

# G Sharp: SWE Region G

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**SWE Mission**

Stimulate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life, demonstrate the value of diversity.



Compiled by:  
Anita Todd, UC SWE  
E-mail news and articles,  
comments and suggestions  
to: anita.todd@uc.edu

**GOVERNOR'S REPORT**

My term is coming to an end as we are busily planning the 2007 Region G conference while doing succession planning for the region. These are some of the busiest months of my governorship.

In October 2006, nearly 30 professional and many more collegiate members from Region G attended the National Conference in Kansas City, MO. It was great to see everyone and we left with several awards! SWE national is focusing their energy to move ahead on strategic programs. Feedback on the direction of the society is always welcome.

The Region is making strides to align our policies with those of national SWE and other regions. The biggest change is with the Region conference. Beginning this year, professional members are on the region conference committee, assisting the University of Pittsburgh collegiate planning committee. Several Pittsburgh section members assisted and, thanks to email, from professional members throughout the region. Proceeds (if any) from the conference will be shared with the collegiate section and the region. The region hopes to build conference funding to support better conference programming and travel assistance for our region leaders. At the suggestion of Mary Kinsella, we are pleased to announce that we are bringing Ms. Darvi Mack, from Seattle, WA, to present "Tools of Excellence for Engineers."

**Regional and Governor 2007 Goals**

- Improve communication within the Region.
- Hold a successful Regional conference.
- Have a Region G member serve on each national committee (Region G representation on each and every committee)
- Issue at least two Region Newsletters per year
- Nominate candidate for Rodney Chipp Award and candidates for DNE and Fellow.
- Succession planning for FY08 officers.
- Update our Region G website

In section news, Northeast Ohio, G003 held a professional development symposium at Cleveland State University. The keynote speaker was Nancy Uridil, Senior Vice President of Global Operations at Moen, Inc. Other sessions included: a career mapping panel discussion, a membership vitality module for collegiate attendees, and a presentation on generational diversity awareness. Region G sections can be proud of their continuing outreach efforts: Girl Scout workshops, "Take apart a Toaster" day, science fair judges, Engineers Week activities, and many more.

National Engineers' Week February 18 – 24, 2007 will be here very soon. Check the website: <http://www.eweek2007.org/> for information (overload). While there, order the FREE *Eweek 2007* and *Introduce a Girl to Engineering* volunteer packet kits.

As we come to the end of the SWE fiscal year, it is time to consider succession planning. Region G will be electing Region Governor, Lt. Governor, Region Collegiate Representative, and Region Collegiate Newsletter Editor for SWE fiscal year 2008. Nominations for these positions are due the end of February. Other leadership positions are also available - locally, regionally, and nationally. SWE leadership provides you the opportunity for personal growth while helping others.

Please DO plan to attend the Region G conference, March 23-25, 2007. The University of Pittsburgh conference team is putting together a conference that is jam-packed with great seminars. Jude Garzolini, National SWE President will be the Keynote speaker at the Saturday evening banquet. (Next year, the Region G conference will be held at Penn State University)



Mary Ann Walsh (L) with Mary Verstraede

I hope to see you all at the Region G conference so that we can continue to add to our SWE memories and to increase our engineering knowledge!

**Mary Ann**

[maryann.walsh@swe.org](mailto:maryann.walsh@swe.org) or [governor-g@swe.org](mailto:governor-g@swe.org)

# REGION G BOARD

<b>Governor</b>	G004 - Pittsburgh	Mary Ann Walsh	Professional	governor-g@swe.org
<b>Lt. Governor</b>	G001 - Central OH	Kristina Kuraitis Kennedy	Professional	Kristina_Kennedy1978@hotmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	G004 - Pittsburgh	Graf, Stacey	Professional	sgraf@gatewayengineers.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	G005 - South Ohio	Judith Simmons	Professional	pesimm00@att.net
<b>Region Newsletter Editor</b>	G005 - South Ohio	Anita Todd	Professional	anita.todd@uc.edu
<b>Region Collegiate Newsletter Editor</b>	OPEN		Collegiate	
<b>Leadership Coach</b>	H008 - Central IN	Justine Mikals	Professional	mikalsjh@hotmail.com
<b>Alternate Leadership Coach</b>	G004 - Pittsburgh	Helen Patricia	Professional	helen.patricia@kennametal.com
<b>Collegiate Leadership Coach</b>	G051 - CMU	Patrick Kelly	Professional	patrickgage@gmail.com
<b>Information Officer</b>	G001 - Central OH	Rachel Lewis	Professional	Rachel.Lewis@dot.state.oh.us
<b>Region Collegiate Representative (RCR)</b>	G063 - Pitt	Danielle Williams	Collegiate	dlw19@pitt.edu
<b>Collegiate Interest Representative (CIR)</b>	G005 - South Ohio	Pamela Snyder	Professional	pamsnyder@gmail.com
<b>Region Membership Coordinator (RMC)</b>	G004 - Pittsburgh	Stacey Graf	Professional	sgrafsgraf@gatewayengineers.com
<b>Region Collegiate Membership Coordinator RCMC</b>	OPEN		Professional	
<b>Conference Co-Chair</b>	G063-Pitt	Laura Killian	Collegiate	2007regionconference@gmail.com
<b>Nominating Committee Rep,</b>	G004 - Pittsburgh	Marilyn Reeder	Professional	mmreeder@adelphia.net
<b>COR MAL</b>	MALO49	Beth Posey-Leonhard	Professional	beth.poseyleonhard@owenscorning.com
<b>COR</b>	G001 - Central Ohio	Megan Roe	Professional	mroe@ppg.com
<b>COR</b>	G002 - Kentuckiana	Carolyn Nowlin	Professional	Caro0168@cs.com
<b>COR</b>	G003 - Northeastern Ohio	Stephanie Miksche	Professional	stephanie.miksche@gmail.com
<b>COR</b>	G004 - Pittsburgh	Stacey Graf	Professional	sgrafsgraf@gatewayengineers.com
<b>COR</b>	G004 - Pittsburgh	Brigit Meadows	Professional	bridgetmeadows@hotmail.com
<b>COR</b>	G005 - South Ohio	Allison Haskins	Professional	alison.haskins@swe.org
<b>COR</b>	G006 - Bluegrass	Paula Sevigny	Professional	paulas@lexmark.com



