

Society of Women Engineers

Philadelphia Section Newsletter

December 1999

President's Letter

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SWE Members and Friends-

The holidays are approaching fast and furious! Are you ready for the New Millennium? I thought it would be fun for our next Newsletter to publish your New Year's resolutions. If you are interested and willing, please submit your resolutions to Lisa Hutchings, our Newsletter Editor (Lisa Hutchings: Hutchings@netaxs.com).

For those of you out in the Harrisburg area, I will be in State College for an extended stay over this winter. If you are interested in getting together for an ad-hoc SWE meeting, please contact me by email and we can set something up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Sub-Section Coordinators
Wanted:
-Montgomery County,
-Delaware/ Chester County, and
-Lancaster Area.
- Publicity Chair
Wanted:
Help spread the word
about SWE and our activities!
- December Social is canceled.

As you know, many plans are underway locally and nationally for SWE's 50th Anniversary. One thing we are doing is publishing interviews and reflections from some of our charter members. In addition, I would like to invite our members to submit short articles on your reflections as a SWE member. I am particularly interested in hearing from our former Section Presidents and Officers, two of whom are now leaders in Philly's two daughter sections: Lehigh Valley and Delmar Peninsula. I would like to publish your experiences as a SWE leader and where you think SWE should be going in the next 50 years. It would be a rich and insightful addition to our Newsletter.

Plans are also underway for our Continuing Development Seminar on March 4, 2000, and the Engineering Mini-Camp at Widener on February 12, 2000. Thank-you to DuPont and Exxon for your generous grants to make these happen. Also, the Future Cities Competition is coming up in January, Engineers Week in February, and local science fairs in March and April. Other events include our Scholarship Competition, Beginners Golf Outing, and some outstanding dinner meeting topics for January and February. Be on the lookout for our new FY'00 Brochure!

Finally, I would like to congratulate Jennifer Wetzel (Membership) on her new job, and Lucia Chan (former Programs Chair) as the new Director of the Engineers Club. Also, hats off to Deena Grattan for taking the P.E. exam; we'll keep our fingers crossed. Thanks to all of you who responded to the recent surveys for SWE's two workshops at the Region E Student Conference in early November; your input was extremely helpful.

Best wishes to each of you and your families for a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season.

Susan Sciarratta

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MCC UPDATE

(from the Region E Member Meeting)

Several questions were asked at the Region E Members Meeting during the Multi-Cultural Committee (MCC) presentation. K'Andrea Bickerstaff, MCC Chair, replies below.

1) Why called MCC? Why not Diversity? With the integration of Family Issues (FI) and generating awareness for people with disabilities, is it not more appropriate to rename the committee to Diversity?

A) The Multi-Cultural Committee's charter, developed six to eight years ago, basically states that we are working with issues of race and ethnicity. Overall, the fundamental goals of the committee are to encourage more minority girls to pursue careers in engineering and to educate and support SWE women in understanding the benefits and concerns of a ethnically diverse work place. Hence, we've administrated the Space Campership program and hosted many race/ethnicity-focused workshops at convention.

About three to four years ago, the Board of Directors asked the MCC to lead the work on developing a diversity plan for the Society. This was work done in a subcommittee of the MCC that I chaired. At the time, it was understood that the MCC was not changing to a Diversity Committee. Overall though, MCC members have been willing and enthusiastic about addressing other diversity issues outside of the group's charter, such as Sexual Orientation, physical disabilities, etc.

The integration of Family Issues into the MCC happened as a surprise to both FI and MCC. I learned of it at Convention. Fortunately, Phyllis Corcoran, FI subcommittee chair, is excited about increasing FI projects. And I'm very happy to support her hard work. Understandably, most FI members want to see FI stand on its own again. I am encouraging Phyllis and other FI members to use the next year or so to grow and strengthen FI while under the wing of the MCC.

