

Summer, 2007

Vol. 1 - Issue 1

# SWE Charlotte-Metrolina Chronicle

## 2007 DSA Award presented to Machella Litaker

By: Jennifer Braganza

The Charlotte Section of the Society of Women Engineers presented the Distinguished Engineering Service Award to Machella Litaker the Awards and Recognition Banquet on June 21, 2007 at Red Rocks Café in Charlotte, NC..

The award is for recognition of achievements and successes of women engineers who lead the profession through their contribution to industry, education and the community.

Machella was selected for her work with the Engineering Explorers Post 228. Under her leadership, the Engineering Explorers Post 228 has played a significant role in creating interest among local high school students in the engineering profession.

This program provides the opportunity for high school students to interact with professionals and universities in the chosen field to explore that field as a career. For the past seven years, Machella has been the guiding force for this program. Machella is employed with AVEVA NP as a Technical Specialist II with the Steam Generator Team working with 3D modeling.

She has been with AREVA for 10 years and has held various positions within the company. Machella holds an Associate Degree in Mechanical Engineering and continues her education through additional course work and other training.



Machella Litaker (left) receives award from 2007 President Jennifer Braganza (right).

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Charlotte-Metrolina

# President's Corner

By: Mandi Brigman

I'd like to welcome all new and returning members to the Charlotte-Metrolina section of the Society of Women Engineers. I look forward to meeting everyone at the great activities planned for this fiscal year. Along with the opportunity to socialize with people who support women in science and engineering professions, our events aim to offer guidance in the areas of outreach, professional development, and diversity. If you have an interest in a particular area or have an idea for an event, we would love to have you join one of our committees or help organize an event. To serve the needs of all of our members, we need your feedback!

I'd like to share a couple of the goals that the officers have developed for our section. The most important goal we have is to retain 80% of our current membership and grow by 30%. In order to achieve these goals, we need your help by renewing your membership and recruiting friends and colleagues. Our section is nothing without its members!

In the professional development area, we plan to host an afternoon training event in May 2008. The session will be open to members and nonmembers. Our hope is to find a corporate sponsor for the event to keep the cost down. We also plan to encourage local companies to cover the cost for their employees. If you would like to offer an idea for a topic or company sponsorship, please contact our secretary, Cheryl Kinchen, [cheryl.kinchen@swe.org](mailto:cheryl.kinchen@swe.org).

Once again, I'm so thankful for the opportunity to lead this section and appreciative of all of the help from the outgoing and current officers. I look forward to a wonderful year!



Outgoing Officer Above: (Left to Right) Jennifer, Ann, Mandi, Crystal, Jacey, and Christine

## FY07 Outgoing Officers

The Charlotte Section of the Society of Women Engineers hosted a Recognition Banquet on June 21, 2007 at Red Rocks Café in Charlotte, NC.

The banquet recognised incoming officers for the 2008 fiscal year and thanked outgoing officers: President Jennifer Braganza, Vice-President Crystal Gordon Freeburg, Vice-President of Membership Jacey Rogers, Secretary Mandi Brigman, Treasurer Ann Kimbro, Section Representative Christine Cathcart and Website Chair Kerrie Goforth.

## FY08 Incoming Officers

The incoming officers for SWE Charlotte-Metrolina fiscal year 2008 are: President Mandi Brigman ([idsnamiam@hotmail.com](mailto:idsnamiam@hotmail.com)), Vice-President Crystal Freeburg ([cfreeburg@wkdickson.com](mailto:cfreeburg@wkdickson.com)), Secretary Cheryl Kinchen ([Cheryl.Kinchen@swe.org](mailto:Cheryl.Kinchen@swe.org)), Treasurer Erin Day ([erin.day@stvinc.com](mailto:erin.day@stvinc.com)), Section Representative Kerrie Goforth ([Kerrie.Goforth@swe.org](mailto:Kerrie.Goforth@swe.org)) and Alt Section Rep Christine Cathcart ([Chris.Cathcart@swe.org](mailto:Chris.Cathcart@swe.org)).

Incoming Officers Below: (Left to Right) Erin, Cheryl, Mandi, Crystal and Christine



## FY07 President's Farewell

### Thank You!

It has been a pleasure and privilege working with you all this year.

Thank-you for keeping me on track! you all are talented, amazing women who are a credit to SWE and an inspiration to me.

When I joined SWE over 10 years ago, I was not sure whether it was for me.

