

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS  
**QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER**  
FALL 2019

## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



As we come to the close of fall term and the end of 2019, I cannot believe all that has happened this year! First of all, I would like to thank all of you for making this year great. I have been able to talk with and meet so many of you, and I have definitely grown so much personally this year as a result of this position.

This term we had over 20 events, including bonding with our Faculty Advisor Dr. Simi Hoque at Bartram's Gardens, hosting our 4th Lives and Lessons of the Underrepresented in STEM, and attending the Annual WE19 Conference. One of my favourite events this term was going kayaking with Dr. Hoque at Bartram's Gardens (it is free on Saturdays in the summer and would highly recommend everyone to go next year!) This year we teamed up with four other student orgs to host Lives and Lessons: Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE), Out in STEM (oSTEM), Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), and National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). We also sent 14 of our members to WE19 Conference in Anaheim, California to network, learn, and find new ideas for Drexel SWE.

After four years on the Drexel SWE board, it is a little bittersweet to be leaving, but I know that I am leaving it in the very capable hands of Elvira-Marie Mikhael as your 2020 President and I look forward to seeing all that the 2020 board does. I will still be around at events, and in the Philly professional world, so feel free to reach out with any questions. Congrats and best of luck to all of the 2020 SWE Officers!

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## WELCOME BACK DINNER



As one of our biggest events of the year, our annual Welcome Back Dinner is a great way for both new and returning members to learn more about the exciting events our committees have planned for the upcoming term. From alumni to eager freshmen, our members had the opportunity to watch our new “What SWE Means to You” video, which can be found on our Youtube channel.



## I SUPPORT THE GIRLS DRIVE

For this term’s community service initiative, Drexel SWE hosted an I Support the Girls Drive to collect new or gently used bras as well as feminine hygiene products to support Philadelphia’s female homeless population. Girls and women comprise 30% of the homeless population in the U.S, totaling about 180,000 people. A woman shouldn’t have to choose between feeding herself and her personal health. Every woman should have the ability to maintain her dignity. Thanks to the contributions of our members, we collected over 20 packages of feminine hygiene products and over 50 bras to donate.

## 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 hope that those who attended learned about the multitude of resources SWE has to offer both internationally and at Drexel. We had a really great turnout and met a lot of students who were very excited to become active in SWE!

## GBM 2

For our last event of the term, we hosted our second GBM, which focused on celebrating Veterans Week at Drexel. Our D&I moment was an interactive activity that asked members to list stereotypes about veterans, then discuss ways to combat these stereotypes both in the classroom and in the workplace. We hope our members learned more about the importance of being open-minded and welcoming to all members of the Drexel and engineering community. At the end of GBM, we played team quizzo where the winning teams got a discount on our awesome SWE merch! 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.



## HOW TO SAY "NO"

For this collaboration with the Drexel Counseling Center, three wonderful representatives came to present an interactive presentation on assertiveness, specifically on how to say no. We discussed reasons why we feel pressured to say yes to people and opportunities and how we feel when we overcommit or promise to do something we don't want to do. From there, we discussed methods for how to say no in ways that ensure our message was received and understood. We even had the opportunity to practice these methods and provide each other with feedback! It was definitely an informative session and many of our members expressed that they would be using these methods in the future. Next term we are also looking to do a collaboration with the Drexel Counseling Center on seasonal depression, so stay tuned for details about this event!



## BIKING IN THE CITY 101

We were so excited to have a representative from the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia come and speak to our members about bike laws, bike safety, and some of their outreach programs. We learned that bikes are a legal vehicle and must follow all of the rules of the road like cars do. We also learned that it was illegal to bike on the sidewalk over the age of 12 and bikes are required to have lights and reflectors on them. The Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia runs periodic free group bike rides and how to bike classes, which we will definitely be promoting to our members in the future. They also conduct research on biking throughout the city and are involved in the city's Vision Zero plan, which aims to have zero traffic related deaths in Philadelphia. Check out their website for more information and let the wellness committee know at the next GBM if you want a reflective sticker for your bike helmet (which everyone should be wearing!).



## NETWORKING WITH EXXONMOBIL

Towards the beginning of this term, Drexel SWE hosted ExxonMobil to provide members a great opportunity to both network with them as well as get their resumes personally reviewed! They held an info session to start off the event, educating the attendees on their missions, accomplishments, progress, and work environment. In addition, they mentioned the great opportunities nationwide available to applicants at Exxon. Afterwards, the session opened up more freely so attendees could come up and chat/network with individual Exxon professionals to establish helpful connections. Attendees were also able to speak one on one with them to see how their personal resumes may stack up as a potential Exxon applicant and learn straight from Exxon about possible ways to improve it.

## NETWORKING WITH DELL'S DJ KREBSBACH

We were also excited to have DJ Krebsbach, Dell Boomi's youngest C-Level Executive, come in to speak about her experiences and journey into engineering as well as her reputable position. She gave a fantastic presentation on her experiences growing up as well as the adversities she faced and how she overcame them. She taught our members how to identify what phases in personal growth or life that they may be in and how to progress from it. Following those topics, she transitioned into a small info session on Dell Boomi and their quick growth and success as well as what their missions and objectives are. In closing, the floor was left open freely to network with DJ Krebsbach and learn more about opportunities at Dell Boomi.





