



September 2009  
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## President's Corner

Welcome to another great year with the Space Coast section of the Society of Women Engineers. Your executive council has been very busy planning out the year to include a wide variety of activities for everyone to participate in. One new thing this year is the establishment of our CALLING TREE – each member should be contacted within the next few weeks by a member of the Executive Council. We want each of you to feel welcome and hear any great ideas you might have for the coming year. We have planned two great meetings to get us started – on September 22 we will be doing a fun meeting – tasting chocolate, beer and wine. We will also be doing an orientation and a “Meet the executive council and the committee chairs”. It is

a fun opportunity to learn how the section works and let us know what you are looking for in SWE. Our book club is looking for new members – come join us for “The Corporate Dominatrix” by Lisa Robyn on September 29<sup>th</sup>. We have submitted our Space Coast section goals to the Region D governor and they all involve finding a way to sustain all our current programs even with the downturn in our economy. On that note, be sure and mark your calendars for our second professional development meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>. We are very proud of our hardworking members and look forward to a year of growth and opportunity for us all. Please stay in touch by visiting our web page at [www.swe-sc.org](http://www.swe-sc.org).



Susan Floyd  
SWE-SC President

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### Calendar of Events (For more calendar items, see the calendar on the website.)

| DATE                  | TOPIC  | LOCATION                      |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Tuesday, September 22 | Chocolate & Wine Tasting   | Costa del Sol, Cape Canaveral |
| Monday, September 28  | Alice Software training for WOW  | Suntree-Viera Library         |
| Tuesday, September 29 | Book Club: Corporate Dominatrix  | Squid Lips, Melbourne         |
| Saturday, October 3   | WOW! That's Engineering for 7 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> grade                                | Bayside High School, Palm Bay |
| October 15-17         | SWE National Conference  | Long Beach, CA                |
| Tuesday, October 27   | Robert Atkins, LM Future of Space Program – How the Augustine Committee will affect Brevard County | Radisson, Cocoa Beach         |

### Coming Soon:

- Meet & Greet Matt's Casbah's on November 9.
- Holiday Social on December 6.
- IGEW on January 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Women's Engineer of the Year Award on February 23.



## SWE-SC Chocolate & Wine Tasting

\*Date: Tuesday, September 22

\*Time: 7 PM

\*RSVP by September 17 @  
[www.swe-sc.org/Meetings/Sep09](http://www.swe-sc.org/Meetings/Sep09)

\*Cost: \$15 Members, \$20 Non-Members, \$7.50 Student Members

Costa Del Sol Condo Club House  
5801 N. Banana River Blvd.  
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Our first section meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, September 22 at the Costa Del Sol Condo in Cape Canaveral. It will include a special SWE-SC chocolate tasting! Our featured guest for the evening is chocolate chef Ha Le. Following the tasting will a review of section plans for the year. Enjoy an evening of Chocolate, Beer, Wine, and Networking!

### Directions:

From 520, Turn North onto A1A. Just past the Catholic Church at the light, turn left onto Sheppard Drive. Go to Stop sign and turn right (North) onto N. Banana River Blvd. On the left you will see a 5 story building marked 5801. Just north of the 1st 5 story building on the east side of the road, there is a club house with a pool. There is additional parking further north near the tennis courts, but you will need to walk.

## Newsletter Editor's Note

*"One major part of growth is change, and we felt it was time for the newsletter to have a face lift."*

Welcome Back Everybody! What an exciting year we have ahead of us!!! The Executive Council has met diligently and have come up with many exciting activities for this coming year. You can read all about them in future editions of the SWE-SC Newsletter. We hope you participate in all SWE-SC has to offer.

As I embark on my 4<sup>th</sup> year as the SWE-SC Newsletter

Editor, I am excited to announce a change in our newsletter format. One major part of growth is change and we felt it was time for the newsletter to have a face lift. This new format will reflect our professional capabilities and will focus on our section achievements. Many of your favorite features will still be included, but we've also added some new articles.

One new section is Member Alert. We want to hear about your accomplishments and triumphs. Did you get married? Have a baby? Promotion? Graduation? We want to know!!! Send us your accomplishments and you could be featured on the SWE-SC Newsletter!

I look forward to hearing from you and to an exciting year that's to come.

*Ivette Rivera Aponte*

## SWE Sponsoring FIRST LEGO League Teams

The section has received a grant to support sponsorship of seven all-girl FIRST LEGO League teams with SWE mentors. The following teams are being sponsored and mentored by our section:

Cape View Elementary  
Gardendale Elementary  
Sherwood Elementary

Kennedy Middle School  
Southwest Middle School  
Stone Middle School  
Girl Scouts

Several members have already volunteered to mentor teams but we still need additional mentors especially for Sherwood (Melbourne near King Center) and Cape View, Cape Canaveral.

If you can help mentor these teams or want more information about the program, please contact Judy Kersey ([judy.kersey@swe.org](mailto:judy.kersey@swe.org)). Training is available.

Thanks to the following SWE Members for agreeing to serve as mentors: Kay Collins Mahoney, Cheryl Carter, Lynn Picou, Susan Floyd, Andrea Wesser, Kara Floyd, and Amanda Gayle.

## Alice Software Workshop

We will be offering a training workshop for teachers on Alice Software at Bayside HS on Saturday, October 3.

