Since this time last year, our UW-Madison SWE membership has almost doubled! Thanks to all the hard work and commitment of our members, this year has been a great success. Some of our biggest turnout events were for our section meetings, Big Sib Little Sib mentoring nights, Engineer’s Week, Girl Scout Badge Days, Boeing Team Tech meetings, and our annual Evening with Industry event. This semester or membership comprises of about 35% freshman, 24% sophomores, 10% juniors, 21% 4th year seniors, 9% 5th year seniors, and 1% graduate students. Additionally, around 26% are Industrial Engineers, 23% are Chemical and Biological Engineers, 14% are Civil and Environmental Engineers, 9% are Mechanical Engineers, and 14% are either Nuclear, Material Science, Geological, Engineering Mechanics and Astronautics, Electrical, or undecided/other. This great amount of diversity in our section helps to give variety to the events we plan... always having something new and exciting to offer each week!

- Jenny Gerschke

Membership is on the Rise

Here at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, we are finishing the second semester of the school year. The past semester has been great for our organization as we have been busy with may outreach and professional development events. This year we expanded our variety of opportunities for involvement while continuing our successful programs that are already in place. Our membership has increased, which has helped us to expand our impact and work towards our mission to establish engineering as a highly desirable career aspiration for women. We would like to thank all of our corporate sponsors because your support makes it possible for us to reach out to youth in order to promote engineering and to prepare our members to be successful in their future careers.

This newsletter highlights many of the successes for our organization over the past year, including a great opportunity for our members and our corporate sponsors to get involved in the upcoming school year. Our section will be planning and hosting the 2012 SWE Region H Conference right here in Madison, Wisconsin.

As we look forward to another exciting year for our organization, we hope that you will consider being a part of the opportunities on our horizon!

- Kim Miller
SWE President 2010-2011

Boeing Team Tech is a design competition devoted to giving SWE members an opportunity to combine technical skills, team work, and hands-on experience in a real life situation. This is the second competition that Boeing Team Tech has entered with a design for Mortenson Construction and the fourth year in the competition. In November 2010, Boeing placed 2nd at the SWE National Competition in Florida with their design of a temporary heating system for use at construction sites during cold winter months. Boeing’s current project is to design an innovative, reusable tower crane foundation that can be used on a variety of sites with any tower crane size. The competition will be in November 2011 in Illinois and so the team will be working throughout the summer to test and design their ideas.

-Danielle Shepard
School Outreach

This has been a busy spring for SWE’s outreach efforts with many fun events and opportunities to mentor students in our community. For the past few months, SWE has been very active helping out with a local Science Olympiad team at the EAGLE School in Fitchburg. SWE volunteers have been going every week to help the middle school students with their events as they prepare for competition. Science Olympiad has been a great way for many new SWEsters to get involved with volunteering; it has been so fun to see so many members getting involved and our volunteer efforts are very much appreciated. Also, this spring we had the opportunity to volunteer at two Family Science Nights in Middleton and Cross Plains. Both events involved hundreds of kids and their families and brought together many organizations from UW-Madison reaching out together to help the community.

One of the biggest events was the College of Engineering Blood Drive, which was organized by SWE and assisted by the American Red Cross. We had a great turnout of 22 volunteers and 54 units of blood were collected, beating our goal by over ten units!

We have volunteered with the Aldo Leopold Nature Center with discovery events both at the new Institute of Discovery and also at their site with the Maple Syrup Festival, which occurred at the end of March. While at these events volunteers help set up activities and teach children and families about nature. Our latest event was Relay for Life on April 9-10 at the Shell Recreational facility. This was a great night of fun and helping a great cause!

There are still a lot of ways for our members to get involved this semester and the future. We also are working on teaming up with HOSA and volunteering at a Special Olympics Event in April as well as a Wisconsin Public Television fundraising Phone drive at the beginning of May.

We see many SWEsters at our community service events and thank all of the involvement, we are able to make a positive impact in the community!

– Abigail Heimel

Community Outreach

Community Service

This semester has been full of fun community service opportunities and a great turnout of SWE members.

We got involved with the University of Wisconsin chapter of Habitat for Humanity and, on a very windy muddy day, we helped build a house outside of Madison by putting up siding and attic ventilation covering.

Girl Scouts

The Girl Scout Committee planned several events this semester. These included Badge Days for Junior (grades 4-6), Brownie (grades 1-3) and Cadette/Senior (grades 7-10) level Girl Scouts. The girls had the opportunity to learn more about science, math, and engineering through a variety of interactive, hands-on activities.

Recently on March 26th, SWE held its Cadette Interest Project Day for the semester. There were 20 girls who attended and they earned the Math, Maps, and More badge. With the help of volunteers from BMES and SWE, the girls were able to do various fun activities. Some of these activities included budgeting a dream vacation, calculating their lung capacity with spirometers, and listening to a talk on biomedical devices from Professor Tompkins in the Biomedical Engineering Department. Overall the day was successful and the girls and parents had a great engineering experience. SWE also planned Junior and Brownie badge days on February 19th and March 5th. At the Junior day, the Girl Scouts did fun activities such as growing crystals, building popsicle stick houses in teams, and identifying animals using a dichotomous key. At the Brownie day, the girls made miniature habitats for different animal species, learned about the food pyramid, and learned about static electricity with balloons. These events were possible thanks to the help of SWE, ASME, BMES, and UW-Hybrid. Both the girls and volunteers had a lot of fun!

