

# Tulsa Society of Women Engineers



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October 2011 Issue

# Regional SWE Conference

Planning for the 2012 SWE Region I conference is well underway. The event will be held March 2nd & 3rd at the Southern Hills Hilton. We'll kick off the event with "STEMped into Tulsa" – a western saloon themed night with games and prizes. On Saturday, we'll have some very exciting speakers, technical tours, a career fair, breakfast and lunch keynote events, and end our conference with dinner and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Oklahoma Aquarium.

We've received sponsorships from 7 very generous corporations in the Tulsa area, but we're still about \$4000 shy of our fundraising goal. If your company would like to be part of this great event (and have access to top-notch talent at our career fair), please contact [Suzanne Dodson](#)



# Letter from the President

The SWE national conference in Chicago just passed and I'm so glad that thirteen Section members attended this year. Watch for information on our website or through evite about our upcoming Continuing Education 2-part series when our Treasurer and Region Senator, Chriss Chavez, (who is also a PhD candidate) will present information about returning to graduate school. MJ Green is also scheduling a combined meeting with Engineers in Action. It is time for me to say a fond farewell to all in Tulsa as I will be leaving the state at the end of October. I am thankful to have the privilege of serving as President of this dynamic and vibrant professional Section of SWE. I have no doubt that the strong leadership abilities of the remaining officers will ensure a smooth continuation of Section events.



Christine Hirrill, president

*Best wishes to you and your family, Christine!!*

## Member Biography



Hi I am Michele Heyward, a native of South Carolina. A Clemson University graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering and a Master of Science degree in industrial management, I enjoy traveling and shopping. I have been a Society of Women Engineers (SWE) member for 10 years or so. I am also a member of National Society of Black Engineers alumni extension (NSBE-AE) and the National Black MBA Association (NBMBAA). I enjoy mentoring to youth especially about opportunities in engineering and science.

I began my professional career as a sales engineer in the electrical manufacturing industry but desired a more technically driven career. After a short stint in technical sales, I transitioned into the construction industry as a cost engineer with Washington Group International. With international in the company name I figured I could travel the world...hasn't happened yet but I am sure the right opportunity will come up one day soon. For my first field assignment, I relocated to the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area, where I worked on the retrofit for a fossil fuel plant adjacent to the Allegheny winters. I also learned how much I do not like the COLD. After this 4 year project, I was transferred to a transmission and distribution project here in Tulsa. After about a year as a cost engineer, I switched to become a construction engineer working in an office. An oxymoron at its best - a construction engineer working in an office. However, it is allowing me the opportunity to learn the other sides of T&D work prior to construction. So I get to see the specifications develop, bid process, contract negotiations and award before the real work starts in west Texas!

Some of my favorite places to travel include New Orleans and Atlanta. Can you tell I am single with no kids? I love the New Orleans culture and go there annually for the Essence Music Festival. I have seen some of my very favorite artists perform there like Mary J. Blige, Jill Scott, Kanye West, LL Cool J, New Edition just to name a few. Atlanta is one of my favorite party spots and cities to shop in as a recovering shopaholic very seldom do I find an issue shopping any place.

One of my 2011 goals was to walk (11) 5k races and to do it under 45 minutes. So far I have completed (4) races but have not yet met my desired race time. I also dream of one day starting my own business. If only I knew what it would be!

Last thing to know about me is I BLEED ORANGE! GO TIGERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!! CLEMSOOOON!

# Event Calendar: October & November

OCTOBER 2011						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

NOVEMBER 2011						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

10 Columbus Day  
 13-15 SWE Ntnl Conf, Chicago  
 30 Movie night with student section  
 31 Halloween

3 CE series, part I  
 8 EIA – Chriss Chavez  
 11 Veterans Day  
 24 Thanksgiving Day

The bylaws committee will soon begin preparing bylaws motions for the Senate's FY12 winter meeting. Motions must be finalized at least 90 days prior to the Senate's meeting. If you already know you'd like to submit a motion please use the bylaws amendment submission form [found here](#) or the governance SharePoint, and submit completed forms by October 22. Feel free to contact anyone on the bylaws committee prior to the deadline. The most important information we need from you is the exact intent of the motion so we can help make sure it accomplishes what you want it to. Please submit your proposed motions to [bylaws-chair@swe.org](mailto:bylaws-chair@swe.org) and [secretary@swe.org](mailto:secretary@swe.org).

