



Society of Women Engineers



FALL 2017

*SWE Quarterly  
Newsletter*




# LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



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It's amazing how quickly the year goes by. 2017 came and left quicker than I ever thought it could. During the fall quarter a lot of fun SWE events happened! We had a small getaway and went hiking thanks to the amazing wellness committee. We went on a weekend long camping trip as an officers retreat where we were able to cut ourselves off from the intense Drexel lifestyle for a few days. I first started out in SWE in the wellness committee and can't stress enough how important it is to give yourself a mental and physical break from the Drexel curriculum for your health and sanity. Drexel engineers work so hard and you need to reward yourself sometimes with a little break because you deserve it!

Our A&I committee including HeForSWE, had a strong quarter between our 2nd Lives & Lessons event and more men becoming a part of our HeForSWE campaign. The level of inspiration and understanding that students, professors, and professionals receive at these events has been very evident lately. We did our first outreach event at the Independence Charter Middle School in Center City where my family friend's daughters go to school. I am confident our easy and simple engineering activities inspired some young women to become engineers one day. Another amazing time during fall quarter was the Society of Women Engineers Conference in Austin, Texas! What an amazing, beautiful, and fun city. 12 of our officers got to go to conference, be inspired by the speakers and workshops, snag some jobs at the career fair, and meet other SWEeties from across the country and world! Lastly, I want to thank the entire SWE community for being a part of our organization. Our events and impact would be nothing without our members. I have enjoyed every second of being Drexel SWE President for 2017. For 2018, I am very excited to hand over the role of president to Kristine Loh! I am very confident she will continue to take SWE to new heights. See you all at upcoming events!

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

## *GBM's*

SWE hosted its Annual Welcome Back Dinner/GBM 1 of the year, which is typically SWE's largest event, on October 4th. We welcomed in the new freshman as well as current members as we started the fall quarter. The event was very successful as a large volume of members got to know our team of officers, and the events that each of our committees host through an informative powerpoint. The hor d'oeuvres were delicious, and the company was great. At the end of the presentation, Vice President Jacque gave an excellent and inspiring speech about the huge impact SWE has had on her academic and professional career. Our 2nd GBM of the quarter took place on November 7th. We had delicious Chinese food, and Drexel SWE alum Marissa Seybert (MechE BS, '16) spoke about how Drexel SWE translated into her post grad life, and her co-worker Chelsey Cavo (Biomed BS/MS, '14) talked about their company, DSM Biomedical. Business cards were also given out, and it was a great chance for our members to network. It was also nice for our members to hear about how Drexel SWE has helped a past member after graduating, and hear about a potential co-op company.

## *BYOBlanket Night*

Aside from GBMs, as in previous quarters, the membership committee also hosted its quarterly BYOB (Bring Your Own Blanket) Movie Night on Thursday, October 19th, watching the hilarious buddy cop comedy *The Heat* (2013). Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy gave some good laughs as they cracked down a dangerous FBI case. We look forward to cozying up in blankets again in Winter's BYOBlanket event.

Drexel SWE's Membership Committee is looking forward to planning more fun events that bring every SWEetie together in the Winter Quarter! Stay tuned!



Two Drexel Alums from DSM Biomedical talk to SWE members at the 2nd GBM

# WELLNESS COMMITTEE

## *SWE Hiking Trip*

This term we launched a new outdoor event: SWE Hiking Trip. As part of an initiative to balance physical and mental wellness events, we took to the outdoors on a warm, early fall day to Wissahickon where we embarked on a fun walk/hike on the trails there. We rolled through Devil's Pool and jumped around on the rocks in and out of the water. This event was a major success and well received so we will be sure to do it again once it gets warm!

## *Body Combat*

The Group Exercise Introduction Series continued with Body Combat this past fall term. Similar to BodyPump from the spring, this class involved circuit work mixed in with cardio and strength exercises. Based on the foundations of kickboxing and other similar sports, this was a fun way to introduce a new kind of exercise to SWEeties and even pretend to punch some exam stress away.

