Happy New Year, SWE-RMS members! Thanks to everyone who participated in our holiday fundraising party in December. Though the weather tried to thwart us, we had a lovely time visiting, enjoying the wonderful treats everyone brought to share, and doing some shopping to support the section. Special thanks to Tammy Johnson for hosting us! I’m looking forward to our spring activities, from the mini-conference that has been rescheduled for March 6 to our annual awards banquet on May 15. Additionally, there will be opportunities to help judge scholarship and essay contest submissions. Though we are only halfway through the SWE fiscal year, spring is also a time for succession planning, and we will be seeking experienced SWE-RMS members to serve on our nominating committee and for volunteers interested in serving as officers or committee chairs for the section. If you have been observing from the sidelines, I hope you will consider stepping up and taking a more active role with our organization, because it is so rewarding to work with the extraordinary women in SWE-RMS!

- Heather Doty

I first became interested in engineering outreach when I resumed my post as a structural engineer after a nearly eighteen year sabbatical as a stay-at-home mom. Returning to the profession, I was surprised – not by what had changed during my extended absence as much as by what hadn’t – most notably, for one in my position, the number of women. Meanwhile, my oldest daughter, in spite of demonstrating a natural affinity and love of both math and science, was not even considering engineering school as an option. And she was not alone. I was tutoring high school calculus and physics at the time and was often struck by the casual ease with which girls and boys alike were concluding that engineering was simply not for them.

Though the reasons for this trend are no doubt many, my observations, as an engineer, a mother, and a classroom volunteer from pre-school on up, point to three primary factors:

- content driven curriculums that leave too little time for the unstructured exploration needed to really capture the imagination
- the emotional effects of a negative stereotype, reinforced by the insular manner in which STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) disciplines are traditionally presented
- a perennial lack of truly personable and engaging mentors to add real world context, value, and purpose to what are otherwise little more than academic exercises

The net effect of these factors, at the high school level, is that while most of the kids, and many of the adults they associate with, will tell you that they actually know little about engineering. The image of the geek as a single minded brainiac, one step removed from mainstream social interactions, slides by unchallenged. The problem with this
MEMBER PROFILE: PEGGY OLRUNSOLA

Submitted by Casey Griswold

City of residence:
Boulder, CO

Family:
My husband, Layi is from Nigeria. We have three grown sons. They live in NYC, LA and Oakland.

Member grade:
Professional member

How long have you been a member of SWE?
I was a student member from 1968 – 1972. I became a professional member of SWE-RMS in 2007.

How did you become involved in SWE?
As an entering Engineering student at Purdue University, I was contacted by the president of the SWE Purdue Chapter, Dee Inglese, the summer before my freshman year. We met in downtown Chicago to share experiences and help my transition to Purdue Engineering. Dee, and other SWE members, provided incredible support to me during my undergraduate years. I became involved as a professional for several reasons. I wanted to get more involved in activities related to the development of women engineers. This has been important to me through my entire career, and once my children were grown, I had more time to devote to activities outside of work. As a member of the Executive Diversity Council at Ball Aerospace, I also recognized the benefit of a professional affiliation with SWE to our efforts to hire and retain a talented, diverse workforce.

What positions have you held?
I held Secretary & Treasurer positions in Purdue and University of Illinois student chapters. I was a RMS section representative in 2008/2009.

What have you enjoyed most about SWE? Why?
I have really enjoyed the networking nights and the friendships I have developed. I love to hear the stories of the incredibly talented women working in industry today. I also really enjoy interfacing with students.

What is your current company/occupation/title?
I work for Ball Aerospace as the director of RF Technologies.

How did you get to that position?
I started my career at Ball as a structural analyst in 1975. In the mid 90’s, I became a functional manager for the Physical Analysis department. Since then, I have held several different management positions, director of a small business area and director of Engineering. My current position includes responsibility for engineering as well as manufacturing operations in support of our Antenna and Video Technologies business unit. It has been a great learning experience!

What was your college training?

How did your college training help you get to that position?
My college training provided the technical background I needed. I actually chose engineering as a career because I didn’t know what to do with math and science outside of teaching and never thought I could stand up in front of a classroom – little did I know how much I would need the skills learned in the non-technical classes, and how important teamwork and leadership skill development were to success in the workplace.

