



The
Windy City Wire

Society of Women Engineers Chicago Regional Section

SWE-CRS President's Letter – December 2008

Katie Amelio, SWE-CRS FY09 President

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Snowflakes and holiday lights are reminders of the change of seasons and the upcoming holidays. SWE-CRS hosted two holiday events, a 312 Holiday gathering at Betty Shanahan's home and a Holiday Potluck Luncheon/Macy's Tour. Hopefully you were able to attend and share the holiday spirit with your SWE buddies.

Speaking of spirit, many of our members attended *Celebrate SWE!* at this year's National Conference in Baltimore, MD, *Women Leading a Technical Revolution*, where two of our section members, Marcia Lampela and Anne Lucietto were honored by being awarded Fellow Grade. This is conferred on SWE members "in recognition of continuous service to the advancement of women in the engineering profession."

Also at National Conference, many of our section members attended a variety of sessions on cultural awareness and inclusion, innovations in technology and business, and professional development. Personally I enjoyed visiting with new and old SWE friends; brushing up on some of the soft skills and watching collegiate members compete in their team tech presentations. Our Section Council of Representatives attended the COR meeting which has voted in a new Senate structure. Our section was awarded the 2008 Collegiate Transition Program Award. We were also awarded the Continuous Improvement Award from Region H.

Some upcoming events to attend include:

Region H Conference, February 6~8, 2008, at IUPUI

Spring Get to Know SWE Night

CRS Professional Development Conference

As you hang your holiday decorations and make your New Year's resolutions, don't forget to plan time for your SWE activities.

Happy Holidays!

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Spotlight: SWE Fellow Awards

SWE-CRS members honored as Fellows of the Society

CHICAGO, November 10, 2008 – The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is pleased to announce **Marcia Lampela** as a 2008 Fellow of the Society in recognition of consistent, significant contributions to the Society of Women Engineers, tireless support of women in the engineering profession, and encouraging young women to consider engineering as a career.

“Marcia Lampela has demonstrated unwavering dedication to SWE and passion for women in engineering,” said Virginia Connolly, SWE President. “Under Marcia’s leadership SWE has expanded in resources and influence.”



Photo: Virginia Connelly and Marcia Lampela at the SWE National Conference

CHICAGO, November 10, 2008 – The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is pleased to announce **Anne Lucietto** as a 2008 Fellow of the Society for tireless dedication and commitment to the Society of Women Engineers; for excelling as an engineer, manager, and educator, and serving both her profession and her community with distinction.

“Anne Lucietto is an accomplished and dedicated SWE member. She has actively encouraged girls to pursue engineering careers and helped guide young women and men as an educator. Her enthusiasm and involvement attribute greatly to her success as a mentor, role model and distinguished engineer,” said Virginia Connolly, SWE President.



Photo: Virginia Connelly and Anne Lucietto at the SWE National Conference

SWE Member Experiences is an opportunity to hear about the recent activities of SWE members, reported firsthand.

Jelly Belly Junket

November 15th, 2008



Photo: courtesy of Coline Amaury

On November 15, a group of 10 SWE members and friends trekked north to Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, for the Jelly Belly Warehouse Tour. You might not think a warehouse would be a popular tourist destination, but in this case you'd be wrong - the parking lot was full of tour buses and while the wait wasn't bad, the sidewalk along the parking lot was punctuated with signs reading "From this point, the wait is 1 hour. From this point, the wait is 1 hour 30 minutes." So while we thought our group was pretty good-sized, when an attraction's parking lot is so full you have to park in the employee parking, you're just a drop in the bucket.

Visitors to the warehouse queue up in a lobby, receive a paper Jelly Belly at (required for entry to the warehouse), walk past oversize mosaics portraying famous people made up entirely of - wait for it- jelly beans, and board the Jelly Belly Express, a cheerful looking train run by a terminally perky engineer who starts and ends the tour with a cheer. The Jelly Belly express does a circuit around the warehouse, making stops at various points for short videos explaining the history of the company and the jelly bean making process, projected on jelly bean-shaped screens. It's festive - the ends of the storage racks are festooned with photos of more jellybean art (Marilyn Monroe, rendered in jelly beans), and giant candy-shaped cutouts hang from the ceiling.

The sound quality wasn't always everything one could hope for, but it was cheesy in a fairly pleasant way, and it was really interesting learning how, for example, a patterned piece of taffy with a Christmas tree pattern starts life as 200 pounds of fondant, requiring two workers to lift it into a series of extruding machines that squeeze it down to a manageable 1" slice. Along the edges of the aisle traversed by the Express were examples of traditional candymaking equipment such as copper kettles and one-third-scale polishing tumblers, where the beans get their hard candy coating and final polished shell. My favorite part of the tour: learning that Jelly Bellies that don't make the cut are called "belly flops"!

