



Society of Women Engineers

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Society of Women Engineers Minnesota Section

Diversity of Thought

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President's Report

Elizabeth Bierman

This fiscal year has been very successful and SWE-MN has been very busy. I can't believe all of 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, hosted at St. Thomas University this year. We have continued to offer exciting Career Guidance programs for students to learn more about math and science. Again this year, we have touched over 1,000 students through our Career Guidance programs. In June, SWE-MN is hosting *WOW! That's Engineering!* We are one of four host sections in the country chosen from SWE headquarters to do this event! We will need lots of volunteers in order to have a successful event. More details are on page 3.

We have also increased our membership count again this year and have 241 members – our highest number ever! Another big accomplishment for the Section has been our continued relationships with collegiate sections. This year we are offering free student upgrades to collegiate SWE members graduating from the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities and Mankato), University of St Thomas, and St Cloud State University, and we are offering 12 scholarships with a total of \$15,000 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 hosted the Spring Professional Development Seminar. The event was once again a huge success with continued superb personal and professional development sessions offered. I would like to thank the sponsors of the Seminar: Medtronic, Boston Scientific, IBM, Rosemount and St. Thomas University. I also would like to thank the Spring Professional Development Seminar Co-chairs, **Erica Hoffman** and **Sharon Kurtt**, for making this event possible.

As the year comes to a close, I sit 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 made 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, **Cathy Krier** is planning our first annual SWE-MN Awards Banquet. We will be honoring our outstanding members and scholarship winners as well as thanking our corporate partners at this event.

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.

Elizabeth

Wow!

That's Engineering!

www.swe.org/wow

In order to encourage girls across the country to become involved with engineering and technology, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) has launched a new program, **Wow! That's Engineering!** and SWE-MN has been selected to host this signature event!

What will happen at the *Wow! That's Engineering!* event?

Middle school girls will have the opportunity to meet women engineers and technologists and hear first-hand about engineering as an exciting career path. Through interaction with corporations during *Engineer-Ware*, an inspirational speaker, and hands-on experiments, girls will be able to experience the creativity and innovation that occurs in the field of engineering and technology.

How can I help get girls involved with this event?

Together, we have the opportunity to encourage girls to become better informed on how engineering and technology improves our world. Volunteers are vital to our event's success.

You can help by:

- Signing your corporation up for *Engineer-Ware*, a showcase to communicate how your work and products contribute to making the world a better place
- Leading or participating in a hands-on experiment, including making lip gloss, with the girls

Event Details:

Location: University of St. Thomas in St. Paul

Date: Sunday, June 3

Time: Engineer-Ware - 10:30am to 12pm

Experiments - 11am to 4:30pm

To Volunteer. Contact: Allison at Allison.pedersen@swe.org



Society of
Women Engineers

2007 SWE Minnesota Scholarship Program Recipients

Naomi Brill & Julie Long

The SWE Minnesota scholarship program encourages young women and student 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 seven \$1,000 tuition scholarships, four \$1,500 tuition scholarships and one \$2,000 scholarship award. We thank **Banner Engineering, Boston Scientific, General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems, Goodrich, Lockheed Martin, MTS Systems, Polaris and Toro** for partnering with us to provide these scholarships. Congratulations to each of these outstanding engineering students!



- **\$2,000 Banner Engineering Scholarship** for a junior or senior student of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering

Ann Majowicz is the recipient of the 2007 Banner Engineering Scholarship. Ms. Majowicz is a senior attending the University of St. Thomas and is pursuing a double major in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. She serves as Treasurer for three organizations SWE, IEEE and ASME.

- **\$1,500 Boston Scientific Scholarship** for a student of Mechanical or Biomedical Engineering

Erica Delin is the recipient of the 2007 Boston Scientific Scholarship. Ms. Delin is a junior studying Biomedical Engineering at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. She is a member of Tau Beta Pi and is active serving as a section Director for SWE.

- **\$1,000 Goodrich Corporation Scholarship** for a student of Aerospace, Industrial, Manufacturing, Mechanical, or Electrical Engineering

Kerstin Diesch is the recipient of the 2007 Goodrich Corporation Scholarship. Ms. Diesch is a student attending the University of Minnesota majoring in Aerospace Engineering. She hopes to design instruments and parts for transportation vehicles.

- **Three \$1,000 General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems Scholarships** for students studying Electrical Mechanical, Software Engineering or Computer Science.

Elaine Reeves is one of the three 2007 General Dynamic Advanced Information Systems scholarship recipients. Ms. Reeves is a senior Electrical Engineering student at the University of St. Thomas. She has served as section President for both SWE and IEEE and hopes to pursue a master in Electrical Engineering once she graduates.