Any words of wisdom for college students entering the work force?
Take advantage of all the knowledge and experience of those you work with. Develop some mentoring relationships and don’t be afraid to ask questions. Take the opportunity to learn about other disciplines and other areas of the company.

Hobbies/Interests?
Reading and gardening. I loved to ski (unfortunately can’t do it anymore) and even tried sky diving a few years ago.
Design Squad Clubs in Boulder Valley District (continued...)

by Jennifer Arndt

stereotype, as with any prejudice, is that it inhibits broader understanding of the topic by casting the topic in a shadow of doubt. For where there is doubt, there is risk associated with ignoring that doubt. Whether you’re a student, a school counselor, or a parent the image of a potentially lonely or disconnected individual is not one you can easily ignore. Add to that the relatively young age that students are expected to commit to an engineering career path, there’s little wonder interest in engineering is tentative.

For women and other minorities, the perceived risk of isolation is compounded by their minority status and the specters of chauvinism and racism too often associated with it. Most will wonder if the rewards of any such profession are worth the challenges. After hearing about so little of the rewards and so many of the challenges, all too many conclude that engineering isn’t worth perusing.

Not surprisingly, much of the research these days points to early education as the more fertile breeding ground for interest in STEM disciplines. The question then becomes, how do we introduce engineering to a younger audience in a manner that is both age appropriate and inspiring? And the answer is to shift our focus from the academic tools of the trade to the practical applications of the trade.

Though great efforts to reform STEM education are currently in the works in Colorado and across the country in response to President Obama’s Race to the Top program, it will be some time before the rewards of those efforts are realized. Fortunately, there are “shovel ready” pre-engineering programs available to initially bridge the gap and later supplement meaningful STEM education reform.

The non-profit public broadcasting reality show Design Squad™ together with the outreach campaign being masterfully orchestrated by WGBH Boston is by far the best program I have seen. This partnership has the potential for reaching a wide range of kids of many interests and ages. Their hands-on and challenging method of providing both purpose and avenues for accomplishment to each endeavor are motivating and fun. They also actively call for both parental and community involvement to help the programs be a success.

SWE is currently working with the Boulder Valley YMCA towards introducing Design Squad™ clubs as an afterschool option for fourth and fifth graders in the Boulder Valley School District. While the Design Squad™ TV show presents teams of older teenagers with real world design challenges that are tested and judged on a full scale, the Design Squad™ clubs scale down many of these same design challenges to fit the budget and time restraints of an after school program. In the clubs, kids experience the fun of hands-on learning while discovering the design process of brainstorming, building, testing, and evaluating.

To learn more about the learning opportunities and projects of Design Squad™, please visit http://pbskids.org/designsquad/. Follow the Parents, Engineers, and Educators links to see for yourselves the breadth of support being offered by WGBH to anyone with an interest in promoting STEM disciplines. Check out the on-line volunteer training or the list of websites for buying and budgeting bulk supplies for an appreciation of just how much of the work of starting up these clubs has been done for us. And then please, consider contacting your own area after-school coordinators about starting a Design Squad™ club in your area.

All fun aside, what I love most about Design Squad™ is that over the course of a season young people get to see and experience the dynamics of teamwork and collaboration at work - the individual and collective attitudes that hold teams together and those that tear them apart. They get to see diversity as an unscripted resource for fresh ideas. Perhaps more importantly, they can grow to appreciate that all people are challenged in different ways and so approach challenges differently.

In the end, we all want the same thing - to feel as though we contributed something we can be proud of. The fact that our contributions tend to be more meaningful when artfully combined with those of others is... kind of the point isn't it?
The Board of Directors of the Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame is proud to announce the 2010 inductees:

CONTEMPORARY INDUCTEES
Madeleine Albright Diplomat; First female U.S. Secretary of State
Elinor Greenberg, Ed.D Educator; Social and Political Activist
Maria Guajardo, Ph.D Educator
Philippa Marrack, Ph.D Medical Researcher
Ramona Martinez Politician
Jill Tietjen Engineer; Author; Community Activist

HISTORICAL INDUCTEES
Hattie McDaniel Actress; First African-American woman to win an Academy Award
Susan O’Brien Journalist
Bartley Marie Scott Rancher [Ouray County]
Alice Bemis Taylor Philanthropist [Colorado Springs]

We extend our congratulations to these women, who exemplify the best qualities of the people who have built and sustained Colorado. They will join the other 112 outstanding women who have shared vision, foresight, and the power of accomplishment to become inductees in the Hall of Fame. A gala induction ceremony will take place on March 18, 2010, at the Denver Marriott City Center.

