President’s Message

THE POWER OF COMMITMENT

Commitments. Commitments. Commitments. They fill our days, our heads and our lives. Most of us are in the commitment business. Of course, that’s not what we call it. At work, we’re making commitments to customers, suppliers, bosses, coworkers and staff. At home, we’re making commitments to family, friends, neighbors, community and organizations not to mention commitments to pay taxes, credit card bills, mortgages and car loans.

It appears commitment is a driving force in our lives. It is the essence and clearest manifestation of our productivity. To commit means to do and to keep doing, and to keep improving until completed, until you have succeeded, but this can be a difficult task during tough times. The truth is demonstrating commitment is hard work, but the human will is one of the most powerful forces in the world. And where there’s a will, there’s a way. Genuine commitment stands the test of time. If you have the will, the commitment, you will have the perseverance, the determination, and you will find the way.

At the beginning of my journey as president, I made the commitment to give my best in leading this organization. But, I also expressed my desire to not do it alone. I challenged my Board and Chairs to commit to the vision. Yes there were many challenges, as we had to adjust to transition and unexpected turns, but I am proud to say we endured those challenges and stood the test of time. We continued to identify opportunities to reach out to the community volunteering our time, our energy, and our funds to help “change lives.” We continued to provide personal and professional development opportunities so that every member may enhance their skills and attain more knowledge to help “change lives.”

We connected and worked as a team! Because of our commitment we were able to enjoy several highlights and accomplishments. To kick off the year, the Chapter celebrated its 55th Birthday! In February, four new Board Members were installed—they made the commitment to give up much of their personal lives for several months in order to help the Chapter grow and move forward.

In March, member firm Torch Energy Advisors Incorporated allowed us an opportunity to view the art collection of J.P. Bryan, one of the greatest exhibits of Texas Art and History. As the year progressed, we conducted successful fundraising projects, including the Executives’ Night Silent & Live Auctions and Keep Momma Out of the Kitchen raffle, which combined raised over $34,000 for our scholarship programs. I am also proud to report that we launched a new Chapter website. On the professional development front, Sonia Garza-Monarchi presented to us “Corporate Diplomacy Business, It’s Personal.” She shared with us how protocol and diplomacy strategies can be used to manage, build and maintain relationships across cultures. On the move, EWI of Houston was represented at the Spring Conference in Richmond, VA; Texoma Board Forum in Tulsa, OK; and LCAM in Dallas, TX.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE CONTINUED

For our July Chapter meeting, member firm CenterPoint Energy invited the membership to visit their office and enjoy an evening of “Salsa in the City.” We enjoyed great food and dancing! Through all the hustle and bustle, we were able to relax, laugh, and have fun. Many of you volunteered at the Houston Food Bank, donated to Dress for Success, and participated in our annual Reading Rally held at Nat Q. Henderson Elementary. What a significant impact we made in the community. We also celebrated a combined Scholarship Night, awarding over $46,000 in scholarships for the EWISP and ASIST programs, thus changing lives of nine remarkable students. One of the EWISP recipients, Keni Sabbath, was selected as the top corporate winner and received additional funding. Also, throughout the year we added several new member firms and are now 97 firms strong. Thank you for helping me Make a Difference. The Power of Commitment!

There were so many things that I didn’t have the opportunity to do, but I am grateful for the ones I did. Sometimes we have to look beyond our current situation and focus on what we want the end results to be. I am grateful for the membership accepting me as their 2011-2012 President and allowing me the opportunity to utilize my abilities to create an environment in which the members were able to maximize their potential while working towards a common goal. I believe leadership is about making those around you successful! I hope I have inspired and touched every one of your lives in some way. So I say to you all, continue to grasp the dynamic vision of this organization and follow it. Stay focused and committed.

