



SWE Board of Trustees Endowed Scholarships Profiles



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F.SWE, Board of Trustees

Ada I. Pressman Memorial Scholarship

Ada Irene Pressman [1927-2003]

Ada was born in Sydney, Ohio and attended secondary schools there. She received her Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from Ohio State University in 1950. Following graduation she joined Bailey Meter Co as a project engineer. In 1955 she joined Bechtel as a power control systems engineer. In 1969 she received a Master's in Business Administration from Golden Gate University in California. She became a registered Professional Engineer (PE).



Career: Ms. Pressman was recognized as a pioneer in combustion control and burner management for supercritical power plants. With this expertise she managed 18 design teams for over 20 power generating plants throughout the world. One of her many notable career accomplishments was her leadership as principal engineer for the San Onofre nuclear power plant south of Los Angeles. Ada could be described as a quiet leader but no one would doubt that she was in charge. She became Chief Control Systems Engineer. At her retirement from Bechtel she was Engineering Manager.

SWE: Ada joined SWE in 1954 as a charter member of the Cleveland Section and became a Senior Member in 1961. Ada had an active SWE “career” with the distinction of being a “three pin” president of SWE –the Past Presidents pin, a SWE Fellow pin and the SWE Achievement Award pin (1976). She was SWE President 1979-80 a tumultuous period as the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was being fiercely debated. Ada also received the Distinguished Service Award. Ada was elected to the SWE Board of Trustees in 1983. As Treasurer she led the Board from handwritten ledgers into the computer age.

Other Affiliations: Ada was also an active member of the Instrument Society of America and eventually became national President. She received the distinguished Alumni Award from Ohio State and the Outstanding Engineering Merit Award from Bechtel. She was a member of ANS and NSPE. Ada was widowed early with death of husband Marvin H Pressman in 1970. She an avid golfer and was always ready with her clubs.

Ada left a very large bequest for the scholarship endowment and the BOT was able to create 6 renewable scholarships.

Admiral Grace Murray Hopper Scholarship

Admiral Grace Murray Hopper [1906-1992]

Hopper was born in [New York](#), the oldest in a family of three children. She was curious as a child, a lifelong trait. At seven she decided to determine how an alarm clock worked. She dismantled seven alarm clocks before her mother realized what she was doing; she was then limited to one clock.



She attended the [Hartridge School](#) in [Plainfield, NJ](#), and was admitted to Vassar College at age 17. She graduated [Phi Beta Kappa](#) in 1928 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics. She earned her Master's degree at [Yale University](#) in 1930. Hopper began teaching mathematics at Vassar.

Career: Grace had successful careers in academia, business, and the US Navy while making history in the computer field. In 1943, Hopper was sworn in to the [United States Navy Reserve](#), one of many women to volunteer to serve in the [WAVES](#). Grace became the mother of computerized data automation in the Naval Service. She retired (involuntarily) from the Navy (for the third time) on August 14, 1986. At a celebration held on the [USS Constitution](#) Hopper was awarded the [Defense Distinguished Service Medal](#), the highest non-combat award by the Department of Defense. At her retirement as a Rear Admiral, she was the oldest commissioned officer in the United States Navy (79 years, eight months and five days). Grace was then hired as a senior consultant to [Digital Equipment Corporation](#), a position she retained until her death in 1992, aged 85.

SWE: Admiral Hopper received SWE's Achievement Award in 1994. She was the first individual woman awarded the National Medal of Technology (1991) by President George HW Bush. "For her pioneering accomplishments in the development of computer programming languages that simplified computer technology and opened the door to a significantly larger universe of users

While she was working on a Mark II Computer at [Harvard University](#), her associates discovered a [moth](#) stuck in a [relay](#) and thereby impeding operation, whereupon she remarked that they were "debugging" the system. Though the term [computer bug](#) cannot be definitively attributed to Admiral Hopper, she did bring the term into popularity. The remains of the moth are in the group's log book at the [Smithsonian Institution](#). She felt her greatest accomplishment was teaching young people.

The scholarship was established in 1992 to honor a woman known as "Amazing Grace" through friends and SWE members raising the funds.

B.J. Harrod Scholarship

B.J. Harrod [1933-]

B.J. Harrod ably and enthusiastically served as Managing Director and acting Executive Director of SWE from 1984-1995 when SWE HQ was located in the United Engineering Center in New York City.



