



Philadelphia Section Newsletter

Society of Women Engineers

April 2001

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President's Column

by Lisa Colosimo

Call For Nominations

It's that time of the year - time to elect Section officers and committee chairs. The Section's Executive Board is made up of elected officers - President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and one or two Section Representatives (depending on the number of Section Members) - and appointed committee chairs for Membership, Newsletter, Career Guidance, Continuing Development, Programs, Publicity, Scholarship, and Special Projects.

Nominations for all offices are needed as are volunteers for all committee heads and committee members. You may nominate any SWE Philadelphia Member, including yourself. Candidates for President, Vice President, and Section Representative must all be Members in good standing with the Society (i.e., current dues are paid). Elections will take place in May. Nominations are due in to me, lcolosimo@fcg.com, or to Jen Wetzel, jwetzel@pobox.upenn.edu, by April 30.

If you would like more information on any position or on the activities of any of the committees, please contact me or any other officer (see page 9 for contact information). Time commitments vary with activity and program stage. Most committee chair positions require a few hours per month in planning and other administrative work, with more time required to prepare for and participate in the actual event or activity.

The Executive Committee strongly encourages all Members to become involved in one way or another. There are plenty of things to accomplish with varying levels of responsibility as our section continues to improve and grow. We need your thoughts and ideas on what will make the section better and help you.

Please let us know what positions or activities interest you. Section vitality and growth depend on you to make it happen.

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April 2001

SWE Philadelphia FY 01 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
Apr 11	Delaware Valley Science Fairs	Fort Washington Expo Center
Apr 19	Annual Awards Banquet	Wyndham Suites-Valley Forge, Wayne
Apr 26	9th Annual Take Our Daughters to Work Day Take Our Children to Work Career Fair	Various DuPont Country Club
Apr 26-29	National Board of Directors Meeting	Wilmington, DE
May	Joint Meeting & Technical Tour with AIChE	
May	South-Central PA Sub-Section Meeting	Lancaster
May 18	Math Options Career Day	Penn State Delaware Valley Campus
May & June	Certificate of Merit Presentations	Various
June	Election of New Officers Sub-Section Meetings Golf Outing	
June 26-30	National Conference	Denver, CO

National Volunteer Week is April 22-28, 2001.

Consider volunteering for a SWE position at the Section/Region or National level. People with various talents, ideas, and enthusiasm are always welcome. Develop your leadership and team-building skills by serving as an officer (President/Director, Vice President/Deputy Director, Treasurer, Secretary) or committee head/member (Career Guidance, Professional Development, Membership, Newsletter, Family Issues, Multi-Cultural/Diversity Issues, By-Laws, Fund Development, Women in Government, Women in Academia). For more information, contact any of our Section Officers or Committee Chairs listed on page 7 or our Region E Director, Holly Ross at RossHC@corning.com.

9th Annual Take Our Daughters to Work Day - April 26

The Ms. Foundation for Women is partnering with leading companies and technology organizations to show girls the uses for new technology and the career possibilities available to them in the future. The top five fastest-growing fields in the US are information technology occupations, which require advanced computer skills. However, girls tend to enroll more in clerical and data entry computer courses, the contemporary equivalent of typing classes, than in advanced computer classes.

Thanks to the Ms. Foundation's online partners, Take Our Daughters to Work® Day 2001 will provide girls with several opportunities to explore technology with parents and mentors at home and in the workplace. Girls' exploration continues throughout the day on April 26 as IDEV, the company that designed the Take Our Daughters to Work web site, unveils an online curriculum that walks girls through the process of building a web page.

ChickClick.com, the leading online network for young women 13 - 30, will be creating career quizzes and workplace scavenger hunts for girls to learn more about how their interests may match up with a future career.

Girlstart.org will present professional women in a series of moderated chats. Girls can ask questions of women veterinarian, web designers, and engineers.

GirlZone.com will present four "techtutorials" that build girl's computer skills. Beginning April 22, the online interactive tutorials will be: 3D Animation, game creation, digital photography, and programming.