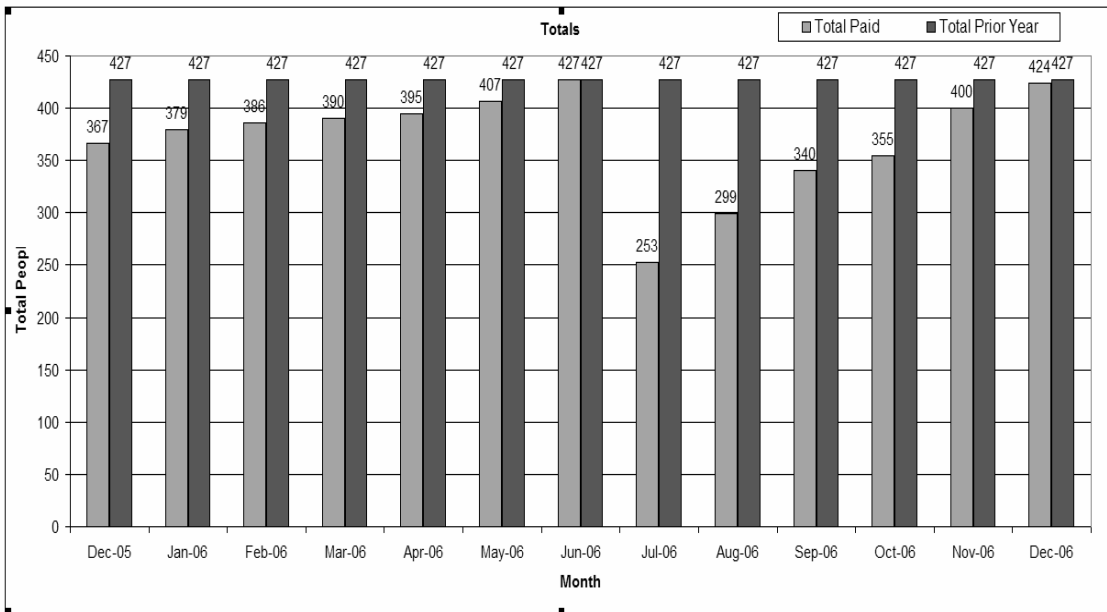
# REGION G MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The membership goals for the region have changed this year at a National Level. In order to be eligible for the membership awards given out at next years National Conference we need to have the following:

Professional:  
80% retention/ 20% Growth

Collegiate:  
55% retention/ 55% Growth

With six months still remaining, all professional sections, except two, have met or exceeded membership levels from last year! Great job!