B.J. was the first affiliate member of SWE, joining in 1988. In 1996, he was awarded an honorary life membership by the Council of Section Representatives in recognition of his outstanding service. He served as SWE's Representative to the American Association of Engineering Societies and the Engineering Societies Library. In conjunction with SWE members, he successfully developed the NASA grant program to provide funding for outreach programs for minority and at-risk female students.

In 1997, B.J. received SWE's Rodney D Chipp Memorial Award for "service to SWE above and beyond the call of duty with sincere devotion to the organization, its members and its objectives". This award celebrates a company or man who has contributed significantly to the acceptance and advancement of women in the engineering fields.

Prior to his SWE employment, Harrod held numerous responsible positions with the American Association of Engineering Societies and the American Society of Civil Engineers as well as two music publishers. After graduation with degrees in music and English from North Texas State University and Indiana University, he taught in junior high and elementary schools. He was elected into Alpha Chi and Phi Beta Kappa.

BK Krenzer Memorial Reentry Scholarship

BK Krenzer [1923-1989]

BK (as she was always known in SWE) was born on the 4th of July, 1923 in Kansas City, Missouri and passed away in 1989. She received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from University of Kansas. Throughout her career, she continued her education by taking numerous specialty courses. BK had a large extended family that she cherished. She had a great sense of humor and a special bumper sticker on her car: "Women are leaders, you are following one."



Career: BK Krenzer worked as a civilian for the USAF and then as a consultant in areas of electronics including instrument systems, signal data processing and intelligence analysis. At various time she worked as an electronics engineer, a Program Manager and an Intelligence Analysis Engineer. She served for more than 38 years in numerous complex assignments. Later she set up her own consulting firm.

SWE: BK was selected as a SWE Fellow in 1983. She was an active MAL (Member-at-Large) and served as MAL Newsletter editor for many years. She was instrumental in forming the Kansas City Section in 1982 and was elected as SWE National President for 1986-87. BK was an active attendee at ICWES (International Congress of Women Engineers and Scientists).

Other Affiliations: BK Krenzer was elected to the University of Kansas Women's Hall of Fame in 1981. BK was also a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). BK was the first woman to serve on the Executive Committee of the American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES). She was a Rotarian and a member of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA). She twice received a Meritorious Service Medal from the USAF. BK was a member of Zonta International (service organization) and the Federal Executive Association. She was a member of the Association of Old Crows (AOC).

Scholarship: The scholarship was initially funded by her beloved peers in the Members-at-Large group of SWE (these are SWE members who do not live near a Section).

Dorothy Lemke Howarth Memorial Scholarship

Dorothy Lemke Howarth

Dorothy spent a lot of her life in Michigan, Iowa, India and Florida. She received a B.S. in Applied Mathematics (minor in Electrical Engineering) in 1976.



Career: Dorothy was Tool Designer for Beaver Tool and Engineering Co in Royal Oak, Michigan. She spent a number of years in India when her husband who worked for Massey was transferred. When they came back to Des Moines, IA and then retired to Florida. Both Dorothy and her husband were avid pilots. She commented that in the early years she often went by “DLH” so gender was not an issue. She liked to quote her Dad “Education is one thing you give to the next generation....what they do with it...you have nothing to say!”

SWE: Dorothy was a Charter Member of the Detroit Section of SWE. She remained a strong support and active participant in SWE the rest of her life.

Other affiliations: Dorothy was a very private person and little is known about her life beyond SWE and family.

Scholarship: Dorothy was a generous SWE member who started to endow this scholarship in 1990 and by 1999 she had donated \$245,000. In a note in early 1994 after she had given \$100,000...she said: “now she’ll work on another round number”. There are now many Dorothy Lemke Scholarships for sophomore engineering students. She made it clear she did not want public recognition for these endowments.

Dorothy P. Morris Scholarship

Dorothy P. Morris [1931- 2014]

Dorothy was born in the Bronx, NY and attended Walton High School, graduating in 1948. She then attended Concordia Jr College in Bronxville, NY and Pace College in NYC. She worked in numerous non-engineering positions and then joined Colvin Laboratories as a Vice President and General Manager (electronics) serving for 10 years starting in 1953. In 1963 she joined Victory Engineering Corp eventually becoming Treasurer. For many years she commuted between Long Island, NY and New Jersey for her jobs. After retirement she worked as a private consultant for numerous organizations.



