Happy fall in MN!

Even though the leaves are turning and beauty surrounds us, I long for the warm CA sun one more time! WE14 in Los Angeles was simply amazing. It was a busy conference with all of the Professional Development sessions, networking with international members (thanks to ICWES16!), awards banquets, along with SWE business meetings, of course. I have been going to SWE conferences since I was a student (when there were two separate conferences!) and am always so impressed with the event. Each year the conference grows in attendance, with 8000+ attendees at WE14. It was fun to celebrate the honorees at the Awards Banquet and Celebrate SWE! Congratulations once again to Naomi Brill on her Distinguished Service Award. So awesome! You can read more about the conference in the Section Representative’s column in this newsletter.

We recently finished another successful Girl Scout Patch Day hosted by our Outreach Committee and sponsored by Boston Scientific. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers (50+) we were able to host almost 200 girl scouts and over 60 adult influencers. A record breaking event for us! We had a successful track for the adult influencers sharing STEM resources, a panel discussion, and a hands-on activity. Thank you to Angela Statz and Allison Pedersen for leading this track. Girl Scout Patch Day is always a hit and creates lasting relationships for the girls and for our volunteers. Thank you all for helping make such wonderful memories! Many women get their start with volunteering for SWE-MN through this event, we hope to see you at more events in the future.

There are numerous events coming up before we hit the holiday season, keep reading the newsletter to see what is in store. Send me an email if you have any other questions or concerns.

Proud to be part of SWE-MN,
~Tricia Walker

president@swe-mn.org
Section Representative Update

The past few months have been busy for all of us in SWE but it’s been full of fun and exciting things! Please see below for some great highlights from your MN Section Representatives from our annual Region H Leadership Summit (HART = Heartland Annual Round Table) and from the Annual Society Conference.

HART Meeting – Held September 27th, 2014

The Region Leadership team made up of the Region Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary, Treasurer plus the Region H Senators, Section Presidents and Section Reps all met up in Indianapolis one Saturday in September for an all-day meeting to kick off FY15. Holly Kimball and Lesley Farah were there along with Region H Senator and MN member, Kalyani Mallela were all there to represent SWE-MN.

Here are some highlights from the day:

Board of Director Updates - SWE has hired outside consulting firm to help with Governance improvements – this is being funded by the SWE Special Projects Fund and more updates will be shared throughout the year as they become available. SWE is working with a marketing group and looking at some rebranding efforts for the Society to make our presence known in a global market and have the logo and messaging more modern – stay tuned for improvements and changes in the next few months and years!

There is now program for graduate students in SWE – called SWE Grad. Check out their blog here.

SWE is working on improving the professional development tools – including webinars, virtual conferences and more. Did you know we have a SWE YouTube channel? Also, TEDx SWE presentations coming soon!

Region H Mentoring Program – In you are interested in having a SWE Mentor or serving as a mentor, then you should sign up for the Region H Mentoring Program. The goal is to meet with your mentor/mentee at least 1x month via phone/face to face. For more information or to sign up, contact Stephanie Foege at stephanie.foege@gmail.com.

SWE Outreach Tracking Tool – For those of you who participate in outreach activities outside of SWE-MN, then the Society wants to know! Please complete this quick and easy Survey Monkey to document your incredible time and talent. The survey can be accessed here: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/omtool

*Please note that for the SWE-MN signatures outreach events, the outreach chairs will submit the survey on the volunteers’ behalf.
WE14 - A Global Exchange for Change

Sadly, WE14 in Los Angeles has come and gone but it was a huge success and was the largest Society conference in history with over 8,000 attendees! The multi-day event was filled with great keynote speakers, sessions on a wide number of topics, great networking, a career fair with over 300 companies plus an awards banquet and a closing dinner/keynote called Celebrate SWE!

