

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2019

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Hello everyone!

If you have yet to meet me, my name is Kerianne Chen and I am so excited and honored to serve as the 2019 Drexel SWE President. I have been involved in SWE since my freshman year when I worked as the Public Relations Chair for two years, before moving up to Vice President. Both roles helped me greatly in learning how to manage my time and prioritize tasks, and I began to learn management of the officer board as VP last year. I am eager to continue learning and apply what I've learned so far to this board. I hope that you all will consider being active members of SWE and apply to an officer position if you want to be more involved in planning events!

Winter term went by much faster than expected, with 27 events, including a Lunch and Learn with Dean Walker and volunteering with Dornsife for their monthly Community Dinner. We also participated in Drexel's second annual Homecoming competition and won 4th place. Our new officer board has been working hard to put on all of these events, and are always looking for feedback on what types of events our members want to have.

For Spring term, our seven committees have already begun planning, and there are many events to look forward to! Our Membership and Networking committees are working together to put on a Mocktail Night which will help to teach members how to behave and what to expect at professional happy hours. Our Diversity and Inclusion team is also working with NSBE, SHPE, and SASE to host the second annual Diversity Potluck.

Thank you all for such a great start to the year, and I look forward to all that is to come. If you have not met me yet, please come introduce yourself to me at any event and feel free to share any feedback with me!

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GBM 1

At GBM 1, we kicked off 2019 by announcing our newly inducted SWE officers and our active members for Fall term! We had a surprise visit from our adviser, Dr. Lamberson, who welcomed our members and talked about the great opportunities SWE has to offer. We had a great attendance from our members and played Back Artist as an icebreaker to hype our members up for the Homecoming Variety Show right after GBM.

GBM 2

At GBM 2, we celebrated Black History Month by inviting all of our attendees to learn about notable black women in STEM through our Black History Month Bingo activity, and even gave out a copy of Hidden Figures to the first person who got two-way Bingo. We also conducted a D&I moment, where we discussed the impacts of harassment and discrimination on companies and shared some shocking statistics. We hope to continue starting off our GBMs with D&I moments in the future.

ENGINEERING QUIZZO

As part of Engineers Week, SWE and Material Advantage hosted Engineering Quizzo! The seven teams who competed all took home CoE prizes, from color-changing sunglasses to Google laundry bags. With fun, food, and friends, this event gave everyone who attended some cool facts about Philly, Drexel, and the history of women in engineering. The tater tot bar was a huge success, and we are looking forward to making it a tradition at Engineering Quizzo. We hope to see all of the teams who competed this year at next year's Quizzo!

COMMUNITY DINNER

For our last event of the term, six of our members volunteered at the Dornsife Center's monthly Community Dinner, where we served 123 members of the community some delicious food cooked by Drexel's very own Chef Pepino. We had a great time connecting with members of the Philly community and even getting the chance to say hi to Dana Dornsife. One of the Membership Committee initiatives for this year is to volunteer at more events in Philadelphia, so look out for some more great opportunities next term!



PSYCHOLOGICAL FLEXIBILITY

To kick off the term, Dr. Michael Gotlib from the Drexel Counseling Center hosted a workshop on psychological flexibility. The workshop included engaging conversation and activities that were beneficial to all who attended. We discussed methods for combating anxiety as it appears. We also discussed healthy and unhealthy ways of coping with anxiety, which can either help or harm our path to our goals and the things that we care about. The feedback we received from this event was very positive. We will look to do something similar again in the future!



GROUP EXERCISE: SPIN CLASS!

We had a great turnout this term for our spin class in the REC Center. The amazing, Hannah McCausland, led our members through sprints, hills, and intervals! For those who had never done spin before, they learned how to set up their bikes and how to control the bike's tension. For those who are seasoned pros, they got in an intense workout! Everyone had a great time. Since the demand for this event was so high, we will definitely be looking to host another spin class in the future. Stay tuned!

WELLNESS BLOG

This Winter, we started the SWE Wellness Blog! The blog is intended to be a resource center for our members on all components of wellness--physical, mental, and nutritional. We love highlighting the wellness accomplishments, practices, and ideas of our members as well as sharing opportunities with everyone. We welcome guest contributors (current members and SWE alumni)! This blog is a work in progress and we will be working on improving it over the next term.