For more information, visit the web site <http://www.takeourdaughterstowork.org> or call (800)676-7780.

April Events

SWE Board of Directors Meeting

The **DelMar Peninsula Section** will host the SWE Board of Directors Meeting to be held on April 26-29, 2001 in Wilmington. Section participation in the meeting includes:

- A **Board of Directors Industry Reception** on Thursday, April 26 at 6 PM at the Hotel DuPont in Wilmington, DE;
- A **SWE Board of Directors Student Luncheon** sponsored by Conectiv on Friday, April 27, from 12 noon to 2 PM at Kahunaville Deck (in case of rain, the event will be held inside). SWE Student Members from the University of Delaware and Widener University have been invited to attend; students should RSVP to Vicki Land by April 17.
- Saturday evening, April 28 after 6:00 PM, at the Christina Riverfront Attractions - Shipyard Shops, Blue Rocks Game, and possibly the Kahunaville Night Club.
- A **tour of Longwood Gardens** with lunch and the opportunity to meet the DelMar Peninsula Section scholarship winner, Lily Butler, on Sunday, April 29 from 10 AM to 1 PM.

A **Take our Children to Work Career Fair** will be held at the DuPont Contry Club on April 26, 2001 from 12:30 to 4:00 PM. The fair will showcase how everyday consumer products relate to the field of engineering (electricity, health/hygiene, environment, fibers, and pharmaceuticals). A boxed lunch will be provided. Contact Vicki Land at 302-429-3338 or Vicki.Land@conectiv.com for more information.

SWE Philadelphia Annual Awards Banquet

The Philadelphia Section will announce the recipients of this year's scholarship awards and recognize the support of our corporate sponsors at our annual Awards Banquet, which will be held on April 19th at the Wyndham Suites located in the Chesterbrook Corporate Center.

Date: Thursday, April 19, 2001
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Wyndham Suites Valley Forge
Chesterbrook Corporate Center
888 Chesterbrook Boulevard
Wayne, PA
610-647-6700

RSVP: to Carole Stowell by Thursday, April 12th
Phone: 610-531-5320
E-Mail: carole.n.stowell@lmco.com

Please specify meal selection:
Sauteed Chicken Piccata
Grilled Salmon with Pommery Mustard Sauce
Vegetarian: Stuffed Eggplant

Cost: \$35 for Members and Guests
\$20 for Students

Directions: The Wyndham Suites Valley Forge is located at the Chesterbrook Boulevard Exit on Route 202, approximately 3 miles south of the Route 202 / Schuylkill Exressway / PA Turnpike Intersections in Valley Forge/King of Prussia.

From southbound on Route 202 - take the Chesterbrook Blvd. Exit - Hotel entrance will be on the right.

From northbound on Route 202 - take the Rte 252/Chesterbrook/Paoli Exit, make a left at the bottom of the ramp. Make a right at the Light onto Duportail Road and follow to the Second Light. Cross the intersection into the Wyndham Valley Forge parking lot.

Delaware Valley Science Fairs

Join us in judging entries in the Delaware Valley Science Fairs competition on Wednesday, April 11th at the Fort Washington Expo Center. We evaluate engineering-related projects to determine recipients of the **SWE Philadelphia Section Special Awards** for students participating in the grade 6-7-8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 fairs represented at the competition.

If you are interested in participating in this rewarding event that provides an opportunity to interact with potential future women engineers and scientists, please contact Tammy Yost, tyost@wlgore.com, or Barbara Faust, 215-257-6463, Barbara.Faust@swe.org.