Here are some of the highlights from the conference:

- Great opening keynote with SWE President, Elizabeth Bierman, and SpaceX President and COO, Gwynn Shotwell – see full video here
- During the Region H Meeting, SWE-MN President, Tricia Walker, was awarded the Region H Professional Emerging Leader award!
- At the Friday night Awards Banquet, Tricia was also recognized by the Society as an Emerging Leader!
- Over 1000 students, educators, and parents participated in Invent It Build It on Saturday at the LA Convention Center!
- Celebrate SWE! on Saturday evening featured a great closing keynote from Genentech’s Carla Boragno who spoke on the importance of mentoring, following our passion, and empowering the next generation of engineers.
- SWE-MN Advisory Council member, Naomi Brill, was awarded the SWE Distinguished Service Award for her commitment to the society over the years as a member and leader
- The SWE-MN Professional Section also got to take home two awards – Communications and Multicultural Awards!
What’s next?

- Mark your calendars for the Region H Conference which will be held at Notre Dame University on March 6-7, 2015. Registration will open November 1st for all attendees and will close in early January 2015.
  - More information regarding registration, cost, and session topics can be found on the Region H Conference Site here: https://2015sweregionhconference.nd.edu/
  - Please note that registration will be done in two parts this year. Initially, you will register for the conference and book a room. Then in January, you will have the opportunity to sign up for the professional development sessions. This two-step process is new in FY15.

If you want to start thinking about WE15 - you can! The date is October 22-25, 2015 and will be held in Nashville, TN. Stay tuned for more details regarding hotel reservations and registration later this year.

As always, we are here to answer questions or listen to any concerns you may have – just let us know!
~ Holly, Lynn, and Lesley

sectionrep@swe-mn.org

Awards Update

The Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science and Technology Societies (MFESTS) presents four awards each year during Engineering Week. They recognize young (35 years or younger) and distinguished (25+ year careers) engineering, science and technology professionals. They look for individuals with an outstanding presence and contribution to their chosen professions and society through civic and educational activity, patents and papers or other technical achievements. The deadline for applications is early January 2015.

SWE-MN has had several recipients for the Young Engineer of the Year Award in the last few years including Charlene Willenbring (2014), Tricia Walker (2013), Holly Pheil (2011) and Alyse Stofer (2006). Please contact me if you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else. I will be reaching out soon to get applications started!

“Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end. It's not a day when you lounge around doing nothing; it's a day you've had everything to do and you've done it.” – Margaret Thatcher

Stephanie McGuire
awards.swe.mn@gmail.com
Congrats to Naomi Brill, F.SWE – SWE Distinguished Service Award

Citation:
For dedicated service to SWE over time, for a deep commitment to encouraging women to be engineers, and for ensuring that women in the profession excel and are recognized.

Naomi Brill, F.SWE, traces her involvement with the Society of Women Engineers back to her high school days, some 40 years ago, when she helped her mother, Yvonne Brill, send out the New Jersey Section newsletter. Over the years, Brill has consistently established outreach, scholarship, and award programs; worked at the section, regional, and Society levels of SWE; and championed women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers.

Brill formally joined SWE as a collegiate member at the University of Minnesota, where she served as a section officer and career fair chair. Following graduation, she became a member of the Minnesota Section, serving in many roles, including section president from 1991-1993. She institutionalized excellence, created section leadership awards, and fostered creation of the annual professional development seminar. She launched and remains the driving force behind her section's scholarship program, and she implemented a statewide certificate of merit program. Brill is the founding counselor of two outstanding new collegiate sections.

She became involved in Region H in FY01 and served as region director from FY03-04, strengthening region operations and creating region-level leadership awards. Brill joined the Society board during FY05-06, serving as the inaugural Director of Regions. Following her term, she has served on numerous committees and task forces, including SWE's leadership pipeline and leadership election task forces. She has also served as nominating committee representative and chair, and has judged and coordinated the Distinguished New Engineer and Entrepreneur awards. She established the Region Programming Excellence Award. Brill is also a charter member of the ethics committee, where she currently serves.

Two themes dominate Brill’s SWE career: outreach to students to ensure their entry into engineering careers; and promoting awards and recognition for women who are advancing through their technical careers. She takes great pride in having influenced countless young women pursuing STEM careers, and the section and region leadership awards she has created have brought recognition to many aspiring SWE leaders. Through these efforts, plus her work with the Minnesota Center for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence and Project Lead the Way, Brill has brought recognition of SWE’s mission and her local section to all corners of Minnesota.