SWE: Dorothy joined SWE as an Associate Member of the New York Section in 1963. She became a member in 1968. Eventually she became a Life Member. She became SWE's representative to the Engineering Manpower Commission [AAES] serving with distinction as its Chair 1970-85. She worked hard on the First International Conference of Women Engineers & Scientists in 1964, served as NY Section President and Section Representative. Dorothy was elected to the SWE Board of Trustees in 1973 serving as a trustee and Chairman for many years. Dorothy received the Distinguished Service Award from SWE in 2001 and was selected as a SWE Fellow in 1987. She led a People-to-People trip of SWE Members to China.

Other affiliations: Dorothy was a member of the Instrument society of America (ISA).

Scholarship: Dorothy funded the scholarship endowment through the pledge process in 2002.

Dr. Ivy M. Parker Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Ivy M. Parker [1907-1985]

Dr. Ivy Parker was born in Quay County, New Mexico in 1907, the first of a rancher's 6 children. Her father sent them to a one-room schoolhouse and then to Tucumcari for high school where Ivy graduated in 1925. She went on to West Texas State College, obtaining a BA (Chemistry) in 1928. Ivy went on to the University of Texas obtaining an MA in Chemistry in 1931 and a PhD in Organic Chemistry in 1935. Her graduate work was sponsored by the petroleum industry (very unusual in those days).



Career: One of the first comments Ivy heard when applying for a petroleum job was “we have no facilities for women within the plant”. She started her career in 1936 at Shell Oil Company in Houston, Texas as an analytic chemist at an initial salary of \$125 per month. Ivy eventually moved on to work as a Research Engineer for the Plantation Pipeline Company in Atlanta Georgia. She specialized in corrosion and filtration, becoming a recognized expert in the field. She was known as “Doc” all along the pipeline. She taught classes at the University of Houston, Night Division. So, Ivy went from a

barefoot girl in a one-room school to an internationally known expert on pipeline corrosion

SWE: Dr. Parker was a long time active member of SWE, joining in 1957 and was selected a SWE Fellow in 1982. She enjoyed career guidance and science fair activity. She was elected to the SWE Board of Trustees and became chair. She served for a total of 18 years as trustee. Ivy's sister Bertha was a science teacher and a strong supporter of SWE and often came to SWE National Conventions with Ivy.

Other affiliations: Ivy was elected to the Georgia Academy of Science and American Men of Science. She was active in the American Chemical Society, the National Association of Corrosion Engineers. She was a member of Sigma Xi, an honorary fraternity. She became editor of Corrosion Magazine. Ivy became a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemists. She was selected a “First Lady of Petroleum” by the Desk & Derrick Club.

Scholarship: Contributions from her family and friends helped endow the scholarship in 1986.

Jill S. Tietjen, P.E., Scholarship Jill S.Tietjen [1954-]

Jill received a B.S. in Applied Mathematics (minor in Electrical Engineering) in 1976 from the University of Virginia, School of Engineering and Applied Science (Tau Beta Pi, Virginia Alpha). She went on to obtain an MBA in 1979 from the University of North Carolina – Charlotte. Tietjen is a registered professional engineer in Colorado. Jill and her husband David live in Centennial, Colorado.



Career: Jill S. Tietjen, P.E., is currently the President and CEO of Technically Speaking, Inc., and provides consulting services in the areas of generation and transmission planning and fuels to the electric utility industry. She serves as an expert witness before public utility commissions and other government agencies. Her technical papers have been published in *Public Utilities Fortnightly* and *Transmission and Distribution*. She has co-authored several Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) papers. Tietjen regularly speaks on women in engineering, and leadership topics. Her best-selling and award-winning book, *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*, was published in 2008 in hardback, and in 2013 in paperback and ebook formats. Her introduction to engineering textbook, *Keys to Engineering Success*, was published in 2001. She has written articles for and been profiled in *SWE Magazine*, *Graduating Engineer*, *U.S. Woman Engineer*, and *Engineering Horizons*. She is active in nominating women for national awards including the National Women’s Hall of Fame and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation.

SWE: Jill has had a long career in SWE. She served on numerous SWE Committees local and nationally, local section officer and eventually as the 1991-1992 National President of the Society of Women Engineers. Jill is a Life member of SWE, was selected as a SWE Fellow in 1994 and received the SWE Distinguished Service Award in 2002.