After finishing the tour, collecting our free bag of jelly beans, and braving the Jelly Belly store, which was a mob scene, the group peeled off in small groups to head for the outlet malls of Pleasant Prairie, or on to the I-94 and home.

If you're a fan of outlet malls and you're in the area, or you just really love tiny sugary beans made with real fruit juices and (mostly) natural flavors, it's well worth a trip.

--Ruth Fink-Winter

Want to share your experience? Write about a recent event or activity you think would be of interest to your fellow SWE-CRS members.

Get Involved!

Graphing Calculator Donation Program

Do you have an old graphing calculator that you are no longer using? If you have a TI or HP or other graphing calculator sitting around? If so, please read on to find out more.

My name is Norene Hough, I am a middle school math teacher in Chicago. I need graphing calculators for my low income, inner city Algebra class to succeed. So if you have upgraded to a new calculator or no longer use a graphing calculator you bought for school or work we need your help.

Galapagos Charter School is a Chicago Public School located on the west side. Our scholars are low-income students in grades K to 7. This year, one 7th grade class has begun a high school algebra program. The goal is that students will complete Algebra 1 and Geometry before they enter high school allowing them to begin high school with Algebra 2. Our scholars attend school for an extra two hours a day and the focus of our class time is preparing every student academically to compete in the top high schools and colleges.

The school has purchased the complete set of University of Chicago Algebra books and has committed resources to having an advanced math program. However, we do not have the budget for graphing calculators. Calculators would allow students to see a visual representation for each function and apply the abstract ideas of solving equations to real world situations. Our text includes graphing calculator problems and currently student are not able to complete those learning tasks.

Used graphing calculators will work well for our needs. The scholars do not need the newest or most advanced machines. Instead, they need to have the opportunity to see representations of equations. The brand, type, or model of the graphing calculator does not matter. So we will gladly accept any type of calculator you have.

This is a significant contributions that will be used right away in our classroom to improve student understanding. All donations will be greatly appreciated. The calculators can be mailed directly to the school (attention: Norene Hough) or given to Katie Amelio, SWE Chicago president. To learn more about this class or if you have any other questions, please feel free to contact Norene Hough.

Thank you for your support,

Norene Hough

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Shelly Gould, CRA Chicago judging the 2007-08 Future City Competition - Chicago Region

This Is the Future

Submitted by: Garth Daley, Conestoga-Rovers & Associates (CRA) Chicago

On Saturday, January 26, 2008, over 150 students, teachers, parents, and engineers were at the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago to hear how more than 50 local area students envisioned that statement. Those students were participating in the Chicago regional Finals for the Future City Competition™ where they proudly displayed their models and gave oral presentations describing how and why the futuristic cities that they had conceived could serve as ideal places to live, work, and relax in years to come.

This national competition, which is in its 16th year, is held in conjunction with National Engineers Week. Held annually, the Chicago event is one of 38 regional competitions across the U.S. that give teams of middle school students a glimpse into the world of engineering. Conceived as an outreach tool to increase the awareness of engineering as a career choice for 7th and 8th grade students, The Future City Competition™ gives students the opportunity to apply mathematics, science, writing, and problem solving skills in a fun, team oriented environment that brings simulated “real world” limitations to project execution.

Teams may receive guidance from their sponsoring teacher, an engineer mentor, and anyone not affiliated with the competition. Students involved in the competition had to develop a city using the award-winning SimCity™ software, write an abstract that described their city and its most attractive features, write a 500-700 word essay that discussed how the city’s design incorporated nanotechnology in at least one key component of the city’s infrastructure, construct a scale model that showcased the city’s features and develop an oral presentation to discuss the overall project and their experience.

To accomplish all these activities, the students began working on their projects in September of 2007, and continued through the date of the Regional Finals. More than 40 local area engineers, including Shelly Gould of the CRA Chicago office, served as judges during a 2-week process to determine which of the 17 entries would win various awards and prizes, including an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C. in February 2008 as the Chicagoland representative in the national finals.

Franklin Middle School, the team from the Chicago suburb of Wheaton, IL, was crowned regional champion, and went on to receive a Special Award for the utilization of fuel cell technology in their city’s design.

The national finals in Washington, D.C. were among the activities completed during National Engineers Week (February 17 - 23, 2008). In Washington, D.C., the regional winners competed for a trip to Space Camp, as well as various prizes and awards.