She holds a B.A. from Carleton College, and a BME and MBA from the University of Minnesota. Her career in the instrumentation and medical device industries spanned more than 25 years. Her second career in engineering and technology education directly influenced the lives of Minnesota’s future technical work force. Brill is an active member of both the Minneapolis and St. Paul chapters of SME (Society of Manufacturing Engineers). Her hobbies include assisting with production and operation of her husband’s woodworking business, gardening, landscaping, and hand weaving.

Brill has left an indelible legacy as a role model who leads by example. She has influenced innumerable young women over decades of service to SWE through the programs she founded and the inaugural programs she implemented, all the while steadfastly promoting recognition of leadership and scholarship in others.

*This text is taken from the SWE Magazine - Fall 2014 conference Issue
Congrats to Patricia Walker – SWE Emerging Leader

Citation:
For expertise and creative problem solving in biomedical engineering and for business and community leadership informed by integrity, commitment, and generosity.

Currently a principal supplier quality engineer in Medtronic’s cardiovascular division, Patricia Walker joined Medtronic, the world’s largest medical device company, as a senior supplier quality engineer in 2011. Quickly promoted because of her expertise in biomedical contract manufacturing, Walker works closely with suppliers, overseeing quality, medical standards, and regulatory compliance. She is accountable for one of the division’s largest contract manufacturers, which produces more than 600 varieties of specialized cardiovascular products.

Walker received her B.S. in engineering science–biomedical engineering from Iowa State University in 2000. Two years later, she earned an M.S. in biomedical engineering from the University of Iowa, where she aided in setting up a cardiovascular abdominal aortic aneurysm research team.

Following graduate school, Walker’s first job was with Catheter and Disposables Technology, Inc. in Plymouth, Minnesota. As a product development engineer, she helped design medical devices used in the cardiovascular, respiratory, urinary, nervous, reproductive, and skeletal systems. In her first two years there, she worked on 10 major programs and saw devices progress from development to manufacturing. She gained expertise in many manufacturing processes, including extrusion, plastic injection molding, catheter tipping, and thermal forming and fusing. She was also lead engineer on a device that aided in cancer therapies, a program she inherited from another engineer, for which she provided a solution and test method. Walker soon began managing projects, and in 2004 was promoted to engineering supervisor.

In 2006, Walker joined Accellent Inc. and applied her education and work experience to catheter design and medical device manufacturing. Her novel approach to design and manufacturing reduced development cycle time and enabled prompt delivery of high-quality, innovative products. Walker was acting program manager and then engineering manager for the new product development group.

Involved in SWE on all levels, Walker was program chair for the Chattanooga Area Section in 2009 and section representative for the Heart of Iowa Section from 2010 to 2011. In the Minnesota Section, she has served as vice president, awards chair, section representative, and professional development co-chair. Under her leadership, the professional development committee received two successive, Society-level program awards. In 2003, Walker received the SWE-Minnesota Bravest Volunteer of the Year Award, which recognizes a member who has tackled new tasks in unfamiliar territory for the betterment of her section. In 2013, she received the Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science, and Technology Societies Young Engineer of the Year Award.

On the region and Society levels, Walker has chaired the Region H awards and procedures committees and led the strategic awards assessment task force. In 2009, she was honored as a SWE Distinguished New Engineer. Also active in her community, Walker helps raise funds for the American Diabetes Association, the American Cancer Society, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society. She volunteers for a number of ministries at her church. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, the arts, and travel.

*This text is taken from the SWE Magazine - Fall 2014 conference Issue*
Scholarship Update

The SWE-MN Corporate Partner Scholarship program recognizes the accomplishments of hard working women engineering students and provides financial assistance to enable them to achieve their educational and professional goals. Tuition based scholarships are offered to students in engineering and computer science at the schools in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota with accredited programs.

Corporate partners are asked to provide a donation of at least $1,000 per named scholarship and may specify the discipline of study of the woman who receives their scholarship(s). This is a great way for companies to create a higher profile with the students at the 11 schools in our program service area, where companies may not recruit in person. We advertise our scholarships and sponsors on the SWE-MN website, in written materials that go out to each school and SWE section, and in a number of emails that announce the program.

