



# *Quarterly Newsletter*

**Spring 2018**

*Society of Women Engineers  
Drexel University*

# Letter From Our President

Dear Drexel SWE Family,

Time really flew by this past term as we are already halfway through 2018! This term was definitely interesting to say the least since both myself and our Vice President, Kerianne, were studying abroad. Through late night Skype calls, weekly update e-mails, and time zone conversion spreadsheets, we were able to keep Drexel SWE running as efficiently as always. Our dedication to SWE stays constant across the globe. We cannot thank our Secretary, Isabel, and Treasurer, Savanna, enough for their hard work as well in running meetings and representing the organization as a whole.

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This term was a term of continued success for Drexel SWE! We hosted over 25 events, ranging from a TechGirlz workshop to DIY Gear Necklaces. We also presented at WE Local Providence about our HeForSWE campaign and received incredible support from SWE members across the country. We received the "Student Organization of the Year" Award as part of Drexel's Impact Awards for the second year in a row as well! Finally, we hosted the first annual Engineering Luncheon as part of the Engineering Coalition. SWE, along with 10 other organizations, invited over 100 local students, alumni, and professionals for a networking event to showcase Drexel's engineering-focused student organizations. We look forward to continuing our collaborations with the Engineering Coalition in the future!

We also had a Senior Send-off for our 14 graduating SWEniors at our second GBM. We will miss all of our seniors dearly but we can't wait to see the great things they will accomplish as alumni! Next term, we have quite a few fun events such as our annual Ice Cream and Kickball social! I'm looking forward to even more fun times with SWEeties.



 [swe.drexel@gmail.com](mailto:swe.drexel@gmail.com)

 [DrexelSWE](#)

 [@swe.drexel](#)

 [@drexelSWE](#)

# Membership Committee

## General Body Meetings

Our first event of the term was GBM 1, which had great attendance from our members. As usual, this event provided our members with an opportunity to learn about our different committees and about our upcoming events for the term. We also played Two Truths and a Lie as an icebreaker for our members to get to know one another better!

During GBM 2, we updated members on upcoming events and gave members a chance to spend time with one another. We also recognized our 14 graduating seniors at this meeting; we had our seniors submit responses about why they joined and stayed involved in SWE and read these out to our members. This GBM also featured a speaker, Jake Voorhees, who spoke about building personal branding and finding purpose in your profession. Between the seniors' quotes and Jake's talk, this meeting was incredibly inspiring.



*Members enjoying some dinner and company*

## Conference Info Session

We also held a Conference Information Session for our members. This event was held prior to attending WE Local Providence and gave our members information about the types of events and opportunities they could expect when attending conferences. Among the topics we covered was the ability to apply for collegiate poster competitions and to present workshops, which many of our officers have done! We also discussed the society level conference in October, as we wanted to make sure our members were aware of this upcoming opportunity to attend a SWE conference.

## Game Night

For our final event of the term, we brought back an old favorite: Game Night. Our members got to play Taboo, Jenga, Codenames, and many other super fun games! The event provided a great break from work as we approach finals week, and we look forward to hosting Game Night again in the coming terms!

# Wellness Committee

## Meal Prep Info Session

This event was a collaboration with Kellsey O'Donnell, the Aramark campus dietician at Drexel University. This workshop was more than just how to cook but how to shop effectively on a college student budget and make it last! The presentation involved different types of proteins, breakfast tips and balanced eating. Presentation can be found in the FB group but email us if you would like to see it!



*Dietician, Kellsey O'Donnell, informs students about balanced eating and health tips*

# Outreach Committee

## Science After Hours: Prom

To kick off the spring term, the outreach team ran a station at the Franklin Institute during their night time event Science After Hours. The theme of April's Science After Hours was Prom. In order to go with the Prom theme, the outreach team and volunteers taught guests how to make their own corsages and flowers using chromatography! Using sharpies and isopropyl alcohol, guests were able to showcase their artistic abilities while learning about solutions and solutes. Overall, the event was very fun for volunteers and guests, all of who made many gorgeous flowers.



*Making corsages and flowers using chromatography*

## Philadelphia Science Carnival

The Philadelphia Science Carnival is a STEM event that the Franklin Institute holds every year to wrap up a week-long and city-wide festival all about science! During the carnival, different companies, institutions, and organizations come together to showcase a STEM activity of their choice. Drexel SWE teamed up with Philadelphia SWE to explain emulsions by making lotion. By mixing oils and water with an emulsifier, in this case, borax, everything can combine into a homogeneous mixture. Add a little fragrance and you have lotion! It was a super fun event for all ages, from young children to adults, and everyone got to take some lotion home with them.