The student section of SWE at the University of Tulsa will be holding a movie night, and would like to invite professional members to attend as well! It will be Sunday, Oct. 30 around dinner time. We're going to have a costume contest along with dinner, a movie (Hocus Pocus) and cookie decorating. All of the girls enjoyed having the professional section at our dinner in August and they were excited to invite you back for more fun activities. Contact [jordan-dettlaff@utulsa.edu](mailto:jordan-dettlaff@utulsa.edu)



RAISING THE HEIGHTS OF INNOVATION  
 October 13-15, 2011 // McCormick Place // Chicago, Illinois

**Be sure to check next month's newsletter for a full review of the National Conference!**

# Event Recap



Fourteen members and guests visited Marshall's Brewing Company for a tour and some "quality control" tasting. Eric Marshall, a local guy and TU grad, runs this local brewery with less than five employees! SWE members got a behind the scenes look at how Eric took his at-home brewing obsession and turned it into a business. Eric, with a degree in International Business, could have fooled us into believing he was an engineer or scientist. He knows his stuff! After an enlightening technical tour, we all hit the roads to go find more of his brews which are available at most restaurants around town.



Monica Rodriguez participated in the "Invent. It. Build It." outreach event held Saturday of the SWE National Conference. The day was filled with three activities for a large number of girls from local Chicago middle schools. The first activity served as a "warm-up" which was building a wind powered car out of paper, index cards, life savers, and straws. The first main activity was to build an environmentally friendly soda carrier as opposed to using the plastic rings that could harm animals. After lunch which was provided, the girls unwound in the outreach expo where they could participate in more hands-on activities. The final activity of the day was to build a "helping hand" which could reach at least two feet farther than your own hand. The activities got increasingly difficult throughout the day which kept the girls engaged as well as the teachers! Overall, it was an experience that everyone enjoyed, and one that these girls will most likely never forget.



If you're interested in participating in events like this in Tulsa, contact [Monica Rodriguez](#) to be added to the outreach committee emailing list. Volunteers are always needed and always appreciated!

Check out the November newsletter for more pictures and reviews from the Tulsa SWE members who attended SW11!

# General Announcements

Professional  
Development



Society of  
Women Engineers

ASPIRE • ADVANCE • ACHIEVE

## Calling all of you web crawlers and internet surfers!

Check out a SWE [Professional Development Webinar!](#)

### Each video features:

- 60 minutes of quality instruction by an expert
- Online curriculum designed for skill building
- Free to members and moderately priced for non-members
- Facilitated interaction with the expert
- Knowledge resources and customized take-aways
- Dynamic learning experience without leaving your desk



### Videos available for download:

- \* Resilience at Work Part I, II, & III
  - \* Influence Skills Part I & II
  - \* Leadership for Technologists
- \* Managing Overwhelm Part I & II
- \* Managing Diverse and Dispersed Teams
  - \* The Electronic Dilemma
- \* Project Management Fundamentals
- \* Women as Leaders: What's Going On?
- \* Skirt Strategies: the Intuition Model of 16 Feminine Traits

**If webinars aren't your thing, there are plenty of other Professional Development options to explore through SWE, including articles, partner resources, and workshops!**



Hands-on  
Activities!

# ENGINEERS

MAKE THE WORLD BETTER

**The Tulsa Engineering Academy at Memorial**

Invites you to a

# **Mother / Daughter TEA**

**(Technology Engineering Aptitude)**

**For 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade Girls  
and their Mothers**

**Saturday, October 29  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Design a miniature  
**HOVERCRAFT**

**Location:  
Memorial High School  
5840 S. Hudson Ave.**

**\$5 / Mother/Daughter team  
Pay at the door**

**Lunch  
Included**

**Contact Lane Matheson for  
Registration and any further  
information**

**918-991-8326**

**[mathela@tulsaschools.org](mailto:mathela@tulsaschools.org)**



## UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT NAMED FEDERAL SERVICE STUDENT AMBASSADOR

### *The nonprofit Partnership for Public Service and the Department of Energy Select Eight Students for Unique College Recruitment Effort*

WASHINGTON – The nonprofit Partnership for Public Service today announced that Christella Chavez, a University of Oklahoma student, has been selected to serve as an *Department of Energy (DOE) Student Ambassador* for the 2011-12 academic year.

