



Society of **W**omen **E**ngineers
Sacramento Valley Section



Valley Views
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Volume 9, Issue 2

March / April 2008

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*SVS SWE
CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

March

- 12 SWE Web Seminar
The Secret to Career Acceleration –
Enjoying the Stretch Zone
- 14 Engineers Without Borders Presentation
Brown and Caldwell in Rancho Cordova
- 29 Young Engineers Session (Y.E.S.) with
the Girl Scouts
Natomas High School in Sacramento

April

- 10 SWE Recruiting Meeting
Aerojet Campus in Rancho Cordova
- 13 SWE Web Seminar
Four Secrets to Finding the Perfect Job
- 29 SWE Web Seminar
The Glass Ceiling for Asian Women in
Engineering and Technology

May

- 29 Al Fresco Dinner
Scholarship Fundraiser
Liz Raley's Home in Gold River

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings to All,

2008 is off to a great start! We started our year with the 2nd Friday luncheon on Jan. 11 at Mikuni's Restaurant in Downtown Sacramento. Members briefly discussed scholarship applications and formation of a membership committee and had time to relax and socialize. Thank you to Maria Pang and Paula Mc Donald for organizing this event. The Jan. 16 Joint Meeting with the Sierra Foothills Section had more than 30 attendees at Rascal's Pub & Grill. They heard a lively presentation by Mr. Horatio Chavez of NASA's Ames Research Center about retention of women in engineering. This crowd pleasing event would not be possible without the following members. Thanks to Sue Xiong for coordinating with the restaurant, Wendy and Carmen for photos, Amy and Andrea for volunteering at the sign up booth and lastly, Paula and Maria for lending a hand to wrap up the event.

I'm proud to announce that this year our section was awarded the "Community Collaboration Award" by the Central California Girls Scouts Council. The award was presented to our Sacramento Valley Section on February 2. I thank Virginia and Jennifer for attending this important milestone event for our section.

National Engineers Week was on Feb 17 -23. As I was searching for articles about Engineers Week for 2008, one article that caught my eye was "WHY AREN'T MORE GIRLS CHOOSING ENGINEERING?" The first finding was that girls (as well as their parents, teachers, and counselors) believe that Engineers must be exceptional at both math and science and Engineering is difficult and challenging. Second finding is that the engineering community is contributing to their limited understanding of the profession. Further the article states that rather than conveying *what it's like to be an engineer*, and sharing *what we love about the field* with young people, we tend to discuss the process of becoming an engineer, concentrating on the necessary qualifications and emphasizing all of the potential hurdles along the way. What's emphasized to girls (and boys) is how challenging the process is, not the reasons one would want to become an engineer in the first place. In a well-meaning effort to arm potential engineers with a healthy dose of realism, we often forget to also convey what is *attractive and meaningful* about the profession.

In celebration of Engineers week, I have invited "Engineers Without Borders" for a presentation about their national and local organization. Please join us at our next 2nd Friday meeting. Hope to see you all there.

Himali

REGIONAL SWE NEWS

Looking for additional SWE information???



Check out the SWE Region A website, located at <http://swe-goldenwest.org>. If you're looking for regional information and events, this is the place to go.

For National SWE Information, check out www.swe.org.

SWE encourages professional development. For more information visit the Professional Development link at www.swe.org.

SWE MEMBER PROFILES

Tina Cox received her BS in chemical engineering from UC Davis in 2003. During college, she had an internship with Yolo County Waste Management Department, so after graduation, she stayed on there. After a short time, Tina heard from a college friend that Brown and Caldwell was looking for engineers, and in September 2003, she started working there, thus benefiting from the "old girl's network." Tina works in the Environmental Services Department, where among other things she designs groundwater remediation systems, installs and samples monitoring wells, and writes monitoring and other technical reports. She has worked on a number of interesting projects, including one where a large piece of land was to be sold. The land had been used by a former manufacturing facility, and Tina was onsite during the demolition taking real-time soil samples. She also helped design an in-situ oxidation system to clean up groundwater by injecting Fenton's Reagent into the ground. This chemical can be highly explosive, so it had to be mixed separately (and carefully) at each injection point. The system was highly successful, cleaning up much of the plume, and only one small area is left to be cleaned.

