FY 2004 Tentative Calendar

November
- 14th – Yoga! Join us at the Anahatta Yoga Center from 7 – 8 p.m.; cost $5. It is still undecided if we continue the evening with a dinner, at your own expense, at a nearby eatery. Bring a friend!

December
- Holiday Party and Adopt a Family gift wrapping. More information coming soon!

January
- Pottery – More information coming soon!

February
- 21st – 22nd – Region I Conference in Colorado Springs, CO
- 22nd – 28th – National E-week; Library Presentation or Demonstration – volunteers needed to spearhead this event.

March
- Work-Life Balance Panel Discussion – volunteers needed to spearhead this event.

April/May
- TBD; what would you like to see here? Give your suggestions to a SWE board member…
Yoga Class Information

Date: Friday, November 14, 2003
Place: Anahatta Yoga Center, L.L.C.
3665 W. 95th St.
Overland Park, KS 66206
(913) 381-7899
Time: 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Cost: $5.00

*Please bring your own yoga mat. The center has them for rent for $2.

*Wear loose comfortable clothing. Do not eat before class.

*Classes begin promptly. Plan on arriving 5-10 minutes early.

Did you know?

SWE Strategic Priorities:

1. Education and Outreach:
The technical professions will benefit, and the quality of life will be enhanced by more women of all backgrounds pursuing the profession of engineering.

2. Inclusive Organization:
SWE will be an inclusive organization focused on issues of interest to women of all backgrounds in engineering and technical careers.

3. Knowledge Source:
SWE will be a worldwide leader and preferred partner in the creation and advancement of information about women in technical careers.

4. Professional Leadership:
Women will be acknowledged as demonstrating the skills required to be effective leaders in a global marketplace.

5. Value and Benefit:
SWE programs and services across the organization will provide value and benefit and meet the diverse and changing needs of Society members and stakeholders.

Got comments? Or new ideas for your KCSWE Newsletter? Let your editor know!
	solanoi@sbcglobal.net
Region I Governor Position
Region I will need to nominate a Region Governor for next year per the new bylaws. To get everyone thinking about the most qualified candidate, here is some information about the position and the qualifications. This information is from the Region Governor Procedures. If anyone is interested in this position, please contact Joan Graf at grafjj@msn.com.

Region Governor
The region governor plays an integral role in the Society. The region governor provides expertise in section and region operations, ensures all stakeholders receive continuous communication about Society activities and issues, provides a wide variety of resources to all stakeholders, assesses grassroots movements and needs within the organization, and ensures the health and vitality of the sections within her region and of her region as a whole. Region governors have many stakeholders within the Society: student and professional members, student and professional sections, student interest groups, MALs, the board of directors, the director of regions, other region governors, the council of representatives and its speaker and deputy speaker, the executive director and headquarters operations, national committees, regional student coordinators, and corporate partners. External to the Society, the governor has stakeholders in local and regional communities, educational groups and institutions, and corporations.

SWE Bylaws Required Qualifications
1. Be a voting member of the Society in good standing.
2. Be assigned to that region as a member of one of the professional sections or a professional member at large.
3. Have served at least two years in the aggregate as a professional member of the council or as a professional section or member at large president, except that one year as a region student representative may be counted toward the requirement.

Desired Qualifications
In addition to the requirements specified in the Society’s bylaws, the following additional characteristics are suggested for region governors:

- General SWE knowledge.
- General student SWE knowledge.
- Knowledge of professional section operations.
- Outgoing, motivational personality.
- Strategic planning and goal setting skills
- Budgeting and financial management skills
- Leadership, coaching, training, and mentoring skills
- Consulting skills: negotiating, coping with mixed motivation, dealing with concerns, analysis, dealing with political climate, comfort with ambiguity, interviewing, feedback of data, working with resistance, focusing on options and choices, and problem solving.
- Interpersonal skills: listening, ability to maintain business relationships while maintaining trust, being supportive, conflict resolution, and team building skills.
- Organizational skills: filing, reporting, tracking.
- Communication skills: meeting facilitation, listening, presentation of personal and organizational data, crisp clear communication of direction, clarity in writing and speech.
Education:
Structural Engineering

SWE Involvement:
I was president the year that Women Engineers of Kansas City chartered the SWE section here - April of 1982.

What do you do at work?
Most of my recent professional activity has been focused on serving on the state licensing board, the Missouri Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects. I also work on the national exam for licensing Structural Engineers.

