

# Willamette Valley Section News

December/January 2009

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# Society of Women Engineers

ASPIRE • ADVANCE • ACHIEVE

## President's Letter

By Lorraine Wang

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a happy and relaxing holiday season. As we celebrate the start of 2010, we are also preparing for the height of WVS-SWE activity. In the next few weeks, we will be evaluating all of our Essay Contest and Scholarship applicants and preparing to honor the winners at our annual Engineers Week Banquet on February 23. If you are interested in volunteering to help with any of these activities, please contact the committee chairs to lend your support!

- Essay Contest – Holli Pick ([holli.pick@gmail.com](mailto:holli.pick@gmail.com)) & Jenny Shih ([shihjenny@gmail.com](mailto:shihjenny@gmail.com))
- Scholarship -- Peggy Koch ([tim.koch@comcast.net](mailto:tim.koch@comcast.net))
- Banquet – Jenny Shih ([shihjenny@gmail.com](mailto:shihjenny@gmail.com))

As I was catching up on my email after vacation, I came across a newsletter from Jo Miller, CEO of Women's Leadership Coaching Inc. I had signed up to be on her mailing list after attending her workshop on Becoming a Person of Influence at the 2008 National SWE Conference in Baltimore. She is a regular contributor for the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology (<http://anitaborg.org/>) and her most recent installment offers the following career advice to make the most of 2010. Each item below is associated with more detailed advice in the associated link.

### Ask Jo: 10 Resolutions Every Woman Should Make for 2010

(<http://anitaborg.org/news/archive/ask-jo-10-resolutions-for-2010/>)

1. Become more influential. Build your ability to influence, persuade, and motivate others, regardless of whether you have a management job title. [Influencing Without Authority](#)
2. Seek management's buy-in for a new idea. Take a great technical idea, and sell it to your senior management by partnering with others to build credibility. [Selling your technical idea to management](#)
3. Don't let others steal your ideas. Pitch persuasive proposals, and pitch yourself too, to get credit for your work. [Getting Credit for Your Ideas](#)
4. Learn to delegate effectively. Manage the work performance of others, without hovering about like a micro-manager. [How Do I Delegate without Micromanaging?](#)
5. Build an influential network. You don't need to be a "shmoozer" to be a good networker, when you include these five key types of people. [Five Key People You Need in Your Network](#)
6. Ask your role models for mentoring. Approach role models you admire, and engage them as mentors. [Mentoring](#)

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## Who's Who

### Executive Council

**President: Lorraine Wang**  
541-715-4020, [lorraine.c.wang@hp.com](mailto:lorraine.c.wang@hp.com)

**VP, Professional Development:**  
**Melissa Martinez**  
541-926-4211 ext. 6001  
[melissa.martinez@wahchang.com](mailto:melissa.martinez@wahchang.com)

**VP, Career Guidance: Abbie Kimerling**  
541-757-2047 ext. 217  
[abbie.kimerling@imtech-or.com](mailto:abbie.kimerling@imtech-or.com)

**Treasurer: Laura Kramer**  
[lbnkmk@gmail.com](mailto:lbnkmk@gmail.com)

**Secretary: Debora Thomas**  
[debora.thomas@hp.com](mailto:debora.thomas@hp.com)

**Section Representative: Becky Clark**  
541-715-7734, [becky.clark@hp.com](mailto:becky.clark@hp.com)

**Section Rep Alternate: Roberta Stinson**  
541-715-2830, [roberta.stinson@hp.com](mailto:roberta.stinson@hp.com)

### Committee Chairs

**Banquet: Jenny Shih, [shihjenny@gmail.com](mailto:shihjenny@gmail.com)**

**Certificate of Merit: Andrea Knight, [drea228a@gmail.com](mailto:drea228a@gmail.com)**

**Essay Contest: Holli Pick, [holli.pick@gmail.com](mailto:holli.pick@gmail.com), and Jenny Shih, [shihjenny@gmail.com](mailto:shihjenny@gmail.com)**

**Fund Development: OPEN**

**Girl Scouts: Andrea Knight, [drea228a@gmail.com](mailto:drea228a@gmail.com) and Becky Clark, [becky.clark@hp.com](mailto:becky.clark@hp.com)**