National Conference

By now all SWE Members should have received a copy of the preliminary program and registration book for the 2001 SWE National Conference to be held in Denver, CO on June 26-30. This book contains registration forms, hotel information, descriptions of the Career Enhancement courses, schedule of SWE training workshops and committee meetings, and tour information. Visit the conference web site, www.swe.org/SWE/Convention/den01/2001M.htm, for updated program information and to register on-line. Highlights of this year's conference include:

- Participation of over 250 companies in the Conference Exhibits and Career Fair
- Opportunities to earn Continuing Education Units through the Career Enhancement Series; courses offered this year are:

Beginning Project Management	Reinforcement-Based Leadership
Risk Management	Techniques for Effective Presentation
Engineering Ethics	Supervisor Basics
Handling Information Overload	Team Building for Managers
Communication Skills	Diversity-Management's Role in Implementing Change
Influential Leadership	Conflict in the Workplace
Intellectual Property Protection	Negotiating
Mid-Level Manager Skills	Business Writing
What Every Manager Needs to Know About Employment Law	
Exploring Personality Diversity with the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator	
Advanced Project Management Training -Taking It to the Next Level	
- Technical tours will be available to local sites such as Ball Aerospace, the Coors Brewing Company, the AT&T National Digital Television Center, the US Air Force Academy, the Metro Wastewater Reclamation Project, the Denver International Airport, Lockheed Martin Astronautics, the National Ice Core Laboratory, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Networking Night is set in one of Denver's crown jewels, the Seawell Ballroom at the Denver Center of the Performing Arts, where the area's rich tradition, from mining to high-tech sophistication, will be on display.
- Open Technical Exchange, Seminars, Panels, and Workshops to provide SWE-related training as well as to address issues such as stress management, dealing with difficult people, burnout, mentoring, time management, home office, international protocol and business customs, telecommuting, career-family issues, and surviving a lay-off.

GIRLS AND TECHNOLOGY

from the web site: <http://www.takeourdaughterstowork.org/>

- Women's average earnings in information technology (IT), a field in which there is no historic wage gap, are still only 85% that of men. (American Association of University Women, *Tech Savvy: Educating Girls in the New Computer Age, 2000*)
- Only 127 Latinas took the 1999 Applied Placement computer science exam, making up less than 1% of all test takers. (American Association of University Women, *Tech Savvy: Educating Girls in the New Computer Age, 2000*)
- The top five fastest growing occupations between 1998 and 2008 are IT occupations, which require advanced computer skills. However, girls enroll more in clerical and data entry computer courses, the contemporary equivalent of typing classes, than in advanced computer classes. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment Projections 1999; American Institutes of Research, *Gender Gaps: Where Schools Still Fail Our Children, 1998*)
- Girls consistently rate themselves lower than boys on computer ability, and they have less positive attitudes toward computers. (American Institutes for Research, *Gender Gaps: Where Schools Still Fail Our Children, 1998*)
- In 1998, girls made up only 17% of the high school students who took the advanced placement exam in computer science. (*The New York Times*, September 1999)
- Women earn only 18% of doctorates in computer science in the United States. (*The New York Times*, September 1999)
- Parents purchase technology twice as much for their sons as for their daughters; while at school, only a quarter of the students using computers during their free time were girls. (Girl Tech, "What's the Difference?," 1995, 2000)

Section News

Corporate Corner

by Susan Sciaratta

Funds are continuing to arrive from Section Members and Corporate Sponsors for the 2001 Scholarship Fund. Many thanks are extended to recent corporate contributors **Visteon Automotive Systems / Ford Motor Company Fund** and **Pennoni Associates**.

Recipients of this year's scholarship awards will be announced at the Awards Banquet to be held on April 19, 2001 at the Wyndham Suites in Wayne, PA (see page 3 for more details). Our corporate sponsors are invited to contact Susan Sciaratta at 856-616-8166 to reserve a spot for the company.

Joint Meeting with AIChE

Plans are still being finalized for a joint meeting and technical tour with the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers in May. Details will be announced in next month's newsletter.

Golf Outing

Members and friends interested in participating in our second annual golf outing are urged to contact Lisa Colosimo, lcolosimo@fcg.com, by the end of April if you wish to have your preferences for lessons and time/date included in the planning. This year's program is being tailored to the needs of the participants. A June date is anticipated.

Member News

We extend a warm welcome and look forward to meeting **Nancy Shramek**, a new Member in the Philadelphia Section.

We congratulate Philadelphia Section Web Coordinator **Toni Kargle** on her recent engagement.

