



# Society of Women Engineers

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## Society of Women Engineers Minnesota Section

Shaping Technical Minds Into Meaningful Careers

**Volume 19, Issue 4**

**March 2006**

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## President's Report Allison Pedersen

I am very excited about Spring being just around the corner and all that SWE-MN has accomplished so far this year! At the end of January the SWE-MN Executive Council (EC) meet for a mid-year review of the sections numerous goals and for a Leadership Training, where the

Region H Leadership Coach and our SWE-MN Vice President, Elizabeth Bierman, presented the "Professionalism" module. I would like to thank the entire EC for staying focused and continuing to strive to accomplish our goals. The EC is well on its way to achieving all of our goals and I can't wait to see what the rest of the year will bring!

As I am sure most of you know (from all of our reminders over the past several weeks), Engineers Week (E-week) was held February 19-25, with SWE and Northrop Grumman the 2006 sponsors. E-week is a coalition of more than 70 engineering and education societies, and more than 50 corporations, which is dedicated to raising public awareness of engineers' positive contributions to quality of life. E-week promotes recognition among parents, teachers, and students of the importance of a technical education and a high level of math, science, and technology literacy, and motivates youth to pursue engineering careers in order to provide a diverse and vigorous engineering workforce. It was exciting to see so many SWE-MN members generously donate their time to make all five of our E-week activities such a success and I appreciate the assistance of each and every one of you! I would like to give a special thanks to the SWE-MN Career Guidance Co-chairs, **Krista Johnson and Cassandra Piippo**, for their dedication to planning these events! I would also like to thank SWE-MN Vice President, **Elizabeth Bierman**, for her work on planning the *Connection Day* activities to support SWE's National Program *Connecting Educators to Engineering* and her help on planning the Southdale Center event! My other gratitude goes to **Roz Dolid**, who has recently lead a team to create the wonderful "What Makes a Bicycle?" activity book! Roz's first presentation of this interactive book was at the Southdale Center event, where she taught kids about how components of the bicycle work together and general considerations made by engineers while designing a bicycle. We will continue to use this book at future SWE-MN career guidance events and we can't wait to teach more kids about engineering concepts while relating engineering to an everyday, fun item, a bicycle. We received generous donations from several corporate sponsors, which also made our events a great success! We appreciate these contributions from **General Dynamics - Advanced Information Systems Businesses, Guidant, MTS Systems Corporation, and Goodrich Corporation – Sensor Systems Division**. Complete details and photos from SWE-MN's E-week events will be published in a special edition of the SWE-MN newsletter in early April, so keep your eyes open for that. Thanks again to all of our volunteers for helping us reach approximately 750 students during E-week!

Another highlight of E-week occurred during the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers E-week Banquet. At the banquet it was announced that SWE-MN's nominee, **Alyse Stofer**, received the Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science, and Technology Societies (MFESTS) Young Engineer of the Year Award. This award honors young engineers who are outstanding in one or more areas such as engineering, science, or technology; and exhibit significant contributions to society through efforts in other areas such as civic, education, patents, papers, etc. Alyse is currently serving as the SWE-MN Awards and Recognition Chair, and is also the Region H Lieutenant Governor, and two years ago was our SWE-MN Section President. Congratulations to Alyse on this award!

Since Spring is coming, so is the **13<sup>th</sup> Annual SWE-MN Spring Professional Development Seminar**. Each year, I look forward to this all day event, because I am always fascinated with how much I learn from the superb personal and professional development sessions offered. This event is historically the most popular

event of the year, so please be sure to RSVP early! I would like to express my gratitude to the sponsors of the seminar, **Medtronic, and Rosemount Inc., a Division of Emerson Process Management**, for their generous donations. In addition, thanks to the Professional Development Committee members, especially the Seminar Co-chairs, **Gretchen Landini and Angela Neidermire**, for their strong commitment to making this event outstanding!

As Spring arrives, it is an excellent time to review the different leadership opportunities available in our section. Most chair and committee positions do not require any experience and time commitments vary. If you are interested in being part of the FY07 Executive Council as a co-chair or committee member, please contact me at [president@swe-mn.org](mailto:president@swe-mn.org). Being part of the Executive Council provides various opportunities for outreach and networking, and also opportunities for personal growth in areas such as communication, planning and leadership. In addition to chair and committee positions, there are six elected Executive Council positions including President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and two Council of Representative positions. I would like to extend my gratitude to **Cheri Maboudou-Tchao** for volunteering to be our Nominating Committee Chair. If you are interesting in participating in the FY07 Executive Council and running for an elected position, please contact Cheri at [nominating@swe-mn.org](mailto:nominating@swe-mn.org).

