



Society of
Women Engineers

ASPIRE • ADVANCE • ACHIEVE

June 2008 Newsletter

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Engineering Roundtable

Elizabeth Hunter
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Improving Recycling in Omaha

The Nebraska State Recycling Association is currently working with the city of Omaha, Firststar Fiber and the Green Omaha Coalition on a recycling awareness campaign.

Your help is needed. A survey has been developed to help determine who is recycling, who is not and why. The goal is to raise awareness of recycling and determine what you want from your recycling program. The survey is available [online](#) through the end of September. The survey can also be taken by calling (402) 933-3059.

Everyone in Omaha, who is eligible for the curbside recycling program and is over the age of 18 can take the survey.

Please help spread the word. When you complete the survey, you will be entered to win a \$25 Hy-Vee gift card! Not bad for three minutes of your time!

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SWE needs your continued support by renewing your membership. Simply [renew your membership](#) via the Member Service Center. All you need is your login, password and credit card. If you have forgotten your login and password, contact [SWE Headquarters](#).

Message from the President

What a year! It has definitely flown by for all of us! We've had great accomplishments. Serving as the Section President the past two years provided me with leadership skills that I can use every day, at home and at work. SWE is a great platform to put your skills into work and definitely learn new ones.

Before I go any further, I would like to extend condolences to the families of the four Boy Scouts that passed away in last week's tornado. Josh Fennen, 14, Aaron Eilerts, 14, Sam Thomsen, 13, Ben Petrzilka, 14 along with the all the Scouts at the Little Sioux Boy Scouts Camp true heros.

As I write my last newsletter this year, I would like to thank each and every person that helped me serve as the Section president. Your time, effort, input, and dedication are truly appreciated.

I encourage you to take an active role in the Section, without your help our Section will not grow. We understand how busy your lives can be so a simple reply to an email or a survey is an active role! These simple things help the planning team take our Section to the next level.

Thank you again for a great year!

Respectfully,

Lara Syrocki, P.E.
Eastern-NE SWE Section President



Thanks for all your hard work as President!!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Next Meeting

Social and Officer Elections

Saturday, June 29th

At

Soaring Wings Vineyard

Ballot

Section Officers:

Position	Nominees
President	Amanda Stahlnecker
Vice President	Cybil Boss
Treasurer	Lara Syrocki
Secretary	
COR Section Representative	Angel McMullen-Gunne

Section Committee Chairs:

Position	Nominees
Membership Chair	Janis Pflingsten
Program Development Chair	Cybil Boss
Career Guidance Chair	Aarhi Parthasarathy
Newsletter Editor	Amanda Stahlnecker
Webmanager	Aarhi Parthasarathy
Student Section Counselor (UNL & UNO)	UNL – Angle McMullen-Gunne UNO – Lara Syrocki

Upcoming Meetings

July – Social

If you have any ideas for topics of meetings or other suggestions or know of another organization's meeting that would be of interest to the section, please email

SWE_Planning@swe-nebraska.org.

LADY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Hi, I am Nancy St. Laurent; I live in Omaha and am new to SWE. I have been in the pharmaceutical field for 42 years starting as a degreed chemist. Within three years I went into manufacturing management and ended up performing most all of my engineering projects with very little help. I left industry in 1993 to start an equipment sales rep company and for the last 8 years I have done engineering for the pharmaceutical industry. My specialties are aseptic filling operations and all packaging operations for pharmaceutical and biological products, medical devices and consumer goods. I work for Parsons, a large engineering company that is second in Life Sciences engineering. We design and build facilities all over the world. I work with all disciplines in the design and installation, startup, commissioning and validating these operations. I specify the equipment, work with the vendors on the design and construction and work throughout the length of the projects. I work in our East Coast offices or wherever the projects are located.

I am a lifetime CPP, a Certified Packaging Professional (with IoPP), am very active in ISPE, an international Pharmaceutical Engineering group and was a charter board member with Women in Packaging. There are still very few women in my field so I am interested in mentoring younger engineers and enlightening them about the exciting and challenging opportunities that exist.