## *Yoga at the Art Museum*

The last event we had this past term was the Yoga at the Art Museum event. On Wednesdays, Yoga is pay as you wish and is taught in one of the medieval art exhibits. This class is always a blast as it is extremely calming but with vinyasa flow, you get a solid core workout that leaves you feeling refreshed and invigorated.



Our SWEeties pose after an intense Body Combat workout



SWEeties enjoying the trails at Wissahickon



# OUTREACH COMMITTEE

## *Science After Hours*

This term, Drexel SWE volunteered at twice at the Franklin Institute's Science After Hours 21+ event series. On September 26th, Drexel SWE volunteered at September's Wizard School themed event and made dry ice bubbles with attendees! We had so much fun eating dragon's breath cheese puffs and seeing our future with dry ice crystal bubbles. On November 28th, we volunteered at November's Hollywood themed event and explored the history of 3D technology. Attendees were amazed at how this technology has evolved from using red and blue cellophane glasses to using clear polarized glasses.

## *TechGirlz*

Drexel SWE also hosted three workshops for middle school girls this term. First, we hosted a TechGirlz workshop on November 4th in collaboration with our HeForSWE initiative and Drexel's Women in Computing Society, where we taught 10 students about coding in Python! Our six volunteers helped students solve challenge questions and troubleshoot their code.

## *Intro to Engineering*

Next, we hosted an Introduction to Engineering workshop at Independence Charter School in Center City on November 17th for students in 6th through 8th grade. We taught the students about chemical, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering, while the students had the opportunity to ask our 9 volunteers about their majors and career paths. This event was a great way for the middle school girls to have fun while learning about STEM!



Making dry ice bubbles at SAH



Young SWE reps at ICS Intro to Engineering

# OUTREACH COMMITTEE

## *Soldering Workshop*

Finally, we hosted a Soldering Workshop in collaboration with Drexel's Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers on December 2nd. We invited middle school girls to learn how to solder christmas tree soldering kits just in time for the holidays. We hope to continue our middle school workshop series and continue to collaborate with STEM organizations!



Girl shows off her christmas tree at the soldering workshop

## *Become A Volunteer*

On November 15th, Drexel SWE also collaborated with the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement to host our first Become a Volunteer workshop for the year! This is our third time hosting this workshop and we taught 15 attendees about the Pennsylvania background check process. The Lindy Center also graciously provided funds to complete the FBI fingerprinting clearance. We hope this workshop inspired attendees to volunteer at more events with their newly completed background checks!



Informing attendees about the PA background check process

# NETWORKING COMMITTEE

## *Freshmen Mentorship*

The first event, Undergrad Mentorship Program Meet and Greet, gave mentors and mentees the opportunity to meet for the first time after pairing. The networking committee and the mentorship program was introduced while attendees enjoyed sandwiches and snacks.

It was very relaxed and fun which allowed the mentees to meet their mentors without feeling intimidated.

The second event, Mug Decorating, was very successful.

Mentors who had seen the event in the previous year were excited to see the event come back. The event also gave freshmen an opportunity to see the SWE office for potentially the first time. It was another fun opportunity for pairs to socialize!

## *Professional Mentorship*

The first event was a coffee date meet and greet. The mentors and mentees enjoyed warm drinks in the papadakis integrated sciences building. The event lasted for almost 3 hours, the mentors and mentees all discussed career goals and experiences together giving the undergraduates the chance to interact with other members of the program.

The second event was a delightful holiday themed event. The mentor and mentees gathered at the blue cross riverrink for some hot cocoa and to watch the tree lighting. At this event the chat was more laid back and the mentor and mentees were able to bond and get to know each other better.



Holiday mentor/mentee fun at Blue Cross River Rink



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## *Professionalism at the Workplace*

The Professionalism at the Workplace event went over a presentation on how to be professional, how to dress, how to communicate with your superiors, how to overcome challenges, and how to write emails. We also went over a peer reviewed mock interview where volunteers answered interview questions and received feedback from other attendees. We had over 20 attendees at this event with an excellent gender ratio and an excellent ratio in terms of SWE members and Theta Tau members.