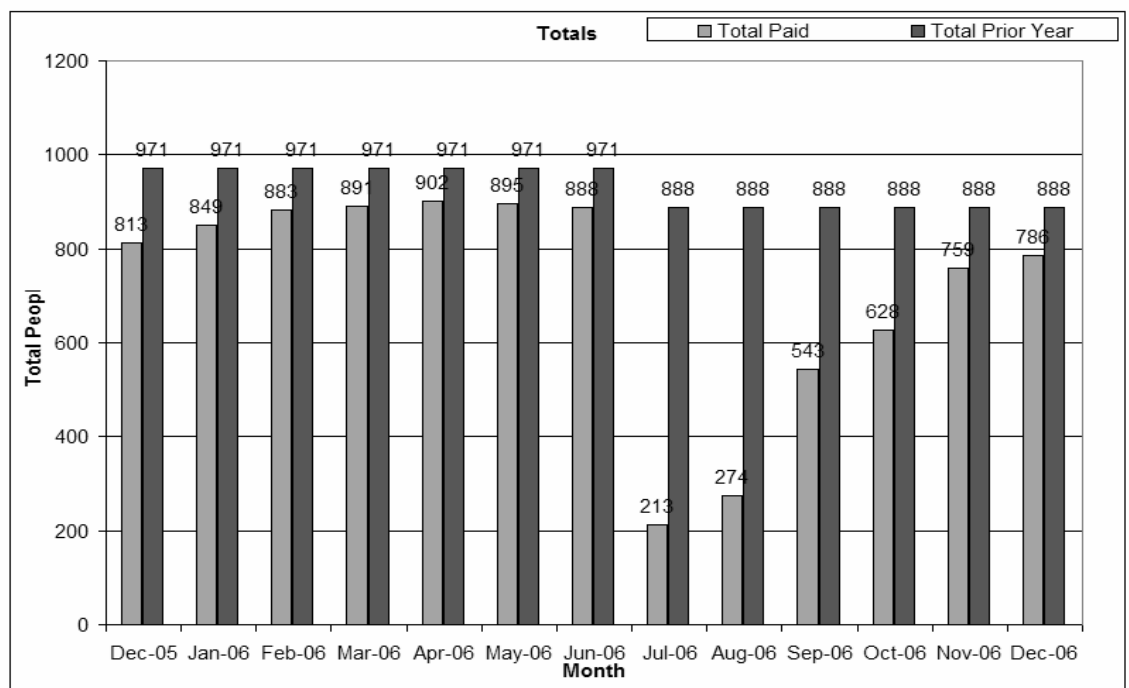
< Professional Membership Report

Collegiate Membership Report  
V

Collegiate membership in Region G is down by more than 100 students since 2004.

December 2004 – 902  
December 2005 – 813  
December 2006 – 786

Send ideas or suggestions for collegiate membership increase to Stacey Graf - Region Membership Coordinator (contact info on Page 2)



# Becoming a Professional SWE Member

Have you ever thought about transitioning from a collegiate SWE member to a professional SWE member? The Society currently calls this process “upgrading”. The vast benefits that come with upgrading your membership include:

- Diversity Training
- Career Management
- Gender-specific Management Tools
- Leadership Training & Experience
- Conferences
- Award-winning *SWE Magazine*
- Professional Development
- Role Models & Mentors
- Local Support
- Networking
- K-12 Outreach
- Web Seminars

**The cost to upgrade to a professional member is only \$20.** This \$20 pays your SWE membership dues for one fiscal year and your membership status changes from collegiate to professional member. Once you become a professional member there will be many opportunities to touch the lives of young girls and influence their interest in math & sciences. You will also have the opportunity to interact with other women in engineering, which not only is beneficial professionally, but has great personal rewards as well. The aspect which most members find beneficial is the networking and career contacts which are made through SWE's vast network of local, regional and national corporate sponsors. Why not upgrade? Becoming a professional member of SWE has no negative side effects - it's good for you, it's educational, it's fun and only \$20!

Please contact Stacey Graf at [sgraf@gatewayengineers.com](mailto:sgraf@gatewayengineers.com) or Danielle Williams at [danielle\\_lee\\_williams@yahoo.com](mailto:danielle_lee_williams@yahoo.com) for more information on the upgrading process or to better understand the benefits of being a Professional SWE Member.

## Why should you renew your SWE Membership?

Membership in SWE has so many benefits, not only to you, but to all girls and women in this country and worldwide! Here are some reasons why we think being a SWE member is important:

- We get to touch the lives of young women and influence them in profound ways.
- We have opportunities to interact with other women in engineering, which not only is beneficial professionally, but has great personal rewards as well.
- Networking and career contacts through SWE's vast network of corporate sponsors.
- Professional Development, Leadership Development, Personal Development - there is something for everyone!
- Why not? Being a member of SWE has no negative side effects - it's good for you, it's educational, and it's fun!

Please remember to renew your SWE Membership at [www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org) to experience all the great benefits SWE has to offer. If you have recently graduated, transferred jobs or relocated please remember to update your profile with your latest contact information on the SWE website.

## Region G Treasurers Report

Region G received our Corporate Council Rebate check for \$1,000.00. All our accounts remain with National City. Region G Treasurer: Judy Simmons, [G005 South Ohio, pesimm00@att.net](mailto:G005_South_Ohio_pesimm00@att.net)

## Welcome the Start of a NEW Student Section

Cincinnati State Technical and Community College of Cincinnati, Ohio is forming a new chapter of SWE. Please welcome them as they start on this exciting new endeavor.

Please contact Julie Webster for additional information or membership opportunities.  
julie.webster@cincinnatiastate.edu



## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR REGION GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

*Have you been interested on getting involved with SWE on a different level? Being a region officer gives you the opportunity to meet and work with members from all sections in the region and to learn about the regional and national structure of SWE! You can use your skills to help set the direction for the region in the coming years!*

*The Region G Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for eligible candidates to fill the positions of Region G Governor and Region G Lieutenant Governor. We encourage all members to consider serving SWE in this capacity. These are very rewarding positions with excellent leadership opportunities and visibility inside and outside of SWE. Requirements for these positions can be found on the Region G website or in the national bylaws.*

*Nominations may be submitted to any of the nominating committee members (see below) and must be received by 23 February 2007. The following information should be provided:*

- 1) The candidate's name and the specific position for which she is nominated*
- 2) A short statement of eligibility verifying that the candidate meets the necessary requirements for the position*
- 3) A short biography, including SWE and work experience that enhances the candidates qualifications*
- 4) Complete contact information, including employer; preferred address, phone, and email; Section; and member number*
- 5) A short statement explaining why the candidate wants to hold the position (optional).*

*Voting for Governor will be concurrent with the national election in April. Lieutenant Governor will be voted on at the Region G Conference in Pittsburgh on March 24. New officers beginning their term on July 1, 2007.*

FY07 Region G Nominating Committee

Jessica Flasche [jessica.flasche@swe.org](mailto:jessica.flasche@swe.org)

Haydee Hetrick [haydee.hetrick@swe.org](mailto:haydee.hetrick@swe.org)

Mary Kinsella [mary.kinsella@swe.org](mailto:mary.kinsella@swe.org)



## Mark Your Calendar

# 2008 SWE National Conference

Oct 25-27, 2007, Nashville Convention Center, Nashville, TN

## WOMEN IN TUNE WITH TECHNOLOGY

Hotel blocks are open, reserve your room early as hotel rooms go fast!

