



# Members At Large

FY 14 Newsletter, Issue 1

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## President's Corner

Greetings MAL members and welcome to FY14! I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer so far. The society conference is coming up quick and there are many tasks that the leadership team and I have on our plate to accomplish before we see everyone in October. I am very excited to be working with such a mix of new and returning MAL leaders. It is with great pleasure that I introduce your FY14 MAL officers:

**Vice President, Debbie Jacklitch-Kuiken**, will be starting her graduate degree as well as teaching at the University of North Dakota this fall. She has been a MAL representative for Region H for the past three terms, and MAL Secretary for two and a half terms. When not working or participating in SWE, she is active in the National Society of Professional Engineers, and volunteering for programs like MathCOUNTS and the local Introduce a Girl to Engineering event. Debbie also teaches dance and fitness classes. She is a certified Zumba, Zumba Gold, and ZumbAtomic instructor.

**Treasurer, Claire Shortall**, is a SWE life member since 1983, and has been a MAL since relocating to central Louisiana in 1986. Her wealth of experience includes three years as Society treasurer, three years on the Board of trustees and over 20 years as MAL treasurer. In her roles as MAL membership coordinator and the Society's new professional section coordinator, she has guided other members to successfully organize more than 30 additional professional sections throughout the United States.

**Secretary, Jacquelyn Nagel**, is an assistant professor of engineering at James Madison University. Jacquelyn joined the Region E MALs in 2010 and served as the Region E MAL representative last year. She has been involved with SWE since her initial membership in 2001. As a collegiate she was an active member of her collegiate section before taking on the leadership positions of corresponding secretary (2003-04) and section president (2005-06). Throughout graduate school and into her professional career she served at the society level as the collegiate voice on the Conference Program Board (2006-13).

I am honored to be the **MAL President**, and have been in this role for the past two terms. I am a program manager at General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems, and also served as the Region F MAL representative or alternate representative for the past 5 years, as well as serving on the Awards committee. When not engaged in work or SWE activities, I enjoy swimming, running and playing softball.

**Maureen Masiulis**  
**MAL President**

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## ANNOUNCING OUR FY2014 MAL CO-EDITORS

by Harsharan Bains, FY2013 Newsletter Editor

With great excitement, I introduce our two new co-editors for FY2014 newsletter.

- **Emily Ongstad**, is a graduate student studying Bioengineering at Clemson University, expecting to graduate in May 2014. In graduate school, she participated in a program called Graduates Reaching Out With Science (G.R.O.W.S.). Read her article titled *'Bringing Awareness to Biomedical Research Careers'* to find out more.
- **Modupe Oluwadiya** is an Electrical Engineer who loves solving problems, and is also the Region J Alternate Representative. Read her article *'My Passion'* to find out more about her.

Please take the time to support both Emily and Modupe in their role by submitting articles on a regular basis. This is **YOUR** newsletter so help us make it truly a newsletter you look forward to reading on a regular basis and catching up with the SWE-MAL news.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our article contributors, who truly made the newsletters excellent in FY2013. Watch this space for the first ever Best SWE-MAL Newsletter Article winner (FY2013), who will be announced at the SWE Conference in Baltimore in October this year.

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### Bringing Awareness to Biomedical Research Careers

by Emily Ongstad, Newsletter Co-Editor 2014

"Ewwwww!" students at Moultrie Middle School in Charleston, South Carolina, exclaim, as they cover their noses. A graduate student volunteer from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) lifts a preserved brain out of a bucket. As the lesson on brain health begins, the classroom settles into a focused silence. Soon, eager hands are being raised around the classroom, with questions and requests to touch the brain.

Graduate students Reaching Out With Science, or GROWS, is a science awareness program that was developed by students in the College of Graduate Studies at MUSC. Designed to supplement regular classroom instruction, learning modules from the GROWS program are offered throughout the school year to Charleston County middle schools. The program is highly interactive and students are encouraged to ask questions and have hands-on learning experiences, with props like a cadaveric brain and a pig's heart. Today the lesson is on brain health, but other days, it can be on heart health, bacteriology, immunology, genetics, cancer, or nutrition, all of them teaching students the basic biological principles behind medical concerns.