*Teaching children and adults how to make lotion*

# Outreach Committee

## STEM Conference for Teen Girls & Captivate 6 7 8

The STEM Conference for Teen Girls and Captivate 6 7 8 were two events that were largely well received by both the young attendees and the volunteers themselves! STEM Conference for Teen Girls included a panel event and was catered toward young women, while Captivate 6 7 8 was a co-ed event, open to those specifically in middle school. For both events, we tried something new--Makey-Makey's! Makey-Makey's are preprogrammed circuit boards that can connect to anything that can carry an electric current. Everyone had so much fun learning what does and does not carry a current, while exploring the basics of circuits.

## TechGirlz

Every term, the Outreach Committee teams up with TechGirlz for a coding-based workshop. This term, the workshop was on Python. Middle school aged girls came in and learned all about the basics of Python, including variables, if-else statements, and concatenation (even some of the volunteers learned something new too!). The girls ended the workshop by being able to solve a word problem using the coding that they had just learned. They were all super excited about what they had learned and were definitely interested in coming back for other workshops in the future!



*Middle School girls learn basic Python at the TechGirlz event*

# Networking Committee

## Undergrad Mentorship

We started off spring term with a spring potting event. Undergraduate mentors and mentees made custom pots with herb and flower seeds of their choice. Members learned about different planting techniques for different kinds of seeds and upperclassmen offered the freshmen some good plant keeping tips for growing indoor plants in residence halls.

Our final event for the term was DIY Gear Necklaces. 14 members from the undergraduate mentorship program joined their respective mentors and mentees for an evening of craft. Members made unique and beautiful necklaces using recycled gears and resistors. Some members made matching necklaces for their mentees. This event was casual, relaxed and a perfect end to week 8. The networking committee is looking forward to host casual craft evenings every term for members to destress and get useful tips from upperclassmen.

## Professional Mentorship

Our Rise 'N Dine with mentors event hosted for professional mentorship program was a huge hit. Fifteen undergraduate mentors and alumni mentors bonded over brunch at Landmark Americana, Center City. After brunch mentors and mentees took a walk outside in the beautiful weather, while our mentors pointed out new buildings and construction that did not exist during their respective times at Drexel. We are looking forward to hosting this event again in Fall term for our new mentors and mentees.



*Mentors/Mentees bond while potting plants*

# Professional Development Committee

## Edmund Optics Workshop

In collaboration with Edmund Optics, SWE organized a workshop to develop professional skills. We covered topics such as communication, punctuality, presentation skills, and some interview tips. Edmund Optics also gave an info session on their company and what skills students would require to intern there.

## Improv Workshop

Dr. Marcu is a certified Improv artist and a Google Women in Techmakers Scholar. As someone who learned to be more confident and get over the imposter syndrome, Dr. Marcu practiced Improv. She taught students improv lessons to build confidence, be better leaders, and improve research skills. She emphasized on the importance of saying "yes, and..." in the workplace or research laboratory for better collaboration and work culture.



*Showing off a confident pose after the Improv Workshop*

## Engineering Luncheon

The Engineering Luncheon was a networking event for students, alumni, professionals, and faculty at Drexel. Eleven engineering organizations (AEI, ASCE, ASME, SHPE, Theta-Tau, DSH, SASE, NSBE, IEEE) collaborated together to organize this event for over 100 attendees. The keynote by Drexel professor, Dr. Kontsos, highlighted the importance of communication and strong leadership for engineers. He challenged students to be sustainable in their engineering pursuits. For majority of the events, attendees were given the opportunity to interact, network, and build valuable connections. This event was sponsored by Drexel College of Engineering, Drexel Alumni Relations, Drexel Materials Department, and Drexel College of Computing and Informatics.



*Members of different engineering orgs after the successful luncheon*



# Advocacy & Inclusion Committee

## Cultural Diversity Potluck

The first event that we had for spring term was the Cultural Diversity Potluck. This potluck served to connect different engineering organizations with each other. The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, The Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers, and The National Society of Black Engineers came together alongside the Society of Women Engineers. Food from all around the world was shared over heartfelt stories about diversity and a game of jeopardy. Overall, it was a successful event and undergraduate students walked out of this event with new friends from different clubs

## Focus Group

The last event that Advocacy and Inclusion held was the focus group. The purpose of this event was to hear the ideas and suggestions that other SWE members had. This event was extremely informative and helpful for both the A&I committee and those who attended- A&I is excited to take these suggestions into account for the upcoming term and hold these events!