2011-2012 PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS
Installation of Officers & Directors
October 18, 2012

The Corinthian
202 Fannin at Franklin
5:45 p.m. Cocktails
6:30 p.m. Dinner

$55 per person
Cocktail reception and wine with dinner compliments of Jackson & Company
Reserved tables of 8
Valet Parking - $10
Self-Parking Franklin Lofts Garage off Congress - $7

RESPONSE REQUIRED

___ I will attend  ___ I will not attend  ___ Vegetarian

Name__________________________
Firm__________________________

Guests__________________________(Please indicate if Guest is Firm’s Executive)

Payment must be made on or before Thursday, October 18, 2012
Pay Online at www.ewihouston.org ~ Buy Now
Please make checks payable to EWI of Houston
No cancellations accepted after Friday, October 12, 2012

E-mail, fax or mail RSVP
Liz Palacios, TransCanada – 717 Texas Street, Suite 2400, Houston, TX 77002
Email: liz_palacios@transcanada.com
Fax: 832.320.6488  Phone: 832.320.5488
Our Mission

EWI brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of promoting member firms, enhancing personal and professional development, and encouraging community involvement.

Our Vision

A professional organization that creates value for its member firms and their representatives through career development, business connectivity, and involvement in local communities.

Corporate Office
7414 S. State Street
Midvale, UT 84047
Phone: 801.355.2800
Fax: 801.355.2852

Contact Information
E-mail: ewi@ewiconnect.com
Website: www.ewiconnect.com

Houston Chapter Vision Statement

EWI® of Houston aspires to be the premier business organization of choice for member firms and their key individuals. Recognized by the Houston community as an avenue to achieve personal and professional excellence, every activity of the Houston Chapter will fulfill at least one of the objectives of the EWI Mission Statement.

DID YOU KNOW…

Each Member Firm must be represented by a Representative or an Executive of Record at 7 meetings during the Chapter year, and a Representative must attend a minimum of 6 meetings during the Chapter year. A representative can also receive attendance credit for attending a regular meeting of any Chapter, LCAM or Regional Conference if he/she gives notice to the Sergeant-at-Arms.

You can check your attendance record by emailing Liz Palacios at liz_palacios@transcanada.com.

Calendar of Events

October 18
Business Meeting and Installation of Officers and Directors, The Corinthian

October 20
Board of Directors and Committee Chairs Meeting, Inn at the Ballpark
SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP

Submitted by Kawana Bowie, representing Deloitte Services LP and Debbie Casey, representing Hilcorp Energy Company

On September 20, 2012, EWI of Houston gathered for our Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers at the lovely downtown Hotel Icon. This boutique hotel was originally built in 1911 as the Union National Bank Building, and the recent renovation kept much of the grand neoclassical architecture. The welcoming cocktail reception set the tone for the evening to come. Officiating her last meeting as the Houston Chapter President, Delynn Walker, representing Texas Southern University, began the evening with a warm welcome and opening remarks. She promptly opened the business portion of the meeting. Bari Ross, representing Schlumberger Limited, read the Principles and Voting Rights. Sergeant at Arms, Cynthia Bates, representing the Houston Chronicle conducted roll call. After a quorum was confirmed, the membership voted on proposals from By-Laws, Nominating and Strategic Planning Committees. The most excitement came from Dory Ward, representing PwC, who presented the 2012-2013 slate of officers from the Nominating Committee. The slate was unanimously approved by membership. Delynn invited newly elected president, Margaret Parker, representing Ernst & Young LLP to the podium to continue the remainder of the Annual Business Meeting.

After a delicious meal and lively table chatter, Delynn returned to the podium to close the evening. She extended special thanks to Rebecca Robles, representing Let It Fly Events, and the 2011-2012 Program Committee. She gave a hearty welcome to the incoming 2012-2013 EWI board members, and then turned the podium over to Bobbie Pritchett, 2011-2012 Fundraising Director, representing Hilton Houston Post Oak. Bobbie conducted the monthly door prize drawing and the highly anticipated Keep Mamma Out of the Kitchen raffle drawing for which 386 tickets were sold! Monies raised for these prizes will benefit the EWI of Houston B/C/D Programs. Three exclusive packages of fine restaurant gift cards and certificates were valued at $855, $900 and $835. The lucky winners were Jim Garman – Chief Human Resources Officer with Memorial Hermann, Debra Clark – Assistant to the CEO at Memorial Hermann Foundation; and Brian McLeroy. Bobbie gave a special thanks to the Fundraising Committee for their hard work and outstanding salesmanship efforts throughout the year.