Look for more information about the Spring Professional Development Seminar and other upcoming events, along with more details on the elections in this newsletter and our website at [www.swe-mn.org](http://www.swe-mn.org). I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event. Happy Spring!

**Allison**

## Nominations for Minnesota SWE 2006-2007 Officers

It is that time of year again, when we assemble a nominating committee to solicit candidates to fill our Section's offices for the coming fiscal year. We are soliciting candidates for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two (2) Council of Representatives:

**\*\*President:** Authorized leader of the Section, presides over general and executive committee meetings. Responsible for overseeing activities of the Section and all the committees.

**\*\*Vice President:** Performs duties of the President in her/his absence. Also responsible for overseeing and coordinating Career Guidance, Scholarship and Student Liaison activities.

**\*\*Secretary:** Maintains minutes of meetings and carries on correspondence as directed by the President or Executive Council.

**\*\*Treasurer:** Responsible for managing Section funds and preparing monthly budget reports. Oversees activities of the Fund Development committee.

**\*\*COR (Council of Representatives), two positions:** Act as the official contact between the Section and the national governing council. File section reports with the Regional Governor and represent the Section in Region H *by attendance at the National and Regional Conferences.*

If you or someone you know are interested in one of these outstanding opportunities to practice your leadership skills, contact Cheri Maboudou-Tchao at [nominating@swe-mn.org](mailto:nominating@swe-mn.org). Nominations will also be sought from the general membership at the business meeting preceding the Spring Professional Development Seminar on March 25th at Medtronic. Ballots will be mailed in April, with the election results announced in May.

## COR Report

Jayshree Desai & Holli Pheil

The COR attended the Region H conference call where Nora Lin, Region H Governor, presided. Nora first discussed E-week and that many sections were planning some great outreach activities, which she wants a full report on in our next section report. She also announced that ISU (Iowa State University), who is hosting the

Region H Conference (March 3-5, 2006), fund raising status was at \$84k, but has a target of \$120k. What is currently raised is enough to cover the basic needs of the conference. We spent the remainder of the time discussing the Collegiate Section Travel Grant Applications. Region H set aside \$500 for assisting travel needs of collegiate sections to the Region H conference. We received 12 applications in which all 12 schools were in good standing with SWE Nationals. There was a total request for \$7,400. We based our award on financial need by looking only at the collegiate sections with less than a few thousand dollars in funds. We chose three schools to receive the following travel grant amounts; Bradley University (\$140), University of Michigan – Dearborn (\$300), and Milwaukee School of Engineering (\$60).

The FY07 Slate of Officers and Trustees were release with the following nominees:

### Presidents Elect

Libby Allman, Hallmark Cards, Region I

Michelle Tortolani, XM Satellite Radio, Region E

### Treasurer

Linette Patterson, Dell, Region C

### Director

Semahat Demir, Ph. D., National Science Foundation, Region E

Helen Patricia, Kennmetal Inc, Region G

### Director of Regions

Nora Lin, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Region H

### Trustees

Michele Fitzpatrick, University of Connecticut, Region F

Dorothy Morris, Region E

### COR Speaker

Melissa Tata, Dell, Inc, Region C

### COR Deputy Speaker

Nicole Eigner, Abbott Laboratories, Region H

We hope to see many of you at the Region H conference at ISU from March 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006! If you have any questions regarding the COR meeting or any other national society business, please contact Holli Pheil and Jayshree Desai at [cor@swe-mn.org](mailto:cor@swe-mn.org).

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The SWE-MN newsletter is published five times per fiscal year - September, November, January, March and May. Submit articles to the newsletter editor. The SWE annual membership includes a subscription to this newsletter. To place an ad or sponsor a newsletter, please contact the editor at [newsletter@swe-mn.org](mailto:newsletter@swe-mn.org).

## January PD Meeting at Boston Scientific Recap

Heather Johnson

The Boston Scientific Meeting was spectacular! The night started out with a tour of Boston Scientific's brand new facility and a networking hour with appetizers. A wonderful Mexican dinner was served followed by a presentation on cochlear implants given by SWE-MN member, Cathy Krier. Cathy's speech focused on the technical aspect of cochlear implant technology, and how it changed her son Kole's quality of life. It was a very informational presentation and heartwarming story. Cathy focused on the following in regards to cochlear implant technology: incidence, etiology, diagnosis, technology, and the impact on her family's life. The event was well attended and enjoyable. Thank you Cathy for sharing your story with us and to Boston Scientific for hosting the event.