Will you share with us your acceptance speech at SWE Birmingham Conference?
In 1983, 20 years ago, the economy was much like it is today. Construction was down and engineering firms were laying off experienced people – like me. I had never dreamt of owning my own business, but it became a necessity and gradually a reality. It has worked so well that, I cannot imagine working for someone else again. I would like to thank my SWE friends who have always been supportive, and made me feel like I had a team of people behind me.

After 20 years as a business owner, I can say that bigger is not always better. Keeping the company small has maintained profitability and allowed me to do what I like – a lot of engineering with a little bit of management. The highs are higher and the lows are lower because in a small business, every accomplishment and disappointment is personal. But I have grown to like it that way. In fact, I actually like my job and enjoy going to work every day. And after 30 years in engineering, that is the best reward.
NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

CHERI LEIGH HONORED WITH SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS’ ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

Cheri J. Leigh P.E. of Leigh & O’Kane LLC recognized for her entrepreneurial spirit and long term business success at Society’s national conference

BIRMINGHAM, AL, October 10, 2003 – The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) announced today that Ms. Cheri Leigh, P.E. is the recipient of the 2003 SWE Entrepreneur Award. Leigh is recognized for setting a standard for professional practice in Leigh & O’Kane, LLC, for serving as a female role model for business ownership in a male dominated industry, for holding professional board positions, and for extensive volunteer efforts in the community.

Leigh is the founder and principal partner with Leigh & O’Kane, LLC. Leigh has functional responsibility for strategic planning, marketing and sales, engineering, human resources, and financial management. She is a proven professional with technical skills enhancing her ability to develop collaborative solutions with clients in the areas of commercial buildings, educational and medical facilities, and the public sector. She was the first woman engineer to be appointed to the Missouri Board for Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and is the first woman to serve on the NCEES structural exam committee.

“Cheri Leigh is an excellent role model for our entrepreneurial-minded members and aspiring women engineers everywhere,” said Alma Martinez Fallon, president of the Society of Women Engineers. “To create Leigh & O’Kane, LLC, Cheri has combined technical expertise, business skill, genuine leadership, and the ability to envision a successful enterprise while overcoming traditional barriers and stereotypes.”

With 30 years of structural engineering experience, Leigh led large projects for major corporations, such as General Motors and Norfolk & Western Railway, prior to starting her own company in 1983.
NEWS RELEASE CONTINUED

Leigh's broad experience enables her to bring a unique blend of innovative solutions to her clients’ projects, which have included: Starlight Theatre Stagehouse, Truman Medical Center’s addition of a three-story intensive care unit, and H&R Block Corporate Headquarters expansion in Kansas City, Missouri.

Leigh has held positions in the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers, the Consulting Engineering Council of Missouri and is a Fellow of the Society of Women Engineers. She has a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Southern Methodist University and a Masters of Science in engineering management from Kansas University. In her local community, Leigh is a volunteer for Reach to Recovery, a support program for patients with breast cancer, and provides weekly budget counseling for families through Community LINC, an organization that provides transitional housing and living skills for homeless families.

The SWE Entrepreneur Award will be formally presented tonight at the Society of Women Engineers’ National Conference Achievement Awards Banquet in Birmingham, Alabama. The National Conference, “Supporting the World Through Engineering,” is being held in Birmingham, AL October 9 – 11. The over 3,000 attendees include professionals from every discipline of the engineering profession and a large number of engineering students and educators. The 2004 Conference is scheduled for October 13 – 16, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Thanks to Hope Piuck!

A hearty thank you to Hope Piuck who represented Region I on the bylaws committee. She did a tremendous amount of work to help make the bylaws review process a success. The review, re-write and faq's were just so helpful to all of us. Thanks Hope for assisting the society in completing this large task. The bylaws passed at the Council of Representative meeting at Birmingham, AL.

Joan Graf
SWE Director, Region I

SWE member wins technology award!

Honorees noted for Professional Excellence Kimberly Singleton (KC SWE Treasurer) was one of five Sprint associates in the Local Telecom Division (LTD) Network organization who received a National Women of Color in Technology award. All five were honored in the "All Star" category, recognizing them for demonstrating excellence as role models and leaders throughout their careers in business and technology. They received their awards at the Women of Color conference in Atlanta, GA on October 10th. Kimberly is a Regional Network Planning manager at Sprint responsible for planning and support of the LTD's voice and data network in the western portion of the country.

Congratulations to Kim!