Drexel SWE Wellness

- Promoting Mental and Physical Wellness for All -

HOME · PHYSICAL WELLNESS · MENTAL WELLNESS · NUTRITION · OPPORTUNITIES · PODCASTS/TED TALKS

Check it out at swedrexelwellness.health.blog



STAR SCHOLARS /SUPERNOVA INFO SESSION

SWE Professional Development started this winter term with an info session for all interested students on Drexel's Student's Tackling Advanced Research (STAR) program as well as Drexel's SuperNova Program. These programs are fantastic ways for new Drexel undergraduate students to begin their paths in research or to even just dip their toes and gain some experience. Comers heard an informative presentation given by a representative of the Office of Undergraduate Research followed by a panel/Q&A opportunity led by leading students in the program.



LUNCH & LEARN WITH DEAN WALKER

Students had the opportunity to meet and network with the new College of Engineering Dean, Dr. Sharon Walker, and learn about her professional and personal experiences. Dr. Walker decided to take a very personal approach and had every attendee share information about his or herself for everyone to get to know them as much as they got to know her. She gave a rundown of her social and academic upbringing while throwing in words of wisdom she deemed everyone should hear. At the end, students were able to ask her questions as well as take pictures and speak with her privately. Overall, a great learning experience for both the attendees as well as for Dean Walker to get to know Drexel students as well as the city of Philadelphia.

SCIENCE AFTER HOURS

This past January, SWE Outreach kicked off the term at The Franklin Institute hosting a table during their monthly event Science After Hours, a science night for adults. The January theme was Winter is Coming, so fittingly SWE's demo was making snow using sodium polyacrylate (a polymer that expands in contact with water). Volunteers had an amazing time introducing the Franklin's guest to the fun that could be had with polymers as guest watched in amazement of the snow being made instantly!



MATERIAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DAY

For this event, we held a fun and engaging workshop for the Drexel Material Science and Engineering Day. Along with two other organizations, we helped teach students who attended the event some basic materials science and engineering concepts. Our workshop focused on emulsions by making lotion and explaining the concepts of non-polar and polar substances. Normally, a non-polar substance like oil and beeswax won't mix with a polar substance like water. However, through an emulsifier like Borax, these substances can be mixed together to make lotion. Students saw this effect in action by making their own lotion. Overall, this event was a big success, and everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed their lotion!

INTRODUCE A GIRL TO ENGINEERING DAY

This past February, the College of Engineering hosted their annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day event where the SWE Outreach team was one of the many Engineering organizations involved! We had three fun and interesting engineering demos planned. One being a Biomedical Engineering demo which the constraints and limitations of prosthetics hands were illustrated by imitating robot hands. As for the Electrical Engineering demo, Makey Makeys were used to introduce young kids to computer programming through games! Also the Body Light Electrical demo showed young girls how the electrical resistivity of an object allows electricity to go through human bodies without getting electrocuted! By simply putting their hands on the bulb they were able to capture that electricity lighting it up! These three demos provided the attendees an opportunity to learn about the applications of varying engineering disciplines.





NORTH PENN ENGINEERING NIGHT FOR GIRLS

Ending the term, SWE's outreach team and volunteers went to Lansdale, PA to volunteer at North Penn High School for the third annual Engineering Night for Girls. This event includes guests from the three middle schools in their district and aims to introduce the young girls to various forms of engineering. SWE has four demos during this event: Robot hands (biomedical engineering), Roller Coasters (mechanical/civil engineering), Circuits (electrical engineering), and Chromatography flowers (chemical engineering). About 40 girls attended and had the opportunity to learn about engineering from SWE's volunteers through these engaging demos.





MENTORSHIP ICE SKATING

The Networking committee started winter term with an Ice Skating event at Penn's Landing. Penn's landing was decorated with lights and a huge Christmas tree for the holidays. The event was the perfect time for mentees and mentors to catch up with each other. The night was also the first time some members had been ice skating. Experienced skaters provided positive encouragement and by the end, everyone was able to happily skate the night away.

MENTORSHIP READING TERMINAL TRIP

The networking committee ended winter term with a trip to the Reading Terminal Market. Attendees enjoyed brunch at Down Home Diner and browsed around the other shops inside the Market. The event was a good opportunity for mentees and mentors on opposite co-ops cycles to connect before the Spring-Summer switch occurs.