Other affiliations: Jill has received many honors such as the Horizon Award (2003); the 2001 Woman in Technology Award from the Women’s Foundation of Colorado, Subaru, and News4; and Tau Beta Pi’s Distinguished Alumna Award (2004). She was inducted into the Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame in 2010. Tietjen serves on a number of non-profit boards and was previously Chair of the Board of Girl Scouts – Mile Hi Council. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Georgia Transmission Corporation (Tucker, Georgia) and Merrick & Company (Greenwood Village, Colorado). She is a Senior Member of the IEEE Power and Energy Society.

Scholarship: Jill endowed this scholarship in 2004 by using the Pledge Process paying increments over a five-year period.

Judith Resnik Memorial Scholarship Judith A Resnik [1949-1986]

Judith Resnik was born in 1949 in Akron, OH and graduated from Firestone High School with a perfect SAT score. She excelled in mathematics and classical piano. Judith then attended Carnegie Mellon University receiving a BS, with honors, in Electrical Engineering in 1970. She was Tau Beta Pi in 1969. She pursued graduate studies at University of Pennsylvania and then received a PhD in Biomedical Electrical and Engineering from the University of Maryland.



Career Judy worked for RCA in missile and space related work 1970-74. She became a Biomedical Engineer and Staff Fellow at National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD in 1974 and then a Senior Engineer for Xerox. She became an Astronaut candidate at the Johnson Space Center in 1978. Judy was the 2nd female astronaut. She first flew on the Discovery shuttle in 1984 as a Mission Specialist. During the flight, she was acclaimed for her weightless acrobatics and a playful sense of humor, once holding a sign reading "Hi Dad" up to the camera, and displaying a sticker on her flight locker that advertised her crush on

actor [Tom Selleck](#).

Judy was a Mission Specialist on the ill-fated Challenger flight STS-51-L in 1986. She said “danger was simply another unknown to be mastered”. She received the Congressional Space Medal of Honor in 2004 (posthumously) and a lunar crater has been named ‘Resnik’.

SWE Judy was an active SWE Senior Member for many years. At its 1986 National Convention SWE announced the establishment of the Resnik Challenger Medal to be given to a “woman for visionary engineering contributions to space exploration”. The award was conceived as a fitting permanent memorial for Dr. Resnik.

Other affiliations: Judith was also active in Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (IEEE) and the American Association of University of Women (AAUW). She became an AAUW Fellow in 1975-76. IEEE has a Judith Resnik Award for space engineering.

Scholarship: After Judy was killed in the Challenger shuttle disaster there was an outpouring of donations from SWE members and friends to create a scholarship in memory of Judy and the Challenger event. *Note: SWE also created the Resnik-Challenger Medal to recognize a woman for visionary contributions to space exploration.*

Lillian Moller Gilbreth Memorial Scholarship

Lillian M. Gilbreth [1878-1972]

The Gilbreth Scholarship was established by the Society's Board of Trustees in 1958. It honors a woman often called the "First Lady of Engineering." She inspired many young ladies in engineering with delightful stories, charm, fortitude and forward thinking.



Dr. Gilbreth (1878-1972) was born in Oakland, California. She was the second of ten children. She attended Oakland High School graduating in 1896. She graduated from the University of California in 1900 and earned a Ph.D. from Brown University in 1915. She has 22 [honorary degrees](#) from schools such as [Princeton](#), [Brown](#) and Michigan.

Dr. Gilbreth, an honorary SWE member, was familiar to the public as the wife and mother in the books and movies *Cheaper by the Dozen* (she was the mother of 12 children) and *Belles on Their Toes*. She married Frank Bunker Gilbreth in 1904 and collaborated with him as pioneers in the field of time and motion studies. Lillian Gilbreth combined the perspectives of an engineer, a psychologist, a wife, and a mother; she helped industrial engineers see the importance of the psychological dimensions of work. She became the first American engineer ever to create a synthesis of psychology and scientific management.

After her husband's death, Dr. Gilbreth built Gilbreth, Inc., into one of the most highly respected industrial engineering and management consulting firms in the field. She was active in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and a professor and international lecturer. In 1954, Dr. Gilbreth was the first woman to receive the Washington Award. This award is given annually (since 1916) by a group of engineering societies for "accomplishments which promote the happiness, comfort, and well-being of humanity."