**HP Liaison: Patty Kellar, [patty.kellar@hp.com](mailto:patty.kellar@hp.com)**

**Membership: Kathy Lane, [kathy.lane@swe.org](mailto:kathy.lane@swe.org)**

**Newsletter Editor: Amy Welter, [amy.welter@swe.org](mailto:amy.welter@swe.org)**

**Nominating Committee Member (elected): OPEN**

**OSU Counselor: Nancy Beaudry, [nancy.beaudry@wahchang.com](mailto:nancy.beaudry@wahchang.com)**

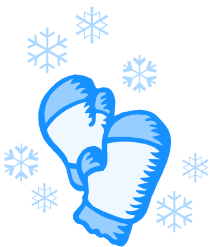
**Pre-college Outreach: OPEN**

**Professional Development Programs: Zhuqing Zhang (ZZ), [zhuqing.zhang@hp.com](mailto:zhuqing.zhang@hp.com) and Roberta Stinson, [roberta.stinson@hp.com](mailto:roberta.stinson@hp.com)**

**Publicity: Holli Pick, [holli.pick@gmail.com](mailto:holli.pick@gmail.com)**

**Scholarship: Peggy Koch, [tim.koch@comcast.net](mailto:tim.koch@comcast.net)**

**Webmaster: Celeste Baine, [celbaine@engineeringedu.com](mailto:celbaine@engineeringedu.com)**



## Professional Development

### WVS-SWE January Program: Life Changes

For our January program, Jenny Shih, Certified Life Coach, is going to host a 2-hour workshop on the topic of change. It is scheduled for January 28th at 6 pm at New China Buffet.

Jenny will share an empowering perspective on change, whether that change is work or personal, or self-imposed or externally driven. She'll share insights and tips on navigating change, including real-life examples.

To tailor her material specifically to attendees, please send Jenny your suggestions, ideas, or questions about change. What changes are you going through in your life? What changes do you foresee? What concerns do you have about change? Email Jenny with your input at [Jenny@RisingSunCoaching.com](mailto:Jenny@RisingSunCoaching.com).

*President's Letter, continued from Page 1*

7. Get training without spending money. Find creative ways to learn and get professional development when your company does not have funds available. [Funds are not available for training](#)
8. Make your accomplishments visible. Promote your accomplishments in ways that don't leave you feeling sleazy. [Learning the Fine Art of Self Promotion](#)
9. Figure out what you want to be "when you grow up". Identify an ideal career niche by understanding three essential elements to a successful and satisfying career. [How Do I Find My Niche?](#)
10. Throw your hat in the ring for a promotion. Reinvent yourself as a candidate for promotion, by working smarter, not harder. [Four Ways to Ensure You're Promoted](#)

In addition to webinars and workshops, the Anita Borg Institute website also offers links to blogs, news and research that are focused on their mission to increase the impact of women on technology and to increase the positive impact of technology on women. Although the Anita Borg Institute is a well-known organization, I wanted to make sure that you were all aware of this leadership development resource as you prepare to set goals for the new year. I wish you all a healthy and successful 2010!

**Save the Date** **Willamette Valley**  
**Engineers Week Banquet**  
February 23, 2010, 6 pm

CH2M Hill Alumni Center, Oregon State University Campus,  
Corvallis, Oregon

Keynote Speaker: Tim Leatherman, 1970 OSU graduate, and founder and former chairman and chief executive of Leatherman Tool Group, Inc.

Visit our website at <http://wvs-swe.engineeringedu.com/>

## Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

13 EC Meeting  
 28 Professional Development Program, New China Buffet  
 TBD Meet'n Greet Lunch – week of January 18<sup>th</sup>

### FEBRUARY

2 EC Meeting  
 23 EWeek Banquet  
 TBD Meet'n Greet Lunch

### MARCH

2 EC Meeting  
 TBD Meet'n Greet Lunch

## Local News

### Scholarship Selection Volunteers



Peggy Koch (our Scholarship chair) needs help selecting the 2010 scholarship winners. We will have a meeting at Peggy's house on Monday, February 1st, from 6-8 pm. Pizza will be provided! Please contact Abbie Kimerling ([abbie.kimerling@imtech-or.com](mailto:abbie.kimerling@imtech-or.com), 541-757-2047 x217) if you plan to attend or have any questions.

## SWE Meet a Member: Debora Thomas



**Where do you work?**  
 Hewlett-Packard, SPS

**What is your engineering training?**  
 Mechanical engineering

**What is your current job?**  
 R&D Engineer in a New Business group. I'm a little surprised that I ended up in R&D. When I was in

school, I considered quality control or something that was less "risky" than R&D. I really like it, though. Things are always changing and new challenges require innovation, not just data mining. It can be frustrating at times but that is part of any job. New business is fun to work on because of the start-up excitement; there is a special energy that surrounds new business groups.

