President’s Corner

Fall is officially here! I miss the lazy days of summer, but it’s also great to be a part of all the exciting things going on within our section! I hope you all take time to read through our newsletters, and keep checking our website. October is our busiest month. We hope you can join us for one or more of our many events!

The Executive Council has worked hard to plan a year with activities that alternate between technical, social and outreach events. This newsletter will highlight those in the upcoming month, but there are many more exciting events scheduled for later in the year as well.

Do you want to have even more enjoyment from your SWE membership? We can always use volunteers on any of our many teams for outreach, or other events in the section. Whatever your interest is, we can always use an extra pair of hands or administrative help. E-mail any of the officers if you’d like to discuss opportunities. It’s a great way to get more involved and get to know SWE-SC better!

Lori McPherson
SWE-SC President

Calendar of Events

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October Meeting: **Space X**  
Friday, October 22, 2010

Dolly Singh, Talent Acquisition Manager will be discussing the future of private companies in the Space Industry, and how you can be a part of it. Join us for networking, dinner, and a chance to discuss the future of the Space Industry with the newest, most successful company to enter privatized space travel. Dolly has promised to leave plenty of time for questions and discussion, so it’s guaranteed to be an interesting evening.

Dinner Menu:
- Garden Salad, rolls with butter  
- Choice of: Baked Tilapia, Sliced roast beef with bordelaise sauce or Vegetarian meal (pasta with seasonal vegetables)  
- Baby baked potatoes, Vegetable  
- Dessert, Coffee, ice tea  

For questions, contact Suzanne Plantec  
splantec@haris.com

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**October Book Club**

Our next Book Club meeting will be on **Saturday, October 16**th at 2 pm at River Rocks, Rockledge, FL. Register at [www.swe-sc.org](http://www.swe-sc.org)

Members of the SWE-SC book club met on August 29th at the Melting Pot in Avenue Viera. We had the opportunity to review *Hill Country* by Janice Woods Windle. The book tells the story of Laura Woods – a relative our own Nancy Mate. Laura Woods was a modern woman at the turn of the century that survived Indian attacks, and helped to shape Texas politics that eventually led to sending Lyndon Johnson to Washington. We had a lively discussion of what it was like to live at the turn of the century, and in the hill country of Texas.

Our next book club is *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave (also published under the title of *The Other Hand*). Currently #3 on the NY Times bestseller list (Paperback Trade Fiction) is easy to find in all book stores. We’ll be meeting on Saturday October 16th, 2 pm at River Rocks. This book is guaranteed to open your eyes to the world around us. As always, Book Club is a great opportunity to spend the afternoon in interesting conversation with interesting women – even if you haven’t read the book! RSVP on our homepage if you are planning to attend!

**You don’t have to read the book to come join the networking!**
Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

This year a few of the SWE Space Coast section members have signed up to walk in the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer on the Space Walkers team. The walk is a non-competitive 5k at The Avenue in Viera on October 23, 2010. We chose this particular walk because 60% of the funds raised remains in Brevard County with the rest going to research.

So far, we have raised a little over $1050 (26% of our $4000 goal) and have 12 team members, and it’s still early. Last year the Space Walkers team raised $3400. If you are available, we'd love for you to join our team and walk with us. If not, please support our efforts with a donation of whatever amount you can spare.

We know that there are a lot of cancer events out there, but Making Strides speaks to us because funds raised enable the American Cancer Society to help people stay well and get well from breast cancer, find cures, and empower people to fight back today. With your help, we can save lives.

To support us in our efforts, please visit: [http://main.acsevents.org/goto/space_walkers](http://main.acsevents.org/goto/space_walkers)

They say that every donation makes a difference, and it really is true. We know that times are tighter than normal for many of us, but if you can spare even $5, it truly will make a difference. If everyone walking in Making Strides this year were able to raise just $5 more, we would raise an additional $3 million to fight breast cancer. Imagine what an incredible difference we could make together!
Launching Innovation. Defining Success.
WE’10 is the largest and most comprehensive gathering of forward-thinking women engineers and technologists. Throughout the conference participants will experience numerous career-shaping opportunities, as well as draw from the energy of SWE’s strong past and promising future to launch innovation and define success.

