



Summer, 2008

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# SWE Charlotte-Metrolina Chronicle

## Extraordinary Contributions

### 2008 Awards and Recognition Banquet

The 2nd Annual Distinguished Engineering Service Award was presented to Tiffani Teachey from Electric Power Research Institute for her contribution to the engineering profession and the community through her weekly tutoring sessions, being a Big Sister, organizing PE study sessions and working with the Explorers.

The SWE Charlotte Metrolina section's annual Awards & Recognition Banquet was held at the Providence Café on June 12, 2008. The event was held to recognize the outgoing and incoming officers and present awards to notable members and

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*FY08 President, Mandi Brigman present the Distinguished Engineering Service Award to Tiffani Teachey.*



Charlotte-Metrolina

# President's Corner

By: Chris Cathcart

Welcome to the New Year for SWE! FY09 is going to be exciting and full of activity for the Charlotte Metrolina Section. The planning meeting for this year was very productive and the calendar of events has a lot of variety and should appeal to a wide audience. Make sure to check the web site ([www.swe-cm.org](http://www.swe-cm.org)) for the events and details.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers and chairs that have volunteered to serve the Section this year. Without their time and talent, the Section would not be able to accomplish all the work done each year. Please support and assist the officers and chairs as you can this year. The more volunteers we have to work on the events and activities the more we can hold each year.

This year will welcome back many of the annual events the Section has participated in previously but several new events will be added. The Girl Scouts Event will be expanded to include the Carowinds Girl Scout Event, the professional development events will be expanded to include a joint meeting with PENC, and a multi-SWE Section meeting with the SWE Executive Director will be held. With all the events and activities, there are plenty of opportunities for everyone.

The Executive Council has developed a financial policy for the Section. This was done to allow some flexibility for event spending and a basis for future budgeting. The policy is posted on the web site for members to view.

The web site is full of information about the Section and the activities planned for the year. The email notifications about meetings and events will continue this year. Communications for the Section will be a priority for the Executive Council this year.

Please let us know what steps can be taken to improve communications for the membership. I look forward to serving this year as your president and am honored to have been elected. I hope to meet all of you at different events through the year!

## Outstanding Teacher, Dr. Helene Hilger

### Member Recognition

Originally from West Caldwell, NJ, Helene Hilger is an Associate Professor for UNCC in Civil and Environmental Engineering. She holds a B.S. in Biology from Rutgers University, a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from UNC-Charlotte, and a Ph.D. from North Carolina State University.

As a professor at UNC Charlotte, Helene's job responsibilities include teaching, research, and service. She wants to have some professional impact on the

environment and enjoys teaching students how to design sustainability. Her department, which she enjoys, has an

inspiring, visionary chair. She likes engineering because of the creativity and the leadership engineers are now able to bring to the public and private sectors.

Like many of us, Helene chose the schools she attended because they were her state schools which helped with the cost. She chose to major in biology because she loved the topic and went back for engineering because she wanted to have a weightier voice on environmental issues. She is licensed as a Professional Engineer in North Carolina and has received many awards and honors. To name a couple, Helene received the 2007 Bank of America UNC Charlotte Outstanding Teaching Award and the 2008 UNC Board of Governor's Outstanding Teaching Award.

Helene joined SWE in the late 1970s and has been with the CM Section since its reinstatement in 1999. She was one of the charter signers when the section petitioned for its reinstatement. Helene joined SWE to be with other women engineers. Since she returned to school to get her engineering degree, she also wanted to support younger students. She was the UNCC Collegiate Section Faculty Advisor from approximately 1999-2005. Although she is currently not extremely active in Section activities because of time, she maintains her membership because she knows her dues are going to a good cause and enjoys helping to keep the section alive and going financially. Other organizations with which she is affiliated include ASCE, EWRI, WEF, SWANA, IWA, and ISWA.