## SCIENCE AFTER HOURS

Once again, Drexel joined the Franklin Institute in their annual Science After Hours: Wizarding School event. This Harry Potter inspired theme brought adults to the Franklin Institute to experience the museum in a new light! SWE volunteer with a table showcasing a demonstration where dry ice and soap were used to make “smoke” filled bubbles. Guests of the event had a great time playing with these magical smoke bubbles and learning about the properties of carbon dioxide!

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Drexel SWE partnered with the Lindy Center to host a time where SWE members and Drexel students could have the opportunity to get background checked through the Lindy Center and become official volunteers! This is super important as volunteers make our Outreach Events possible! Thank you to the Lindy Center for being so helpful in making our members background checked!

## INDEPENDANCE CHARTER SCHOOL



Drexel returned to Independence Charter School in center city for their third annual Introduction to Engineering. This event, with help from ICS, introduces middle school girls (grades 6-8) to different fields of engineering. This year, students learned about civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and chemical engineering through fun and collaborative hands-on engineering activities. Students, volunteers, and teachers all had an incredible time performing different engineering demos and helping teach these students about different fields in engineering!



## KAYAKING AT BATRAM'S GARDEN

The faculty mentorship program is a new mentorship program for the 2019-2020 academic year that focuses on forming relationships between our members and female engineering faculty at Drexel. The first event was hosted with our faculty advisor, Dr. Hoque, and we spent a Saturday morning kayaking on the Schuylkill River. Attendees were learning how to kayak for the first time, chat with Dr. Hoque, and enjoy the nice weather. Be on the lookout for the next event in Winter 2020.

## MEET AND SWEET

This term marked the beginning of another year of our mentorship program! The purpose of the program is to help incoming freshman or transfer students get accustomed to the Drexel lifestyle and enjoy living in the city. To kick off our undergraduate program, we hosted a Meet and SWEet where mentors could introduce themselves to their respective mentees and get to know each other over coffee and donuts. We are very excited to see how the year goes!



## PROFESSIONAL MENTORSHIP BRUNCH

To start off our Professional Mentorship, SWE's networking committee enjoyed a professional mentorship brunch at Landmark Americana. Five professional mentors and ten mentees met on a Sunday afternoon to introduce themselves to each other. Conversation topics ranged from proper attire during interviews, to potential events that SWE could host. We are so thankful to have the support of our professional mentors and can't wait for the upcoming year!



## LIVES & LESSONS OF THE UNDERREPRESENTED IN STEM

For the first time ever, Lives & Lessons was a joint collaboration between the Society of Women Engineers, Out in STEM, the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers, the National Society of Black Engineers, and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers to inspire all diverse communities to show their voice and promote change within the STEM field. Lives & Lessons provided an opportunity for students to hear perspectives from panelists in both industry and academia, engaged with students and professionals, and voiced their concerns about issues within STEM.



## DISABILITY 101: APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE AND DISABILITY-SPECIFIC ETIQUETTES

The Diversity and Inclusion committee invited Vanessa Cohen, the Assistant Director of Student Accommodations for the Office of Equality and Diversity at Drexel University, to educate us on proper etiquette and accommodations that Drexel offers to students. Disability 101 opened our eyes to our unknown biases and any privileges some of us may not recognize. Overall, this event was an incredible experience!

## HEFORSWE: THE INSIDE SCOOP

To start of the fall term, the HeForSWE committee set up a meet and greet open to all members interested in learning more about the HeForSWE initiative. Attendees enjoyed ice cream and snacks while learning about the great qualities of the HeForSWE committee.



## HEFORSWE ADVISORY MEETING

To continue setting off the school year, the fall HeForSwe advisory focused on how the HeForSWE committee can continue empowering people to advocate for women in STEM. Through discussion of a series of questions about assumptions and stereotypes in the workplace and school, we came out with a better understanding on how to manage and limit these experiences that could be implemented into our daily lives.



# MAKE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR THE HEFORSWE NEWSLETTER!



## WE19 - SWE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



In November we joined over 16,000 attendees in Anaheim, CA for the world's largest conference for women in engineering. With a huge range of sessions, panels, career fair exhibitors, keynote speeches, social events, and other opportunities, each of us were able to tailor make our own WE19 experience. There was ample opportunity to focus on leadership, confidence, organization, transitioning into careers, technical talks, professional development, networking, work life balance, or anything else you might be interested in. Each of us left reinvigorated, and inspired by those around us.

Our section also had the honor of being selected again for a Gold Mission Award, and winning our first Best Practices Award for Awards. Special thanks to the Drexel College of Engineering for enabling us to go to yet another amazing annual conference!

Please stay tuned for our experience at WELocal – Raleigh, NC in February!



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

## SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS:



## EVENT COLLABORATORS

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

## DREXEL UNIVERSITY SUPPORT

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

# FALL 2019 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. Societal membership is required to run and to vote.**