

# EASTERN NEBRASKA WIRE



Society of  
Women Engineers

ASPIRE • ADVANCE • ACHIEVE

Summer  
2011

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## Congratulations, Angel!

Eastern Nebraska SWE VP and Membership Chair Angel McMullen-Gunn, was presented the Nebraska Alumni Association Early Achiever Award by Diane Mendenhall, Exec. Director of the Nebraska Champions Club, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at the annual Alumni Awards Banquet.



## Message from the President



Greetings,

First and foremost, **THANK YOU** to our Eastern Nebraska Section Officers and Committee Chairs. FY11 was a great year for our Section, and this directly reflects the efforts and energy displayed by our leaders. Thank you also to our members for your continued support and participation in the Section.

We hosted our strategic planning meeting in June to discuss successes and areas of improvement from FY11, and set goals and establish a tentative calendar for FY12. We will continue to utilize the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month for SWE meetings. A summary of the strategic planning meeting is included in this newsletter.

FY12 is the second year in a 2-year term for our Section leaders. As we enter this upcoming SWE year, we continue to have a vacancy in the Program Development Chair. This person is responsible for managing the section calendar, coordinating the logistics for our meetings, and sending the invitations or flyers. The volunteer effort for this role is estimated at 2-4 hours per month (1 hour per month for the Board meeting, and 2-3 hours spent on program-related tasks). Please consider stepping up your SWE commitment and filling this important role for our Section.

Registration is open for The Annual Conference for Women Engineers (<http://we11.swe.org>). The Eastern Nebraska Section will be well represented with 2 members presenting at this year's conference, as well as one individual receiving a prestigious National Award. Our lips are sealed until SWE makes the official announcement, so stay tuned!

We will be hosting SWE networking events in both Lincoln and Omaha in September. More details to follow. Please spread the word and bring a friend.

Thank you for being a part of SWE,

-Cybil

President

"There is a real magic in enthusiasm. It spells the difference between mediocrity and accomplishment."

-Norman Vincent Peale

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for the **Get to Know SWE Events**

**Lincoln:** Thursday, September 8th from 5:00 to 6:30pm  
at Granite City (6150 O Street)

**Omaha:** Monday, September 12th from 5:00 to 6:30pm,  
Location TBD



### ***Board Meetings***

Board meetings will be held the first Tuesday of every month at 11:45 am. All are welcome to attend. The officers and chairs will provide monthly reports and discuss unfinished and current business of the section. For more information contact the president, Cybil Boss, at [president@swe-nebraska.org](mailto:president@swe-nebraska.org).

### **It's a Girl!**



We are pleased to announce that Kerri Schuette has a new member in the family.

Paige was born on 4/9/11 at 12:14 am  
and weighed 7 lbs 2 oz.

**Congratulations, Kerri!**

## FY12 Strategic Planning

By: Cybil Boss

The FY12 Strategic Planning meeting was hosted in Omaha on June 6, 2011. Strategic planning is an important component of ensuring the Eastern Nebraska Section meets the needs of our members, both now and in the future. We discussed FY11 and the survey results, and established goals and a tentative calendar for FY12.

In FY11, the Section had a good response to meeting invitations (whether yes or no) and saw an increase in meeting attendance. We also increased the number of members in our Section! We can work to improve the communication through our invitation system (Evite®) by adding more detail to the subject line and body of the email messages. The Lincoln connection is also an area of improvement, as there are numerous women engineers in the area that may benefit from SWE. Hosting meetings with continuing education credits is also an area where we can grow.

Ten members and four non-members completed the survey prior to the planning meeting. The results of the survey indicated weekday lunch or evenings were the best times for meetings, with some preference for Saturday mornings as well. Participants placed importance on the following meeting topics:

- ✓ Topics to improve skill base (i.e., presentation skills)
- ✓ Work-Life Balance
- ✓ Professional Development (with continuing education credit offered)
- ✓ Joint meetings with other organizations and the Student Chapters (UNL and UNO)
- ✓ Social events and tours

All participants felt the Section does a good job with engineering outreach in the community.

The Eastern Nebraska Section Goals for FY12 are:

- ❖ Have 2 new hosts for meetings
- ❖ Offer at least 2 meetings with continuing education credits
- ❖ Host 1 webinar
- ❖ Recruit 5 new members
- ❖ Run an awareness campaign
- ❖ Host a WOW! Event in 2012
- ❖ Offer door prizes at meetings
- ❖ Fill the Program Development Chair vacancy
- ❖ Recognize members who bring potential members to meetings
- ❖ Have 4 attendees at both the regional and national conferences
- ❖ Host 1 meeting on each campus with the collegiate members invited

The participants also discussed potential tours that have a technical aspect (that appeals to the engineer in us). Some ideas were a Behind the Scenes tour of the new UNL Innovation Campus, technical tours at vineyards (there would not be any wine tasting allowed ☺), and a visual demonstration of a steam boiler.



