

Inside This Issue

50 th Logo	1
Scholarship	2
SWE Professional Development	4
Outreach	8
SWE Announcements	11
Up Coming Events	12
SWE-WI Events	13
SWE News	14
SWE Programs	18



Dear SWE-WI Members,

I am so proud to report that our SWE section has reached the 300-member mark! Thanks for helping us achieve this tremendous membership milestone! In addition, our Wisconsin section is celebrating our 50th anniversary! Because of you, our members, SWE-WI is a strong, vital SWE section!

Sincerely,
Susan Schlett
SWE-WI Membership FY23
262 337-3934

Scholarship

2023 SWE-WI Scholarship

Recipients

SWE-WI is excited to announce the sections scholarship winners who were honored at Spring Forward on April 15th!

Kathryn Krieger - 2023 GE Healthcare Scholarship Recipient

Kathryn Krieger is pursuing Environmental Engineering with a minor in international Spanish at Michigan Technological University. She is currently involved in SWE, Engineers Without Borders, Delta Phi Epsilon sorority, Mind Trekkers, and a biomaterials research lab that improves telemetry whale tags. She currently serves as President of Engineers Without Borders and a Community Outreach Chair for the MTU SWE chapter. She recently traveled to Argentina to study cosmic rays. In her free time, Kathryn enjoys playing with the Michigan Tech Ultimate Frisbee team and teaching kids about STEM. In her future, she would like to improve access to clean water around the world.



Michaela Haensgen - 2023 SWE-WI Scholarship Recipient

Michaela Haensgen is currently studying Biomolecular Engineering (with a chemistry minor) at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. She is currently the Vice President of the MSOE SWE FY23 section and is actively involved in the chapter leading events, supporting other officers, and volunteering. She enjoys the time she spends with her fellow SWEsters, but that is not all she does on campus. Michaela is also on the Women's Tennis Team and is involved in various other academic clubs: Society of Biological Engineering, American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and CREST (Connecting Researchers, Educators, and Students). She also joined the Swim Club, enjoys tutoring chemistry, and will be performing in the spring musical.



Scholarship

2023 SWE-WI Scholarship

Recipients

Edie Keung – 2023 Martha Maxwell Memorial Endowment Scholarship Recipient

Edie Keung is a student at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point (UWSP) who is pursuing a double major in Chemical Engineering and Paper Science Engineering with a minor in Chemistry. She is currently the President of UWSP's Society of Women Engineers Chapter and is the Junior Treasurer of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI) Club. She worked at Little Rapids Corporation for her Co-Op in 2021 and at Anheuser-Busch for her internship in 2022. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, doing her nails, and watching Netflix. She loves road trips and plans to reach the 48 continental U.S. states by the age of 25.



Sara Traxel - 2023 SWE-WI Scholarship Recipient

Sara Traxel is a fourth-year student-athlete studying Chemical Engineering and Paper Science Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. In 2021, Sara worked as a process engineering co-op intern for Kimberly-Clark in tissue manufacturing. In 2022, Sara worked as a research and development intern for Foremost Farms USA in cheese technology. Beyond academics, Sara plays for the UWSP softball team, and she is the Treasurer of the SWE (Society of Women Engineers) chapter on campus at UWSP. In her free time, Sara enjoys playing sports, traveling, and spending time outdoors. Sara hopes to contribute to finding innovative solutions in manufacturing as a future chemical engineer.



SWE Professional Development

WE Local SWE Local Conferences

February 17-18, 2023 the local conference was held in Detroit, Michigan.



SWE Professional Development

WE23 Annual Conference in LA Oct. 26-28, 2023

The World's Largest Conference for Women in Engineering and Technology!

WE23, a three-day flagship event by the Society of Women Engineers, invites attendees to **Live Without Limits** while engaging in networking, gaining career insights, and connecting with industry leaders on innovation. Participants can attend interactive workshops on leadership and engineering subject, cultivating relationships, and empowering women.