## Summitt Brewery Tour Recap

Elizabeth Bierman

On February 4, over 20 people gathered for a one of a kind SWE meeting! We had lunch at Famous Dave's in St. Paul where SWE members, their significant others and friends spent an hour having lunch and socializing. Then we headed to the Summit Brewery! The tour started at 1pm and we learned about the beer making process, how Summit got its start and had a walking tour of the working facility. When the tour was over we got to sample the best of what Summit has to offer...beer. It was a unique meeting that was very laid back. People enjoyed the tour even if the tour guide needed a little more knowledge of the beer process and the machines. Lots of new faces were in attendance and we hope to see all of you at another upcoming meeting!



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## SWE Minnesota 2006 Scholarship Program Announcement

Leanne Knutson and Julie Long

We are pleased to announce our Scholarship Program for 2006. This year, we are offering *eleven* scholarships to women engineering students at schools in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Applications are due March 15<sup>th</sup>, and detailed information on the program can be found on our section website, [www.swe-mn.org](http://www.swe-mn.org). We are grateful to the following corporate partners for their sponsorship of our 2006 scholarships. Please help us spread the word about this program to women engineering students!

- The **Banner Engineering Scholarship** will be awarded to a Junior or Senior student of mechanical or electrical engineering. Banner Engineering, the sensor market leader, with the broadest line of products and solutions in the nation ([www.baneng.com](http://www.baneng.com)), has generously sponsored this **\$2,000** tuition-based scholarship.
- The **Toro Scholarship** will be awarded to a student of mechanical, electrical or agricultural engineering. The Toro Company is a leading worldwide provider of outdoor maintenance and beautification products for home, recreation and commercial landscapes ([www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)) and they have generously sponsored this **\$1,500** tuition-based scholarship.
- The **Boston Scientific Scholarship** will be awarded to a student of mechanical or biomedical engineering. Boston Scientific is a worldwide developer, manufacturer and marketer of medical devices who for more than 25 years, has advanced the practice of less-invasive medicine by providing a broad and deep portfolio of innovative products, technologies and services ([www.bsci.com](http://www.bsci.com)). Boston Scientific has sponsored a generous **\$1,500** tuition-based scholarship.
- Three **General Dynamics AIS Scholarships** will be awarded to students of hardware engineering, software engineering, and systems engineering. General Dynamics AIS, a leading provider of transformational mission solutions in command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance ([www.gd-ais.com](http://www.gd-ais.com)), has generously sponsored these **three \$1,000** scholarships.
- The **Lockheed Martin Scholarship** will be awarded to a student of systems or software engineering. Lockheed Martin's vision is to be the world's best advanced technology systems integrator and they have generously sponsored this **\$1,000** tuition-based scholarship.
- The **Ecolab Scholarship** will be awarded to a student of mechanical engineering. Ecolab, the world leader in premium commercial cleaning and sanitizing equipment ([www.ecolab.com](http://www.ecolab.com)), has sponsored this **\$1,000** tuition-based scholarship.
- The **MTS Systems Corporation Scholarship** will be awarded to a student of mechanical or software engineering. MTS Systems Corporation, the world's leading supplier of mechanical testing and simulation equipment ([www.mts.com](http://www.mts.com)), has generously sponsored this **\$1,000** tuition-based scholarship.
- The **Ingersoll Rand Scholarship** will be awarded to a student of mechanical, industrial, or electrical engineering at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Ingersoll Rand, a leading innovation and solutions provider for the major global markets of climate control, industrial solutions, infrastructure and security and safety, ([www.irco.com](http://www.irco.com)), has sponsored this **\$1,000** tuition-based scholarship.
- The **Minnesota Section Scholarship** is being offered to qualified women students who will enter their junior or senior year of an accredited engineering program in Fall 2006 at schools in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. This is a tuition-based scholarship of **\$1,000**, for a student in any discipline of study.

# Get to Know SWE-MN

## Featuring SWE-MN Member: Anita Hall

I joined SWE last fall, motivated both by a desire to network with other women engineers and my interest in helping to get/keep girls enthused about science. SWE-MN has been fantastic on both of these fronts. Since joining I have attended a number of local meetings and webinars and have also gotten involved in the Career Guidance Committee.

