



# Society of Women Engineers

ASPIRE • ADVANCE • ACHIEVE

## Society of Women Engineers Minnesota Section

Diversity of Thought

Volume 20, Issue 2

November 2006

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## President's Report Elizabeth Bierman

I recently returned from the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) National Conference in Kansas City. The National Conference is a wonderful network opportunity to attend top-notch

professional development courses, with extraordinary women engineers from across the country, and learn more about great programs other SWE sections offer their members. SWE-Minnesota had a very strong presence with over 20 of our members attending the conference.

The National Conference concluded with a banquet entitled "Celebrate SWE!", and I am pleased to announce that the **SWE-MN section won FIVE awards**. We received the award for outstanding membership program for a large section. Our Membership co-chairs, **Erin Penne** and **Charlene Knealing** are very deserving of this award. SWE-MN won the Career Guidance Award for event/series for a large section for the Bicycle Activity Book. This committee was led by **Cassie Piippo** and **Krista Johnson** with **Roz Dolid** as project manager for this activity. Again, lots of hard work paid off with this outstanding award. SWE-MN won both Professional Development awards for the wonderful Professional Development events through the year and our annual Spring Professional Development Seminar. Our Professional Development committee was led by co-chairs **Tricia Walker** and **Heather Johnson**. The Spring Professional Development Seminar was led by **Gretchen Landini** and **Angela Neidermire**. Finally, SWE-MN received 2<sup>nd</sup> place for our website. This award could not have been won without the help of **Carol Reardon** our website coordinator. Thanks to all our members that were involved with these activities throughout the year. And a special thanks to **Alyse Stofer**, our Awards and Recognition chair. Alyse reviewed all our award nomination packages which was a huge undertaking. With her guidance, SWE-MN was able to apply and WIN so many of the awards! I was so proud to be a member of SWE-MN at the national conference.

During the National Conference, it was also announced that Exxon Mobil gave the Society of Women Engineers a grant for \$1 million. This money will help support career guidance materials and program outreach activities to assist in increasing the number of women in engineering.

Overall, this year's SWE National Conference was amazing! If you get a chance to attend a conference in the near future, make sure to take it. The 2007 SWE National Conference will take place in late October in Nashville, TN. And if that seems too far away, our Region H conference is January 26th - 28th in Chicago, IL.

We continue to put on outstanding events...throughout the newsletter you will hear about upcoming events that will excite every one of you! In addition to our regular professional development meetings, we have our annual Girl Scout Patch Day November 11th at Boston Scientific. We need lots of volunteers for this event to handle the 150 girls that attend. Also, I would like to mention that our mom's group is meeting November 2nd, our first Book Club discussion will be held on November 8th and a networking meeting will be held November 16th! There truly is something for everyone in the next few weeks.

Be sure to read the weekly emails for more details and information on upcoming events!

Finally, I would like to recognize **Tricia Walker**. Our section selected her for the New Faces of Engineering award recognition during FY07 E-week this February. Tricia is currently serving as one of the SWE-MN COR, and is also our Region H Awards Coordinator.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments and I hope to see you all soon at an upcoming SWE-MN event.

Elizabeth

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

Judy Djugash  
Thea Feyereisen  
Denise Frey  
Jenna Geason  
Janine Jelks-Seale  
Shu-hui Lin

Kary Martin  
Jodi Miller  
Kimberly Morris  
Candace Pederson  
Anna Plantenberg  
Ruth Poole

Ethiopia Solomon  
Sarah Struble  
Jennifer Vogel  
Rebecca Vossberg  
Sueann Wickstom  
Stephanie Winegardner



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**SWE National Conference**  
**October 11 - 15, 2006, Kansas City, MO**  
*Women blazing technology trails.*



Awards Banquet





### **Celebrate SWE Awards**

- o **Best Career Guidance Event/Series (Bicycle Activity Book)**
- o **Outstanding Membership Program - Large Section**
- o **Best Professional Development Program Award - Large Section**
- o **Best Professional Development Event/Series - Large Section**
- o **Best Website (2nd place)**



### **Individual Award Winners**

#### Distinguished New Engineer

Alyse Stofer &  
Elizabeth Bierman

#### Emerging Leaders

#### Award Winner

Anne Kraft

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## **Membership Update**

Jenna Rendon & Lisa Schmalhurst

The membership chairs have been hard at work in the last month planning two events for the section: The New Member / New Graduate Event and the Card Stamping Networking night. The New Member / New Grad event took place on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at The Cheesecake Factory in Edina with 19 members in attendance. This event was a great opportunity to introduce new SWE-MN members to the Section. The Card Stamping Networking Night will take place in Brooklyn Park on November 16<sup>th</sup>. For the price of admission, each attendee will be able to create eight Holiday cards to take home and keep or send out as well wishes.

