Elsie Manning

“After working for nearly 30 years in the engineering field, I would now like to give back to society, using my skills in a meaningful way.”

Elsie takes pride in the fact that she has been able to balance raising her children with a rewarding engineering career. The children are now grown and Elsie is interested in strengthening her connection to the engineering community at large as well as exploring more activities outside of work.

Elsie regularly communicates with other engineers via peer groups to make sure her skills remain current and to provide new insight for her projects.

Elsie volunteers when she can. In college, and for the majority of her career, Elsie successfully adapted to working in a male-dominated industry. Overcoming that career-challenge motivated her to mentor young women in the field whenever possible. She is interested in continuing that pursuit. Elsie also has a keen interest in ecology and environmental issues. She thinks that her engineering skills and desire to improve efficiency transcends to other engineering fields. In the past, Elsie has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity by building houses and designing landscapes. She may want to continue that, but also plans to explore various fields to see where she can provide the most impact.

Elsie uses the Web at work as a research and collaboration tool. She typically bookmarks useful sites. To Elsie, good sites allow her to find the specific information she needs quickly. She will commonly visit a site for answers to specific questions, i.e., what is ‘this thing’ on a system board called, or what are the specifications for a manufacturer’s part. She gets frustrated when documents are not available on a site or are difficult to find. Under those conditions, she returns to sites with a logical, intuitive path to what she needs.

Overall, Elsie’s goals are to devote more time using her electrical engineering skills and growing interests in other areas of engineering in a charitable way, perhaps even on a global scale. Using the internet to assist in that goal would save her time and expand the impact she can make.