



Fall, 2007

Vol. 2- Issue 1

SWE Charlotte-Metrolina
Chronicle

Women In Tune With Technology

Chris Cathcart: SWE National Conference

The FY08 National Conference was held in Nashville, TN on Oct 25-28, 2007. The event had a record attendance of 5003.



Above: COR Mega Issues Meeting

The National Conference offers a variety of activities and training for attendees. The tours offered this year included Haunted Nashville, Corvette Production Plant, Owens Corning Plant, and Jack Daniels Distillery among many others. The tours are offered as a chance to see from a technical perspective, what goes into a product and how engineering impacts the production. The tours are also a great networking tool as you ride a bus with other attendees and walk through the facility together.

The training offered varies from CEU style courses to seminars to workshops. The CEU track offers professional courses in Project Management, Six Sigma, Team Building, Communications, and Diversity among many others. The seminars are offered by sponsoring companies and are usually presented by a mix of SWE

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Charlotte-Metrolina

President's Corner

By: Mandi Brigman

The weather this past week has been wonderful. I'm a warm weather person, so it's odd for me to be thankful that it's been cold and wet. With the drought we're experiencing in our area, the cooler temperatures and buckets of rain are definitely welcome.

The reason I am writing about the weather is because I feel as though our section is also experiencing a drought and I'd like to see a climate change. We have had very low participation in our events since the last newsletter. Fall is a very busy time with kids going back to school and end of the year deadlines approaching, but I wish that our busy schedules could also include SWE.

The events we have participated in this year have been great and I appreciate the hard work of all those involved, but a better turn out could make these events fantastic. I encourage everyone to attend at least one of the events scheduled this year.

If none of the upcoming events interest you, please send suggestions or volunteer to organize an event. As I said in the last newsletter "Our section is nothing without its members!" We need your help to make this section a success.

I invite you to attend our next event and bring a friend, co-worker, or family member.

SWE Charlotte Metrolina Officers

President	Mandi Brigman (Mandi.Brigman @ swe.org)
Vice-President	Crystal Freeburg (cfreeburg @ wkdickson.com)
Secretary	Cheryl Kinchen (Cheryl.Kinchen @ swe.org)
Treasurer	Erin Day (erin.day @ stvinc.com)
Section Representative	Kerrie Goforth (Kerrie.Goforth @ swe.org)
Alt Section Rep	Christine Cathcart (Chris.Cathcart @ swe.org)

BofA Award for Teaching Excellence

Member Recognition

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Sept. 28, 2007 – Terms such as passion and dedication were used when students and colleagues were asked to describe Helene Hilger, who was selected Friday night as the 2007 recipient of the highest teaching honor bestowed by UNC Charlotte – the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence.

"I work hard to win my students' interest because even after all these years of teaching, I am still impressed

by the power of what a civil engineering graduate can do," she said. "With a mere bachelor's degree in hand, she or he can contribute to solving some of the most pressing environmental problems that exist in the developed and developing world."

Hilger is an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering,



Race For The Cure

Crystal Freeburg

The Society of Women Engineer's Team participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on October 6, 2007. We raised \$450 for this great foundation that supports education, screening and treatment of breast cancer in our local service area. The Susan G. Komen Foundation also funds a National Research Grant Program. This years race was the best ever with over 12,700 participants and 1.2 million dollars raised! Thanks to those who helped support this great organization.



Save the date!

The 2008 Komen Charlotte Race for the Cure will be October 4, 2008!

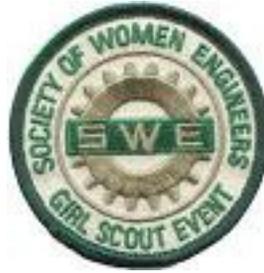
www.komencharlotte.org

Engineers Are Cool!

Jacey Rogers: Girl Scout Event

October 13th two of our section members participated with the SWE - UNC-Charlotte Collegiate Section to create a learning experience for a lot of younger girls.

Mandi Brigman, Sandra Kolvick, and Jacey Rogers had the opportunity to teach Engineering to Junior Girl Scouts. The girls earned the Mak-



ing It Matter Badge and Society of Women Engineers Patch while making cool things like electric candy box and radioactive balls. For more information on how you can help Girl Scouts visit the Hornets Nest Council at: www.hngirlscouts.org

September Networking Social

Chris Cathcart

The September 13th networking social was held at the Village Tavern Restaurant. The attendance was a mix of members and nonmembers with several organizations represented as well. Sixteen people attended with 10 members and 6 nonmembers along with PENC and ASME being represented. After a brief introduction from Mandi Brigman, President, the representatives from PENC and ASME gave brief introductions, invitations

to their meetings and voiced their willingness to work with SWE to hold joint events. Since the focus of the meeting was networking, introductions were done around the table. Once this happened, people started mixing into new groups and changing groups as the night continued. Before dinner was finished, the door prizes were given out. Gift cards were donated from Olive Garden, Applebee's, and Chili's. The winners were Delia Sanchez, Ivan Guzman, Mandi Brigman, Margaret White, and Jenny Balek. The meeting concluded with the door prizes.



