



SENTINEL

Newsletter of
The Society of Women
Environmental Professionals of
Greater Philadelphia

APRIL 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- p. 1: Career Fair and Scholarship Ceremony
- p. 2: Scholarship Ceremony continued
- p. 2: 2007 Membership Drive
- p. 3: Ask-A-Question
- P. 3: Trivia Test
- p. 4: Langan Wins Pinnacle Award
- P. 4: Employment News
- p. 5: Member News
- p. 5: Meet YOUR Fellow SWEP Member
- p. 6: Sponsor Thank You
- P. 6: Program Committee
- p. 6: Articles Needed
- P. 7: Events Calendar
- P. 9: SWEP Capital Chapter Conference
- P. 9: News
- p. 11 April 25 Program
- p.12 May 16 Program

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Information available at
www.swepweb.com*

SWEP Honors Emma Bassein and Annie Winter as Scholarship Recipients at the 2007 Career Fair

The Society of Women Environmental Professionals of Greater Philadelphia (SWEP) proudly held its fifth annual Career Fair and fourth annual Scholarship Ceremony on February 8th, honoring **Emma Bassein** as the graduate scholarship recipient and **Annie Winter** as the undergraduate scholarship recipient.



(From left to right: Lisa Donahue, Emma Bassein, Annie Winter, and Sherrerd Steele)

The Career Fair was initially created as a result of requests from undergraduate students enrolled in the Department of Environmental Studies at the University of Pennsylvania to have a forum to discuss careers in the environmental field, has grown to include the opportunity for companies to informally recruit students for employment after graduation.

While the Career Fair is open to all students, SWEP utilizes it as one way to fulfill its mission to encourage and promote the professional development of women in environmental professions as well as the development of business relationships. The proceeds of the Career Fair assist in funding the scholarship awards. SWEP graciously thanks this year's sponsors/recruiters: **Arcadis, Aerotek, All4 Inc., BEM Systems Inc., CH2M Hill, ENSR, Environ International Corporation, Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Kleinfelder, NTH Consultants, and Pennoni Associates Inc.**

The 2007 SWEP Scholarship Committee, Lisa Donahue, Brenda Hustis Gotanda, and Sherrerd Steele, selected truly exceptional recipients this year who will surely become field leaders.

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP – EMMA BASSEIN

Emma Bassein is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Princeton University, which she intends to use to formulate novel approaches for environmental cleanups in wetlands. Emma's undergraduate studies in earth science and chemistry attracted her to the issues of water resources, which she is now coupling with the exploration of the interaction of plants and aquatic contaminants in wetlands. Outside of academia, she demonstrated her knowledge of complex

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Continued - SWEP Fifth Annual Career Fair and Fourth Annual Scholarship Ceremony

environmental issues through research and analysis of companies' environmental strengths and challenges for an investment company. Emma has also taken on the challenge of teaching elementary students about environmental science.

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP – ANNIE WINTER

Annie Winter is currently pursuing dual undergraduate degrees in Environmental Studies and in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Pennsylvania. In July 2007, Annie will be part of a team of faculty and graduate students who will be researching issues regarding relative sea-level change and tectonics in Southeast Asia. Annie's enthusiasm for environmental studies and her innovative approach to combining economics and the environment will also lead Annie to the forefront of endless possibilities.



Could YOU Be the 2008 SWEP Scholarship Recipient?

Each year, the SWEP Scholarship Committee, hand-selects two women students, one graduate and one undergraduate, to receive the SWEP scholarship awards to encourage women who are seeking environmentally related careers. Think ahead – Applications will be due in December 2007.

Go to www.swepweb.com under the "Awards, Grants and Scholarships" tab for more information.



It's Not Too Late – Renew Your 2007 SWEP Membership Today!

It's time to renew your SWEP of Greater Philadelphia membership for 2007! To take full advantage of all the benefits of SWEP membership, you need to renew now! Renewing members should fill out the attached form and return with dues payment a.s.a.p. Thank you in advance for renewing your membership!

