction Project, the modernization of the Roseland Pumping Station, the Repair and Rehabilitation of Robert Rathbun Wilson Hall at FermiLab, and the cleanup of a CTA Bus Garage. Honorable Mention went to the Gateway Center Parking Facility in Palatine, Illinois. The evening also featured a talk by Dr. Lawrence Kennedy, Dean of Engineering and Professor of Mechanical and Chemical Engineering at UIC, on our society's growing need for energy, the challenges we face in meeting this need, and what the future may hold in this respect.

Future City Competition

Each year, Future City invites young people across the United States to create a city of tomorrow. What began in 1992 as a modest outreach program by the nation's engineering community to encourage interest in math and science has grown tenfold to become one of the most popular educational programs of its kind. More than 1,000 middle schools will field teams at one of 36 regional competitions in January. First place regional winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to national finals in Washington, D.C., during National Engineers Week, February 22-28, 2004. Grand prize is a trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

Working with a teacher and volunteer engineer mentor, students first design a city on computer using SimCity 3000 software, donated to each school by Maxis, based in Walnut Creek, Calif., and then build a three-dimensional scale model. This year, they must also write an essay on improving the lives of senior citizens through the use of plastic products or services. Competition organizers say the needs of seniors are an especially timely theme since the over-60 population is the nation's

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president's letter

Mayling Wong, SWE-CRS President

Fall is upon us. Children are back in school, the air is cooler, and apples & corn are in season. For SWE-Chicago Regional Section (CRS), September means the traditional program titled Get to Know SWE. This program is a great way for newcomers to learn about the organization and its benefits. One of my favorite parts of the program is hearing testimonies of current members on how they have benefited. As an example, allow me to tell you about a recent event at work where the outcome was influenced by my own SWE experience:

One of my projects is overseeing the installation of a system that scientists will use to study sub-atomic particles called neutrinos. The system requires accurate placement of large magnets (the largest of length 20-feet and weight 26,000-pounds) and a vacuum line through the magnets. I receive input from various people (scientists, engineers, task managers) on different aspects of the system. It came to my attention that the project manager and the engineer who specified the vacuum system had a difference of opinion on a technical issue. I approached the project manager, who is also my boss, to ask about the difference. By the end of the conversation, we agreed that he and the vacuum engineer would resolve the issue and return to me with specifications that they both agree on. The three of us are part of a team that is working towards a common goal. It is important that we are specific when communicating our own expectations with our team members. I learned this from working in a team setting while serving in SWE committees. My experience in a volunteer setting greatly helps me in my daily work interactions.



There are many exciting things happening in SWE this fall. I will highlight three items: the start of the Job Opportunities email list, Monthly Programs planning and the SWE National Conference. Be sure to look in the Job Tips & Advice Column to learn details of a new feature:

the job opportunity email list. The job opportunity email list came about due to teamwork and communication among SWE-CRS members. It had come to my attention that there is a need for a way to announce seminars and opportunities in a timely fashion for our members who are seeking a job. Yet, in order to be sensitive to our corporate partners, we did not want to use the current SWE-CRS email list as a venue. So I placed the issue on the agenda of our August officer conference call. As a result of a brainstorming session among the officers and inquiries to other members of the Executive Council, the Job Oppor-

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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 — Available

Career Guidance — Anne Lucietto

E-mail Network — Available

Family Issues — Karen Preston-Wosniak

Finance Chair — Available

IEC Representative — Cheryl Machnich, Daryl Farley
Varney

Job Opportunities — Iris Adanuncio

Logo Items — Anne Lucietto

Membership — Diane Peters

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Strategic Planning — Nora Lin

Student Liaison — Cathy Pieronek

Voicemail — Rebecca Gorman

Webmaster — Rebecca Miller

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events...

Plan to Attend Get to Know SWE Night

How long has it been since you've had a chance to socialize with your SWE friends? Months? A year or more? Maybe you're a new member, or a prospective member, and don't know the other members of the section yet. In any case, you'll want to pencil in "Get to Know SWE Night" on your calendar.

At this event, you'll have a chance to learn a little more about SWE-CRS, socialize with your current SWE friends, and make new friends. Food will be served, and there will be door prizes – don't miss it!

