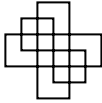




# The Windy City Wire

Society of Women Engineers Chicago Regional Section



## SWE-CRS President's Letter – February 2009

Katie Amelio, SWE-CRS FY09 President

Email: [swecrs-president@swe.org](mailto:swecrs-president@swe.org)



It has been a year of firsts for our country. With a new president in the White House, we look to our government to "fix" our many economic and world problems. The inaugural speech of our first African American president has left me with hope, inspiration and concern for our present and future. I am sure you are all feeling many of these same mixed emotions. As an individual, I try to focus on my daily tasks, working (and worrying) about things I can control. However as a larger group, we can influence many people to achieve a greater impact on the world we live in.

To impact our local section, we will be seeking nominees for many new officer roles. Last year our section bylaws were restructured to allow for multiple vice-president and secretary positions. By increasing the number of officers and splitting the duties, we are aiming to better serve our section in the areas of membership, outreach and professional development. If you want to be part of the incoming leadership team for FY10, please let us know. The section's nominating committee will begin seeking candidates soon, please consider taking an active role in your Chicago section, and use this opportunity to create some "firsts" of your own.

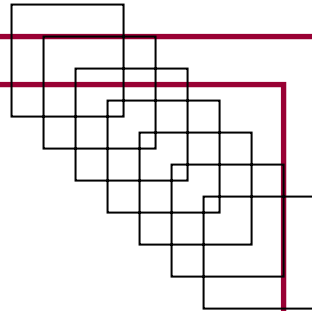
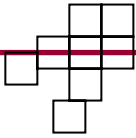
To impact the regional and national levels of SWE, I encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote and support our Chicago nominees for Region H Senator (Diane LaFortune), Region H Secretary (Dayna Johnson), and Region H Representative to the National Nominating Committee (Krystle Nagle).

A couple of upcoming section events that I would like to mention are:

\*Spring Get to Know SWE Night (GTKSN) on March 31st 2009 to introduce members to committee activities and to introduce SWE to non-members or inactive members. Our event in October was very successful, so please reach out to your cube-mates, old classmates, new co-workers, new and old clients, and welcome them to participate in GTKSN, see page 7 for more details.

\*Professional Development Conference, to be in April 2009, the committee is planning a conference that will provide opportunities to learn new skills and secure our personal value to grow and excel in our careers.

For me, SWE is the larger group, a gathering of intelligent and resourceful women, reaching out to professionals, collegiates and youngsters to advance, aspire and achieve in the science and engineering professions. Please join us in our efforts.



In This Issue	page
Spotlight - Regionals	2
Member Experiences	3
Book Club	4
Get Involved!	5
Upcoming Events	6

## Spotlight: SWE Region H Conference Photos



Above: SWE-CRS members enjoy the Saturday banquet.

**Held February 6-8, 2009**

**Indiana University Purdue  
University Indianapolis**



Above: This year's conference was held in downtown Indianapolis, IN



Left: SWE-CRS members gather for a group photo on Saturday.

*SWE Member Experiences is an opportunity to hear about the recent activities of SWE members.*

SWE-CRS members  
enjoy dinner together!

January 19, 2009



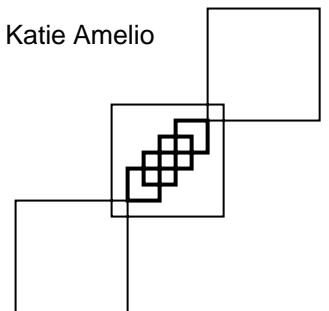
Pictured (left to right): Dayna Johnson, Athena Kotsanis, Nora Lin, Virginia Connolly, Wendy Landwehr, Katie Amelio, Danielle Folkerts

During a recent trip to SWE headquarters in Chicago, Virginia Connolly (SWE President) and Nora Lin (President-Elect) were able to join several SWE-CRS officers for dinner at Venus Greek-Cypriot Cuisine downtown.