Tina was a member of SWE in the UCD student chapter for two years and attended the Region A Conference held at UCD. In her spare time, Tina is currently doing lots of remodeling on her house, which she bought just two years ago. She is learning along the way how to do things, such

as tile floors and install cabinets. Tina works on her own cars, too, and likes all things mechanical, which she learned from her Dad. A long-range goal is to acquire an old classic car to fix up. She also enjoys reading, relaxing and hanging out. Tina has already stepped up to help with a SWE SVS event, the Young Engineers Session in late March. In fact, she says she would like to work with kids and speak to schools, even at the elementary level. Welcome to the Section, Tina!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

SWE Web Seminar

WHEN: Wednesday, March 12th
WHERE: Online at www.swe.org
TIME: 2 PM – 3 PM
TOPIC: The Secret to Career Acceleration –
Enjoying the Stretch Zone
SPEAKER: Kathryn Mayer

SWE Web Seminars are viewable online for paid SWE members. Pay close attention to your email to sign up for Upcoming SWE Web Seminars.

Engineers Without Borders Presentation

WHEN: Friday, March 14th
WHERE: Brown and Caldwell
10540 White Rock Road, Suite 180
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
TIME: 12 PM – 1 PM
RSVP: Himali Rodrigo at hrodrigo@brwnccald.com
by March 12th at 12 PM.



Engineers Without Borders will be introducing about their organization and upcoming projects. This will be a brown bag lunch, so please bring your own lunch.

Young Engineers Session (Y.E.S.) with the Girl Scouts

WHEN: Saturday, March 29th
WHERE: Natomas High School Auditorium
3301 Fong Ranch Road
Sacramento, CA 95834
TIME: 8 AM – 3 PM
RSVP: Heather Sheridan at sheridanhm@bv.com or
Wendy Cohen at wcohen@dcn.org



Morning set-up is from 8 AM to 9 AM.
Event starts at 9 AM and ends at 2 PM.
Clean-up will be from 2 PM to 3 PM.
Flyer with details will be coming out soon.

April

SWE Recruiting Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, April 10th
WHERE: Aerojet Campus
Rancho Cordova, CA
TIME: 12 PM – 1 PM
RSVP: Paula McDonald at
Paula.McDonald@Aerojet.com by April 8th
at 4 PM.

The purpose of this meeting is to present the value of SWE membership to women engineers at Aerojet, a company which has supported the SWE Sacramento Valley Section with past donations. A few years ago, Aerojet supported the Sally Ride Festival and bought a one-year membership for any female engineer who wanted to join. After the year was up, only 20% of them renewed their membership.

RSVP is required to attend the meeting. All attendees will have to be cleared through security in advance. Excerpts of the Web Seminars and an informal PowerPoint may be shown to increase membership.

Take Hwy-50 to the Aerojet Road exit. Follow the road to Aerojet's Main Gate and check-in at the Visitor's Center.

SWE Web Seminar

WHEN: Thursday, April 13th
WHERE: Online at www.swe.org
TIME: 2 PM – 3 PM
TOPIC: Four Secrets to Finding the Perfect Job
SPEAKER: Dr. Deborah Fisher

SWE Web Seminars are viewable online for paid SWE members. Pay close attention to your email to sign up for Upcoming SWE Web Seminars.



SWE Web Seminar

WHEN: Tuesday, April 29th
WHERE: Online at www.swe.org
TIME: 2 PM – 3 PM
TOPIC: The Glass Ceiling for Asian Women in Engineering and Technology
SPEAKER: Dr. Lily Tang



SWE Web Seminars are viewable online for paid SWE members. Pay close attention to your email to sign up for Upcoming SWE Web Seminars.

May

Al Fresco Dinner Scholarship Fundraiser

WHEN: Thursday, May 29th
WHERE: Liz Raley's Home
11360 Sutters Fort Way
Gold River, CA
TIME: 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
RSVP: Liz Raley at borden@lanset.com.

Join the Sacramento Valley Section of the Society of Women Engineers for an Al Fresco Dinner on May 29th in support of our scholarship fund.