We are also trying to start a series of SWE-MN lunchtime networking events based upon company locations. If you are willing to help us to coordinate this at your company, please send an email to [membership@swe-mn.org](mailto:membership@swe-mn.org).



### **Book Club Discussion Wednesday, November 8, 2006**

Join SWE-MN as we initiate a book club discussion group. The inaugural book will be Nice Girls Don't Get the Corner Office, by Lois P. Frankel, Ph.D.

Learn the 101 self-sabotaging behaviors women learn, as girls, including behaviors and habits that are now holding them back in the workplace. From executive to entry level, every woman needs to know what she is doing to subconsciously sound, look, act, market herself, and/or be treated like a "girl".

**Time:** 6 PM

**Place:** Turtle Bread Company, 3421 West 44th Street, Minneapolis, MN

**Cost:** Free  
(Food and beverages will be available for purchase at the restaurant)

**Questions?:** Contact Julie Long 952-563-4865 or [jlong@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jlong@ci.bloomington.mn.us)



### **SWE-MN Mom's Group Meeting Announcement**

**When:** Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm

**Where:** Caribou Coffee in Mendota Heights

Come join other SWE-MN Mom's to network and discuss our daily joys and struggles being a mom!

# Get to Know SWE-MN

## Featuring SWE-MN Member: Jackie Nelson

I first joined SWE at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. In college, SWE was a great opportunity for me to meet new friends, network, develop my professional skills, and participate in outreach programs to encourage and share my passion of engineering and science with younger girls. I decided to become a professional member of SWE-MN for the same exact reasons.

I graduated from UND with a B. S. in Chemical Engineering in May of 2001. During college I had two internships with Imation Corporation: One in manufacturing (Wahpeton, ND), and one in the lab (Oakdale, MN). At the end of my internships, I realized my passion was the continuous imperative troubleshooting of manufacturing. After college, I began work at one of 3M Corporation's largest manufacturing sites in Hutchinson MN. I started in a Product Engineering role supporting videotape manufacturing, but most often found myself conducting process engineering experiments in various technology areas: Extrusion, coating, winding and converting. After two years I was given Process Engineering responsibility and had the opportunity to lead a new equipment installation. My process engineering role supported new products on two different production lines, so I was privileged to write and troubleshoot processes for 50+ products and work with numerous new product development engineers and experts from divisions around the company. Currently, I am working in St. Paul, MN at the 3M Center as a New Product Development Engineer. My main focus is the extrusion process for our brightness enhancement films for LCD TVs and displays.



On a more personal note, my husband Darren and I are enjoying the conveniences and entertainment available in the Twin Cities. However with our new house in Eagan we seem to make the majority of our trips to the Home Depot to support our various home improvement projects. We have one dog that will retrieve until you refuse to throw the ball. In our spare time we like to travel and spend time with friends and family.

I am proud to be part of such a great organization.

## 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 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.

Holli and Tricia attended the 2006 National Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. There were several business meetings over several days. The Mega Issues meeting discussed two white papers: One on SWE going international and the other one regarding small company involvement in SWE. From those discussions and a brainstorming session, two motions were made during the COR business meeting regarding the white papers. The COR passed both motions and they will be presented to the Board of Directors for review. They were quite vague in their descriptions, but generally proposed possible actions to take and obstacles regarding implementation of these two issues.

During the Region H meeting, Holli was elected as the Region H Nominating Committee Chair. Tricia will also reside as a member of this committee.

The annual COR business meeting was held on October 14, 2006. The proposed bylaw changes were all adopted. There were two changes regarding a new position of Deputy Director of Regions and changing the Nominating Committee. The position of Director of Regions is a very difficult and taxing position due to the travel and responsibilities of coordinating all the region directors. Adding a Deputy Director of Regions will help assist the Director of Regions at their discretion, but will not have voting power on the Board of Directors. The national Nominating Committee has new requirements so that the elected Nominating Committee Chair is a non-voting member of the committee and cannot serve as a region representative.