The Eastern Nebraska Section FY12 Calendar is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>September 8</b>	Get to Know SWE Networking Event	Lincoln
<b>September 12</b>	Get to Know SWE Networking Event	Omaha
<b>September</b>	Practice Presentations for Nationals	Lincoln, Omaha
<b>October 13-15</b>	The Annual Conference for Women Engineers	Chicago, IL
<b>October 27</b>	Tour	Lincoln or Omaha
<b>November 10</b>	Meeting with continuing education credit	Omaha
<b>December 1</b>	Holiday Party with the President	Ashland
<b>January 26</b>	Work/Life Balance	Lincoln
<b>February</b>	E-Week Activities	Lincoln, Omaha
<b>March 2-3</b>	Region i Conference	Tulsa, OK
<b>March 22</b>	Meeting with continuing education credit	Omaha
<b>April 26</b>	Meeting with continuing education credit	Lincoln
<b>May 24</b>	Officer Elections and Strategic Planning	Omaha
<b>June 28</b>	Social or Fun Event	TBD

In addition, the Section would like to have a SWE Team participate in a local event, such as the ALS or Susan G. Komen walk. Please submit any ideas for this type of event to the Program Development Chair ([program\\_development@swe-nebraska.org](mailto:program_development@swe-nebraska.org)).

The Section will also support the Collegiate Sections with events such as career fair preparation and by supplying speakers for their meetings.

## Early Achiever Awards

More than 300 University of Nebraska alumni, students, deans, faculty and friends attended the Alumni Associations' annual awards banquet May 5<sup>th</sup>, where 36 individuals were honored for their achievements and service. Our very own Angel McMullen-Gunn was among those present, earning the Early Achiever Award. She was one of 11 young alumni who were the first-ever recipients of the new Award; the Early Achiever Awards will be given annually to alumni 30 years of age or younger who have achieved early success or have shown great potential in their chosen career field.

Angel was nominated by UNL's College of Engineering for her demonstrated professional excellence in the Engineering career field and related organizations. The 2011 Nebraska Alumni Association award winners were chosen by a selection committee comprising UNL alumni from across the country. As a part of the honor, Angel was also featured as a "Young Alumni Story" on the Nebraska Alumni Association's [website](#).

Angel was nominated by UNL's College of Engineering for her breadth and depth of demonstrated professional Engineering excellence, as well as her commitment to her community. She is currently the SWE Eastern Nebraska Vice-President and Membership Chair, as well as the University of Nebraska–Lincoln SWE Counselor. At the National SWE level, Angel is Region i Lieutenant Governor and sits on the National Membership Committee.

In 2010, Angel was selected as both the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Top Nominee for the National Engineering Week New Faces of Engineering Award. Locally, Angel has been a member of the Pleasant Dale American Legion Auxiliary for 20+ years. In 2007, she was a founding member of the Seward County Young Professionals to actively promote attraction and retention of young professionals to Seward County. Furthermore she enjoys volunteering at the York Middle School as mentor for the Nebraska TeamMates Program.



Angel McMullen-Gunn is a Manufacturing Business Manager and Senior Mechanical Engineer at Hamilton Sundstrand's Mechanical Operations in York, Nebraska. Her diverse responsibilities include Manufacturing Business Manager of the Ram Air Turbine Manufacturing Department as well as the Principal Test Engineer for precision matched-valve aerospace assemblies.

Her educational background includes a BS Mechanical Engineering (2003) and MEng Engineering Management (2007), both from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Additionally, she holds a MS Quality Systems Management with Six Sigma Black Belt Certification (2010) from the National Graduate School of Quality Management of Falmouth, MA. She and her husband, Darrin, live in Seward, Nebraska with their young son Lucian.

## April 2011 SWE Meeting in Omaha

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Eastern Nebraska Section held the membership meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Thirteen were in attendance for the meeting with three identified as guests. Emily Palik and Susan Randall hosted the meeting at the Zachry Engineering-Omaha office. Boxed dinners from Qdoba were the refreshments offered at this event.

The meeting topic was Creative Problem Solving. Janis Pfingsten presented the information organized by the SWE Leadership Coaching Committee. Problem solving skills are required for career satisfaction, for maintaining home life harmony, and for our rolls on social committees. The presentations discussed the importance of accurately defining the problem and tools to generate

ideas for solutions that provide value or improve a situation. Four different creative problem solving techniques were rehearsal then an assessment of the effectiveness of the skill was discussed. The immediate feedback was positive and the interactive demonstration helpful.

SWE sincerely appreciates the use of Zachry's comfortable conference room for our meeting.

