



a little bit of
SWE
winter quarter 2017

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



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✉ swe.drexel@gmail.com

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My first term as president of Drexel SWE has been busy and rewarding to say the least! We went to Regional Conference in Syracuse and learned a lot from humanitarian engineering and how to improve our outreach program with grade school aged children. Myself, the past SWE president, and our PD director Maissoun presented our own workshop about how to run a successful collegiate chapter! We helped other SWE chapters who are struggling with attendance and participation at their schools. Just shows how awesome Drexel SWE is so thank you to all our active members! This term we had 6 awesome outreach events whether it was at a local school, the Franklin Institute or hosted here at Drexel. Inspiring the next generation of female engineers through fun engineering demos is one of SWE's most important goals. There are a couple exciting events for next term to look out for that I have put a lot of effort into. We have an active member appreciation feast to celebrate our active members because you guys are who makes SWE the successful organization it is! We also have a really cool event called "The Lives and Lessons of Minorities in STEM". We will have professionals of different genders, minorities, ethnicities, and backgrounds tell their stories and spark inspiring conversations with the attendees. We also have a famous guest speaker coming to speak at the event. You'll have to wait for the event to be announced to see who the famous person is. I can assure you you'll be excited for this eye-opening and moving event. Don't be afraid to get more involved and put one hour or so of your week to the side for SWE in spring quarter! You'll come to see it's worth when it positively impacts your own life.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

GBM 1

Drexel SWE started off the quarter with its first GBM on Sunday, January 22nd to align with homecoming week! As with our tradition to ‘SWE pun’ anything we can find, the first GBM’s event was called “Together SWE Fly”, akin to Drexel’s “Together We Fly” theme. Our guest speaker was Jane Bierstedt, who is a Drexel engineering SWE alum (Civil Engineering, 1981). Jane spoke about her experiences overseeing many transportation operations, her Drexel co-op experience, and gave an overview of her company Fehr and Peers, which is based in the Bay Area all the way on the West Coast.

GBM 2

Our second GBM on Wednesday, February 8th featured our 2nd guest speaker of the quarter, Valerie Marcolongo. Valerie is also a Drexel SWE alum (Mechanical Engineering, 1990). She is the founder and CEO of her company, Encanda, LLC, an infrastructure asset management and resource planning services company. Like Jane, she also spoke about her company’s overview and her Drexel co-op experience.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

BYOBlanket Movie Night

And, as in previous quarters, we hosted our BYOBlanket Movie Night! The movie, Zootopia, was loved by all of the members, both old and new, who attended. Zootopia had many themes that resonated with current events, though its lighthearted tone made for a really fun break from studying for midterms. We had Insomnia cookies, almond milk, and plenty of other delicious snacks! We are looking forward to Spring Quarter's movie night, where we will be doing a showing of Hidden Figures!



GBM 3

Finally, our third and final GBM of the quarter on Wednesday, March 1 did not have any guest speakers, but we celebrated each of our members and had our Potluck Soup Fundraiser take place during the GBM, which was also a success. To bring our members closer together, we had them share what they appreciate about being a SWE member, and an interesting fact about themselves. Everyone genuinely enjoyed hearing each other's input (shoutout to SWE active member Morgan Kull's fact!). We concluded the meeting by taking our yearbook photo which will be passed down throughout many years to come. Don't forget - our policy is 3 points through 3 events (1 GBM and 2 events). You will be rewarded if you stay in touch and attend our many events per quarter. Our first GBM is Sunday, April 9th, at 6:30 pm, in ACE!

WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Spin Class

On February 11th, our former wellness director offered to teach a spin class for our members at the DAC! This class was geared toward beginners and was a great experience for first time spinners. SWE loves encouraging our members to be physically active.

Study Session

(mental health)

On February 18th, SWE hosted a study session during midterms as a mental wellness event. The event was held in the SWE office for our members. Coffee and doughnuts from Dunkin Donuts was provided so our members can stay focused and have a little treat while studying!

