

# SOUTH OHIO SWE



Society of  
Women Engineers

ASPIRE • ADVANCE • ACHIEVE

## Anew You in 2011!

Happy New Year! After enjoying the holidays with our family and friends for the past several weeks, it's back to work, school and volunteerism for many of us. With the New Year always come new resolutions and goals for self improvement. This year, let SWE help get you there. Use your membership to the fullest to help you achieve your goals. Our South Ohio SWE section is all about **Anew You**. We are here to be your secret weapon for self improvement. Whether it's social or professional development event, we have something planned each month to cater to your needs and keep you on track. During National Engineers Week, we will be providing several local high schools with



South Ohio SWE  
President Karla Tankersley

guest speakers and workshops to share our passion for our professions. Giving back by sharing the profession you know and love can be a great way to polish your presentation skills and give back to kids in our community. Do you know someone who could use SWE in their life? We are launching our first Annual Membership Drive with the award of the new Kindle for our

top membership recruiter. That could be you! Coming soon is our Region G Conference at The Ohio State University. Regional conferences are a great way to stay close to home, but get the benefits of what a conference has to offer – networking, seminars and career fair. What more can SWE do for you? Use your SWE login to access more than 20 professional development webinars, on-demand and available for you to view at your leisure or at work with your colleagues. You can also view these webinars with your SWE friends at a local Wine & Webinar. Did you also know that the SWE Career Center offers more than 1,000 jobs right now? More than 80% of these jobs are for experienced professionals! As you can see, we can be one of your best resources for achieving your goals in 2011.

Karla

## Winter 2011 Upcoming Events— Join Us!!

### January

- 14-15 [FIRST Lego League, Sharonville, Volunteers Needed](#)
- 16 [Girl Scout Winter Conference, Volunteers Needed](#)
- 18 [AIAA Engineering Mentoring Panel & Dinner](#)
- 19 [Wine and Webinar—Resilience at Work](#)

### February

- 12 [Girls Scout Aerospace Badge Workshop, Dayton, OH, Volunteers needed](#)
- 18-20 [Region G Conference, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH](#)
- 21-26 [National Engineers Week, multiple volunteer opportunities](#)
- 26 [Introduce a Girl to Engineering, Mason High School, Mason, OH, volunteers needed](#)

See [www.southohioswe.org](http://www.southohioswe.org)

for times and locations, to renew your membership, or to get involved!

## 2010/2011 South Ohio Board

<b>President:</b>	Karla Tankersley	southohio.swe.pres@gmail.com
<b>Vice President:</b>	Margaret Adriatico	southohio.swe.vp@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Stephanie Salas-Snyder	southohio.swe.sec@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Michelle Witherspoon	southohio.swe.treas@gmail.com
<b>Section Rep:</b>	Michelle Eidam	southohio.swe.sectionrep@gmail.com

## 2010/2011 Committee Chairs

<b>Membership:</b>	Anita Todd	southohio.swe.mem@gmail.com
<b>Communications:</b>	Jessie Gmeinder	southohio.swe.com@gmail.com
<b>Outreach:</b>	Caroline Key	southohio.swe.HSoutreach@gmail.com
<b>Elementary/Middle School/Girl Scout Outreach:</b>		
	Carol Clinton	southohio.swe.girlscout@gmail.com
<b>Professional Development:</b>	Iman Dodson	southohio.swe.pd@gmail.com
<b>Social/Networking:</b>	Christin Rauche	southohio.swe.social@gmail.com
<b>Dayton Representative:</b>	Stephanie Salas-Snyder	southohio.swe.daytonrep@gmail.com
<b>2012 Regional Conference:</b>	Margaret Adriatico	southohio.swe.vp@gmail.com
<b>Corporate Sponsorship:</b>	OPEN	
<b>Simmons Scholarship Fund:</b>	Liz Palcisco	southohio.swe.scholarship@gmail.com
<b>Collegiate Liaisons:</b>		
	Alison Haskins, Miami	southohio.swe.miami@gmail.com
	Emiliee Wheeler, Cedarville	southohio.swe.cedarville@gmail.com
	Margaret Adriatico, U of Cincinnati	southohio.swe.uc@gmail.com (Lead Liaison)
	Linda Pohlgeers, Cincinnati State	southohio.swe.cs@gmail.com
	Susan McGovern, Wright State	southohio.swe.wright.state@gmail.com
	Stephanie Salas-Snyder, U Dayton	southohio.swe.ud@gmail.com

### SWE Mission

Stimulate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life, demonstrate the value of diversity.



SWE Wants You to Get Involved!  
Contact an officer/committee chair!  
We are looking to pull in some new,  
interested and enthusiastic  
members!

## THE 2011 REGION G CONFERENCE AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

February 18 - 20, 2011

### Overview:

The theme for the conference will be: "Life at the Top: Creating a Road Map for Success" and session topics include:

- Financial Planning (Sessions for both professional and collegiate members)
- Continuing Education
- Roadmap to the Top
- Creative Thinking
- Clean Fuels
- Chocolate/Ice Cream Making

And many more! Tours include:

- Abbott Laboratories
- Ohio State Center for Automotive Research (CAR) - Ever needed to know how to change your own oil/tire or jump start a car but didn't? Come learn about car care basics in this informative tour!



### Registration:

Registration is now open at: <http://www.osusweconf2011.drupalcafe.com/?q=Registration>

To Register:

1. Fill in the survey with your name, section, and food preferences
2. **If you are registering more than one person, RELOAD THE PAGE to bring the survey back up and re-fill in the information**
3. Select the correct registration price (Collegiate: \$45 & Professional: \$70) and click "Add to Cart"
4. If you are paying for more than one person adjust your quantity accordingly and then check out
5. You will not be confirmed until payment is received for your registration - If you are paying for an entire section, please try to indicate which section in the "2nd address line" when you check out through PayPal

**We have space to accommodate the first 200 attendees. Reserve your spot today!**

### Accommodations:

We have reserved 40 rooms at The Blackwell Hotel and Conference center, conveniently located in the heart of Ohio State's campus. Our group price is \$131/night. To make reservations, please follow the link below and be sure to **write SWE0211 in the group/corporate code box!**

<http://www.theblackwell.com/>

***In addition, please note the Blackwell will be releasing our room block to be sold to the public on January 19th, 2011. So please be sure to reserve your room before that date to ensure your spot!!!***

### Venues:

- The Blackwell Hotel and Conference Center ( <http://www.theblackwell.com/>)
- The Ohio Union (<http://ohiounion.osu.edu/>)
- The Faculty Club ( <http://www.ohio-statefacultyclub.com/>)



WELCOME  
MICHELE!

## New South Ohio Member Michele Eidam

Hello my name is Michele Eidam, and I am the new South Ohio Section Rep for FY 2011. I wanted to take the chance to introduce myself, as well as share some of the reasons why I value SWE.

Like many SWE professionals, I was a member in college, but soon after college I lost touch with the organization. However, while on an overseas assignment in Malaysia, I was inspired by how many opportunities in science and technology there were for women in America compared to our counterparts in developing countries. This experience prompted me to once again get involved in SWE. Though I joined as an international member at large, my increased involvement in SWE came with my move back to America and the Section Rep role. For me SWE has not only provided a way to give back through outreach activities, but it has also provided me a network of amazing women.

Beyond SWE, I have worked for Procter & Gamble for the past seven years, and I'm currently the global packing engineer for Febreze. With P&G, I've had the opportunity to live and work in several different places and have developed a passion for travel. Beyond traveling, I'm a bit of an adventure seeker and love all sorts of activities including mountain biking, running, theatre, scuba diving, volleyball, swimming, skating, etc. I am also new to the area so meeting new and interesting people is on the top of my "to do" list, so if you see me at an event don't hesitate to say hi or if you have an idea or concern regarding SWE, please let me know so that I can voice it at the next executive council meeting.



### Nominate a SWE Member or get yourself nominated for a SWE National Award

[http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=43](http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=43)

**Deadline: March 31, 2011**



## Judy Simmons Scholarship Fund

South Ohio SWE in conjunction with the family of Judy Simmons are endowing a SWE scholarship in Judy Simmons name. Judy was a founding member of the South Ohio section, the long term Region G Treasurer, and a SWE life member.

Please consider contributing to this scholarship fund in 2011!

<http://www.southohioswe.org/simmons-scholarship-fund/>

## SOUTH OHIO SWE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



**South Ohio SWE Section continues to grow more vibrant ..  
But with all our professional development, requests for  
volunteers, and events...We need more members!**

**Help South Ohio SWE grow our membership and just maybe..  
Win a brand new Kindle!**

**Starting January 1, SWE membership dues are 50% for membership through June. Therefore, this is a great time for someone to come and try us out or to get involved for the first time.**

**The membership drive runs from now through February 28. The person who recruits the most new members (with a minimum of four) will be awarded the Kindle (see details below).**

Visit [www.southohioswe.org/join-swe/](http://www.southohioswe.org/join-swe/) for membership applications, brochures and information about the benefits of SWE.

Contact Anita Todd [anita.todd@uc.edu](mailto:anita.todd@uc.edu) for materials / information.



### Membership Drive Rules

- Must recruit four new members to be eligible
- On March 20th, all new members from January 1 forward will be contacted, welcomed to South Ohio SWE, and asked who referred them to join.
- Participants who solicited four or more new membership are eligible to win the Kindle.
- The participant who solicited the greatest number of new members is the winner, in the case of a tie, there will be a drawing to determine the winner.
- The Kindle will be awarded at an upcoming SWE event.

**START NOW— FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO A COLLEAGUE, REFER A COLLEAGUE TO OUR WEBSITE, OR SHARE WITH THEM THE FOLLOWING AMAZING SWE BENEFITS:**

- Professional and social support
- Involvement in programs that encourage girls to pursue a career in engineering
- Enhance your credentials
- Leadership development opportunities
- SWE seminars and workshops
- Opportunities to discuss issues relevant to women engineers
- Seminars, workshops, and leadership conferences regionally and nationally
- Awards and recognition programs regionally and nationally

## South Ohio SWE Member News



Welcome to Ella Jean Nowicki, born Nov. 6, 2010 to proud parents Katie and Greg Nowicki.

Anita M. Todd, associate professor, was recently promoted to Associate Director, Division of Professional Practice at the University of Cincinnati.



Karla Tankersley, Kroger, was recently recognized at the SWE national conference as a SWE 2010 Emerging Leader.

*"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood."*

- Marie Curie, Physicist and first woman to win the Nobel Prize

### Corporate Sponsorships

#### New Sponsorship Program is Underway

- Support the professional development and growth of women engineers locally
- Contribute to engineering outreach efforts by SWE for local K-12 students
- Have your corporation recognized for supporting women in engineering
- Gain corporate visibility within the SWE community locally
- Different levels of sponsorship available

**Contact Karla Tankersley, SWE President  
at [southohio.swe.pres@gmail.com](mailto:southohio.swe.pres@gmail.com) if interested**



Female students in the engineering and computer science department find the support and encouragement they need in a special student organization.



## Connected by Design

by Vicky Fang, Ph.D.

WHEN I JOINED Cedarville's engineering faculty in 2004, I was the only female faculty member in the department. Though I was outnumbered in a field of study dominated by men, I felt honored to be in my position. With very few female students enrolled in Cedarville's engineering program, I knew God had great things in store for me — and many things for me to accomplish.

Cedarville's enrollment statistics reflect the nationally low enrollment and retention rates among female engineers. Approximately 25 percent of freshman men at Cedarville major in engineering. In contrast, fewer than ten freshman women campus-wide major in engineering. With the numbers against them, female engineering students need a resource for support and encouragement.

### Overcoming Isolation

In an academic area with so little gender diversity, female students face isolation and loss of academic self-confidence in many of their classes. These women often have to modify their ways of thinking, learning, and working to reflect a masculine point of view. On a practical level, our male students have an advantage in the residence halls. They can walk down the hall to find a classmate when they need help with their coursework. Without that opportunity for collaboration, our female students tend to work independently to solve homework problems.

