



Society of Women Engineers

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Society of Women Engineers Minnesota Section

Shaping Technical Minds Into Meaningful Careers

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President's Report

Allison Pedersen

This fiscal year has flown by quickly and SWE-MN has been very busy. I can't believe all the wonderful activities and programs the Section has been involved with this year. We have continued to offer fantastic professional development events to our members, as demonstrated once again through our annual Spring Professional Development Seminar. I hope you were all able to attend this top-notch event. We have continued to offer exciting career guidance and outreach programs for students to find out more about math and science. This year, we have touched a record 1,000 students through our career guidance programs – this is more students than we have interacted with in the last few years combined! We have also increased our membership count again this year and have 205 members – the highest number ever! Another big accomplishment for the Section has been our continued relationships with collegiate sections. This year we are offering ten free student upgrades to collegiate SWE members graduating from the University of Minnesota, University of St Thomas, and St Cloud State University, and we are offering eleven scholarships to students from schools in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. I am thrilled that we have been able to do so much this year and increase our offerings to our membership and to collegiate members!

As mentioned above, in March, SWE-MN, **Medtronic, and Rosemount Inc., a Division of Emerson Process Management**, hosted the Spring Professional Development Seminar. The event was once again a huge success with continued superb personal and professional development sessions offered focusing on three different tracks; technical, entry level, and mid/senior level. I would like to thank the sponsors of the Seminar, in addition to the Spring Professional Development Seminar Co-chairs, **Gretchen Landini** and **Angela Neidermire**, and all of the other members of the Professional Development Committee for making this event possible.

March 3rd through 5th, twenty SWE-MN members attended the Region H Conference at Iowa State University in Ames, IA. This was a great opportunity for SWE-MN members to attend personal and professional development sessions, participate in SWE business, and network. It was especially exciting to meet professional and collegiate members from throughout the region. Four of the SWE-MN members that attended are from the Rochester area and are working on chartering a SWE-Southeast Minnesota section. We were thrilled to meet them for dinner on Friday evening and find out more about what events they are already organizing in the Rochester area and how the chartering process is going. The SWE-MN Executive Council voted at our January EC Meeting to release the requested 559xx zip codes to the proposed SWE-Southeast Minnesota section. So if you are a member of that zip code, you will be receiving a letter about this proposed section in the near future, which will explain that you have the option to be a member of either section. If you would like to find out more about what the SWE-Southeast Minnesota section is up to, contact Camesha Hardwick at comesha@us.ibm.com.

As the year comes to a close, I sit and look at the SWE-MN Section's goals (all 44 of them!) and look at all we have done with great pride in the SWE-MN Section and the entire Executive Council (EC). This group of women has put in a huge effort to make SWE-MN a wonderful organization to be part of and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as SWE-MN President. I would like to thank all of the EC members for their hard work this year. I would also like to thank all SWE-MN members for your time, attendance, and financial contributions to the Minnesota Section.

Speaking of an outstanding EC, the Awards and Recognition Chair, Alyse Stofer, and I recently meet to work on the SWE-MN Section awards. Everyone on the EC is so deserving that it was hard for us to select the recipients. We would like to congratulate each and every award recipient. Full details on the awards can be found inside this newsletter.

There are still some positions open for next year's EC. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering for an Executive Council or committee position.

Our year end networking event will be held on May 20 at the Midway Stadium in St Paul. SWE-MN members and their families are invited for tailgating and to watch a baseball game between the St Paul Saints and the Sioux City Explorers. I can't wait for this exciting evening of food and fun, and I hope to see you all there!

Allison

The Results Are In!!

Congratulations to the newly elected FY07 officers!

President: Elizabeth Bierman
Vice President: Erin Penne
Secretary: Angela Neidermire
Treasurer: Anne Kraft
COR: Holli Pheil and Patricia Walker



Many Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors for FY06!!



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General Dynamics, Advanced Information Systems	SWE-MN Open House, Corporate Scholarships (3), Engineers' Week
Guidant	Girl Scout Patch Day, Bicycle Activity Book, Volunteer Hours For Dollars, April Professional Development Mtg
Medtronic	Spring Professional Development Seminar, Corporate Scholarship
MTS	Bicycle Activity Book, Corporate Scholarship
Rosemount. A Division of Emerson Process	Professional Development Programs
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U of MN CDTL	SWE-MN Newsletter



Our Corporate Sponsors make it possible for SWE-MN to provide a wide breadth of activities and services for our members as well as enable us to encourage young people to explore engineering.

COR Report

Jayshree Desai & Holli Pheil

The COR attended the Region H conference call held April 13th, 2006. Nora Lin, Region H Governor, presided and we discussed several topics. The first was proposing a new position called the Deputy of Director of Regions. This position would assist the Director of Regions, who is currently Naomi Brill (SWE-MN), but

there are several discussions going on that ask how would the position be filled, what are the qualifications, how would this affect the National bylaws, and what roll would the deputy play? The COR is hoping to have a vote on this issue at the National Conference in Kansas City, October 2006.

Another topic was the decline in region membership. We have currently less members, both professional and collegiate, than in FY05. Our current membership is 1342 professional members (down 90 from last year) and 2249 collegiate members (down 50 from last year). Region H is one of the largest regions in the society and we have an impact at the national level where we account for a 10% (professional members) and a 25% (collegiate members) decline in the overall membership of the society.

At the Region H conference held in March 2006, it was voted that the next Region H Conference will be held at Northwestern University in Chicago, IL January 2007. During the conference call, there were some suggestions for the collegiate section bidding on hosting to have professional sections involved much earlier in the process and also to allow the professionals to have a vote on where the conference is being held. Currently, only collegiate sections vote where the Region H conferences are held. In order to get the collegiate sections vote, many bids gear the conferences as “fun” and cheap for the collegiate members, and do not always focus on superb professional development sessions and do not take into account the professional registration costs, which are usually substantially higher. The COR plans to vote on this issue at the National Conference, so that professional members may be able to vote on where the region conferences are held in the near future.

The new slate of candidates was presented at the professional meeting during the Region H conference. Alyse Stofer from SWE-MN is running for Region H Governor, Mary Clor is running for Deputy Governor from the Detroit Section, and Betty Leonard is running for Secretary from the Wisconsin section. We wish them all the best of luck.

Hotel Registration is open on the www.swe.org website for the National Conference in Kansas City, MO October 2006. Rooms book fast, so keep that in mind if you plan on attending. If you have any questions regarding any COR issues or any other national Society business, please contact Holli Pheil and Jayshree Desai at cor@swe-mn.org.

Certificate of Merit Program

Naomi Brill

SWE MN is providing Certificates of Merit to Minnesota high school students again this year. This national program provides certificates of recognition to junior and senior high school women who have excelled in math and science for at least three years. The certificates are given out at the schools' annual awards ceremonies. This year, 50 schools participated, and we recognized 96 outstanding young women.

STEM Conference

Allison Pedersen and Alyse Stofer

On March 31, the Citizen's League, Science Museum of Minnesota, and Minnesota Department of Education hosted a conference entitled "A Call to Action" for *Creating Minnesota's Plan for Career Development in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)*. The Society of Women Engineers-Minnesota was invited to attend this conference, which brought together representatives from government, education, corporations, and non-profit organizations. The conference started with an address from Governor Tim Pawlenty on the importance of STEM education and also the fact that groups should target parents and educators as they are the most influential people to students. Then Alice Seagren, Commissioner of Education for the State of Minnesota, spoke on the state's STEM initiatives. Eric Jolly, President of the Science Museum of Minnesota, also spoke on his ideas on making math and science fun, especially for minorities in STEM fields, such as women. All speakers were excellent and SWE-MN representatives, Allison Pedersen and Sharon Kurtt, were thrilled to hear their talks.

After the speakers, lunch was served and Allison and Sharon were able to network with many exciting professionals, including representatives from the Minnesota Department of Education and other non-profit representatives. After lunch, two break-out sessions were held, where participants discussed goals and strategies for developing a strategic plan for Minnesota on STEM education and career development and how to coordinate work with the different sectors (government, education, corporations, and non-profit organizations) to achieve a common goal. Many exciting ideas were generated during the brainstorming.

The planning group for the conference is in the process of preparing a follow-up report and recommendations to the Minnesota Department of Education and Governor Tim Pawlenty with a set of specific and focused strategic priorities and strategies designed to achieve the following goals suggested during the conference:

- increase students' college readiness in math and science,
- link STEM education to life and the workplace,
- focus and extend STEM career development efforts in the business community,
- coordinate and link resources across sectors,
- create a media campaign,
- recruit more students of all backgrounds into STEM majors, and
- meet annually to address implementation of the plan.

Allison and Sharon thought the conference was very worthwhile and are thrilled that SWE-MN has been asked to be a part of something that will be sure to impact Minnesota's students in the future.

"The Lighthouse II Retreat"

On Thursday, April 27, Alyse Stofer was the keynote speaker at the "The Lighthouse II Retreat", which was a two day grant funded conference hosted by the Minnesota Department of Education. The focus of the retreat was on conducting action research to improve student achievement in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) content in high school. Approximately thirty individuals attended this conference, including teachers, guidance counselors, parents, curriculum directors and principals from high schools in Moorhead, Thief River Falls and GFW (Gibbon, Fairfax, and Winthrop). Individuals from the Department of Education also attended including Assistant Commissioner Mary Ann Nelson, Director of the Division of Academic Standards & High School Improvement, and Sally Wherry, Supervisor of High School Initiatives. Alyse spoke on her experience with math and science curriculum, as a graduate of Burnsville Senior High School, University of Iowa and University of Minnesota, along with information about Transoma Medical's implantable diagnostic products. She also spoke about different engineering disciplines and opportunities for engineers after graduation. Alyse wrapped up her address by answering questions from attendees, which ranged from "what math do you use as an engineer (statistics, not calculus in her case)", and "what could you recommend for teachers to introduce engineering in the classroom (hands on experiments and projects, teamwork opportunities)".

Get to Know SWE-MN

Featuring SWE-MN Member: Gretchen Fett

I joined SWE in college at Iowa State University as a student in architecture, which was in the College of Engineering. As ISU-SWE Student President, I remember attending the SWE National Conference and seeing women engineers for the first time. Their beauty, technical diversity, wit, and fun personalities were impressive. Earlier that spring, our National SWE President had spoken at ISU, but the women engineering students were not allowed to attend. Learning that strong support was available from National SWE, our student section hosted professional women engineers to return so ALL of our students could attend and meet them. After graduation, I became the Chartering President of the Heart of Iowa Section of SWE and later the Section Representative. I have served on the National Scholarship Selection Committee and became the Region H Representative (now titled Region H Governor) after moving to Minnesota. I still hold a special spot in my heart for my sisters in SWE, even though I have not been as active as I once was and hope to be again.

Professionally, I began work in Des Moines, IA designing buildings and supervising construction for Northwestern Bell (later, USWest and Qwest). I later transferred into Long Range Planning where I performed many economic studies and developed a computerized program for selecting switching machines. After moving to the Twin Cities, I spent some time in Transmission Engineering and Marketing, holding a variety of both technical and managerial positions. During my time at USWest, I began a business on the side called “Sensitive Designs” where I could continue using my architectural degree and talents. When our Minneapolis office at USWest closed, I chose to stay at home with our two sons, Christian and Daniel, and continue to provide architectural services, both commercial and residential.



In addition to running my company “Sensitive Designs”, I am an instructor and sales associate at the Mall of America Archiver’s (a photo memory store) and am a beauty consultant with Mary Kay Cosmetics. My husband, Bob, and I have two sons, Chris and D.J. (as mentioned earlier) who still live at home. I am a Boy Scout Leader, am active at church, and enjoy handicrafts. Before Christmas, I had open heart surgery and am eagerly anticipating a full recovery so I can canoe, sail and hike once again.

I appreciate the leadership expertise developed through SWE and am glad to be a member. I look forward to meeting more of you soon.

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.

2006 SWE-Minnesota Scholarship Program Recipients

The SWE-Minnesota scholarship program encourages young women and collegiate SWE members to pursue successful careers in engineering and technology by recognizing the accomplishments of hard-working students with financial assistance. Students at universities in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota are eligible for our scholarships. Applicants are judged on the basis of potential to succeed as an engineer, communication skills, extracurricular activities, community involvement, leadership skills and work experience. This year, we were able to offer eight \$1,000 tuition scholarships, two \$1,500 tuition scholarships and one \$2,000 scholarship award. We thank **Banner Engineering, Boston Scientific, General Dynamics-Advanced Information Systems, Toro, Lockheed Martin, Ecolab, Ingersoll-Rand** and **MTS Systems Corporation** for partnering with us to provide these scholarships. Congratulations to each of these outstanding engineering students!

Banner Engineering Scholarship

Banner Engineering has funded a \$2,000 Tuition Scholarship for a junior or senior student studying mechanical or electrical engineering. *Merideth Midgarden is the recipient of the 2006 Banner Engineering Scholarship.* Ms. Midgarden is a junior attending North Dakota State University and is pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering. She is very active; working ten hours a week as an undergraduate research assistant, volunteering for various SWE activities and serving as treasurer of Tau Beta Pi.

Banner Engineering is the largest sensor company, with the broadest line of products and solutions in the nation. Banner is a Global Enterprise with world-class manufacturing, and sales, distribution and service in every major country worldwide (www.baneng.com).

Boston Scientific Scholarship

Boston Scientific has funded a \$1,500 Tuition Scholarship for a student studying Mechanical or Biomedical Engineering. *Anna Meehan is the recipient of the 2006 Boston Scientific Scholarship.* Ms. Meehan is a junior studying biomedical engineering at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. With her degree, Ms. Meehan hopes to focus on engineering solutions to neurological diseases.

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).

Toro Corporation Scholarship

Toro Corporation has funded a \$1,500 Tuition Scholarship for a student studying Mechanical, Electrical or Agricultural Engineering. *Kristina Kautzman is the recipient of the 2006 Toro Corporation Scholarship.* Ms. Kautzman is a junior attending North Dakota State University majoring in mechanical engineering. Her experience to date includes testing pipelines, designing layouts for machine relocations and preparing process flow maps.

Toro Corporation serves both the professional and residential markets worldwide with equipment to beautify and preserve outdoor landscapes and environmentally responsible solutions (www.toro.com).

MTS Systems Corporation Scholarship

MTS Systems Corporation funded a \$1,000 tuition scholarship for a student in Mechanical or Software Engineering. *Lesley Wyckoff is the recipient of the 2006 MTS Systems Scholarship.* Ms. Wyckoff is a junior studying mechanical engineering at the University of St. Thomas. She is active in SWE and ASME and dreams of working on projects that can improve the life of other individuals.

MTS Systems Corporation is the world's leading supplier of mechanical testing and simulation equipment (www.mts.com).

General Dynamics-AIS Scholarships

General Dynamics-AIS funded **three** \$1,000 Tuition Scholarships for students studying Hardware, Software, and Systems Engineering.

Amber Ahmann is one of the three 2006 General Dynamics-AIS scholarship recipients. Ms. Ahmann is a junior electrical engineering student at St. Cloud State University. She is interested in hardware design and failure analysis.

Jamie Hegland is one of the three 2006 General Dynamics-AIS scholarship recipients. Ms. Hegland is an electrical engineering student at North Dakota State University (NDSU). She serves as the E-week and Expanding Your Horizons chair for the NDSU-SWE collegiate section.

Ann Majewicz is one of the three 2006 General Dynamics-AIS scholarship recipients. She is a mechanical and electrical engineering student at the University of St. Thomas. Ms. Majewicz is active in SWE, ASME and IEEE where she serves as secretary.

General Dynamics-AIS is a leading provider of transformational mission solutions in command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (www.gd-ais.com).

Ecolab Scholarship

Ecolab funded a \$1,000 Tuition Scholarship for a student studying Mechanical Engineering. **Erica Nelson is the 2006 Ecolab scholarship recipient.** Ms. Nelson is a sophomore mechanical engineering student at the University of North Dakota. She balances her varsity tennis commitments while serving as the fundraising chair for the collegiate SWE section and still manages to maintain high academic standards as a member of Tau Beta Pi.

Ecolab is proud to be the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, pest elimination, maintenance and repair products and services for the world's hospitality, institutional and industrial markets (www.ecolab.com).

Lockheed Martin Scholarship

Lockheed Martin funded a \$1,000 Tuition Scholarship for a student studying Systems or Software Engineering. **Elizabeth Donnay is the 2006 Lockheed Martin scholarship recipient.** Ms. Donnay is a junior electrical engineering student at St. Cloud State University and is active in both IEEE and SWE.

Lockheed Martin is a lead systems integrator and information technology company. They service aeronautics and space system industries and are also the largest provider of IT services, systems integration, and training to the U.S. Government (www.lockheedmartin.com).

Ingersoll-Rand Scholarship

Ingersoll-Rand funded a \$1,000 Tuition Scholarship for a student studying Mechanical, Electrical, or Industrial Engineering. **Janette Spann is the recipient of the 2006 Ingersoll-Rand Scholarship.** She is a sophomore mechanical engineering student at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. With her mechanical engineering degree, Ms. Spann hopes "to utilize my skills in the area of new product design."

Ingersoll-Rand is a leading innovation and solutions provider for the major global markets of climate control, industrial solutions, infrastructure and security and safety (www.irco.com).

Minnesota Section Scholarship

The Minnesota Section endows a \$1,000 Tuition Scholarship for collegiate SWE members who will enter their junior or senior year of an accredited engineering program in Fall 2006. **Laura English is the recipient of the 2006 Minnesota Section Scholarship.** Ms. English is a junior studying industrial engineering at North Dakota State University. She has served as treasurer of her collegiate SWE section and is involved in planning a 2007 conference for the Institute of Industrial Engineers at NDSU.

SWE-MN Awards 2006

A tradition was started several years ago to recognize our members for their efforts over the past fiscal year. The Section Awards and Recognition Chair, in consultation with the Section President, is pleased to recognize the following members for their outstanding contributions to our Section's successes in FY06!

Key Contributor Award: Cheri Maboudou-Tchao

The "Key Contributor" Award recognizes a section member who has provided continuity and stability inside our organization for a period of several years and has been vital to our organizational success. This year, the "Key Contributor Award" is presented to Cheri Maboudou-Tchao. Cheri has consistently volunteered her time and talents since joining the Section in 1999. She has served the Section in a variety of roles including Professional Development Co-chair, Secretary, Public Relations Coordinator, E-mail Coordinator and Nominating Committee Chair. As Professional Development Co-chair, Cheri created a new tool to divide and track tasks for each event that proved essential to increasing the number of program offerings. Her focus on communication and timeliness helped to streamline the committee's operation, and as such, this tool is still used today. This is just one of many examples where Cheri has applied her project management skills and strong sense of organization to improve Section operations. The Section thanks Cheri for her significant contributions over the past several years through her numerous roles and responsibilities!

Most Active New Member: Charlene Knealing

The "Most Active New Member Award" acknowledges the contribution of section members who are new to our organization (less than two full years of membership in SWE-MN). In FY05, Charlene Knealing joined SWE-MN after receiving one of the Section's free collegiate upgrades, and began attending many of the Section's events. As a recent graduate, Charlene offered to help with the coordination of SWE-MN's first ever New Grad/New Member Networking Event. She has continued to be an advocate of the New Grad/New Member Networking events and has assisted with planning these events this fiscal year as Membership Co-chair. Additionally, this year Charlene created a membership technical survey and a database to host the information to better understand our members technical knowledge and interest. The Section looks forward to Charlene's enthusiasm and contributions for years to come!

Bravest Volunteer of the Year Award: Roz Dolid

The "Bravest Volunteer of the Year Award" recognizes the spirit of the volunteer who threw caution to the wind and was willing to undertake unfamiliar and challenging tasks to better our Section. Roz Dolid led a team in the creation of "*What Makes a Bicycle?*" activity book. She acquired SWE national funding for this endeavor, as well as funding and support from SWE-MN and local corporations. Her months of hard work resulted in an excellent learning tool, in which elementary students learn about the engineering concepts behind a bicycle. The Section looks forward to using the interactive book and discussion at future career guidance events!

Most Dedicated Member Award: Sarah Schostag

The "Most Dedicated Member Award" acknowledges a member who does not have time to volunteer as a committee chair but attends meetings regularly and is ready to volunteer for a specific project. Sarah Schostag volunteered to represent SWE-MN as a Section Representative at the 2005 National Conference in Anaheim, California. Sarah participated in over seven hours of Council of Representatives (COR) meetings over two days. Prior to the National Conference, she attended a conference call and read the COR materials in preparation for the meetings. Additionally, Sarah is an active volunteer on the Professional Development Committee this year. The Section appreciates her involvement and commitment to SWE!

SWE-MN Awards 2006 (Continued from Page 10)

Significant Achievement Award: Scholarship Program – Leanne Knuston and Julie Long

The “Significant Achievement Award” recognizes a committee that has made a significant contribution to the long-term goals of our Section. The Scholarship Committee, led by Leanne Knuston and Julie Long, is awarding a record eleven scholarships this year for a total of \$13,000. This year the committee specifically targeted companies that have previously not participated in the Corporate Partner Scholarship Program and as a result, several new contacts and scholarships are going to be awarded to college students in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. The Section appreciates the committee’s dedication to acquiring corporate sponsorship, as well as the large pool of applicants for the scholarship program!

Cornerstone Award: Anne Kraft

The “Cornerstone Award” recognizes a senior member who has contributed the most to the Section this year. Anne Kraft has been a member of SWE-MN since 1990 and held a variety of positions including President, Vice President, Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair and Professional Development Co-chair. For the past two fiscal years Anne has served the Section as Treasurer and Fund Development Chair. In this role she developed a Volunteer Hours for Dollars program and the Section participated in Herberger’s annual Community Days fundraising event. Prior to these programs, Anne was instrumental in the creation and implementation of the Spring Professional Development Seminar and the SWE-MN Scholarship Program. The Section is grateful for Anne’s continuous involvement and support!

Most Reliable Contributor: Holli Pheil

The “Most Reliable Contributor Award” recognizes a section member who always completes tasks in a timely manner and regularly attends Executive Council (EC) and professional development SWE-MN meetings. Holli Pheil has been active locally, regionally and nationally in SWE this fiscal year. She currently serves as SWE-MN COR, and as a member of both the SWE-MN Fund Development and Career Guidance Committees. Holli is also actively involved in the SWE International Task Force Committee. Furthermore, Holli has attended all EC meetings this year and most professional development and networking meetings, along with volunteering at numerous career guidance events. The section appreciates her unwavering support to SWE locally, regionally and nationally!

Most Innovative New Program Award: E-week Activities – Krista Johnson and Cassie Piippo

The “Most Innovative New Program Award” recognizes a program new to SWE-MN that addresses Section goals and has been implemented during the current fiscal year. Krista Johnson and Cassie Piippo were instrumental in coordinating several programs during the 2006 National Engineers Week (E-week), most of which were new to the Section. The E-week events included a kick off event for the bicycle mechanics activity book, performing the fuel cell car experiment at a local high school, and participating in connecting educators to engineering at two different high schools, as well as taking part in a Science Museum event and the UMN-ITAS (Institute of Technology Alumni Society) CHEMFEST at The Works. Through the efforts of Krista and Cassie the Section was able to touch 150 adults and over 700 kids during E-week, which is a great achievement for SWE-MN. The Section applauds their work with the introduction and participation in a variety of career guidance programs in one week!

Professional Spirit Award: Tricia Walker

The “Professional Spirit Award” recognizes a member who is passionate about SWE’s mission and consistently represents the Section in a positive, professional manner. For the past two years Tricia Walker has served SWE-MN as a Professional Development Co-chair. She coordinates Professional Development meetings and events with enthusiasm and confidence, and has been vital in helping the Section make important contacts with other professional societies and corporate sponsors. Tricia volunteered to work with IEEE and ASME to plan the Minnesota Engineering Societies Summer Soiree. In this role, she represented SWE in a professional, positive manner and was critical in the planning of this successful event. Tricia is just the kind of member SWE-MN wants promoting the Section!



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Spring Professional Development Seminar

Gretchen Landini and Angela Neidermire

The 13th Annual Spring Professional Development Seminar, “Shaping Technical Minds into Meaningful Careers”, was held on Saturday, March 25th from 8:00am to 4:00pm at the Medtronic World Headquarters in Fridley. There were 74 people in attendance. Thank you to Medtronic and Rosemount, Inc., a Division of Emerson Process Management, for sponsoring the event. Thank you also to everyone who volunteered their time on the Professional Development Seminar Committee and those who assisted the day of the event.

The event was a huge success with the addition of specific tracks for the breakout sessions. Following breakfast, the SWE business meeting and the morning keynote, attendees selected sessions from the technical track, entry level engineering track and the mid/senior level engineering track. After a delicious lunch, we were honored to have Margaret “Pritch” Pritchard present our luncheon keynote. Pritch is a SWE Member of College Fellows and traveled all the way from Oregon to be with us for the Seminar. The afternoon contained two more breakout sessions before the concluding wrap-up with door prizes, including a FY07 SWE membership. Throughout the day, attendees enjoyed the opportunity to network with both familiar and new faces.

Below is a list of key things learned throughout the day:

Medtronic Welcome and Morning Keynote by Dr. Ursula Gebhardt

Dr. Gebhardt spoke on the progress Medtronic has made in curing diseases and briefly gave her opinion of where the industry was headed in the future. She also stressed that knowledge goes beyond technology.

Luncheon Keynote by Margaret “Pritch” Pritchard

Pritch conveyed her message about “skywalking” and using creativity and intuition while solving a problem to a level of proof. Her “war stories” truly resonated with the audience.

Technical Track:

Iteration Testing Methodology in the Defense Industry, presented by Erin Penne

Iteration testing involves a project being broken down into smaller pieces. Each iteration (a little planning, design and coding for each smaller piece) adds to the previous iterations until completion. Iteration testing is extremely useful for projects with a fast turn around time and changing requirements.

Hurricane Recovery Efforts, presented by Bonnie Greenleaf and Liz Nelson

Both speakers have been part of Task Force Hope as members of the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) temporary housing team. They shared incredible pictures of the damage caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as the amazing amount of work that has already been done, including a school constructed in 17 days.

Tour of Cath Lab - Medtronic’s Implant Simulator, presented by Beth Bauer

The tour of Medtronic’s Virtual Cath Lab provided us with a realistic, hands-on opportunity to simulate a lead implant procedure with a mannequin, X-ray equipment, and monitors to show the placement of the lead on the patient’s heart.

Mid-Level Engineering Track:

Team Dynamics, presented by Judy Hartley

The concept of teams was illustrated by an activity where the goal of the team was to “Win As Much As You Can”. This demonstrated the human competitive nature and how lack of trust and minimal communication across subgroups minimized the success that could have been achieved for the whole team if there was a shared goal instead of individualistic motives.

7 Habits by Highly Effective People, presented by Alane Howerton

Alane, a Certified Franklin Covey Instructor, gave us an overview on the 7 Habits and went into detail on Habit 1: Be Proactive and aware of our personal vision.

Becoming an Effective Leader, presented by Denise Greer

We learned how to create a career goal plan that will help us identify what skills we need to work on to become an effective leader.

Communication Styles, presented by Ellen Hinrichs

We discussed Marston’s DiSC model of different communication styles (Dominance, Influential, Steadiness and Conscientious). A better understanding of your communication style can help you identify ways to adapt your style to enhance your communication effectiveness.

Mid/Senior Level Engineering Track:

Career Option: Engineer to Intellectual Property Attorney, presented by Gretchen Pesek Skarohlid

Gretchen used her personal experiences to explain the differences between engineering school (more problem solving) and law school (more reading and writing) and between working at law firms (more working hours and less bureaucracy) and in a corporation’s law department (not as many hours and more teamwork).

Six Sigma, presented by Maggie Hickel

The DMAIC process (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control) provides a standard framework for problem-solving, and many specific tools are available for each phase in the process. Maggie shared specific project examples from her work at 3M.

Leading Effective Meetings, presented by Kristen Mortenson

We covered a portion of the DDI (Development Dimensions International) course on this topic. The 3 legs of the stool supporting a meeting are preparing for the meeting, conducting the meeting and handling difficult situations. Preventing meeting problems is common sense, although not always common practice.

Embracing Change, presented by Barb Greenberg

We learned how to embrace change by making the decision to make the change immediately and then stepping through the process with patience through the busy times and courage because beginning anything new is going to be messy but growth occurs by focusing on individual strength.

If you are interested in finding out more about any of the topics or speakers that presented at the Spring Professional Development Seminar, please contact Gretchen and Angela at pdseminar@swe-mn.org.

April Professional Development Meeting Recap Business Ethics: Guidant Corporation

Tricia Walker

The Guidant Meeting was a huge success! The night started out with tours of some of Guidant's state of the art catheter labs. It was a very interesting tour. A wonderful buffet dinner was then served followed by a presentation on Business Ethics by Kathy Lundberg, Sr. Vice President and Chief Compliance officer for Guidant. She drew upon present examples of unethical business practices and focused on the challenges facing businesses today regarding ethical issues. She also highlighted the "costs" associated with unethical practices, basic ethical and compliance policies, and had live case studies where the audience was able to participate. The case studies were a great learning experience and the attendees gained a lot of practical knowledge from it. The event was very well attended by members and Guidant employees and was overall very enjoyable. Thank you to Guidant for sharing their facility and on-site technical staff with SWE-MN.



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Fund Development

Anne Kraft

We had a very successful year with funding of section activities, as you can see on Page 4 of this newsletter, by way of our Corporate Sponsors. Many thanks goes out not only to those companies, but the Professional Development and Career Guidance Committees for their efforts to secure funding for their activities and to the Scholarship Committee for their hard work on the Corporate Partner Scholarship Program. Thank you also to **Cathy Krier** for applying and receiving a Time-n-Talent grant from Medtronic which will go towards a future student scholarship

Thank you to members who participated in the Herberger's Community Day event either by buying coupon packets and/or volunteering during the Community Day Sale. We raised over \$300 for our Section with this project. Special thanks to **Jayshree Desai, Sharon Kurtt, Jessica Luger, and Holli Pheil** for volunteering!

Our "**Volunteer Hours For Dollars**" initiative was also a great success this year, raising \$1,225 for our section! Thank you to **Jayshree Desai, Heather Dolan, Lynn Jossi, Angela Neidermire, and Holli Pheil** for filling out those company forms rewarding your volunteer time!

From your Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Charlene Knealing and Erin Penne

SWE-MN Mom's Group Meeting

Be on the look-out for another Mom's Group Meeting later this summer. If you have any ideas for the group; such as, topic ideas, location ideas, etc., please let Erin Penne know (aeroeng99@isualum.com).

Welcome to New Members!

Emily Blakemore
Sharon Dinges
Bonnie Kee-Bowling
Sandra Ruegemer
Susan Sackman
Ashika Shrestha
Deanna Wussow

March New Grad/New Member Networking Dinner Recap

On March 7, 2006 the section hosted a New Member/New Grad event at Buca di Beppo's in St. Paul. This was a great chance for New Members and New Graduates to get together with a few members from the Executive Council (EC) and learn about the opportunities available in the SWE-MN professional section and to meet other new members in the section. There were a total of 5 new members and 3 EC members that attended. It was a fun relaxing environment where the EC members were able to answer any questions the new members had and get to know them better. It was a great time and the food was terrific!

Congratulations to **Elizabeth and Dave Bierman** on the birth of their daughter, Lauren. She was born on March 25, and was 5 lb, 15 oz and 19 1/4" long.



Congratulations to **Kari and Mike Tarpey** on the birth of their son, Stephen Michael. He was born on March 9, and was 8lb, 13oz and 22 1/4" long.



May 20 Networking Event: St. Paul Saints Game and Tailgating

May 23 EC Meeting at Guidant

Visit our website at www.swe-mn.org



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