

# SWE-EWS-NEWS



Society of Women Engineers,  
Eastern Washington Section  
PO Box 364, Richland WA 99352  
[www.eastwashingtonswe.org](http://www.eastwashingtonswe.org)

## Opening Notes

Members and Supporters,

Hope you all have had a great summer! It's sad to see summer end, but fortunately there are many fun SWE activities planned! The Membership Event is September 20th and ABJ Meeting is held this year on September 21st-23rd.

Also, for anyone who hasn't renewed their SWE membership, remember to do so by September 30th!

Michelle Parker  
EWS President



## Inside this Issue

Opening Notes	1
Upcoming Events	1
Membership Event	1
Field Trip to Sunnyside	2
Halloween Party	2
Congratulations	2
ABJ Joint Regional Conference - Spokane	2
SWE Member Bonnie Dunbar Honored	3
Work/Life Balance Panel	4
Areva Scholarship Committee Forming	4
3 Days of Energy –A Lifetime of Opportunity	4
Robotics Competition	4
2012-2013 Proposed Schedule	5
Renew Your Membership	5
Positions	6

## Upcoming Events

September	Field Trip to Sunnyside
September 20	Membership Event
September 21-23	ABJ Meeting Spokane
October 2	Board Meeting
October 17	Work/Life Balance Event
October 27	Halloween Party
November 8-10	National SWE Conference

## Membership Event



**Thursday September 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM**

This event is an opportunity to introduce our organization to potential members. There will be icebreaker games and food. A selection of EWS members will speak about the reasons they participate in SWE. Invite a guest so they discover who we are and what we do. Location to be announced – watch for it in the weekly emails.

RSVP to [easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com](mailto:easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com).



## Field Trip to Sunnyside

### Saturday September (TBD)

SWE-EWS is planning a field trip to Sunnyside to visit the Bonnie Dunbar statues installed this summer. SWE member and Astronaut **Bonnie Dunbar** is has supported EWS as a speaker at the EWS sponsored Engineers week banquet and at events such Expanding Your Horizons. We will meet at the statue location near Sunnyside's Central Park (corner of Fifth Street and Franklin Avenue) at .... AM. After visiting the statues, we will meet for lunch at the Snipes Mt Brewery (905 Yakima Valley Highway, Sunnyside).

RSVP to [easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com](mailto:easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com).

Photo - Bonnie Dunbar  
Gordon King/Yakima Herald-Republic  
See newspaper article on page 3.



## Congratulations!



EWS Section Representative, **Jennifer Williamson**, graduated this spring with an MBA degree from Northwest Nazarene University. Sons Gabriel and Gideon are reportedly very pleased that the home computer will now be freed up for their use, rather than reserved for Mom's homework!  
Good Job and Congratulations Jennifer!

## ABJ Joint Regional Conference –Spokane

The ABJ Joint regional conference is this month Sep 21- 22 at the Red Lion at the Park in Spokane. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss Society issues prior to the Society conference, brainstorm mega issues, and give the west coast regions a chance to network in a casual setting. The agenda will also include professional development and training presentations. **Dimple Patel** is heading up the regional conference planning committee. Contact Dimple if you need more information or can help with the planning, at [dimple.h.patel@gmail.com](mailto:dimple.h.patel@gmail.com).



## HALLOWEEN PARTY

Saturday October 27, 5 PM

This years Halloween Party will be hosted by **Roxie Wight**. Bring a dish to share and wear your costume if you dare.... For directions RSVP to [easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com](mailto:easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com)



## SWE Member Bonnie Dunbar Honored:

### Hometown hero -- Sunnyside honors former astronaut Bonnie Dunbar with bronze monument

By Ross Courtney, Yakima Herald-Republic, July 16, 2012

SUNNYSIDE — This community gathered Monday to honor a dream-filled ranch girl who fulfilled her ambitions by braving the infinity of space. More than 200 Sunnyside residents turned out to the entrance of Central Park to watch the unveiling of a bronze monument extolling both the childhood and NASA career of Bonnie Dunbar, a Sunnyside High School graduate who grew up on a cattle ranch in nearby unincorporated Outlook. The 63-year-old gave the props right back to the community for its support and encouragement through her life and career, which included five space shuttle missions. "No one ever told me here I couldn't follow my dreams," she told the crowd in a brief address. "Not one single person."