[www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org)

## REGION G ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND CAREER FAIR



*Three Rivers to Success:  
Dedication, Involvement, and  
Leadership*

March 23-25, 2007  
University of Pittsburgh,  
Pittsburgh, PA

### ***Reasons to attend the Region G conference:***

- 1. Great networking opportunities with other sections*
- 2. Smaller and more personal than a large national conference but just as much fun*
- 3. Exceptional value at a lower cost*
- 4. Career fair is less crowded than at the national conference, resume CD will be provided to all participating companies*
- 5. Recruit professionals from four states and college students from 31 universities - at one-stop career fair.*
- 6. National officers, board members, and region officers are attending the region conference and are much more accessible at this venue*
- 7. Educational seminars to increase your engineering knowledge and professional development*
- 8. Fabulous speakers who have lots of good information to share*
- 9. Cool gifts and door prizes*
- 10. Once-a-year opportunity to share in your regional event*



**Keynote speaker:**

**SWE National President Jude Garzolini**

Conference will be held on the University of Pittsburgh's campus, featuring the Cathedral of Learning, a historic landmark and the tallest education building in the Western hemisphere.

- Friday evening will feature arrivals, registration, and networking activities.
- Saturday will include workshops, seminars, regional meetings, career fair, luncheon with industry, and a dinner banquet at Heinz Field (home of the Steelers, Super Bowl XL champions!)
- Sunday, the conference concludes with breakfast, leadership coaching sessions, and farewells.

<http://www.pitt.edu/~swecon/>

- Friday March 23,  
 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Registration in hotel lobby.  
 7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. SWE Networking Activity, sharing of best practices
- Saturday March 24  
 7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Full breakfast and registration  
 8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Welcome: Dr. Gerald Holder, Dean School of Engineering, University of Pittsburgh  
 Mary Ann Walsh, Region G Governor, Bechtel Plant Machinery, Inc.  
 Laura Killian, Conf. Chair, University of Pittsburgh
- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions  
 Technical: Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology and Research  
 Marlin Mickle PhD, Professor, University of Pittsburgh  
 Technical: Finite Element Analysis Methods - ANSYS  
 Shawn Catlin, Certified Instructor, ANSYS, Mallett Technologies, Inc.  
 Technical: Six Sigma as a part of Lean Manufacturing  
 Helen Patricia, Quality Assurance Manger, Kennametal Corp.,  
 Technical: Sustainability in Engineering  
 Kim LaScola Needy, PhD, PE, CFPIM, Assoc. Professor , U of Pittsburgh  
 Technical: The Resurgence of Nuclear Power  
 TBA, Westinghouse Electric Company  
 Professional Development: Diversity  
 Justina Mikals and Helen Patricia, SWE Leadership Coaches  
 Professional Development: Creative Problem Solving  
 Mary Besterfield-Sacre PhD, Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Industrial Engineering  
 Matthew Mehalik PhD, Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Industrial Engineering  
 Professional Development: Dollars and Sense: The Value of Asking for What You're Worth  
 Ayana Ledford, Director of Program for Research and Outreach on Gender Equity in Society (PROGRESS), Carnegie Mellon  
 Professional Development: Career Panel: Going the Extra Step in Higher Education  
 Alka Patel, Esq., Patent Attorney, Pepper Hamilton LLP  
 Rebecca P. Blust, Associate Professor, Department of Engineering Tech, University of Dayton  
 Priya Narasimhan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University  
 Professional Development: Work-Life Balance Panel  
 Carolina C. Desmone, Director of Service, NEO, GE Healthcare Technologies, Tri-States, LCT  
 Beth Posey-Leonhard, Product Development Leader, cultured Stone, Owens Corning  
 Deb Mackay, Vice President and General Manger for Color Laser Products, Lexmark International  
 Professional Development: SWE's Public Policy and Priorities  
 Cathy Pieronek, SWE Title IX Expert, SWE Government Relations and Public Policy Committee  
 Professional Development: Tools of Excellence for Effective Engineering  
 Darvi Mack, Manager, Diversity and Inclusion Weyerhaeuser Company
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch with Industry: Welcome to our Sponsors, Speaker: Jacqueline Phillips, Westinghouse Electric Company  
 1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Career Fair (see listing of participants in your registration packet)  
 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Tours  
 3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Region G Collegiate Membership Meeting  
 Region G Professional Membership Meeting  
 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Region G Joint Collegiate and Professional Membership Meeting  
 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Region G Annual Banquet, Heinz Field Club House, Sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh  
 Speaker: Jude Garzolini, SWE National President 2007
- Sunday – March 25  
 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast  
 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Leadership Coaching Workshops, Justina Mikals, SWE Leadership Coaching Committee



## NEWS FROM NORTHEAST OHIO

### North East Ohio Race for the Cure, Saturday October 14, 2006

Submitted by Lisa Rimpf

On an especially blustery day in Northeast Ohio... the cold, wind, and precipitation cannot stop those who know that EVERY STEP COUNTS whether you walk or run at the Komen Race for the Cure against breast cancer. Over 20,000 people gathered in downtown Cleveland at Voinovich Park/Northcoast Harbor to support hope, faith, love, life, as well as memories. Proudly representing the Northeast Ohio SWE professional section, our team wore bright pink shirts stating “**parabolas aren’t the only curves in engineering**” with a large SWE cogwheel on the back. Other participants were even asking what group we were with ~ good visibility! What a great feeling to help a wonderful charity and endorse a worthwhile cause that affects so many of us.