During FY01, the MCC (this includes FI) will review FI progress and the overall focus of the MCC. (Certainly there will be some BOD input into this too.) At that time, we will determine whether FI should stand on its own again or the MCC should modify its charter and, perhaps its name, in redefining the committee's objectives.

2) Science Campership: How many applicants last year? How many scholarships were given out? Have the applications been mailed? (minutes stated mid-end of October)? Is the release of applications contingent on receiving Hewlett-Packard funding? How much money are we requesting?

A) Last year, there were approximately 85-90 applicants. Ten winners were selected. Note that in previous years we've had as many as 150 applicants.

The applications will be mailed this upcoming weekend to all of the section presidents. They will also be posted on the SWE website and later on the MCC website when it's launched in December. The delay in getting applications released was due to problems in getting our funding--the manager who usually worked with us left HP at the end of the summer. But we've finally been approved for \$10K. This is the amount that we've previously received, but registration costs have gone up this year, so we may only be able to give out nine instead of ten camperships--to be determined later.

3) Is SWE tracking Diversity Statistics? SWE Region E Student Conference seemed very diverse and culturally well-represented. Are the statistics confirming these numbers and are we tracking them? If yes, how can members find out how we are doing on the Strategic Priority of Diversity.

A) SWE is at the very beginning of keeping some diversity stats. Note that this year's renewal form allowed the member to volunteer racial/ethnic identity. The MCC is also trying to track the progress of campership winners.

Thanks for the questions. Regards, K'Andrea

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SWE RECEIVES FUNDING FOR GIRLS ENGINEERING MINI-CAMP!! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Philadelphia Section and Widener University will be co-sponsoring a one-day engineering camp for girls in grades 9-12 on Saturday February 12, 2000. This program is funded by a SWE Program Development Grant through the Exxon Education Foundation. We received approval for funding of one camp!

High school girls interested in science and math will explore engineering careers in a hands-on laboratory setting with members from the local SWE sections and female engineering students from the Widener University Student Section. Each lab will be led by a volunteer "camp counselor" from the local SWE sections. The counselor will not only assist the girls in completing a laboratory project but will also talk about her work and explain how the lab project relates to that work. For example, a chemical engineer from DuPont might lead a laboratory project on fermentation, while explaining about her career as a process engineer. All girls will participate in three laboratory projects while interacting with three different SWE volunteers as the groups rotate from lab project to lab project. The camp schedule is:

| Time | Activity |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 - 9:30 | Registration/Continental Breakfast |
| 9:30 - 10:15 | Welcome/Introductions/Career Guidance Video |
| 10:30 - 11:30 | Laboratory Session #1 |
| 11:45 - 12:45 | Lunch/The Female Engineering Student Experience |
| 1:00 - 2:00 | Laboratory Session #2 |
| 2:15 - 3:15 | Laboratory Session #3 |
| 3:30 - 4:00 | Closing/Camp Evaluations |

To accommodate 50 girls, five volunteer camp counselors will be recruited from members in the local sections. Each volunteer will lead a laboratory activity related to her area of engineering expertise, repeated for three different groups of 10 girls. We want to expose the girls to the wide diversity of possible engineering careers. Content of any individual laboratory session is less important than the contact between the high school girls and the SWE volunteers; laboratory activities are intended primarily to facilitate communication and to provide the counselors with a context in which to discuss engineering careers.

WE NEED HELP!!!! If you would like to volunteer for what is shaping up to be a worthwhile, fun project please contact **Vicki Brown (610-499-4607 or email Vicki.L.Brown@Widener.edu)**. If you'd like to help out but don't have any ideas for a good lab activity, don't worry. We'll help come up with one that suits your background and is easy to perform. Remember - we want the girls to have an opportunity to network with women in engineering and maybe learn a little about what it's like to be a woman engineer. The lab activities are only meant as an "ice-breaker," although I've gotten several suggestions that certainly have the potential to be real crowd pleasers! The camp will be held on the Widener University campus in Chester, PA, from 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, February 12, 2000. We look forward to your participation in this new and exciting activity. Please

join us.