Kathleen Breeggemann is one of the three 2007 General Dynamic Advanced Information Systems scholarship recipients. Ms. Breeggemann is an Electrical Engineering student at North Dakota State University (NDSU). She is active in the NDSU Speech and Debate Club.

Janette Spann is one of the three 2007 General Dynamic Advanced Information Systems scholarship recipients. She is a Mechanical Engineering student at the University of Minnesota. Ms. Spann is active in SWE where she serves as Treasurer and volunteers for the Ronald McDonald House.

- **\$1,500 and \$1,000 Lockheed Martin Scholarships** for students studying Electrical, Systems or Mechanical Engineering.

Sarah Panzer is the recipient of the \$1,500 2007 Lockheed Martin scholarship. Ms. Panzer is a senior Electrical Engineering student at North Dakota State University. She is the captain of the women's soccer team and hopes to join the Peace Corps after graduation.

Erin Mann is the recipient of the \$1,000 2007 Lockheed Martin scholarship. Ms. Mann is a sophomore Mechanical Engineering student at North Dakota State University. She is active in SWE and the Bison Brigade while working up to 20 hours a week.

- **\$1,500 MTS Systems Corporation Scholarship** for a student of Mechanical or Software Engineering

Nicole Jackson is the recipient of the 2007 MTS Systems Corporation scholarship. Ms. Jackson is a sophomore Mechanical Engineering student at the University of St. Thomas. She works during the school year tutoring a handicapped student nine hours a week and serves as the volunteer Chair for the SWE collegiate section.

- **\$1,000 Polaris Scholarship** for a student of Mechanical Engineering


Adaeze Okoye is the recipient of the 2007 Polaris Scholarship. Ms. Okoye is a sophomore Mechanical Engineering student at the North Dakota State University. While pursuing her Mechanical Engineering degree, she is President of the Libra Honor Society and is active in SWE and NSBE.

- **\$1,500 Toro Corporation Scholarship** for a student of Mechanical, Electrical or Agricultural Engineering

Elizabeth Donnay is the recipient of the 2007 Toro Corporation Scholarship. Ms. Donnay is a senior attending St. Cloud State University majoring in Electrical Engineering. She is an active member of IEEE and KHK and serves as the collegiate section President of the SWE section.

- **\$1,000 Minnesota Section Scholarship** for a high-potential woman engineering student of any discipline.

Martha Dufresne is the recipient of the 2007 SWE Minnesota Section Scholarship. Ms. Dufresne is a junior Composite Material Engineering student at Winona State who has maintained a 4.0 grade point average. She plans on going into the winter sports industry to design and manufacture parts.



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February Networking Night Recap

Jenna Rendon and Lisa Schmalhurst

The February Networking Night event was held on February 27th at Cafe Latte restaurant and bakery in St. Paul. There were a total of 18 attendees at the event. The evening began with lots of laughter and lively conversation. This event was a wonderful opportunity for SWE-MN members to take some time out to relax, network and catch up with other members. SWE-MN members enjoyed a selection of gourmet soups, salads and sandwiches. However, the highlight of the evening was definitely dessert! Everyone enjoyed a delicious slice of three layer chocolate cake.

March Networking Night Recap

Jenna Rendon and Lisa Schmalhurst

On the evening of Tuesday, March 27th, a group of SWE-MN members met at member Trish Walker's house for an evening of socializing, networking, and most importantly - pampering. Each member got to give themselves an amazing pedicure and a hand facial using Mary Kay products. There was much fun had by all and it was a great stress break. The evening had a good networking section as well as each member shared what was going on in their professional and personal lives. There were even unknown connections discovered between members!

Congratulations to the newly elected SWE-MN FY08 officers!

- President: Erin Penne
- Vice President: Holli Pheil
- Secretary: Melissa Boom Coburn
- Treasurer: Angela Neidermire
- COR: Cassandra Piippo, Lisa Schmalhurst and Tricia Walker

SWE/IIE April PD Event

Melissa Boom Coburn

The joint SWE/IIE (Society of Women Engineers and Institute of Industrial Engineers) April event was held at Seagate Technology in Bloomington. Approximately 30 members from the two organizations attended the Professional Development event, which included an overview of the disc drive process, a summary of Industrial Engineering job responsibilities and a window tour around the 50K square foot Wafer Fabrication facility. The event concluded with dinner at Fuddruckers.

SWE-MN is "Going Green"

Starting September 2007, newsletters will only be distributed to our members electronically. We will no longer be sending paper copies.