It was a very successful evening and a great time was had by all!
EWI of Houston Monthly Newsletter

October 2012

EWI Houston Monthly Newsletter

Mary Speltz, CIMA ENERGY, LTD.
Carole Pitts, John Daugherty Realtors

Ellen Jannik, Landry's, Inc.
Erlinda Quintanilla, H-E-B
Ellen Ramsey, Executive, Let It Fly Events, L.P.

Dory Ward, PwC
Marilyn DeSimone, Landry's, Inc.

Niki Sikinger, Jordan Capital Management
Pam Warfield, Houston Zoo, Inc.

Mildred Loyd, Mustang Machinery Company, Ltd.
Marilyn Burgess, Executive, Burgess Marine Products, Inc.
Annette Washburn, Waukesha-Pearce Industries, Inc.
Betty Bruffy, Duncan Interests
Annette Washburn, Waukesha-Pearce Industries, Inc.  
Michelle Votano, Atlantic Relocation Systems

Rene Azinger, H-E-B  
Mildred Loyd, Mustang Machinery Company, Ltd.

Vivi Pennington, Sustaining Member

Karen Clingan, Torch Energy Advisors Incorporated  
Bobbie Pritchett, Hilton Houston Post Oak

Margaret Parker, Ernst & Young LLP  
Laura Ballard, Recipe for Success  
Nichole Townley, Guest

Rebekah Robles and Ellen Ramsey, Executive  
Let It Fly Events, L.P.
Elisa Garcia, Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau
Sara Waguespack and Shari Schiffman, John Daugherty Realtors

Jerri Munson, Guest
Betty Bruffy, Duncan Interests
Annette Washburn, Waukesha-Pearce Industries, Inc.
Betty Stolarski, Sustaining Member

Michelle Rayburn, Westin La Cantera Hill Country Resort
Samantha Foley, American Cancer Society
Brook Hood, NRG Energy
Dana DuPriest, Guest
Marilyn Burgess, Executive, Burgess Marine Products, Inc.
Betty Bruffy, Duncan Interests

Cynthia Bates, Houston Chronicle
Laura Gilliam, St. Regis Hotel—Houston

Evan Camp, Theatre Under The Stars
Elizabeth Norwood, PwC

Shari Schiffman, John Daugherty Realtors
Carolyn Toriggino, Sustaining Member
Barbara Camino, Sustaining Member
Carole Pitts, John Daugherty Realtors
FIRM SPOTLIGHT

Submitted by

**MMCarroll & Associates**

Looking for that **memorable** one of a kind gift for a special occasion, to honor visiting dignitaries, to celebrate your CEOs, show appreciation to your clients, or just a gift for that special someone in your life, then Mary Margaret Carroll of MMCarroll & Associates will provide the personal touch expected in helping you choose the perfect gift, along with the perfect gift wrapping. MMCarroll & Associates offers its clientele something unique: the ability to saturate their senses in an extraordinary environment with an abundance of gift ideas. Whatever is your gift giving need, MMCarroll & Associates has something for you.

Mary Margaret Carroll is the president of MMCarroll & Associates and has been in this specialty business since 1999, **establishing her** company as a **most respected** specialty vendor in the Houston area. MMCarroll & Associates has **evolved** into something truly marvelous. Through extensive networking, dedication, and attention to detail with clients, the company has **flourished**.

Mary Margaret has extensive experience and expertise in Gifts & Collectibles, Art Glass, Frames, Stationery, Jewelry, Birthday, Bridal & Wedding Gifts, Anniversary, Corporate Gifts and Advertising and Specialty Items. Her product knowledge, creativity and expertise in this area, will **help you to** choose the perfect gift or promotion item for **every** occasion. Mary Margaret handles everything with **her** special touch and provides the personal service you have come to expect.

So, ease your mind when it comes to selecting gifts and **put yourself in the capable hands of** Mary Margaret Carroll of MMCarroll & Associates. Not only will you love your gift selection, but you will love your experience with MMCarroll & Associates.

