

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



When I first joined the Drexel SWE Officer Board my freshman year, I never would have imagined that I would lead an organization which has grown to have over 700 members. I am honored to have served as President of Drexel SWE for the 2018 year alongside an incredibly dedicated, brilliant, and passionate group of officers. From winning our first Gold Collegiate Mission Award at WE18 in Minneapolis, MN, to getting recognized by the College of Engineering, The Triangle, and SWE at a Societal level for our 3rd Annual Lives and Lessons of the Underrepresented in STEM, Drexel SWE celebrated another term full of accomplishments. I cannot thank everyone who has contributed to the growth of our section enough; we owe our success to you.

This term was a term of collaboration for our section. We invited representatives from multiple companies, such as Burns and McDonnell, ExxonMobil, Lockheed Martin, and NASA, to talk to our members about their companies and career paths. We also worked with Merck to host an Introduction to Engineering Workshop for local middle school girls. We collaborated with multiple Drexel student organizations as well, such as AIAA, AQE, NSBE, SASE, SHPE, and WiCS. I am looking forward to diversifying the events that we host with more collaborations to come. Internally, our officer board worked together to host our first University-wide Dance Party, SWEdie Hawkins! Our officers were looking forward to this event the whole year and I am so happy that we were able to execute this idea successfully. I am truly grateful for Drexel SWE's supportive network, both at Drexel and nationwide.

I am very pleased to announce that Kerianne Chen will be Drexel SWE's President for the 2019 year. Kerianne has been my right-hand woman throughout this past year and I know she will continue to do great things. I am excited for all of the great things Drexel SWE will accomplish in the upcoming year!

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NEW MEMBER INFO SESSION

Our first event of the term was a New Member Information Session. The goal of this event was to provide our incoming freshmen, transfer students, and anyone else interested in joining SWE with information about how to become a member and about what we do as an organization. We had a really great turnout and met a lot of students who were very excited to become active in SWE



WELCOME BACK DINNER

The second event for the term was our annual Welcome Back Dinner. This event, which is held at the beginning of every Fall term, is an opportunity for our current and new members to come together, mingle, and learn about what Drexel SWE has planned for the upcoming term. After enjoying dinner and hearing the current officers present on what their committees do and the upcoming events for the term, members got to split up into teams to play Quizzo! With categories such as Drexel trivia and women in STEM, our members had a lot of fun coming together and getting to know one another better while answering these trivia questions.



GBM 2

Our final event for this term was GBM 2. We had a great turnout and our members got a chance to hear about the remaining events for the Fall term. In addition, we had a guest speaker, Emily McGullicuddy, from Burns & McDonnell come speak to our members. Emily gave a great presentation about her career path, the opportunities available at Burns & McDonnell, her experience as a woman in STEM, and about her experience as a SWE officer when she was a collegiate. Members found Emily's presentation incredibly beneficial and we are looking forward to our events next term!





BODY PUMP

For our quarterly group exercise class, we held a body pump class early in the quarter to introduce members to the benefit of weightlifting as a form of physical wellness. The workout targets major muscle groups and upbeat music and is flexible in that participants could increase weights per lifting experience and strength as well as modifications where needed. The SWEeties in attendance made the most of the small class size for one on one technique building. We look forward to continuing the group exercise series next quarter!

DE-STRESSING SPA NIGHT

SWEeties gathered in the SWE office to take some time for themselves during this hectic midterm season to check in with each other, while doing face masks. We had a great turn out for this event and everyone enjoyed the bright blue face masks, while basking in the ambiance of the candle light and some relaxing music. Many SWEeties took the time to swap tips about skin care in addition to tips about applying to co-op positions as A round interview requests were due that night (talk about multi-tasking)! Look out for more mental and physical wellness events next term!

INTERNATIONAL CO-OP PANEL

We started off the quarter with an International Co-op Panel, this event was targeted towards students who are interested in doing an International co-op. We had around 7 panelists who have already done an International co-op. They shared their experiences about how to find the co-op, what resources they used to find funding, how to find housing etc. They also spoke about the cultural differences they experienced while working in different countries and what other activities they did to explore the countries. We had over 20 attendees at this event and we hope everyone benefited from this discussion.



CARLY MEGINNIS PRESENTATION

In collaboration with AIAA, Drexel SWE hosted a Q&A session with NASA Spacesuit Engineer, Carly Meginnis. Carly discussed the importance of life support systems for our nation's astronauts and gave an overview of how far aerospace technology has come. Having co-oped at NASA during her time at Penn State, Carly also gave some helpful tips on the co-op application process as well as the impact that co-ops can have on large companies. Her enthusiasm for her work was contagious and we hope that all of our attendees left with newfound knowledge of the space industry!