Members Ask-A-Question Series

Q: How effective has Section 404 of the Clean Water Act been at protecting the habitat of endangered species from over-development since the NEPA/404 permit merger?



A: **Rich Ommert, P.E.**, a civil engineer based in Denver, CO, who works with federal and local agencies on issues regarding wetlands, habitat remediation, and flow control feels that Section 404 of the Clean Water Act has had a positive effect on protecting waters of the United States with regard to the placement of fill.

One example of this positive impact was a project for the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) on East Plum Creek in the Town of Castle Rock, Colorado. The surrounding area was developing rapidly and there was a need to reconstruct certain structures including a bridge spanning East Plum Creek. The stream was severely degraded with a five to six foot differential between the over-bank and the low flow channel in some locations.

The over-bank area was identified as a favorable habitat for the Prebles Meadow Jumping Mouse, an endangered species. Knowledgeable about the sensitivity of the issue, CDOT requested input from stakeholder representatives at the beginning of the project. To restore lost habitat, a plan was designed to raise the channel thalweg and thereby raise the groundwater surface in the overbanks. In this case, fill would be responsible for increasing the amount of riparian vegetation that provides seasonal shelter for the mouse.



A permit was applied for and granted by the Army Corp of Engineers to submerge and fill-in a large portion of the channel. The coordination of the plan design that improved the mouse's habitat during the CDOT bridge construction illustrates the payoff of involving Federal agencies early on in a project.

The Sentinel thanks Rich for sharing his experience, and welcomes questions from SWEP members regarding this topic, or other environmental issues. For more information about the status of the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at [Preble's meadow jumping mouse home page](#). To have your question featured, please contact **SWEP member Amy Dreibelbis** at adreibelbis@nthconsultants.com, **SWEP member Deb Shuff** at deborah.shuff@dbr.com, or **SWEP member Roberta Turner** at robertaturner@verizon.net.

Test Your Knowledge

What country leads the world in photovoltaic (solar cell) production?

- A. Sweden
- B. Japan
- C. United States

The first correct answer to robertaturner@verizon.net wins a prize!

LANGAN WINS 2006 PINNACLE AWARD

SWEP Corporate member Named Among Top 10 Employers

CE News has presented Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. with the Pinnacle Award for being an industry leader in both revenue growth and for creating a quality workplace with high employee satisfaction. Langan ranked number three in the large firm category (over 500 employees) on the list of the top 50 "Best Firms To Work For" in civil engineering.



The Pinnacle Award is bestowed by ZweigWhite upon companies that place within the *CE News* Magazine's *Best Firms Contest* and ZweigWhite's "Hot Firm List." Only ten civil engineering firms nationally received the prestigious Pinnacle Award recognition. Participating firms are judged on organization policies, procedures, and philosophy, as well as an anonymous employee questionnaire that evaluates company offerings in categories including culture, benefits, professional development, performance/recognition and compensation, among others. This year 157 firms participated in the contest.

"Langan is a great, dynamic place to work. We are involved in challenging, multi-disciplined projects and there are endless opportunities for professional advancement. Our employees are encouraged to be entrepreneurs, taking leadership roles in projects suited to their particular talents and interests. Our motto of 'Technical Excellence, Practical Experience, and Client Responsiveness' is embraced at all levels" reports **SWEP member and Langan Associate, Caryn Barnes.**

Headquartered in Elmwood Park, New Jersey with more than 600 employees in nine offices, Langan is a premier provider of integrated site/civil, geotechnical, and environmental services. You can learn more about Langan by visiting its website at www.langan.com.

Congratulations Langan!



KEEP YOUR INFO CURRENT IN SWEP'S ONLINE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY!

In 2002, SWEP Philadelphia switched to a web-based membership directory and discontinued the paper-based (non-eco friendly) version. The Membership Directory can be found by clicking 'Resources' on the SWEP home page and selecting 'Member Searches' from the drop-down menu. You can look up people by last name or company. You can also search by using keywords, city, or state to find specialists, if needed.