Conference Highlights
- Training and development sessions
- Career Enhancement series
- Professional networking
- Role models, mentors and new friends
- Technical and Orlando-area tours
- Awards Banquet
- Career Fair with more than 200 exhibitors

This year’s keynote speaker for WE’10 will be Tana L. Utley, Chief Technology Officer and Vice President of the Product Development Center of Excellence at Caterpillar Inc.

Invent it. Build it. – Saturday, Nov 6, 2010, 9:30am -4pm
A one-day special program event designed for high school girls to take engineering on a test drive! They’ll meet amazing engineers, team up with new friends, and build cool contraptions of their own.

- Design a ping pong launcher that reaches the ceiling
- Collaborate with other girls to solve problems
- Connect with engineers from places like Disney and other companies that create amazing products that we use on a daily basis
- Watch real kids create amazing inventions on the PBS show, Design Squad
- Lunch with engineers and the opportunity to ask questions about their profession & lives

There are two types of winners — those who meet the necessary requirements and finish the task, and those who utilize their capabilities to their full potential. Invent It. Build It. is for those who stretch their imagination beyond what most think possible.

Girls ages 14-18
Registration $12 per girl
(Includes lunch, materials and t-shirt)
Limited financial assistance may be available.
Visit http://www.citrus-gs.org to check out all the exciting opportunities available in Girl Scouting.

If you would like to volunteer, complete survey for placement:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/iibi

Invent it. Build it. is a collaborative effort of the Society of Women Engineers, Girl Scouts and Design Squad and is made possible by a generous grant from the ExxonMobil Foundation.

“SWE was the fuel, the heat and the air that can light the fire to your career.”
August Meeting Review: “A Taste of Italy”

SWE-SC started off the year with a fall kickoff at Costa Del Sol Condominium Clubhouse with “A Taste of Italy” theme. After a challenging quiz on Italian trivia, SWE president, Lori McPherson outlined the goals of the section and briefed the group on the exciting list of activities planned for the year.

There is something happening for everyone this year. There are speakers lined up (SpaceX and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute), tours of several facilities (NOAA/NWS and the Green House), as well as fun activities to relax and network (Meet and Greet, Book Club, and the Holiday Social). If you want to make a difference in your community, sign up to volunteer for WOW That’s Engineering, or Introduce Girls to Engineering Workshop. Want to get some exercise and support a great cause? Walk in the 5K Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event, SWE member Susie Allen-Sierpinski is a team captain. Don’t forget the SWE National Conference, which takes place in our own back yard – Orlando! It’s a great way to network, hear inspiring and interesting speakers, and just have lots of fun. Opportunity awaits us all.

Special thanks to Susan Floyd and Amanda Gayle for contributing their time and demonstrating their culinary talents as chefs for this event. Food included bruschetta, minestrone soup, roasted chicken, bread sticks, two kinds of lasagna, and several desserts. Delizioso!

September Meeting Review: NOAA/NWS

The National Weather Service (NWS) hosted a tour for the September SWE meeting. The NWS team is well educated and very knowledgeable. The meteorologists demonstrated their impressive software suite. They create forecasts and issue severe weather alerts for land and sea using data from satellites, radar, weather balloons and other sources. They monitor their probability of detection and probability of false alarms to maintain their credibility. The Melbourne office is in constant communications with other weather offices in Florida for situational awareness. The NWS has redundant systems for broadcasting watches and warning, ensuring that the public can always access these alerts.

In addition to the tour, the office provided an informative slideshow and answered our questions. We saw samples of weather balloons and the scientific equipment they carry. We learned about the importance of weather radios. The software in most weather radios can be filtered to individual counties, limiting the weather alerts to the most relevant ones.

The NWS facility is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, even during hurricanes. It hosts a weather radar system on site. Radar data along with forecasts and other weather products can be accessed through their website at http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mlb/.
ERAU-SWE Update

Classes have started and the new officers (lead by the new section President Ms. Esabelle Verdeja) are already off and running!! The ERAU Section is fundraising so that as many of their members as possible can attend the Annual WE’10 Conference in Orlando this year. They are also working with a local Elementary School on having an IGEW event either late Fall 2010 or mid Spring 2011. They are excited to participate in homecoming activities and student activities fairs around campus, while expanding their membership and collaborating with other clubs/organizations on some new programs. If you’d be interested in presenting at one of their weekly meetings, they’d love to hear about various engineering professions and local companies!

