

Society of Women Engineers

SWE Spoke

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Stay in the Loop with the SWE Website

Jamie Tabaka
Webmaster

With the tremendous number of SWE events and meetings happening each month, it can be hard to keep up with what is going. This is all the more reason for you to check out the SWE website! The website features a handy calendar listing all of our events, along with descriptions, times and locations. In addition, the website contains plenty more useful information, such as contact information and bios for all of our officers, information on and staffing hours for our office, descriptions of all our programs, and sign-up forms for Big-sib/Little-sib and SWE links. If you know of someone who might be interested in one of our programs (like the Girl Scouts Badge Day or Day on Campus), direct them to our website for more information! There is also a photo gallery where we post pictures of various events. Check it out at: <http://www.engr.wisc.edu/studentorgs/we/>. If you have any suggestions or digital pictures from an event for posting, please email me at jrtabaka@wisc.edu.

Are You Distinguished?

The Distinguished Membership Policy has changed once again. We truly appreciate everyone's dedication to this organization, but to be a distinguished member should mean that you've accomplished more than the average member. The new policy is displayed below. We hope you are up to the challenge!

2 General Meetings
(Section Meetings and Kickoffs)
2 Committee Meetings
(Brainstorming and Planning Sessions)

Boeing Tech
Community Service
Fundraising
Girl Scouts
Mentoring
School Outreach
Tech Events
Marketing

4 General SWE events
8 points total

Please see Page 5 for what it means to be a ...

Distinguished Member!

Career Day

Joanna Osborn
Outreach Executive

Career Day is an invaluable opportunity to learn about potential career opportunities by shadowing an engineer for a day. In the past, industrial, mechanical, chemical, safety, electrical, structural and civil engineers have volunteered from Kohler, Abbott Laboratories, Georgia Pacific, Hamilton-Sundstrand, and Oshkosh Truck. One day during winter break, a participant will travel to one of these companies, meet up with a volunteer engineer, and shadow her/him for a day. This is your big chance to check out what engineering after college is all about! It is also a great way to build your network for when you need an internship, co-op, or full-time job. To participate, please send your name, year, major, and hometown to Joanna at josborn@wisc.edu by Thursday, October 19. If you have a company in mind, even if it wasn't visited last year, please send that as well. Thanks!



Take a Break from Studying!

Loren Pietsch
Special Events

First, I would like to thank everyone who helped out with homecoming this year. Your efforts were greatly appreciated! For those of you who missed out on the homecoming excitement, there are other ways to get involved with the Special Events committee. We would like to invite everyone to a Halloween social this semester. Join SWE and IIE for a night of fun, costumes, prizes, and more! Last year's Halloween event was a blast and we hope to make this year's even better. So get your costume ready, grab some friends, and help make Halloween the best weekend ever!

Also, SWE is working with other engineering organizations to plan an ECB lock-in. It's a new event that we are trying to start this semester. The lock-in would be an all-night event with food, games, and fun!

SWE is working hard to try and give you all a break from the long hours of studying. These socials are a great way to meet new people and learn about each other outside of class. All ages are welcome to all of our events. Watch for emails and TWIS for updates on these events. Also, check the calendar for dates, times, and locations. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Loren at lcpietsch@wisc.edu.

We hope to see lots of new faces and bring your friends!

KOHLER.



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A Little SWE Appreciation

Jamie Tabaka
Webmaster

Being part of one of the largest and most active student orgs on campus, it can be easy to forget how little ago women were rarely seen on engineering campuses. Slide Rules and Petticoats, a traveling exhibit on display at Wendt Library, illustrates the history of women in engineering and the role SWE played in societal views of this once taboo subject.

The exhibit begins by describing the era before WWII when most engineering school's doors were not open to women. During WWII women were enlisted in jobs typically only performed by men, who were now away at war. When the war ended and female engineers were told to go back to the kitchen some resisted. In New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Washington D.C., small groups of women began meeting in coffee houses and such to converse about engineering. These gatherings were the beginning of the organization officially founded in 1952 as SWE.

In the 1950's and 60's women holding engineering positions were rare but not unheard of. In fact, they were often featured in human interest stories in the news as strange oddities to gawk at. The news clippings on display of women dolled up in evening wear while modeling their engineering careers are humorous at first, but indicative of an era when women in male-dominated fields were only displayed to the public along with demonstrations of their femininity so as not to stray too far from the normal gender stereotypes. In fact, this was an era when men and women were given separate vocational interest questionnaires in high school, where "housewife" and "engineer" each only appeared on one form. SWE opposed these stereotypes, and it was in fact a SWE member who first convinced a publisher to include engineering on the women's vocational interest form.

In the 70's, SWE officially endorsed the Equal Rights Amendment and contributed to the rise of women in the ranks of engineering. Thanks to trailblazers such as the SWE women of these eras, women worked their way into new and higher positions in engineering, and the 80's saw such firsts as the first female dean of an engineering college, along with the first female astronaut.

So, in your spare time between classes or after a study session at Wendt, head over to the first floor and take five minutes to learn a little about the history of SWE. The exhibit will be on display on the first floor of Wendt Library from now through December. Additionally, a lecture on the history of women in engineering education will be given by Dr. Amy Sue Bix of Iowa State University on October 26th, at 5:00pm in 1025 Engineering Centers Building.





