



The
Windy City Wire

Society of Women Engineers Chicago Regional Section

SWE-CRS President's Letter – October 2008

Katie Amelio, SWE-CRS FY09 President

Email: swecrs-president@swe.org

SWE-CRS is changing with the seasons – as the leaves start to show the red, brown and orange colors of fall, we are working on hosting new and expanded events.

The first Region H Caucuses are being held in three cities in October 2008: Chicago, Detroit and Minnesota. The purpose of these meetings is to inform the Council of Representative (COR) and section leadership about the COR motions for November 2008, as well as providing COR training sessions. For those that are unaware, many changes to the COR are up for discussion and vote; this will be a pivotal year for shaping the COR's future direction as the strategic and legislative duties of the governing body of SWE are decided.

The National Conference will convene in Baltimore, Maryland on November 6th through the 8th. We look forward to many enriching sessions, networking and learning experiences as well as tours of the local area. If you are attending the conference, please let us know as our Chicago section will have a brief meeting.

As we head into the fall season, turn over a new leaf and be more involved with your local SWE section – spearhead a committee, attend an event or meeting, plan an event or meeting, but whatever you choose to do, move forward and make a positive change.

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Spotlight: SWE Leaders in the Chicago Regional Section

By: Karen Bodach

CRS is pleased to showcase the following leaders within our section that are currently serving in regional and national SWE leadership positions. Kudos to our leaders – keep up the great work!

Member Name	Leadership Positions
Karen Bodach	Region Collegiate Membership Coordinator (RCMC), Conference Program Board Member, COR Representative
Nora Lin	President-Elect on the Board of Directors
Betty Shanahan	Executive Director and CEO, Conference Program Board Member, Corporate Partnership Council Member
Wendy Landwehr	National Procedures Committee Chair, National Membership Awards Coordinator, Region H Awards Chair
Alicia Bohnsack	Corporate Partnership Council Member
Shelley Chay	Corporate Partnership Council Member
Kathryn Cunningham	Secretary on the Board of Trustees
Jeanne Elipani	Conference Program Board Member & National Conference Program Manager
Barbara Engerer	SWE Counselor – Valparaiso University
Debra Evans	COR Representative
Deanna Heffron	National Audit Committee Member & Member Grade FIG Chair
Karen Horting	Corporate Partnership Council Member & Deputy Executive Director
Dayna Johnson	COR Representative
Janice Kuczynski	Corporate Partnership Council Member
Elizabeth Larkin	Corporate Partnership Council
Anne Lucietto	National Audit Committee Chair
Cheryl McKinney	Corporate Partnership Council Member
Krystle Nagle	COR Rep, National Professional Development Member, Region H Leadership Coach, Region H Webmaster
Cathy Pieronek	Counselor & Faculty Advisor – University of Notre Dame, Region H CIC Representative, Region H Conference Planning Team Member, Government Relations & Public Policy Committee Chair
Diane Piszczor-Rink	Corporate Partnership Council Member
Mary Reistetter	Corporate Partnership Council Member
Deborah Resnick	Counselor – Northwestern University
Cindy Richartz	Corporate Partnership Council Member
Marcella Schmidt	National Program Development Grants Committee Member
Kathleen Sevener	Faculty Advisor – Valparaiso University
Deb Shimanis	Corporate Partnership Council Member
Tammy Slowinski	Corporate Partnership Council Member
Preetha Thomas	Counselor – Illinois Institute of Technology
Emily Mitchell	Region H Collegiate Transition Committee Member
Walter McFall	SWE Magazine Editorial Board Member
Jennifer Scuillo	Region H Collegiate Leadership Coach

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



On September 20, I participated in a SWE event called the Be Professional Conference, hosted by the student section at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The conference was sponsored by General Mills, Northrop Grumman, Norfolk Southern, Raytheon, and Caterpillar.

Held annually in the fall, the event comprises workshops led by industry representatives on several different topics that are open to attendance by female engineering students from the freshmen to PhD level.

My role as a representative of General Mills was to conduct a workshop on the academic-to-workplace transition. The roundtables led by the other corporate sponsors covered topics such as resume critiquing, technical opportunities for women, alternative careers for engineers, and generation gaps in the workplace.

Within the four-hour timeframe of the event we also listened to speeches given by Shari Hulin (Norfolk Southern) and Heather Kang (Northrop Grumman) and held info sessions for students interested in learning more about our companies.

I encourage SWE-CRS members to consider participating and sponsoring this event in the future - our own Nora Lin was in attendance this year! It is a great opportunity to speak with intimate groups of aspiring women, meet potential job candidates, and support the University of Illinois SWE Section.