*Different, diverse engineering orgs socialize at the potluck*

# HeForSWE

## WE Local Presentation

At WE Local Providence three of our officers, Victoria Utria, Purva Vaidya, and Isabel Wingert, had the opportunity to present a workshop on HeForSWE. The presentation objectives were: how to promote male engagement in SWE, how to plan effective ally-specific training, and how to adopt a HeForSWE initiative into a section of SWE. The workshop featured a breakout session in which attendees discussed their thoughts on the initiative. The workshop received a very positive response and we were so excited to share our progress with members of other sections.



*WE Local presentation*

## Advisory Meeting

Our final event for the term was our quarterly advisory meeting. The focus of this meeting was bystander intervention and we invited Jesse Krohn from Drexel's Office of Equality and Diversity to present a training to our members. The presentation covered topics such as explicit and implicit bias, microaggressions, and sexual harassment, and led to a great discussion among our members about how we could intervene in these scenarios and be better allies. We are looking forward to our next advisory meeting, as we hope to continue engaging our community in these important discussions.

## Networking Social

This term we also hosted a HeForSWE Networking Social at Smokin' Betty's. This event provided an opportunity for our collegiate and professional HeForSWE members to come together to network and discuss why they joined HeForSWE. Everyone who attended had a great time meeting other HeForSWE members and we are looking forward to hosting more events like this one in the future.



*Jesse Krohn training members on bystander intervention*

# MISWELLANEOUS

## WELocal - Providence

WELocal was a huge success for Drexel's section. This year we were able to bring 20 members to conference with us, including general body members and officers. WE Local was hosted in providence this year, our section had a lovely time exploring the city, visiting brown university and attending all of the seminars the conference had to offer. At the conference two members, Jui Hanamshet and Manika Khettry presented their researched and were both awarded for their contribution to the STEM field with their projects. Another huge win for Drexel included three of our officers, Victoria Utria, Purva Vaidya and Isabel Wingert hosting their own seminar explaining a very unique effort our section has been working on: HeForSWE. At their seminar these officers presented their research and the work they have been putting into developing a better relationship for men and women in the workplace of STEM professions. Their seminar inspired the audience and even was suggested to be presented to the president of SWE. The attendees of the conference left feeling recharged, motivated and ready to put many of their newly learned networking and professional skills to work.

As a more seasoned member of the section I always think it is so exciting to attend conferences, it is easy in our roles to become burnt out and attending these conferences really reignite a flame of inspiration and excitement to do more for our very own collegiate section. It is also so rewarding to see the excitement and growth of our younger members who attend. Going to conferences is one of the most encouraging, inspirational and bonding opportunities we are able to offer and being a part of it is something incredible. *-Savanna Leavitt, Treasurer*







# SWEETIES ABROAD

I was lucky enough to be able to spend about four months in Melbourne, Australia at Swinburne University of Technology. When I wasn't working on classwork, I would go into Melbourne city to wander around, listen to live music, or just enjoy the weather. I also was able to go on a tour of the Great Ocean Road and visit the Grampian Mountains and Adelaide, which was one of my favourite times as I got to make friends with other travelers and explore gorgeous nature. In the last few weeks I traveled to Tasmania, which was filled with absolutely breathtaking views and scenery to hike around. Through both of these tours I met people whom I know I will be in touch with for years to come, and future travel buddies when I go to visit their home countries. *-Kerianne Chen*



*Kerianne strikes a pose in the Grampian Mountains*

*Kristine on top of the Colombian Monument lion in Barcelona*



I studied abroad in Bochum, Germany this term through Drexel's Engineering Spring in Bochum Program! I had an incredible experience taking engineering classes with German professors and working in a mechanical engineering research lab. It was eye-opening to see the many similarities between American and German academic research facilities. In my free time, I was also fortunate enough to travel around Europe! I had a great time learning about other cultures and seeing places I didn't even know I wanted to see. *-Kristine Loh*

# Acknowledgements

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

## **SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS: LOCKHEED MARTIN, PENNONI, EXXONMOBILE**

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## **EVENT COLLABORATORS**

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

## **DREXEL UNIVERSITY SUPPORT**

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

# Officer Board

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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.