Now, I am so grateful I did, because

it has enabled me to meet wonderful, talented people who happen to be women engineers.

I wish you all success and look forward to seeing you in the coming year.

*- Jennifer*



# Region D News

## Hello from your Section Rep!

I hope you are as excited about a new year with SWE as I am.

As Section Rep, it is my responsibility to ensure the Section is in compliance with SWE regulations, including Bylaws updates, by submitting reports to the Region D Governor. I have already submitted the Section's FY08 Tactical Plan (goals) and completed the first Section Report. Both are available for review on the website under the Leadership Team/Reports link. I will be working with the Section President, Mandi Brigman, and the Alternative Section Rep, Chris Cathcart, to ensure that our Bylaws are updated according to the revised template provided by National SWE.

Most of the Section activities thus far have been limited to the Executive Council. We met in July for a planning session to fill the FY08 Calendar and in August for leadership training. We also approved an online marketing internship for the development of a new Section website and offered it to Fern Blair. At the August meeting, we completed two SWE training modules, Fund Development and Membership. We hope to help the Section grow financially to support new activities and programs and in members to provide a more extensive support network for women engineers in the Charlotte area. Both of these objectives will better help SWE-CM meet the needs of its members.

We have some great events planned for this year, some traditional and some new and improved. I look forward to meeting you at our events and serving you the best that I can this year!

- Kerrie G.

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## WORD FIND:

Innovation, Engineers, Officers, Success, Diversity, Society, Metrolina, Power, Charlotte, Leaders, Career, Women, Technology

## Membership Dues SWE-CM Online

### Renewal Time is now

We all receive a letter/email from SWE HQ requesting we renew our SWE dues for the upcoming year. Please send in your dues!

You can renew fastest & easiest by going to <https://www.swe.org/MSC-SWE/renewredirect.aspx> (or swe.org, Member Services, Membership Renewal). You can also send back your renewal notice via mail to HQ.

This is also a great time to check your profile and update it as necessary. Make sure your contact information is correct (mail&emial), that your education records are complete, and that your employment history is updated.

### By: Kerrie Goforth

As webmaster, I have already updated the website ([www.geocities.com/swe-charlotte](http://www.geocities.com/swe-charlotte)) to include the FY08 officer contact information and FY08 calendar overview. I also added a page for posting Section reports under the Leadership Team page.

Through December, I will be working with the website intern, Fern Blair, in the development of our new website design.

As list serv administrator, you all know I have been busy emailing members and contacts to ensure that our list is updated and working properly.





### **President: Mandi Brigman**

I've been with this section since 2005 and with SWE since 2001. Last year I served as the Secretary. At the University of South Carolina pursuing a Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering, I served as the section President to reinstate the student section of SWE. I graduated May 2005. I moved to Rock Hill, SC to work for Duke Energy at Catawba Nuclear Station as a rotating equipment engineer. I married my college sweetheart, Jay, on February 25, 2006, which happened to be during Engineers Week. Last year we built our first house and got our first puppy, Layla. I enjoy crafting, playing racquetball, and watching football (Go Gamecocks!).



### **Vice Pres. PR: Crystal Freeburg**

Welcome to the 07-08 fiscal year of SWE. I am happy to be returning this year as your Vice President. I joined SWE in college while attending Florida State University. After graduation I began working in the Civil Engineering field in Charlotte and soon became a member of the Charlotte-Metrolina Section of SWE. I am very excited about the meetings and activities we have planned for the upcoming year and I hope you plan on taking advantage of the many benefits your SWE section can offer you. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting.



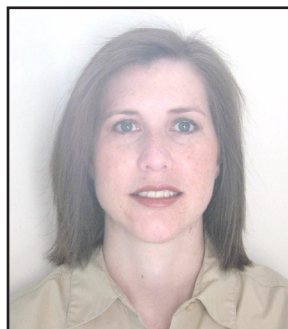
### **Treasurer: Erin Day**

Hello!! I am eager to meet and work with each of you this coming year in promoting women in engineering. I am a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte from the 2006 class for Civil Engineering. I work for STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates as a Roadway Design Engineer. I have been active in SWE during my college career and continue to support SWE. SWE is a great organization to meet fellow women in engineering. You will find support in every member and activities that will make you continue that drive to be the best engineer possible!!