However, the membership directory is only as good as the information in it. If you have changed jobs, received a promotion, or moved, it's time to update your listing. At www.swepweb.com, sign in with your username/password. Then, select your fields of expertise in the keyword list and fill in the "Business Description" with your biography. You can even upload a photograph of yourself! Please contact our Web Master – Kim Abbott at kabbott@ensr.aecom.com if you require assistance.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND POSTED OPENINGS ON THE SWEP WEBSITE

Don't forget - the SWEP website - www.swepweb.com - is a great source of job opportunity listings. Log on with your username and password, select "Members Services," then "Job Postings."

SWEP Member News



SWEP member Nicole R. Moshang was named partner of environmental law firm Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox LLP. An associate at the firm since 2003, Nicole has focused her practice on environmental litigation. Before joining the firm, she worked as an associate at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis in Philadelphia. Additionally, she has served as an assistant metropolitan attorney for the Metropolitan Department of Law in Nashville, Tennessee and as a law clerk for the Honorable Paul Jaffe, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

Nicole received her Juris Doctor from Villanova University School of Law. She is received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the Ansell School of Business at Western Connecticut State University. For more information on Nicole and to obtain her full biography, please visit the firm's web site at www.mgkflaw.com.



SWEP member Nancy van Dyke, P.G. is now affiliated with ELM (Environmental Liability Management).

SWEP Board member Jennifer Simon, Esq. has joined the Environmental Practice Group at Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP in Philadelphia as an associate.

SWEP member Eileen McTague has been promoted to Senior Staff Specialist of ENSR's Water & Natural Resources Group.

MEET YOUR FELLOW SWEP MEMBERS

Janet Kole is a pioneer in the environmental law field, a founding member of SWEP - Greater Philadelphia and currently a member of the Board of Directors, and currently the Chairperson of the Environmental Department at Flaster/Greenberg P.C. - a true asset to the broader environmental field.

Known for her skill in converting contaminated sites into prime real estate, Janet successfully negotiated a cleanup project under Act 2 with the Borough of Downingtown, the EPA, and the PaDEP on behalf of a client, which resulted in the first big grant, a million dollars, under Act 2. In that case, by way of a groundbreaking remediation, a warehouse contaminated with PCBs was transformed into prime real estate. Janet characterized the result as a win/win because her client-remediator profited from the sale of the property, the town lost an eyesore, and the agencies were pleased with the cleanup.

At home, Janet enjoys spending time with her wonderful, 14-year old son, Gabe, who keeps her laughing, enjoys cooking, and plays tennis like a champion (we'll watch for him at Wimbledon!). Janet enjoys playing golf and plays by her motto - the more you try, the better you get. She also loves reading mysteries, listening to music, and going to the orchestra and theatre. Janet supports SWEP and mentors young lawyers in an effort to make it easier for women in the environmental field. *Thank you, Janet!*



"Growth of women in this field is phenomenal and I feel great contributing to that."



Thank You SWEP Career Fair and Scholarship Committees and Event Sponsors

The SWEP Board wishes to thank everyone who worked to make the fifth annual Career Fair and fourth annual Scholarship Ceremony a success.

SWEP extends special thanks to our sponsors for their generosity. Our sponsors are integral to the success of our programs and events, and the growth of SWEP Greater Philadelphia. Please look for their ads in this and future editions of the SWEP Sentinel.

2007 PROGRAMS COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!



The SWEP Program Committee organizes the informative and beneficial SWEP programs scheduled throughout the year. Proposed programs include: Pollution Prevention- Innovative Energy, Ozone Transport, Pharmaceuticals in the Environment, and Community Relations during Remediation Projects. **The Programs Committee needs you!** If you would like to join the Program Committee, meet other SWEP members and have fun while bringing meaningful programs to our members please contact Amy Donohue-Babiak at adonohue@ggelaw.com or 215-587-5607.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND MEMBER NEWS SOUGHT

Your input is crucial to an interesting newsletter. If you have submitted a recent paper and would like to excerpt it for the newsletter, or if you are interested in writing an article on a timely regulatory, legal, or technical topic, don't be shy, we want to hear from you. Also, don't forget to send us your news, photographs and announcements. Please forward information to **SWEP member Deb Shuff** at deborah.shuff@dbr.com.

