



# 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

Well the year is almost over. Thanks to everyone for their support and attendance, it has been a fun year.

Help us end the year with food and fun at the EWS-SWE Picnic on June 15th. Or get involved in FY14, there are still many opportunities (check out the last page for open positions)!

And most importantly, don't forget to vote for your FY14 officers! :)

Michelle Parker  
 EWS President

## Upcoming Events

Friday, May 31 <sup>st</sup>	EWS Officer Voting Closes
Saturday, June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Picnic
June 13th	SWE Working in Teams
June 30th	Membership Renewal Date
July/August TBD	Annual Planning Retreat



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### EWS-SWE Picnic

**June 15th at 4pm, Ann Langevin's House**

Bring your family and friends and a side dish or dessert to share at this annual end-of-year celebration. The meat main dish is provided by EWS.

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

## Professional Development Event

EWS will be hosting a SWE-EWS "Working in Teams" at 6:00 pm on Thursday June 13th (location to be determined). The event will feature a module created by the SWE Leadership Coaching Committee designed to give an overview of team dynamics through review of the five stages of team development. The module includes teambuilding activities to bring out the common interests of members and promote "teammess". Food will be provided. Look for further information in the email updates.



Above- Cebula Hall, St Martin's University's new cutting-edge, teaching and learning engineering facility. Below Students at the Region J meeting.



## Region J Conference

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) 2013 Region J Conference was held in Lacey, Washington, on April 5-7, 2013. The conference theme was "Engineering: One Journey, Many Paths."

The conference and career fair was held at the new Cebula Engineering Building at Saint Martin's University and was co-hosted by the South Puget Sound Section and the Saint Martin's Collegiate Section. About 50 professional and 50 collegiate members attended and participated in workshops on Managing Stress, Mentoring, Ethics, and Professional Certifications just to name a few. Tours were offered of the new St Martins Engineering building, and the LOTT Water Treatment Facility in Olympia. A career fair was also part of the event, and the Regional meetings for Professionals and Students. The Conference Committee chair was our own **Dimple Patel**. Other EWS members in attendance were: **Alice Orrell, Alicia Boyd, Jennifer Williamson, Joan Young, Ann Langevin, and Colleen Smalley**.

Next year's region J conference will be held in Portland and hosted by the Columbia River Section. EWS will be hosting the conference in 2015 with a theme related to the Food Industry.



## EWS-SWE Officer Positions – Voting

The SWE-EWS nominating committee, **Amanda Tyler** and **Ann Langevin**, announced the officer slate for FY14 at the Spring Business Meeting, April 9, 2013. The nominees are listed below.

- President - Michelle Parker
- Vice President - Colleen Smalley
- Treasurer - Alicia Boyd
- Secretary - Taran Dhaliwal
- Section Representative - Jennifer Williamson

Voting for section officers for Fiscal Year 2014 is now open. You should have received an email with voting instructions and the voting website. Voting will remain open until 11:59pm on Friday, May 31st.

## EWS-SWE Tote Bags Fundraiser

**TOTE BAGS - Only \$20!**



### Dimensions:

11" (height) x 16" (width) x 5" (depth)

### Features:

Striped inside lining  
Embroidered SWE Logo  
Two 6x6" Velcro pockets

To purchase by mail, contact [easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com](mailto:easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com)  
Totes may be picked up/delivered in Richland, Pasco, or Kennewick, WA for no additional cost. For delivery outside of the Tri-Cities \$5 shipping will apply.

## Girl Scout Team – *FIRST* LEGO League

Excerpt from Press release from Girl Scouts Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho

A team of five Tri-City Girl Scouts, four Cadettes and one Senior, participated in the World Championship *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL) Competition in St. Louis, Missouri in April. The “Geek Squad” team developed a unique accessibility device for senior citizens and programmed a Lego robot to navigate a four by eight foot table of challenges related to senior living.

The girls, Tirzah (14), Jaycelin (13), Madi (14), Christina (14) and Rielly (13) met weekly as a Girl Scout troop and to practice as a FLL team. These girls were also active in several other school events each week.