While careers in medicine and dentistry may be readily recognized by these students, career paths in science are often not as well-known. GROWS has the potential to spark interest in science in young minds, as well as teach students about science career paths.



Increasing awareness of scientific research and graduate education is one of the major goals of the Graduate Student Association at MUSC, so graduate students take time out of their research schedules to promote science in the community. GROWS has become so popular in recent years, that teachers often request multiple modules, and have asked graduate students from the program to return in subsequent years. The program continues to grow, and will help to cultivate the next generation of scientists.

*Photo Above: Suzanne Parks (GROWS Program Director for 2011-2013 School year) at a brain session a few years ago.*

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### **My Passion**

*by Modupe Oluwadiya, Newsletter Co-Editor 2014*

Engineering is creativity. The euphoria gained when a problem is solved, especially during a startup and commissioning effort, is unmatched. The satisfaction of knowing that you played a major part in the design, installation and commissioning of something that provides revenue, and improves operation of a system, is second to none.

My name is Modupe Oluwadiya and engineering has always been my passion. I am an Electrical Engineer with 5 years' of diverse professional work experience as an Instrument Engineer, Fire & Gas Engineer, and a Power Systems Engineer, in ConocoPhillips. I had the privilege of starting out in an amazing accelerated young engineer development program within ConocoPhillips that has aided me in obtaining a diverse work experience and opportunities to work in various locations.

I graduated with a BS degree in Electrical Engineering in 2008 from Oklahoma State University. I am the last born of four children. My father is a retired Veterinary Doctor and my mother is a retired College Professor. I have two sisters and a brother. In my leisure time, I enjoy reading, writing poetry, volunteering in community service opportunities, traveling, photography and zumba dance. One of my favorite community service event was volunteering for the 2012 SWE 'Invent it. Build it.' outreach event in Houston during the 2012 SWE National Conference. It was a great occasion to participate in an amazing opportunity that allowed us to open the doors of engineering concepts to young girls, as well as to network with fellow SWE members.

In my career, I provide electrical engineering technical guidance for Operations & Maintenance, as well as for five new remote oil & gas facility development projects, including one offshore platform. My work as a field electrical engineer for a multinational oil & gas company benefits humanity via ensuring that power supply is available for both the operating and the developing oil & gas fields; therefore ensuring the supply of crude oil & gas.

The by-products of crude oil & gas are used for transportation fuel, electrical power generation, heating homes and businesses, etc. Oil & gas production and supply is a key factor that influences many areas of our daily lives, and it is one of the key building blocks of modern society as we know it. It is an honor to collaborate with technical experts to create innovative technology that benefits humanity and positively impacts the global economy.

All in all, my experience as a female engineer has been challenging and very rewarding, and I look forward to future challenges and opportunities to be innovative.

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### **Member Survey Update**

The Member At Large leadership team would like to thank everyone who completed the survey, and we hope to make your SWE-MAL experience better by implementing changes to serve you better.

**Congratulations to Kathryn Cunningham, the winner of the \$50 gift card! Enjoy!**

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### **Congratulations to SWE-Nashville**

*by Claire Shortall, SWE-MAL Membership & SWE Professional New Section Coordinator*



Please join me in welcoming SWE-Nashville, the Society's newest professional section, led by Charter President Emily (Fronheiser) Gwaltney. Officially placed on the SWE map when the board of directors approved the charter petition on May 6, the section covers all ZIP codes beginning with 370-372 in Tennessee.

