

# SWE Philadelphia Section

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## ***Editor's Note:***

Next newsletter deadline is  
**April 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Please send articles  
to: Heather Bernardin  
habernardin@juno.com

## ***AWARDS DINNER***

***Radnor Hotel***  
***April 21<sup>st</sup>, 6-9pm***

Exit 5 off the Blue Route  
From the exit ramp, make a left onto  
Route 30 West and travel ¼ of a mile.  
The Hotel is on your right

**Cost is \$30.00 members,  
\$35 non-members ,  
Students \$10.00  
RSVP to Carole Stowell  
(610) 531-5320  
by April 14<sup>th</sup>.**

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Management and Data Systems. *Thank you!*

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**SWE Philadelphia Section  
C/O Engineer's Club  
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215 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102**



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**Visit our webpage at: <http://www.libertynet.org/~sweps>**



# **Society of Women Engineers Philadelphia Section April 1999**

## ***Letter from the President Sue Sciarratta***

This Spring is proving to be very busy and productive for SWE-Philadelphia. A few weeks ago, Carole Stowell and I provided seven workshops at the Girl Scout Career Day. Carole talked about systems engineering, and I had the girls build a water distribution system using pasta and cardboard tubes for piping. It was fun and very well received. The March Section meeting found us absolutely captivated by Lynn Blahusch of C.B. Development Services (of which she is the "B"), who talked about the fire, stabilization, and demolition of the One Meridian building in Center City. This past week, our Delaware constituency submitted its petition to charter the new Delmar Peninsula Section. Good luck to Vicki Land, Barb Zubenko, and the many folks who are developing this new Section. A decision by the SWE National Board of Directors on the petition is expected on April 24. Also, scholarship and science fair season is in full swing. Danette Ernst's scholarship committee is reviewing applications from our student sections for our scholarship program, and Tammy Yost is actively recruiting judges for the Delaware Valley and International Science Fairs. SWE National will be sponsoring an award at the International Fair, so our local presence there is crucial. Thanks to these folks and all the other members for all your hard work!

The other major item of note is elections. You may have noticed in your ballot from SWE National that Ronna Robertson, our Region E Director, is running for Vice President. Good Luck, Ronna! Also, this newsletter contains a ballot for our FY00 elected offices. We actually have a contested position!! Please take the time to vote and return your ballots in a timely fashion.

For my parting thoughts, I would like to hear from those members that I haven't met or seen in a while. Please email me with any ideas, questions, suggestions, or just to say "hi." Also, use this Newsletter as a forum to share your ideas, articles, or other items. It belongs to you, the members, so take the opportunity to use it and let us hear from you. Thanks, and happy Spring!

-Susan Sciarratta

# SWE Philadelphia Section

April 1999

## Scholarship Awards Dinner

**1999 Philadelphia Section Awards Banquet:** Ronna Robertson, SWE Region E Director will be the keynote speaker at the dinner . The banquet will be at the Radnor Hotel in St. Davids. Come and help us celebrate the achievements of local engineering college students.



- Date:** Wednesday, April 21, 1999
- Location:** Radnor Hotel, St. Davids, Pennsylvania  
Exit 5 off the Blue Route. From the exit ramp, make a left onto Route 30 West and travel ¼ of a mile. The Hotel is on your right
- Schedule:** 5:30 PM Reception  
6:30 PM Dinner  
7:30 PM Awards Presentation
- Cost:** \$30.00 Members, \$35.00 Non-Members, \$15.00 Students
- RSVP:** Carole Stowell (610) 531-5320 by April 14<sup>th</sup>
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## MEETINGS

- **May Philadelphia Section Meeting**

SWE member Stacy Dedin will speak on her recent trip to Africa. Stacy's trip included 3 1/2 weeks in Kenya and Tanzania, 9 days of which were trekking to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa, 19,340 ft.. She also spent about 2 weeks on safari in the plains of Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro crater and Lake Manyara National Park, where she saw a wide variety of flora and fauna, including zebra, giraffe, ostrich, cape buffalo, elephant, lions, cheetah, leopard and a lot more! She learned about the East African tribes, spent time learning about the Maasai tribe and their culture, and learned to speak some Swahili, the primary language in East Africa.