To view the current and past newsletters, visit www.swe-mn.org and click on Newsletter.



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

COR Report

Holli Pheil & Patricia Walker

The Council of Representatives (COR) is the voice of the Society of Women Engineers members. The Minnesota Professional Section has currently two voting members on the council that represents the issues of our section and

provides the information from the national level to the Minnesota members. Due to our membership increase, SWE-MN will have three COR representatives for FY08.

The Region H Conference call was held on March 26, 2007. The following updates were provided:

- o Next year's Region H Conference will be held at Bradley University in Peoria, IL, January 25-27, 2008. Planning is well underway.

- o Please visit www.swe.org/2007 for the 2007 National Conference information. The National Conference is going to be held in Nashville, Tennessee October 25-27th, 2007. Please note that the two conference hotels with blocked rooms are already full. The next two closest hotels are the Sheraton and Marriott. Please reserve your rooms as soon as possible. If you work for a corporate partner, they may have a room already reserved. The next Board of Directors meeting will confirm the meeting schedules associated with the National Conference.



- o We are happy to announce the FY08 Region H Officers. Congratulations to all!

- o Elizabeth Bierman (MN), Lt. Governor
- o Julie Long (MN), Treasurer
- o Jenny Morikawa (Detroit), Secretary
- o Naomi Brill (MN), Region H Representative to the National Nominating Committee.

- o As an Awards reminder, please apply for the individual awards of Distinguished Service and Significant Support. Section awards also include: Career Guidance, Professional Development, Innovation, Continuous Improvement, Membership Growth (now one each for small, medium, large section), and Membership Retention (now one each for small, medium, large section). The Minnesota section plans to apply for the majority of these awards. If you have any questions regarding the awards, and to receive an application form, please contact the Region H Awards Chair, Tricia Walker (triciajwalker@yahoo.com). Submittals are due no later than June 1, 2007.

If you have interests in positions, committees, or have any other questions, please contact us at cor@swe-mn.org. We are happy to assist you!

Member News

Gaga and Cheri Maboudou-Tchao
& big brother Dodji
would like to announce the birth of
their daughter
Ahoefa Arianna Afi
(we're calling her Arianna)
Born April 5th at 8:24 PM
8 lbs 0 oz, 21 inches



Leanne Knutson and husband
would like to announce the birth of
their daughter
Lauryn Marie
Born April 14th at 2:30 AM
7 lbs 10 oz
21 1/2 inches



SWE-Minnesota would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!



Kristen Buschert
Kelly Costello
Katherine Kaspar
Madison Koppin
Amy Schauble

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 event soon.

SWE Member's Name: _____

Friend's Name: _____

Meeting Date: _____

Offer good through 6/30/2007



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Get to Know SWE-MN

Featuring SWE-MN Member:

Lisa Schmalhurst

I first joined SWE in my freshman year of college. I went to Michigan Tech University, and if you know anything about the male to female ratio at that school, you know that I was craving some time with other women. Even more so, because this was after I came out of a private high school, where I was in classes with only females! SWE became a great Wednesday night retreat. As I went through my time at Michigan Tech, I took on more and more responsibilities in student organizations including SWE, the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) and a start-up organization fostering the projects of graduates of the LeaderShape program, a national program that hosts a week-long leadership seminar at colleges around the country. Eventually, in my fifth year at school, I was serving BMES as President, SWE as Vice President and the LeaderShape Student Organization as Secretary. Even though organizations and volunteerism played a large part of my off-time in college, I did manage to graduate with two Bachelor's degrees in April of 2006: one in Biomedical Engineering and a minor in German, my family heritage; and one in Mechanical Engineering. Once I moved to Minnesota, it was important for me to continue my involvement in professional societies, and especially in SWE. I started my time in SWE-MN by becoming the FY07 Membership Co-Chair, and will serve the section in FY08 as one of our COR reps.

I never wasted a summer of college. Beginning with the summer after my first year, I started interning in industry. I began by working at Bosch Braking Systems in South Bend, IN, in the Active Booster Development group. After that summer, I learned that I didn't have a great passion to be an Automotive Engineer, but I generally enjoyed the practical applications that I was seeing and learning. I knew that Mechanical was for me. Without looking for it,

at the winter career fair during my sophomore year, I was granted an interview for a Mechanical Engineering internship at Guidant Corporation in St Paul. From the time I began work at Guidant that summer, I had found my niche. I was a Biomechanical Engineer. The knowledge that going to work every day had the impact to extend and improve lives was fulfilling and stimulating for me in the way that one hopes a job will be, but is always told it never is. After graduating, I accepted a full-time position with Boston Scientific CRM (the business unit formerly known as Guidant) as a Mechanical Design Engineer in the Capacitor Development area, where I am responsible for the design and coordination to manufacturing of both new and market released products. After being in an Engineer I position for 10 months, my hard work and tenacity were recognized with a promotion to an Engineer II position.