Submitted by:
Meena Banasiak
Quality Engineer II, General Mills - Belvidere Plant
meena.banasiak@gmail.com

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

On September 4, 2008, Cathy Pieronek, SWE-CRS vice president and president-elect, represented the section at the inaugural meeting of The Council on Manufacturing and Engineering Competitiveness, formed by The Center of Workforce Innovations in northwest Indiana. The meeting brought together educators and industry leaders from Lake and Porter Counties to discuss issues common to all in attempting to develop a workforce ready to meet the demands of the manufacturing employers that do business throughout northwest Indiana.



Council members discussed the need for systemic change in the region to support manufacturing and other engineering-focused industries, and set out a course for mapping resources that could help to educate and train strong workforce for the area. Council members noted the need to publicize the region's strengths as a way to attract skilled workers, but also to use the educational resources available in K-12 schools and in the wide variety of post-secondary institutions in the region to develop a home-grown workforce.

Representing SWE-CRS, Cathy brought to the group's attention 2007 SWE Retention Study, and the fact that the study contains a wealth of data on how to attract and retain employees skilled in engineering and technology. She also noted the need to include the word "diverse" when talking about the region's workforce, to bear in mind that women and members of under-represented racial/ethnic groups may have different needs in crafting their careers than the traditional male workforce of years past.

The Council will meet several times throughout the next year to work toward two distinct goals: first, increasing the supply of talent for the manufacturing and engineering industries of northwest Indiana to ensure the competitiveness of the regional economy; and directing the youth of northwest Indiana toward careers in manufacturing and engineering by aligning resources and policies, and by promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics at all levels of education.

SWE-CRS is exploring becoming one of the Council's partners in this effort, with two goals in mind – specifically, increasing the visibility of SWE-CRS to women (and employers) in the region, and helping to keep diversity as one of the Council's focus.

If you are interested in the work of the Council, or would like to work on ways to bring together women engineers in northwest Indiana, please feel free to contact Cathy at cpierone@nd.edu.

Submitted by Cathy Pieronek

SWE-CRS Members Participate in Federal Title IX Workshop

In July, SWE-CRS members Cathy Pieronek and Betty Shanahan represented the Society well as presenters at a symposium on “Gender Equity in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics” sponsored by The Federal Interagency Title IX Working Group. The Working Group, comprised of the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Department of Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation, convened the workshop to discuss the application of Title IX to STEM fields

The workshop was the perfect opportunity for SWE to have a strong impact on policy-making at the federal level. Two years ago, the Society published a position paper on Title IX and its application to STEM fields. (The paper is available on SWE’s web site: from the home page, click on “Advocacy/Resources” at the top, and then on “Public Policy.”) The paper derived from an article Cathy published in the *Journal of College and University Law* in 2005, and has guided SWE’s efforts in this arena.

Cathy was invited by NASA to give a presentation on how Title IX implementing regulations actually apply to the operations of colleges and universities, to give an idea of what federal agencies can look for when they review an educational program or activity for gender equity. NASA, in particular, has been ordered by Congress to conduct at least two Title IX investigations of educational programs that receive NASA funding each year. To-date, NASA is the only federal agency that has completed any of these reviews – although all funding agencies are required by law to conduct them. NASA investigators used Cathy’s law journal article – and, by extension, the SWE policy statement – as a guide for their reviews. Cathy’s presentation is available on the SWE Communities web site, in the “Public Policy” community, which is open to all SWE members.

Betty was invited by NSF to give a presentation on the Assessing Women in Engineering project, an NSF-funded assessment tool developed by a group of researchers including Betty, and faculty at Pennsylvania State University, the University of Texas-Austin and the University of Missouri. AWE is a tool that educators can use to determine the effectiveness of formal and informal outreach programs, and can be helpful to institutions seeking to comply with Title IX, because it allows them to demonstrate efforts toward gender equity and to quantify the success of those efforts. More information on AWE is available by clicking on the link at the bottom of SWE’s home page.

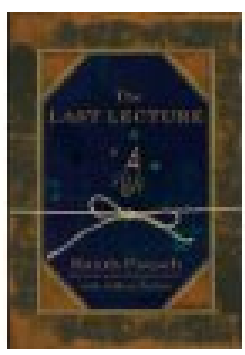
Both presentations were well received by the attendees, which comprised over 100 attorneys and civil-rights investigators from the agencies in the working group.

If you would like to become more involved in SWE’s public policy activities, please contact Cathy at cpierone@nd.edu.