The May meeting will be held either May 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> at the Gaslight Restaurant in Ridley Park. See Next Months newsletter for more information

# **SWE Philadelphia Section**

**April 1999**

## ***DELAWARE SECTION***

- **Delaware Section – April Meeting**

Society of Women Engineers - Proposed Delaware Section Meeting Tuesday, April 6, 1999 6 PM. April 6, Brandywine Brewing Company. The evening will include dinner and a brewery tour.

To attend or to obtain more information, please contact Vicki Land by e-mail: vland@delanet.com or phone at (302) 369-1123.

- **Charter Petition Submitted**

The Delaware Group has submitted its petition to charter the new Delmar Peninsula Section. A decision by the SWE National Board of directors is expected by April 24<sup>th</sup>.

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## ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***

- **Math Options Career Day**

Penn State, Abington is hosting its 9th annual Math Options Career Day for 7th grade girls on Friday 5/21 from 8-2:30. They are seeking women to conduct hands-on workshops to inspire the girls to pursue math or science careers, or participate in the Career Fair or Panel Discussion. Contact Marsha Fisher at Penn State at 215-881-7546, and notify Vicki Brown, SWE Speakers Bureau, at 610-499-4607 if you decide to attend.

- **Upper Merion Career Day**

Request from Evelyn Kritchevsky of AAUW (Association of University Women) for female electrical, mechanical or environmental engineers to participate in Career Day at Upper Merion Middle School on Saturday morning 4/17. If interested, call Evelyn at 610-525-6955 and notify Vicki Brown, SWE Speakers Bureau, at 610-499-4607 if you decide to attend.

- **International Science Fair**

The International Science and Engineering Fair is Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. Contact Tammy Yost at (610)358-9387 or tyost143@aol.com if you would like to volunteer.

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## ***RETURNING MEMBERS***

Welcome new/returning/upgraded members:

Linda Gaffney, Debra Mellish, Laura Aust, Jessica Baldovich, Stacy Dedinas, Julia Plocher, Alexis Seeber (and any others we missed).

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Bridgette Fous an Electrical/Computer Engineering Major at Rutgers University is seeking assistance in finding a summer internship. If you can help, please e-mail her at fosu@eden.rutgers.edu.

# **SWE Philadelphia Section**

**April 1999**

## ***MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS***

Thank you to Lynn Blahush for her interesting and informative presentation on the fire and deconstruction of the One Meridian Building in Center City.

Lynn Blahush spoke to us on the deconstruction of the One Meridian Building in Center City. Lynn is the co-owner of CB Development Services a project management and consulting firm. Lynn graduated from Penn State in 1982 and began her career with the steel industry. Later she went to work with building contractor where she managed large scale development projects. At the time of the fire at One Meridian the building was 88% occupied. The building was built in 1968 and had good building construction, however, at the time it was built sprinkler systems were not required. The 18 hour fire caused the building severe structural and water damage and there where also environmental issues. In addition, the fire caused several blocks in the area to be closed and the death of 3 firefighters. When they were able to enter the building they saw most steel beams were bowed, but there were few connection failures. Because of the severity of the damage they assumed a beam was damage unless it could be proved otherwise. In addition, to the structural issues, there were also environmental issues because of toxins and PCB's. Where there were contaminates (22<sup>nd</sup> floor and up) the floor had to be closed off. The contaminated floors required special level C environmental suits, which made construction work difficult. To stabilize the damaged portion of the building they, air lifted nets then put banding around the building. They then had to stabilize the floors using pole shores. Everything had to have 3 bids for insurance purposes.

They first looked into repairing the damaged building. While trying to match the stones and clean the existing ones they had to check for environmental and structural integrity. During this check they determined that the caulking used on the stones also contained PCB's. Also while looking into repairing the building they determined there was asbestos in elevator shaft. All duct work was also, contaminated because the HVAC was on at the time of the fire. Eventually they, recommend demolition to at least the 19th floor. This ended up going to litigation. The demolition was finally started in November of 1997. During the beginning of the deconstruction they had to work in Level C suites on floors 30-38, until all environmental hazards were removed. After they were removed the building was taken down the same way it was put up. The demolition of the building should be complete by the end of the year.

For more information contact Lynn Blahusch at:

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