



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



This term, SWE had 15 events, like SWEetie Hawkins, Rock Climbing with Dr. Capps, and Scholarships to Advance Women in STEM. We also participated in Homecoming and took a group of members to Raleigh, NC for WeLocal: our SWE regional conference. Our 7 committees always come up with new ways to engage our members personally and professionally each term and with a wide range of events, there is something for everyone!

With the spread of COVID-19 and spring term being online, we all have to deal with many challenges and barriers that are completely unexpected and unfamiliar. Trying to retain some sense of normalcy can be really hard during this time, but Drexel SWE is doing our best to brainstorm and create worthwhile events that we can hold virtually. As always, this organization is for YOU, so let us know what you want to see, and we will try to make it happen!

I want to wish you all a successful spring term and I hope everyone stays safe and healthy! We will see you soon

Hi everyone! To those of you I have not met yet, my name is Elvira-Marie Mikhael, and I am this year's Drexel SWE President! I got involved in SWE at the end of my freshman year as Outreach Chair, then became Outreach Director. I chose to focus on k-12 STEM outreach because I understood the value of exposure to STEM at a young age and how important it is for girls to have role models and mentors throughout their lives, especially when pursuing a STEM degree. This showed me how valuable the SWE community is through all stages of our careers, and I hope you've noticed it too! You can get involved in SWE whenever you want: some terms you may be off campus, some terms are busier than others, but just know that we will always be here!

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MEMBERSHIP



GBM #1

We were so excited to invite everyone back from Winter break with GBM 1! We had a great time as we caught up and discussed disabilities in the workplace as our D&I moment.

GBM #2

GBM 2 once again brought many of our members for General Body updates, a Black History Month D&I moment, and to listen to our guest speaker Mary Beth Biddle. Mary Beth Biddle shared details on her professional and SWE career paths, and gave plenty of useful tips for joining the workplace!



SWEETIE HAWKINS

We hosted our second SWEetie Hawkins dance this term this time Galentine's Day themed! We had an amazing time at this social event with lots of snacks, dancing, and pictures!

COMBATING SEASONAL DEPRESSION

Amidst the long, cold, dark days of winter, this event was able to shed some light on the symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder. A representative from the Drexel Counseling Center ran this informative and interactive workshop. We had in-depth dialogues about the symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder and ways to combat our dwindling motivation, increased stress, and feelings of sadness. Together, the attendees of this event helped each other brainstorm ideas and through this process we created a mini-community of learning and support.



ROCK CLIMBING WITH DR. CAPPS

This term we adventured up the rock wall along with Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering professor, Dr. Shannon Capps. Dr. Capps is the second professor that we have teamed up with for the Networking committee's NEW Faculty Mentorship Program. The event was held at the DAC's rock wall where some of the most experienced climbers at Drexel taught us how to belay and boulder, two very unique ways of climbing. So many first-time climbers were able to make their first attempt at reaching the top of the wall. With the cheers of their fellow SWEeties and tips from seasoned climbers, many attendees gained a major self-confidence boost upon reaching the top of the wall.



LOFT STYLING PARTY

In collaboration with the Networking Committee, this past term we hosted a Styling Party at the local LOFT on University of Pennsylvania's campus. During the store orientation, one of our professional mentors, Kathleen, gave a lighting style session about smart shopping tips, outfit selection for events, and making our outfits each day take us from one event to another. The party very fortunately coincided with a major sales event so many attendees found dramatically discounted pieces to add to their co-op/work, party, and casual wardrobes.

It was overall a very fun, engaging, and beneficial event for all attendees. The tips and networking were very helpful for our SWE members looking to enter fields similar to those mentors who were able to attend, and all were able to take advantage of the great sales going on to continue adding to their growing professional wardrobes.



SCHOLARSHIPS TO ADVANCE WOMEN IN STEM



Professional Development partnered with the Drexel Fellowships Office to shed light on the academic and financial opportunities for women in STEM while eating pizza! With many deadlines in the spring, the Fellowships Office is here to find the opportunity for you and help you apply. The SWE scholarship is among one of the most advanced as with one application you apply to many opportunities. Opportunities for students while doing research are numerous. Many projects and research can earn money and one you have a few small awards, you are eligible to win larger awards. When in doubt, reach out to the Fellowships Office for more help!



SCIENCE AFTER HOURS: THE ROARING 20'S

The Outreach Committee kicked off the term by traveling to the Franklin Institute on January 23rd for Science After Hours, an event tailored towards adults. The theme of the event was the "Roaring 20s" so SWE members hosted a demo that imitated a technique used to smuggle in barrels of alcohol during the Prohibition. Participants were encouraged to create their own spring-powered catapults using mouse traps, plastic spoons, erasers, craft sticks, and lots of tape. They then were challenged to launch "barrels," or spoons, into a bucket about twenty feet away. Over the course of the night, only ten participants made it into the bucket, with one participant getting it in twice! SWE volunteers assisted in the build of the catapults and the launching of the barrels, putting their engineering skills to the test.



MATERIAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DAY

The second event of the winter term for the SWE Outreach committee was DIY Glow in the Dark Lava Lamp workshop for MSE day at Drexel University. The workshop aimed to teach kids and accompanying parents/adults how to make a lava lamp and explain the science behind its "magic". Using simple materials like mineral oil, water/tonic water, Alka-Seltzer tablets, a water bottle with a lid, and food coloring they were able to create the lava lamps of their own following the directions. SWE members and volunteers were assisting them and answering any questions that appeared during the process. In addition to that, kids were allowed to take their lava lamps home to enjoy their creation even longer.