Several members attend our monthly meetings and will be volunteering at our Wow! That’s Engineering event, so be sure to introduce yourself!!

Kristin Lucas
ERAU Counselor ’09-’10, ’10-’11

FIT-SWE Update

Florida Institute of Technology has 12 active members with the following engineering majors: Mechanical, Aerospace, Electrical and Civil.

Our members will be participating in many exciting events happening this year. Many members have volunteered to help with this October’s WOW! That’s Engineering event. Eight of our members will also be joining SWE professional members at the WE’10 Annual Conference in Orlando this November.

On Sunday, November 14th the section will be hosting our Annual Fall Dinner. We have invited the professional Space Coast section to join us at the Florida Institute of Technology in the Hartley Room from 6-8 PM. The highlight of the dinner will be a panel discussion from professional women about “What’s it like to be a Working Engineer”. Dinner will be $10 for professionals with the menu to be announced at a later date. The students are looking for professional women who may be interested in being on this panel.

FIT-SWE members plan to assist with the Introducing Girls to Engineering Workshop and have planned a “Death by Chocolate” occurring in late January which is our de-stressing event for both students and professionals. The E-Week Jeopardy game in partnership with NESBE and the Annual Senior Send-Off are some of the other events the students have planned for the year.

To participate in any of our FIT events please contact: DeAnn at dsperber01@gmail.com or 321-223-6329 or the FIT Section President, Cassie Scully at cscully2008@my.fit.edu

DeAnn Sperber
FIT Counselor

Volunteer opportunities...

Judges/Mentors are always wanted for various other events within the Brevard/Volusia/Indian River counties for more info contact Outreach Coordinator Kristin Lucas at Kristin.N.Lucas@boeing.ksc.nasa.gov or (703)901-7433

Invent it. Build it. Volunteers Wanted – November 2010
Complete the survey for placement @ http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/iibi

IGEW Volunteers Wanted –February 2011
http://www.swe-sc.org/IGEW/

Info Wanted...

Awards Banquet chairperson is looking for company contact information to send letters to solicit award nominations. Please help by e-mailing any information to dsperber01@gmail.com
FIRST LEGO League News

FIRST LEGO League competition season has started. Several members are involved again this year with school and/or home teams. Kathy Whitcomb is helping coach a team at Cambridge Elementary, Lynn Picou is coaching a team at Southwest Middle School, Laura Merrick is coaching a team at Lewis Carroll, Kara Floyd is coaching a team at Gardendale, Amanda Gayle is mentoring a team at Saturn Elementary and Susan Floyd is helping coach a home based team. Judy Kersey continues to manage finances for Florida Robotics Education (our spinoff non-profit that serves as the state partner for FIRST LEGO League in Florida.) Several of our all-girl teams from last year are still competing including Sherwood Elementary School, Stone Middle School, and Kennedy Middle School. The coach from Cape View has moved to Roosevelt and is starting an all-girl team there. The girl’s team from Southwest has broken up, but the girls from last year’s team are leading all three of the Southwest teams this year. (Way to go girls!!) SWE-SC will be paying competition registration fees for all-girl teams who have SWE mentors, so if you’re helping an all-girl team, let Judy Kersey know so we can add them to the list of teams we will be sponsoring.

If you’re interested in finding out more about this fun opportunity, talk to one of these members. We will be looking for judges and other volunteers to support at a number of competitions during November thru February and can always use your help. Or just come to one of the events and check it out!

Introducing Girls to Engineering Workshop

Saturday, February 12th, 2011

Presented by:
The Society of Women Engineers, Space Coast Section

Discover what engineering is all about while you have fun in five hands-on lab workshops.

Girls can become engineers too! This workshop will provide girls with opportunities to do fun hands-on experiments related to several different engineering career fields. They will also be able to find out what different types of engineers do and will meet women engineers who will talk about how they became engineers.

Location: Merritt Island High School
Date: Saturday, February 12, 2011

We will be 'revamping' our Module lists with some updated and new workshops. Please contact Amanda Gayle at mdgonly@aol.com if you are interested in leading a workshop or have new, exciting ideas for this year!! Visit www.swe-sc.org/IGEW/ for more information.

Chloe Ravina, 4th grade, Palm Bay Elementary, and Rachel Garza, 5th grade, Andersen Elementary work on building their Lunar Lander
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.