LUNCH AND LEARN WITH DR. KOREN BEDEAU

Right after Thanksgiving break, Drexel SWE had an inspiring Lunch and Learn with Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives, Dr. Koren Bedeau! We had an introspective discussion regarding the power of mentorship and ways that we can empower women around us. While we had an even mix of men and women in the audience, Dr. Bedeau asked everyone about their own experiences of hardship and how they moved forward from it. Dr. Bedeau also talked about the ELATE program that she runs at Drexel, which brings female professors around the world for seminars about leadership in academia. Overall, we had a great time learning about the lives of professors and how we can be leaders as students!

EXXONMOBIL INFO & RECRUITMENT SESSION

In collaboration with NSBE, SASE, and SHPE, Drexel SWE hosted an ExxonMobil Information and Recruitment Session for Drexel students interested in the co-op and career opportunities that ExxonMobil has to offer. With over 70 attendees, this event started off with a presentation about the company and its culture at various sites throughout the United States. For the second half of the event, ExxonMobil employees as well as SCDC advisors reviewed resumes. We hope all of our attendees received some constructive criticism and are better prepared for the job hunt!



TYPE FOCUS WORKSHOP

During week 7, right when the co-op season had just started we hosted a Type Focus workshop. Type Focus is an assessment that helps people get a deeper understanding about their personality type. It measures one's interests and values and connects those results to potential career types. Several companies use such tests within teams to help with team building. We went over the different kinds of results people get and offered this test to our members.

LOCKHEED MARTIN INFORMATION SESSION

On November 13, Drexel SWE hosted a Lockheed Martin Information Session which included testimonials from SWE members as well as a free professional headshots session! Alongside a few Drexel alumni who currently work at Lockheed Martin (LM), Adrienne McAbee, Lockheed Martin Campus Recruiter, gave a presentation about the opportunities available at LM, such as rotational programs and co-op positions. After the presentation, both Nohra Murad, previous SWE Officer and former co-op at Lockheed Martin, and Amanda Weissman, Counselor / Faculty Advisor Coordinator-Elect of SWE and Product Architect at LM, gave testimonials about how their experiences in both SWE and LM go hand-in-hand. The Lockheed Martin team and the SWE members shared multiple stories of success and failure, from being at the missile base in Hawaii at the time of the false missile alert to pursuing the many academic opportunities that LM supports. We hope our 30 attendees were able to learn more about Lockheed Martin!



BECOME A VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP

Our first event of the term was very successful. We partnered with Drexel's Lindy Center for Civic Engagement to host a "Become a Volunteer" workshop. The purpose of this event was to help Drexel students of all years receive their background checks, which allows them to volunteer with us and with other Drexel programs. We had 6 SWE members come and get background checks! The Lindy Center was a great host too as they helped walk our members through the different steps with ease! Overall, it was a great event, and if anyone wants to get background checked - we can help you!

MERCK INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING

This event was one of our most exciting events this term. We were lucky enough to collaborate with Merck, a notable pharmaceutical company with offices worldwide. Particularly alongside Merck's Women's Network, we put together a Saturday morning event with four rotations of activities for middle school aged girls. The volunteers from Merck offered a presentation on life at Merck and about various engineering fields, as well an entire activity in the realm of pharmaceuticals. Our other demonstrations dealt with mechanical engineering, where attendees had to acknowledge material and dimension constraints to design a container to hold 300 pieces of popcorn, civil engineering, where attendees had to build a structure out of straws to hold a ball after learning about the best shapes for construction, and electrical engineering, where attendees used Makey Makeys to understand conductivity and how electric current travels. Overall, everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the event and learned so much! Special thanks to Merck Women's Network for helping us put together such an amazing event.

SCIENCE AFTER HOURS

Our final event of the term was Science After Hours which was held at the Franklin Institute. This term's theme was based on Harry Potter and the institute was converted into a Wizarding School that highlighted prominent parts of the world famous books and movies. Drexel SWE had a table located opposite the Planetarium on the lower level of the Institute. This year we created Dry Ice Bubbles using dry ice pellets, warm water and dish soap solution. The attendees were actively involved in creating the bubbles and were very responsive when each of our volunteers performed the experiment and explained the science of sublimation as dry ice turns from a solid directly into a gas. We also explained how the rate of reaction changes as we experiment with different water temperatures. Overall, this event was a big success with an excellent outcome in terms of volunteers and attendees.





ICS ENGINEERING NIGHT FOR GIRLS

We held our Second Annual ICS Engineering Night for Girls at Independence Charter School in Center City Philadelphia. This year, we accommodated over forty girls from grades 6 to 8, many of whom were new to the Engineering Night for Girls program. It was also exciting to see so many new volunteers alongside those who volunteered at this event last year. We started with a brief introduction on what activities we would be showcasing and went right into the demonstrations. The fields on engineering that we focused on this year were chemical engineering, where attendees learned about chromatography by tie-dyeing pieces of cloth, civil engineering, where attendees learned about the strength of different shapes and were tasked with creating a structure to hold a basket of markers, mechanical engineering, where attendees learned about kinetic and potential energy and worked together to design and construct a roller coaster using pipe insulation, and electrical/materials science engineering, where attendees used Makey Makeys and the Body Light to understand concepts of conductivity and electric current through different materials. The girls who had attended last year were able to show off some of their past knowledge to help newer girls to complete tasks or answer questions! All of the attendees enjoyed the event greatly and so did the volunteers. We can't wait to do it again next year!