The COR is very proud to announce that the new Vision Statement and Vivid Descriptions passed! The Vision Statement along with the Vivid Descriptions will be used to help set the society's goals for the next 20-30 years. They are "forward looking" statements.

#### Vision Statement:

- Aspire to make engineering a top educational choice for girls.
- Advance women engineers in the workplace.
- Achieve excellence as leaders within our fields.

#### Vivid Descriptions:

- SWE's outreach activities make girls enthusiastic about engineering, increasing the number of women that enroll in engineering curriculums to 50%.
- SWE activities positively impact women's decisions to graduate in engineering and stay in the engineering profession.
- Most women studying or working in engineering are SWE members.
- SWE is known as a premier provider of professional development for engineers and engineering leaders.
- The world regularly hears about the accomplishments of engineers, especially women engineers, in the news.
- Women engineers are sought after for distinguished leadership positions at the world's top companies and institutions.
- SWE continues to be widely recognized as the primary resource on women in engineering.
- SWE has tremendous support from corporations and organizations because they recognize the value that women engineers provide to society.
- SWE's Board of Director positions are coveted because of their prestige.

Also during the meeting, the COR Speaker, President, Executive Director, Teller, Treasurer, Secretary, and Collegiate Board Representative reports were made. In general, the state of the society is excellent!

The Region H conference will be held January 26-28<sup>th</sup> in downtown Chicago. The professional rate is \$125 for sharing a room and \$200 for a single room. The registration will open later this month. We look forward to seeing you all there!

If you have any questions or if you plan on attending the conference, please contact us at [cor@swe-mn.org](mailto:cor@swe-mn.org).

## Open House Recap

*Gretchen Landini and Sarah Steffen*

We had an excellent turnout for the Open House this year which was held at General Dynamics in Bloomington on September 12th. The Open House had a great turnout with 50 attendees. This was the first SWE-MN meeting for 14 attendees. Thanks to all of the newcomers for attending and we hope to see you at future events!

The formal program focused on previewing SWE-MN's theme for FY'07, Diversity of Thought, as well as upcoming networking events, Professional Development meetings, committee meetings, and tours. The members of the Executive Council were introduced along with the responsibilities of their positions and information on how to get involved with SWE-MN.

A variety of delicious appetizers were served and the evening ended by giving away door prizes.

A special thanks to General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems and Doug Conley, Manager of Hardware Engineering for hosting this event.

## October New Member/New Grad Event Recap

*Jenna Rendon and Lisa Schmalhurst*



On October 23, 2006 the section hosted a fun and informative event for New Members and New Graduates at The Cheesecake Factory in Edina. There were a total of 19 attendees at the event, including 13 New Members/New Grads, 5 Executive Council (EC) members and the SWE Region H Governor. This event provided an opportunity for new members to learn more about the SWE-MN professional section in an informal and relaxing environment. There was lots of lively conversation and sharing of information during the course of the evening. The EC members talked about upcoming SWE-MN events and really enjoyed getting to know some of the section's new members. Last, but not least, everyone enjoyed a decadent slice of cheesecake for dessert!

## October Professional Development Meeting at MTS Recap

*Gretchen Landini and Sarah Steffen*

The MTS event on October 19<sup>th</sup> was great. The evening started with a tour of the facility, focusing on the manufacturing floor. Attendees were able to see a wide range of products that MTS designs, manufactures and tests: From race car tires, to spinal disks for a medical company, to the new friction stir welding process. Much of the equipment we saw was going to be shipped outside North America. More information on the global market was shared after dinner. Chip Emery, CEO of MTS, spoke on the topic of the U.S. being competitive in a global market. In the past 10 years, MTS has gone from 60% of the business in North America, 25% in Europe and 15% in Asia, to having 33% of business in each of these geographic areas. More significantly, in the past two years, they have seen foreign companies asking how to equip their own testing facilities, resulting in more development activity taking place in China and elsewhere. The U.S. advantage is that we have experience and are developing the next generation of technology. Chip sees the future outlook as good, but the U.S. is being pushed to stay one step ahead.