Eastern Nebraska Professional Section



SOCIAL AND OFFICER ELECTIONS

SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH

AT



12:00 Vineyard opens

12:30 – 1:30 Business Meeting and Potluck

1:30 – 4:30 Acoustics Sunday performance by Sarah Benck Local Indie Favorite (Free Admission)

Kick off the new week with a relaxing afternoon with live music by a solo artist.

We will not be utilizing the vineyards banquet facilities but we will be located out on the lawn to enjoy the performance, so bring your blankets, lawn chairs, etc. to get cozy.

The business meeting will start right at 12:30, so arrive early enough to locate us on the lawn. The meeting will be short and sweet with a couple of announcements and officer elections. The rest of the time we will relax and enjoy the performance.

Everyone please bring your favorite dish to share with the rest of the group and if you don't want to taste the great wines, bring your own beverage. Wine can be purchased by the bottle, glass or, if you haven't experienced a wine tasting, you might just find a new favorite.

Husbands, boyfriends, friends, etc. are welcome to join us. **Please RSVP to Amanda Stahlnecker at newsletter@swe-nebraska.org by June 27th.**

If you have any questions, contact Amanda.

Announcements

Several women need recognized for their efforts with the Certificates of Merit and Achievement. Aarthi Parthasarathy, our Career Guidance Chair, led these efforts. She sent letters to the area high schools asking for nominations for the awards. Each school was allowed 2 Certificate of Merit and 2 Certificate of Achievement nominations. Each girl nominated was honored with a certificate either presented to them by their school or by a member of our section at a recognition presentation at their school. Aarthi, Jo Whitaker, Janis Pfingsten, Deb DeBoer and Catrina Scott presented the certificates at some of the area high schools. There were a total of 56 certificates handed out among the 15 schools that participated in this year's program.

Here are some testimonials from two of our members involved in this year's program:

From Aarthi

I presented at Bellevue East High School and Plattsmouth High School.

"I really enjoyed being able to coordinate this year program. The experience involved in communicating with schools and presenting the certificates was gratifying since you realize in this process how much it motivates the students. Also, it is a good avenue for students, parents and teachers to know more about our organization as a network and support group for the young women to learn more engineering opportunities available to them."

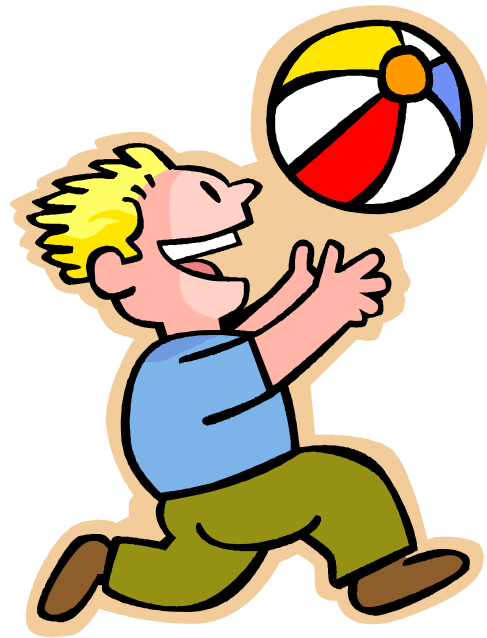
From Jo

I presented 4 certificates at Bellevue West High School on May 1, 2008, but one of the winners was not present.

"The teachers and guidance councilors and parents like the certificates. They make SWE a little more visible in the community."

As a testament to the benefits of this program, a past professional member was a winner of one of our certificates when she was in high school. She said she had never considered engineering until she got the certificate.

Next time you see these ladies be sure to thank them for their efforts with the 2008 Certificates of Merit and Achievement program.



Summer is here!!!

Have Fun!!!

LOCAL JOB POSTINGS

To post local engineering or engineering related jobs please contact our SWE section at newsletter@swe-nebraska.org.

Mechanical Engineer II

BCDM is a reputable architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, construction management, and engineering firm that integrates the built and natural environments to develop innovative and high-quality solutions for our clients. It is the goal of BCDM to provide an array of project opportunities for our employees; we feel that well rounded and successful professionals need the opportunity to have their hands on various types of projects.

BCDM is seeking a positive and creative individual with excellent design, graphic and communications skills to fill a **Mechanical Engineer II** position in our Omaha office.

