



**S**ociety of **W**omen **E**ngineers  
Sacramento Valley Section



# Valley Views

A Bi-Monthly Publication for the  
SWE Sacramento Valley Section

March - April 2011

## SWE SVS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March

- 10 Soroptimist Metro Mix Networking Party  
Downtown Sacramento
- 17 Scholarship Fundraiser  
Planning Meeting
- 17 – 19 FIRST Robotics  
UC Davis
- 18 Second Friday Luncheon on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday  
Davis
- 19 PreMESA Day  
CSU Sacramento
- 25 Scholarship Applications Due
- 26 Y.E.S!  
Sacramento

### April

- 2 Elementary MESADay  
CSU Sacramento
- 8 Member Bring A Member Luncheon  
Sacramento
- 20 Business Meeting  
Sacramento
- 28 Scholarship Fundraiser: Tea Tasting  
and Silent Auction  
Sacramento

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Section Members,

We have lots of events coming up in March and April. We hope that you can take some time out your busy schedules to come out and support SWE. In March, we also have a Scholarship Fundraiser Planning Meeting on Thursday, March 17th. If you plan to attend the event on April 28th or want to help, please email me at [xiongsu@sacsewer.com](mailto:xiongsu@sacsewer.com). We will be enjoying some tea tasting and having our silent auction and raffle. Please see flyer at the end of the newsletter.

Our monthly Second Friday Lunch will be taking place on the Third Friday this month in Davis. Feel free to RSVP to Wendy Cohen or drop by if you're in the neighborhood. We have the Young Engineers Session with the Girl Scouts on Saturday, March 26th from 8-3 pm at the Kit Carson Middle School. And our annual college scholarship applications are due in March this year. All scholarship applications must be postmarked by Friday, March 25th.

In April, we have our annual Member Bring a Member Luncheon which will be held at Mimi's Café in Sacramento. Members can bring co-workers, colleagues, and engineering friends to learn more about SWE. We also have a guest speaker, Ms. Sharon Stiles, who will be talking about strategies on how to invest for the future.

I would like to thank the Sierra Foothills Section for hosting the Joint Section Meeting in January. Although the guest speaker was unable to make it, we had a good time networking and discussing about the history of women in science and engineering.

Enjoy the spring weather as we look forward to summer.

Sincerely,

Sue

# REGIONAL SWE NEWS

## National SWE

### SWE Public Policy Feedback

The Public Policy Mega Issue 114, "To what extent and in what areas should SWE venture beyond STEM to issues relevant to SWE's mission in the area of public policy?" is in need of feedback from all SWE members. Please provide your feedback by taking the online survey at:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dElfME84TVhHeVVKNW9pUHZKT1pXWkE6MQ>

### National Conference

The National Conference will be October 13 - 15th in Chicago! Hotel Reservations are now open. A link and more information is available on last year's conference website at <http://we10.swe.org/>. For additional information on National SWE events, please visit the National SWE website at <http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org>.

## Region A

### Tellers Committee Participant Call

Region A has a confirmed slate of qualified candidates for FY 12. Our Region A elections will be coming up in the next few months. This is a call for members to serve on the Tellers Committee for that election.

To participate, contact Elizabeth Giuliani, the Region A Nominating Committee Chair, at (707)953-1270 or [elizabeth.giuliani@swe.org](mailto:elizabeth.giuliani@swe.org) by March 15th.

### Region A Conference

The Region A Conference was held on February 23 - 25th at Santa Clara University. Our Section Representative, Paula McDonald attended the Region Meeting during the conference and will be providing a summary on Regional and National news soon. For the latest Region A news, view the Region A website: <http://swe-goldenwest.org>.

### San Joaquin Valley

The San Joaquin Valley Professional Section has reformed. If you live near Stockton, Fresno, or Merced, please visit: <http://swe-goldenwest.org/sjvs/> to learn more.

### Sierra Foothills

Sierra Foothills is our neighboring SWE section. Members of both sections are welcome at many of the other section's events. For more information about the Sierra Foothills Section, please see their new website at <http://swe-goldenwest.org/sfs/>

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## March

### Scholarship Fundraiser Planning Meeting

When: Thursday, March 17  
Time: 11:30 – 12:30pm  
Where: Sacramento Area Sewer District Office,  
10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento  
Room: Conference Room 1122 Manzanita  
RSVP: Sue Xiong at [xiongsu@sacsewer.com](mailto:xiongsu@sacsewer.com)

Please join us at our next scholarship fundraiser planning meeting. We are planning a tea tasting event this year and we need volunteers to help from soliciting auction/raffle items to set-up, tea brewing and clean-up on the day of the event. If you want to help, but cannot make it to the meeting, you can call in at (916) 875-0000 or (916) 874-7777. Meeting ID is 03172011.

### Second Friday Luncheon on Third Friday

When: Friday, March 18  
Time: 12:00 – 1:00pm  
Where: Burgers and Brew  
403 Third Street (corner of 3rd & C)  
Davis  
RSVP: Wendy Cohen, [wcohen@dcn.org](mailto:wcohen@dcn.org)

Join SWE friends for a relaxing hour of congeniality in downtown Davis. This restaurant specializes in burgers (both meat and veggie) and also serves sandwiches, such as BLTs, cheesesteaks, and turkey avocado. You order at the counter and receive a number. Please RSVP, if possible, so we know how big a table to get. However, feel free to drop in if you find you can make it at the last minute and didn't RSVP.

## Young Engineer Sessions (Y.E.S!)

When: Saturday, March 26  
Time: 8:00am – 3:00pm  
Where: Kit Carson Middle School Multipurpose Room  
5301 N Street  
Sacramento  
Contact: Heather Sheridan at [sheridanhm@bv.com](mailto:sheridanhm@bv.com).

YES! provides middle school age Girl Scouts with hands-on engineering labs, lunch, Q&A session, and an earned patch. Volunteers are needed to run modules and lead groups of girl scouts. Please contact Heather Sheridan to learn more or volunteer.

## April

### Member Bring A Member Luncheon

When: Friday, April 8  
Time: 11:30 – 1:30pm  
Where: Mimi's Cafe  
3511 North Freeway Blvd  
Sacramento  
RSVP: Maria Pang, [Maria.Pang@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Maria.Pang@cdph.ca.gov)

Speaker: Sharon Stiles, Key Concepts Financial and Insurance Services

SWE Sacramento Valley members are invited to bring potential new members to learn more about SWE and potential new members will enjoy a free lunch.

Sharon Stiles will be presenting a talk on *Investing for the Future: "How-To" and "When-To" Strategies*. This talk is geared specifically to those of us in the "accumulation" phase of life. The focus will be on a realistic overview of how to set and reach financial, investment, and retirement goals. You will get answers to some of the most commonly asked questions such as "How much will I need to accumulate to live comfortably?" "How much do I need to put away each month?" and "How can I get my investment dollars to work as hard as I do?" You'll also get specific information about balancing and rebalancing your investment holding, especially important in turbulent economic times. We've all heard the time-honored philosophy "buy low, sell high." In this presentation, you'll learn how to do just that, simply and easily.

## Business Meeting

When: Wednesday, April 20  
11:30 – 12:30pm  
Where: Sacramento Area Sewer District Office  
10060 Goethe Road  
Sacramento  
Conference Room 1122 Manzanita  
Contact: Sue Xiong at [xiongsu@sacsewer.com](mailto:xiongsu@sacsewer.com)

Please join us in person or by phone to contribute feedback and learn more about the business operations of our section. Conference call number is (916) 875-0000 or (916) 874-7777 with Meeting ID 04202011.

## Scholarship Fundraiser

When: Thursday, April 28  
Time: 5:30 – 8:00 pm  
Where: Sacramento Area Sewer District Office,  
10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento

To raise money for our scholarship fund, SWE Sac Valley will host a Tea Tasting, Dinner, Silent Auction and Raffle. The event is open to the general public. Consider inviting members of the engineering community, coworkers, friends, family, students and colleagues to attend. Please view and distribute the attached flyer on page 9 of the newsletter. For additional information, contact Sue Xiong at [xiongsu@sacsewer.com](mailto:xiongsu@sacsewer.com).

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

### MESA Needs Your Support

On behalf of the students, parents, and advisors of the Sacramento State/UC Davis MESA Center please consider an opportunity to support the STEM based academic and hands-on projects (including wind energy and building a prosthetic arm) as a volunteer for two of our major events. Both events will be held at Sacramento State. Volunteers should sign-up by March 7th for either the March 18th PreMESA Day or the April 2nd Elementary MESA Day. Please see the attached announcement on page 7 to learn more about this exciting event.

### FIRST Robotics Competition

The FIRST Robotics Competition is calling for volunteers for its March 17 – 19 competition at UC Davis. Please see the attached announcement on page 8 to learn more about this exciting event.

## Collegiate Coordination Committee Chair Position Available!

New committee chair position available! Help assist collegiate counselors with brainstorming and streamlining ideas for the collegiate sections.

The committee will provide the following:

- Assist the collegiate sections on collegiate events
- Provide resources to collegiate sections
- Announce collegiate events to the professional section
- Announce SWE scholarships and opportunities to the collegiate sections

If you are interested in this position, please contact Sue Xiong at [xiongsu@sacsewer.com](mailto:xiongsu@sacsewer.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Scholarship Application Due March 25th

Up to 4 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1000 will be awarded to female engineering and computer science students in good standing at UOP, CSUS or UCD. Scholarship applications are available online at : <http://swe-goldenwest.org/svs/scholarships.html>

### Metro Mix Networking Party March 10th

The Young Professional Subcommittee of the Soroptimist International of Sacramento, Inc. (SIS) will be hosting its first Metro Mix Networking Party at the Pyramid Alehouse, 1029 K Street, Sacramento on March 10th.

This networking party is for young professional women in the Sacramento area. For more information, contact Corrie Pelc at [corrie.pelc@gmail.com](mailto:corrie.pelc@gmail.com) or 916-761-7484.

### Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Officer Nominations

Ballots for the next fiscal year will be mailed out in April. For members who are interested in volunteering for any position or have questions on any position, please email [swevs@gmail.com](mailto:swevs@gmail.com) to be included on the ballot. A list of officer positions is on page 5.

## MEMBER CORNER

If you have an article, poem, technical paper, book, tool or Sacramento Valley hot spot you would like to share with everyone, please send it to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the next bi-monthly issue!

### Female Computers of WWII

by Andrea Bergamini

In the 1940s, women were selected from high schools and colleges to work for the University of Pennsylvania. They were trained to do ballistics calculations, by hand. The trajectories they calculated were handed to soldiers in the field. At the time, computer was a job title, not a machine.

After the war, some of the women were hired to work on an electric computer. They worked on debugging vacuum tubes and made the machine work to perform calculations faster than any person could do. Upon successful completion, the women received only a shared certificate of recognition from the military and were not even invited to the celebratory dinner.

In 2003, an amateur women's historian and filmmaker conducted an interview with two sisters about a women-owned real estate agency. One of the women had mentioned about her job as a computer. The filmmaker had never heard about it and decided to take up educating others about the role of women in computing. Their story is featured on the DVD "Top Secret Rosies: The Female Computers of World War II". The film is currently available on Netflix Watch Instantly. You can read more about it here: <http://www.topsecretrosies.com/>

On Sunday, March 6th, there will be a screening of the film at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA at 4pm. More information is available here: <http://www.computerhistory.org/events/index.php?id=1297278310>

2010-2011

## OFFICER ROSTER

<b>President</b>	<b>Sue Xiong</b> (916) 876-6383 <a href="mailto:xiongsu@sacsewer.com">xiongsu@sacsewer.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Vyomini Pandya</b> (916) 876-6677 <a href="mailto:vyomini21@gmail.com">vyomini21@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Liz Raley</b> (916) 638-3058 <a href="mailto:elizabethgraley@att.net">elizabethgraley@att.net</a>
<b>Section Rep</b>	<b>Paula McDonald</b> (916) 832-0019 <a href="mailto:paulalmcdonald@sbcglobal.net">paulalmcdonald@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>CSUS Counselor</b>	<b>Mary Serra</b> (916) 327-8039 <a href="mailto:cheaggie@gmail.com">cheaggie@gmail.com</a>
<b>UCD Counselor</b>	<b>Linda N. Finley</b> (916) 557-7411 <a href="mailto:Linda.N.finley@usace.army.mil">Linda.N.finley@usace.army.mil</a>
<b>Collegiate Coordination Committee Chair</b>	<b>OPEN</b> Contact Sue Xiong
<b>Scholarship Fundraising Chair</b>	<b>OPEN</b> Contact Sue Xiong
<b>Scholarship Committee Chair</b>	<b>Vyomini Pandya</b> (916) 876-6677 <a href="mailto:vyomini21@gmail.com">vyomini21@gmail.com</a>
<b>Speaker's Bureau</b>	<b>Maria Pang</b> <a href="mailto:Maria.Pang@cdph.ca.gov">Maria.Pang@cdph.ca.gov</a>
<b>Membership Chair</b>	<b>Wendy Cohen</b> (916) 464-5817 <a href="mailto:wcohen@dcn.org">wcohen@dcn.org</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Andrea Bergamini</b> <a href="mailto:andrea.g.bergamini@gmail.com">andrea.g.bergamini@gmail.com</a>
<b>Web Site Administrator</b>	<b>Alice Ames Jahn</b> <a href="mailto:alicejahn@alumni.ucdavis.edu">alicejahn@alumni.ucdavis.edu</a>
<b>Y.E.S! Chair</b>	<b>Heather Sheridan</b> (209) 986-5656 <a href="mailto:sheridanhm@bv.com">sheridanhm@bv.com</a>

## Upcoming Business & Calendar Events

Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011

Date	Event	Location/Time	Coordinator
March 17, 2011	Scholarship Fundraiser Planning Meeting	SASD Office 10060 Goethe Road Sacramento CA 95827	Sue Xiong <a href="mailto:xiongsu@sacsewer.com">xiongsu@sacsewer.com</a>
March 17 – 19, 2011	FIRST Robotics Competition	UC Davis Recreation Center	Sheryl Hurner <a href="mailto:hurners@arc.losrios.edu">hurners@arc.losrios.edu</a>
March 18, 2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday Lunch	Burgers and Brew 403 Third Street Davis	Wendy Cohen <a href="mailto:wcohen@dcn.org">wcohen@dcn.org</a>
March 25, 2011	2011 Scholarship Application DUE	SWE SVS Scholarship P.O. Box 924 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741	Vyomini Pandya <a href="mailto:vyomini21@gmail.com">vyomini21@gmail.com</a>
March 26, 2011	Y.E.S! with the Girl Scouts	Kit Carson Middle School 5301 N Street Sacramento 8 am – 3 pm	Heather Sheridan <a href="mailto:sheridanhm@bv.com">sheridanhm@bv.com</a>
April 2011	Send out Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Officer Ballots	SWE SVS P.O. Box 924 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741	Wendy Cohen <a href="mailto:wcohen@dcn.org">wcohen@dcn.org</a>
April 8, 2011	Member Bring a Member Luncheon	Mimi's Cafe 3511 N Freeway Blvd Sacramento	Maria Pang <a href="mailto:Maria.Pang@cdph.ca.gov">Maria.Pang@cdph.ca.gov</a>
April 8, 2011	Newsletter Articles DUE	Send week of April 19, 2011	Andrea Bergamini <a href="mailto:andrea.g.bergamini@gmail.com">andrea.g.bergamini@gmail.com</a>
April 20, 2011	Business Meeting	SASD Office 10060 Goethe Rd Sacramento, CA	Sue Xiong <a href="mailto:xiongsu@sacsewer.com">xiongsu@sacsewer.com</a>
April 28, 2011	Scholarship Fundraiser	SASD Office 10060 Goethe Rd Sacramento, CA	Sue Xiong <a href="mailto:xiongsu@sacsewer.com">xiongsu@sacsewer.com</a>
May 13, 2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday Lunch	Rancho Cordova	Amy Terrell <a href="mailto:terrella@rcip.com">terrella@rcip.com</a>
May 2011	Region A Awards Banquet	TBA	TBA
June 10, 2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday Lunch	Davis	Parto Aram
June 10, 2011	Newsletter Articles DUE	Send week of June 21, 2011	Andrea Bergamini <a href="mailto:andrea.g.bergamini@gmail.com">andrea.g.bergamini@gmail.com</a>
June 2011	Planning Meeting	Brew It Up 801 14 <sup>th</sup> Street Sacramento 6 – 8 pm	Sue Xiong <a href="mailto:xiongsu@sacsewer.com">xiongsu@sacsewer.com</a>

# MESA Day - Call for Volunteers

On behalf of the students, parents, and advisors of the Sacramento State/UC Davis MESA Center please consider an opportunity to support the STEM based academic and hands-on projects (including wind energy and building a prosthetic arm) as a volunteer for two of our major events. Sign up to be a volunteer and help the Sacramento State/UC Davis MESA Center make our upcoming PreMESA Day and Elementary MESA Day great experiences for all attendees. Volunteering at these events is a great opportunity to meet other professionals and college students and to work with K-12 students and teachers.

## Event Dates and Locations:

PreMESA Day (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade): Saturday, March 19, 2011 @ Sacramento State. Competition information can be seen here: [PreMESA Day Competition Rules](#)

Elementary MESA Day (K-6<sup>th</sup> grade): Saturday, April 2, 2011 @ Sacramento State. Competition information can be seen here: [Elementary MESA Day Competition Rules](#)

## What are you expected to do?

Volunteers will provide assistance to the event organizers which includes: event registration and set-up and preparing for and helping to judge and proctor competitions. In return all volunteers will receive lunch, a t-shirt, and a letter of acknowledgement for your service.

## How can you sign-up?

In order to apply to be a volunteer, please complete and send the attached document to [laism@saclink.csus.edu](mailto:laism@saclink.csus.edu) or fax to 916-278-3945 no later than Monday, March 7, 2011. Please share this email with the people in your organization or anyone else you think might be interested in this opportunity.

## Inquiries?

If you have any questions, you are encouraged to send them via email to [laism@saclink.csus.edu](mailto:laism@saclink.csus.edu).

Marian Lais  
Program Secretary  
Sacramento State/UC Davis MESA Center  
6000 J Street  
Santa Clara Hall 1204  
Sacramento, CA 95819-6023  
Phone: 916-278-4575  
Fax: 916-278-3945  
Email: [laism@saclink.csus.edu](mailto:laism@saclink.csus.edu)  
[www.csus.edu/mesa](http://www.csus.edu/mesa)

# FIRST Robotics - Call for Volunteers

## **What is FIRST Robotics?**

"The varsity sport for the mind," FRC combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of 25 students or more are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It's as close to "real-world engineering" as a student can get.

## ***How Can I get Involved?***

*FIRST* events are an exciting and fun-filled opportunity to see youth in action, applying the knowledge and skills developed through team participation. Each competition event depends on an abundance of volunteers with a broad spectrum of talents to support operating needs and competition demands.

Our local event, the Davis/Sacramento Regional, will take place at the Recreation Center at UC Davis, March 17 – 19, 2011. Check out the link below for a complete list of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) event volunteer position descriptions.

<http://usfirst.org/community/volunteers/content.aspx?id=15692>

Several of these positions require the assigned volunteer to participate in pre-event training or certification while others will have training on the day of the event, so register TODAY at the link below, indicating a preference for the Davis Regional event through our Volunteer Information and Matching System (VIMS). Then we can match your interests, availability, and talents with the perfect role at the competition!

[https://my.usfirst.org/FIRSTPortal/Login/VIMS\\_Login.aspx](https://my.usfirst.org/FIRSTPortal/Login/VIMS_Login.aspx)

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Sheryl Hurner at [hurners@arc.losrios.edu](mailto:hurners@arc.losrios.edu).

Thank you for supporting our mission, and making a difference in the lives of our young people.

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS - SACRAMENTO VALLEY SECTION (SWE-SVS)  
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

# TEA TASTING



# SILENT AUCTION

DINNER IS ALSO INCLUDED

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT  
THE SWE - SACRAMENTO  
VALLEY SECTION SCHOLARSHIP  
FUND TO BE USED BY LOCAL  
AREA COLLEGIATE MEMBERS IN  
FURTHERING THEIR  
ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER  
SCIENCE ASPIRATIONS

Thursday, April 28, 2011  
5:30 - 8:00 PM

Sacramento Area Sewer District  
10060 Goethe Road  
Sacramento, CA 95827

Admission:  
\$20 Professionals, \$12 Students

Extra Raffle Tickets:  
\$1 Each or 6 for \$5

RSVP to Sue Xiong: [xiongsu@sacsewer.com](mailto:xiongsu@sacsewer.com),  
916-876-6383



MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS AND TO THOSE WHO DONATED