*Photo Above: Members socialize at a networking event held at Chuy's in downtown Nashville during the professional section's start-up phase.*

Prior to becoming a professional section, the group started local meetings and activities in September 2011, including business meetings, social and networking events e.g. professional development sessions, community service projects, and STEM outreach activities. The group also interacts with SWE collegiate sections at Vanderbilt and Tennessee State, as well as the proposed SWE collegiate interest group at Lipscomb University. We extend our congratulations as we bid a fond farewell to Emily and the 33 former MALs who are now making a difference as members of SWE-Nashville.



*Photo Above (left to right): Lisy Quinn, Emily (Fronheiser) Gwaltney, Kristin Poole, and Brittany Caldwell, at a 5k race on May 4 to support the “Girls on the Run” after-school program, designed to encourage self-respect and a positive, healthy living for 3rd-8th grade girls.*

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## **Do YOU Have the Spark to Start a Professional SWE Section?**

*by Claire Shortall, SWE Professional New Section & SWE-MAL Membership Coordinator*

MALs can make tremendous differences in the lives of others working to support the Society’s mission independently or in small groups, yet the impact of members can be more substantial through the efforts of many local professional sections. While I am a strong advocate for a healthy and vital MAL organization so that MALs feel connected to SWE and empowered to support the Society’s mission, I fully support and encourage the formation of professional sections wherever there is sufficient local interest among members to do so.

Sections provide an excellent forum for socializing, networking, developing career-enhancing skills, and introducing others to opportunities in engineering and related fields. Each new professional section originates when one person – **perhaps that’s you** – sparks interest among others in the area. Once a core team is formed and activities begin, word spreads, and others become enthusiastic and involved.

It takes initiative to find others who also want to make a difference, to develop a diverse team with members from different employers, and to build depth for a professional section. Professional sections do not just materialize – local members need to be

committed and willing to work for a proposed section to flourish. But there is also fun to be had, and the rewards for building a team and serving stakeholders locally are tremendous. Starting a professional section can be a terrific way to meet people, particularly if you are new to an area.

Eight professional sections chartered from areas previously served by the MAL organization during the past four years, and MALs are currently working toward chartering professional sections in three other locations: Memphis TN, Oklahoma City OK, and Redding CA. If you are near one of these areas and have not heard about activities but want to become involved, contact me at [claire.shortall@swe.org](mailto:claire.shortall@swe.org) to be connected with the MAL currently leading the proposed section.

If you have been thinking about forming a professional section, be the spark that lights the fire! Take the first step and let me know. I will provide you with the professional new section formation packet and information about other members in your area so you can get the process underway.

SWE now has 108 active professional sections in the United States and Puerto Rico. With your enthusiasm, many more can be placed on the SWE map!

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### **Tips for New Faces of Engineering Nominations**

*By Harsharan Bains, SWE-MAL VP & Newsletter Editor FY2013*

The New Faces of Engineering is a wonderful award to receive, whether it is awarded by SWE or another organization. Being an award recipient does make a difference both in your personal and professional life, as I found out by interviewing these four amazing MALs, who have received this award in the last few years:

- Jennifer Vallero Tullai, SWE Award FY13
- Karen Roth, SWE Award FY12
- Jacquelyn Nagel, Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Award FY12
- Debbie Jacklitch-Kuiken, National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) Award, FY11

I am pulling their experiences together to share with you their journey in getting the award, with the hope that the information provided in this article gets you started in nominating yourself or another amazing MAL for the New Faces of Engineering Award in FY14. Tips are provided in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) format, and for nomination, see the article right after this article (Page 11):

#### **How long do you have to be working prior to being nominated?**

Three of the winners had been working for five years when they were nominated, whereas one person was nominated 2 years after her PhD i.e. 7 years since finishing her B.S.E.E. As long as you are age 30 or less as of December 31 of the year you get nominated and have an engineering degree from a recognized institution, you can be

nominated anytime in your career, whether it's a couple of years or maybe even the lucky 5 years – share how you have impacted the world around you!

### **Who can nominate you?**

Nominations were by:

- The nominee's professor,
- A fellow member of the same society, and
- MAL officers on two occasions.

Basically you can nominate someone deserving of this award, or you can ask someone to nominate you. Just make sure you read the nominee requirements in the Nomination guideline for more information.

### **Who is expected to put your award package together?**

Your input into the award package can vary depending on who nominates you. Of course, you have to spend some time to provide some background about yourself to the nominee unless the nominee knows you well enough to write it all by themselves. Also a good tip to note is that you may want your manager to review the award package, so he/she has the opportunity to ensure it is at a company appropriate level, especially since your work details and projects may be covered in the nomination.

### **How long does it take to put the package together?**

This also depends on how up to date your resume is, but in turn by preparing for your nomination, you also get the bonus of having an updated resume! Hooray! Generally, it takes about 2-3 hours to put the initial package together, and then it varies depending on how long it takes to condense the word description to 200 words, which most agree tends to be the difficult part! Also note you need to give time for your company to approve your nomination submission and that may take the longer than putting the package together. HINT: Prepare as early as you can prior to submission.

### **What types of achievements should you write about in your nomination form?**

Write about achievements in your career, SWE, or in personal life, and here are some key items our winning MALs included in their achievements:

- impact of the results from my projects e.g. project benefits to the customers, including saving significant amount of money
- a specific type of work that I do e.g. biomimicry applied to sensors, instrumentation and processes, and using inspiration from nature etc.
- Other awards won in the past e.g. named North Dakota's Young Engineer of the Year, won the inaugural Outstanding Collegiate Member award etc.
- Key roles taken on in SWE, especially related to STEM mentoring & participation.

### **How can the award benefit you professionally?**

Benefits are tremendous by getting this award, and it can open many doors for you. Here's what our MALs shared:

- Provided a lot of recognition with area and state engineers, and with other organizations; was featured in the NSPE's PE magazine as Young Engineer on the cover and it opened doors to meet other engineers.
- Something to talk about in interviews and to help support statements of merit for interviews etc.
- Increased my network substantially, interest in my work grew, and was contacted by a company about a collaboration opportunity.
- Personal sense of achievement, excitement and buzz, 'being on cloud nine' for a while, coworkers and manager recognizing and finding it cool that opportunities outside of work can help with career also.

Thus the marketing you will get from the award can help to propel your career further!

So go forth and put forward someone deserving of this award or put yourself forward by asking someone to nominate you. See 'Seeking MAL New Faces' (Page 11) after this article for details. It will make a world of difference in your life and you will be helping to raise the profile of MALs in SWE also!

*Thank you to our four amazing MALs for taking the time to be interviewed for this article. Learn more about these ladies in the next newsletter: their work, their inspirations, how they plan their career, and where would they travel and why?*

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## Seeking MAL New Faces

*by Claire Shortall, SWE-MAL Membership & SWE Professional New Section Coordinator*

The New Faces of Engineering program strives to "put a face" to what is often referred to as "the stealth profession" by highlighting the accomplishments of young engineers and the resulting impact of their work on society. The goal of the program is to stimulate and encourage students to explore the wide variety of exciting career options available to engineers.

Suggestions for MALs to be considered for nomination by the MAL organization for SWE's 2014 New Faces program should be submitted by **August 24** to [claire.shortall@swe.org](mailto:claire.shortall@swe.org). (You may submit your own name or recommend another MAL). Information about preparing nomination packages will be provided to those who have been suggested.

While details are not yet available for this year's nomination cycle, the criteria for SWE's New Faces are expected to remain the same as in previous years. Candidates must be a SWE member in good standing, aged 30 or less as of December 31, 2013, and have an engineering degree from a recognized U.S. college or university or an equivalent international engineering institution. The impact of the engineering work for the betterment of society seems to be a key component for selection. Participation and leadership in SWE is also highly desirable.

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## **What is MAL? – About MALs and the MAL Organization’s Structure**

**Members at Large (MALs)** are members of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) who are members of one of SWE’s ten official regions (A-J) but who are not members of either a professional or collegiate section. The MAL organization provides MALs with a framework for communication, support, and representation.

**MAL demographics:** 50% of MALs have been a SWE member for 3 years or less, and a MAL for 2 years or less.

**MAL representatives** are charged with facilitating communications among their constituents – the MALs in their respective regions. Each region is entitled to one MAL representative for every 100 voting MALs in the region. One or more alternate MAL representative may be elected only during the normal election cycle. Collectively the MAL representatives are the voting members of the MAL council, which sets policy for the MAL organization and ensures the objectives of the MAL organization are pursued. Each MAL representative also represents constituents as voting members of the region council. Vacancies in MAL representative positions may be filled at any time during the year once candidates are identified.

**MAL officers (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer)** have primary responsibility for the overall MAL organization and are elected to serve for the next fiscal year by the MAL representatives. The MAL officers are voting members of the MAL executive committee, which manages the business and affairs of the MAL organization, and are nonvoting members with the right to participate in the discussions of the MAL council.

**MAL committees** provide operating support for specific areas of responsibility, such as awards, communications, financial assessment, membership, newsletter, and outreach. The chairs/coordinators for each MAL committee are appointed by the MAL president with the approval of the MAL executive committee. Each chair/coordinator reports to a MAL officer.

**Nominations** for elected positions are solicited electronically from the MALs no later than February 15 each year. Self-nomination is encouraged. The MAL bylaws specify eligibility requirements; in general, however, candidates must be MALs who are voting members of SWE, although collegiate members may be eligible for some positions under certain circumstances. Ballots are issued for MAL representatives and alternate representatives only when more than one eligible candidate is nominated for a particular position. A teller is elected annually by the MAL council to oversee tallying ballots for election of MAL officers and any contested MAL representative and MAL alternate representative positions.

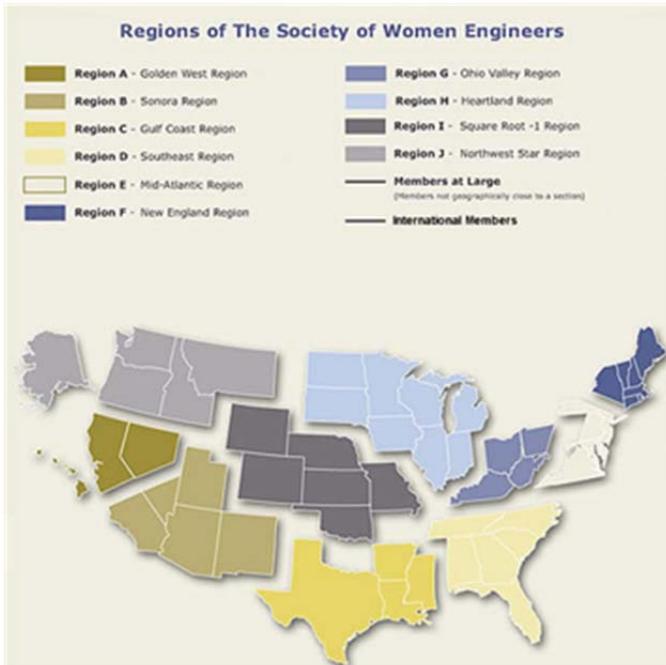


## MAL Representatives & Alternates

Here are your region's MAL representatives and alternates, with their email information. Do take the time to get to know them and email them if you have any questions.

Region	Representative	Alternate
A049	vacant	-
B049	Mary Phelps: <a href="mailto:phelpsma1@gmail.com">phelpsma1@gmail.com</a>	-
C049	Victoria Borchers: <a href="mailto:tori04@gmail.com">tori04@gmail.com</a>	Claire Shortall: <a href="mailto:claire.shortall@swe.org">claire.shortall@swe.org</a>
D049	Kenyona Pierre: <a href="mailto:klpierre03@yahoo.com">klpierre03@yahoo.com</a> Jill Hershman: <a href="mailto:jrhoover@crimson.ua.edu">jrhoover@crimson.ua.edu</a>	Nancy Manley: <a href="mailto:nancy.manley@robins.af.mil">nancy.manley@robins.af.mil</a>
E049	Jacquelyn Nagel: <a href="mailto:jacquelyn.kay.nagel@gmail.com">jacquelyn.kay.nagel@gmail.com</a>	Beth Mellott: <a href="mailto:mellott_beth@bah.com">mellott_beth@bah.com</a>
F049	Maureen Masiulis: <a href="mailto:Maureen.Masiulis@swe.org">Maureen.Masiulis@swe.org</a>	-
G049	Olivia Miller: <a href="mailto:olmiller@aol.com">olmiller@aol.com</a>	Jennifer Vallero Tullai: <a href="mailto:jennifer.vallero@swe.org">jennifer.vallero@swe.org</a>
H049	Diane Peters: <a href="mailto:diane.peters@sbcglobal.net">diane.peters@sbcglobal.net</a>	Debbie Jacklitch-Kuiken: <a href="mailto:debbie_jacklitch@yahoo.com">debbie_jacklitch@yahoo.com</a>
I049	Ramona Venable: <a href="mailto:rvenable@alum.rpi.edu">rvenable@alum.rpi.edu</a>	-
J049	Linda Thomas: <a href="mailto:waclarone@yahoo.com">waclarone@yahoo.com</a>	Modupe Oluwadiya: <a href="mailto:moluwadiya@gmail.com">moluwadiya@gmail.com</a>

The map below shows the different regions:



## MAL Committee Chairs & Coordinators

by Maureen Masiulis, MAL President

It's my pleasure to introduce the FY14 Committee Chairs and Coordinators. If you are interested in helping out or filling the Outreach Coordinator vacancy please contact the anyone on the leadership team.

Position	Name
Awards Chair	Stacey Culver
Communications Coordinator (Website & Social Media)	Lisa Lovejoy
Financial Assessment Chair	Lisa Lovejoy
Leadership Coach	Sarah Kirkish
Membership Coordinator	Claire Shortall
Newsletter Editor	Modupe Oluwadiya, Emily Ongstad
Outreach Coordinator	Vacant
Teller's Chair	TBD, elected at Society Conference MAL Council Meeting

## MAL Calendar – Next Three Months

Date	Time (Central)	Description
<b>AUGUST</b>		
8/24/2013	COB	Names of MALs to nominate for New Faces of Engineering due to Claire Shortall
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
<b>10/23/2013 – 10/27/2013</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Society Conference, Baltimore, MD</b>
10/23/2013	8am-1pm (Eastern)	MAL Summit
10/24/2013	10am-12noon (Eastern)	MAL Meeting
10/24/2013	1pm-4pm (Eastern)	Region Meetings
10/25/2013	6pm-10pm (Eastern)	Awards Banquet
10/26/2013	6pm-10pm (Eastern)	Celebrate SWE

## Help Wanted

**Website update:** Looking for a web savvy person to help update the MAL website. If you are interested in helping, please contact Lisa Lovejoy, MAL Communications Chair, at [lisa.miller\\_swe@yahoo.com](mailto:lisa.miller_swe@yahoo.com)

**Newsletter Contributors:** Looking for articles 200-1000 words to include in future newsletters. Topic selection is wide open (a list of suggested topics can also be provided)! As an added bonus, at the end of each year, the MAL Leadership will select their favorite article for the new MAL Newsletter Article Award FY2014! So come on, enter for your chance to win. If you would like to contribute, please send your articles to our co-editors, Emily Ongstad, [nemily@gmail.com](mailto:nemily@gmail.com), and Modupe Oluwadiya, [moluwadiya@gmail.com](mailto:moluwadiya@gmail.com)

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