In 1965, she became the first woman to be elected to the National Academy of Engineering. The following year, the President of the United States awarded Dr. Gilbreth the Hoover Medal for distinguished public service. In 1984, the U.S. Postal Service selected Dr. Gilbreth as the engineering profession's representative in the Great American postal stamp series. She served as an advisor to Presidents Hoover, Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson on matters of civil defense, war production and rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. She and husband Frank have a permanent exhibit in The Smithsonian National Museum of American History and her portrait hangs in the National Portrait Gallery.

Gilbreth joined the Girl Scouts as a consultant in 1929, later becoming a member of the board of directors, and remained active in the organization for more than twenty years. Her ability to combine a career and family led to her being called, by the California Monthly in 1944, "a genius in the art of living."

Lonnie Lee and Maria Elena Abernethy Endowment for Native Americans in Engineering Scholarship

Dr. Lonnie Lee Abernethy

Dr. Lonnie Lee Abernethy grew up in North Carolina and received a Bachelor of Ceramic Engineering in 1963 from North Carolina State University followed by an M.Sc. and Ph.D. from Ohio State University. When he was a graduate student at Ohio State he met his first wife Margaret who was studying for a Master's degree in ceramic engineering. After graduation they moved to the Chicago area where he worked at Argonne National Laboratory as a materials engineer. He was working for Texas Instruments in Dallas in 1963 when he interviewed for the position of Dean of the School of Mines and Engineering at Texas Western University (now UTEP – University of Texas – El Paso).



In 1984 Dr. Abernethy retired as Dean of the College of Engineering and Professor Emeritus at UTEP and became a Professor Emeritus of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering. Dr. Lonnie Abernethy has honored significant people in his life in a unique and generous way – establishing scholarship endowments at five different colleges and universities around the country.

One of these is in the College of Engineering at New Mexico State University in memory of his son Charles who was a student there from 1978 to 1983. Abernethy recalls that he and Charles shared many wonderful hiking experiences. Their favorite dog Napoleon often joined them on the trail. Charles lived on campus during his student years at NMSU, participated in the Co-op program while studying electrical engineering, was a member of the amateur radio club and sang in the glee club. Cancer took Charles' life in 1996 at the age of 36, a year after his mother.

Abernethy has remarried (Maria Elena) and acquired a new family and he still devotes a lot of time to his favorite hobby: online investing. He shares his success by funding the scholarship endowments he and Margaret had long discussed. He has endowments at Alfred University (where Margaret obtained her first degree), Trinity University in San Antonio, UTEP (established in Margaret's memory following her death from cancer in 1995) and Colorado School of Mines as well as NMSU.

Abernethy, a longtime friend of NMSU's civil engineering program, had been trying to find an appropriate way to honor the memory of his older son who died in an accident at age 12. One night while watching a television program about the WWII Navajo code talkers, he thought that a scholarship to support Native American students might be the perfect answer.

That put him in contact with Peter Iverson, regent's professor of history at Arizona State University, whose area of interest is "American Indian, North America, Western U.S."

An exchange of e-mails between the two men resulted in Iverson pointing out New Mexico State's outstanding American Indian Program for students. Abernethy already knew about the caliber of the civil engineering program so plans moved forward quickly after that.

Mary Gunther Memorial Scholarship

Mary A. Gunther [1927-2005]

Mary Gunther was born in 1927 and attended secondary schools in New Jersey, graduating from Weehawken High School in 1945. She got a business administration diploma from the Wood School in New York City in 1946.



Career: Mary first worked as an architectural and executive secretary for an eminent church architect and then went on to become an engineering draftsman for a consulting engineering firm in 1952. She studied engineering in correspondence courses and on the job. She pursued the study for a professional engineering license. Mary focused on mechanical and electrical equipment in major buildings including schools, commercial buildings and institutional projects. She also started a freelance secretarial service on the side.

SWE: Mary worked in New York City and joined SWE in 1962 as a member of the New York Section although she lived in New Jersey. She was a signer of the petition to create the New Jersey Section of SWE in May, 1970 and became an active New Jersey member. Mary was a very quiet person and a great organizer. She was the one who was “always there”, ready to help on any project. A peer recalls her as a very devoted SWE member.

Scholarship: Mary named the SWE Scholarship Fund in a bequest of over \$200,000 in her will to fund four scholarships of \$2000 each.