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SWE Philadelphia Supports Region E Student Conference.

The SWE Region E student conference was held during the weekend of November 5th at Drexel University. Members of the SWE Philadelphia section put their support behind the student section event by taking an active roll in the weekend's events. On Friday night, Susan Sciarratta, Deena Grattan, and Jennifer Wetzel participated in the networking night by manning a SWE table to provide information about local SWE Member Sections. Students learned about SWE and other professional societies at the event by walking around and talking to members. On Saturday Susan Sciarratta ran several workshops on the PE license, while Suzanne Chiavari, Deena Grattan, Jennifer Wetzel, Lisa Colismo, Heather Bernardin and Frann Shore gave panel discussions on "What Can I Do With a Professional SWE Membership?"

Y2K Hits National Read All About It!!

SWE Headquarters has recently announced the **FY 2000 Scholarship Program** - 121 scholarship awards ranging from \$1000 to \$5000 are available. Freshman scholarships are due 5/15/00; upper-class scholarships are due 2/1/00. Materials are available from Susan Sciarratta; also, materials should have been sent to engineering deans and student section presidents.

SWE Counselors: Please remind your student sections about these scholarships.

BE COUNTED! FILL OUT THE CONFERENCE SURVEY

The Conference Management Committee is conducting a survey of the SWE membership on several components of the National Conference. **WHETHER YOU HAVE ATTENDED A NATIONAL SWE CONFERENCE OR NOT**, please fill out the survey on the national web site (www.swe.org) - look for the flashing sign "Survey/Members". Paper copies of survey are available from Susan Sciarratta, 856-616-8166. **Due date: 12/31/99.**

January Meeting

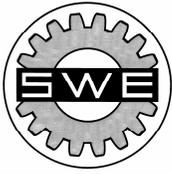
Speaker: Greg Richardson
Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.
Topic: Traffic Calming
Place: Williamson Restaurant
Easton Rd. (a few blocks north of the PA Turnpike Willow Grove Exit #27)
Horsham, PA 19044
Date: 19 January 2000
Time: Officers @ 5:00 PM
Members @ 6:00 PM

Montco Sub-Section Meeting

Location: Bertucci's Plymouth Meeting
Date: Mon. Dec. 6, 1999
Time: 6:00
RSVP to: Deena Grattan (215)652-7807 or deena_grattan@merck.com

"Heads UP!! Career Development Seminar Planned

A Career Development Seminar has been planned for Saturday, 4th March, 2000, sponsored by DuPont and jointly planned by DelMar and Philadelphia Sections, need ideas for great speakers and need volunteers. Call Frann Shore (610) 591-9641 w. or (215) 235-7427 h.



SWE Philadelphia Section
 C/O Engineer's Club of Philadelphia
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 215 South 16th Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19102

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

**SWE Philadelphia Section
 FY 00 CALENDAR**

| <i>DATE</i> | <i>EVENT</i> | <i>LOCATION</i> |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| December | Sub-Section Meetings | Various |
| January 19 | Traffic Calming | Williamson's, Willow Grove |
| January 29 | Future City – 2000 | Franklin Institute, Philadelphia |
| February 12 | Engineering Mini-Camp | Widener University |
| February | Personal Wardrobe Selection | Charlie's Place, King of Prussia |
| February 18-26 | Engineers' Week Activities | Various |
| March 4 | Saturday Seminar | TBD |
| March | Sub-Section Meetings | Various |
| March 31-April 2 | Region E Conference | Somerset, NJ |
| April | Awards Banquet @ 50 th Anniversary Celebration | TBD |
| May | Beginner's Golf Outing | TBD |
| June 27 – July 1 | SWE National Conference - Beyond 2000: Exploring Perspectives | Washington, D.C. |

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