DATE: September 24, 2003

TIME: 6:00 pm – networking starts

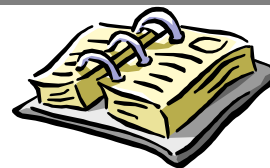
7:00 pm – formal program

(followed by more networking!)

LOCATION: Microsoft's facility in Downer's Grove, directions are on the website, or e-mail swechicago@yahoo.com to request them by fax or snail mail.

Note: while the e-mail announcement included an RSVP date of September 18, if you want to come and haven't RSVP'd yet, you can still do so. RSVP either via the section website, at <http://www.swe.org/chicago> or by phone to 312-409-1978.

Family Fun Event for December



The Family Issues Committee of the Chicago Regional Section of SWE would like to invite you to a really awesome event for *any* budding mechanical engineers out there in the great Midwest! The "Opera in Focus" will have an integrated performance of "Hansel and Gretel" for SWE on December 6th 2003 at noon in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. A *firm* commitment for this event in December is necessary! Bill Fosser is the Creator and Producer of this very interesting and unusual puppet show for young children. Mr. Fosser was the set designer for movies such as "Sting" and "Ordinary People." He has a troop of four individuals that produce a variety of performances including "Hansel and Gretel," "Madame Butterfly" and "Fiddler on the Roof." In addition to the performance, Mr. Fosser always allows the children to view his awesome stage and stringless puppets that run on a rack and pinion system. We will commence our lunch at 11:30 AM in the Banquet Hall and then afterwards enjoy the show. If you or your family would like to participate in the "Opera in Focus" performance, please contact Karen Preston at k.prestonwoz@interlync.com or (847) 452-2989 for more information. RSVP and ticket payment is due before October 31st.

Transferable Skills Seminar

You are invited to attend the "Transferable Skills Seminar" on Friday November 7th, 2003.

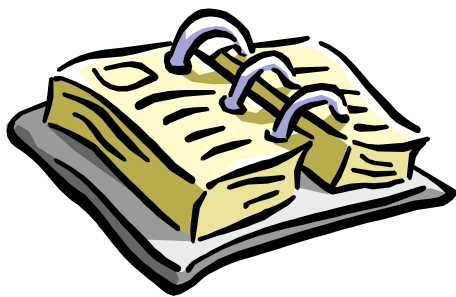
The location is going to be determined, in accordance with the number of participants for the event.

So, please make your reservations with Iris Adanuncio, e-mail: ibussjs@aol.com, by Oct 21, 2003.

The speaker, Mr. Ron Tevonian, is currently one of the Career Coaches from the Chicago Transition Center. Ron spent 40 years with AT&T and its subsidiaries, and was Director of Research and Development at Bell Laboratories in Lucent Technologies. Ron has been involved with managing all phases of a 700-person R&D organization, and was also responsible for developing improvements in classification, pay and recognition programs for technical employees.

If you are ready for a promotion, increased responsibilities, public recognition, career change or in a job transition situation, the "Transferable Skills" are the most powerful tool that will shape your new marketing strategy. Join us, November 7th, 2003, to learn how to use your skills and expertise in creating a new, improved professional image of you.

If you'd prefer to invite your husband, friend, or significant other to the event, please specify the number of people attending for your party.



Thank-you for your attention:

Iris Adanuncio
Job Opportunity Committee

president's letter (cont.)



(Continued from page 2)

tunities Committee will announce seminars and resources for job seekers to interested SWE-CRS members through its own email list.

The Programs Committee is busy planning monthly programs for the year. The group is open to ideas throughout the year, especially in areas that are outside of the Chicagoland area but within the section. Contact Cecilia Pruteanu (swechicago@yahoo.com) if you would like to help set up a program.

Can you believe that the SWE National Conference is only a few weeks away? This year's conference takes place in Birmingham, Alabama on October 9-11. The National Conference always brings inspiration and encouragement to its members as we meet so many other women engineers from all over the country. Our SWE colleagues in Birmingham are looking forward to having us. I am looking forward to their Southern hospitality as well as a great time to meet new people and learn new ideas. If you are planning to attend, then let me know so we can inform you of when and where the CRS people will meet at the conference.

Future City (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

fastest growing demographic. Creating solutions that make life better for older people is already a major concern of engineers, one likely to become only more pressing with the graying of America.