Essential Job Functions

- Perform building engineering design calculations
- Assists all Team members with drafting and technical tasks
- Aids in the development and documentation of a project
- Assists with Construction Administration, calculations, layout, design, commissioning, and periodic site observations

Qualifications

- Has obtained Bachelor's/Master's degree in Engineering
- Previous work experience is required, experience in an Architectural Engineering environment is preferred
- Has knowledge of design principles and the ability to interpret design concepts and layouts.
- Relies on instructions and pre-established guidelines to perform the functions of the job, while working under immediate supervision.
- Has a desire to cross train in other disciplines
 - In training in the execution of AutoCAD and project production
- Must be willing to work with design teams and individually in a studio-like environment

- Must be a detailed, goal oriented, value driven individual with proven problem solving abilities.

BCDM offers a competitive salary, 100% paid medical and dental benefits, life insurance, generous time-off benefits, 401(k) and a flexible work environment. BCDM is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.

Please email or call Audrey Dye with resumes or questions. adye@bcdm.net 402-384-6406



If you would like to post a job opening or become a sponsor of the Eastern Nebraska Professional Section, contact Amanda Stahlnecker at newsletter@swe-nebraska.org for more information.

SWE Trivia

Question: How many people attended the first official National Convention in New York City?

Answer: 112

IN THE POLITICAL ARENA

Affirmative Action Petition - Get the Facts

You have seen them outside your grocery store or post office, or maybe even while out enjoying a local event. Petitioners are out in full force as the July 4 deadline approaches to secure enough signatures to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot in Nebraska that is promoted as a "civil rights initiative."

While all Nebraskans have the right to initiate petition drives, you should know the facts. This petition drive is funded and managed by out-of-state political groups, often with paid petitioners.

The Young Professionals Council thinks it's important that you understand what the proposed amendment says and the affect its passage would have on Nebraskans.

The amendment reads:

"The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting."

If affirmative action is repealed, the state risks an end to the following programs (among others):

- State and civic minority contracting programs;
- University of Nebraska programs targeting women, persons of color and international students;
- University of Nebraska programs aimed at diversifying its faculty; and,
- Scholarship programs considering gender and race.

The YPC believes that repealing affirmative action will severely hinder Nebraska and Omaha's ability to successfully draw and preserve a diverse pool of talent to the state and will impede any further growth of inclusive communities throughout the state.

The YPC is committed to encouraging and developing a community that values and promotes diversity. Diversity enhances the state's ability to attract a strong talent base to Omaha, helps to bolster the state's economy, and infuses the workforce and community with new ideas, perspectives and cultures critical to continuing Omaha's vibrancy and cosmopolitan lifestyle.

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FACTS AND FIGURES

Best Cities to Live, Work and Play

Wednesday, June 4, 2008 provided by



These ten great places will only get better.

Our approach this year to picking the ten best cities in which to live and work was simple: Look for places with strong economies and abundant jobs, then demand reasonable living costs and plenty of fun things to do. When we ran the numbers, some of the names that popped up made us do a double take at first. So we hit the road to meet movers, shakers and regular folks, experience the ambience and take in the sights.

We discovered that our numbers guru, Kevin Stolarick, hadn't steered us wrong. Stolarick, research director at the Martin Prosperity Institute, a think tank that studies economic prosperity, says: "Our formula highlights cities not just with strong past performance, but also with all the ingredients for future success." One key to a bright future is a healthy shot of people in the creative class. People in creative fields -- scientists, engineers, architects, educators, writers, artists and entertainers -- are catalysts of vitality and livability in a city.

The cities that made our list also represent larger surrounding areas. And because we understand that city living isn't for everyone, we've highlighted some great suburbs, too.

Pack a bag and join us on a tour of the Best Cities for 2008 and prepare for some surprises.