"Mary Margaret has a passion for cancer related causes and has recently agreed to join the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge Houston **Build hope. Touch lives.** Campaign as an Advisory Council member. She is excited to use her time and energy to help bring hope to cancer patients and their families who must travel to Houston for treatment and follow up visits. She knows from personal experience the tremendous burdens placed on those facing cancer. Treatment is difficult enough without the additional worry of where you will stay and how you will pay for the additional expenses of travel. Mary Margaret has dedicated herself to help bring Houston a place where they can find lodging at no cost, and truly focus on getting well and staying well."

For more information please contact Mary Margaret Carroll directly at mmcarroll1@msn.com or 713.854.0982.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by Emelie Black, 2011-2012 Professional Development Chair, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

Your Date with Destiny by Chris Widener

Here are some thoughts to think about as you work on shaping your Date with Destiny:
The Mental Question: Do you believe that you can achieve a life of abundance? The frank truth is that many people simply do not believe that they can achieve what lies in their heart. Success is for someone else, a better person, or a smarter person. This is not true and is perhaps the greatest obstacle we face on the journey to our destiny. If we are to achieve the abundance in life we must first believe we can, or face our own continual self-sabotage of what a college professor of mine called “stinkin’-thinkin.”

Here is the truth:
It doesn't matter what your intelligence is.
It doesn't matter what your current resources are.
It doesn't matter what you currently earn.
It doesn't matter what family you came from.

Nothing in your current circumstances matters in whether or not you can achieve your destiny! Nothing! Now, your current state may make it a longer or harder journey than someone else, but the possibility is always there no matter what your current circumstances are.

And that is the message we need to continually tell ourselves. "I can do it." Not "I can't do it."
Clear vision. Do you have one of your destiny? Here are some questions to determine whether or not your vision is clear. Can you describe it in intricate detail? Can you “see” it? Can you “feel” it? Can you “hear” it?

Here are a couple of illustrations.
Perhaps you came from a dysfunctional family and your dream is to have great moments with your family. Let’s start with a Thanksgiving meal. Can you see each person there? What are they wearing? Are they smiling? What is the conversation? Can you hear the laughter? Can you experience the joy? Can you smell the turkey? Can you see people hugging each other and saying "This was wonderful," as they leave? Another scenario: Your Company. Can you see the large building you are in? Can you see the workers? Can you feel the positive attitude they have as they carry out their work? Can you experience the excitement as you get the quarterly results? Can you see yourself handing out healthy bonuses that bring pleasant surprises to your employees?

This is where it begins. A clear vision of your destiny.

Consider your resources. Are you aware of the resources you will need in order to set your date with destiny? Do you know how you will go about getting them? What are your natural gifts and talents that you have? How can you best utilize them in achieving your destiny? What is your current level of resources? Money? Time? Emotional health? Help from others such as friends, family, employees or volunteers?

What will be your needed future level of resources? And have you developed a plan to achieve this level? The last thing I would encourage you to do is fix a date in the future that you believe you could be living your destiny by. A real date. What this enables you to do is then begin to work backwards in setting goals to move you along the way, providing you with future points to strive for and an evaluation point to reflect upon.

Here are the points again:
Answer the mental question: Do I really believe?
Develop a clear vision.
Consider the resources needed.
Set a date with destiny.
Develop a plan to get there.
2012 LCAM FIRST-TIMER ADVENTURES

Submitted by Pam Warfield, representing Houston Zoo, Inc.; Liz Palacios, representing TransCanada; and Niki Sikinger, representing Jordan Capital Management

Our first trip to LCAM was quite an adventure! Before we begin our story, I (Pam) would like to thank EWI of Houston for electing me as a delegate. Representing all of you was an honor and privilege. THANK YOU! In addition, Niki felt very blessed to have won the Houston Chapter LCAM Scholarship for first-time attendees and had an amazing experience as well. Having lived vicariously through other representatives’ stories and pictures for the past 12 years it was nothing like the “actual” LCAM experience.

My “short” flight to Dallas turned out to be longer than the drive would have been with my original flight being cancelled due to weather and the new flight I was assigned had a late departure. I missed the First-Time LCAM Attendees meeting, but thankfully Liz Palacios (another first-time LCAM attendee who had no flight issues) filled me in on what I missed. Not only that, she checked me into the Fairmont Hotel and picked up my registration and delegate materials so I would be less-stressed when I finally arrived.