The *Energy Student Ambassadors* program is part of the Department of Energy's efforts to expand their presence on U.S. college and university campuses and connect student jobseekers with DOE job and internship opportunities. This year, eight students representing schools nation-wide were selected for the program.

As an Energy Student Ambassador, Chavez will serve as an on-campus resource for DOE job and internship information, providing tips on where to find and how to land DOE positions. Responsibilities range from conducting presentations and workshops to collaborating with campus career services representatives and faculty members.

"There is no better place to work on critical issues that affect our country on a grand scale than the federal government," said Amanda Davis, the Partnership's *Ambassadors* program manager. "The Energy Ambassadors are on campuses now, helping classmates find jobs where they can make a difference working on a wide range of energy issues."

"The *Energy Ambassadors* program is one of the most effective mediums for recruiting the entry-level talent that the Department of Energy needs," said Edwin Luevanos, program manager at DOE. "This peer-to-peer recruitment strategy helps the Ambassadors introduce students across their campuses to DOE job and internship opportunities in a variety of competitive fields."



PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Ambassadors must have a strong interest in the Department of Energy's mission and energy-related career and educational opportunities. This year's Ambassadors have recently completed internships at DOE, its National Labs and the National Nuclear Security Administration.

The *Energy Student Ambassadors* program is conducted in collaboration with the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, a Department of Energy institute focuses on educating the next generation of scientists, among other initiatives.

The *Energy Student Ambassadors* program is affiliated with the Partnership for Public Service's prestigious *Federal Service Student Ambassadors* program. Through the Partnership's *Call to Serve* initiative, the organization partners with more than 720 campuses and 75 federal agencies to inspire a new generation to serve. The *Call to Serve* network carries an important message to students about government service: it's not just making a living, it's making the difference.



Congrats on the great honor,  
Chriss!

# Local Job Openings

City Engineer, City of Norman

**City of Norman - Norman, OK**

Performs highly responsible, professional engineering work in planning, organizing, and directing the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department. Proven ability to manage personnel and programs in a complex municipal public works environment. Must demonstrate considerable experience in engineering design and review. A complete job description is available at <http://www.normanok.gov/hr/hr/hr-job-postings>. [more info...](#)

Mechanical, Structural or Civil Engineer

**Engineering and Consulting Services, Inc. - Tulsa, OK**

ENGINEERING & CONSULTING SERVICES, INC (ECSI) is a well established Engineering and Consulting company in business for more than 26 years. We are located in the Tulsa, Oklahoma area. We are looking for a professional, career oriented Mechanical, Structural or Civil Engineer. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package including a 401(k) match. [more info...](#)

Structural Engineer - PE

**Project Time & Cost, Inc. - Oklahoma City, OK**

PT&C Forensic Consulting Services, PA is seeking Structural Engineers/PE for Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Great opportunity for structural engineers with a strong design background. Interested parties should apply on line at [www.ptcinc.com/careers](http://www.ptcinc.com/careers) [more info...](#)

Project Engineer

Magellan Midstream Partners, L.P. - Tulsa, OK

Magellan Midstream Partners L.P. is seeking highly talented, motivated, and self-driven Engineers for our Technical Services group based in Tulsa, Oklahoma! Our Technical Services team provides engineering expertise in a number of areas including, but not limited to: Project Management, Asset Integrity, and Corrosion Control. [more info...](#)



## Attention Tulsa-area Hiring Managers!!

Is your team or company hiring? Looking to hit a wide-range of applicants at once?

The NEO/ Tulsa Society of Women Engineers monthly newsletter goes to 300 members, plus is available on our website. Our professional development committee would love to help get the word out for your job posting! Please contact newsletter editor [Melissa Miesle](#) with the details of your posting.