To answer the competition's essay question, "How can plastics be used to help senior citizens in the future?" the students must work within the parameters of current trends. Lower crime rates, improved living conditions, and higher education levels will result in an ever-increasing population of citizens who live longer. To deal with that reality, Future City teams must develop a product or a service using a plastic product that increases flexibility, provides additional functionality, or otherwise enhances senior citizen health and safety. The American Plastics Council, sponsors of this year's Future City essay question, notes that plastics have a wide diversity of uses and include such well-known names as Bakelite, cellophane, nylon, polyethylene, PVC, rayon, saran, Teflon and Velcro.

Registration deadline for the 2004 Future City Competition is October 15, 2003.

CONTACT: Chicago Regional Coordinator
Don Wittmer, P.E., 312-930-9119
E-mail dwittmer@hntb.com.

For more information, visit www.futurecity.org or call toll-free 1-877-636-9578.

Society of Women Engineers Supports Sarah's Inn Walkathon

Written by Karen Preston-Wosniak

The August Family Walkathon Outing for "Step Out to Stop Abuse," Sarah Inn's Walkathon was a miss this year. The weather was awesome and the food was great. However, only one participant attended the three-mile walk-a-thon on August 23rd. The purpose of the walk is to help thousands of women and children who suffer from abuse and violence. The walk's proceeds go to counseling, legal advocacy, safe refuge, health care and essential services to thousands of victims. Before you start your walk, you realize how many women and children are affected by abuse. I viewed twenty memorials of women that died last year from an abusive husband. Hopefully next year SWE can plan ahead by participating in this great event. So let's plan on attending next year and show others that SWE supports "Step Out to Stop Abuse." Thanks to Jane for trying to join me in what turned out to be an awe-inspiring day for a very worthy cause. One worthy cause can aid another by showing support. It is people who make a difference in our society. I look forward to seeing more faces next year!

The Great Chicago Networking Extravaganza

Who: Lillian Bjorseth - Duoforce Enterprises Inc. and Alec Ross - ConnectWorking

What: The Great Chicago Networking Extravaganza, sponsored by: Mid-America Club National Association of Purchasing Management-Chicago

Details:

- * Use Ice Breakers to easily meet people immediately (Get away from Yep, Nope questions).
- * Experience a taste of real-time networking exercises from each host.
- * Get acquainted with event sponsors at special tables in the networking area.
- * Set your own agenda in open networking time.
- * Rub elbows with Chicagoland area movers and shakers.
- * Hear from a panel comprised of two people who do networking for a living (Alec Ross and Lillian Bjorseth) and two who use networking to make a living:
- * Pat Ewert, regional business development manager, Adecco HR Services.
- * Jason Jacobsohn, senior business analyst, National Association of Realtors; director of group communications, YoPro, the young professionals network.
- * Moderator, Katherine Gehl, vice president, Bernstein Investment Research and Management.

Cost: \$45 - until Sept. 21, 2003, \$65 - until Oct. 19, 2003 (Light dinner included. Cash bar.)

Where: Mid-America Club - 200 E. Randolph Dr., 80th Floor, Chicago (atop the AON Building, formerly Standard Oil)

When: 5:30 -144 8:30 pm, Oct. 21, 2003

How: Register online at www.duoforce.com, fax to 630-983-5312 (both secure sites) or mail (check made out to Duoforce Enterprises, Inc.) to Duoforce Enterprises, Inc., 2221 Ridgewood Rd., PO Box 1154, Lisle IL 60532.

For more information, contact: Lillian at 630-983-5308, lillian@duoforce.com or Alec at 773-775-5531, alec@connectworking.com

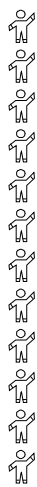


SWE CRS PROGRAMS SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to fill out the programs survey.
The survey is located on the SWE CRS website.

<http://www.swe.org/chicago>

This survey will provide input for the programs and family issues committees for planning events for this fiscal year.



New members join SWE CRS

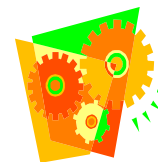
Please welcome the following members to the section, who have either newly joined, upgraded from student membership, or moved into the section.

Allison D. Dieckman
Kira K. Hendricks

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

October 17th

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





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