## *Making the Most of It*

Making the Most of It co-sponsored by Center for Scholar Development was a panel with Jui Hanamshet, the Professional Development Chair and Dr. Marcu from College of Computing and Informatics. The conversation covered topics related to research, extracurriculars, success in academics, academic conferences and time management.

## *Google NYC Event*

This event was organized by the president and brought employees from Google's NYC office to Drexel's campus to discuss Imposter Syndrome, being a minority in the engineering industry, and allowed students to share their own stories and difficult situations they've faced being a minority in STEM. Imposter syndrome in general is when you think you are not good enough but in reality you are very qualified to be where you are. The employees at Google, who have the same issues we do, helped teach us how to overcome this syndrome. It was an eye opening experience to see how 90% of us are not confident in ourselves or our capabilities.



Answering interview questions at the Professionalism at the Workplace event



Google NYC talks to SWE about Imposter Syndrome



# ADVOCACY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

## *Meet & Greet*

This term the A&I team had two events, which targeted the international and engineering students community as a whole.

Our first event, the International Engineering Students Meet & Greet, had for main objective to get together international students in the field of engineering or STEM, answer their questions/concerns with the help of an international advisor guest and most importantly, network. The event, with approx. 16 attendees was fun and casual, freshmen mostly attended as expected and we were able to answer their questions about opportunities within Drexel college of engineering that they can benefit from such as Drexel STAR program, research work with Excite center, apply and join engineering organizations to become officer, etc.



The L&L Academic and Professional Panelists

## *Lives & Lessons*

Our second and last event of the term was our 2nd Lives and Lessons of the Underrepresented in STEM. This is a huge event that the committee planned at least 3 months prior to the event and requires good organization skills, collaboration with other orgs and a lot of networking. The goal of the event is to raise the voices of those who are underrepresented in STEM and with the help and knowledge of invited panelists, we give advice and create an inclusive atmosphere to our members. We've had roughly 100 members, which is an increase of around 30 members compared to last spring event. The event was subdivided into two sections academic and professional with 3 in academia and 5 in the professional section. The event wouldn't have been possible with the sponsorship of Pennoni, AEI, and CAP funding. The committee collaborated with Drexel COE, the Office of Equality and Diversity and engineering orgs such as ASME, EWB, ASCHE, ASCE, and the Excite center.

# MISWELLANEOUS

## *New Member Info Session*

On October 10, more than thirty members gathered to hear more about Drexel SWE. After enjoying some food and meeting new people, officers and new members were able to discuss what our chapter does and how to get involved. The night concluded with a short icebreaker where SWEeties were able to meet four other members. Overall, it was a great event, and we loved getting to meet new members. Can't wait to see you all at more events in the future! Look out for this event again in Spring term if you ever want to know more about how Drexel SWE runs and hear from other members!

## *HeForSWE*

HeForSWE welcomed its first freshmen during the fall term and welcomed prospective SWE members with open arms. Technical.ly Philly supported the cause by publishing an editorial by director Nohra Murad on HeForSWE's origin story, putting the initiative on a city-wide stage. We hosted our twice-quarterly advisory meetings, one of which was attended by our advisor, Anthony Gold, who gave his own insight into inclusivity and tech culture to our attendees. HeForSWE was present at the fall Lives and Lessons of Minorities in STEM event, bringing insights into the reality of studying and working as a woman in STEM fields and providing a call for action to those in attendance. Among the many engineering organizations who sponsored the event was the Drexel Architectural Engineering Institute, whose leadership graciously invited us to speak at their general body meeting is working with HeForSWE leadership for joint opportunities.



Both men and women gathered for the HeForSWE Info Session

# MISWELLANEOUS

## *SWE Officer Camping Trip*

Six officers took a relaxing and invigorating trip to Hickory Run State Park. We set up two tents, cooked by the fire, and shared fun life stories all night long. Some of us still managed to wake up at the crack of dawn to get some studying done before Saturday's hike! We walked the "Shades of Death" trail and were enveloped by trees. The name is a lot more intimidating than the actual hike! We saw lots of beautiful ferns and explored abandoned train tracks. The SWE officer camping trip is a great opportunity for us to bond and get a short break from city life.