I also had three EWI of Houston “angels” on my new flight. Betty Bruffy, Marilyn Burgess, and Becky Lundmark who took me under their wings. As LCAM veterans, they filled me in on what to expect, answered many of my silly questions, and let me catch a ride with them from the airport to the hotel. Thank you, ladies!

The first evening activity at the conference was a “Denim and Diamonds” event held poolside at the hotel. Dressed in all of our extra bling for the night, it was a fun evening spent with friends, EWI sisters from around the country, good Tex-Mex food, an ice cream sundae bar (forget Weight Watchers), and some lively country music by a terrific band! Liz, Niki and I ended the evening by relaxing with other Houston reps in the Chapter Suite.

Day 2 – Morning came way too early, but a delicious breakfast awaited us in the hotel ballroom. Dressed in our official periwinkle chapter shirts, the Houston Chapter filled three tables! Following a beautiful and heartfelt presentation of the United States and Canadian flags and national anthems, we were welcomed by the EWI Corporate Officers and Mayor Rawlings of Dallas. He inspired us with his words of wisdom about leadership and honored LCAM with an official proclamation of EWI Week in Dallas. Needless to say, he received a standing ovation and thunderous applause! We were officially welcomed by EWI of Dallas President, Benita Collins, and the invocation was presented by Debbie Taylor, Past Corporate President 2005 – 2006. Corporate awards were presented while we finished breakfast.

The keynote speaker was Vernice Armour (aka “Fly Girl”). Her message of “one mission, one goal, one team, one voice” was very inspirational, enlightening, and engaging. Personally I could have listened to her all day!

Liz and I attended the “Inspiring Members to Lead” workshop which had standing room only—very popular session! Ideas were shared on ways to engage Chapter Representatives with leadership opportunities in the organization.

Time to shop (our FAVORITE pastime)! Throughout the events of the days, there was a variety of vendors to explore with everything from books, jewelry, clothing, and EWI merchandise. We did our fair share to support the economy!

The luncheon that day honored EWISP and ASIST scholarship winners. In addition, over 2,000 books were collected for the book drive for Walnut Hill Library. Our guest speaker was David Horsager who spoke about the eight pillars of trust: consistency, clarity, compassion, character, competency, commitment, connection, and contribution. He was very funny yet informative—I particularly loved his bear attack story whereas Liz preferred his swimming in the dark story. As a bonus, he ended the session with a magic trick—amazing all of us.

The afternoon session gave us the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Central Region. We had the chance to exchange information and ideas with representatives from Dallas, Detroit, and Oklahoma City.
2012 LCAM FIRST-TIMER ADVENTURES CONTINUED

Fundraising was an important topic at my table and many new possibilities were presented. By the way, they love the things done by the Houston chapter.

A “town hall” meeting session was next where everyone had the chance to ask a wide range of questions and express any concerns. The last meeting of the day was for delegates—my chance to find out exactly what I would be doing during the Business meeting on Saturday with the other Houston delegates. I left with feelings of confidence and butterflies.

Dinner was on our own so Kori, Delynn, Angel, Deborah, Sanela, Liz, and I headed to a quaint Italian restaurant, Fedora. After a delicious meal and fun conversation, we made a quick stop at the 7-11 for some snacks and then took a leisurely walk through the Arts district back to our hotel. Lily Portales arrived, now our first-timer LCAM group was complete! It was a very long but rewarding day.

Day 3 – After a quick breakfast from Starbucks, it was time for the AOL Leadership session, “It All Begins With You” led by Colette Carlson. Liz and I attended this together along with other Houston representatives. We found Colette to be energetic, humorous, motivating, and engaging. This was an all-day session but time flew by. It was a very informative workshop that gave us many insights on teambuilding and working with various personalities.

Niki attended a different AOL module featuring Lori Giovannoni—a very dynamic and engaging speaker from the Salt Lake City Chapter. Feeling empowered at the end of the session, Niki realized what was important to her in a job and employer.