Montgomery County Sub-Section Meeting

Four Members attended the Montgomery County Sub-Section meeting held on March 22nd at Bertucci's in the Plymouth Meeting Mall. During dinner the Members socialized and discussed what could be done to get more people to participate in Section activities.

Region E Spring Meeting

Maggie Schwartz represented the Philadelphia Section at the Region E meeting held during the joint Region E-F spring conference on March 24th and 25th at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. The Member Sections in Region E (the Mid-Atlantic Region) are New York, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Baltimore-Washington, DelMar Peninsula, Lehigh Valley, Twin Tiers, Rochester, Greater Syracuse, Western New York, Hampton Roads, Richmond, and the Members-at-Large (MALs) who are not affiliated with any particular Section in the area.

Topics discussed at the Region meeting included:

- student retention;
- a proposal to hold the Council of Section Representatives (CSR) meeting separate from the National Conference - the CSR would still serve its oversight function;
- status of the headquarters move from New York to Chicago;
- the Section Vitality Task Force set up at the National level to provide help to at-risk Sections (see page 6 for more details);
- Region interest in hosting the Hoffman Program; and
- a call for Members to serve as Region Officers and committee heads during the next fiscal year.

Contact Philadelphia Section Representative Maggie Schwartz, maggie.j.schwartz@lmco.com, or Region E Director Holly Ross, RossHR@corning.com, if you want more information on the meeting and/or wish to volunteer for one of the Region Officer or committee positions.

South-Central PA Sub-Section Meeting & Technical Tour

by Catharine Miller

Six people attended the Harrisburg-Lancaster-York Sub-Section meeting on March 28th in Harrisburg at the Appalachian Brewing Company. John Eisenstein, a brewer, led the group on a tour of the brewery. The tour was very interesting and educational. Free samples were also provided. The tour was followed by dinner the Appalachian Brewing Company Restaurant.

Plans for future Sub-Section meetings were discussed after dinner. The group agreed to the following tentative schedule for the spring and summer:

- May meeting in Lancaster
Contact Marsha Bischel, msbischel@armstrong.com
- June or July social event at a Harrisburg Senators minor league baseball game. Families are invited.
Contact Catharine Miller, millercl@erdmananthony.com

Volunteers Sought for Section Vitality Task Force

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The **Section Vitality Task Force** is a pilot program initiated at the national level to provide proactive intervention to stop the decline in membership and decreased program participation of our ailing and failing Sections. With initial emphasis on at-risk Sections, trained Task Force members will provide intervention and develop additional training modules to support the development of our leadership and management skills at the Section level. Training modules will address topics that are essential to maintaining a vital Section, such as recruiting members, Section finances, fund development, strategic planning, communications, and holding effective meetings. Task Force members will conduct training at Region Conferences and then take this training out to the Sections.

The Section Vitality Task Force is funded through the national Program Development Grant Committee. Funding for the project is \$50,000, which is the largest program development grant to date. The funding is to be used for travel for the task force leader, team training, team travel to the training, team travel to Sections, intervention expenses, and development of training modules.

Each Section has been requested to fill out a Section Vitality Score Sheet that was developed to assist Region Directors in evaluating Section health. The Section's score, in conjunction with membership data, financial data, and other information, will be used to evaluate the Section vitality to assist in prioritizing which Sections in each Region should receive the training/intervention, as well as to highlight specific areas of need in the Section.

Ten Task Force members, plus a few alternates, are sought. Though not a rigid requirement, there will be approximately one Task Force member per Region. Responsibilities of Task Force members include:

- Review and comment on training modules.
- Attend 2-day "train the trainer" training session on the modules and consulting skills. This training is set for June 8-10, 2001 in Chicago. Expenses for this training will be reimbursed.
- Work with your Region Director to determine which sections need the most assistance. Administrative expenses are included in the funding.

- Travel to Sections in your region and use the modules to train the Section leaders. Expenses for at least one trip will be reimbursed from the funding.
- Provide follow-up support to these Sections via e-mail and telephone.
- Conduct a Section Vitality Workshop at your Region Conference. Travel to the conference is not included, but administrative expenses (copying, presentation materials) are included.
- Provide quarterly progress reports.
- Attend committee meeting at national conference.