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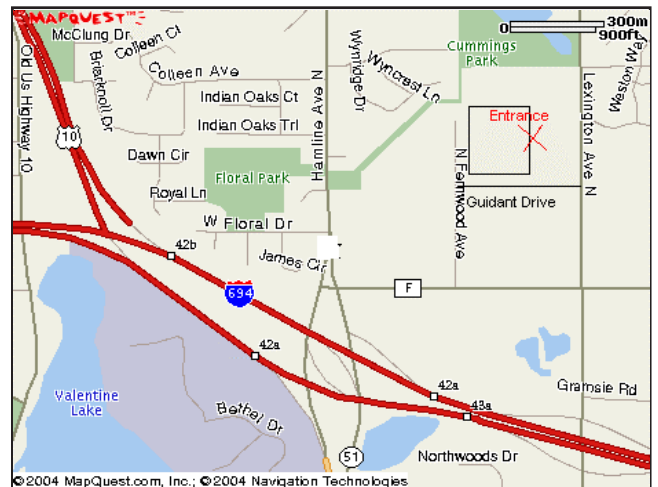
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**JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT PATCH Day at Boston Scientific CRM (formerly Guidant)**  
**Zoom Into Engineering**  
**November 11, 2006 8:30am -1pm**

Come and *VOLUNTEER* for this great opportunity to educate over one hundred young girls from the Girl Scouts about engineering! The girls will learn about five different areas of engineering through various experiments. At the end of the day the girl scouts will receive a t-shirt and a patch with the SWE logo to sew onto their vest. This has been a great event in the past few years and we need your help to make this possible.

Experiments (subject to change)

- Crash Safety Mobile – (Systems Engineering)
- Building Circuits (Electrical Engineering)
- Silly Putty or Ice Cream (Chemical Engineering)
- Gears and Pulleys (Mechanical Engineering)
- Ground Water (Environmental Engineering)
- Asphalt Cookies (Civil Engineering)



**Volunteer Time:** November 10<sup>th</sup>: Set up at 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
November 11<sup>th</sup>: Event 8:00 AM – 1:30PM

**Location:** Boston Scientific CRM (formerly Guidant)  
Building L  
4100 Hamline Ave N  
St. Paul, MN 55112



**RSVP:** To volunteer contact Kristi at: [volunteer@swe-mn.org](mailto:volunteer@swe-mn.org)

**Questions:** E-mail career guidance co-chairs Krista Johnson and Cassandra Piippo  
[cg@swe-mn.org](mailto:cg@swe-mn.org) or call 651-582-7044.

# Off to a Great Start!

*Krista Johnson and Cassie Piippo, Career Guidance Chairs*

SWE-MN Career Guidance is “Off to a Great Start” again this school year! We’re always excited to promote engineering in a positive way through outreach activities! Please read on for some of our recent activities!



## THE GOVERNOR’S STEM SUMMIT

Saturday, September 30th at the Science Museum of Minnesota, SWE-MN displayed a booth full of volunteers to talk about engineering! The event kicked off with the Governor’s speech; giving a successful launch for the statewide initiative promoting advanced Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) coursework to Minnesota high school students.



Students at the Governor’s “Open Talk” at the STEM Summit 9/30/06



SWE-MN volunteers talking to the Governor at the STEM Summit 9/30/06

The number of participants reached over 800 students in addition to the 200 exhibitors and volunteers!! Discovery Hall was a very busy place and SWE-MN was happy to discuss the SWE scholarships and other engineering questions with the high school students in attendance.



## GIRLS & SCIENCE FOX 9 EVENT

Career Guidance kicked off October with the 2006 Fox 9 “Girls & Science” at the Saint Paul River Centre on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The target age for the Girls & Science event was 4th-8th grade girls. The event was a huge success and the SWE-MN was the HIT of the event!



Slime at the “Fox 9 Girls & Science” 10/07/06

SWE-MN Career Guidance paired up with The Works who had a table with electrical circuits the girls could build. The girls loved making silly putty, building circuits and also the motion glow straws that were given away. Estimated attends for the event was 1100 people with about 800 girls.