Submitted by Cathy Pieronek



The Last Lecture – Randy Pausch



The Last Lecture is written by Randy Pausch, professor at Carnegie Mellon, with Jeffrey Zaslow. It is based on the lecture widely viewed on the internet (available at www.thelastlecture.com). This short book expounds on his thoughts and gives you the opportunity to better ponder what he is recommending for living life. Dr. Pausch is remarkable in that he knew his time was very limited but he refused to feel sorry for himself. His goal was to leave something of himself so his young children could better know him when they are older.

Some of Dr. Pausch's philosophy for living life is that obstacles are brick walls are created to give you the chance to show you can charge through them, if you want to badly enough. He credits his parents for motivating him and encouraging his creative side. He focused on time management as a way to really live. He stated, "All my life, I've been very aware that time is finite. I admit I'm overly logical about a lot of things, but I firmly believe that one of my most appropriate fixations has been to manage time well." (page109)

Reading this book is well worth the time spent, even just to admire his great spirit and desire to leave something to his children, and really the rest of us. He stated in the introduction: "But engineering isn't about perfect solutions; it's about doing the best you can with limited resources. Both the lecture and this book are my attempts to do exactly that."

Submitted by Paula Adams

- Randy Pausch's 5 Recommendations for Time Management:
1. Time must be explicitly managed, like money.
 2. You can always change your plan, but only if you have one.
 3. Ask yourself: Are you spending your time on the right things?
 4. Develop a good filing system.
 5. Rethink the telephone.





Get to Know SWE Night at the Sears Tower

Latham and Watkins will be hosting "Get to Know SWE Night" at the Sears Tower in Chicago on October 30th, starting with an informal gathering at 6pm.
A light meal will be provided at 7pm, followed by a program designed to introduce you to the Chicago Regional Section of SWE. You'll have an opportunity to informally meet and talk to representatives of Chicago Regional Section (CRS) committees. The program will provide an overview of SWE and the Chicago Regional Section, 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.
Please try to RSVP if you plan on attending as it will make the process of coming up to the conference center easier and quicker for security at the Sears Tower.

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

When: Thursday, October 30th, 6:00pm
Where: 34th Floor of Sears Tower (233 South Wacker Drive), Latham & Watkins Conference Center

RSVP: October 28th at www.swe.org/chicago or email swe-crs@swe.org

"630 West/North" Relaxed Social - Regular Monthly Meeting Group

Wine, Cheese & Chat

Due to popular demand, we are going to have our next meeting with some great wine tasting - this event is open to both members and non-members of the Society of Women Engineer's (SWE) & you do not have to be an engineer!
Come and discuss your ideas and network with other females working in the engineering, scientific or technical industries, in a relaxed atmosphere.

Cost: \$8-00 per person (includes wines to taste and a cheese tray) If you do not drink wine, let me know, so we can organize non-alcoholic drinks. to book your place: please mail a check for \$8-00 by Monday, November 10 (address provided on RSVP) or cash at the Get to Know SWE Night (see above)

When:: Tuesday, November 18, 6:30-8:00pm
Where: WineStyles (2775 Showplace Dr #121, Naperville, IL)

RSVP & questions: Harsharan Bains (hbains@cbi.com)

SWE-CRS Local "Northerners" Group Event

Come one, come all, from Lake County and beyond!
We'd like to get the girls together again for an evening of dinner and discussion at McCarthy's in Vernon Hills. All are welcome Get to know your fellow northerners living and/or working way up here in Lake County.

When: Sunday, November 9th, 5:00pm
Where: McCarthy's, 506 Hawthorne Center, Vernon Hills, IL 60061 (Located in Hawthorne Mall) <http://www.mccarthysrestaurant.com/>
RSVP: Email Amy Wheaton (Amy.Wheaton@Hollister.com) by Friday, November 7th

Finance and awards committee chair positions:

SWE-CRS Finance Committee Chair Needed

Do you want to be more active in your SWE section? Do you enjoy talking with potential corporate sponsors and sharing information about SWE activities? If so, this is your opportunity to help the section host more events for our membership and those we serve. Please contact Katie Amelio at swe-crs@swe.org.

SWE-CRS Awards Committee Chair Needed

SWE-CRS is seeking an awards committee chair - this person is responsible for rewarding our members by recognizing their efforts. If you would like to have the chance to coordinate our awards this year, please contact Katie Amelio at swe-crs@swe.org.

New Format for the Newsletter!

Like the new format? Hate it? Want to submit an article, send a homemade pumpkin pie or talk about metallurgical engineering?

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