## *Conference "WE 17"*

Society Level Conference "WE 17" was epic! Twelve officers boarded a plane to Austin, TX and spent five days bonding over our passion for engineering and a bright future. Officers attended a multitude of workshops, such as "Failing Gracefully", which reminded attendees that in between failing and perfection is just trying your best. Tracy Van Houten, the United State's first women engineer in Congress, gave a talk called "NASA Rocket Scientist Leaving Mars for Politics", and showed attendees the value of taking your engineering background to government. Our very own past presidents Dani Schroder ('16), Samantha Schneider ('15), and Claudia Gutierrez ('13), gave a talk called "Engineer Your Life Outside the Classroom - Put Your Extracurriculars to Work". To top it all off, at the Celebrate SWE Banquet Vice President Jacqueline Tawney, took 3rd place in the Undergraduate Technical Poster Competition! All officers had a great time meeting people from other schools, checking out downtown Austin, and learning more about each other and our future paths.



Our Officer SWEeties at conference

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## *Mary Ann Susavidge*



Mary Ann Susavidge is the Chief Underwriting Officer of the Environmental Business Unit for XL Catlin. Her primary responsibilities include management of referral, contract counsel and risk control staff. With 28 years' experience between environmental insurance and engineering consulting, she is uniquely qualified to assess environmental risk in the context of offering risk management solutions for a wide range of industries globally. Ms. Susavidge has a solid appreciation for the current needs of the marketplace as well as those needs not currently being met.

Prior to XL Catlin, Mary Ann spent eight years in the engineering consulting field. As a project engineer, she worked on remedial design projects preparing design packages, performed site characterizations for storm water practices for industrial clients, prepared closure plans for sanitary and hazardous waste landfills and chemical plant facilities, and initiated and directed the operation of a geosynthetic testing laboratory.

Mary Ann Susavidge graduated summa cum laude, from Drexel University with BS and MS degrees in Civil Engineering. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania and Delaware, holds her Associate in Risk Management (ARM) and Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designations from the Insurance Institute of America and her Registered Professional Liability Underwriter (RPLU) designation from the Professional Liability Underwriting Society. Mary Ann is a certified instructor for Environmental Insurance by over 15 State Insurance Departments.



# SPONSORS, COLLABORATORS, & SUPPORT

Drexel University Society of Women Engineers would like to thank the following organizations:

## SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS: LOCKHEED MARTIN & PENNONI

Lockheed Martin works on creating new technologies in the aerospace and defense field. As a part of their commitment to women in STEM, Lockheed Martin released a pilot project called Girls Inc. which connects Lockheed Martin volunteers with girls aged 9-12 to increase their interest and confidence in pursuing a STEM career. We would like to thank Lockheed Martin for sponsoring and supporting Drexel Society of Women Engineering in their efforts to further their support for women in STEM. Look out for event collaborations in the near future!

Pennoni works on creating strong, innovative structures for a variety of applications in the civil, environmental, mechanical and the structural field. Pennoni actively works towards diversifying the engineering field by taking part in helping organizations that empower and give women the tools to take on challenging tasks in the STEM field. We would like to thank Pennoni for sponsoring and supporting Drexel's Society of Women Engineers. Look out for collaborations with the company in the upcoming year!



## EVENT COLLABORATORS

- GoogleNYC
- Johnson & Johnson
- University of Pennsylvania
- Merck
- Comcast
- Langan
- Boeing
- 3M
- GEt

## DREXEL UNIVERSITY SUPPORT

- Drexel Mechanical Engineering & Mechanics Department
- Drexel College of Engineering
- Drexel University CAP (Commission for Activities & Programs) Funding

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*\*To our Past Officers: Thank you for all that you've done for SWE; we'll miss you!*