



# SWE Newsletter



Volume 4, Issue 1

September/October 2004

### Calendar of Events

- 9/8~Ice Cream Social
- 9/28~Resume Writing/How to Work a Career Fair
- 10/6~Professional Look/ Etiquette
- 10/13~National Conference
- 10/18~SWE Night at Barr Hall, 9pm
- 10/20~Motivational Speaker/Nontraditional Tracks
- 11/3~Interviewing Skills
- 11/17~Alumni Dinner
- 12/1~Study Break— Yoga

SWE Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month in BCC graduate student lounge at 7:30pm



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## Featured Engineer: Loraine Huchler

SWE is privileged to have Loraine Huchler as its counselor. A chemical engineer with a professional engineering license in that same field, she graduated from University of Rochester and is currently the president of her own consulting firm, Martech Systems.

It took Ms. Huchler only three jobs and fourteen years to be where she is now. She started as a propulsion engineer for an aircraft manufacturer, but hated the testing work that she did there. She moved on to internal consulting while attending courses at a local community college where she learned various business skills.

It was clear through Ms. Huchler's career that engineering is a profession where one must constantly learn new things. For instance, as soon as she started her first job, she was surprised by how little she really knew. Besides the technical aspects, she had to learn how to work in a team and prepare professional reports. Still, college prepared her with the discipline of working hard every day and having the skill for analytical problem solving. In her current job, her functions include almost anything one can think of ranging from design to sales to research and operations. In her 60-hour work week, half of her time is spent on "non-billable things" (not delivering engineering services).

In high school, Ms. Huchler knew she wanted to become an engineer because she excelled in math and science and also had a father and older brother in

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## Getting to Know the SWE E-Board

### MARY HIRAS

*President*

*Senior*

*Packaging engineering*

Best Class: Glass Engineering

Best Professor: Dr. Lehman

Summer '04: I had a summer internship at Estee Lauder in New York City. It was a great experience and I learned a lot about packaging in the cosmetics industry. I also went to Greece to visit family and got to go to an Olympic game!

Best part of SWE: I love SWE because it's fun! I have a great time and I'm happy to meet other women engineers. It's nice to

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## Interviewing Skills

October 12, 2004-Presented by Loraine Huchler, Rutgers SWE Counselor

### Dress for Success-Top 10 Errors

1. *Assuming black is best* (calm colors are great, too; plaids and flowers aren't)
2. *Too masculine* (pinstripes, ties, boxy cut, boots)/*Too feminine* (bows, ruffles, very high heels, short skirts)
3. *Too much make-up*, bright nail polish
4. *Too much jewelry* (loose bracelets, dangling earrings, long bead necklaces)
5. *Sloppy* (wrinkles (no linen), spots, poorly fitting)
6. *Hands full* (long strap purse)
7. *Hair* (clean, out of eyes, not severe)
8. *Poor quality clothing* (do it right for 1 outfit, and dry clean)
9. *Too tight*
10. *Mismatched* (stockings darker than shoes, weak colors like brown)

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## Interview Skills

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### Be Prepared For:

1. *Interviewer takes a phone call!* Sit and read the annual report or notes that you brought for an event like this.
2. *"Tell me about yourself."* NEVER answer this. Ask "What specifically would you like to know?"
3. *"Why should I hire you?"* You need to have asked the interviewer about specific projects or products under development or plans for you if you work there. Then link talents or experience at college or a summer job with the skills required to complete a project planned at your prospective employers firm.
4. *"How do you handle stress? (You don't cry, do you?)"* Once again, give specific examples of situations where you demonstrated an ability to handle stress.
5. *"I noticed a ring on your finger. Are you married and/or going to have children?"* These questions are inappropriate, but you will be asked directly or indirectly at some point, if not at the interview, so be prepared to respond constructively. The interviewer is really asking: If we invest time and money in training you, will you stay or will there be other family pressures. Confirm your commitment to your employer to perform as a professional.
6. *"Do you have any questions for me?"* Ask specific questions if you have any. If not, try, "In your opinion, what are the two or three most important things to be successful in this company?  
*There's 20 years of experience*

## Getting to know the SWE E-Board!

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have an activity to be involved in besides school and work.

Advice for freshmen: It's great to get involved in societies. Check out a SWE meeting if you're free on Wednesday nights!

Future Plans: After I graduate, I'm going to travel in Europe for a couple months and visit family. I also plan to get a full time package development position possibly working in NYC.

### HEENA PATEL

*Public Relations Chair  
Senior*

*Environmental Engineering*

Best Class: Hindu Philosophy

Best Professor: Dr. Lee

Summer '04: Internship

Best part of SWE: SWE is one of the best organizations to be a part of. It not only helps in your professional development but also enhances your social skills.

Advice for Freshman: Freshmen should definitely try to get involved in

any school organization early on. It helps manage time better and also they get the chance to meet new people and know what is going on in the school.

Future Plans: I would like to work first as an environmental engineer and while I am working I would like to get my masters.

Gear up with SWE!!! =o)=o)

### HEATHER PREISENDANZ

*EGC Representative*

*Sophomore*

*Environmental Engineering*

Best Professor: Prof. Brahmia

Summer '04: ShopRite cashier, summer classes

Best part of SWE: Great support and friendship with other female engineers!!

Advice for freshman: There's free tutoring for almost all freshman classes on the 3rd floor of ARC. Definitely go, it helps a lot!!

*Get to know more of the SWE E-Board in upcoming issues!*



## Lorraine Huchler

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the profession. She did consider teaching and law, but in the end she does not regret her choice claiming, "It's the perfect occupation for me." For one, engineering gave her the opportunity to build a career without a graduate education and the high demand for engineers provided many opportunities for employment. One thing she wishes she did have was an MBA, since she had to learn business later in her career. She recommends talking to different types of engineers to determine which field of engineering would be the best fit. Also, she points out that certain industries like pharmaceutical and refining are growing while others like ammonia and paper are

struggling.

Though so busy, Ms. Huchler still gives back to the community in many ways. Last year, she came to my AP Chemistry class on National Engineering Day with other local engineers to spread awareness about the engineering profession. Her presentation helped push my desire to become a chemical engineer. As aforementioned, she is also the counselor for SWE and one can find her giving useful presentations for SWE members (*refer to "Interviewing Skills"*). Her fervor and excitement about engineering is inspirational as is her career.

—Amy Tsui, '08

**CASEY WHITE***Millville High School**Mechanical Aerospace Engineering*Favorite Class: ExperimentationToughest Class: ChemistryI love RU because: variety of studentsI don't like: the lack of communication between students and facultyWhy engineering?: I'm good at it and I like to put my mind to work, stay busy, and be able to work independently to get the job done. I also want to use my engineering degree in the Air Force.Extracurriculars: SWE, SHE**JENNIFER WOLFE***Williamstown High School**Environmental Engineering*Favorite Class: ConservationToughest Class: ChemistryI love RU because: big campus and diversityI don't like: some of the professorsWhy engineering?: I took engineering classes in high school and enjoyed them. It's tough, but it's worth it.Have you been to SWE? Yes**MARIE FISCHER***Kittatinny Regional High School**Mechanical Engineering*Favorite Class: PhysicsToughest Class: Calculus III love RU because: it's large size makes many opportunitiesWhy engineering?: It seemed like an extremely broad field and really interested me.Extracurriculars: Dance class**JACKIE PILCH***Piscataway High School**Mechanical Engineering*Favorite Class: PhysicsToughest Class: History/They are all tough to me.I love RU because: it's a big school so there's lots to offerI don't like: the busses (getting to class late)Why engineering?: I thought I would give it a shot since I thoroughly enjoyed calc/chem/physics in high school. And, I'm dreading the history class I'm in.Extracurriculars: Ultimate Frisbee, life-guard at Werblin, SWE, supporting the football team.**AMANDA BRIGHAM***Shawnee High School**Undecided*Favorite Class: CalculusToughest Class: ChemistryI love RU because: Barr HallI don't like: unnamed people on Barr 4Why Engineering?: It's something to do that won't bore me.Extracurriculars: RHAHave you been to SWE? Yes**HELEN VASH***Phillipsburg High School*

## Feature on Freshmen Engineers

This year, Barr Hall is an all freshman engineering dorm, creating a greater sense of class unity. It also made it easy to meet each other. Here are some of the students and their thoughts.

*Biomedical Engineering*Favorite Class: ChemistryToughest Class: Intro to ComputersI love RU because: new people and new friendsI don't like: the bus systemWhy engineering?: I found engineering suited the needs of a field in which I am most interested.Extracurriculars: Marching band, pep band, Voorhees choir**NANCY TWU***Scotch Plains-Fanwood HS**Industrial or Mechanical Engineering*Favorite Class: CalculusToughest Class: PhysicsI love RU because: of the peopleI don't like: the busses, construction, mediocre professors/TA's occasionally  
Why engineering?: Enjoy problem solving, cool dorm, cooler people, good job marketExtracurriculars: RUCCHave you been to SWE? Yes**KIMBERLY SCOTT***Paul VI High School**Chemical Engineering*Favorite Class: ChemistryToughest Class: Physics/CalcI love RU because: DiversityWhy engineering?: It's a field with many opportunities in which you could almost go anywhere with.Extracurriculars: Rutgers Field Hockey TeamHave you been to SWE? Yes.**XIOMMY ROHENA***North Brunswick High School**Biomedical Engineering*Favorite Class: PhysicsToughest Class: ChemistryI love RU because: everythingI don't like: the weekend bus scheduleWhy engineering?: Because I want to rule the world.Have you been to SWE? Yes.**KIM ACREE***Shawnee High School**Computer Engineering*Favorite Class: PsychologyToughest Class: PhysicsI love RU because: the peopleI don't like: the city-like atmosphereWhy Engineering?: I like problem-solvingExtracurriculars: RHA**NANCY SEHGEL***West Windsor-Plainsboro HS North**Biomedical or Mechanical Eng.*Favorite Class: ChemistryToughest Class: PhysicsI don't like: so much workComments: Guys at engineering school: "The odds are good, but the goods are odd."

**Questions:** Why did you choose engineering? Refer to "Getting to know the SWE E-Board". How has SWE benefited you? Refer to "Getting to know the SWE E-Board" Are there dues or anything necessary to maintain SWE status? There are no dues, but if you want to be a member of National SWE, it is \$20. See Heather!

*Thanks to those who submitted answers :)*

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS \*  
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY SECTION

Society of Women Engineers  
Rutgers, The State University of NJ  
Engineering Building B-110, Busch Campus  
98 Brett Road  
Piscataway, NJ 08854



*Gear Up With SWE!*

***We're on the web!***  
***coewww.rutgers.edu/swe***

## *Contact Information*

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