Mary V. Munger Memorial Scholarship

Mary V. Munger [1918 –2004]

Mary was born in East Hartford, CT and attended secondary schools there and then graduated from St Joseph College, Hartford with a BA in Mathematics in 1939.

Career: She started her career as a teacher in the Hartford school system and then joined Pratt & Whitney Aircraft as a computer assistant in 1945. By 1955 Mary was a Senior Systems Engineer in Sound involved in measurement and analysis of aircraft engine noise. Over her long career Mary worked on aircraft jet engine performance, quality assurance, performance of military engines and many other aspects of aircraft engine manufacturing. Mary retired from Pratt & Whitney in 1983 after a long outstanding career.



SWE: Mary was an early member of SWE - joining in 1955, becoming a Senior Member in 1963 and a Fellow in 1994. She served many positions in the Hartford Section, was National Bylaws Chair for many years, served a Director on the SWE Executive Committee from 1961-63 and then served as Co-chair of SWE National Conventions in Hartford in 1970 and 1986. She provided distinguished service on the SWE Board of Trustees from 1961-1988, serving as Treasurer 1980-88.

Other Affiliations: Mary also was active in the St Joseph College Alumnae Association serving as President. Mary received a Distinguished Alumnae award in 1979 and later became a Trustee of the college. She served as chair of the Planned Giving Committee for the College. She was part of the Connecticut Joint Federation of Engineering Societies (first woman). Mary was also a 56 year member of the Ruth Wyllys Chapter of the DAR and an active member of Zonta International, a business and professional women’s service organization. Mary served as a member of the Connecticut Board of Optician Examiners 1987-95.

Scholarship: Mary had been an avid investor and left a significant bequest to SWE to fund a Mary V. Munger scholarship to be awarded to a junior or senior women engineering student or a re-entry scholar. Mary also left a generous bequest to the SWE Headquarters Fund.

MASWE Scholarship

MASWE = Men’s Auxiliary Society of Women Engineers

MASWE was formed in 1968 by *the husbands, brothers, fathers and colleagues who believed that engineering is a viable career choice for women and the cause needed support.* [This was before SWE accepted male members] Members paid “dues” as a donation to SWE of \$20 and had to be sponsored by a SWE member. By 1972 there were 33 members. In 1971 MASWE established a scholarship with a stipend of \$200 for a woman engineering student based on scholarship and financial need. It was established in memory of Herbert (Bud) White, husband of Winnie White SWE’s first Executive Secretary. Bud had been the first President of MASWE. On a side note when Bud was a student at Renssalaer Polytechnic Institute there was one girl in the school allowed in on special privileges since the school was not coed. That “girl” went on to become SWE’s 4th President, Lois Graham.



Minutes from MASWE stated: “Purpose: to give maximum MASWE recognition to a student and thereby publicize the fact that men support women engineers. To have MASWE give a specific award which we believe will assist in our efforts to increase membership.”

When SWE opened to male membership in 1976 MASWE disbanded, most MASWE members became SWE members and the funds were transferred to SWE and the scholarship name changed to the MASWE Memorial Scholarship. The funds were to be turned over to the Board of Trustees when sufficient funds were gathered to make it sustainable. It was decided that retaining the name MASWE would serve as a memorial to those men who were so supportive in the beginnings of SWE. The funds were transferred to the Scholarship Endowment Fund in 1983 with \$2018.55 to sustain a \$200 scholarship.

When Winnie White, SWE’s first Executive Secretary passed away a continuing sequence of contributions over a number of years from a Trust (a family connected who wished to remain unpublicized) were made to the MASWE Scholarship in her memory. On occasion a donation in memory of a past MASWE member was received on his death. In 1996 the Boston University Student Section donated \$1000 to the MASWE Scholarship. All these contributions led to a reality beyond the dreams of the original members to have at least a \$1000 scholarship...as of 2013-14 there are four MASWE Memorial Scholarships at \$1500 each.

Meredith Thoms Memorial Scholarship Meredith E. Thoms [1908-1997]

Meredith was born in Nebraska in 1908. She graduated from Lincoln High School in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1925. She was the first woman to graduate with a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Nebraska in 1929 and a Master of Civil Engineering in 1931. She was a member of



Delta Zeta and was elected to two honorary fraternities: Pi Mu Epsilon and Sigma Xi.