I graduated in 1978 from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Agricultural Engineering, specializing in Food Engineering. I began working for General Mills right after graduation and am still here today. During my 25+ year career I have had the chance to be a Design Engineer, Process Development Engineer, System Engineer, Project Engineer, Safety/Environmental Engineer and Manufacturing Engineer. Currently I am able to combine all of these disciplines as a Project Manager for the Snack's Division. When I talk to kids, I tell them that engineering is tremendously flexible, as my own career path indicates.



On the home front, I have been married for 11 years to a recently retired Army officer. Larry and I have 2 sons, William is 9 and Scott is 6. Both boys swear that they will be engineers when they grow up. As a family we enjoy visiting historic sites and wilderness camping. The picture was taken this past summer at Shi-Shi beach in the northwestern tip of Washington state. I enjoy doing hand-on science activities in my boys' school and am currently a coach for my son, William's Destination Imagination team. Destination Imagination is an international organization for kindergarten through college students and community groups that teaches life skills and expands imaginations through team-based creative problem solving. In any remaining free time I like to garden and I am almost religious about baking bread every Sunday.

I am very glad to be a part of the SWE community, and look forward to meeting everyone.

Every SWE-MN member is entitled to one **free pass** to give to a non-member to attend one meeting this year at no cost. We ask that you please do not redeem the free pass at the annual Spring Professional Development Seminar. We hope to see you and your guest at an upcoming event!

SWE Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Offer good through 6/30/2006

**SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS  
MINNESOTA SECTION**



**New Member/New Grad Event  
March 7, 2006**

We are having another event for New Members (joined since June 2005) and New Grads (graduated within 2 years ago)! Join us at Buca di Beppo in St. Paul to meet and socialize. Appetizers will be provided by SWE and all you have to pay is \$10 for your dinner and drinks. There will be a few members of the Executive Council there to talk with you and let you know of all the opportunities in the SWE Minnesota Professional Section. This is a great chance to network with other new members and new grads!



**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Location:** Buca di Beppo  
2728 Gannon Road  
St. Paul, MN 55116

**Directions:** **From Hwy 5 E:** Exit at Norfolk Ave. At the top of Norfolk Avenue (stop sign), turn right on to Gannon Rd.  
**From West 7<sup>th</sup> St:** Turn south onto Davern St. Turn right (west) on Shepard Rd. Turn right on Gannon Rd.

**Cost:** \$10 for SWE members  
\$13 for non-members  
*Cancellations by February 24th will receive a full refund. No refunds issued after February 24th.*

**RSVP:** By Thursday, March 2nd, please return the form below or email to [membership@swe-mn.org](mailto:membership@swe-mn.org)

**Questions:** E-mail [membership@swe-mn.org](mailto:membership@swe-mn.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form and check (made out to SWE-MN) by March 2nd to:

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Charlene Knealing  
421 E Travelers Trail #320  
Burnsville, MN 55337

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# From your Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Charlene Knealing and Erin Penne

## November Networking Event

Our fall networking event was held at Catheter and Disposables Technology, Inc. in Plymouth. It was a Scrapbooking event led by Tara Dorn, a Creative Memories Consultant and fellow SWE-MN member. The 13 attendees ranged from first timers to skilled scrapbooking artists. Everyone brought their photos, SWE-MN provided paper and stickers, and Tara brought lots of Creative Memories cutters and templates. There was a lot of great idea sharing and everyone went home with nice additions to their albums.

## Mom's Group Meeting

Becoming a mother makes us smarter! That is what 6 members learned about and discussed at the first ever SWE-MN Mom's Group meeting. It was held on January 31<sup>st</sup> at Jessica Luger's home. Before the meeting, all were asked to read the book "**The Mommy Brain: How Motherhood Makes Us Smarter**" by Katherine Ellison. Then at the meeting, we discussed some of the more interesting points that were brought up in the book. We learned that having children makes women smarter in five principle areas:

1. Perception
2. Efficiency
3. Resilience
4. Motivation, and
5. Emotional Intelligence.

There was a lot of research and data to back up these findings and it was a very interesting read. All the moms that attended had a great time discussing the book and learning more about each other and their families. Be on the look-out for future meetings!