Students, family friends and officials from the city and Yakima County, and a representative of Gov. Chris Gregoire's office, all thanked Dunbar for her inspiring career and her dedication to encouraging students to enter science careers, especially in Sunnyside. "This is my home," she said. "It always has been my home and I will always be a part of it." She was joined by her mother, Ethel Dunbar, and extended family from across the country. Her niece, 13-year-old Sydney Squires from Jacksonville, Fla., pulled away the homemade shrouds to the applause of the crowd. Mayor Mike Farmer, who attended high school with Dunbar, proclaimed July 16 "Bonnie J. Dunbar Day" for Sunnyside. Schuyler Hoss, an outreach specialist from Gregoire's office, read a proclamation on her behalf. Sunnyside school board member Lorenzo Garza encouraged children on their way to the nearby city pool to visit the statue: "This story is one that we can share with all the children in our community."

Cathy Mears, a childhood friend of Dunbar's and the chairwoman of the volunteer committee that organized the bronze, did most of the speaking. She shared stories of her friend voraciously reading books from the library bookmobile and competing at 4-H shows together. She also presented Dunbar with three books: "The Angry Planet" by John Keir Cross, "Journey to the Center of the Earth" by Jules Verne and "Jules Verne's Moon Book - From Earth to the Moon & Round the Moon." Dunbar "has done more for her world than most of us will ever think about doing," Mears said.

The bronze is really two statues. One shows Dunbar in her space suit holding her helmet under one arm. The other is of a braided fifth-grader reading a Verne novel, detailed with a picture of a rocket blasting off and the Verne quote, "Anything one man can imagine, other men can make real." Sunnyside sculptress Desiree Dawn designed the statue, while the Norman Arts foundry in Joseph, Ore., cast the life-sized versions. Van Wingerden Landscaping of Sunnyside built the concrete likenesses of hay bales on which the statues are mounted.

Early Monday before the formalities, Brady Norman, James Van Wingerden and volunteers hoisted the statues into place on the hay bales, unwrapping the plastic wrap and draping them with handmade muslin shrouds. The \$90,000 statue is the fourth by The Foundation for the Community of Sunnyside. Others pay homage to Ren Ferrell, the first white settler in the Lower Valley; irrigation pioneer H. Lloyd Miller; and "Morning Chores," a fictitious depiction of a girl milking a cow. All sit within one block in downtown Sunnyside.

Sunnyside has a precedent of honoring local heroes. The community has war memorials downtown near City Hall and north of town at the Lower Valley Memorial Gardens cemetery. In the past, nonprofit groups also have honored Living Pioneers. "Our future is our past really," Farmer said. "We need to make citizens aware of what our forerunners have done to get us where we are and we should do the same going forward." Dunbar is one of the most famous Sunnyside natives, of course. Growing up in a homestead that lacked running water for the first three years of her life, she learned the value of hard work and determination. "There wasn't anything given to her," said Frank Beard, a former ranching neighbor.

She was an avid reader, particularly of science fiction, and gravitated toward science classes. She graduated from Sunnyside High in 1967 and went on to earn degrees at the University of Washington and the University of Houston, achieving a Ph.D. in mechanical and biomedical engineering. She worked as an engineer at the Rockwell International Space Division and flew five space shuttle missions from 1985-1998. She later held management and administrative positions at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. After retiring from NASA, she served as the president and CEO of the Seattle Museum of Flight, owned a consulting business and now is the director of higher education for Boeing Co.

Throughout her life, she often has visited schools — especially those in Sunnyside — to encourage dreamers to pursue science careers and their passions. "She really pushes that you can do whatever you want if you put your mind to it," said Van Wingerden.

*Do you have articles, pictures, or information to share with SWE members and friends?*

*Send to the editor at  
Langevin2@charter.net*

## Work/Life Balance

### Panel

**Wednesday October 17th, 6:30 PM**

This event will present a panel of SWE members and other professionals who will discuss issues regarding Work-Life Balance. From Wikipedia is the following definition: “**Work-life balance** is a concept including proper prioritizing between "work" (career and ambition) and "lifestyle" (Health, pleasure, leisure, family and spiritual development/ meditation).” This event is an opportunity to explore these issues and share experiences. Location to be announced – watch for it in the weekly emails. RSVP to [easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com](mailto:easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com)



## 3Days of Energy – A

### Lifetime of Opportunity

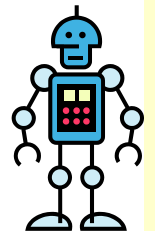
Registration for WE12 is now open! Find out more at <http://we12.swe.org/>

SWE is going to Houston for WE12: Three Days of Energy, a Lifetime of Opportunity, November 8-10, 2012. The conference will take place at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.



## Robotics Competitions

The Moses Lake FIRST Lego League (FLL) and FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) are looking for help in leading their all-girls team to the next competition. The FLL is an international competition organized by FIRST (Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) for elementary and middle school students. The FTC is a robotics competition targeted toward middle and high school-aged students and offers the traditional challenge of a FIRST Robotics competition but with a more accessible and affordable robotics kit. Please contact Kat Stebbins at [Katrianna1@aol.com](mailto:Katrianna1@aol.com) /509-760-4589 for more information.