Career: Following college she became a Graduate Assistant at the university and then worked at the Central Nebraska Public Power District. In an interesting sign of the times she was a Secretary for the University but also did some hydraulic studies. In 1937 she moved to Seattle and went to work for Boeing Aircraft. In 1941 she went to the Corps of Engineers in Mobile, AL, then back to Seattle, Washington and finally Portland, Oregon and was involved in a great variety of civil engineering projects involving hydrologic investigations and research as a Hydraulic Engineer.

SWE: Meredith was active in the Pacific Northwest Section of SWE serving as Section President and later Section Representative. She became a Senior Member in 1964. She went on to serve on the national SWE Executive Committee. She was a frequent attendee at SWE National Conventions.

Other Affiliations: Meredith was also active in the American Society of Civil Engineers serving as Chairman of the Hydraulics, Waterways and Harbors Group. She was also a member of the American Geophysical Union and the Society of Military Engineers.

Meredith was active in church work, Toastmistresses and enjoyed the Portland Symphony and the Civic Theater.

Scholarship: Meredith left a significant bequest to SWE to fund scholarships. As of 2013-14 there are five Thoms Scholarships of \$2400 each.

Olive Lynn Salembier Memorial Reentry Scholarship

Olive Lynn Salembier [1915- 1978]

Olive Salembier was born in 1915 in Victoria, BC, Canada. She graduated from Victoria High School in 1930. Olive studied economics at Victoria College for two years. While she did not have a formal degree in engineering, she became a recognized expert in Packaging Engineering. It was new branch of engineering at the time. She was quoted as saying “I wish I had one, I was an un-willing dropout, where college was concerned, during the depression.” She took numerous seminars and courses over her career to continue to grow as a professional.



Career: Olive packaged everything from homemade pickles to military equipment for Viet Nam. She went through a lot of “popcorn” in her career – before bubble wrap was created. She taught numerous packaging related courses at Purdue University. Also, Olive was President of several packaging companies in Arizona and California in the 1960’s. In the early 70’s, she was a Packaging Engineer Consultant for Escoa Industries, Inc. of Phoenix, Arizona. She was working in an almost all male field and so needed persistence as well as knowledge.

SWE: Olive was elected national SWE President 1970-72 after having served on numerous committees and the national Executive Committee. At the time SWE had 1200 members throughout the country. She became a senior life member of SWE in 1972.

Other Affiliations: Olive was very active in the Society of Packaging and Handling Engineers, serving in many positions including the national Board. Olive was made a Fellow of SPHE in 1972 and was selected a Member of the Year. She was appointed to the Packaging Advisory Council of the American Management Association and was the first women to serve in that capacity. Her visionary mind came to the forefront when she led an effort to provide standards for the recognition of competence and knowledge in the emerging discipline of packaging. This effort led to a formal certification program in 1972. She was elected as a member of Sigma Pi Epsilon, an Honorary Packaging Fraternity.

Scholarship: On Olive’s early death at age 63, her friends gathered funds to create a scholarship and, since she always encouraged people to go back to finish that degree, it was made a re-entry scholarship. Olive always wanted to help others reach their full potential.

Susan Miskowicz September 11 Memorial Scholarship Susan Miskowicz (1962-2001)

Susan was the only SWE member to die in the September 11 tragedy at the World Trade Center. Susan was a life-long New Yorker, a graduate of Bishop Kearney High School and Polytechnic University in Brooklyn, NY. She resided in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn. She had only been working on the 64th floor in the World Trade Center for about 6 months. She was really proud and excited when she landed the position working as a contract engineer for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. She was really enjoying the work and the people. When the first plane hit, Susan called her mother Carole to reassure her. The “accident” happened in the other tower and she was not concerned all was ok in her tower. However, she never made it out after the second plane American Airlines Flight 11 punctured their building upstairs, across floors 94 to 98.



Susan was the backbone and leader of the New York Section for many years. She was an active, reliable grass-roots volunteer. SWE had recently hosted a Regional Conference in New York City and Susan Miskowicz was the Conference Chair. The theme was “Gearing Up for the New Millennium: Business & Leadership Skills for a Diverse Workforce.” She had served as Vice President of the New York Section, and rose to the position of President before SWE lost her at the age of 38 in the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Susan was active in several other organizations such as American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). She served SWE and ASME in many capacities, and was also an active volunteer with a number of other organizations, including the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City and several animal rescue groups.

The scholarship endowment was funded in 2002 by the New York Section and friends in SWE. It honors all the victims.