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Upcoming SWEP Events and Dates You Need to Know!

Check the calendar at www.swepweb.com for more events! The "Events" button is located in the top right corner.

- ❖ **Wednesday, April 11, 2007** – SWEP Greater Philadelphia Monthly Board Meeting Conference Call
- ❖ **Wednesday, April 11, 2007** – NJSWEP Remediation Roundtable at Riker Danzig in Morristown, NJ
- ❖ **Wednesday, April 25, 2007** –SWEP Greater Philadelphia program **Part 1 of 2, Global Warming/Climate Change: The Latest Science, Regulatory/Policy, and Corporate and Public Policy Initiatives**. Time: 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Location: PECO Energy Company, 2301 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA. RSVP to bhyde@rouxinc.com by April 19.
- ❖ **Friday, May 4, 2007** – NJSWEP Presents: **Annual Regulatory Update Meeting** at the NJDEP Public Hearing Room - Trenton, NJ
- ❖ **Wednesday, May 9, 2007** – SWEP Greater Philadelphia Monthly Board Meeting Conference Call
- ❖ **Wednesday, May 16, 2007** - SWEP Greater Philadelphia program **Part 2 of 2, Global Warming/Climate Change: Alternative Technologies - Driving Toward Energy Independence and Green House Gas Reduction**. Time: 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Location: Offices of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP, 1735 Market St., 51st Floor, Philadelphia, PA. RSVP to bhyde@rouxinc.com by May 9.
- ❖ **June 19, 2007** – SWEP Greater Philadelphia **Business Meeting and PADEP Regulatory Update**

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The Second Annual Conference of the SWEP Capital Chapter

On March 1, 2007, **Sentinel Co-Editor, Amy Dreibelbis** attended the second annual conference of the SWEP Capital Chapter. Janet Bowers, the executive director of the Chester County Water Resources Authority, provided some insight on "Making Environmental Connections in the Brandywine Valley" and Joanne Denworth of the Governor's Policy Office discussed "The road to your future is not a straight line...Lessons from experience." Panels discussed Pharmaceuticals – An Emerging Water Quality Issue; BioFuels: Policy, Economics and Public Opinion; Conservation/Open Space Corridors; and the popular issue of Global Warming – Science and Solutions.

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Thirteen SWEP sponsors had exhibits for students and attendees to visit between sessions. A two-hour, round-table mentoring session also took place between attending students from local colleges and the environmental professionals. The Honorable Carole A. Rubley, State Representative, provided closing remarks. ***Congratulations to the SWEP Capital Chapter for arranging such an insightful conference!***



Mesa Energy LLC merges with SunTechnics Energy Systems Inc., a renewable-energy system provider and subsidiary of Conergy. SunTechnics announced the acquisition of **Mesa Environmental Sciences, Inc., now operating as Mesa Energy LLC** this month. More information can be located at <http://www.mesasolar.com/>.

The Philadelphia Inquirer highlighted **2000 SWEP Touchstone Award Recipient Dr. Ruth Patrick** in "The den mother of ecology" on February 26, 2007. More information can be located at www.philly.com.

ENSR and The RETEC Group, Inc. Merger. On January 29, 2007, AECOM Technology Corporation, a leading global provider of professional technical and management support services in the transportation, facilities and environmental markets, announced the acquisition of **The RETEC Group, Inc.**, an environmental management consulting and engineering firm with over 400 staff and 25 offices across the United States. RETEC will be integrated with AECOM's **ENSR** subsidiary, which is a global environmental service platform serving public and private sector clients worldwide with 2,000 employees and over 95 offices worldwide. "By joining forces with ENSR, a leader in providing environmental health and safety services, we can provide our clients with greatly expanded services," said Ben Genes, president of RETEC. For clients with international operations, we can offer a much broader global platform for service delivery."



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