For more information go to: http://www.cogreatwomen.org/

2010 INDUCTEES - Short Biographies

CONTEMPORARY INDUCTEES

Madeleine Albright

Elinor Greenberg, Ed.D
Leader in the field of education, workforce development, and adult lifelong learning. Regional Manager for the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (U.S. Dept. of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education). Designed Project Leadership, focusing on boards and CEOs of nonprofit organization, which led to formation of Colorado Women’s Leadership Coalition. Founding Director of Pathways to the Future. University of Colorado Health Sciences Center School of Medicine: Regional Coordinator of the Mountain and Plains Partnership (created online Masters degree program for nurse practitioners in underserved areas of CO, WY, NM, AZ).

Maria Guajardo, Ph.D
Clinical psychologist turned city leader. Doctoral dissertation on why some Latinas achieve academically while others don’t led to her appointment as Dropout Prevention Coordinator for the Colorado Department of Education. Kellogg Fellowship to examine the question of the role children have in creating world peace; met with world leaders and participated in dialogues to advance living conditions for children in 3rd world countries. E.D. of LARASA. As E.D. for Assets for Colorado Youth, she made advancements in the areas of parent engagement and cultural competency. 2003 appointment as Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office (Denver) for Education and Children (Denver Preschool Bill, 5 by 5 Project, Lights On After School Partnership).

Philippa Marrack, Ph.D
World-renowned immunology researcher at National Jewish Health in Denver, especially studying T-cells. Third most influential
JILL TIE T JEN I N D U C T E D I N T O C O L O R A D O W O M A N’S H A L L O F F A M E
(CONTINUED...)

researcher in the nation. Her findings shape our current understanding of the human immune system, vaccines, HIV and immune disorders (lupus, diabetes). Research centers on how T-cells recognize infections (to being the process of destroying these infections) and understand how the immune system is stimulated by a vaccine (to design better vaccines). Co-discoverer (with her husband) of superantigens. National Academy of Sciences; Fellow of Royal Society in Great Britain; elected to prestigious international Institute of Medicine (2008).

Ramona Martinez
Single mom, community volunteer, small business owner turned politician. Elected to Denver City Council 1987 (second Latina); first Latina to be elected President of the Denver City Council. Key player in efforts to build a convention center, new airport, new major league baseball field, expanded library; principal in implementing affirmative action plan that gave 30% of DIA work to women- and minority-owned businesses, opening up opportunities for women and people of color. Health care, social services, and recreational services provided to low-income areas of Denver. Works in Democratic National Committee as officer of Women’s Caucus and Hispanic Caucus.

Jill Tietjen
Registered professional engineer with more than 30 years’ experience in electric utility industry and renewable power; prolific author in the field. First female board member, later president, of Rocky Mountain Electrical League (provides scholarships to students in the area of energy). National president of Society of Women Engineers. Program Director of Women in Engineering Program at CU; directed College of Engineering and Applied Science in recruitment and retention of women engineering students. Personally endowed a scholarship at CU (as well as University of VA, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and Society of Women Engineers) for women in engineering/sciences. Promotes women by nominating them into various Halls of Fame, including National Women’s Hall of Fame. Published Her Story on roles of women in shaping America, and Setting the Record Straight detailing history of women in accounting, engineering, and professional achievement.

HISTORICAL INDUCTEES

Hattie McDaniel
Actress and performer who endured racial harassment and segregation who opened doors to all black actors. Became the first African-American woman to win an Academy Award, Best Supporting Actress for portraying Mamie in Gone with the Wind. Confined to playing the stereotypical black maid in radio, film, and even television appearances, she gave the characters traits (warmth, humor, intelligence, assertiveness, and above all, humanity) that proved that a black person could have a comedy role without degradation and without demeaning the person inside. Instrumental in case that ruled against “restrictive” neighborhoods in LA area. Worked for social equality in her later life. Has 2 stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, one for radio and one for film work.