MENTORSHIP GAME NIGHT

The Networking Committee started off the first week of Winter Term by hosting a game night for the undergraduate mentorship program. The aim of this event was to have mentees and mentors bond with one another through a fun and social event. The event was hosted at the Academic Center for Engineers, where there were plenty of board games, pizza, and refreshments. The first part of the night was spent introducing one another, grabbing some dinner, and playing the card game Apples to Apples. It was pretty clear that it was a favorite for everyone, as we all shared laughs and enjoyed this game for over an hour! After playing Apples to Apples, the next game we tried out was Taboo. Despite being a bit challenging, it was very entertaining for the mentors and mentees to challenge one another to guess the topic without saying the 'taboo' words that would easily give it away. By the end of the night, the mentees and mentors were all extremely friendly with one another and truly seemed like they had a fun night.



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



CHECK YOUR PRIVILEGE: AN EXERCISE ON INTERSECTIONALITY AND PRIVILEGE

The diversity and inclusion committee started off the term with an eye-opening event, where participants reflected how certain identities they hold may give them privileges others may not experience. Since our identities are based on our history, experiences, and the environments we grew up in, the can identities can intersect and span across race, sex, gender, socio-economic class, education, and more, and can result in stereotypes and biases that may not be true. The event consisted of selecting beads when you agreed to a situation such as being worried about how your name is perceived, and then creating friendship bracelets while reflecting on which privileges you do and do not hold. The Check Your Privilege event helped to raise awareness on these issues in order to collectively work on our biases and social justice.

HEFORSWE ADVISORY MEETING

The HeForSWE committee began the Winter Term with an advisory meeting focusing on the evaluation of sexism in pop culture relating to STEM. Because pop culture has an influencing power on its viewers and can motivate them through conscious and subconscious messages, evaluating these portrayals can uncover the positive and negative effects they might have on viewers. During the event videos portraying negative and positive portrayals of women in STEM were presented and their influence on our society and role in motivating women to pursue careers in STEM was discussed. By focusing on negative portrayals participants were able to think critically about the message being sent to viewers. Positive portrayals were then portrayed along with the positive effects resulting from the character, show, or movie. Overall the event brought awareness to the benefit of positive portrayals and its effectiveness in engaging women in STEM.



GINGERBREAD STEMINIST

The second event organized by the HeForSWE committee for the term was a lighthearted event where gingerbread cookies were decorated to resemble influential women and men in STEM. Participants used different frosting colors, gumdrops, M&M's, Twizzler's to uniquely decorate their own cookie. While decorating participants discussed who they were modeling their cookie after and why that individual was influential to them. All participants were able to leave with their creation and meet other SWE members in the process.



MAKE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR THE HEFORSWE NEWSLETTER!

VALENTINE'S DAY SWE-ET GRAM SALE



The first event was such a success despite the tight place we were in with the budget. We were able to put together the sweets sockets with the help of general body members and members of the fundraising committee. This year we had the option to deliver them to the students themselves to make it easier for them and also encourage them to buy more without having to worry about picking them up. Fortunately, we were able to hit our ultimate goal and sold every socket we had put together in time. This event is one that members look forward to because it is very traditional and goes along with the Valentine's Day atmosphere while also bringing a new edge to it by making our Valentine's Day celebrations in support of a bigger cause like supporting women in STEM and hence our organization.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING

To prepare for the Valentine's Day SWE-et Sale, the Treasury committee hosted an in-person fundraising committee meeting. Committee members who were in attendance used the meeting time to discuss sale strategies and pack over 150 goodie bags. During this meeting, members also brainstormed 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 members continuing the discussion on the committee group chat to ensure other members who were not in-attendance could also be involved in the discussion. Anyone is welcome to join the committee and it improves students' leadership and event organizing skills.

PUBLIC RELATIONS



This year was SWE's third year competing in Drexel's annual Homecoming Competition Week. The competition consisted of 5 events: window decorating, homecoming bonfire, quizzo, variety show and battleship; and the teams competing consisted of groups of students representing different student organizations throughout campus. We would like to thank everyone who voted for our Homecoming window which ended up coming in 2nd Place, came out to show their SWE spirit and most importantly our SWEeties that represented SWE and competed in any of the 5 events. We couldn't have made it that far without your support! At the end of the week, both the men's and women's basketball teams won against William & Mary and Delaware respectively, we can't wait for next year!

WELOCAL RALEIGH



This February, Drexel SWE sent 9 members to Raleigh, North Carolina 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. Our section received two awards at this conference, one for hosting an “Outstanding Professional Development Event” and another for co-hosting a “Joint Professional and Collegiate Event” with Philadelphia Society of Women Engineers. While at conference, we also met Patty Matwijec, a Drexel College of Engineering alumna and Product Line Manager at Eaton, we hope to have more opportunities to connect with professionals like her in the future.

“It was an incredibly rewarding experience to be around other women in engineers and see students who are in my position, as well as many women who are years into their career. I am thankful that I was able to attend the conference, and bring those experiences back to Drexel and SWE.”

-Sihah Joonhigh

“After the conference, the professionals provided me with different contacts of other professionals in the career of my choice. I gained advice and career tips from them. The overall conference experience was inspiring, uplifting and motivating.”

-Abinishaa Sivaraj

“It allows us to strengthen our connections with one another and return to Drexel invigorated, empowered and willing to share our knowledge with the larger Drexel community. I think every SWE member should attend at least one conference and I will be encouraging other members to attend the conferences next year!”

-Abigail Gard

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS:



EVENT COLLABORATORS

- | | | |
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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

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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.