



Society of Women Engineers

Southwest Michigan Section Newsletter

ASPIRE.

ADVANCE.

ACHIEVE.

Issue 5

June 2005

Message from the President...

As my Section President term comes to an end, I reflect back on all of the great accomplishments that we have been able to achieve together. It has been a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to work with all of you. I want to once again express my thanks to all of you who have so graciously taken on assignments and leadership roles so that we could charter a local section and develop that section into the success that it is today. I would especially like to thank those who have held leadership positions across multiple years to provide the continuity that was required at this critical time in our section development. Our strength as a section is reflected through our membership growth and retention numbers, the depth of leadership seen through those filling the officer and committee chair positions, the number of people willing to work on all of the various committees, the attendance at the meetings and activities, and the friendships that have developed. I look forward to continuing my association with each of you for many years to come.

Along with several others of the outgoing leadership team, I am also looking forward to focusing more on some of the committees that are of personal interest to me, rather than on the many administrative tasks required to keep the section running. I am hopeful that our section will be able to develop more career guidance activities and further expand the professional development offerings over the next year.

As one last request, I would ask that if you are interested in working on a particular committee (even though you might not want to lead that committee), please let Carrie know. The section still needs volunteers to help with all of the various activities. There have been some great ideas generated for SWE and outreach activities, but it will take more than just a leader to make them a reality.

I hope to see everyone at our awards banquet on June 22, where the official passing of the torch to the new officers will take place. Thanks again and enjoy your summer.

Tamera Mounteer

52 section members!

It's time to renew your SWE membership!

\$5 early bird discount if membership is renewed by 6/30/05.

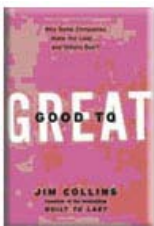
Renew your membership online by visiting www.swe.org

SWMI SWE Section upcoming events:

Annual Awards Banquet and Officer Transition meeting on June 22 at 11:30 a.m. at Whirlpool's St. Joseph Technology Center in conference room 1220. Lunch will be provided by the section for this meeting.



Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, California
November 3-5, 2005



Book Review – by Carrie Dickinson **“Good to Great,” written by Jim Collins**

Good is the enemy of great. If you are intrigued by this statement, then this book is for you. How can good (or worse) companies become great companies, and furthermore how do they sustain greatness? Jim Collins provides the reader with the characteristics that distinguish a great company from merely a good company. Through examples, he illustrates that it is a process of transformation that involves disciplined people, disciplined thought, and disciplined action. After reading this insightful and thought provoking book, one might wonder how these principles could be applied to other aspects of life besides corporations. Is SWE-Southwest Michigan a good section, or can we become a great SWE section?

Introducing SWE SWMI FY06 President, Carrie Dickinson

By Tamera Mounteer



Carrie Dickinson is originally from Syracuse, NY and has lived in Southwest Michigan since 1998. Carrie holds a PhD in Electrical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She also earned BS and MS degrees in Electrical Engineering at Clarkson University. She was instrumental in the Southwest Michigan section chartering process and was the FY05 Section Vice-President. Carrie currently works at Whirlpool Corporation, where she is a Lead Engineer in the Global Fabric Care Product Development Controls group. Prior to this position, Carrie worked in the Advanced Electronics Engineering group at Whirlpool Corporation, where she worked on several research projects. When she is not working, Carrie enjoys playing wallyball, walking, bike riding, bowling, reading and spending time with her friends and her cat Coco. Please join me in welcoming Carrie as the SWE Southwest Michigan FY06 President!

Introducing SWE SWMI FY06 Vice-President, Melissa Radocha

By Carrie Dickinson



Melissa Radocha is a St Joseph native. After graduating from St Joseph High School in 1999, she attended Michigan State University (MSU) for one and a half years. While she was at MSU, she was an active member in their SWE student section. She then transferred to Western Michigan University (WMU) and graduated with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering in April 2004. Melissa was the secretary of the SWE WMU student section and was instrumental in revitalizing their section. Melissa currently works at AEP and is one of 6 people in their rotational program, which is what led her to accept the position at AEP. In this 1-year program, she will rotate through 19 different areas. At the completion of the rotational program, Melissa will be a system engineer. Melissa serves as a professional councilor for the WMU SWE student section. She helps the section establish industrial contacts that sponsor onsite meetings with the SWE section. In her free time, Melissa likes to spend time with her 4 -year old daughter, craft, downhill ski, hike, play beach volleyball, sail, and golf. Please join me in welcoming Melissa as the SWE Southwest Michigan FY06 vice-president!