In addition, Helene volunteers for the Humane Association, is a speaker on sustainability, and chairs the EWRI (Environmental and Water Resources Institute of ASCE) Sustainable Water Pollution Engineering Committee. She is also a member of the ADVANCE team at UNC Charlotte. ADVANCE is a NSF funded initiative to improve the retention and recruitment of women faculty in "STEM" disciplines (science, technology, engineering, and math).

Helene currently lives in Charlotte with her husband Arnie Cann. Helene and Arnie have been together for 37 years and have two grown children, 22 and 23. Helene's favorite color is blue and she loves ice cream. She enjoys watch Get Shorty and reading The Poisonwood Bible. She likes Barbara Kingsolver and she won't say no to a Paul Newman film.



*Favorite quote: "An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind."*



**Chris Cathcart****President**

Chris.Cathcart @ swe.org

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 pro-mote 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.

**Sandra Kolvick****Vice President**

Sandra.Kolvick @ swe.org

Sandra is a Mechanical Design Engineer at Fluor. She holds a B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech and a Master Professional from École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers (ENSAM) in Metz, France. She is pursuing her professional licensure in NC. She is from Tuscon, AZ but currently lives in Charlotte. She joined the Charlotte-Metrolina Section when she moved to Charlotte in May 2007 and has been very active in section activities. Sandra is also involved with ASME and ASHRAE.

**Cheryl Kinchen****Secretary**

Cheryl.Kinchen @ swe.org

Cheryl holds a BS in Computer Information Systems. She is a Systems Engineer at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). Telecommuting from home, she collaborates with customers, key subcontractors, and subject matter experts to provide systems engineering planning and support for program architectures and services supporting a common computing environment.. She has two daughters and a son, her son is in his second year at UNCC. Her daughters are both recent graduates from VCU and Radford University.. Cheryl enjoys spending time with family and friends on Lake Norman.

## Changing of the Guard:

(left to right):

Angela Berry, Crystal Freeburg,  
Chris Cathcart, Karrie Goforth,  
Sandra Kolvick, and Cheryl Kinchen

**Kerrie Goforth****Treasurer**

Kerrie.Goforth @ swe.org

Kerrie is from Clover, SC and holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Clemson University. She joined SWE in FY94 while at Clemson and has been a part of the Charlotte-Metrolina Section since its reinstatement in FY00. She began her career with MEMC Electronic Materials, Inc. in Spartanburg, SC but switched careers in 2001 when she became a high school science teacher. She taught chemistry (and physical science) at Clover High School until May 2007 when she resigned to stay at home with her two children: daughter, 4, and son, 2. Kerrie continues to substitute teach and provide homebound instruction for the Clover School District.

**Angela Berry****Section Representative**

Angela.Berry @ swe.org

Angela holds a B.S. in Oceanic Science from the University of Michigan and a M.S. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Southern California. She is a North Carolina registered professional civil engineer with 17 years of experience specializing in construction activities. She was an active member of the Southeast Florida Section of SWE while living in West Palm Beach, Florida and has served previously as the Section Representative and Section President for the Charlotte-Metrolina Section. Angela currently works for the City of Charlotte's Department of Transportation (CDOT) as a Project Manager with their Implementation Section.

**Crystal Freeburg****Alt. Section Representative**

Crystal.Freeburg @ swe.org

Crystal holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Florida State University and is a Designer at W.K. Dickson & Company, Inc. Her experience includes design of general aviation, reliever and air carrier airports focusing on airport rehabilitation, renovation, and upgrades at busy general aviation airports. She also has experience in commercial and residential site development projects. She joined SWE in college and became a member of the Charlotte-Metrolina Section of SWE upon her move to Charlotte after graduation. She has previously served the section as Vice President.



## Charlotte-Metrolina hosts the Region Leadership Conference

The Region Leadership Retreat has the objective of teaching the region's leadership about SWE and providing an opportunity for Professional Development. This year, the focus was communication based on personality type. Mary Hall of HyperSolutions used the Myers Briggs Personality Test Indicator as a basis for the workshop. Each member took a survey to determine their personality type and learned the strengths for this type. The other types were also discussed and ways to improve communication with people who have other personality types.