There are options for both in person and virtual attendance. Registration and housing options are now open!

<https://we23.swe.org/>



SWE Professional Development

Spring Forward 2023

By: Natalie Gamez

On April 15, 2023 SWE-WI hosted the fourth Spring Forward Professional Development Day at The Pyle Center on UW-Madison campus in Madison, WI. We had a chance to network during breakfast and watch a presentation outlining SWE-WI's 50 year history. Breakfast was followed up with an inspiring morning with our Keynote Jo Miller who shared with us her guidelines for Reimagining Your Leadership Brand. We also had great breakout sessions sharing insights on Strategies for Cross-Training, How to Build a Road, Approaching and Improving Influence, #IamRemarkable Workshop, Entrepreneurial Engineer, Agile and Waterfall Development, Sharing Best Practices Workshop, and Panels with employees at Big and Small Companies and Discussions with Experienced Engineers. We did have a group able to join us for an eye opening tour of Epic Systems the Friday before the event. Epic Systems has a huge campus and is open for self-guided tours if you are interested - just check out their website! During lunch we took the opportunity to present our scholarship recipients, thank our corporate sponsors, recognize WI section and President's Choice awards, and closed out with a Fiscal Year Recap. Our section is very active in networking and outreach events and it was a great chance to hear about all events! After the event we were able to relax a bit and network over a nice dinner at The Nitty Gritty. Spring Forward is a great event to reconnect with other members and learn a few new things from our speakers.

Thank you again for all who were able to join us for this year's event. We hope to see you next year! Please reach out if you are interested in speaking or helping on the planning committee.



SWE Professional Development

Thank you to everyone who attended our 4th annual Spring Forward event!

In addition to the professional development day on Saturday, Friday evening a group went on a guided tour of Epic's headquarters in Verona, WI.



OUTREACH

Would you be interested in working with a Girl Scout Troop and introducing a girl to engineering? The Girl Scouts have introduced new engineering and STEM badges and troops are looking for engineers who would be willing to help them earn these badges. For information on how to be involved, project ideas, and how to find a troop contact swewioutreach@swe.org

If you have been involved in an outreach event and are a SWE member, send information about the event to Heidi Balestrieri at swewioutreach@swe.org so we can report the information in the SWE outreach tool. Information needed for the report: event name, date, all SWE sections that were involved, description of event, breakdown of girls and boys who participated, age of students, number of adult guests, number of SWE member volunteers, number of other volunteers, any partner organizations involved, or any other information to share.

Outreach Volunteer Notice

SWE has implemented a Youth Protection Policy. This year to be a volunteer at a SWE-WI sponsored event you must have completed the Youth Protection course and provide a SWE Certificate to the organizer. Please consider taking the youth protection course early and sending SWE-WI a digital copy of your certificate. This course will need to be taken every three years. To access the course, or for more information please [visit https://swe.org/youthprotection/](https://swe.org/youthprotection/)

Engineering Machine Design Contest (EMDC)

On March 24, eight high school teams competed at the Wisconsin Regional for the Engineering Machine Design Contest (EMDC). EMDC challenges teams to create a multi-step machine that incorporates steps using simple machines, electricity, hydraulics, and chemistry. The machines this year had an “Into Orbit” theme and ask students to present their machine and have a final outcome to accomplish. The machines are reminiscent of machines Rube Goldberg created in his comic strip. SWE-WI sponsors an award for the team that best communicates the Impact the EMDC has had in their life. The written response in the team report and interviews with team members are considered. Waunauke High School’s Dark Voyagers team won the award this year. Students learned project management, new coding skills, and how to problem solve as they designed, tested and built their Machine. Congratulations to the Dark Voyagers!