Yoga at the Art Museum

On February 22nd, SWE got together for a relaxing yoga session in the Philly Art Museum. On Wednesday nights, the Art Museum hosts a “pay what you wish night” for a yoga class taught inside the Art Museum! SWE made a donation on behalf of the members that decided to participate in a relaxing, physical wellness event.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Science After Hours

On January 24th, SWE volunteered at the Franklin Institute for the first Science After Hours event of the year! This event was sold out with 2,500 attendees. At this event, 11 volunteers taught attendees about radio waves via an Oudin coil, which is closely related to the Tesla coil. We hope this electrifying experience sparked an interest in STEM!

On February 28th, seven volunteers taught over 2,000 attendees about Newton's First Law at the Franklin Institute's Science After Hours: Mardi Gras! With colorful Mardi Gras beads, we demonstrated the effects of inertia at this lively event. We hope both volunteers and participants had a great time!



During Drexel's final exam week, Drexel SWE volunteered at the Franklin Institute's Science After Hours: Cosmos! At this event, three volunteers made dry ice comets with over 2000 attendees and demonstrated the process of sublimation while teaching participants about the different parts of a comet. The Outreach Team is looking forward to next month's Science After Hours, which will be Prom themed and will be an exciting part of the Philadelphia Science Festival!

Philly Materials Science & Engineering Day

On February 4th, Drexel SWE held a table at Materials Science and Engineering Day, hosted by Drexel and Penn, to teach over 850 attendees about electrical resistance! Our six volunteers taught mostly middle and high school students about resistivity and how it applies in our bodies.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Engineering Night for Girls

On February 7th, Drexel SWE partnered with North Penn High School to hold the first annual Engineering Night for Girls! 8 volunteers taught 71 middle school girls about 6 different fields of engineering, ranging from Biomedical to Mechanical Engineering. This program was organized to inspire these students to enroll in North Penn's Engineering Academy, where they will have the opportunity to learn more about the different fields of engineering and their applications. We hope to make an even larger impact at next year's Engineering Night for Girls!



Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

On February 11th, Drexel SWE collaborated with the College of Engineering to host Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day! Our ten volunteers taught around 100 middle and high school girls from the surrounding areas about six fields of engineering. We also hosted a selfie station with inspirational picture props for all attendees to use and even met girls who attended the Engineering Night for Girls at North Penn!



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

SWE x IEEE -

Peco/Exelon event

The SWE chapter collaborated with IEEE on an event hosting Peco and Exelon. We had the pleasure of welcoming two successful women engineers from Peco and Exelon. This event was hosted in the ACE center and was very successful, welcoming approximately 15 students from both SWE and IEEE. The event started with Peco, where the representative gave an overview of the company, her experience, and the different opportunities available in the company. Following Peco was Exelon, with a similar informative presentation on the company. Pizza was provided and it was a fun networking session!

LinkedIn Workshop

Since LinkedIn is becoming a more powerful professional tool, we decided to host a workshop with an overview of LinkedIn and how to make yourself marketable for a job search. This event included a

presentation on LinkedIn and then a workshop helping attendees perfect or get started with their LinkedIn profile. The event was very successful and helpful to all attendees. After the workshop, the attendees were able to get their professional headshots taken!

Cover Letter Workshop

The cover letter workshop was an informative event that helped attendees learn about the basics of a cover letter, why it is important, and how to properly format it. Around 10 people attended this event. We started by discussing the importance of a cover letter and how it may be required component of a job application. We then proceeded to helping attendees draft their cover letters. The outline of the cover letter was discussed and we went over several sample cover letters that were both good and bad examples. Refreshments were provided and the attendees were able to enjoy donuts. Everyone thought this event was extremely helpful!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Public Speaking Orai

SWE had the pleasure of welcoming Orai, which is a start-up company created by a couple Drexel students. Orai is an OS application focusing on public speaking. During this event, Danish Dhamani, one of the founders of Orai, discussed the importance of public speaking and gave several tips and tactics on bettering one's professional speech. Following the presentation, attendees were able to use the Orai app to see how they rank in their speech. Things such as tone, pitch, and the use of filler words were identified throughout the recorded speech, and this was very eye opening to all attendees. Overall, this event was a fantastic hands-on experience that was very beneficial and helpful to our attendees.