The exercises used included writing your address with your oppo-site hand (left for most of us) and feeling the

frustration and slowness that comes with it. This was an insight into how people feel when behavior outside their own style is expected. Several more interactive exercises were used to demonstrate different methods of communication for different personality types.

The afternoon was filled with SWE leadership Coaching Modules. Sasha Morris, the Region D Leadership Coach, presented the Creative Problem Solving and Tactical Plan modules. The Creative Problem Solving session was very interactive and focused on different methods of brainstorming. The Tactical Plan module focused on event planning for sections and ways to communicate the plan to the members.



*Mary Hall of Hyper Solutions presenting to Region Leadership Conference attendees.*



## August Networking Social Fiscal Year Kick-Off

**Crystal Freeburg**

We kicked off this fiscal year with a great social event at ARPA's Uptown, August 22, 2008. If you haven't been to ARPA's before, you should give it a try. Everyone enjoyed the Spanish style tapas, which were surprisingly filling. Our group enjoyed a relaxed evening of networking and socializing. Thanks to all those who came out. It was great to see some new faces and we hope to see more of you throughout the year!

## Did You Know ...

**Over half of the women in science, engineering and technology drop out of these fields midway through their careers?**

Find out more by visiting the original article published in the June 2008 issue of the Harvard Business Review at [http://app.post.hbsp.harvard.edu/athena/athena2/index .htm](http://app.post.hbsp.harvard.edu/athena/athena2/index.htm).

**Continued from page 1****2008 Awards and Recognition Banquet**

nonmembers for their extraordinary contributions. The outgoing officers recognized were Mandi Brigman, President; Crystal Freeburg, Vice President; Erin Day, Treasurer; Cheryl Kinchen, Secretary; Kerrie Goforth, Section Representative / Website Coordinator / Secretary; Chris Cathcart, Alternate Section Representative. The new FY09 officers are Chris Cathcart, President; Sandra Kolvick, Vice President; Kerrie Goforth, Treasurer / Website Coordinator; Jennifer Braganza, Secretary; Angela Berry, Section Representative; Crystal Freeburg, Alternate Section Representative. Fern Blair was also recognized for creating the new SWE-SM website and newsletter template, which received a region award during FY08. The Service to SWE Award was presented to Kerrie Goforth for her work as an officer, willingness to take on an additional officer position when our secretary resigned due to family needs, learning a new website design, creating web applications to make SWE processes easier. and establishing a section history.

**Next Event:****Fun at the Park!****Carowinds Girl Scout Program**

Carowinds is planning a Girl Scout event and camp-out for up to 1000 girl scouts. SWE volunteers will be talking about the rides and sharing our engineering experiences and career paths. The girls will probably be broken up by age group to go around with us for 30-45 minute tours. 10+ volunteers are needed.

Time: Friday, September 19, 2008, 6:00-10:00PM (approx)

Location: Carowinds (meeting location to be announced)

Send RSVP to Sandra Kolvick, Sandra.Kolvick @ swe.org

**RSVP required by September 15th !**

**Other Engineering Websites:**

- SWE: [www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org)
- American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), [www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org)
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), [www.asme.org](http://www.asme.org)
- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), <http://national.nsbe.org/>
- National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org)
- Professional Engineers of North Carolina (PENC), [www.penc.org](http://www.penc.org)
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), <http://oneshpe.shpe.org>

# Upcoming SWE Charlotte Metrolina Section Events

- **September 24, 2008 Joint**  
Professional & Collegiate  
Section Meeting with SWE  
Executive Director and CEO
- **October 18, 2008**  
“Engineers are Cool!” Girl  
Scout Event
- **November 6-8, 2008**  
Women Leading a Technical  
Revolution
- **November 23, 2008**  
ASME Meeting, “Carbon  
Capture Technology”
- **November 17, 2008**  
Webinar - details to be  
announced

**Many thanks to last  
year's officers for their  
dedication and support  
to our SWE section.  
We appreciate all their  
hard work!**