Circuits at the "Fox 9 Girls & Science 10/07/06"

**ANNOUNCEMENTS!**



**Hooray! Hooray!**

Society of Women Engineers just wrapped up the 2006 National Conference in Kansas City, Missouri and the SWE-MN returned with arms full of awards including the Career Guidance Award for Event/Series. SWE-MN was awarded the Career Guidance Award for the creation of the educational coloring book "What Makes a Bike?". We would like to thank everyone who was in the book committee and the volunteers who helped with the Bike book release event at Southdale Mall in February.

If you are interested in joining the Career Guidance Committee please contact Cassandra Piippo or Krista Johnson at [cg@swe-mn.com](mailto:cg@swe-mn.com). If you would like to volunteer please email Kristi Strausser at [volunteer@swe-mn.com](mailto:volunteer@swe-mn.com).



# Thank YOU!

To those who have volunteered this past month...

**FOX 9 Girls and Science Volunteers:**

Katheryn Black, Roz Dolid,  
Heidi Eschenbach, Anne Kraft,  
Sharon Kurtt, Krista Johnson,  
Jackie Nelson, Cassie Piippo,  
Lindsey Roberts, Stephanie Ryno,  
Mike Svendsen

**STEM Summit Volunteers:**

Elizabeth Bierman, Robin Euphosin,  
Krista Johnson, Melissa Lebens,  
Angela Neidermire, Allison Pedersen,  
Cassie Piippo

We are still looking for volunteers for the following events:

- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Saturday, 11/11: Girl Scout Patch Day 8 AM - 1:30 PM,** We are looking for 15 more volunteers for the event including five (5) more experiment leaders. This volunteer event provides both a great leadership opportunity and an opportunity to complete hands-on experiments with the kids. This year's theme is UNIVERSAL and we're doing a planetary rotational event! (Volunteers will receive an event t-shirt.)
- **Saturday, 11/11, Herberger's Community Day.** Four (4) volunteers are needed to help Herberger's with a variety of tasks (folding clothes, dressing room attendants, etc). All of the proceeds from this day will be divided between the organizations that volunteer that day. Currently this event is tentative, but we are planning on participating in this. Contact Kristi at [volunteer@swe-mn.org](mailto:volunteer@swe-mn.org) if you are interested in helping out

**November PD Meeting at Ecolab**

Taking Advantage of a Woman's Touch in Your Organization

By Sonja Eggen

**November 28, 2006**

Many women feel that in order to get ahead they need to conform to corporate America's expectations of the "perfect" employee. While accepting your organization's culture and feeling part of the organization are important, women have a variety of natural skills that we can leverage to succeed. Join us on Tuesday, November 28th, to learn more about these skills and how to use them to become a highly valued employee within your organization.

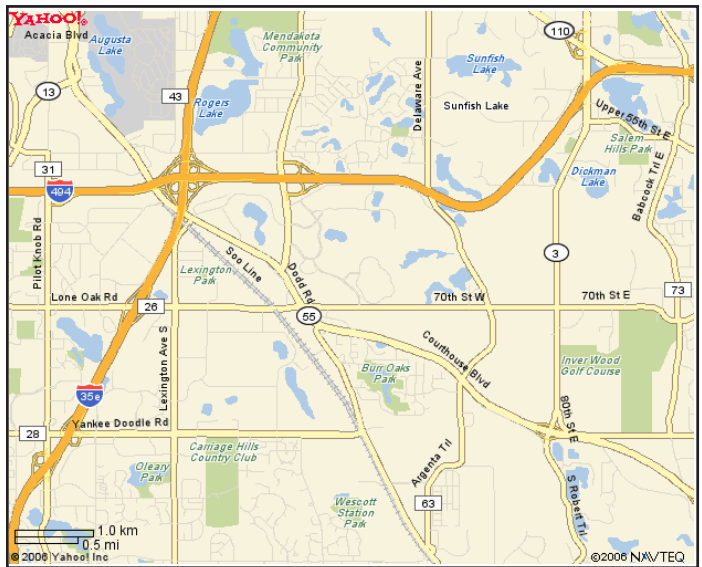
**Agenda:** 6:00 – 6:45 Dinner/Networking  
6:45 – 7:30 Speaker Presentation

**Location:** Ecolab Research Facility  
6555 Lone Oak Drive  
Eagan, MN 55121

**Cost:** \$10 for SWE members  
\$13 for non-members

*Cancellations by Tuesday, November 21st will receive a full refund.  
No refunds issued after Tuesday, November 21st.*