J & J Event

The Johnson&Johnson Networking Event was extremely successful! We paired with the National Organization of Business and Engineering for this event. It was in the Business Lebow Grand Hall. J&J employees discussed their career paths and future career opportunities at their company. There were 10 employees there that discussed the LDP (Leadership Development Programs) that they have that range from business to engineering to research type full time job programs. Around 70 people attended and networked with each other and J&J employees while enjoying the new delicious appetizers from the new Chestnut Street catering.



NETWORKING COMMITTEE

Movie Night

The movie night was a success, as we had 7 people show up and we watched Point Break, The event entailed a great deal of movie driven discussion and mentor/mentee bonding. The event had pizza and lots of laughs. It was a great ice breaker for the new mentors and mentees to get to know one another.

Art Museum Visit

The Mentor/Mentee art museum trip was an amazing event we had a great turn out with 7 people show up. We all met at the dragon statue and bonded on the walk over to the art museum. At the art museum we went through the modern and asian art eras and discussed our favorite pieces and our interpretations. The bonded pairs had a blast talking about classes and the gorgeous arrays of art around. After about an hour and a half of art viewing we walked back to Drexel together talking about classes and upcoming tests giving advice to succeed to one another.

Dunkin' Donuts Mingle

The coffee/hot chocolate and donut mingling event was the absolute best for mentor/mentee bonding. Without many distractions but the food and drinks the mentor and mentees had the perfect opportunity to discuss classes to register for and how to manage the upcoming term. The event allowed for the mentor pairs to bond with other pairs as well comparing schedules and experiences they have gained from their schooling so far.



REGION E CONFERENCE

Humanitarian Engineering Workshop

Region E Conference in Syracuse, NY offered a wide variety of workshops in the areas of collegiate advice, professional development, technical skills, and SWE involvement. One particularly interesting professional development workshop was entitled “Humanitarian Engineering Compared to Engineering in the US,” which was lead by chemical engineer professional Allison Muehe. In the workshop, Allison lead the audience through her path from engineering student, to humanitarian engineer in Uganda, to professional at a civil engineering firm back home in the United States. To clarify, a humanitarian engineer works on projects in underdeveloped countries to build useful infrastructure (such as water pumps, bridges, and sanitary human waste receptacles), as well as

educate locals on basic engineering principles so that they can maintain and repair infrastructure for years to come.

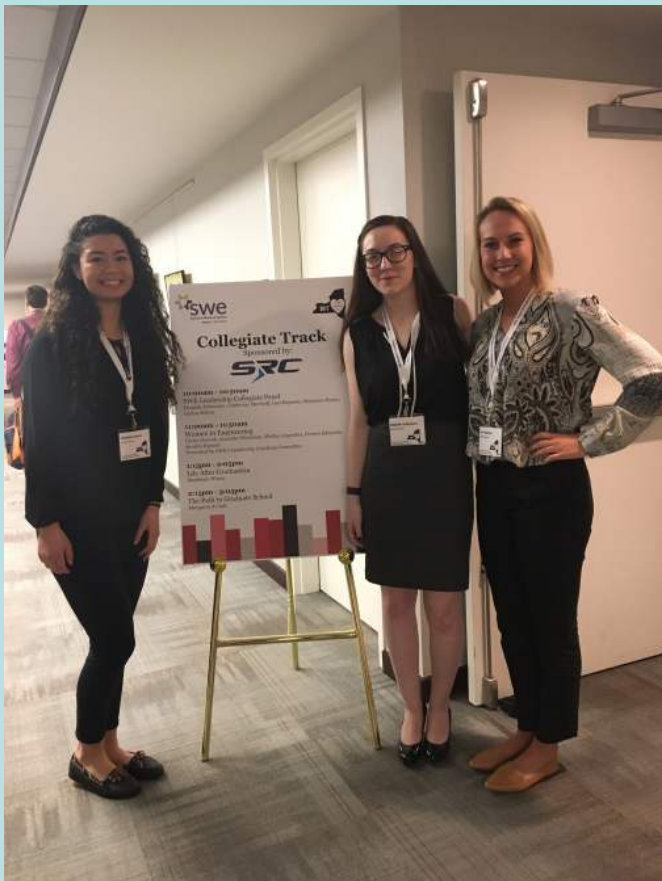
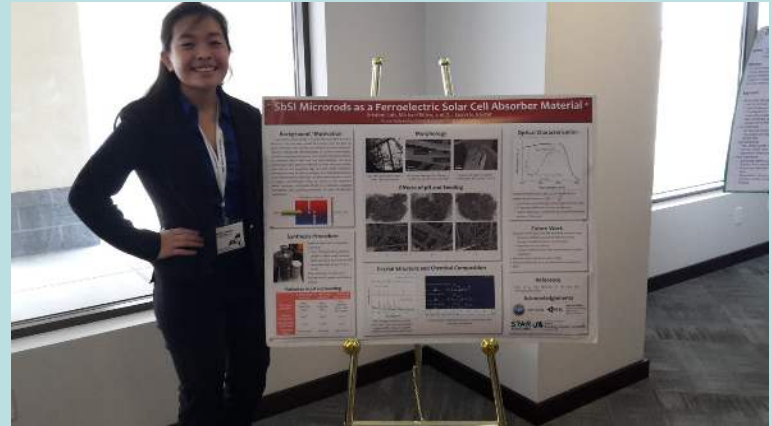
With her broad perspectives in engineering, Muehe highlighted the key differences between engineering abroad and in the states. Among the many cultural barriers she faced while abroad, respecting the local hierarchy was imperative for her project success.

