



# SWE Outlook

December 2005/January 2006

## President's Corner

### Inside this Issue

- 2 **SWE Calendar**  
SWE DelMar Peninsula
- 3 **Section News**  
Section Meetings  
Board Openings
- 4 **Region E Conf. Update  
Committee Highlights**  
Engineer's Week Council  
Corporate Liaison
- 5 **Activity Highlights**  
Future City 2006  
SWE-Widener Eng Mini-Camp
- 6 **Philadelphia Section Web  
Survey**
- 7 **FY06 Contact List**

When I took over as president in July of 2003, FY03, I had a goal of increasing member participation. While we had almost 100 members we had difficulty filling board and committee positions. Many of our active members had split off to form the DelMar peninsula section, leaving the volunteers we did have overwhelmed with multiple committee positions. We also had low turnout for monthly meetings. Meeting participation at the time was 5-10 members, 5-10% of our membership. At the FY05 planning meeting, the board set a lofty goal of 75% participation, in at least 1 activity. While we have not met that goal, I am extremely happy with the progress we have made in the last few years. We now are getting 15-30 participants at our meetings, we have all but two committee positions filled, many of them with "new faces", and we have an active group planning the Region E conference!

Now that we have additional members participating in monthly meetings I'm finding that many members do not know about some of our other activities. I get frequent questions or comments asking what certain committees do or what some of the activities entail. Last newsletter I started a section describing a couple of committees. I will continue that section each month with 2-3 of the committees at a time. I will also start a section which will describe an activity that the section does. If at any time you see a committee or activity you are interested in please contact the committee chair or myself.

Finally the December meeting is a holiday social on December 8<sup>th</sup> at On the Board at the Neshaminy Mall. Take a break from the holiday season to relax and network with your fellow SWE members. In January there will be two meetings. The monthly meeting will be a professional development topic held on January 9<sup>th</sup>. This meeting is still being planned so look for more information to come. In addition we will have a joint meeting with ISA on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Heather Bernardin*

We will gladly include news items, photos, and activities from SWE Student Sections and nearby SWE Sections in SWE Outlook. Announcements for other organizations will be included as time and space permit. Please send inputs to newsletter editors Aina Zahari at [azahari@rohmmaas.com](mailto:azahari@rohmmaas.com) or Jurica Lee at [jurica\\_lee@yahoo.com](mailto:jurica_lee@yahoo.com)

We are updating our *SWE Outlook* newsletter distribution list and also looking for ways to reduce distribution costs. Should you wish to receive *SWE Outlook* by e-mail instead of US mail, please forward your request to Heather Bernardin at [habernardin@yahoo.com](mailto:habernardin@yahoo.com) or Jennifer Wetzel at [jwetzel@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:jwetzel@pobox.upenn.edu).

## Reminders

- Let us know if you agree to receive this newsletter via e-mail only (Page 1)
- Mark your calendars for the upcoming section meetings (Page 3)

## SWE Calendar - FY06

Date	Event	Location
Jan '06 (9 <sup>th</sup> , Mon) (18 <sup>th</sup> , Wed) (21 <sup>st</sup> , Sat) (28 <sup>th</sup> , Sat)	Section Meeting-Professional Development Joint Meeting with ISA Input deadline for Feb. section newsletter Regional Competition-Future City	TBD Fort Washington, PA N/A Villanova, PA
Feb '06 (11 <sup>th</sup> , Sat) (16 <sup>th</sup> , Thu) (19 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> ) (25 <sup>th</sup> , Sat)	SWE-Widener Engineering Mini-Camp Technology Day at Vanguard Engineers Week activities Input deadline for March newsletter	Chester, PA Malvern, PA Various TBD N/A
Mar '06 (8 <sup>th</sup> , Wed) (31 <sup>st</sup> – Apr 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	Conference Planning Meeting <b>Region E Conference</b>	TBD Philadelphia, PA
Apr '06 (13 <sup>th</sup> , Thurs) (28 <sup>th</sup> , Fri)	Scholarship Banquet Input deadline for April/May newsletter	TBD N/A
May '06 (8 <sup>th</sup> , Mon)	Technical Tour	TBD
June '06 (13 <sup>th</sup> , Tues)	Annual Section Planning Meeting	TBD