– Kristin Westphal and Sarah Switalski
Mentoring

Each semester SWE runs a Big Sib/Little Sib program which matches freshman and sophomore engineering students with upperclassmen. It is a great way for the big sibs to help out little sibs by giving them advice on classes, internships, and life at Madison. This spring we have fifteen groups of four to six girls in the program participating in weekly study nights, a movie night, and simply hanging out together on their own time!

Also, Day on Campus was held April 8th. During this event high school females admitted into the College of Engineering at UW-Madison are able to tour campus, participate in fun engineering games and activities, sit in an engineering class, attend a team-building event, and even stay overnight with a SWE member. In addition to experiencing college life firsthand, this event is often an important factor in many girls’ final college decision. Day on Campus was very successful and we’re looking forward to a fun end to the semester with BSLS.

-Amy Claas and Kara Novotny

Grad Affairs

Graduate Affairs provides undergraduates with information about graduate school and a forum for graduate students to meet and discuss current issues. Both groups are welcome to attend monthly Coffee Chats and participate in other activities. Graduate Affairs frequently partners with Graduate Women in Science (GWIS). Additional opportunities have been available for graduate students to attend seminars together to better their professional side. For prospective graduate students, this position provides a great opportunity to learn more about applications and graduate life.

-Michaela Klump

Special Events

Special Events is a big part of SWE, not only are we recruiting new members, we are representing our student organization on the Engineering campus during Engineers-Week, as well as throughout the school during Homecoming and All Campus Party Week. Major highlights for the spring semester include taking 3rd place in this year’s E-week with very active turnout from SWE members. We have also had a Valentine’s Day Brunch and Movie, Comedy Club night, and the Annual Brewer trip coming up at the end of April. This year’s Brewer game was a joint event with ASME, IEEE and AiCHE. These events are focused on bringing new general members into the organization by helping them meet others in a relaxed fun atmosphere!

-Katie Kopczynski

Freshman Committee

Freshman Committee is a new committee this year and is focused on helping freshman members become more active members of SWE and give them a chance to plan events. This committee is really focused on giving freshman leadership roles in planning events. We have planned a Dinner and Movie, and recently went to the Overture to see Legally Blonde. Members from the committee have assisted other officers in planning their events. We hope to plan a few more events in the upcoming year. The events planned by the freshman committee is open to everyone!

-Avery Wine
We are proud to announce that UW-Madison SWE will be hosting the 2012 Region H Conference! The Region H conference supports diversity in engineering, provides networking opportunities, as well as personal, professional, and SWE development. The theme for the upcoming conference is “Set Sail with SWE”; programming will help attendees utilize SWE and its resources to achieve personal and professional success. It will take place on February 17th – 19th, 2012 and attendance is expected to be around 700 SWE leaders from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Each year, the Region H Conference is made possible by generous contributions from corporate sponsors. Sponsors will have access to talented women engineers from 45 universities and 13 professional sections from all over the Midwest, the opportunity to provide keynote and sessions speakers, and a booth at the career fair. Sponsorship encourages attendance and participation at the conference, improving the event for sponsors and attendees.

If you are interested in getting involved in the Region H conference, please contact Becky Kriger (rkriger@wisc.edu) or Kim Pagel (kpagel@wisc.edu) for more information. We hope to see you there!

-Becky Kriger & Kim Pagel

On January 31, 2011 the UW-Madison Society of Women Engineers hosted its annual Evening with Industry (EWI). With 14 companies and over 50 students attending, the event was a huge success. EWI is a networking opportunity available for all students in the College of Engineering to interact with companies over a career fair and dinner. After dinner, an awards ceremony took place in which $6000 in company scholarships and $3750 in other scholarships were awarded to deserving SWE members who had displayed balance in SWE involvement, academics, and other extra-curricular activities. The night ended with a raffle drawing using prizes graciously donated by companies who both could and could not make it to the EWI event. Now SWE is gearing up for next year’s Evening with Industry which will take place before the College of Engineering Spring Career Fair. If you have any questions about EWI, please e-mail swe_ewi@cae.wisc.edu to contact the EWI co-chairs.

-Alyssa Fenske and Bethany Frieders

This semester we have had many fundraising events. SWE’s tradition of selling roses to the students (and faculty) in Engineering Hall was continued this year. The event was a hit and allowed us to have a fun day and make some money for our section. Every year in the spring semester, we give the opportunity to the parents of our SWE members to buy a “finals goodie bag”. These are filled with the necessities for any college student during the most stressful week of the semester. These will be passed out at our last section meeting of the semester and will bring a little comfort from home to our members.

-Kim Pagel
Thank you to our Sponsors

We are very fortunate to have such close relationships with many businesses and companies, who choose to donate knowledge, time, and funds to our organization. These donations to our organization are a huge reason why we are as active and involved on campus and in the community as we are. With approximately 90% of our yearly budget coming from corporate donations we are very pleased that we have not seen a correlation between the downturn in the economy and our corporate funding. We are extremely grateful for our corporate Friends of SWE, and we want to say thank you for being so gracious to our organization.

-Kristen Cottam

SWE is Looking for Sponsorship

We host numerous activities every year, but they are only possible with the generous donations from our company sponsors. Here are some of the many activities that we need support for:

-Engineering Tomorrow’s Careers Camp
-Regional Conference
-Big Sib, Little Sib Mentoring Program
-Mentoring Program
-Girl Scouts Badge Days
-Day on Campus

If you or your company is interested in sponsoring SWE for FY 12, contact Kylie Diges or check out the Corporate Sponsorship section of our webpage: [http://www.engr.wisc.edu/studentorgs/swe/industry/sponsorship.php](http://www.engr.wisc.edu/studentorgs/swe/industry/sponsorship.php)
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