OUTREACH

Discovery World's Girls and STEM

Over 500 young girls stopped by the SWE-WI booth to make Squishy Circuits at Discovery World's Girls and STEM event on Sunday, May 5. Girls and boys enjoyed using Play-Doh to create a circuit that lit up an LED light. In the process they learned about the differences between series and parallel circuits and LED lights. Marquette's SWE section had a booth at Discovery World too. The event was a big success thanks to the SWE-WI volunteers: Michelle Ballard, Erin McBride, Gina Janke, and Heidi Balestrieri.



OUTREACH

Future City Competition- SWE-WI Special Award “Best Use of Recycled Materials”

The middle school students inside the MSOE Kern Center on January 21 were excited to show their Future City Models to SWE-WI judges. It was great to be back in person to judge 49 teams after two years of competitions being held via Zoom. The models were amazing, Gretchen Borden and Heidi Balestrieri saw students use a variety of materials and unique materials to create highly detailed futuristic cities. The special award “Best Use of Recycled Materials” is sponsored by SWE-WI, the winner of the award receives a plaque and a cash prize for the school. Highlights: using cookie containers as living units, cutting the cover of a mint tin to create a greenhouse, using computer parts for fans, old curling irons for skyscrapers, mixing sawdust and glue for sand, and spray painted ornaments for decorative elements. Creativity and scientific planning were on display. The city that won the SWE award was Bergen (Waukesha STEM). Pictures are of Voz Grad, Bergen, and Cafinev.



SWE Announcements

FY24 Election Results

Thank you to all 31 SWE-WI members who voted in officer elections for fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)!

The FY24 SWE-WI officers are as follows:

President - Kyela Specht

VP1 Professional Development - Raquel Reif

VP2 Collegiates - Maureen Duthie

VP3 Outreach - Heidi Balestrieri

Secretary 1 (Recording) - Michele (Gagas) Dodez

Secretary 2 (Society Liaison) - Gina Janke

Treasurer - Katie Ebel

Congratulations to all participants in this important SWE process!

SWE-WI Nominating Committee

Susan Schlett and Allison Neuser

Open Positions for FY24!

Newsletter Editor

Social Media Coordinator

If you are interested in the position or have any questions, please contact Kyela at kyelaspecht@gmail.com.

Thanks for your interest and support of the section!

Public Policy Training

SWE provides public policy training through the link below and gives a template to members to send to your congressional representative.

<https://swe.org/public-policy/>

Upcoming Events

Check the SWE-WI website or Facebook page for upcoming events. Also watch for the weekly e-blast to stay informed on the current happenings in the SWE-WI section!

SWE-WI Website:

<https://wisconsin.swe.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/swewisconsin/>

Contact: Allison McDougal, swewisconsin@gmail.com, if you are not receiving the weekly e-blast e-mails.

Event Planning

Would you like to plan an event this year for SWE? We are looking for anyone who would like to plan an event in your area to get a list of those we could ask for an event during the year. This could be any event; a happy hour meet, trivia night, pottery or canvas painting, yoga session, group run, concert, attending a local event, webinar watching, escape room, etc. If you are interested, please contact Michele at michelegagas@yahoo.com.

SWE-WI Events

SWE-WI Ornament Exchange!

Here are some of the ornaments from the handmade ornament exchange, Merry Christmas everyone! I hope you join in this years fun!



SWE-WI Brookfield Meet!

Earlier in May SWE-WI members got together in Brookfield to meet, eat tacos and shop to support STEMForward Scholarships at Kendra Scott. We had a great time and are looking forward to the next get together!

Come join us next time! 😊



SWE NEWS

Congratulations to our Members!

SWE WE Local FY23 Local New ELiTE Award Andrea Falasco



Andie Falasco pictured with FY23 SWE President Dayna Johnson after receiving her award

WE Local ELiTE (Emerging Leader in Technology & Engineering) Award

The WE Local ELiTE Award honors SWE members with ten (10) to fifteen (15) years of experiences in an engineering, engineering technology, or science related to engineering profession, have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills resulting in significant professional accomplishments, and proactively served SWE, SWE's partners and the community. A maximum of fifteen (15) awards may be presented annually. *Only SWE Members are eligible for this award.*

SWE NEWS

Congratulations to our Members!