This task force requires a two-year commitment from the volunteer. The amount of travel time required is the initial training, attendance at your Region conference, attendance at National conference, and travel to Sections. Non-travel time required, including phone and e-mail support, is expected to be several hours a month.

Desired Skills for Task Force Members

- General SWE knowledge is required; experience as local Section Officer is preferred.
- An outgoing, motivational personality is desired.
- Consulting skills desired are: negotiating, coping with mixed motivation, dealing with concerns, analysis, dealing with political climate, comfort with ambiguity, interviewing, feedback of data, working with resistance, presentation of personal and organizational data, training and facilitating, running group meetings to involve all participants, focusing on options and choices, and not taking it personally.
- Interpersonal skills: supportiveness, listening, ability to maintain business relationship at the same time maintain trusting relationships with the Section.

If you are interested in joining the Section Vitality Task Force, contact

Charlotte Wagner, Section Vitality Task Force Leader
(H) 949-387-5253 (W) 714-429-8106
Charlotte_Wagner@enron.com

Volunteers Sought for Math Options Career Day

The **Math Options Career Day** will be held on Friday, May 18th at **Penn State's Delaware County** campus in Media, PA. This program was created to introduce elementary school girls to the disciplines of engineering and science.

Volunteers are needed to share their knowledge of engineering and/or science through a 40-minute presentation to a class of 15 students. Typical topics in the past have included discussions on animals, plants, weather, physical and chemical properties, electricity and magnetism, and earth and space science. Volunteers are also needed for different panel discussions.

For more information, please contact Pat VanLeuvan, Project Director, at 610-892-1462. Presentations should be confirmed by April 16th.

SWE Philadelphia Section
c/o The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia
215 South 16th Street Suite 36
Philadelphia, PA 19102

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Visit our Web Site: <http://www.libertynet.org/sweps>
Contact us by E-mail: phila_info@swe.org

SWE Philadelphia Section

April 2001 Newsletter

Annual Awards Banquet

Thursday, April 19, 2001
Wyndham Suites
888 Chesterbrook Blvd. (near Route 202)
Wayne, PA
RSVP to Carole Stowell by April 12, 2001

Newsletter copying and distribution is underwritten by a grant from
Lockheed Martin Management and Data Systems.

Thank you!

In Memoriam: Amy C. Spear, P.E.

Amy C. Spear, P.E., passed away on February 20, 2001 at the age of 77. A memorial service was held on February 24th at the Buxmont Unitarian Universalist Church in Warrington, PA. She was a SWE Fellow Life Member and a Member-at-Large (MAL) in Region E. Amy was the mother of past SWE President Jaclyn Spear of the Central Savannah River Section and Dorothy (D.J.) Spear Oakes of the Boston Section. Her husband, Edward D. Spears, also a SWE Fellow Life Member, passed away in 1995.

Amy received her BS and MS degrees in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University and Northwestern University, respectively. Her distinguished career of more than 30 years was primarily with General Electric, RCA, and The Mitre Company in the communications industry. Just prior to her retirement, she was working to establish standards for NATO-controlled network communications in secure and unsecured modes of operation.

Amy joined SWE in 1961 as a Senior Member and MAL while living in East Syracuse, NY. She relocated to Wellesley Hills, MA in 1963 and was an active member of the Boston Section for 18 years. In 1982 when she moved to the Omaha, NE area, she helped to organize the Eastern Nebraska Section and served as the Section's first Section Representative in 1984. Her career brought her to the Baltimore-Washington Section in 1987, and after retiring in 1989 she again became a MAL.

During her tenure as chair of the Archives Committee in 1993, Amy championed the placement of the SWE archives collection in the Walter Reuther Library at Wayne State University in Detroit. Past National President Arminta Harness has initiated an Archives Fund to honor the memory of Amy Spear. Checks may be made payable to the Society of Women Engineers, with a notation that the donation is to be used for the archives and sent to: Society of Women Engineers, 230 E Ohio Street, Suite 400, Chicago, IL 60611-3265.