Outside of my work at Boston Scientific, I am currently working toward my Master's Degree in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Minnesota, hoping to graduate in December of 2009.

And I do have a life outside of engineering... In September of 2006, I married my husband, Todd, one of my best friends and enemies for over five years. We bought our townhouse in Maple Grove in October and since then have been having a grand time blending our college budget furniture into our stylish, modern house. We enjoy rock climbing, mountain bike riding together, along with skiing for Todd and snowboarding for me. While Todd enjoys his adventure racing, a combination usually of orienteering, biking and kayaking, I enjoy my quiet time in whatever park reading books and working Sudoku puzzles. I also enjoy volunteering my time tutoring elementary students and mentoring women in college engineering programs.

Join SWE-MN on a tour of the 3M Innovation Center

The 3M Innovation Center is designed with the customer in mind. It is a venue for starting new relationships and deepening existing relationships by connecting them with everything 3M has to offer.

Through interactive displays, customers experience the breadth and depth of 3M ingenuity and how it can be used to increase their competitive advantage. 3M utilizes the full range of interactions provided by the Innovation Center to capture the "Voice of the Customer," treating each visit as an opportunity to explore the customer's primary issues and problems in cooperative discussion and solution. The goal is to place more emphasis on the customer sharing and experience rather than merely listening and responding and to move the customer relationship beyond selling into partnership and collaboration. The Customer Experience is not an ad hoc "10 slides in 10 minutes" overview of 3M. Rather, the intent is to immerse the customer into the culture of 3M and to involve the customer in the innovation process.

Date: Thursday, May 31, 2007

Location: 3M Innovation Center (North side of the 3M Center campus)
2350 Minnehaha Ave
St Paul, MN 55144-1000

Schedule of Events:

5:30pm-6:30pm Innovation Center Tour

6:30pm-7:30pm Hors d'oeuvres & Networking

Cost: \$10 for SWE members, \$13 for non-members
no charge for 3M employees

RSVP: By Thursday, May 24th to pd@swe.mn.org

Note: This tour is limited to 45 people, so sign-up early. If needed, a waiting list will be generated for this event.

14th Annual Spring Professional Development Seminar Recap

Sharon Kurtt & Erica Hoffman

On Saturday, March 10th, SWE-MN members from across the state attended the 14th Annual Spring Professional Development Seminar held at the University of St. Thomas.

SWE-MN was the guest of the College of Engineering at St. Thomas. Medtronic, Boston Scientific and IBM provided sponsorship for the event.

Highlights:

- Keynote Speaker, Kristi Weiser shared her thoughts on the 2006/7 National SWE theme, “Diversity of Thought”. The message to be shared is that “Diversity of Thought” needs to be embraced. When we recognize the true value of diverse thinking that individuals offer based on their unique individual experiences, we enable organizations to gain competitive advantage.
- Liz Weatherhead, of Liz Speaks, provided a wonderfully interactive session on how to make effective introductions of yourself, and others, in both informal, and formal networking situations. Practical skills, such as how to break into a conversation were gained.
- Luncheon Keynote speaker, David Rhees, Executive Director of the Bakken Museum, shared images of “the body electric” through the ages, which included illustrations of early electro-medical devices.

PDH/CEU Sessions:

St. Thomas Engineering faculty members, Jeff Jalkio and Camille George, presented sessions that earned Professional Development/Continuing Education Units. Professor Jalkio, undertook an exploration into the sources of error in design, analysis, and reasoning in general, as seen through the windows of diverse disciplines. Professor George, spoke about her efforts to empower women’s cooperatives and produce personal income for women in Haiti and Mali. She offered concrete suggestions for engagement opportunities to help create a more sustainable and just world.



SWE-MN’s own talented members rounded out the afternoon sessions through several excellent presentations. For those unable to attend the SWE Region H conference in January, Julie Long, Cathy Kreier, Holli Pheil, Roz Dolid and Melissa Boom Coburn presented sessions that helped enhance member’s personal and professional development.

Spring Professional Development Seminar co-chairs Erica Hoffman and Sharon Kurtt would like to acknowledge Dean Ronald Bennett, the students and staff at the University of St. Thomas for their assistance in hosting the event.

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Visit our website at www.swe-mn.org



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