Lunch was another scrumptious meal with yet another outstanding speaker. We did not think the speaker could be any better than the day before, but Connie Podesta was our favorite (of any speakers we have ever heard)!!!! She was hysterically funny and our sides hurt from so much laughing. She provided tremendous insight into personality types—squares, circles, triangles, or squiggly lines— and how to work together. It was a little eerie to have someone peg us for our personality type without ever meeting us. She would be a wonderful speaker to have at one of our meetings or even an Executive’s night where we could see how our personalities mesh with our executives.

Delynn and Margaret hosted a Chapter dinner that evening at The Butcher Shop Steakhouse where we had shrimp scampi, prime rib, chicken, and more. It was a great time to get to know other representatives that we have not had the opportunity to just visit with in the past. Many of us walked back in the drizzle to the hotel which gave us even more bonding time. The evening ended with some crazy card playing in the Chapter Suite. It was another fabulous day!

Day 4 – Niki started the day by participating in the Reading Rally 5K fun run with Angel Penate and Lily Portales. All of them made us proud by completing the race in a very fine fashion!

I woke up a little nervous as this was my time to be in “delegate” mode for the business meeting. A plentiful breakfast buffet helped to calm my nerves before the meeting. The business meeting was a very well organized, professional, interesting, and eye-opening experience. Sharing delegate duties with Delynn, Margaret, and Stephanie was very comforting. Besides the business being conducted, I was impressed by the passion and commitment all EWI representatives have to the betterment of the organization. Although not all amendments passed, the process was just and fair and gave everyone the opportunity to speak their opinions of the chapters they represented. The culmination of the meeting was the installation of the new Corporate Board. One comment made that left an impression on me was “hope for the best, prepare for the worst, and end up pleasantly surprised”. I have heard this before, but for some unknown reason it meant something more to me this time. The business meeting adjourned so we could prepare for the grand finale that evening.

We all got dressed in our finest for the official Chapter photo—we were an extremely good-looking group of women! Then it was party-time and one last evening of fellowship, dining, networking, and friendship—Canadian style in honor of the new Corporate President, Karen Skirten. Dinner was the best meal yet, Karen made her first speech, the band from “Denim and Diamonds” performed, and fun was had by all.

The entire conference was a whirlwind of excitement for us! We met so many women (and a couple of men) from all over the country who held positions in almost every type of business imaginable. Niki, Liz, and I strengthened friendships with the Houston Chapter attendees and formed new friendships with other chapters. LCAM is a long and busy four days, but the things we learned and experiences we had are memories we will always treasure. Again, thank you to EWI of Houston for allowing us to represent them at our very first (and hopefully not last) LCAM. We look forward to San Diego in 2013 and urge each and every one of you to talk with your executive about attending as well!
2012 READING RALLY

Submitted by Susan Yates, representing Finger Interests

Nat Q. Henderson Elementary School Reading Rally

EWI of Houston presented the 2012 Reading Rally to first and second graders at Nat Q. Henderson Elementary School Tuesday, October 2, 2012. The Reading Rally program encourages literacy and reading in a fun atmosphere. As the students entered the cafeteria, EWI volunteers handed out Reading Rally T-shirts to the students who wore them throughout the program. Houston Police Officer Treva Mott, opened the festivities with an animated reading of the book, Read All About It, by Laura Bush and Jenna Bush Hager. Then, Clutch the Bear from the Houston Rockets and his friend, the Reading Ranger, entertained the students with their Reading Rocks program for an hour. Students participated enthusiastically as Clutch had them cheering and answering questions for prizes. Each student received a copy of the book, Read All About It, as well as a copy of Clutch’s story book and an HPD Badge sticker as they left the event.

This year, the Philanthropy Committee’s budget allowed us to provide classroom supplies to the teachers whose classes participated in the Reading Rally. Rosemary Powers coordinated a shopping trip with Delynn Walker, Becky Dunn, and Patti McLean to buy the much-needed supplies. EWI of Houston was able to provide almost all the supplies on the list and presented them along with a $500 gift certificate to the grateful teachers.

The Reading Rally closed with a student reading a thank you message to the EWI representatives.