2023 Women MAKE Award Heidi Balestrieri



The Manufacturing Institute, a workforce development and education partner of the National Association of Manufacturers, has announced that Sentry Equipment's Director of Engineering, Heidi Balestrieri, has been recognized as a 2023 Women MAKE Awards Honoree. The Women MAKE Awards are part of the Manufacturing Institute's Women MAKE America initiative, the nation's marquee program to close the gender gap in manufacturing. Women account for about half of the U.S. labor force but represent less than one-third of the manufacturing workforce. Women MAKE America aims to create a 21st-century manufacturing workforce by empowering and inspiring women in the industry. Congratulations on this recognition, Heidi!

Below is the link to the 2023 Women MAKE Award Winners:

https://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org/women/wma/wma-awards/2023-women-make-award-winners/?utm_content=239896971&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&hss_channel=fbp-57800341416

In addition to the award Heidi was interviewed by David Leichner for Authority Magazine:

Women Reshaping Manufacturing: Heidi Balestrieri Of Sentry Equipment On The Five Things You Need To Create A Highly Successful Career In Manufacturing

The link to the full article is below

<https://medium.com/authority-magazine/women-reshaping-manufacturing-heidi-balestrieri-of-sentry-equipment-on-the-five-things-you-need-to-6a1e6b496c4>

SWE NEWS

Which student group made a difference in your life and why?

By SUSAN THOMAS SCHLETT '84

My journey, my four years at Trinity College, was not an easy one. I tell people I majored in engineering and minored in academic probation (because I was on it, more than I was off of it!). Nonetheless, I was the only woman in my class to earn an engineering degree. I may have been the 13th woman to graduate from Trinity with an engineering degree, but I never considered it an unlucky number.

I grew up in the small town of Coventry, CT which is about 20 miles east of the college, where I graduated high school second in my class. I had a keen interest in math and science and my middle school principal, Edward Mahoney, encouraged me to check out Trinity during my college search (he had a daughter already attending, Mary Ellen “Minnie” Mahoney, and another daughter, Anne Mahoney, who was the same year as myself, who I ended up rooming with). After touring this prestigious liberal arts college and its relatively small engineering department, the atmosphere really appealed to me and I matriculated with the class of 1984.

Unbeknownst to me, one of the Trinity engineering professors, August “Gus” Sapega, had a strong desire to attract more women to the engineering program. He went so far as to network with the local Hartford section of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE – a non-profit educational organization founded in 1950), for their support and guidance. Gus and the other all male engineering faculty at that time became members of SWE (very impressive since SWE had just allowed males to join the organization in the 70’s!). The women in the Hartford section were very supportive of me while I was at Trinity. They would phone me periodically to see how my studies were going and encouraged me to maintain perseverance! The Hartford SWE women encouraged Gus and his allies to apply for what is called a SWE charter so that we could have an official SWE collegiate section at Trinity College. In order to help make this happen, as a sophomore, I traveled with an upperclassman Kim Paternostro, and one of the Hartford SWE professionals, Joan Dannenhoffer. The three of us drove from the campus in Hartford, CT all the way to our very first SWE conference in Detroit, hoping to network with other SWE members and present our request for a SWE charter. We were not granted the SWE charter immediately because the school was not ABET accredited in engineering at that time, but we were eventually granted a conditional SWE charter because Trinity had an affiliation with RPI and a five year Masters program. Trinity College was given a SWE charter in 1983 by then-SWE president Evelyn Murray, and I became the first Trinity collegiate SWE section president.

While in college I was rather shy and for the most part I studied alone. I would go to career guidance for help, and their directive to me was typically, “change your major!” But I didn’t want to change my major! I just needed help. Thankfully, people such as Dean David Winer helped arrange a tutor for me and I was able to graduate in 1984 with an engineering degree.