SWE Collegiate Leadership Panel

This regional conference was different than previous ones because Drexel SWE had its own workshop! Around 30 women came to hear us speak about how we successfully run the Drexel SWE Collegiate Chapter. We paired up with Temple SWE for the Presentation since they recently revamped their chapter. The attendees were students who run other small collegiate chapters and

REGION E CONFERENCE

are having trouble getting people to participate and be active in their chapter. People with brand new chapters also came to get advice and help on structuring their section and some best practices they should start. Myself, the past president, and Maissoun (PD Director) have all been leaders in SWE for years now and has helped it grow to what it is today. We loved sharing our growth and our effort with other sections because we hope SWE across the world will continue to grow and improve and inspire more and more women in engineering.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Monica Alston



20+ years' environment, health and safety (EHS) experience in diverse industries in developed, developing and emerging markets. Strategic, visionary, collaborative leader and consensus-builder for achieving business objectives; assuring EHS regulatory compliance; driving world class EHS performance and supporting sustainable business growth. Proven track record for

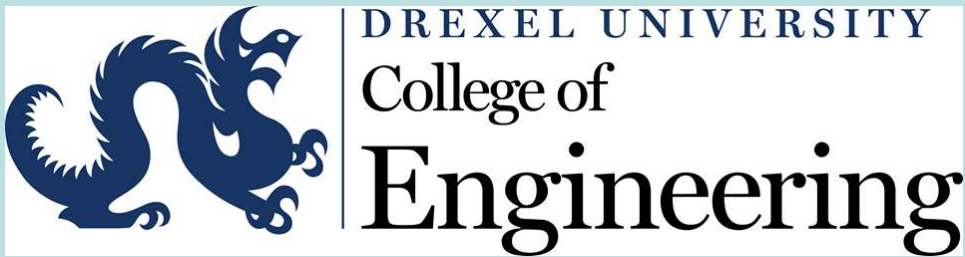
developing and executing highly effective global EHS and sustainability strategies to reduce occupational hazards and risks; minimize the environmental impact from operations; improve operational efficiency, reduce business continuity risks, integrate EHS across the business value chain and leverage sustainability for maximum value creation.

Monica currently oversees EHS and Sustainability for Comcast's Freedom Region; setting strategy and directing its implementation. She also serves as Customer Experience Improvement Lead and former lead of Veteran's Employee Resource Group for Freedom Region. Prior to joining Comcast, Monica held roles of increasing responsibilities in the areas of EHS, operational compliance, sustainability, risk management, business continuity at GlaxoSmithKline, Eaton and Kellogg's.

Monica holds a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from Drexel University and an MS degree in Environmental Engineering from Villanova University. She has served on the local Boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters; YWCA; Drexel's College of Engineering Alumni Strategic Planning Committee; and currently President of the Chester County PA Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc. Monica is happily married with 3 children and enjoys traveling, the arts and spending quality time with family and friends.

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Drexel University Society of Women Engineers would like to thank the following organizations for their support over the last academic term!



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