This Italian gourmet dinner includes an assortment of appetizers, a light entrée, fabulous desserts, wine, and ice tea. Cost \$25.

This event will be held at the home of Liz Raley at 11360 Sutters Fort Way in Gold River from 5:30 - 8:00. For more information or to purchase tickets contact Liz Raley at borden@lanset.com.

ARTICLES NEEDED!

We need more contributors to the newsletter! Please help out our new newsletter editor with any articles or other items of interest.

Article submission deadline for the May/June publication

April 11, 2008

If you like to contribute an article, please contact Sue Xiong at xiongsu@sacsewer.com.



2007-2008
OFFICER'S ROSTER

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Speaker's Bureau	Elizabeth Gillis-Raley (916) 638-3058 borden@lanset.com

ARTICLES and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Collaboration Award presented to the Sacramento Valley Section

By Virginia Squire

On February 2, 2008, the Sacramento Valley Section was honored by the Heart of Central California Girl Scout Council as a Community Collaborator for the 7 years of the Young Engineers Session program. The award was presented at the Council's annual meeting. The Y.E.S. is a one day event co-sponsored by the Girl Scouts and Sacramento Valley SWE to introduce Cadet Girl Scouts (grades 6-8) to engineering careers. The series of hands-on workshops and interaction with engineers and engineering students has grown from 15 or so girls to 35, with a waiting list. It is a highlight of the SWE year. Girls are introduced to drafting, water management, traffic design, and solar/electrical engineering. Each girl tries her hand at each of the workshops and all the volunteers are introduced and have opportunities to chat with the girls about college, careers and families in informal settings through the day. "Goody bags", chocolate asphalt, an event patch and career pamphlets go home with the girls as reminders of the day.



In this photo (Left to right): Virginia Squire (SWE SVS), Jennifer Johnston (SWE SVS) and Heidi Truitt (Girl Scouts Program Specialist/Camp Menzies Director). Photo was taken at the Heart of Central California Girl Scout Council annual meeting, which took place at the Sacramento State Alumni Center.

Annual Joint Dinner Meeting – NASA Keynote Speaker

By Paula McDonald

The annual Joint Section meeting was held on January 16th at Rascal's Bar and Grill in Rancho Cordova. Over 30 members of the Sacramento Valley and Sierra Foothills sections packed the venue.

Horatio Chavez, an engineering manager at NASA Ames Research Center with over 30 years of experience, gave an inspirational and entertaining presentation about a variety of women engineers in NASA's history and present. He made a point to address the diverse personal and social backgrounds, and hurdles they have overcome in their careers. Mr. Chavez brought a car-load full of items for display, including a spacewalk suit, shuttle "sleeping bag," and astronaut "cut-out" display for photographs. He also brought us several NASA "goodies" such as promotional photographs, pamphlets, NASA decals, and samples of dehydrated astronaut foods. A lively question and answer session followed, with questions ranging from aliens to pollution.



Mr. Chavez discusses dehydrated astronaut food.

SWE Web Seminars: A Great Training Tool!

By Sue Xiong

I have recently added information on Upcoming SWE Web Seminars onto the Upcoming Events section. I have been inspired to share this information with all paid SWE members because I feel that these free seminars make us quite exceptional from the other professional associations in the industry. These web seminars are a great training

tool for young women engineers who just graduate to those experienced women who are trying to advance in their field. The web seminars are approximately 1 hour long and can be replayed numerous times after they are broadcasted online.

COSMOS Program

By Janine Martindale

The following is information that may benefit a teenager in your life.

IT'S TIME TO APPLY FOR COSMOS, A MATH AND SCIENCE SUMMER PROGRAM FOR TALENTED TEENS

Students who love and do well in math and science have a chance to spend four weeks at UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Santa Cruz, or UC San Diego this summer learning about astronomy, biomedical sciences, engineering, robotics and more.



The California State Summer School for Mathematics & Science (COSMOS) is a four-week residential program for talented and motivated students who are completing grades 8-12. Students work side-by-side with outstanding university researchers and faculty exploring advanced topics that extend beyond the typical high school curriculum. COSMOS courses are hands-on and lab intensive, emphasizing current research underway at the Universities of California.

Students are invited to apply to one of the four campus programs. The application packet consists of the Application Worksheet, the Teacher Recommendation Worksheet, and the Financial Assistance Application.

The application must be completed online at <http://www.ucop.edu/cosmos> by **March 15**.

Please contact Melina Duarte with COSMOS Statewide at (510) 987-9711 or by email at melina.duarte@ucop.edu for more information.

Annual Calendar Events

Fiscal Year 2007 - 2008

Date	Event	Location/Time	Coordinator
September 14, 2007	2 nd Friday Luncheon	La Bou 1090 Olson Drive Rancho Cordova	Liz Raley borden@lanset.com
October 6, 2007	Expanding Your Horizons (EYH)	CSUS	Sue Xiong xiongsu@sacsewer.com
October 12, 2007	2 nd Friday Luncheon	Symposium 1620 E 8th Street Davis	Valeria La Saponara vadialu@yahoo.com
October 21, 2007	Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk	West Steps, State Capitol Building	Carmen Lee leeca@sacsewer.com
October 25 – 27, 2007	National Conference	Nashville, TN	Please visit the website http://www.swe.org
November 2007	Meeting w/UCD Students	UC Davis	Linda N. Finley Linda.N.Finley@spk01.usace.army.mil
November 2, 2007	SWE Leadership Coaching	Brown and Caldwell Rancho Cordova	Himali Rodrigo hrodrigo@brwncald.com
November 13, 2007	SVS 25 th Anniversary Dinner	Riverboat Delta King Old Sacramento	Himali Rodrigo hrodrigo@brwncald.com
November 13, 2007	Meeting w/CSUS Students	CSUS	Mary Serra Mserra@waterboards.ca.gov
November 16, 2007	Young Engineers Session (Y.E.S.) Kick-Off Meeting	La Bou Rancho Cordova	Heather Sheridan sheridanHM@bv.com
December 5, 2007	Holiday Meeting	Bella Bru Cafe 5038 Fair Oaks Blvd. Carmichael	Liz Raley borden@lanset.com
December 8, 2007	CSUS - Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour	SRWTP Elk Grove	Erin Marquis (engineeringerin@gmail.com) Mary Serra (Mserra@waterboards.ca.gov)
December 14, 2007	2 nd Friday Luncheon	La Bou 1090 Olson Drive Rancho Cordova	Liz Raley borden@lanset.com
January 11, 2008	2nd Friday Luncheon	Mikuni 1530 J Street Mid-town Sacramento	Paula McDonald Paula.McDonald@Aerojet.com
January 16, 2008	Joint Meeting w/Sierra Foothills Section	Rascal's Pub & Grill Sacramento	Sue Xiong xiongsu@sacsewer.com
February 2, 2008	Community Collaboration Award Presented by Heart of Central California Girl Scout Council	CSUS Alumni Center	Himali Rodrigo hrodrigo@brwncald.com
February 17 -23, 2008	Engineers Week	Sunrise Mall	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!
February 26, 2008	Y.E.S. Planning Meeting	Black and Veatch Rancho Cordova	Heather Sheridan sheridanHM@bv.com
February 29 – March 2	Region A Conference	University of Nevada, Reno	Please visit http://swe-goldenwest.org/Conference2008/
March 14, 2008	Engineers Without Borders Presentation	Brown and Caldwell Rancho Cordova	Himali Rodrigo hrodrigo@brwncald.com
March 29, 2008	Y.E.S. with the Girl Scouts	Natomas High School 3301 Fong Ranch Road Sacramento, CA 95834	Wendy Cohen (wcohen@dcn.org) Heather Sheridan (sheridanhm@bv.com)
April 10, 2008	SWE Recruitment Meeting	Aerojet Rancho Cordova	Paula McDonald Paula.McDonald@Aerojet.com
May 29, 2008	Al Fresco Dinner Scholarship Fundraiser	Liz Raley's Home 11360 Sutters Fort Way Gold River	Liz Raley borden@lanset.com

Note: TBA/TBD – To be Announced / To be Determined