Sue O’Brien
Started as radio news reporter, worked as anchor and political reporter for local radio, then went to NBC News New York as anchor for the all-news radio service. Became news director and commentator for KOA-TV and KOA Radio in Denver. Press secretary for Dick Lamm; campaign manager for Roy Romer. Assistant city editor at Denver Post, then editorial page editor. Professor at CU’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication, associate dean and director of the school’s master’s program. Served on CO Baseball Commission.

Bartley Marie Scott
Rancher in Ouray County who amassed large tracts of farmland and raised quality cattle. Noted for her stewardship of the land she owned, conservation work to prevent erosion and abuse of the soil; focused on water rights and won court battles to ensure water for farmers and ranchers. Used conservation practices that were ahead of their time in ranching (widespread irrigation, protection of water rights, astute use of water rights by developing ponds, placing rock rip-rap to prevent erosion, using native grasses for grazing).

(Continue on Page 5)
DESIGN SQUAD CLUBS IN BOULDER VALLEY DISTRICT (CONTINUED...)

While a solid foundation in math and science will always be a prerequisite of engineering, it is creativity and collaboration that stand out in my mind as the true hallmarks of the profession. Unfortunately, these are not characteristics generally associated with engineering. Design Squad™ helps show the essence of why most people choose engineering as a profession. People who are engineers at heart seek practical, ever impactful, and creative outlets for their desire to make a difference in the world.

Many thanks to SWE, the Boulder Valley YMCA, and WGBH for helping to change how kids consider their impact on the world around them.

JILL TIEJTEN INDUCTED INTO COLORADO WOMAN’S HALL OF FAME (CONTINUED...)

Alice Bemis Taylor

“Hands on” philanthropist who was one of the most significant “builders” of the new city of Colorado Springs in early 1900s. Established Colorado Springs Day Nursery Association to care for young children of the poor, particularly TB patients; personally built (her own money and labor) the Day Nursery Center, which has served as a child care center continuously since its completion. Purchased land and donate funds to build Fine Arts Center (performing and fine arts), donated collections; institution still exists and thrives today. First woman trustee of Colorado College and established scholarship fund.

2010 ENGINEERS WEEK ANNUAL WORKSHOP AND DINNER
Submitted by Kristin Ramey

2010 Engineers Week Annual Workshop and Dinner
“Opportunities for Engineering during Economic Recovery”
Energy—Water—Transportation—Building

Program:
Workshop 7:30am—5:15pm
Order of Engineer Ceremony 6:00pm—6:30pm
All Engineers Dinner 5:30pm—9:30pm
(Note: If you take part in the ceremony, you must arrive by 5:30pm to complete paperwork and be fitted for your ring. Cost $20.00 per participant)

When & Where:
Friday, February 19, 2010
Double Tree Hotel, South of I-70 at 32nd & Quebec
Cost: $60.00 /person, $480.00 /corporate table (8 people)

To make reservations for the workshop and dinner contact
National Society of Professional Engineers — Colorado Chapter
3030 West 81st Ave, Denver, Co. 80031
Phone: 303-480-1160/Fax: 303-458-0002
email: pec@imigroup.org

SWE-RMS MINI CONFERENCE
Submitted by Heather Doty

SWE-RMS Mini Conference for Colligates and Professionals
Saturday, March 6, 2010
10:00am—2:30pm with optional social activity to follow
At the University of Colorado at Boulder Campus


Session topics:
- “AYZH: Technology Solutions for Women”, Zubaida Bai
  ⇒ Improving the quality of life for women in rural India
- “Suited for Space”, Jamie Hamilton
  ⇒ A former NASA intern discusses spacesuit design
- “Effective Communication”, Kristina Wang
  ⇒ Tips on getting your message across whether via phone, email, letter, or in person
- “What’s Next?”, Anna Meck
  ⇒ How to filter opportunities for maximum satisfaction and minimum risk

Registration: $20 for professional SWE members/$25 for non-members, this includes lunch
Greetings from the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) at the University of Colorado at Boulder!

