



Drexel University

Society of Women Engineers

Summer Issue 2013

President's & Vice President's Message

As the summer term is coming to an end I eagerly wait for October to come. This year the 2014 SWE National Conference is hosted less than two hours away in Baltimore, Maryland. The close proximity is allowing us to bring 31 members to this year's national conference. This wonderful group of members includes all of our SWE officers, several SWE future leader nominees, outreach volunteers, and SWE technical poster competition participants. It was only after attending my first national conference that I understood the magnitude of the supportive network that SWE provided to young women pursuing engineering. I also become inspired after attending countless workshops on professional development and leadership and it was that weekend that I developed my passion for SWE. I have been involved with our collegiate section since. Last year, at my second conference, I watched as several new members became equally inspired. This year they will all be attending as SWE officers. I know that by bringing such a large and diverse group of members to this year's conference we will ensure that Drexel SWE will continue to have fantastic leaders that will have the ability to transform Drexel University into an environment that will "stimulate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders".

Claudia Gutierrez

Hello all,

With freshmen off enjoying their last summer, things are usually quiet on campus this time of year, but certainly not for SWE! Our largest event was our kick-off workshop in collaboration with TechGirlz and Comcast Corp. The young girls showed such creativity while making their podcasts. We didn't even make it through the workshop before they began asking when they could come back for the next one! I'm particularly happy to report that one young girl is now my very own programming mentee. At just age 11, my new little friend is already developing her own games and asking me about my experiences as an engineer. I am so excited for Drexel SWE to host more events like this in future and can't wait to see what this new school year brings!

Meaghan Paulosky

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Comcast and TechGirlz



Techgirlz, Sherita Ceasar, Amie Ryno, Kiely Hall, and Drexel Society of Women Engineers.



July 13th was a remarkable day for Drexel SWE as it was the first in what's sure to be a long-running series of outreach events with TechGirlz and Comcast Corp.

The event was based off of a podcasting workshop designed by TechGirlz, a local volunteer-run organization that maintains a mission very similar to that of SWE's. TechGirlz "aims to bridge the gender gap in STEM fields by introducing adolescent girls to technology" by training other groups to run instructional seminars. After sharing our STEM outreach goals with TechGirlz, they suggested we team up with another incredible organization, Comcast Corp. Comcast has always been a technological powerhouse, but their desire to bring this innovation and ambition to future engineers is what makes them a perfect partner for SWE.

On the day of the workshop, 15 eager grade school-age girls arrived at Drexel University's Freshmen Design Lab. There, they met a team of Drexel SWE volunteers, all equally as eager to teach these young girls how to write, record, and mix their own podcast files. Drexel SWE was joined by three Comcast employees: Amie Ryno and Kiely Hall of Comcast's University Recruitment, and Sherita Ceasar, VP of National Video Deployment Engineering and the first African-American President of National SWE.

For the duration of the event the young attendees enjoyed food generously provided by Comcast, the mentorship of both Comcast employees and Drexel SWE members, and the satisfaction of creating their own podcast to take home and share with their families. These few elements over a few short hours proved to make a significant impact. Returned surveys were filled positive responses, expressing a desire for more workshops, learning more technological skills, and growing interests in the STEM fields.

The Drexel SWE-Comcast-TechGirlz collaboration will only continue to develop in the next year, as we create more opportunities for more young women to explore new talents.

See pictures and more about this event on Society of Women Engineers Region E Blog: <http://regione.wordpress.com/2013/08/21/drexel-swe-techgirlz-and-comcast-collaboration>

Summer Diversity BBQ



Grilling at the volleyball courts

The Summer Diversity Program at Drexel University is an intensive, two week opportunity for incoming freshmen engineering students that takes place at the end of each summer. This year's program was sponsored by Air Products, Boeing, and Lockheed Martin and led by the Drexel College of Engineering. From August 4th through 17th, approximately 25 women and minority students reviewed key concepts in math, chemistry, and physics with professors they will later see in their Fall Term courses. In addition to meeting with department heads and becoming acclimated to their new Philadelphian environment, the new students met with Drexel SWE for night of volleyball, barbecue, and learning about the engineering student organizations available at Drexel.

All of Drexel's youngest engineers shared their excitement, and nerves, for their years ahead. Quite a few joined Drexel SWE before leaving the volleyball court, and we can't wait until they return next month.

Best of luck to the new freshmen class!