## New Members

Erica Hoffman

Carol Holmblad

Hildania Kristensen-Tavarez

Kristin Oas



Adrienne Peirce

Namrata Sopory

Florence Taitel

Patritia Thorsbakken



**Volunteers Needed!**  
**Scholarship Committee**

Leanne Knutson and Julie Long

January through April represents the busy season for the Scholarship Committee and we are looking for extra help. Please join us in judging scholarship applications, preparing the mailing to all Minnesota high schools (making copies or collating and stuffing the mailing while networking with other SWE members and students), and sending our Certificates of Merit to high school women who have demonstrated excellence in math and science. For further information or to volunteer, contact [scholarships@swe-mn.org](mailto:scholarships@swe-mn.org).

**SWE Big Hairy Audacious Goal**

Holli Pheil, SWE-MN COR and Environmental Scanning FIG Member

As the Region Conferences are right around the corner, keep your eyes open for information on the Big Hairy Audacious Goal (BHAG) to come your way! The BHAG committee is looking for feedback and ideas on the future BHAG that is to be voted on at the 2006 National Conference. The Environmental Scanning Focused Interest Group (ES FIG) is also looking for volunteers to participate in creating our SWE BHAG! The commitment will be rewarding as you explore new possibilities for the BHAG and communicate with your fellow SWE members for insight and feedback. If interested please contact Lee Ann Schwope, [lschwope@exceramaterials.com](mailto:lschwope@exceramaterials.com), the ES FIG leader. Thanks in advance for your participation!



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## Upcoming Information Sessions



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**SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS  
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**April PD Meeting at Guidant Corporation  
Business Ethics: Ethics in the Workplace  
April 18 , 2006**

Kathleen Lundberg was appointed Chief Compliance Officer, Guidant Corporation, in December 2000. Previously, she served as Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Guidant Corporation.

Kathleen Lundberg began her career with Guidant in 1981 as a Biostatistician for Cardiac Pacemakers, Inc., which is now part of Guidant’s Cardiac Rhythm Management Group. Her subsequent positions included Coordinator for Scientific and Engineering Systems, Supervisor of ISS, Personnel Representative, Manager of Compensation, Manager of Human Resources, Manager of Leads Production, Director of Clinicals and Regulatory Affairs.

Kathleen Lundberg received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and a Master’s degree in Biostatistics and Computer Science, both from the University of Minnesota.



**Presentation: Title: Considerations For Business Ethics**

Companies from many industries have been under increased scrutiny in the press for ethical practices. How does this or could this effect people working in engineering and scientific roles? This presentation will focus on the current environment and the challenges facing businesses to create the right culture and foster ethical decision-making.

**This meeting will count toward PDH/CEU Credits.**

<b>Time:</b>	6:00 - 6:15	Arrive/Sign In	<b>Location:</b>	Guidant Corporation
	6:15 - 8:00	Dinner/Tours		Buildings A or E
	8:00 - 8:30	Presentation		4100 Hamline Ave N St. Paul, MN 55112

\*The tours are for non-Guidant engineers. Guidant employees please arrive around 7:00 for dinner.

**Cost:** \$10 for SWE members  
\$13 for non-members  
*Cancellations by April 11th will receive a full refund. No refunds will be issued after April 11th.*

**RSVP:** By April 11th, please return the form below or email to [aprilpd@swe-mn.org](mailto:aprilpd@swe-mn.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form and check (made out to SWE-MN) by April 11th to :

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Tricia Walker  
8680 Marigold Circle # 209  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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**We are thrilled to offer a SWE-MN Special Edition Newsletter that will feature the Career Guidance events that took place during E-Week! These events include; “What makes a bicycle” E-Week Kick-Off Event, Fuel Cell Car Experiment, Connecting Educators to Engineering, Spark, Slime, and Speed, and TECHFEST 2006 with ITAS.**

**Please watch for this publication in early April.**

**The newsletter is now being distributed to our members in electronic format.**

**If you would like to receive a paper copy of this newsletter, please send an email to the newsletter editor at:  
[newsletter@swe-mn.org](mailto:newsletter@swe-mn.org)**

March 3-5	Region H Conference at Iowa State University
March 7	New Member/New Grad Event (Page 8)
March 15	Scholarship Application Due Date (Page 6)
March 20	Executive Council Meeting at General Dynamics - Advanced Information Systems in Bloomington
March 25	13th Annual Professional Development Spring Seminar (Page 10)
April 18	April PD Meeting at Guidant Corporation (Page 12)

Visit our website at [www.swe-mn.org](http://www.swe-mn.org)



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED