



## Letter from the President

Happy New Year!

As we kick off 2008, I would like to take a moment and look back at everything that we accomplished in 2007. In addition to our monthly membership meetings, we hosted 8 outreach events during 2007 ranging from middle school girls to high school ladies to college women and even their teachers. June of 2008 saw the first banquet that I can remember in my 9 years of SWE in Atlanta, where we even had live entertainment! And at the close of the year we threw a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party to celebrate our long-standing history in Atlanta. Wow! we were a busy group!!!

I hope that you had an opportunity to get involved last year, whether it was in outreach or your personal development by attending one of our monthly meetings. If you haven't, I challenge each of you to make the most of your membership in 2008. Check out the outreach calendar for upcoming volunteer opportunities and don't forget that meetings are monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Nationally SWE provides monthly webinars that you can listen to for FREE on a variety of topics and if you miss them live, be sure to check out the replays anytime from swe.org. The Region D conference is also just around the corner. This year the conference is February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Miami, FL. In addition to the standard conference meetings, sessions, and career fair, this year Region D is also providing PE Credit hours. Be sure to check it out!

I look forward to seeing you all during the spring. Again, Happy New Year!

-Wendy

### 2008 Calendar of Events

January 15, 2008	Successful Money Strategies for Successful Women
February 19, 2008	Engineering Changes in Healthcare
March 18, 2008	Personal Development
April 15, 2008	Student Upgrade Event Outsourcing – How a SWE membership helps!
May 20, 2008	Networking
June 17, 2008	End of Year Celebration

## Volunteer Opportunities

The Atlanta SWE Outreach committee has been very busy so far this year, which is expected to continue through the spring. If you like working with children or teachers, consider volunteering. Below is a list of the upcoming events planned by Outreach. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Andrea Wulz at [andrea.wulz@kcc.com](mailto:andrea.wulz@kcc.com).

January 31	Science Fair Judging at River Trail Middle School – 4-5 volunteers need, 1-2 hour time commitment
February 23 9 am–12 pm	Estrellitas – Science Experiments with Girls, sponsored by SWE and Junior League of Atlanta – 4 volunteers needed
March 8	Teachers Training – 15 volunteers needed
April 26	WOW! That's Engineering – 25 volunteers needed
TBD	Girl Scout Workshop

Get involved!

### *Meeting Recap and What's to Come!*

Fall 2007 has kept Atlanta SWE busy! We've had an active section with strong turnout at our monthly meetings. We started off the year with a dinner at City Grille in downtown Atlanta where we had the opportunity to socialize with fellow SWE members. As the SWE year took off we brought in Allison Carter, the Professional Organizer, to help us organize our lives. Allison helped us remove "clutter" from our lives by helping us focus on what we truly want to achieve both personally and professionally. We then switched gears at October's lunch meeting at Jay Christopher's - led by our own COR members Nancy and Ramona. We shared issues with our COR reps on what we, women engineers, deal with. Ultimately these issues were shared with National SWE as talking points for the National SWE conference.

In November we had shared a meeting with the Georgia Tech Student's section and approached the topic of "Work/Life balance" with 3 panelists from different backgrounds. Mary Catherine, Heather

and Jennifer shared their experiences both personally and professionally and how the decisions they made helped get them where they are today. They stressed the importance of setting expectations early on our careers, staying flexible, and working hard.

We have an exciting Spring scheduled. In January we will have a Jan, an investor, author and multimillionaire, teach us her tricks on how to invest in a session she calls "Powerful Money Strategies for Powerful Women". In February, David Cowen, a Georgia Tech Health Systems Advisor, will speak to us on Engineering Changes in Healthcare. David works with Masters and PhD students at GT and will be sharing work by his students and also reviewing the 2008 Presidential Candidate's Healthcare plans. Other scheduled Spring events include a session on home buying strategies and a roundtable discussion on how the term "outsourcing" effects you! We look forward to these exciting topics and hope you see you there!

### *SWE Atlanta Outreach*

Community outreach is a major goal of Atlanta SWE. So far this fiscal year the Atlanta Section has hosted two events and we have more planned for the Spring. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped and if you couldn't make it to our last two events, check out the calendar of upcoming events on the page 1.

### **Teacher's Training**

On November 3, the SWE Atlanta Professional Section successfully hosted the Second Annual Connecting Educators to Engineering Event at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, GA. Over twenty Atlanta-area middle and high school science, mathematics, and technology teachers attended the professional development event. SWE volunteers from both the Atlanta Professional section and the SPSU collegiate section, demonstrated experiments that could easily be performed in the classroom using inexpensive supplies. Using household liquids like vinegar, oil and water, teachers learned how to demonstrate density, viscosity and buoyancy principles during the Creative Chemistry activity. During Simple Machines, participants reviewed the basics behind simple devices, such as inclines, wedges, screws, and pulleys. Butterflies perched atop pencils as the groups discussed center of gravity and Newton's Law during the Fun with Forces activity. Finally, attendees were able to apply magnetic and electricity principles by creating their very own electric motors. Teachers loved the hands-on activities and appreciated the real-world applicability of the sessions. The next Connecting Educators to Engineering Event will be held in March 2008 and will include new experiments touching on biology, polymers and solar energy.

### **WOW! That's Engineering!**

Atlanta SWE held the first of two "WOW! That's Engineering!" events December 8, 2007. With 25 volunteers and 75 students, it was a fun event. Geared towards introducing middle school girls to science and engineering, four experiments were done: Catch a Thief (chromatography), Newton's Rocket Car, Oobleck, and Lip Gloss. Wendy Anderson kicked off the event, introducing the girls to SWE and why she became an engineer. Each of the girls rotated through the four activities and were able to take home what they made. A big thanks goes out to all of the volunteers and to Georgia Power, for supporting this event and providing a venue.



## Contact Us

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## *K-C Leader Honored for Helping Women Succeed*

by Phil Snyder

Bob Stargel, vice president of Global Nonwovens, Kimberly-Clark, has been named the 2007 recipient of the Rodney D. Chipp Memorial Award by the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) in recognition of his commitment and support to help women succeed in engineering.

Stargel says the more K-C does to attract talented women and help them advance, the better the company will be.

"We want the best of the best working here – both men and women," Stargel says. "Although K-C is a great place for women, there's so much more we can do to attract and support women. There is a lot of talent that may have been overlooked in the past, and I'm simply looking for people who can help us win."

Stargel won the national award primarily for his history of advancing women into managerial and leadership positions, and for mentoring more than 100 engineers. Since 2004, women filled 24 of 64 promotions in his area, and women filled 29 percent of his open leadership positions. He also helped many women achieve project leadership roles. These numbers are impressive considering that, in general and not so long ago, engineering used to be a male-dominated field.

Stargel actively promotes careers in science and technology to high school and college students, "because we need more people going into science and technology to grow this country," he says. Stargel leads K-C's relationship with Georgia Institute of Technology, where he serves on the Advisory Board for the Women in Engineering Program. Earlier in his career, he established a recruiting and scholarship program with Florida A&M University for high-potential, minority engineering students.

Stargel says his focus on supporting the careers of women comes naturally to him.

"I have four sisters and my wife is an engineer," he says. "Sometimes people just need a little encouragement; someone to open a door for them. I like to open doors."

Stargel was presented the award at the SWE National Conference on Oct. 26 in Nashville, Tennessee.