For more information, please see:

<http://www.drexel.edu/engineering/news/archive/2013/DrexelEngineeringtoHostSummerPrograms>

Summer Fun in the Sun



SWE knows how to have fun all summer with an ice cream social on June 28 and BBQ with American Society of Mechanical Engineers July 3. Check our facebook page to join in on the fun!



Membership Spotlight: Neha Thomas and Savannah Lee

Congratulations to our Outreach Chair Neha Thomas (Biomedical Engineering '17) and Treasury Chair Savannah Lee (Biomedical Engineering '17) for winning 1st place at Drexel's IEEE Freshmen Design Competition this past June. The event was held at Drexel's ExCITE Center and featured technical posters from a number of impressive Freshmen Design Projects as an extension of the Drexel first-year engineering curriculum. Neha and Savannah shared their project entitled "Detecting Dehydration through Skin Conductivity," with more than forty other participating groups.

Both Savannah and Neha continued to practice their research skills this summer by working in Dr. Michele Marcolongo's Materials Engineering Lab and participating in the Drexel STAR Scholars Research Program, respectively.

Congratulations girls, you make us so proud!

Summer Wellness: Color Run



Meridith Beviene, Janette Danellaski and friends stay fit and finish at the 5k Color Run. The Color Run is a unique paint race that celebrates healthiness, happiness and individuality. Drexel Society of Women Engineers values members' physical and mental wellness. Wellness Wednesdays are reserved for promoting healthy eating, physical activity, and mental revival. Thanks to Meridith Beviene our ever encouraging Wellness Director!

Preparing for Nationals

With just two months until the National Society of Women Engineers Conference, preparations within Drexel SWE are already in full swing.

WE13, the annual SWE National Conference, will be held this year in Baltimore, Maryland. This year's theme is Make Connections. Make History. For three days, over 6,000 female engineers from around the world, both professionals and collegiates, will come together to celebrate the work of all SWE sections over the past year.

Last year's conference was especially important to Drexel SWE, as it marked our largest attendance as a collegiate section in recent history. Additionally, Drexel SWE was honored with 2nd Place for the National Communications Award and our current President, Claudia Gutierrez, placed as a top ten finalist in the technical poster competition. It was the shared experience of the Drexel attendees and the encouragement expressed by the National Organization that led to Drexel SWE's expanded work in the following months. Our continued thanks to the Drexel College of Engineering and School of Biomedical Engineering and Health Systems for their financial support of this trip to Houston, Texas.

This year's conference, due to its close proximity in Baltimore, Maryland, has the potential to become the most attended SWE conference by Drexel students. Thirty-one Drexel SWE officers and members have signed up to attend; an exciting increase from last year's ten. All attendees will get to experience workshops, panel discussions, and development sessions that help prepare attendees for challenges they may face and to grow professionally as woman engineers. The conference also features a career fair with over 250 exhibitors and employers looking to hire students for co-op and full time positions. Drexel SWE has also applied for several collegiate awards in the categories of communication, outreach, professional development, and outstanding section.

Four of the attendees were recently selected as 2013 National SWE Future Leaders (SWEFLs). Our president will join vice president, Meaghan Paulosky, secretary, Samantha Schneider, and treasurer, Laura Worley, at the 2013 Collegiate Leadership Institute at WE13. The summit will feature activities and discussions centered around "Leadership Smarts: Adding EQ to IQ to Make an Impact" to influence their leadership over the next year.

Officers Emily Buck, Neha Thomas, and Savannah Lee will also be joining them at the conference as potential 2013 Technical Poster Contest Finalists. Emily submitted her research on Thiol-modified chitosan nanofibers and Neha Thomas and Savannah Lee submitted a joint poster on "Detecting Dehydration through Skin Conductivity." Best of luck girls as acceptances are announced in the coming weeks!

As summer comes to a close we have started preparing for the costs and opportunities of National Conference. SWE has started funding initiatives in an attempt to alleviate costs to attendees and have already scheduled professional development workshops for attendees to prepare themselves for the career fair and various networking opportunities. Our preparation will ensure that each attendee can take full advantage of her time in Baltimore with minimal financial burden. With so many potential attendees, awards, and recognitions, we hope to make history for Drexel University at this year's SWE 2013 National Conference.

Thank you!

Drexel University Society of Women Engineers would like to thank Summer Diversity Program sponsors Air Products and Chemicals Inc., The Boeing Company, and Lockheed Martin. Thank you to Comcast, Techgirlz, Drexel College of Engineering and School of Biomedical Engineering, Science, and Health Systems, and the Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee for their support over the last academic term!



Your contributions help us inspire women in engineering!

Contact Drexel University Society of Women Engineers

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Officer Positions

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