On a personal note, CONGRATULATIONS to my mother, Mina Rimpf, who is celebrating her 10<sup>th</sup> year of survival against this disease and to the memory of my aunt, Hilde Radke, who lost her battle 2 years ago.



L to R: Lisa Rimpf - Vice President Program Development, Carolina Desmone – Succession Planning, Elizabeth Crookston – Treasurer

### Professional Development Symposium

Submitted by Lisa Rimpf

On Saturday, September, 23, 2006 the Northeast Ohio Section sponsored a Professional Development Symposium at Cleveland State University. The event opened with a Keynote Address from Nancy Uridil, Senior Vice President Global Operations for Moen Incorporated. The group then split into 2 sessions, Professional and Collegiate Development. The professional session was a Career Mapping Panel Discussion moderated by Virginia Brandt with Carolina Desmone, Teresa Outward, Gail Peckham, and Nancy Uridil serving as panelists.

Patrick Kelly, a PhD student from Carnegie Mellon University and Collegiate Leadership coach, lead the collegiate session. The student module focused on Membership Vitality, empowering students to take active roles in both the SWE organization and their academic communities. Professional and Collegiate women combined together for the final session, Diversity Awareness – The Generational Divide. Marilyn Reeder, a leadership consultant and career coach from Diverse Leadership Solutions, presented the final seminar of the day.

Lunch followed at Acapella Italian Restaurant, Cleveland.



### My Development Symposium Experience by Sara Wright, Akron University

The Professional Development Symposium sponsored by the NE OH SWE section on September 23 was an excellent event to attend as a student. The keynote speaker, Nancy Uridil, was inspiring. She demonstrated how important it is for each of us to set high individual goals and to work hard to reach those goals. Nancy also talked about how each of us can balance a successful career and family.

During the Collegiate Development Session, Akron SWE students were able to meet other SWE students in Northeast Ohio. We were glad to be able to share our best practices with the other sections as they are just starting out. Patrick Kelly, the Collegiate Leadership Coach, was helpful in telling students about the resources that SWE provides to student sections.



The Generational Divide Session by Marilyn Reeder was very informative. She did a great job of bring truths together about the different generations. Knowing how to work with the different generations is helpful to students whether they are dealing with professors, supervisors, or family members. The session prepared each of us to better see through another generation’s point of view.

I am glad to have participated in an event that facilitated a time to meet many students and professionals throughout Northeast Ohio. Working together we can definitely achieve more!

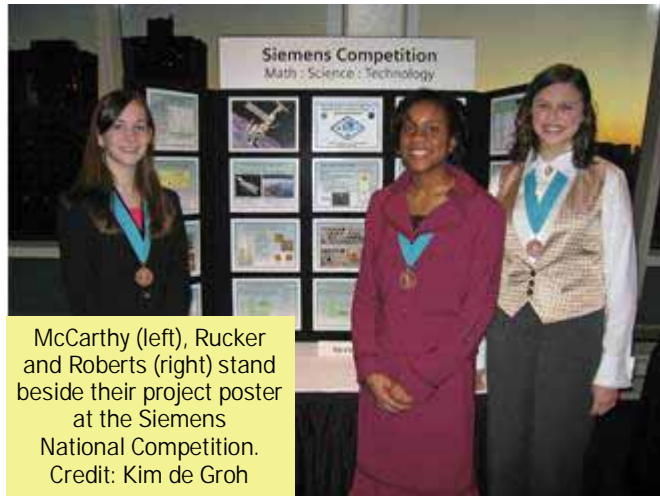


## STUDENTS WIN SIEMENS AWARD FOR SPACE STATION EXPERIMENT WITH THE HELP OF REGION G MEMBERS!

A team of high school students won \$10,000 in scholarships at the Siemens National Competition in Math, Science and Technology for their work on an International Space Station experiment. U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings helped present the awards at New York University on Dec. 4.

Catherine McCarthy, Lauren Berger, Rochelle Rucker and Lily Roberts of Hathaway Brown School in Ohio collaborated with NASA Glenn Research Center research engineers Kim de Groh and Bruce Banks on the Polymer Erosion and Contamination Experiment (PEACE). It was mounted outside the space station as part of the Materials International Space Station Experiment 2 (MISSE 2) from Aug. 2001 to Aug. 2005.

The experiment subjected 41 polymers -- materials often used on spacecraft -- to low Earth orbit to see how they stand up to atomic oxygen, or oxygen broken into individual atoms by the sun's radiation. This was the widest variety of polymers ever exposed to identical low Earth orbit conditions for a long period of time. The team's findings will help engineers select materials for future spacecraft.