Introducing SWE SWMI FY06 Secretary, Lisa Chutorash

By Susan Rousse



Lisa Chutorash is originally from Rochester Hills, MI. She is currently living in Stevensville Michigan. Lisa attended the University of Michigan for Mechanical Engineering, Undergrad., from 1998-2002 and again for Grad. School from 2003-2004. Lisa came to work for Whirlpool immediately following her graduation in 2002. She is working in the washer platform integrity (cost & quality) group as a project engineer. During Grad School, she went to most SWE planned activities and mentored an Undergrad SWE member. Lisa was a participating member of SWE at Whirlpool before she went back to Grad. School. While in Undergrad, she was the historian and publications officer for the University of Michigan student section. When Lisa is not working, and the weather is warm outside, Lisa enjoys playing beach volleyball, rock climbing, flag football, softball, tennis, soccer, water skiing, golfing, biking, running and reading in the sun. When it's cold or snowing, she enjoys playing indoor volleyball, skiing, sledding, and traveling to warm destinations ☺. Overall, Lisa enjoys being around people and is usually up for anything. Please join me in welcoming Lisa as the SWE Southwest Michigan FY06 Secretary.

Introducing SWE SWMI FY06 Section Representative, Melissa Burchill

By Jennifer Glassley



Melissa Burchill is originally from North Dakota and has lived in Southwest Michigan since January of 2003. Melissa holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of North Dakota. She was instrumental in the Southwest Michigan section chartering process and was the FY05 Section Treasurer. Melissa currently works at Whirlpool Corporation, where she is a Food Stream Solutions Hardware Engineer in the Electronic Design Center. She was recruited to this position through the SWE National Conference in Detroit, MI. When she is not working, Melissa enjoys reading books, rollerblading, snowboarding, mountain biking, rock climbing, foosball, and ping-pong. Please join me in welcoming Melissa as the SWE Southwest Michigan FY06 Section Representative!

Introducing SWE SWMI FY06 Treasurer, Christine Strain

By Melissa Burchill



Christine Strain was raised in South Haven, MI and currently lives in Stevensville, MI with her husband and two sons. Christine attended the University of Michigan where she received her B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1992. Before her senior year at the U of M, Christine worked as an intern for Whirlpool at their research and engineering facility and then joined Whirlpool full-time once she graduated. During her first two years, Christine worked in the CAD area of Whirlpool and then moved to the structural analysis group. Christine is a Senior Engineer in the Fabric Care Computer Aided Engineering group where she does structural analysis for washers and dryers and also for dishwashers and Kitchen Aid small appliances. Christine has a flexible work arrangement where she is in the office 3 days a week and works from home 2 days a week so that she can spend more time with her sons, who are ages 5 and 2. Christine's experience with SWE has been mostly as a professional member. She was a professional member before the SWMI section was formed and was one of the charter members for the section. Christine's husband also works for Whirlpool. Outside of work, Christine enjoys sailing on Lake Michigan, spending time on the beach, and being involved in church activities. She also likes hands-on things; she and her husband built their own home. Please join me in welcoming Christine as the FY06 SWE SWMI Treasurer.

The Southwest Michigan Section just completed our officer elections for the FY06 fiscal year. The nominating committee, consisting of Fatima Dhayanandhan, Jason Clemons, Michele Paustian, and Jamie Hulett (Tepool), organized the section's first electronic ballot. The section had a great voter turnout! Twenty-three members voted for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Section Representative. The first round of the election ended in a tie for Vice President causing the section to have a second round of voting, for the VP position, to break the tie. The turnout for the second round was even greater, thirty-three of our fifty-two members participated! The nominating committee would like to congratulate the following members on their election to the FY06 Executive Committee and wish them good luck in the upcoming year: Carrie Dickinson – Section President, Melissa Radocha – Section Vice President, Lisa Chutorash – Section Secretary, Christine Strain – Section Treasurer, Melissa Burchill – Section Representative. We would also like to thank all those who participated in the voting and encourage everyone to participate in upcoming elections.

Thanks again and congratulations to the new officers

Jamie Hulett (Tepool),
Nominating Committee Chair

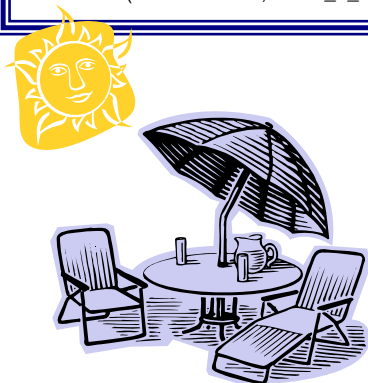
Call for FY06 Section Committee Chairs

by Carrie Dickinson

As FY05 comes to a close, it is time to start planning for next year. Along with a new year comes the opportunity for more involvement from some of our section members. We are looking for volunteers interested in becoming a section committee chair for FY06. A few of our current committee chairs will continue in their current positions. However, there are several committees in need of new chairpersons. If you have wanted to become more involved with our section, this could be the opportunity you have been looking for. Don't have the time, you say? No need to worry. Being a committee chair only requires a few hours of time per month. Just ask any of our current committee chairs. Feel free to contact any of them to find out more about their committee (the current chairs are listed in this newsletter). Our current section committees are: Membership, Publicity, Career Guidance (community outreach), Continuing Development (professional development), Diversity, Newsletter Editor, Website Coordinator, and Mentoring Coordinator. Please contact me, Carrie Dickinson (269-923-5924, carrie_a_dickinson@whirlpool.com), if you are interested in being a committee chair for FY06.