The event was well-received, the kids had fun and the Principal and teachers were all appreciative. Thank you to everyone who participated and for contributing to the mission of literacy and encouraging reading with these students at Nat Q. Henderson Elementary.

Special thanks go to all the EWI Representatives who were instrumental in making this year’s Reading Rally come together.

Patricia Martin of Memorial Hermann scheduled Clutch the Bear’s appearance which this year was underwritten by EWI of Houston. Terri Lemons representing Martha Turner Properties ordered the books, delivered them to the rally, and along with Becky Dunn of Metromarketing Services, Inc. designed and ordered the T-shirts.

EWI representatives attending the rally were Delynn Walker of Texas Southern University, Margaret Parker of Ernst & Young LLP, Annette Washburn of Waukesha-Pearce Industries, Inc., Rosemary Powers of Wells Fargo Bank, Kori Peters of Hilcorp Energy Company, Sanela Tomic of Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., Rebecca Thompson of Bay Area Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Susan Yates of Finger Interests.
2012 READING RALLY PHOTOS

Submitted by Kori Peters, 2011-2012 Communications Director, representing Hilcorp Energy Company
Hello!

How are you doing? I hope all is well with you! You may or may not know, but I was in Bangalore, India this past semester. It took me a little time to get adjusted to the weather, environment, and crazy work schedules the Indians have (yes, I know, I'm Indian too – but I am a little more American, 8 am - 5 pm, in this regard). I wanted to give you an update on how I'm doing and what I've been up to for the past semester and this semester.

First, some back story. After a bunch of different ideas and pursuing various opportunities, I finally decided last year to take some time off from college (I am still at Olin College of Engineering in Boston getting my B.S. in Mechanical Engineering) to explore the world. I knew I wanted to go to India, back to my roots, and do some social engineering, but I had a difficult time finding something that clicked with me from a passion standpoint if I wanted to do this for 6 months. This was the first time that I was going to be working for 6 months at one company. If I did indeed find something, so I wasn’t sure how that was going to work out for me. But I ended up running across a company that makes low cost infant warmers to save low birth weight babies' lives for those that can’t afford super-expensive infant incubators in the developing world. I had never thought about going into the medical device field, but I always knew that I wanted my work to have as much of a direct impact on people and the environment as possible. I got to visit hospitals as a part of my job as an engineering fellow for user research in both the state of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. I am fluent in Telugu, the language of Andhra Pradesh, and when I went to a hospital in Andhra Pradesh, I actually got to be a translator between the nurses and the user researcher! It was really fun being able to do that especially since many people thought I didn’t know one bit of Telugu as I grew up in the US. My work involved product optimization for an existing product and product development and design for a new sub-product related to the infant warmer. It was a mix of user-centric design, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and project management.

I've also been able to spend time with family in Bangalore. I haven’t seen them in 7 years, so it’s been great catching up with them on weekends. We took a trip to a forest about 5 hours from Bangalore, and we got to play in waterfalls there!

I took the summer off to spend some time with family and friends back in Houston, and now I’m back for my senior year of college at Olin! I’m taking a really interesting mix of courses. I am currently doing my senior capstone in engineering with an external company called AGCO – they make agricultural equipment for large farms. I am also in Material Science, Negotiations, a Humanities capstone project in Vedic philosophy, and Nonlinear Dynamics/Chaos. It’s been a month since I’ve been back at school, and I’m really glad to be back in the college routine. I’m graduating December 2013 since I took last semester off. I will also be back in Houston in early November for the Society of Women Engineers national conference as a collegiate poster competition finalist.

I’ll keep you posted as my semester goes on. Feel free to keep in touch!