McCarthy (left), Rucker and Roberts (right) stand beside their project poster at the Siemens National Competition.  
Credit: Kim de Groh

McCarthy, Roberts and Rucker wrote a 20-page research paper on the experiment and entered it in the Siemens competition earlier this year. Only three members are allowed per team, so Berger voluntarily stepped down.

Of the 1,660 students who entered, only 345 went on to compete in six regional finals. The Hathaway Brown team won the Midwest Regional Competition at the University of Notre Dame, earning \$6,000 in scholarships and additional prizes. The win also secured them a place among 20 finalists who competed in December at the Siemens National Competition, the country's most prestigious math, science and technology contest for high school students.

Image right: This photo of MISSE 2 was taken by the crew of space shuttle Atlantis on the STS-112 mission in 2002. The PEACE samples are in the top left corner. Credit: NASA

After giving a 12-minute presentation, at the National Competition, the students defended their paper to a panel of esteemed judges led by former astronaut Kathryn Thornton.

"It was a very intelligent and prestigious crowd," said team leader Catherine McCarthy. "We presented our research to Nobel Laureates and professors from Harvard, Yale and Princeton. The judges really combed through our paper and asked us hard questions," she added. "It was intense, but it was a very good experience."

In addition to the \$16,000 in scholarships, the Hathaway Brown team also won \$4,000 for their school to support math, science and technology programs. In total, the team won over \$20,000 in scholarships and awards.

Image left: De Groh shows McCarthy and Roberts the samples during post-flight inspection of the experiment in NASA Langley's clean-room. Credit: Patty Hunt, Hathaway Brown.

"They did a truly excellent and very professional job presenting their research," said de Groh, the NASA materials research engineer who mentored the team. "We were all beaming. Their parents, their teacher...and I was an extremely proud mentor."

Banks and de Groh are using the data from the polymer experiment to develop a handbook and a predictive tool. Engineers will be able to use the predictive tool to determine how long new materials that haven't been tested in space will withstand the degrading effects of atomic oxygen.

Meanwhile, McCarthy, Rucker, Roberts and Berger are helping NASA Glenn fabricate samples for another materials experiment scheduled to arrive at the space station in late 2007. Three of them will graduate this spring and begin college already equipped with very impressive resumes.

## SWE REGION AND MEMBER NEWS

### Region G Awards at National SWE Conference 2006

- Region G received Best Region Website Award  
Rachel Lewis, G01 Central OH, is our Region G Information Officer and Webmaster.
- Region G received an Honorable Mention in the SWE Region Programming Excellence Award, sponsored by **IBM** for our Diversity Workshop at the Region G 2006 conference.
- Thanks to Marilyn Reeder, G004 Pittsburgh and to her team who developed the excellent program!
- Kentuckiana Section G002 won two membership awards at the SWE National conference: the "Membership Growth Award (small section)" and the "Largest Net Increase in Membership Award (Small Section)".
- UC SWE Chapter was awarded third place, Best Medium Size Student Chapter

### Member News

#### Promotion:

Elizabeth Crookston was promoted to the position of Applications Engineer II with the Babcock & Wilcox Company.

#### Births:

Shannon & Joe Brown who celebrated the birth of their first child, Michael Joseph Brown, on January 8, 2007.

Leigh Mahoney celebrated the birth of Livia Rileigh Mahoney on November 11, 2006.



## E-Week 2007

Engineers Make a World of Difference  
February 18-24, 2007

[www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org)

## Central Ohio Mother Daughter Brunch A Huge Success

The 3rd Annual Mother Daughter Banquet was a huge success this year!

It was held on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Athletic Club of Columbus. Twenty-two women attended this event and included SWE members and their mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and mother-in-laws. The event commenced with each of the members and their guests having their pictures taken. At the end of the event, each attendee was able to take home a framed picture. Lunch included a three way salad, Caesar salad, or turkey club.

After lunch, Lee Ann Schwope and Suzanne Miller presented an overview of significant contributions of women in science throughout history. What amazing accomplishments women have made over the years! Next, Jessica Flasche presented a summary on the Society of Women Engineers history and current organization structure. This was useful for the women in our lives to understand how important SWE's mission is for all of us! Peggy Panagopoulos Flaherty wrapped up the program portion with a brief biography on our E-week "New Faces of Engineering" candidates.

New for event this year was a silent auction to help raise money for our section scholarship fund. Donated auction items included a Luxaderm spa gift certificate, Buca di Beppo gift card, and numerous Bath and Body works gift baskets. Donations from our auction were over \$300 and put our section well on its way to forming its first scholarship fund! Thanks to all who participated in this wonderful event!

# SUMMARY FROM AROUND THE REGION

## Region G attendance at National Conference

G001 – five   G002 – two   G003 - one   G004 – six   G005 – seven   G006 – four   MAL – two

### Central Ohio Section G001

- Activities in the Central Ohio Section G001 are following the strategic plan outline and meeting the goals of Leadership, Professional Development, Diversity, establishing a reputation as a Knowledge Source, Outreach, and Career Guidance.
- The Section is planning to give its first annual scholarship to a high school senior entering engineering studies this year. Through private donations and the silent auction at the Mother-Daughter Brunch, \$340 has been raised.
- Gearing Up! Joint Event with SWE, Girl Scouts, and Ohio State's Women in Engineering Program

### Kentuckiana Section G002

- G002 won two membership awards at the SWE National conference: the "Membership Growth Award (small section)" and the "Largest Net Increase in Membership Award (Small Section)". Both awards came with a dollar amount and a plaque.
- Meeting at Panera Bread from 9:30 – 11am to discuss winter events.
- 12/2 – Annual gift wrap fundraiser at Barnes and Noble. The grand total was \$13 much less than in years past.
- 12/8 – Annual Christmas party at Maureen's home. We had a good turnout for that event.
- Participating in the "Any Soldier" outreach project and SWE will pay the postage for packages.