I saw women gifted in engineering, yet their department offered no female guidance. I also saw a staggeringly low retention rate. My heart was burdened to do something to help these women develop their talents. With the support of Cedarville's engineering program, we established a Cedarville chapter of the Society for Women Engineers (SWE) to encourage our female students to grow, succeed, and use their skills for the glory of God.

SWE is a national organization that empowers women to achieve their full potential as professional engineers and leaders in the field. The organization increases awareness of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving quality of life and demonstrating the value of diversity.

Since our SWE chapter formed in fall 2004, it has made a substantial impact on students' lives. As the only female faculty member of the department at the time, I gladly accepted the responsibility to advise this women's organization. I knew that I could relate to obstacles these young women were facing and effectively encourage and support them in their studies.

### Building Community

We begin each semester with an orientation for new female engineering students and introduce the organization as a safe, encouraging, and fun home base. These new students form support teams with other new students to facilitate peer assistance and teamwork. Upperclassman female students form mentoring teams with the newest students in order to offer practical and academic guidance.

One of our members, Alissa Johnson, is a senior computer science major from Lapeer, Michigan. She understands what it's like to be the only woman in her major classes. She said, "I appreciated the support from junior and senior SWE members who came alongside me and encouraged me when I started out in the major. And I'm glad to have the chance to do that myself now that I'm an upperclassman."

While we do not require SWE participation, we consider all female engineering students to be members. We have organized activities like movie nights, dessert outings, and birthday celebrations to facilitate connections and friendships among the women. We also sponsor an annual presentation by a female engineer working in the industry. We want SWE to be an inclusive community of learning and support where each woman in the department can seek out academic assistance and find sincere companionship.


Each semester we select a service project to complete as an organization. This fall, we presented fun demonstrations at local elementary schools to teach children about opportunities in engineering. Not only do these activities build friendships

and team work, but they are also a way to share God's love with the local community by exercising our talents and gifts.

### Making Our Mark

I have seen the profound effects that SWE has had on recruiting women to Cedarville's engineering program. In 2004, there were fewer than ten female students in the department. In 2010, six women completed the program including our first computer science graduate. This fall, we have 37 women with a declared engineering or computer science major.

I have also seen the impact that SWE has had on my life. Working with the SWE women has been a blessing. Each one is a gift that God has sent into my life. I am so proud of all of them; their success brings me so much joy. The cards, cookies, prayers, and hugs from my students have made my investment very rewarding.

I can clearly see that God brought me here to mentor and develop this special group of young women as we make our mark in the engineering profession. 

*Dr. Vicky Fang serves as associate professor of computer engineering. She earned her B.S.E.E. from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, her M.S.E.E.T. from Pittsburgh State University, and her Ph.D. from The University of Akron. You may contact her at [vfang@cedarville.edu](mailto:vfang@cedarville.edu).*



### Watching the Legacy Unfold

When Dr. Dan Wetzel arrived on campus in September 1963 to teach physics and mathematics, he could never have guessed what the next 45 years of his career would hold. During his time at Cedarville, he observed firsthand the changes, struggles, and triumphs that would eventually result in one of the school's most successful professional programs, the Elmer W. Engstrom Department of Engineering and Computer Science.

In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. Wetzel served as chair of the department of science and mathematics from 1989 to 1998 and as dean of the school of engineering, nursing, and science from 1998 to 2003. His career highlights include the development of a math major in 1964, the announcement of full accreditation in 1975, the introduction of the engineering program in 1989, the move into the Engineering, Nursing, and Science Center in 1992, and receiving the Faculty Member of the Year award in 1997.

Dr. Wetzel's efforts were influential in getting the engineering program off the ground. In 1986, he served as an overseer to the pre-engineering program and later chaired the engineering feasibility committee. Looking back, Dr. Wetzel is proud of what has been accomplished. "The program has exceeded our fondest expectations of quality and size," he said. "I am impressed with the quality of the faculty we have been able to recruit and with the extremely talented students who have been attracted to the program."

In August 2008, Dr. Wetzel formally retired to provide full-time care for Phyllis, his beloved wife of 57 years. He currently serves as professor emeritus of physics and mathematics.

You may contact Dr. Wetzel at [dpuwetzel13@msn.com](mailto:dpuwetzel13@msn.com).