Sincerely,

Geeta Gubba
EWI of HOUSTON BOARD RECAPS

Communications Report
Submitted by Kori Peters, 2011-2012 Communications Director, representing Hilcorp Energy Company

The October EWIConnect was distributed on October 14, 2012. Special thanks to the following contributors:

Emelie Black, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
Mary Speltz, CIMA ENERGY, LTD.
Kawana Bowie, Deloitte Service LP
Susan Yates, Finger Interests, Ltd.
Debbie Casey and Kori Peters, Hilcorp Energy Company
Bobbie Pritchett, Hilton Houston Post Oak
Pam Warfield, Houston Zoo, Inc.
Niki Sikinger, Jordan Capital Management
David Jones, D. Jones Photography
Carolyn Noack, LINBECK
Mary Margaret Carroll, MMCarroll & Associates
Delynn Walker, Texas Southern University
Liz Palacios, TransCanada
Geeta Gubba, 2007-2008 EWISP Winner

Special thanks to the Communications Committee members for their efforts.

The deadline for submitting articles for the November issue of EWIConnect is Monday, October 22, 2012. Please forward news articles to Sarah Unerfusser at sarah.e.unerfusser@us.pwc.com.

Membership Report
Submitted by Mary Speltz, 2011-2012 Membership Director, representing CIMA ENERGY, LTD.

- Member Firms: 96
- Representatives: 117
- Sustaining Members: 28
- Life Members: 2
- Honorary Members: 2
- Transitional Member: 0
- Total Membership: 149

New Member Firms:
Metro Star, Kim Murray
Haven, Cameron Eubank
ChaseSource, LP, Shervonda Smith

New Replacement Representatives:
American Cancer Society, Samantha Foley
Four Seasons Houston, Meghan Skalak

New Third Representative:
John Daugherty Realtors, Shari Schiffman

Representative Resignations:
American Cancer Society, Sandy Biggers
Four Seasons Houston, Jodi Doughty (added as executive)
Fundraising Report  
Submitted by Bobbie Pritchett, 2011-2012 Fundraising Director, representing Hilton Houston Post Oak

The Fundraising Committee conducted a successful door prize drawing at the September 20, 2012 meeting held at Hotel Icon. Door prize ticket sales totaled $545.

The following member firms generously contributed items for our door prizes:

- Michelle Rayburn representing Westin La Cantera Hill Country Resort, San Antonio
- Sandy Biggers representing American Cancer Society
- Jodi Doughty representing Four Seasons Houston
- III Forks—Julia Glasgow, Special Events Manager
- Mary Stehling & Emelie Black representing Anadarko
- Michele Votano representing Atlantic Relocation Systems
- Kay Bart representing Skerl & Associates
- Becky Dunn representing Metromarketing Services, Inc.
- Laura Sheppard representing Harris County, Office of the County Clerk
- Rebecca Thompson representing Bay Area Houston Convention & Visitors’ Bureau

Our thanks to Patricia Martin with Memorial Hermann Healthcare System for selling door prize tickets at the September meeting and special thanks to Linda Petticrew with Synagro Technologies, Inc. for handling the raffle ticket distribution coordination for this fundraising effort.

The Fundraising Committee sincerely thanks all of the representatives and guests who participated in this month’s door prize drawings and raffle ticket sales.

We conducted the final drawings for the Keep Momma Out of the Kitchen fundraiser at the September meeting and representatives were present to claim the prize packages. We sold 386 raffle tickets and raised $7,720 in funds.

A special thank you and reward was given to Patti Strawther with Shell Energy Resources Company for having sold the most raffle tickets! Runners up with raffle ticket sales were Patricia Martin with Memorial Hermann Healthcare System and Mary Speltz with CIMA Energy.

Member Firm Anniversaries

- Quanex Building Products Corporation 28 Years
- Wells Fargo Bank 10 Years
- Landry’s, Inc. 6 Years
- TransCanada 2 Years
Volunteer Corner

Sandy Hulver  October 1
Cynthia Bates  October 2
Sylvia Meeks  October 3
Patti McLean  October 4
Cindy Viaud  October 6
Terri Zievers  October 11
Margaret Parker  October 15
Laura Gilliam  October 23
Kathy Hibbard  October 25
Erlinda Quintanilla  October 26
Anna Garrisi  October 27
Irene Lueckemeyer  October 31
Mazine Cunningham  October 31

Box Tops for Education
Please contact Susan Yates at homes@susanjgregory.com for more information.

Pull Tabs for The Ronald McDonald House
Collection of tabs will be arranged throughout the year. Please contact Susan Yates at homes@susanjgregory.com for more information.
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