3. Omaha

Population: 821,356

Population Growth Since 2000: 6.6%

Percentage of Workforce in Creative Class: 30%

Cost-of-Living Index: 89.4 (100 being national average)

Median Household Income: \$51,627

Income Growth Since 2000: 15.1%



Omaha Convention & Visitor's Bureau

PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL GROWTH



VOLUME 11, ISSUE 10

Charismatic Leadership

by Dr. John C. Maxwell

William Gladstone and Benjamin Disraeli were two of the fiercest political rivals of the 19th century. Their epic battles for control of the British Empire were marked by intense animosity that spilled over from the public arena into their personal lives. Ambitious, powerful, and politically astute, both men were spirited competitors and masterful politicians.

Though each man achieved impressive accomplishments for Britain, the quality that separated them as leaders was their approach to people. The difference is best illustrated by the account of a young woman who dined with the men on consecutive nights. When asked about her impression of the rival statesmen, she said, "When I left the dining room after sitting next to Mr. Gladstone, I thought he was the cleverest man in England. But after sitting next to Mr. Disraeli, I thought I was the cleverest woman in England."

What distinguished Disraeli from Gladstone was charisma. Disraeli possessed a personal charm sorely lacking in the leadership style of his rival. His personal appeal attracted friends and created favorable impressions among acquaintances. Throughout his career, Disraeli's charisma gave him an edge over Gladstone.

UNDERSTANDING CHARISMA

Of all leadership attributes, charisma is perhaps the least understood. At first glance, charisma appears to be an invisible energy or magnetism. There's no denying its presence, but it's hard to put a finger on its source. Some mistakenly believe charisma is a birth trait—embedded in certain personalities, but completely absent in others.

I believe charisma is both explainable and learnable. I also believe charisma helps to boost a leader's influence. That's why I included it in my book, *The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader*. In this lesson, I'd like to examine the causes of charisma and teach you how to increase the charisma you display as a leader.

THE QUALITIES OF A CHARISMATIC LEADER

Charisma is defined as, "The ability to inspire enthusiasm, interest, or affection in others by means of personal charm or influence." Leaders who have this special ability share four things in common:

1) They Love Life

Leaders who attract a following are passionate about life. They are celebrators, not complainers. They're characterized by joy and warmth. They're energetic and radiant in an infectious way.

Look no further than the smile to illustrate the power of charisma. When people see a smile, they respond with a smile. If you're skeptical, try it. Smile at cashiers, waiters, co-workers, etc. You'll find your smile earns a reciprocate smile almost every time. We are hardwired to take on the energy of those around us. Leaders who love life have charisma because they fill the room with positive energy.

2) They Value the Potential in People

To become an attractive leader, expect the best from your people. I describe this behavior as "putting a 10 on everyone's head." Leaders see people, not as they are, but as they could be. From this vantage point, they help others to build a bridge from the present to a preferred future.

Benjamin Disraeli understood and practiced this concept, and it was one of the secrets to his charisma. He once said, "The greatest good you can do for another is not to share your riches but to reveal to him his own." When you invest in people and lift them toward their potential, they will love you for it.

3) They Give Hope

People have an inner longing to improve their future and their fortunes. Charismatic leaders connect with people by painting tomorrow brighter than today. To them, the future is full of amazing opportunities and unrealized dreams.

Napoleon Bonaparte once said, "Leaders are dealers in hope." They infuse optimism into the culture around them, and they boost morale. While attentive to the current reality, they do not resign themselves to present circumstance.

4) They Share Themselves

Leaders with charisma add value to people by sharing wisdom, resources, and even special occasions. They embrace the power of inclusion, inviting others to join them for learning experiences, brainstorming sessions, or simply a cup of coffee. Such leaders embrace team spirit and value togetherness. As a result, charismatic leaders are not lonely at the top.

When it comes to charisma, the bottom line is othermindedness. For leaders, the greatest satisfaction is found by serving. They find great pleasure celebrating the successes of those around them, and the victory they enjoy the most is a team triumph.

SUMMARY

In closing, charisma has substance. It's not manipulative energy or a magical gift endowed upon select personalities. Rather, it's an attractive blend of learnable qualities.

Furthermore, charisma compounds a leader's influence. Without it, leaders have trouble inspiring passion and energizing their teams. With it, leaders draw out the best in their people, give the best of themselves, and find the greatest fulfillment.

"Charisma is a sparkle in people that money can't buy. It's an invisible energy with visible effects."

~ Marianne Williamson