Photos courtesy of Katie Amelio



"Bear Gets Ouzo and Saganaki"



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

## Blink – Malcolm Gladwell

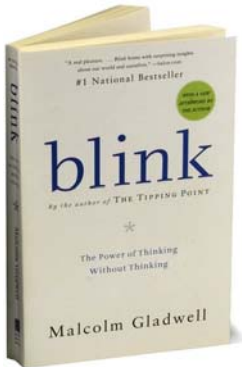


Photo from  
barnesandnoble.com

Have you ever wondered what controls the thoughts you have when you initially meet someone? How about the gut feeling you get when you see an antique, and guess whether or not it is real? Malcolm Gladwell's *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking* explores the decisions that your mind makes in the first two seconds of meeting someone or seeing something. The book starts off with a synopsis of a museum purchasing a very old, very expensive, very rare Greek statue. After months of having geologists study the statue and scientists perform various tests, the museum was satisfied that the statue was authentic. Then the experts started viewing the statue- and they all came to the same conclusion: It didn't look "right." They couldn't necessarily pinpoint just what it was, but their intuition told them something was wrong. After more investigation, it was concluded that the statue was a fake.

This book examines the intuitive decisions that people make- just like the decision that the statue was a fake by the experts. Throughout this book, different examples of these intuitive decisions are examined. One situation examined an expert tennis player that could tell every time someone would double fault while serving, even before they tossed the ball in the air for the serve. Another studied the breakdown of average car costs given to white men, white women, black men, and black women at various dealerships. These decisions can be (and are) made based on facial expressions, body movements, dress habits, skin color, and vocal inflections.

While this book doesn't teach you anything miraculous about how to control these decisions, it does provide interesting observations on the human thought process. More so, it allows the reader a chance to be aware that these decisions are being made, even if they don't know why. I chose a rather interesting time to read this book. I was waiting to be called for jury duty, and just as I finished it, I got called and served on a jury. It was fascinating to watch everyone else, including the lawyers picking the jury, as they made judgments about the jurors, the defendant, and the witnesses. This book won't change your life or make you a better employee, but it will open your eyes and help you understand why you perceive certain things the way you do.

Malcolm Gladwell has published two other books on pop sociology. Check out:

*The Tipping Point: How Little Things Make a Big Difference*

*Outliers: The Story of Success*



Reported by Dayna Johnson

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

### Get To Know SWE Night Sponsored by CB&I

Enjoy dinner whilst networking and finding out more about the Society of Women Engineers Chicago Regional Section!

CB&I will be hosting "Get to Know SWE Night" in the suburbs on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, starting with an informal gathering at 6pm. Dinner will be provided and the program is designed to introduce you to the Chicago Regional Section of SWE, where you'll have an opportunity to informally meet and talk to representatives of SWE-CRS committees. The program will provide an overview of SWE-CRS, committee activities, involvement opportunities and much more!

We will have a terrific door prize, and it will be a fun evening with old and new friends. Even if you aren't new to SWE, come along just for the fun of it! Bring yourself. Bring a co-worker. Bring a friend. Any like-minded technical professional is encouraged to attend. Come and enjoy an evening of good food and good company while learning more about the Chicago Regional Section of SWE.

For more information please contact: Danielle Folkerts, SWE CRS Membership Chair email: [swechicago@yahoo.com](mailto:swechicago@yahoo.com) Please try to RSVP if you plan on attending as it will make the security process easier at CB&I.

- When: 31st March 2009, 6:00pm
- Where: CB&I, 14105 S. Route 59, Plainfield, IL 60544
- RSVP: March 27th at [www.swe.org/chicago](http://www.swe.org/chicago) or email [swe-crs@swe.org](mailto:swe-crs@swe.org)

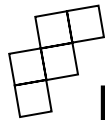


Did you know that CRS's Nora Lin, SWE's President Elect, was CRS President from July 2000 to July 2001?

**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](mailto:swe-crs@swe.org), or mail to:

Society of Women Engineers  
Chicago Regional Section  
P. O. Box 95525  
Palatine, IL 60095-0525



## Historian's Corner

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@gmail.com](mailto:kate.jakubas@gmail.com)



Society of  
Women Engineers

ASPIRE • ADVANCE • ACHIEVE