### SWE DelMar Peninsula

The women on SWE DelMar Peninsula's distribution list come from large corporations, manufacturing companies (medium or small), consulting, IT, System Integration, Government, and the University of Delaware. DuPont, at fifteen, has the largest number of SWE members in that section. They would like to reach out to other women engineers and have a SWE member acting as a liaison to each industry for the purpose of getting to know the women and companies in that industry. If you are not able to attend our own section activities, consider attending SWE DelMar Peninsula's. Below is their calendar of activities. You are encouraged to RSVP to Barbara Zubenko at [bzubenko@comcast.net](mailto:bzubenko@comcast.net) or (302) 234-2050 for any of the events. The Iron Hill Brewery is at 710 South Madison St, Wilmington, DE,

Date	Time	Event	Location
1/11/06	5:30 pm	Happy Hour	Iron Hill Brewery, Waterfront
2/6	5:30 pm	Officers Meeting	Panera Bread, Kirkwood Highway
2/22	12:00 pm	Lunch	Shelhammers, University Plaza
3/15	5:30 pm	Happy Hour	Iron Hill Brewery, Waterfront
4/10	5:30 pm	Officers Meeting	Panera Bread, Kirkwood Highway
4/19	12:00 pm	Lunch	Shelhammers, University Plaza
5/17	5:30 pm	Happy Hour	Iron Hill Brewery, Waterfront
6/19	5:30 pm	Officers Meeting	Panera Bread, Kirkwood Highway

## **Section News**

### **❖ November Section Meeting**

About 18 SWE members turned out for our November meeting at the Fountain Side restaurant located in Horsham. The food and conversation were both excellent! Our terrific guest speaker was Lynda Brittain, who is a former engineer and is now a Chartered Financial Consultant with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. At our request, Lynda touched on a variety of topics of interest to our membership, including types of investments, planning for retirement, maintaining good credit, and educational savings plans. Lynda introduced us to the myriad of investment vehicles, explained some of the nuances of the different types of IRAs, and stressed the importance of estate planning. Lynda's informative and thought-provoking presentation elicited a number of questions from the SWE members. It is clear that, no matter your age or career or family situation, engaging in financial planning now is imperative in order for a more secure future!

If anyone is interested in meeting with Lynda for a financial consultation, she can be reached at 610-436-5257 or at [lynda.l.brittain@ampf.com](mailto:lynda.l.brittain@ampf.com).

### **❖ January Section Meeting**

The January section meeting will be held on January 9, 2006 at 6pm. The topic will be professional development. Location is to be determined.

### **❖ Joint Meeting with ISA (Instrumentation, Systems and Automation Society)**

When? January 18, 2005 5:30-8:30pm

Where? Siemens Office – 1015 Virginia Dr., Fort Washington, PA

Topic: Info Systems: Calibration Management

Cost: \$10 for a light meal

Register @ 215-637-5534 or [isaphilaed@aol.com](mailto:isaphilaed@aol.com)

For more information on ISA, please visit <http://www.isa.org/~phila/phillyisa/>

### **❖ Philadelphia Section Board Openings**

The following committee chair positions are still open in our local chapter:

Speakers Bureau: Makes arrangements for members to speak to schools, student sections, community groups, etc.

Science Fair Coordinator: Makes arrangements to provide judges at the local science fairs such as the Delaware Valley Science Fair, and determining a recipient of the Science Fair Scholarship.

Please strongly consider volunteering for these positions! We'd be happy to have you join us.

## **2006 Region E Conference Update**

The Region E Conference will be held by the Philadelphia section with Drexel University from **March 31 through April 2, 2006** at the **Sheraton University City**. The theme is "Women Engineers: Bridging the Past, Present, and Future". Since the last update, letters requesting conference sponsorship have been sent out and the target date for receipt of funds is Feb 16, 2006. The conference team is also pursuing additional companies in Regional sections to solicit for sponsorship. In addition, the committee is in the process of getting the conference website up and running to provide members with a convenient source of information. The conference chair is Jennifer Garner; she can be reached at [foilfencer27@verizon.net](mailto:foilfencer27@verizon.net).