MAKE YOUR OWN WOMEN'S MARCH POSTER

The first winter event hosted by the Diversity & Inclusion committee was the "Make Your Own Women's March Poster" event. The goal of the committee was to create an event that would bring together Drexel's strong women body and engage them in a creative event and a supportive atmosphere where they all got to empower and inspire one another by the different values and motives they share and drive them to speak up and be part of the Women's MArch movement as well as SWE. Given the number of people who showed up and all the powerful posters we ended up with, the event was a success and helped familiarize the attendees of the the Women's March with each other to make sure we went as one united and diverse but inclusive student body.



WOMEN'S MARCH

On January 19, 2019, 21 SWE members went to the Women's March in support of women's rights and speak out their voice and beliefs. The Society of Women Engineers met up on Saturday morning to walk to the event, where we met empowering people, heard powerful speeches, and be surrounded by inspiring people overall. This was an enlightening experience and was a great way to meet like-minded SWE members in support of equal rights.



MAKERS CONFERENCE 2019

In honor of Women's History Month, the last event that we hosted was the Makers Conference watch party event which was in part of a pilot program, "Women in Leadership Certificate Program," which offers participating members an opportunity to be empowered and learn more about some history of impactful women. In this event, we watched a series of clips from the conference that consisted of stories and talks delivered by powerful figures that all had an end goal to accelerate women's movement and spark inspiration.





ADVISORY MEETING

In the first week of February 2019, the HeforSWE advisory meeting focused on Black History Month. In this meeting, members showed up to the ACE center to read stories about struggles Black women experience from both celebrities and anonymous testimonies. All attendees were able to discuss the statistics and stories provided about Black Women in America in a round table discussion. This meeting taught members to be not only more conscious of their Black female peers, but overall, made people understand that everyone experience unique struggles that unites us.

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



VALENTINE'S DAY SWE-ET GRAM SALE

On Valentine's Day, the Treasury committee satisfied members' sweet tooth by hosting a SWE-et Gram sale. The team sold over 150 candy-filled goodie bags along with small cards making the event a success. General body members assisted in executing the event by advertising to find more buyers. This experience strengthened the relationship between general body members and officers. Further, many members indicated interest in joining the fundraising committee to help host similar events.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING

One March 15th, the Treasury committee hosted the first fundraising committee meeting for the year. Ten students attended this meeting to brainstorm different fundraising event ideas for Spring term. Members represented different engineering disciplines and years, which provided the meeting with an insight on past events and new event ideas. The meeting ended with students taking leadership in hosting restaurant fundraisers with the help of treasury committee. Anyone is welcome to join the committee and it improves students' leadership and event organizing skills.

WELOCAL BALTIMORE



This February, Drexel SWE sent 14 members to Baltimore, Maryland for WE Local Conference. With the help of the College of Engineering, our group was able to learn and grow professionally, build upon our network, and be inspired by a diverse group of women engineers. We celebrated the success of our Membership Director, Kristine Loh, who was selected as one of 15 SWE Guiding Stars internationally. While at conference, we met Nilam Patel, a Drexel College of Engineering alumna and Senior Fellow at Raytheon, her advice and continued support has been much appreciated by our section and we hope to have more opportunities to connect with professionals like her.

“I enjoy attending SWE conferences because it exposes me to many opportunities to learn, to connect, and to grow. At WE Local in Baltimore, I attended at least 3 breakout sessions each day that focused on a variety of topics.”

-Elizabeth Moroz

“This conference allowed me to learn so many ways to be a better interviewer, more successful in what I want to do, and an overall better woman in engineering. As women in engineering it is important we speak up to get our voices heard. I can't wait to start implementing the practices I've learned and see where they take me!”

-Joanna Canagarajah

“To be honest, the entire conference was a totally different experience for me, and it basically marked the beginning of my professional journey here at Drexel. However, I believe that the most important thing I learned from this experience is that my engineering degree will be my strongest weapon.”

-Farah Abdel-Jawad

“SWE Conferences have been some of the most informative and uplifting experiences I've had the opportunity to enjoy. WE Local Baltimore provided me access to workshops and sessions that helped me grow personally and professionally; it gave way to ideas to bring back to the community and our organization here at Drexel.”

-Celine Khoo

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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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.