Outreach Revamping

Joanna Osborn
Outreach Executive

Thanks to Deborah Yagow, Talia Esser, Rachel Dressler, and Loren Pietsch, one of our biggest events aimed specifically for middle school kids, the 7th and 8th grade essay contest, has been revamped. Changes to the contest include new essay questions, the opening up of the contest up to both boys and girls, new prizes, and an aggressive plan to visit schools and introduce the contest in person to Madison 7th and 8th graders.

The contest is very important, because it targets boys and especially girls at an age when they can forget about how much they love math and science and give way to more traditional female interests. Please e-mail Joanna at josborn@wisc.edu if you are interested in helping to make flyers for the essay contests or visit schools to introduce the contest.

Thanks!

Petticoats and Slide Rules

Meg Holler
Evening with Industry

Petticoats an ancient article of clothing that thankfully has been replaced by my favorite sweatshirt and jeans; and the slide rules are no longer needed due to my wonderful TI-83 calculator. However, these just happened to be one the reasons I was at the library at 10:00 am on a Wisconsin Badger home football game. I was there to help unpack five shipping cases containing twenty-one panels for the "Petticoats and Slide Rules: A History of Women Engineers" exhibition sponsored by SWE. As I slowly started to help unpack the shipping cases, a person could not help but notice the green panels filled with pictures of women engineers.

This collage of biographies of famous SWE members, newspaper clippings, articles, pictures, speeches, and statistics on women in engineering dated all the way back to 1918 up until 1993. All of these women had to many trials and tribulations. It was a huge deal going to college and being in the engineering programs. Newspapers articles focused on the fact women were breaking out on the engineering field with some of the article titles as "Brainy Beauty Puts Glamour in Space Program," "Engineers Build Pretty New Image," or "There's Beauty in Engineering." It is amazing what these first women engineers of their time did.

This was amazing because in the history of the U.S. engineering education was gender-based. It was a rarity for women to be in engineering programs since it was heavily a male-only preserve. On October 26, 2006 at 5:00 pm, 1025 Engineering Centers Building, Dr. Amy Sue Bix of Iowa State University will be lecturing on "Women in Engineering- What's Changed and What Hasn't: A Historical Review of U.S Engineering Education for Women", which explores experiences of female engineers of history and today. If you can't make that or if you ever happen to be at Wendt Library studying furiously for your next quiz, test, or just plain need a quick homework. Stop by the second floor and check out the exhibition to see some amazing female engineers' experiences.

Officer Info

Please feel free to contact any officer with questions about their committee or how to get involved! E-mail addresses can be found on the SWE website:

swe.engr.wisc.edu

Executive Officers

President: Talia Esser

Vice President: Emily Tygum

Secretary: Emily Rudolph

Treasurer: Rachel Dressler

Outreach Executive: Joanna Osborn

Graduate Affairs: Emily Blem

Committee Chairs

Boeing Team Tech Leader: Victoria Vasys

Community Service: Marya Orf

Corporate Relations: Molly Johnson

Engineering Tomorrow's Careers Co-Chair: Lara Clark

Engineering Tomorrow's Careers Co-Chair: Sally Green

Evening With Industry Co-Chair: Megan Hloller

Evening With Industry Co-Chair: Sara Worzella

Fundraising: Laurel Moses

Girl Scouts Co-Chair: Julie Feld

Girl Scouts Co-Chair: Kristen Seashore

Marketing: Heidi Mielke

Mentoring Co-Chair: Carolyn Sredl

Mentoring Co-Chair: Lauren Wenzel

School Outreach: Megan Briston

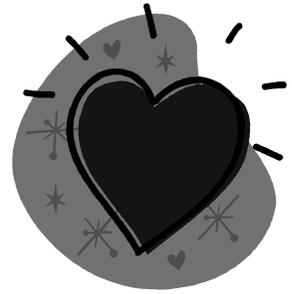
Section Vitality: Elissa Risberg

Special Events: Loren Pietsch

Technical Events: Jen Kovars

Webmaster: Jamie Tabaka

I LOVE
SWE!



To Be Distinguished...

Eligibility Requirements: Distinguished Membership is SWE's program to reward its members for attending meetings and being involved in SWE each semester. Distinguished Membership, of course, is only open to paid members. To join, see membership information on the Welcome page.

The Point System: Points are awarded one per activity, including committee meetings, chapter meetings and other activities during the year. We only know that you have participated if you sign in on the sheets we provide at each activity, so be sure to sign in. A total of eight points, two of which must be from planning committee meetings and two of which must be from attending general meetings, will earn your Distinguished Membership.

The Rewards of Distinguished Membership: A Distinguished Membership Banquet is held once a semester, at which SWE will honor the Distinguished Members with a certificate and of course a lovely meal! Becoming a distinguished member of SWE not only rewards you with a certificate and a meal, but gives you something valuable to put on your resume. Good luck!

SWE

Join the SWE Facebook group

- Receive reminders of upcoming events
- Network with other SWE members
- Put a face to all those names you have learned!