## **Committee Highlights**

### **❖ *Engineer's Week Council***

This group serves as a liaison between the Section and the Delaware Valley Engineer's Week Council (EWC). The EWC coordinates a series of activities in the area, including the Future City Competition, a Math-Science Teachers Workshop, election of the Engineer of the Year, and the Proclamation Luncheon and Engineer's Week Banquet. The luncheon and banquet begin and end, respectively, the activities during Engineer's Week in February of each year. Contact Susan Best at [Susan.Best@swe.org](mailto:Susan.Best@swe.org) for more information.

### **❖ *Corporate Liaison***

This committee works with local corporations to develop a mutually beneficial relationship. Responsibilities include requesting annual donations for the scholarship program and maintaining a database of various corporate contacts. Contact Michelle Lore at [mlore774@comcast.net](mailto:mlore774@comcast.net) for more information.

## **Activity Highlights**

### **❖ Future City 2006**

Teams of 7th and 8th graders from schools within the Philadelphia Region participate in this competition each year. The competition includes designing a city of the future, building a working model of a portion of their city, writing an essay about city planning and design issues, and verbally presenting their city design to a panel of judges from the engineering, planning, and architectural communities. While this is not a SWE only event, our section participates by providing a SWE "Quality of Life" award. Jen Wetzel coordinates the volunteers and each year our members volunteer to judge various portions of the event. This year's Future City event will be held on January 28th.

### **❖ SWE-Widener Engineering Mini-Camp**

Each year high school girls are able to experience 4 of 10 different engineering workshops at the Annual SWE-Widener University Engineering Mini-Camp for High School Girls. There is also a parent portion. This year the mini-camp will be held at Widener on February 11, 2006. Participants in this event included high school girls, parents, and volunteers representing undergraduate and graduate engineering students, engineers, and engineering professors from a range of engineering disciplines. Vicki Brown, Widener Civil Engineering Department Chair, organizes and coordinates each of the camps. Many of our members volunteer to assist with the workshops.

The **SWE MISSION** is to:

- *stimulate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders;*
- *expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life; and demonstrate the value of diversity*

# **Philadelphia SWE Website Redesign Layout Survey**

Our webmaster, Diana Fernie, is working on a new layout for the local section website. Please fill out the following survey and send your response to Diana at [kattgoddess@gmail.com](mailto:kattgoddess@gmail.com).

- What internet browser(s) do you use?

Internet Explorer      Firefox      Netscape      Other \_\_\_\_\_

- Would you participate in a message board?

Yes      No

- Which of the following would you like to see on the website? Highlight all that apply

Photos      Bylaws Meeting Meetings

Other(s) \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you have any pictures of SWE events?

Yes      No      If yes please leave email. \_\_\_\_\_

- Would you like to see non-SWE topics on the site such as: other members' pets, cars, hobbies, and personal companies?

Yes      No

- Would you like to see the different companies that Philly SWE members work for?

Yes      No

- Would you like to see events in list form or calendar form?

List      Calendar

- Describe below how you plan on using the Philly SWE Website/ what is your vision for the site?

Other Comments / Suggestions.....



**SWE Philadelphia Section  
The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia  
215 South 16<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 36  
Philadelphia, PA 19102**

**Address Correction Requested**

Visit our Web Site at <http://www.swephila.org>  
Contact Us by E-mail: [phila\\_info@swe.org](mailto:phila_info@swe.org)

**SWE Philadelphia Section Newsletter  
December 2005/January 2006**

**January Section Meeting**

**Monday, January 9, 2005  
6:00 p.m.**

*The Society of Women Engineers is a non-profit, educational service organization dedicated to making known the need for women engineers and encouraging young women to consider an engineering education.*