Networking committee started off the new academic year with the pairing of new mentors and mentees for both professional mentorship and undergraduate mentorship programs. Currently we have over 40 members in the professional mentorship program and over 50 members in the undergraduate mentorship program.

PROFESSIONAL MENTORSHIP MEET & GREET

Our first event for the term was a professional mentorship meet & greet. This meet & greet was held at Sky View Hall, where members networked over some refreshments. One professional mentor shared her experiences at Drexel many years ago, while the undergraduate mentees shared their current student life experiences at Drexel. Members went around the table sharing their most valuable networking tip with each other, which opened up discussions. The night ended with an exchange of valuable resources between the members and a discussion of future events.

UNDERGRADUATE MENTORSHIP DIY NIGHT

The networking committee hosted a DIY night to kick off the start of the undergraduate mentorship program for year 2018-2019. At the beginning of the event all of the mentors and mentees introduced themselves so pairs were able to meet face to face for the first time. Having lots of sandwiches and a variety of crafts allowed mentorship pairs to get to know each other in a relaxed setting and bond over their crafty creations. The networking team also encouraged mentorship pairs to continue to connect by studying, attending SWE events, and going to see a movie together.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS MEET & GREET

Our first event of the school year was the international students meet and greet. Because it can be a hard adjustment to live so far away from home, our goal for this event was to introduce new international students still adjusting to the new environment and help ease the transition. While new friendships were formed from this event, we also had a guest speaker from ISSS to give supplemental resources to the audience.



LIVES & LESSONS

On November 3rd, we held our 3rd annual “Lives and Lessons for the Underrepresented in STEM.” This half-day event seeks to raise awareness of the challenges that are faced by underrepresented communities in both academia and the industry. We had a professional and academic panel, and overall 7 panelists to share their own personal and inspiring stories. Since we have hosted Lives & Lessons, this is the first time in history that we have had an all-female panel! We had a record-breaking number of 96 people, both students and professionals, attend this event, and we are hoping to increase these numbers and share the knowledge and inspiring to more for the future!



GENDERBREAD COOKIE DECORATING

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ADVISORY MEETING

Every quarter, the HeForSWE committee hosts a quarterly advisory meeting where members discuss a topic/issue relevant to today's world. Our HeForSWE advisory meeting this term focused on LGBTQ+ ally training with the office of equality and diversity. This advisory meeting was both thought-provoking and informative, and our attendees definitely left with newfound knowledge.

**MAKE SURE TO
SIGN UP FOR
THE HEFORSWE
NEWSLETTER!**

SWEDIE HAWKINS

We decided to expand past our typical events this term and tried our hand at a university-wide dance! The aim of this event was to bring the student body together, regardless of major or year, for a fun night of dancing and mingling. DJ Cisne, a Drexel sophomore, played Halloween classics and perfect dance hits all night long. Our HalloSWEen photo wall was definitely a highlight of the event, with friends circling back again and again to try out different props and poses. The dress code was "whatever you want" - however you feel most comfortable. Attendees came in costumes, dressed to impress, and even cozy in sweatpants fit for a rainy October night. Hopefully SWEdie Hawkins, a play on Sadie Hawkins, will continue throughout the years.



WE18

This year, Drexel SWE sent 21 members to WE18! From meeting the VP of Engineering at Northrup Grumman (and sharing our HeForSWE campaign with him) to winning our first Gold Mission Award, WE18 was a weekend of continuous success. In our group, 15 of our officers had never been to an annual SWE conference before, so this was a monumental experience for them. For those that had attended previous annual conferences, we all had an incredible time reconnecting with friends and other SWE members who we had met at previous conferences.



Alongside our personal connections, our group was able to make multiple professional connections that highlighted the work we do at Drexel. We connected with Drexel Alumni and enrolled them in our alumni mentorship program. Kristine hosted the Drexel University Booth at the annual Invent It. Build It. event where she was interviewed by the U.S. Army and shared her experiences at Drexel, while highlighting the many academic opportunities Drexel has to offer. Four of our officers also received interview requests from leading companies, such as Lockheed Martin, Owens Corning, and Microsoft. Overall, the 21 members we sent to WE18 all had incredible experiences networking, learning, and bonding. We would not have been as successful as we were this past weekend without the generous contributions of the College of Engineering, the Office of the Provost, the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science, and Health Systems, SAFAC Conference Funding, and ExxonMobil.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS: LOCKHEED MARTIN, PENNONI, EXXONMOBILE



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Directors serve for 4 quarter terms, beginning in the Winter.

Chairs serve for 2 quarter terms, beginning in the Winter or in the Summer.

Officer board applications are announced through our weekly member emails and social media posts. National membership is required to run and to vote.