How the FLL competition works: FLL teams have to identify a societal need and devise a solution to the problem. This year’s theme was a Senior Solutions Challenge. The FLL competition is judged in four areas: project presentation; robot performance; technical design and programming of the robot; and teamwork demonstrating FLL Core Values and a spirit of “cooptition” (a term coined by the *FIRST* LEGO League).

The Geek Squad met with the director of a local assisted living facility to discuss challenges faced by residents. The girls also spoke with their grandparents and other senior citizens they knew to determine the challenges they face. Once all the ideas were discussed, they decided to focus on creating a solution for poor hand grip, hoping to allow seniors to maintain their independence. The Geek Squad created a working prototype of the Handle Helper, a handheld device that can hold a variety of small handles that can be difficult to grasp—from pencils to toothbrushes. The Handle Helper effectively enlarges the handles making it possible for those with poor or no hand grip strength to use common, everyday items. It is interchangeable with many of these items making it a cost-effective solution as well. The Geek Squad asked seniors to use their Handle Helper and everyone who has used it has given it high marks.

“This year has truly been a year of discovery for the Geek Squad, a team of enthusiastic and creative Girl Scouts who have worked together for two years,” said FLL coach Tiffanie Eyre. “I wanted the girls to be challenged and stretch this year, and they rose to that challenge. At the state competition in February, they placed in the top five teams for Robot Performance and were thrilled to win the Champion Award, which led to the invitation to attend the World Championship in St. Louis in April.”

### SWE Membership Renewal

The SWE membership renewal period is now open.

Visit <http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/index.php/membership> to renew your membership before June 30th and save \$5.



## Congratulations!

EWS-SWE Member **Cristina Marinovici** is a 2013 recipient of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's (PNNL's) Fitzner-Eberhardt Award for Outstanding Contributions to Science and Engineering Education.

Cristina is an Advanced Power and Energy Systems Engineer with the Energy and Environment Directorate. Since joining PNNL in 2010, Cristina has been involved with IEEE and Women in Engineering (WIE), quickly becoming the vice-chair of WIE. She is actively involved with mentoring and advising via workshops and seminars discussing various STEM topics. Cristina was one of the initiators, supporters and participants of the IEEE WIE Next Step high school program, which provides information and guidance to young students pursuing STEM careers. She has also been involved in organizing and hosting motivational talks on campus by STEM leaders for our staff and student interns. Cristina worked with Washington State STEM to mobilize a group of scientists and engineers at PNNL to participate in the Future Cities Project at Ochoa Middle School, which teaches students about sustainability and renewable energy. She is an active member of Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and is the scholarship chair. In this capacity, she is in charge of defining the application process, requesting money from the sponsor, broadcasting the scholarship opportunity to universities, evaluating the applications and selecting the scholarship recipient. In addition to all of her noteworthy volunteer work listed above, Cristina works with various other Tri-Cities societies in organizing events such as IEEE and IEEE Gold, Society of Women Engineers, and Women in Nuclear. Cristina's dedication to STEM education and outreach efforts makes her a deserving recipient of this year's Fitzner-Eberhardt Award.



## Areva Scholarship



Areva NP, Inc has partnered with SWE-EWS to award a scholarship to college students. The scholarship committee chair, **Cristina Marinovici**, with committee members, **Michelle Parker** and **Jennifer Williamson** recently met to select the scholarship winner.

Paulina Hyde, a sophomore at Idaho State University, was selected as the 2013 AREVA-SWE scholarship recipient. Paulina is planning to major in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineer and has demonstrated not only academic proficiency but also involvement in community and professional arenas which include being a member of ASME, and SWE, and helping in fundraising for the local YMCA.

## 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 2014 fiscal year (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014):

- Newsletter Editor- Prepare the Newsletter – every two months
- 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.

## 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	easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com	
Certificate of Merit Chair	Jennifer Williamson	Jennifer.Williamson@pnl.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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