### Northeast Ohio G003

- G003 held a professional development symposium at Cleveland State University. Keynote speaker: Nancy Urdil, Senior Vice President, Global Operations, Moen, Inc. Other sessions: career mapping panel discussion, membership vitality module for collegiate attendees, presentation on generational diversity awareness. Twenty nine people attended this successful event.
- Four members participated in Northeast Ohio Komen Race for the Cure in Cleveland, OH. T-shirts were created for the event; a large SWE logo was on the back and a small graphic was on the front with the words "Parabolas aren't the only curves in engineering" written around it.
- Two members participated in "Girls Explore Engineering" at COSI in Columbus, OH.

### Pittsburgh G004

- The September meeting hosted a witty speaker discussing her experiences in a male dominated field, the issues she faces, and lessons learned while selling cars to male and female clients and other career experiences. Her experiences have taught her that you never know what the outcome will be, so try it and see if it works for you...it may end up being the greatest thing for you.
- The October meeting focused on students. Resume writing and mock interviews were provided by a local staffing agency. This evening was also beneficial to the professionals because it allowed them to polish up their interviewing skills and network with upcoming professionals.
- The November meeting was a social holiday and networking event while celebrating the City of Pittsburgh's Light-Up Night.
- The December meeting held jointly with American Society for Materials (ASM), taking a tour of the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh and enjoyed wine tasting.

### South Ohio G005

- Fifteen members and guests attended the meeting at the Mad Potter in Madeira for some fun pottery making.
- November meeting was held at the Comet in Cincinnati with twelve participants. Those who attended the National Conference discussed their experiences to encourage people to plan for the next conference in Nashville.
- December – University of Cincinnati SWE collegiate section held its Take Apart a Toaster Day activity. 5th through 8th -grade girls from the local Girl Scout troops diving into the big pile of discarded appliances to discover how electronics are designed and work. They delighted in the freedom to tear something down and look inside.
- December SWE Networking Night was held at the Cincinnati Art Museum. The theme for the evening was "Globe Trek - From Cincinnati to Syria and from Mali to the Netherlands." Participants collected toys and clothing items for the YWCA's Women's Shelter.

### Bluegrass G006

- At the October monthly General Meeting attendees at the National Conference described their experiences
- Fundraising event that featured Longaberger Baskets, Pampered Chef and Creative Memories.
- Kristi Kappes, presented "Selling Your Ideas to Upper Management" at the November meeting.
- A joint Bluegrass and University of Kentucky SWE Executive Council Meeting was held.
- Pam Orlando coordinated the SWE National Professional Development Webinar – Virtual Leadership: Leading Dispersed Teams.
- In December the Bluegrass and University of Kentucky SWE sections met to purchase gifts for the Salvation Army Angel Tree.
- SWE assisted Junior Girl Scouts earn their Science in Action badge. Sessions included Technology-abled, Engineering 101, Bridge-Building, Got to Communicate and Incredible Slurping Plant!
- Bluegrass SWE hosted the live SWE National Professional Development Webinar – Leading Technological Innovation

## SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS HONORS ALKA PATEL, J.D. WITH 2006 DISTINGUISHED NEW ENGINEER AWARD

**CHICAGO, October 11, 2006** – The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) today announced Alka Patel a recipient of SWE's 2006 Distinguished New Engineer Award. Patel is being recognized for her technical excellence, academic and professional achievement, and civic participation in support of the mission of the Society of Women Engineers.

Alka Patel is an attorney with Pepper Hamilton, LLP focusing her practice on intellectual property. As a patent attorney, Patel prepares and prosecutes patent applications in the areas of materials, chemicals, medical devices, manufacturing processes, and business methods. Additionally, she provides infringement analyses and patentability opinions, assists in securing trademarks, and copyright registrations, and develops intellectual property strategies for consumer product manufacturers, service providers and others.

"Alka Patel has displayed incredible leadership and growth within the first 10 years of her career," says Jude Garzolini, president of the Society of Women Engineers. "Her engineering background has been vital for successfully analyzing cutting technology related to material science and proving patentability opinions that help maintain integrity in our industry."

Prior to her position at Pepper Hamilton, Patel practiced patent law at Webb Zieseheim Logsdon Orkin & Hanson, P.C. where she prepared and filed U.S. and foreign patent applications and secured patents for manufacturing processes, steel manufacturers, medical devices and business methods. Prior to that, Patel *Society of Women Engineers*

worked as a sales engineer assistant for GE Industrial Systems where she provided technical and sales support to distributors in the Pittsburgh area. Patel began her career at Timken Latrobe Steel as a manufacturing engineer and metallurgist working in the plant.