Alice is an innovative 3D programming environment that makes it easy to create an animation for telling a story, playing an interactive game, or a video to share on the web. Alice is a freely available teaching tool designed to be a student's first exposure to object-

oriented programming. It allows students to learn fundamental programming concepts in the context of creating animated movies and simple video games. In Alice, 3-D objects (e.g., people, animals, and vehicles) populate a virtual world and students create a program to animate the objects.

You can find more information about Alice and

download the software at [www.alice.org](http://www.alice.org). We are offering a short course (1.5 hours) for software engineers who would like to assist with the teacher workshop at the Suntree-Viera Library on Monday, September 28 at 6pm.

If you are interested, contact Judy Kersey at [judy.kersey@swe.org](mailto:judy.kersey@swe.org).

## Member Alert

We are proud to announce that Sophia Gabrielle Torres was born on June 30, 2009 at 1:12 AM to Karla Ferreira and Orlando Torres. She weighed 6 lbs 13 oz and measured 19.5 inches long. SWE-SC wants to congratulate the happy couple and wishes them the best in this new endeavor.

Ivette Rivera Aponte completed her Master's of Science in Civil Engineering

with specialization in the Structural and Geotechnical Engineering track on August 6, 2009. She obtained her degree from the University of Central Florida and achieved Cum Laude honors. We wish to congratulate Ivette on her hard earned degree.

*Have any news you want to submit to Member Alert? Send your information and any pictures you might have to [ivette.rivera-1@nasa.gov](mailto:ivette.rivera-1@nasa.gov).*



Sofia Gabrielle Torres



Ivette Rivera Aponte

## WOW! That's Engineering!

Registration is open for girls in the 7th to 10th grades in our WOW! That's Engineering workshop to be held at Bayside High School on Saturday, October 3. The cost is \$25 and includes lunch, drinks, snack, shirt, and supplies. The girls will

each participate in 5 hands on workshops related to engineering and technology. Registration is on the web at [www.swe-sc.org/WOW](http://www.swe-sc.org/WOW)

Volunteers can register to support this program at [www.swe-sc.org/WOW/WOWVol](http://www.swe-sc.org/WOW/WOWVol)

We are still looking for leaders for the Tasty Towers module and the Small Spaces module. If you are willing to lead one of these, contact Susie Allen Sierpinski at [susie.allen@gmail.com](mailto:susie.allen@gmail.com) for more information.

## SWE-SC Photo Gallery

SWE member Amanda Gayle (right) is helping SWE member Karen Wurtz learn how to program a LEGO robot in a recent FIRST LEGO League coaches training class.



SWE Kathy Whitcomb (right) is helping Caroline Achee, a girl scout leader, with her robot.



The Space Coast Executive Council recently met to review plans for the year and approve the budget. From left to right, Lori McPherson, Kathy Karmazin-Calin, Judy Kersey, Susan Floyd, Deann Sperber, Kathy Whitcomb and Kristin Lucas.



## What Has the Recession Taught You About Your Career? By Roger Lear

This economic slowdown has played havoc on so many of our jobs and careers. Even if you have a job that is fine, you most likely know someone who is unemployed, under-employed or just not happy at their current job. This uncertainty is exactly what may have you thinking about your own career choice.

What can a recession teach you about your career?

1) **The strength of your industry.** The construction industry is hurting right now. If you have been a homebuilder for the last 15 years, what did you do during this time that will transfer into other industries until this one rebounds?

2) **The strength of your company.** If you are in the insurance industry, why are some companies laying off while others are hiring?

Companies can't hide behind bad financial statements during a recession.

3) **The strength of your job.** Where you first to be let go? If so, was it because your job wasn't bottom line significant? What will you do to change that in your next job?

4) **Education and Training.** Where you still learning new skills even though things were going great before the recession?

5) **Wrong career choice** from the beginning? It happens, but in a recession this causes you to really dislike your job because you usually have to work longer hours and always feel like you are on a hot seat to produce results. Time to move to another career.

6) How important it is to **maximize earning potential** in the good times. Did you have opportunities that you turned down when things were going well? In times like today, many new programs and promotions are all being put on hold.

The good news is the recession will pass. You can have what you want in a career if you answer these six things honestly and then make the changes. If you are claims adjuster and enjoy your job, are you working for the best company in the world? If not, you may not be maximizing your future potential.



*"The good news is the recession will pass. You can have what you want in a career..."*

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**Aspire. Advance. Achieve**

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to inform the community of opportunities open to women in engineering and to encourage women to enter and grow in engineering and the sciences.

## Section Objectives

- **Continuing Development**  
Conduct programs that provide leadership and management skills to enhance professional, personal and SWE growth.
- **Network Support System**  
Provide a network to support professional, personal and family needs.
- **Promote Engineering/Science**  
Conduct programs to encourage and sustain increased female and minority participation in engineering and the sciences.
- **Visibility**  
Increase visibility in order to boost membership and increase members with more opportunities to serve their communities.



We have created a SWE Space Coast fan page on Facebook to better communicate with you about our events, as well as to help you network with other women engineers in the Space Coast area. You can also ask questions in the Discussion Boards and view our event photos. So, become a fan and find out more about our exciting events coming up!

## Section Contacts

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### Girls Engineering Workshop:

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