Above: Crystal Freeburg and Kerrie Goforth



Above: Sandra Kolvick, Margaret White, Andrea Yung, and Cheryl Kinchen



Left: Delia Sanchez, Ivan Guzman, Sue Kemper, and Tom Bach



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members and their management team from the sponsoring company. The seminars cover a variety of topics as well but are shorter courses than the CEU courses. This year the seminars covered Career Mapping, Negotiation Skills, Finance, Conflict Resolution, among many others. The workshops are presented mostly by SWE members. The workshops allow a more diverse set of topics to be covered at the conference and include Resume Writing, How to Work a Career Fair, Interviewing Skills, and Performance Appraisal Response, among others.

meeting is open to all members but only the elected Section Representatives can vote on the issues.

The National Conference holds a Career Fair each year as well. This year over 260 companies were represented at the fair. Most companies conduct on site interviews and many issues Letters of Intent while at conference. The Letter of Intent states the job offer contingent on a plant

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Above: Chris and group at Awards Banquet

the membership so issues can be socialized and discussed. The National Committees and FIGs meet so that members can get a face to go with the email and conduct a planning session to complete the work for the year. Succession planning is always discussed as well since many National Committee Chairs only serve 2 years. The FIGs conduct their meetings in a similar way and include work plans and succession planning.

The Council of Representatives meets during the National Conference as well. This council is the legislative body of SWE and meets to vote on the motions put before the council for consideration. The by-laws of the Society are changed through these motions at the COR meeting and include this year such things as dues International member grade definition, Collegiate representation on COR, and changes to the Contingency Reserve Fund. The COR



Above: (From Left to Right) SWE member Mandi Brigman, Duke Energy Workforce Manager Dayna Herrick, Duke Energy Safety Assurance Manager Tanya Hamilton, and Duke Energy Recruiter Angela Saleeby at the Career Fair

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trip and additional interviews. Many jobs are secured while attending this career fair. All companies are recruiting Collegiate Members and offer summer internships and co-op positions. In addition, many companies are seeking experienced professionals. The engineering field is losing many of the experienced baby boomers in the next few years and companies are looking to fill these positions while a transition period is available. From my experience at this fair, the engineering field has a very bright future!

The Conference has two events that celebrate the success and accomplishments of the Sections and Members. The Awards Banquet



Above: Chris and group at Celebrate SWE being Divas (Region D for Diva).



Right: Jennifer Briganza and group at Celebrate SWE being Divas (Region D for Diva).

celebrates the awards that recognize the Achievement Award, Upward Mobility Award, Rodney Chip Award, and the Distinguished New Engineers. Celebrate SWE honors the Section Awards along with more individual awards for Distinguished Service, volunteering, and SWE Fellows. Each event is a forum to thank volunteers and express the appreciation of the Society for the progress made.

Several Charlotte members attended this year's conference. Jennifer Braganza, Mandi Brigman, Chris Cathcart, and Jacey Rogers all attended the conference. For a complete summary of the activities they participated in, contact the individual members.

Mark your calendar now for 2008 conferences:

Region D Conference

Feb. 29 – Mar. 2, 2008

Coral Gables, FL

National Conference

Nov. 6 – 8, 2008

Baltimore, MD

Next Event:

Decision Making Under Uncertainty

SWE Professional Development

FREE to Members, \$5 non-Members

Tuesday, November 13th

Professional Development

Web-based Seminar

This seminar will discuss the following topics:

- 1) Technical tools available to help make decision-making more objective;
- 2) Ways to practice making decisions that refine your abilities;
- 3) Practical guidance in evaluating the relative importance of speed vs. detail;
- 4) Knowing when to use your intuition.

Time: 6:30PM

Dinner will be served
(Must RSVP)

Location:

AREVA, 7207 IBM Dr
(IBM Complex)

Send RSVP to:

Crystal Freeburg
Crystal.Freeburg @ swe.org)

RSVP required by Nov 9 !

Upcoming SWE Charlotte Metrolina Section Events

- **November 9, 2007**
Professional Development Seminar
- **December 7, 2007**
SWE Social: Holiday Party and Toys For Tots
- **January 15, 2008**
Social, Networking & Diversity Round Table
- **February 16, 2008**
Career Guidance
Girl Scout Event
- **Feb 29 - March 2, 2008**
Region D Conference
Coral Gables, FL

Other Engineering Websites:

- SWE: www.swe.org
- American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), www.aiche.org
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), www.asme.org
- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), <http://national.nsbe.org/>
- National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), www.nspe.org
- Professional Engineers of North Carolina (PENC), www.penc.org
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), <http://oneshpe.shpe.org>
- SWE - UNC-Charlotte Collegiate Section, www.coe.uncc.edu/~swesb/