**RSVP:** By **Tuesday, November 21st**, please return the form below or email to [novemberprogram@swe-mn.org](mailto:novemberprogram@swe-mn.org)



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

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

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

Send this form and check (made out to SWE-MN):

Sarah Steffen  
718 Adams St S  
Shakopee, MN 55379



## MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER WALK RECAP October 8, 2006



The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk was held Sunday, October 8, 2006 at Lake Nokomis in Minneapolis. The SWE-MN Team consisting for Allison Pedersen, Betty Sawry, Jessica and Claire Luger, Erin and Hailey Penne, Anne Kraft, Alyse Stofer, Tricia Walker, and Heather Johnson.



Together we raised over \$2500 for the fight against breast cancer. We had a great time walking and it was amazing to see so many people in one place for one cause.



**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 e-mail to the newsletter editor at: [newsletter@swe-mn.org](mailto:newsletter@swe-mn.org)**

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.

# Come join us for the annual SWE-Minnesota Holiday Party!!!

Saturday, December 9th  
2:00pm to 4:00pm

Xcel Energy  
414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

# Cookie Exchange

# Holiday Party

This year we will be featuring a cookie exchange. There is no charge for this event. However, please bring 3 dozen of your favorite cookies to exchange with others.

A great way to get your holiday baking done early!

Families are welcome!



RSVP to [holidayparty@swe-mn.org](mailto:holidayparty@swe-mn.org)  
by Friday, December 1st

## 2007 Minnesota Scholarship Program Taking Shape!

Naomi Brill and Julie Long

News flash from the scholarship committee! Our 2007 Minnesota Corporate Partnership Scholarship Program is coming alive. To date, we have **SEVEN** scholarship sponsors, who are offering a total of **TEN** scholarships. And that does not count our own Minnesota Section Scholarship! Listed below are the scholarships:

<b>\$3000</b>	<b>General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems</b>
<b>\$1500</b>	<b>Toro</b>
<b>\$1000</b>	<b>Polaris</b>
<b>\$2000</b>	<b>Banner Engineering</b>
<b>\$1500</b>	<b>Boston Scientific</b>
<b>\$2500</b>	<b>Lockheed Martin</b>
<b>\$1000</b>	<b>Goodrich Corporation</b>



General Dynamics is again sponsoring three scholarships and Lockheed Martin has increased their sponsorship to two scholarships. Polaris and Goodrich are new sponsors this year, and we welcome their participation.

As the newsletter goes to press, we are still a couple weeks away from the sponsorship deadline. Check the section website after November 1<sup>st</sup> to see our complete list of scholarship offerings for Fall 2007!

Our announcement and application materials will be going out to our participating schools (those offering engineering degrees in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota) in mid-November, and those materials will be posted on our website by the end of November. Please encourage women engineering students in our tri-state area to check out our program and put in an application!

A special thank you to those members of our section who have helped increase our sponsorship base this year by discussing our program with their employers—you have made a real difference in helping our program grow!

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 6/30/2007



# Society of Women Engineers

ASPIRE • ADVANCE • ACHIEVE

## Holiday Card Making Networking Night Thursday, November 16, 2006

We are hosting a holiday card making party for our November Networking Night event! We will be creating a total of 8 fun and creative cards with the help of Jill Somrock, a Stampin' Up Demonstrator. No need to bring supplies, everything you need will be provided including the snacks. This event is perfect for those who love stamping and scrapbooking, for those who want to try something new and for those who want to cross an item off of their holiday to do list!

### TIME

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

### COST

\$10 for SWE members

\$13 for non-members

*Cancellations by November 9th will receive a full refund.*

*No refunds issued after November 9th.*

### LOCATION

SWE-MN Member Home  
8937 Dunbar Knoll N  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

### DIRECTIONS

**From I-94:** Take I-94 West. Exit at MN-252 North. Turn left on 85th Ave N. Turn right on Edinbrook Parkway. Turn right on Dunbar Knoll North. Turn left into the first cul-de-sac.

### RSVP

By Thursday, November 9th, please return the form below or email to [membership@swe-mn.org](mailto:membership@swe-mn.org)

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

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

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

Send this form and check (made out to SWE-MN):

Jenna Rendon  
4190 Running Brook Rd  
Eagan, MN 55122

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



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED