



President's Corner

Hello fellow SWE Space Coast Members,

I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday and are enjoying striving toward your new goals for this year. The section has been working hard to have a balance with professional activities, community outreach and networking opportunities.

We had a wonderful time at Susan Floyd's lovely home celebrating the holidays at our annual Holidays Around the World Party and we each brought a toy for the Toys for Tots program. The book club discussed *Before I Go to Sleep*, a fast passed psychological thriller, which I highly recommend for escaping from the pressures of work.

Our January events included a relaxing review of the highly acclaimed book *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern at my home. As well as our January meeting where Lori McPherson presented "What Sparks High School Girls Interest in Engineering?"

We have many exciting events coming up this month. We are busy planning our Introduce a Girl to Engineering Workshop. If you haven't volunteered yet, please go to the website and register. Our Women Engineers of the Year Awards banquet quickly approaching. Also the next SWE-SC Book Club will be held on March 11th at

Cabana Shores. We'll discuss *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox* by Maggie O'Farrell. This book will haunt you long past its final page.

We are already 6 months in to the New Year and will need to be forming a nominating committee. If you would like to serve on the nominating committee please let us know. We are looking for new people with fresh ideas to be part of the Executive Council – the group of officers that work together to plan the year's events. There are many positions available such as officers, event chairs, region representatives. We'd be happy to discuss the many different possibilities to see which might be a fit for you. Feel free to contact myself or any of our other officers for more information. Once the nominating committee is formed they will start trying to fill the slate for next year very soon! We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events!

Kathy Whitcomb
SWE-SC President

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Calendar of Events

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION
February 18, 2012	Introducing Girls to Engineering Workshop	Merritt Island High School
February 28, 2012	Awards Banquet	Rockledge Contry Club
March 2-4, 2012	Region D Conference	Charleston, SC
March 11, 2012	March Book Club	Cabana Shores, Melbourne

Introducing Girls to Engineering Workshop (IGEW)

Girls, you can become engineers too! 3rd through 6th grade girls and their parents can discover what engineering is all about while you have fun in five hands-on lab workshops. Each workshop will provide you with opportunities to do fun hands-on experiments related to several different engineering career fields. You 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,
100 Mustang Way, Merritt Island, FL 32952

Date: Saturday, February 18, 2012

Time: 9:30am to 3:30pm (Registration check-in 8:30, Opening 9:30)

Cost: \$25 per student -- includes workshop, lunch, door prizes, T-shirt and FUN

\$15 per adult -- includes Parent's workshop and lunch.

Registration is open for volunteers and students.

IGEW is still looking for volunteers to assist in workshops and we've even added some new ones so visit <http://swe-sc.org/outreach/igew.html> for all registration.



Our Student Workshops Include:

Thermal Protector Units
Leave it to Levers
Tie Dye and Forensics
Chocolate Asphalt
Go Fishing
Manufacturing Blush
Duct Tape Creations
Kick Stick Invention
Alka Rockets
Reverse Engineering a Yo-Yo/
Electrical Circuits
Design a Roller Coaster
Design a Glider Planes
Bedroom Alarms
Tool Time
Design a Dessert
Minute to Win it

February Meeting: Awards Banquet

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Time:

6:00 PM Social

7:00 PM Dinner

8:00 PM Speaker/Awards Presentation

Location:

Rockledge Country Club
1591 S. Fiske Boulevard
Rockledge, FL 32955

Cost:

\$30 SWE members

\$35 guests

\$15 Students



The Space Coast Section of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) will present the annual Space Coast Women Engineer of the Year Awards on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at the Rockledge Country Club. Nominations for these prestigious awards were solicited from Space Coast engineering companies, government agencies, and technical organizations.

The speaker is Winnie Crawford. Ms. Crawford is the Senior Scientist at NASA's Applied Meteorology Unit and the 2006 Space Coast Women Engineer Technical Achievement Award Winner.

Menu: Choice of Pecan Crusted Chicken w/Rum Sauce, Grilled Mahi-Mahi w/Fresh Fruit Salsa, Sliced Sirloin w/Bordelaise or Butternut Squash Ravioli w/an Almond and Brown Butter Sauce (Vegetarian).

Register by Feb 22nd at <http://swe-sc.org/>

For questions contact our Awards Banquet Chair, DeAnn Davila at 321-223-6329 or dkdavila01@gmail.com.

Region D Conference

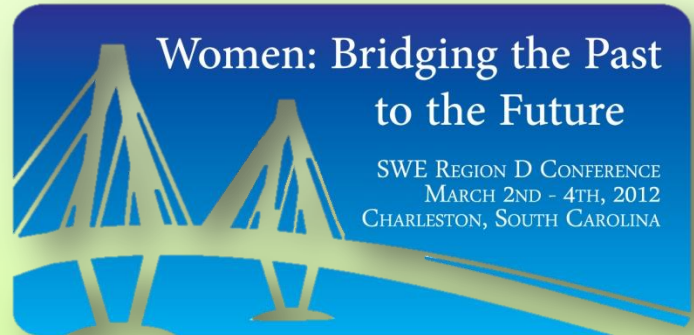
The 2012 Region D Conference to be held March 2-4, 2012, in Charleston, South Carolina! It's approaching quickly so register soon!

The goal of this conference is to give women in engineering the tools to succeed at both the academic and professional level. We want all conference attendees to walk away with new knowledge on how to advance and reach their full potential, as well as new insight on technologies relating to this year's conference theme: "Women: Bridging the Past to the Future"

Attendees will be treated to an opening social, section development training, SWE Boutique, workshops, a Keynote Luncheon, a career fair, Region D meetings, an Awards Dinner and more! Additionally, professionals may earn CEU credits by registering for the professional development workshop that takes place on Friday morning.

Registration is now open! Regular registration ends February 15, 2012. Late registration fees apply after February 15, 2012.

<http://sweregiond.org/Conference>



March Book Club

For our next Book Club gathering, we will be meeting on **Sunday, March 11th at 2 pm at Cabana Shores (on US1 about .5 mile South of Pineada Causeway).**

Register at www.swe-sc.org

The SWE-SC Book Club met on Sunday December 11th before our Holidays Around the World party at Susan Floyd's home to review *Befor I go to Sleep* a novel By S.J Watson. The premise of this book is similar to that of the movie "50 First Dates" – but with a more suspenseful, twisting plot. We had a lot of fun discussing this book and the many different ideas we had as the plot moved forward. We also met on January 22nd to review *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern at Kathy Whitcomb's home. This highly acclaimed book by the critics and praised by Oprah, certainly won us over!

The next SWE-SC will be held on March 11th, 2 pm at Cabana Shores. The book will be ***The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox*** by Maggie O'Farrell.

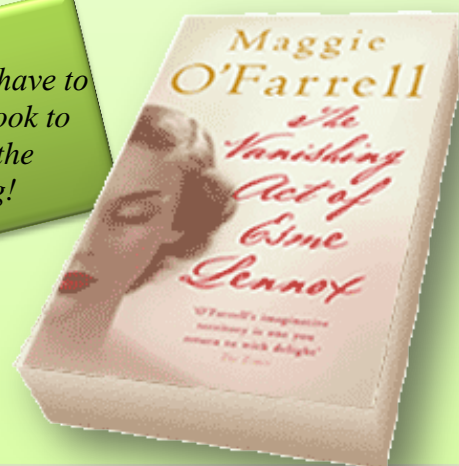
From one book club blog: "This is the story 2 young girls, Kitty and Esme, growing up in the 20's and 30's in first colonial India and then in Edinburgh when their parents move back home. They are sisters who share everything and love each other very much yet one is the dutiful, polite, home-maker type and the other is the slightly rebellious younger sister who wants to stay on at school rather than marry a nice boy. After a series of events (which include

trying on her Mothers clothes of all things!) and a shocking incident that happens to her, Esme (the younger sister) is sent to a lunatic asylum and disowned by her own family and where she remains for the next 61 years.

What a discussion this provoked! The rights of women (or lack of them), the things that could get you locked up back then (over half of us agreed that we wouldn't have stood a chance in those days) and the shame that surrounds supposed mental illness. All that wrapped inside a brilliantly told story."

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!



Holiday's round the World Party in Review

Our December meeting was our annual Holiday's Around the World Party. We gathered at Susan Floyd's home beautifully decorated for the holidays for a great time.

The party began following a book club meeting for the novel *Before I Go to Sleep*. Everyone brought a delicious dish to share that represented their cultural heritage. We played a fun holiday ice breaker and also shared a little about our family traditions.

We also had quite a few donations this year for Toys for Tots. Thank you to everyone who participated in this charity.

We all had lots of fun between the friendship shared and the different flavors of the world.



January meeting in Review

Our first SWE-SC of the calendar year was on January 24th; Lori McPherson presented "What Sparks High School Girls Interest in Engineering?" at the Cocoa Library, followed by dinner at the Thai Thai III restaurant in Cocoa Village.

Her presentation was enlightening by her sharing of techniques on encouraging girls into Engineering. She discussed why girls really aren't pursuing engineering. Additionally, she provided strategies and resources to help you showcase engineering careers.



How many times have you told a young person YOU HAVE TO LOVE MATH; however, once you obtained your job the highest mathematical concept you utilized was algebra? Being good at Math and Loving Math are two different criteria. So please use this knowledge when encouraging young girls to go into engineering.

Remember to volunteer for our upcoming outreach events this year to help expand those young minds.

Robotics Update

The TechnoloChiks is this years all girl robotics team that SWE Space Coast Supports. They competed against 27 other teams in the Brevard County FLL Regional Competitions on January 28th and they are headed to the Florida State Championship on Sunday, February 26, 2012 at the Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne. Susan Floyd is their mentor and we are going to give them a cake at their Friday meeting.

Congratulations girls and best of luck at States!



Volunteers Wanted...

Community/Special Requests

Mentoring Requests:

Additionally, the girls have asked that we pair them with Professional members as a sort of Mentoring Partnership. We have 14 groups (upperclassman/lowerclassman) that are looking to be paired with members from our section. They have a variety of different engineering backgrounds and would find it incredibly valuable to have a professional member that could support them throughout the school year! Please send interest to Kristin Freeman @ 703-901-7433 or Kristin.n.freeman@boeing.com so that we can find a good match!

Boy Scout Engineering Badge

Boy Scouts request an engineer to come speak with and work through requirements for the boy's badge in engineering. Help either a small group or individual understand requirements and develop projects to satisfy learning skills. Time could be at once or over the course of a few weeks/months.

STEM Education Events in Vero Beach area

If any companies or other organizations are planning Outreach Activities please let us know and we will promote or pass information along to students interested in events for the 'Treasure Coast.'

SWE-SC Outreach Committee

Looking for 2012 Science Fair Chair

Responsibilities include coordinating with local county schools and filing paperwork, judging, and awarding Scholarship awards to exemplary projects completed at the Junior and Senior levels. The fairs generally take place on Saturday mornings/early afternoon ranging from the end of January to early March.

IGEW

We desperately need your help! Our annual Introducing Girls to Engineering Workshop is being held on Saturday Feb 18 at

Merritt Island High School for 600 girls in 3rd to 6th grades and we need 4 volunteers in each of the classrooms to help with the hands on projects. We can use non-engineers and high school students for these positions although we do want some Women engineers to show these girls they can be engineers too. (And yes, we let men help us as well but just make sure we have a woman leading the module and more women than men.) Check out the details online at <http://www.swe-sc.org/IGEW/VolunteerReg.htm> Workshop helpers will be assisting girls as required to complete the activities as well as to setup the room between sessions.

FIRST LEGO League

We need FIRST LEGO League State Competition: We are also helping provide judges for the FIRST LEGO League State Competition at FIT on Sunday, Feb 26. Judges will be seeing teams of 9-14 year old students in three different areas: Research Project, Robot HW/SW Design, and Core Values (Teamwork, Inspiration and Gracious Professionalism). Training will be provided. Sign up at <http://form.jotform.com/form/20282640437>.

If you are interested in or have information on any of the above opportunities, please contact Susie Allen-Sierpinski at outreach@swe-sc.org or 407-432-0781 or contact listed above. I look forward to hearing from you!! Thanks for your continued time & support!!

SWE-SC Nomination Selection Committee

We would also like to solicit volunteers for the Nomination Selection Committee:

The Nomination Selection Committee is looking for volunteers to select our annual award winners. It only takes a few hours and it is a fun and interesting process. Please contact Suzanne Plantec at plantecs@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

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Embry Riddle Counselor:

Kristin Freeman

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.



Aspire. Advance. Achieve

facebook

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