We would like to cordially invite you to the annual SWE Evening with Industry! Evening with Industry (EWI) allows students a chance to mingle with professionals in a less-formal setting, network with representatives and fellow students, have questions answered, and enjoy delicious dinner! It will also give you a chance to meet our engineering students and see what we have to offer.

University of Colorado’s School of Engineering is continuously ranked in the Top 10 Engineering schools in the country by US News and World Report, and is #1 in the State of Colorado! Our students are a testament of the school’s celebrated program, representing the undying drive and dedication to expanding frontiers in engineering.

This year Evening with Industry is on January 26, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the new dormitory Andrews Hall in the Kittredge Complex on CU Campus. The price for professionals to attend will be $75 per person. Checks can be made out to the Society of Women Engineers and sent to the campus mailbox listed above. Please RSVP to Jayne Aiken jayne.aiken@colorado.edu or 720-273-5471 by January 22nd if you plan on attending. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to ask.
SWE-RMS Networking Nights
Submitted by Anika Aheimer & Angie Hall

Please join us for SWE-RMS Networking Nights. These are informal gatherings where you can network, connect with, and get to know other women in engineering, science, and technology. Hopefully you’ll be able to join us for at least one of the events!

When: **Tuesday, January 19th at 6:00 pm**
Where: Slattery’s Irish Pub at the Landmark Center
This is just west of I-25 on the south side of Belleview Road.
Go to [slatteryspublichouse.net](http://slatteryspublichouse.net) for directions
RSVP by COB Friday, 1/15/10 to Anika Aheimer at anikaaheimer@gmail.com

When: **Thursday, January 21st at 6:00 pm**
Where: Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery
14694 Orchard Parkway
Westminster, CO
RSVP by COB Tuesday, 1/19/10 to Angie Hall at angiehall@lgsinnovations.com

When: **Tuesday, February 16th at 6:00 pm**
Where: Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery
1001 16th Street #A-100
Denver, Co 80265
303-534-7616
(on the corner of 16th and Curtis)
RSVP by COB Friday, 2/12/10 to Anika Aheimer at anikaaheimer@gmail.com

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SWE n’ Ski, 2010

Mingle with women in professional societies across campus while enjoying the CO snow!

This year there will be **TWO** chances for you to join the fun:
(Skiers and Boarders welcome both days 😊)

**January 23rd**
@ Sol Vientos

**February 27th**
@ Ski Cooper

BOTH free days (plus other discounts) are available with a Colorado Gems Card for only $10!!! Get yours online NOW at [www.coloradogems.com](http://www.coloradogems.com) THEY RUN OUT FAST!

More details to follow, but save the dates and get your card, ASAP.
# SWE-RMS Contact Information

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<td>Bylaws</td>
<td>Joan Graf</td>
<td><a href="mailto:grafjj@msn.com">grafjj@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td><strong>OPEN</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For complete details, directions, and more, visit the SWE-RMS website calendar.

January 19, 2009
6:00pm
SWE-RMS South Denver Networking Night
Slattery's Irish Pub at the Landmark Center

January 21, 2009
6:00pm
SWE-RMS North Denver Networking Night
Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery (Westminster)

January 23, 2010
SWE ‘n’ Ski 2010
Sol Vista

February 1, 2010
SWE Scholarship Applications are Due

February 14—20, 2010
National Engineers Week
Nation Wide Events

February 16, 2009
6:00pm
SWE-RMS Denver Networking Night
Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery (Downtown Denver)

February 19, 2010
E-Week Annual Workshop and Dinner Hosted by Professional Engineers of Colorado
Denver, Co

February 26-27, 2010
SWE Region I Conference
Columbia, MO

February 27, 2010
SWE ‘n’ Ski 2010
Ski Cooper

March 6, 2010
SWE Mini-conference
University of Colorado at Boulder

March 25-27, 2010
FIRST Robotics Colorado Regional Competition

March 31, 2010
SWE Individual Award nominations Due

April 8-10, 2010
Colorado Science and Engineering Fair
Colorado State University

May 15, 2010
SWE-RMS Awards Banquet/Luncheon
TBD