We are still looking for corporate partners for the Fall Semester 2015 SWE-MN Corporate Partner Scholarship program. If you know a company that might be interested in participating in our program, please let us know and we and we would be happy to send information for their review. Our deadline for donations is quickly approaching, so please don't wait!

Erica Girard & Jacalyn St. Dennis
scholarships@swe-mn.org.

FY15 Sponsorship

For more information on how to become a SWE-MN Sponsor, check out our Sponsorship Opportunities here.
Girl Scout Patch Day Recap

Thanks to Boston Scientific for sponsoring another successful Girl Scout Patch Day with over 200 girl scout attendees, 50 adult influencers, and 60 volunteers. Bath Fizzies, Brush Bots, Legos and more!!
Get to know SWE-MN Member: Jess Springer

Ever since I could remember, I’ve always had a passion for tinkering and investigating. I grew up with both of my parents working as Crime Scene Investigators for the State of MN, so I knew I got my investigative tendencies from them. And I have and always will idolize my older brother, who spent many hours tinkering with computers and Legos; so I guess we know where I got my tinkering tendencies. I spent most of my younger years following around and attempting to help my brother fix ham radios, develop computer games, build Star Wars space ships out of Legos and create new ways to build potato guns to shoot across the lake. Fast forward to my high school years with my brother off to college studying Mechanical Engineering, I become increasingly interested in Medicine. Outside of school and sports, I volunteered the majority of my spare time to the Courage Center, a facility for children and adults with physical and mental disabilities to receive therapy. I volunteered as a swim instructor, as well as a receptionist for all incoming patients. I consider myself incredibly lucky to have met so many wonderful people through the Courage Center, and every one of them inspired me to follow my heart into the medical field. After visiting some of my brother’s engineering classes, and visiting him at his internship at a local medical device company, I quickly found out that Biomedical Engineering was what I wanted to study and the University of Minnesota was where I wanted to go.

To be honest, I was quite intimidated of everything happening at the University during my first year. I attended a few SWE meetings, but didn’t actually talk to anyone until their very last meeting of my freshmen year where the Presidents encouraged me to apply to be a director for the following year. As finals were fast approaching and I was studying late on my birthday, I got an email saying I was chosen to be a Director of Recruitment and Retention for my sophomore year. I was absolutely ecstatic and after that, I never looked back. I stayed on the Recruitment and Retention team for my junior year and became Secretary my senior year. During this year, I was also lucky enough to help plan the 2013 Region H SWE Conference. SWE has been such a big part of my life and I could not have made it through college without all the resources SWE gave me. I found study buddies, professional/academic advice, networking contacts, internships and I found one of my best friends through SWE. I am thrilled to still be a part of such an empowering organization and will continue to grow through SWE.

I graduated in May 2014 and accepted a rotational job at Vascular Solutions in Maple Grove. I’ve completed my first rotation in Production Engineering and am excited to move into Quality Engineering in November. I have previously worked at American Medical Systems and Starkey Hearing Technologies as an intern. Outside of work I’m actively involved on the American Diabetes Association’s Young Leadership Council as the Mission Delivery Chair. In the summer I can usually be found on my parents’ lake fishing, swimming, jet skiing, and water skiing. I also enjoy reading, making Pinterest crafts, hiking, hunting and snowmobiling.
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Congrats to SWE-MN Section Representative, Lynn Davenport, on her promotion to Principal Systems Engineer at Medtronic!!

Did you Know???

SWE-MN has their own Google Calendar that you can add to your Google account.

Here’s how:
Visit www.swe-mn.org
Go to the Calendar Tab.

On the bottom right of the calendar, select the (+) sign and click ADD to the pop-up message to add the SWE-MN Calendar to your account.

You won’t miss an upcoming event!!

LOOKING FOR MEMBER NEWS:

Recently got a new job or promotion? New marriage, child, grandchild? If so, we’d love to hear about it!!

Send in your exciting Member news to newsletter@swe-mn.org to be included in the next newsletter.