

Momentum

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A Year to Remember:
SWE Officers and members pose for our
yearbook picture.



A New President for a New Year

Allison Weber

This past year was so amazing! I cannot wait to start the next year with all of the excited and dedicated members that are in SWE. Last year SWE TAMU had 218 members. This is an all time high for our section! Without all of our wonderful members we could not be as successful as we are! Next year we hope to see new and old faces at our events!

This next year is going to be very busy! We are going to still have our bi-monthly meetings, holiday socials, mentorship programs, and outreach activities throughout the year. This summer we have our week long summer camp for middle school girls to look forward to from June

14-20th. The summer camp hopes to show young girls what engineering is and how exciting it can be to attend Texas A&M.

The most recent officer team has established a few new programs that I plan to continue. We started Big Sis Little Sis (BSLS) where students can keep in touch with their upper-class mentor and attend a social once a semester. We also hosted our first tailgate this past fall. It was a ton of fun and we are eager to have a second one during the next football season! The last new program is an outreach activity with the Girl Scouts. We had a blast showing them what engineers do and how much fun it can be!

One of the most exciting events to look forward to is our national conference in

Long Beach, California! I hope to bring 16 or more of SWE TAMU's most dedicated members to the conference where they will spend three days attending seminars, a career fair, and have great networking opportunities!

Next year with SWE is going to be busy, exciting, and rewarding! I would also like to thank all of our sponsors for your participation this past year. We hope you will continue to support us and be involved with SWE!

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Big Sis Lil Sis

Alexandra Jacob, Secretary 2008-09

SWE has recently started a new mentoring program for its members. This program is oriented specifically toward the lower-level students to ensure that they have a good experience in engineering and to offer help to them from their peers. Each lower-level student in the program is paired up with one upper-level student in the same major. This allows the younger students to ask questions about the major, ask for help, and have a better understanding of what the options are after graduation. With only two semesters of existence, the Big Sis Lil Sis Program has created more than 45 such pairs!!! With such success, SWE will continue the program and increase the size to include even more members. Not only is this a great opportunity for the lower-level members, but it is also rewarding for the upper-level members too. They're able to help out their future classmates and encourage younger girls to pursue engineering and to not give up early on. We cannot wait to start up the program again next semester and reach out to even more students!

On April 1, 2009 all SWE members had the opportunity to vote for the executive officers. The competition was fierce due to the high caliber of all the candidates. After presentations and a short Q&A session, the results were in. Congratulations to the 2009-2010 Executive Officers!

Allison Weber - President

Susmitha Gouni - External Vice President

Alexandra Jacob - Internal Vice President

Nahomi Merida-Morales - Chief Financial Officer

April Moore - Executive Secretary

It's Time To SWEat!

Samantha Edgington, Intramurals Co-Chair

The SWE intramural teams were outstanding this semester! For the spring of 2009, SWE participated in 4X4 women's flag football and co-ed inner tube water polo. For flag football, even though a lot of us had never played before, we successfully BTHO out of the competition. We also participated in inner tube water polo, a new sport we experimented with, and the game turned out to be quite a challenge! We even had boys help us out, which made the competition a little stiffer. Both of these sports were great for exercise and relief from studying!

In addition to our intramural ventures we also organized a free of charge 5K Fun Run. The turnout was a great success with about 40 participants. We even managed to give the first 30 people a free queso and a candy bag with the help of company donations! All in all, Intramurals turned out to be a great success this spring and will continue to encourage SWE unity for years to come.

Summer Plans with SWE

Pamela Gutierrez, Summer Camp Co-Chair

Summer Camp is going to be an amazing opportunity for forty-four eighth and ninth grade girls to learn more about engineering and what it takes to become an engineer. They will have an awesome opportunity to learn about the different fields of engineering through informational sessions. We will also have tons of fun events planned throughout the week like a NASA field trip, tours on-campus, a bridge project, and movie nights.

Summer Camp 2009 will be held during the third week of June, from the 14th through the 20th. So we, the Summer Camp Co-chairs, ask all SWE member to set aside this week and consider applying to be a counselor. This is a great way to impact the lives of many young girls and have something to include on your resume. We are very excited to see the final results of SWE's hard work.

We would also like to thank Williams for their generosity and helping to fund this Summer Camp.



Safety First!
SWE members show off their traffic stopping skills at the 5K Run

A Voice On Campus

Shivani Ghai, SEC Representative

The Student Engineers Council, being the governing body for most engineering organizations on campus, religiously involves itself with organizations like our very own Society of Women Engineers.

Being one of the largest and most active engineering organizations on campus, we at SWE make it a point to have ourselves heard by attending and contributing to the SEC events. One of the significant events was E-Week where SWE set up booths and helped sell t-shirts, but most importantly organized the SWE Fun-Run, which was a great success due to the amazing turn out! Apart from events such as E-Week and Career Fair, SWE also interacts with the SEC on a social level by attending weekly events like Taco Tuesdays at Rosa's, and participating in the March Madness Basketball tournament.

All in all, SWE and the SEC share a symbiotic relationship where SWE helps the SEC to encourage coming generations to pursue Engineering through programs such as the High School Conference, and the SEC returns the favor by providing funds.

Engineers CAN Party!

Martha Gonzalez & Mercedes Cardenas,
Socials Co-Chairs

Socials started off with a bang this semester with new officers in January and the Accenture Article Discussion event in March. Our main event this semester will be our Annual Society of Women Engineers Banquet on Wednesday, April 29th. It will be held at Kyle House in Bryan. We are offering a carpool for those who live on campus. We will meet around 6:50PM in Lot 50. It is a semi-formal event, so wear your best cocktail dress! Ticket prices are as follows: \$8/one person, \$10/ two people. It is going to be an exciting night so you really would not want to miss it!

In closing we would like to thank everyone who has helped us make this transition a smooth one, to all the officers and sponsors Nikki Bahri from Fluor, Nicole Sulzen from CH2M, Jeremy Buentello from IBM, and Shell, thank you for making this semester the best one possible, and also to the members for devouring and enjoying the food and attending our events!



SWE members enjoy a tasty lunch while getting great advice from their mentors.



**Don't Forget the Next
FLAME Luncheon on
Saturday, May 2, 2009
Right Here in
College Station!!!**

F.L.A.M.E. Is On Fire!

Deena Akinrinsola & Cindy Diaz
Academic Co-Chairs

FLAME has continued to be a successful and beneficial program for students and mentors alike. Females Leading Aggies as Mentors in Engineering (FLAME) is a mentoring program in which small groups of students are matched with female engineers in the industry. Groups are composed according to interests and majors, and exchange bi-weekly emails. These questions can be about general engineering advice, life as a female engineer, engineering and the economy, and the occasional joke!

Our first luncheon of the Spring semester was held on Saturday, April 4, 2009 at P.F. Chang's Chinese Bistro in Houston. The mentors and students were

- Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a female engineer in the "real world"?
- Would you like to get all of your burning engineering questions answered?
- Wonder how to break the "glass ceiling"?
- Do you enjoy having a nice conversation over an elegant lunch? (ALL ON US!)

...If you answered yes to any of these questions, FLAME is the perfect match for you!

excited to see one another as we enjoyed a nice lunch on a beautiful day!

Our next luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009. Be sure to come out and take a much needed study break! It will be relaxing as we unwind before the last set of finals!

We would like to thank to all of our participants this year. Thank you to the mentors for your continuous support and mentorship. You really make a tremendous impact on the student's lives. Students, thank you for taking the time to enhance your college experience by having a mentor. As co-chairs, we are delighted to have served you and we cherish each and everyone one of you who make this program successful. We look forward to seeing you all soon!



Deena and Cindy, our Academic Co-Chairs, will both be graduating soon. After organizing so many great FLAME luncheons, these ladies are ready to put all that advice to good use!

events

As usual, the Texas A&M SWE Chapter has been busy all semester helping out the community, getting insights from companies, and, most importantly, having fun!

february

6-8

Region C Conference in Houston

13-15

High School Conference. Some lucky SWE members even got to have a student spend the night in the dorms

21

Aggieland Saturday and the 5K Fun Run. Stop by the SWE booth in the morning and go for a run in the afternoon!

march

7

Accenture Article Discussion

28

Big Event. Paint a house with SWE!

Taco Tuesdays

SWE joins forces with SEC to bring you cheap tacos every Tuesday night this semester at Rosa's. Come enjoy tacos with us and earn points!

april

6

Graduate Student Panel. Ever wonder what grad school is like? Our very own Graduate Student Liaison organized this event so you can find out!

23

IBM Ice Cream Social. Ice cream and networking, what more could you want?

29

SWE Banquet at Kyle House in Bryan. This is a formal event so remember to dress your best!

Students ask the panelists more questions before heading off to the banquet.



A Taste of the College Life

Susmitha Gouni, Jackie Cordova, & Maria Villa, High School Conference Co-Chairs

The 33rd annual High School Conference was a tremendous success this year. About 150 High School students from all around Texas attend this year's conference.

On Friday morning, the students were given the opportunity to visit freshman level math and science classes and go on a campus tour. They were later addressed by Dr. Deepa Kundur about Engineering at Texas A&M University. Performance by the Aggie Wranglers provided an enjoyable entertainment.

Later that afternoon, students took part in the decathlon organized by the co-chairs. It consisted of trivia, a skills test, an engineering design competition, and an

advertisement promoting the engineering department assigned to them. This helped the students learn how to work in a team environment.

Students were given a chance to get to know some Aggies better during a Q&A panel. The panelists were able to give advice and answer questions about studying engineering and what it's like to be an Aggie.

The evening was brought to an end by an amazing banquet attended by the students and their families. The winners of the decathlon were awarded TI-89 calculators. We would like to thank

Tyesa Harvest for her very moving motivational speech. Also, a special thanks to Kristen Weindel from Williams for her presence at the banquet and also for the gift certificates.

Some lucky students were paired up with SWE members for the night. The students were able to sleep in the dorms and experience a night as an Aggie.

On Saturday, corporate representatives Hector Cavazos from Chevron and Bradley Allen from Schlumberger, Ian Horbaczewski from the Electrical Engineering department and Dr. Kristen Maitland from the Biomedical Engineering department addressed the students regarding the endless opportunities that exist as an engineer. Thank you so much for your presence at the conference and for speaking to the students! Also, we would like to thank Williams, FMC, and Atwood Oceanics for their generous donations that helped make this year's conference an enormous success!





Passing the Torch: Moriah and Allison have had some good times together at SWE!

A Final Word From Our Fearless Leader

Moriah Thompson, President 2008-09

SWE has had an exciting and successful past few months! In the past semester SWE reached record membership for the Texas A&M Section. Members were more involved than ever, and their efforts have made a lasting impact on the campus and surrounding community. In March, SWE participated in Big Event, a campus-wide philanthropy program. The ladies of SWE lent a helping hand by painting a local community building. SWE also provided volunteers for Special Olympics, allowing special needs children to compete in a friendly and supportive environment.

One of SWE's main goals is to encourage younger females to pursue careers in engineering related fields. In February, SWE put on our 35th annual High School Conference. High school students from around the state flooded in with their parents to see what it is like at the Texas A&M College of Engineering. Students participated in design competitions, case studies, and campus tours. The event was a complete success and showed the hard work and effort of our talented co-chairs.

This spring SWE members were able to attend the SWE Region C Conference in Houston, Texas. The Texas A&M Section was able to sponsor twelve members to attend the conference. The participants attended career building seminars and networking opportunities. The officers were also able to have input into some important changes at the regional and national level of SWE.

SWE has added a number of academic programs for members as well. SWE members were offered the opportunity to participate in the Big Sis Little Sis program which matches older SWE mentors with younger SWE mentees. The program promoted communication between SWE members and allowed for younger members to gain valuable advice and insight. Also, SWE held its first Graduate Student Panel to provide information for students interested in graduate studies. The Graduate Student Liaison did a great job of gaining more graduate student involvement in SWE by organizing socials and events. Additionally, our FLAME program allowed for members of SWE to be paired with members from industry. Participants participated in luncheons and biweekly email conversations with their mentors.

The spring semester has been full of activity, but it is not over yet. I encourage you all to attend the SWE Banquet which will be held at Kyle House. The banquet will be a great opportunity to recap the hard work and fun times that SWE has had over the past year. Also, our annual Summer Camp will take place in June. Junior high aged girls from around the state will come for a week long camp that exposes them to math, science, and engineering.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to promoting females in engineering. Also, thank you to all of the sponsors that make each and every one of our activities possible. Without your generous donations we would not be able to accomplish all that we have. Have a fun and safe summer! Best of luck in the coming year!

SWE Offers a Helping Hand

Natalie Begnaud & April Moore,
Outreach Co-Chairs

The Outreach committee is responsible for organizing community service projects for SWE members. This semester, we participated in several events including Special Olympics, Big Event, and Celebration of Learning (tutoring elementary school students).

Big Event was so much fun! This year we joined up with the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and made many new friends while we painted a church. Thanks to everyone who attended!

Also, thank you to everyone who attended the Special Olympics Spring Games. We had a great time helping the participants with softball events.

Celebration of Learning was another success this semester. We had many members participate and we are very proud of the difference they have made in the elementary school students lives. Ms. Jeanna Knott, the coordinator of Celebration of Learning, was also very appreciative of our members giving up their time each week to help out a student. Like Ms. Knott, we hope to continue participating in this program in the coming years.

We really appreciate your commitment to giving back to the community. If you have any suggestions for future events don't be afraid to send us an email at outreach@swetamu.org



Special Olympics
young athletes™



**Texas A&M University
Society of Women
Engineers**



**Spring
2009**

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