Patel has been an active SWE professional member since 1998 and has been involved in various roles in the SWE-Pittsburgh Section. Patel served two consecutive terms as president of the Pittsburgh section. During her tenure as president, she initiated the section's involvement in the fundraising effort *Shop for a Cause*, transitioned the section newsletter to an electric format, and oversaw an increase in membership.

Prior to being president, she also served as vice president of career guidance for two years and section secretary for two years. Patel also volunteered much of her time to mentoring programs that encourage and support young women in engineering and has participated in numerous conferences as a panelist on engineering, graduate school, and alternative career paths for engineers.

"Alka always demonstrates a strong commitment and consistent dedication to her career, her SWE involvement and community activities," says Cristina H. Amon, dean, faculty of applied science and engineering, University of Toronto. "She is a role model for all women to reach their full potential, and with her outstanding technical and managerial expertise in engineering, she is an excellent candidate for this award."

In addition to her involvement with SWE, Patel serves on the boards of YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh and the Girl Scouts Trillium Council.

Patel received her B.S. in materials science and engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. In 2001, she completed her J.D. and M.B.A. degrees from Duquesne University. The Distinguished New Engineer Award honors women engineers who have been actively engaged in engineering, demonstrated outstanding technical performance, and have had no more than 10 years of cumulative engineering experience as of December 31 of the past year. Each advanced engineering degree obtained on a full-time basis counts as one year of experience.



## WOMEN ENGINEERS AND ENGINEERING IN THE NEWS

**Women made substantial advances in science and engineering** - The Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology released a report showing that women have made substantial progress in earning degrees in science and engineering over the past four decades, reports Paul D. Thacker in *Inside Higher Ed*. In 1966 women earned 24.8% of bachelor's degrees in these fields, 13.3% of master's degrees and 8% of doctorates, while in 2004 they earned 50.4% of bachelor's degrees, 43.6% of master's, and 37.4% of doctorates. Women now constitute 25% of the labor force in science, engineering and technology fields, but the disaggregated figures show continued problems with women turning away from careers where math is important. Underrepresented minorities have not made the same progress that women have. African Americans, for example, are 13% of the population but earned 8.4% of bachelor's degrees, 6.3% of master's and 2.8% of doctorates. (See <http://insidehighered.com/news/2007/01/09/science>)

**US public thinks students avoid science because it's too hard** - The American Council on Education's Solutions for Our Future Campaign polled the American public on their opinions on math and science education, in light of current concern about declining US leadership in these areas. 64% of respondents believe that the goal of higher education is to get a good job, 44% think that students avoid studying math and science because it is too hard, and 54% said that all college students should take more science and math regardless of their major, while 44% don't agree. David Ward, president of the ACE, says the country needs a rallying point, comparable to the announcement of the launching of Sputnik 50 years ago, to promote the learning of science and math, writes Scott Jaschik in *Inside Higher Ed*. (See <http://insidehighered.com/news/2006/12/07/poll>)

**Gender similarities in math and science** - Boys and girls have similar psychological traits and cognitive abilities, according to an article in the October 27th *Science* by Jane Shibley Hyde and Marcia Linn. Research shows that girls and boys are similar in performance and in ability to succeed in areas such as math and science. Thus, the authors conclude, a focus on factors other than gender is needed to help girls persist in mathematical and scientific career tracks. The phenomenon of gender similarities has implications for schooling. To neutralize traditional stereotypes about girls' lack of ability and interest in mathematics and science, mentors and advisors need to increase emphasis on gender similarities rather than focusing on gender differences. (See <http://www.sciencemag.org>)

**Gender bias in academe** - A stronger effort must be made to keep female faculty members in science and engineering, according to a note in the November 2006 *ASEE Prism* by Alice Merner Agogino. A distinguished professor of engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, Agogino was co-author of a National Academy Press report titled "Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering". She notes that several women have recently left academe due to what they perceived as a climate that was unfriendly to women. They felt that efforts at increasing faculty diversity were half-hearted, ineffectual, and not well-informed. The report cited provides strategies for action that can tap the potential of half the world's population to contribute to engineering and its professoriate. (See <http://www.asee.org/prism>)

**Schools slow in closing gaps between races** - The sweeping education law signed by President Bush a year into his presidency set 2014 as the deadline by which schools were to close the test-score gap between minority and white students. But, according to an article in the November 20th *New York Times* by Sam Dillon, recent studies are reporting little progress toward that goal. Despite concerted efforts by teachers, the test-score gaps are so large that, on average, African-American and Hispanic students in high school can read and do arithmetic at only the average level of whites in junior high school. Research reports portray an educational landscape in which test-score gaps between black or Hispanic students and whites appear in kindergarten and worsen through 12 years of public education. It is anticipated that the new Democratic leadership of House and Senate education committees will promote giving more resources to schools and to researching strategies to improve minority performance. (See <http://www.nytimes.com>)

**The art of engineering** - An engineering faculty member at the University of South Florida has created a popular course that merges his research work with the world of fine art, according to an NSF press release. Professor David Snider has merged the two subjects by incorporating the works of the masters, the tools of artists, and the perspective of engineers. He draws in students with topics that range from the theories of light to the creation of cameras, and presents the work of nearly 100 artists in the process. Snider says that his course is like an optics review, where the laboratory is the art museum. (See press release 06-127 at <http://www.nsf.gov/news>)