CRA is among several Chicago area firms and organizations that helped to make the 2007-08 Future City Competition™ a success. These entities made it possible for the all volunteer organization committee to coordinate, monitor, and assist the 28 area schools that registered for the 2007-08 competition. Through the provision of corporate resources, cash contributions, in kind services, and other donations, the event sponsors also made it possible for the various administrative functions of the competition to take place. These functions included the solicitation of corporate funding, the recruitment of event judges and competition mentors, and the organization and execution of the event. As a corporate contributor since 2002, CRA’s Chicago office has played a critical role in the continued and ongoing/long-term success of the local competition.

Additional information on the Future City Competition™, including the different participating regions, sponsoring companies, and involved professional societies can be found at the national and Chicago area event websites listed below.

<http://www.futurecity.org/>

<http://www.futurecitychicago.org/index.htm>



Photo: Franklin Middle School, the team from the Chicago suburb of Wheaton, IL

The No Asshole Rule – Robert Sutton



The subtitle of *The No Asshole Rule* is *Building a Civilized Workplace and Surviving One that Isn't*. The book focuses on two main themes: why contributing to a workplace free of jerks is so important (and how it can be done), and managing your existence if you are stuck in the opposite of a civilized place of business.

The title of the book may be shocking and offensive to some, especially those that are already working towards maintaining a peaceful workplace by refraining from using profanity. This seeming contradiction of the book is addressed aptly, early on. The use of the “a-word” is intentional and meant to express the severity and extent of the sort of workplace personality being discussed at length in Mr. Sutton’s work.

By explaining how civil workplace conduct presents a real asset to companies, the book gives renewed confidence and a place to stand for those of us that often feel we are getting the short end of the stick by not taking advantage of others. We feel encouraged to lead by example in creating an environment of simply being courteous to our coworkers. For the tough cases where these tips are getting us nowhere, Mr. Sutton provides coping strategies for how we can focus on our jobs and make it through a day filled with land mines set by the jerks in our offices. At the end of reading the book, the reader has a greater sense of freedom from the frustrating interactions with people we all dread at the office and in life.

Check out Robert Sutton’s blog at
<http://bobsutton.typepad.com/>

for regular updates about companies and employees struggling to live with “The Rule” and other interesting notes on workplace conduct

Reported by Kate Jakubas



Photo: Robert Sutton

Read anything good lately? Submit your Book Club reviews for the next newsletter!

SWE-CRS Programs Committee Meeting

Please join us for our spring programs committee planning meeting at Cheesecake Factory in Schaumburg. We'd love to hear your great ideas for spring SWE-CRS programs!!

When: Monday, January 5, at 6:30pm

Where: Cheesecake Factory, Schaumburg, IL (in Woodfield Mall-East side of Mall)

RSVP: By Sunday, Jan. 4th by emailing halle.brooks@bp.com.

Future City Competition

The regional judging for the competition will take place Saturday, January 24, 2009, at the University of Illinois at Chicago, 750 South Halsted. Judging of the projects will begin 8:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. The winners will be announced at an Awards Ceremony beginning about 3:00 p.m.. The student models will be on display until the conclusion of the awards ceremony. The public is invited and encouraged to see the vision of the future as seen by Chicagoland's 7th and 8th grade students. There is no cost to attend.

Mentor/ Judges are needed! Come and attend as a spectator, or participate as a judge!

For more information (www.futurecitychicago.org)

The 2009 PD Conference Committee is looking for volunteers!

If your schedule is hectic but you'd still like to get involved, now is the perfect time to volunteer! There will be two stages to planning, starting with high-level brainstorming and continuing with more detailed planning. In the first stage, we're looking for an engaged group to contribute ideas and participate in a few evaluation sessions conducted via conference call. Once we have the theme, keynote, location, and date selected, we will check again on everyone's availability to assist with the more detailed tasks.

If interested in participating on the committee, please send a message to Laura Armstrong at laura.armstrong@ge.com with your preferred email address and best days/times for conference calls.

If you aren't able to volunteer on the committee but would like to propose possible keynote speakers, locations, and/or themes, please send your ideas to Laura as well!

Looking for Historical SWE-CRS Information

Are you a SWE member who hasn't been around lately? Do you have valuable information from past years? The historian committee is actively trying to compile historical CRS information. If you have any information, including old officer lists, newsletters, and photos, please email them to swe-crs@swe.org, or mail to:

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Region H - Call for Nominations

Region H call for nominations is out for:

Region Secretary
Region Treasurer
Representative to National Nominating Committee
Two (2) Senators
One (1) Alternate Senator

Application form is attached and nominations are due by the end of January. For more information on the positions - contact Elizabeth Bierman (Elizabeth.Bierman@honeywell.com).

Contribute to the Newsletter!

The SWE-CRS newsletter depends on your contributions! We'd love to have your articles and submissions!

Kate Jakubas, the newsletter editor for FY09, can be reached at kate.jakubas@elkay.com



Society of
Women Engineers

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