SWE-SWMI BBQ

A section social event was held on April 30. Melissa Burchill hosted a family barbecue at her home on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Attendance exceeded 20 people including section members, their family, and friends. It was a great chance to get to know each other better in an informal setting and to have some fun. Besides the great food and conversation, there were some intense foosball games and a fun-filled twist of 'around the world' ping pong. Many thanks to Melissa for opening up her home to our section.



SWE Member Spotlight on Wendeline Rodriguez

By: Michele Wilcox, Membership Chair



Wendeline Rodriguez is originally from Atlanta, Georgia. She attended Andrews University in Berrien Springs. In June 2000 she received a BSIT in Electrical Engineering Technology. During her undergraduate studies, Wendy interned at Whirlpool in the Refrigeration and Air Treatment group at Research and Engineering. Upon graduating from Andrews, she received an offer to work full time in the Advanced Electronics Applications Group (AEA) at Research and Engineering. She started this position on August 1, 2000.

While Wendy was in the AEA group, she spent a great deal of time supporting the Refrigeration group. She worked on Measured Fill, which was part of the Niagara project. This project is going into production in July 2005. Another project with the dispensers that she helped initiate was adding a white LED to the dispenser area, versus a light bulb as our competitors have it. This also has made it into production. She also supported the Phoenix project. She worked on delivering power to the shelf as well as communicating the temperature for that 'zone' of the refrigerator with a power buss system in the refrigerator. Her efforts in this project led her to receive her first patent. This patent was issued in 2004. She was promoted to Project Engineer in 2002.

Wendy went on for her masters at Andrews University. She received a MSA in Engineering Management in May 2003. Upon graduating, she began OPEX training and finished the program during the summer of 2003.

In the fall of 2003, Wendy moved to Global Product Development Department in the Controls Modules Group. She currently supports the Dishwasher group and is responsible for all of the user interfaces across platforms. She currently is working on getting all the user interfaces for the entire model line for KitchenAid that will launch in July 2005.

Wendy has been very active in the local section of SWE. She is one of the founding charter members and co lead Whirlpool's participation at the 2002 National Conference that was held in Detroit. Whirlpool had a large presence at this conference and was very successful in recruiting new college graduates to the company. This was largely due to Wendy's success in planning this event. She went on to lead Whirlpool's involvement at the 2003 National Conference. She spent several months planning and preparing for this conference, however Whirlpool's involvement was canceled due to budget constraints.

At Whirlpool, Wendy is on the social committee for the Hispanic Network and is a member of the Gospel Choir.

Wendy currently lives in Grand Haven with her husband Tony. They have been married for 5 years. Tony is a minister of two churches: Grand Haven Seventh Day Adventist Church and Bauer Seventh Day Adventist Church. Wendy is also active in these churches. She serves as a deaconess, stewardship director, and a pianist. She also is on the social committee, volunteers with the youth group, and provides audio and visual support during services.

In her free time, Wendy likes to work in the yard and on her new house. She also likes to play sports, spend time at the beach and travel.

Council Of Representatives Update

- Next COR Conference Call will be held on June 6, 2005
- Vote to approve the Region H Bylaws Update will take place
- Region H Finances will be discussed. In particular the following:
 - FY05 Treasurer Report – 3rd Qtr and SWE Statement of Activities
 - Support of Special Project during E-Week for FY06
 - Refreshments at Region meeting at the National Conference
 - Region Scholarships and how funded.
 - Region Student Rep Travel Grant Policy and Reimbursement Proposal
- Region H Awards Update

If you are interested in any further information on the above topics, please contact Jeni Glasslev at: jennifer_l_glasslev@whirlpool.com

Officers:

President - Tamera Munteer
Vice President - Carrie Dickinson
Secretary - Susan Rouse
Treasurer - Melissa Burchill
Section Representative - Jennifer Glassley

Committee Chairs:

Membership - Michele Wilcox
Publicity - Brooke Lau
Career Guidance - Lynda Acker
Continuing Development - Jane Davis
Diversity - Mike Van Sickle
Newsletter Editor - Binglai Chen
Website Coordinator - Jason Clemons
Mentoring Coordinator - Melissa Burchill

Rebates from SWE HQs

Two rebate checks are sent from SWE HQs to each section annually. The first rebate check is for members that pay their dues between July 1 and November 30. The second rebate check is for members that pay their dues between December 1 and June 1. Rebate check #1 is usually mailed on or around January 31 and includes the rebate on memberships from July through November of the previous year, and rebate check #2 is usually mailed on or around August 31 for the rebate on memberships that were paid from December of the previous year through June of the current year.



The SWMI SWE newsletter is published for the members of SWMI SWE to share information about the group's activities and events. Thanks to this issues contributors: **Carrie Dickinson, Tamera Munteer, Michele Wilcox, Susan Rouse, Jeni Glassley, Jamie Hulett**