**When did you first consider engineering as a career?**

I decided to pursue engineering when I was in high school. It seemed like a solid choice; I had always been good at math and I have a naturally analytical mind. I considered civil engineering first but then decided on mechanical engineering because it looked like a broader springboard. That impression may or may not be accurate, but it channeled my course.

**When did you first get involved in SWE?**

I first got involved with SWE when I was in college. I received an invitation letter a few weeks before classes started; it seemed like a good organization to join and become involved with. At that time I went to SWE meetings but was never on the EC. I did several fundraising activities and volunteering stints. I was first interested in HP at the career fair that was part of the SWE National Conference in 2007 in Nashville, TN. There were lots

of great companies there, and plenty of engineering talent – competition was fierce! I remember talking with Lorraine Wang (current WVS-SWE president) at the HP booth.

**SWE involvement:**

I am the secretary for FY09-10. I did some volunteering last year with the SWE Saturday Academy. I really like the tours and speakers that WVS SWE sets up. They are always timely and appropriate.

**Interesting things about me:**

In addition to my Master in Engineering, I have a Master of Arts degree in French. I spent three months in France as part of my MA and I have my eyes open for a business reason to go back. If you hear of anything, please let me know!

**Hobbies & interests outside of SWE & work:**

My interests are very domestic – I really like to cook and sew and clean. I enjoy trying and modifying new recipes. I haven't tried anything that requires several days to make, but that's on my list. I began canning fruits this summer and I like the sense of accomplishment. I hope to expand my canning repertoire next year. It's nice to give away home-canned goodies. I am not a very advanced seamstress but I wear some of the things I have made. I get a tidy sense of accomplishment from making something useful and practical. I like keeping my house in prim order – it makes hosting stress-free. I am fond of hosting guests for the weekend – it temporarily turns my house into a bed and breakfast inn, which is fun.

I enjoy reading. I read classics, fiction, non-fiction, and theological books. I like to read French books and write short stories, listen to French music, watch French movies, and watch French news online. I'm not originally from the Pacific Northwest and I am not very outdoorsy. I've started hiking a little, though, and I hope to hike a lot more next summer.

Visit our website at <http://wvs-swe.engineeredu.com/>

## Committee Chairs Needed

The Willamette Valley Section is still looking for a few good women to lead some of our vital chair positions. This includes the Pre-College Outreach chairperson.

The Pre-College Outreach committee chair plans events throughout the year, usually including one Saturday Academy workshop for middle school students and the Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, held in conjunction

with Engineers Week. This chair can plan as many activities as she and her committee are willing to do.

Please contact Lorraine Wang ([lorraine.c.wang@hp.com](mailto:lorraine.c.wang@hp.com)) to volunteer for this chair position or any of the open positions as listed in the Who's Who section.

### November Program: *So That's What Entek Does!*

*Betty Coulman*

A classic rainy fall Western Oregon week was capped off with a very interesting tour of the Lebanon sites of Entek International and Entek Manufacturing. On Friday, November 20, our group of 16 was warmly welcomed to Entek by our host, Kirk Hanawalt, V.P. of Manufacturing and COO. Kirk shared the Oregon business success story of the Entek companies and introduced us to battery separator and polymer composite extrusion technologies. Kirk was joined by Christine Buckner, Chem. E. and Lean Six Sigma Leader at Entek Manufacturing, to guide us on a much anticipated tour of the battery separator manufacturing plant and the extrusion tooling manufacturing facility.



Surprised, we learned that we may all be consumers of Entek International products and didn't know it. Entek produces battery separators, responsible for the longevity of vehicle lead acid batteries. Entek also manufactures separator film for lithium ion



batteries, commonly used in PC's and digital cameras. Entek extrusion lines are used by other companies, as well, to manufacture polymer composite products ranging from decking construction materials to biodegradable food packaging.

Entek Manufacturing, adjacent to Entek International, provides the highly specialized tooling engineering that is at the heart of Entek's huge 24/7 continuous web processing lines. It is no small feat to manufacture abrasive silica suspensions at high temperatures and pressures without destroying the tooling. The scale and precision of Entek's machining capabilities are truly awesome. Can you say "co-rotating twin-screw extruder" fast 15 times? ☺

Sparks of high interest were flying at the mention of future Entek breathable membrane products. We wish Entek well in this endeavor and will probably share a bit of pride to know their origins are so close to home.

After the tour, we headed over to Mama Linda's Great Pasta for dinner. A fun time was had by all.

Thank you to the carpool driver volunteers: Jill Rubart, Linda Sebring, Jill Wallin, Julie Wrazel, Melissa Martinez, Betty Coulman.

Sincere thanks to Kirk Hanawalt, Christine Buckner and Entek for this special opportunity.