Just prior to graduation, I applied for engineering jobs. I attempted to get an interview with local company Pratt & Whitney and was denied. This did not sit well with my father who worked there his entire career and was still there at this time. But it was P&W’s policy at that time, not to interview students graduating from non-ABET engineering programs like Trinity in 1984.

SWE NEWS

Which student group made a difference in your life and why? (Continued)

During those job searching months I led a group of my classmates, now SWE members, on a trip to tour Sikorsky Aircraft (which was a United Technologies Corporation member at the time) and gave Sikorsky personnel my resume. Because of that SWE trip to Sikorsky, I received an interview and subsequently landed a job that I loved and remained in for 15 years. Sikorsky was able to overlook my subpar grades and our colleges' non-ABET engineering status amidst my valuable perspective and perseverance. I proceeded to lead teams of UTC members to recruit at SWE conferences every single one of those 15 years.

Following my college graduation, the Trinity College engineering department formed TEAC (Trinity Engineering Advisory Committee) and I was extremely flattered to be invited to serve on the inaugural committee. At one of the first TEAC meetings we were asked what could be done to strengthen the engineering department and the first thing out of my mouth was, "you need to become ABET accredited!" I am so proud to report that they immediately set out to start the accreditation process and have been ABET accredited in engineering ever since.

Happy 200th Anniversary Trinity College! Happy 40th Anniversary to the Trinity College SWE Section!

-Susan Thomas Schlett '84

SWE Programs

SWENext Membership – General Information



SWENext is a way to become part of the Society of Women Engineers as a student through the age of 18. Become part of SWE and #BeThatEngineer! Joining is free. Any student 13 or older can become a SWENext. For those younger than 13, a parent will need to be the primary contact.

Add the following to SWENext information:
Register for SWENext and use event code:
Wisconsin.

General SWENext Websites

- ◇ Visit our main SWENext website:
<http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/swenext>
- ◇ Read our comic book series all about engineering Constance and Nano:
<https://constanceandnano.swe.org/>
- ◇ Connect with SWE members and other SWENexters through our SWENext Clubs:
<http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/swenext-clubs>
- ◇ Watch our SWENext Reporter's videos:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYvUdOKoCBdchedo5w_20uh9wuXH_RRQNo7
- ◇ Find out more about our awards programs for high school students:
<http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/k-12-outreach/swenext-awards> General SWENext DesignLab Social Media

- ◇ [Twitter@SWENext](#)
- ◇ [Facebook](#) (exclusively for high school SWENexters)
- ◇ #SWENext
- ◇ #BeThatEngineer

Thanks for helping us get the word out!
Please send all SWENext queries to outreach@swe.org.

Newsletter Information

Advertisement Information

Website and email

postings may be covered by a set fee instead of the Corporate Supporter option. An individual posting to the website and an email message to all SWE-WI members is \$50. The website posting will remain in place for a 30-day period.

Postings to the website are generally completed in 3 to 7 business days after the request has been confirmed. An email notice to SWE-WI members and subscribers will follow a website posting with the same information. Requests for a large number of postings at one time may take longer to prepare and post.

The preferred format for postings is Microsoft Word (version 2003 or higher); other text formats will be considered on an individual basis. Postings will remain on the SWE-WI website for a 30-day period. If the posting is for a job and it has not been filled in that 30-day period, a Corporate Supporter can request a 30-day extension via email. Please put "SWE-WI Newsletter Entry" in the subject line.

Newsletter Entry

Send us your stories! We want to see what our professional and collegiate members are doing in the community! We are looking for events that SWE has hosted, job posting, member milestones, interesting articles or books that you would like to share with others, truly a multitude of topics. If you have something you want to see in the newsletter and share with everyone please fill out the survey at this link: <https://forms.gle/CztgytTXYQB2hK6JA>