### **Secretary: Cheryl Kinchen**

Welcome to another year of SWE! I am a Systems Engineer at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Information Systems. My husband also works for SAIC as a Chief Systems Engineer. We have two daughters and a son, all of them in college this fall. Our family moved from the D.C. metro area to Mooresville, NC to live on Lake Norman in the hopes of slowing down and enjoying life more. I transferred to the SWE Charlotte Metrolina Section last year and look forward to meeting all of our members at upcoming activities.



### **Section Rep.: Kerrie GoForth**

I am from Clover, SC with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering I joined SWE in 1994 while at Clemson University. I switched careers in 2001 and became a science teacher until May of this year. I taught chemistry and physical science at Clover High School. I now stay at home with my two children: daughter, almost 3 years, and son, 13 months. I plan to return to teaching when my children start attending school. I am completely onboard with reaching young girls with information regarding science and engineering and encouraging them to consider careers in technical fields.



### **Alt. Sect. Rep: Chris Cathcart**

Chris holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Kansas State University and an MBA from Maryville University, St. Louis. She is a registered Professional Engineer and is active with several organizations that promote networking and technical excellence. Chris began her career at McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing) in St. Louis. In 2006, Chris took on the role of managing a virtual team of engineers for Lee Products Inc. Chris still lives in Charlotte, NC and continues to be active with SWE, PMI, and ASME. She is currently serving SWE on the Finance Committee and COR.

## New Fiscal Year Kickoff Meeting of Officers

### Section Officer Meeting

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Region D Charlotte Metrolina (CM) Section officers met on Monday, July 16, 2007.

The meeting was held at the Cheesecake Factory Southpark Mall Charlotte, NC. President, Amanda (Mandi) Brigman,

chaired the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to plan the fiscal year.

Mandi provided a calendar handout for planning the 2007-2008 activities. Everyone volunteered for various events.

## Region D-002 Charlotte-Metrolina Section

### SWE CM Leadership Training

August 11, 2007

SWE CM Leadership Training

Noon to 7:00 PM

POC: Jacey Rogers

Meeting to be held at Jacey Rogers

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Region D Charlotte Metrolina (CM) Section officers met on Saturday, August 11, 2007 from 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide Leadership Training utilizing SWE modules.

Regional Leadership Coach, Jessica "Jacey" Rogers provided the training.

Jacey provided a warm welcome to the officers. She verified everyone received handouts sent via email prior to the meeting.

Prior to training, the officers reviewed the treasurers report, Internship Project Plan, and discussed Section upcoming events.

There are thirteen training modules. The descriptions are available on the [www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org) website in the member section under

Leadership Coaching Committee.

Jacey provided a description of available modules. Training began with a review of officer knowledge of SWE and differences of Tactical Planning versus

### Training via Web:

#### New training for section officers

In August, Section Officer Training was provided via webcast for each region, by the Leadership Coaching Committee. Training for Region D was held on Thursday, August 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Training included:

SWE Officer Structure  
Officer Governing Documents  
Officer Profiles  
Strategic Planning  
Performing Your Duties  
General Skills  
Schedule Review

If you were unable to attend please let your local leadership coach know:

Jessica "Jacey" Rogers

Region D ~ Regional Collegiate Membership Coordinator

Region D ~ Leadership Coach  
Charlotte-Metrolina Member

UNC Charlotte 49er Collegiate  
Section ~ Counselor

Strategic Planning. The group selected two of the modules for training: Membership and Fund Development.

## Upcoming SWE Section Events

For more information about SWE go to: [www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org)

### • September 13, 2007

Networking Social 6:30 PM  
RSVP to Chris by Sept 10th  
[Chris.Cathcart@swe.org](mailto:Chris.Cathcart@swe.org)  
704-752-8594

### • October 6, 2007

Race For The Cure  
Gateway Village (Uptown)  
[www.komencharlotte.org/goto/swe](http://www.komencharlotte.org/goto/swe)  
POC: Crystal Freeburg  
980-297-2311

### • October 12, 2007

UNCC Annual Fall Picnic

### • October 13, 2007

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Girl Scout event (with collegiate section) 9-2 at Hornet's Nest GS Council  
Volunteers are needed to help  
POC Jacey Rogers  
(704) 724-8922.

### • October 25-27, 2007

SWE National Conference  
Nashville, TN

### • November 13, 2007

SWE Professional Development  
One Hour Webinar

### • December 7, 2007

SWE Social: Holiday Party and Toys For Tots