## Areva Scholarship Committee

Areva NP, Inc is once again partnering with SWE-EWS to award a scholarship to college students. **Cristina Marinovici** is the scholarship chair and she is looking for committee members. If you are interested in serving on the scholarship committee, which will distribute information and evaluate submissions, please contact [www.eastwashingtonswe.org](http://www.eastwashingtonswe.org)

## 2012–2013 Proposed Schedule

At the annual planning retreat, officers and committee chairs created this proposed schedule of events. Note all events and dates are tentative – watch the newsletter and email updates for final information. Use the schedule below to know what’s coming up and let one of the officers know if you see something you’d like to be involved in.

Proposed Event	Tentative Event Date	
Field Trip to Sunnyside	September 8, 2012	
Membership Event	September 20, 2012	
ABJ Fall Meeting	September 21, 2012	
Board Meeting	October 2, 2012	
Technical Tour - Wine Tour	Early Fall	
Work-life Balance Panel Event	October 17, 2012	
Halloween Party	October 27, 2012	
Society Conference	November 8, 2012	
Board Meeting	November 13, 2012	
Fall Business Meeting	November 13, 2012	
Board Meeting	December 4, 2012	
Holiday Party	December 14, 2012	
Board Meeting	January 8, 2013	
They Way We Are	January 21, 2013	
Scrapbooking	Late January	
Board Meeting	February 5, 2013	
SWE-only PD Event	February 13, 2013	
E-week Dinner	February 22, 2013	
Board Meeting	March 5, 2013	
Expanding Your Horizons	March, 2013	
Mid Columbia Science Fair	March 7, 2013	
Technical Speaker (Collegiate outreach)	Late March	
Region Conference	April 5, 2013	
Board Meeting	April 9, 2013	
Spring Business Meeting	April 9, 2013	
Technical Tour	May	
Board Meeting	May 7, 2013	
Board Meeting	June 4, 2013	
End of Year Picnic	June 15, 2013	
Board Meeting	July 2, 2013	

## Renew Your Membership

The next fiscal year began on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit <https://swe.portal.daxko.com/> and login to renew your membership by September 30th.





## Positions

The following positions are open.  
Contact

[easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com](mailto:easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com)

if you are interested in more information about any of the following positions for the FY 2013 fiscal year (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013):

- Professional Development Chair – Plan the SWE-EWS professional development event.
- Membership Chair – Welcome new members to the section and lead the annual membership growth event
- Scholarship Committee Members - Assist scholarship chair Christina Marinovici in promoting the SWE-EWS scholarship and selecting the recipient.
- Expanding Your Horizon's Planning Committee Member  
A EWS-SWE representative is needed for the planning committee.
- Regional Conference Committee Member helps with the planning for the Spokane ABJ meeting and the Region J Conference in Lacey next spring. If you are interested, contact Dimple Patel at [dimple.h.patel@gmail.com](mailto:dimple.h.patel@gmail.com).

## Contacts

Position	Name	E-mail
President	Michelle Parker	myparker@bechtel.com
Vice President/ Programs	Amanda Tyler	xochiltz1@yahoo.com
Secretary	Taran Dhaliwal	Tarandeep_K_Dhaliwal@rl.gov
Treasurer/ Finance Chair	Dimple Patel	Dimple.h.patel@gmail.com
Section Rep. Nominating Chair	Jennifer Williamson	Jennifer.Williamson@pnl.gov
Career Guidance/ Outreach Chair	Josette Gates	Josette.Gates@terex.com
Publicity Chair Awards Chair	Renee Slocumb	rcslocum@bechtel.com
Membership Chair	Open	
Professional Development Chair	Open	
Newsletter Editor	Ann Langevin	Langevin2@charter.net
TCTC Chair	Joan Young	Joan.young@pnl.gov
Scholarship Chair	Cristina Marinovici	cristina.marinovici@pnl.gov
Job Postings	<a href="mailto:easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com">easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com</a>	
Certificate of Merit Chair	Jennifer Williamson	Jennifer.Williamson@pnnl.gov
Historian	Wanda Munn	wimunn@aol.com
SWE-EWS Webmaster	Jenny Stenkamp	jjaye822@yahoo.com
Region J Governor	Alice Orrell	aliceorrell@gmail.com

*SWE's 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, and demonstrate the value of diversity.*

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.eastwashingtonswe.org](http://www.eastwashingtonswe.org)



Society of  
Women Engineers

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