It’s been a great fall semester! I am very proud of the growth we have achieved as an organization only a few months into the academic year. This fall, we welcomed 70 new members to SWE at Texas A&M. We also reinstated our annual Girl Scout Day event where SWE-TAMU members helped 50 girl scouts explore engineering. SWE-TAMU was very well represented at the SWE National Conference in Houston, Texas. A group of 24 plus many more from Texas A&M attended due to the conference’s close proximity to College Station.

I would like to thank our corporate sponsors, our advisor Ms. Lagoudas and ESSAP, the wonderful SWE-TAMU officer team, and all SWE-TAMU members for contributing to the great success that has been Fall 2012. SWE-TAMU would not be able to achieve its goal of promoting math, science, and engineering among women without all of your help. We have even more in store for 2013, including the SWE Region C Conference in Dallas, Texas and our annual High School Conference and Summer Camp, so be sure to stick around! Good luck with final exams and have a relaxing winter break!

This semester we had the opportunity to plan a Girl Scout Day event called “Engineering is SWEet”. The event was great! Not only did the girl scouts have a blast learning what engineering is and doing engineering activities, but they also had the opportunity to spend time with SWE members. Aside from engineering related activities, we had a NASA speaker come talk to the girls. The girls were very excited and eager to ask questions. This semester we also had the opportunity to volunteer at the Bryan/College Station Special Olympics. We had so much fun! This Spring semester we have many other events planned such as Big Event!
SWE Summer Camp

by Danielle Cope

Every summer, SWE hosts a week-long summer camp for middle school girls currently in 7th and 8th grade, exploring the opportunities available in the fields of engineering and science. The girls had the opportunity to discover a new perception of engineering. Instead of a typical desk job, they find engineering to be an exciting and rewarding field that leads to fulfilling careers.

The 2012 Summer Camp was a huge success! The girls had a great time touring different labs, piloting the flight simulator, watching a robotics and physics demonstration, and eating ice-cream made from liquid nitrogen! They also learned about engineering through design competitions such as a marshmallow tower, water fort and roller coaster design challenge, egg bungee jumping and much more. If that wasn’t enough, the girls got to know each other and the counselors through a scavenger hunt, movie night, and meeting the Yell Leaders. Volunteering as a counselor for the camp was an amazing experience, as I’m sure all the counselors will agree. By the end of the week, those sweet girls came out of their shells, were very interested in engineering (when the week started some didn’t even know what engineering was!), and looked up to each of the counselors greatly. Watching them realize the unlimited possibilities that they could accomplish in their lifetime is an unforgettable thing. And it keeps reminding me to dream big!

Alyssa Bennett, Sarah Motes, and I have the opportunity to plan next summer’s Summer Camp, which will take place June 9th through the 14th. We are very excited to continue this camp and improve upon last year’s camp. Everyone should consider applying to be a counselor for the SWE Summer Camp in 2013 since it will be the best Summer Camp yet!

SWE Summer Camp 2012

Check out Summer Camp’s Video!
@swe.tamu.edu/summercamp

FLAME

by Tamsin Stirling

Females Leading Aggies as Mentors in Engineering is a mentorship program that enhances student academics through relationships with female industry professionals and/or graduate students. About two to four students are grouped with a female mentor based on their engineering discipline and company interest. Groups maintain communication during the semester through discussion topics emailed by the FLAME Chair every two weeks. Topics range from job interview tips to post-graduation lifestyle adjustment. Questions are encouraged to be asked outside of the discussion topics provided. Two luncheons per semester provide some face-to-face time between mentors and students and a great opportunity to network. The luncheons are held in Houston and College Station. One of the best qualities about this program is that mentors can bring about great impact with just a small commitment of time with their responses.

SWE 12

Jennifer & Alex

SWE12 is an outreach program that was created to promote engineering among middle school and high school students. At the high school level, we are focused on promoting the pursuit of knowledge by educating students about engineering. We reach out to the students through a newsletter that circulates each month. The newsletter has two main objectives; the first to show that attending college is a possibility for every student. The second is to educate students on what engineering is and where it can take you while promoting Texas A&M’s engineering program.

At the middle school level, we hope to motivate young students to succeed in their science classes by providing tutoring by engineering students. We believe that every student has the potential to excel in all sciences. All they need is a little bit of inspiration to believe in themselves.

Visit our Website!
swe.tamu.edu

Make sure to apply to the SWE Region C Conference!
• Great Networking Opportunities
• Career Fair
• Get to know other SWE officers and members!
• It will be in Dallas!
• Meet successful women in engineering
Big Sis Lil’ Sis
by Katie

Big Sis Lil Sis is an undergraduate mentorship program that focuses on giving underclassmen, particularly freshmen, resources in the form of experienced upperclassmen. In the program, groups of underclassmen and upperclassmen are created from the same major with the hope that any questions the little sister may have, the big sister has an answer or advice for them because of previous experiences. This would ideally cover grounds such as class registration tips, what to look forward to in a major, research experience, advice on study abroad or internships, what clubs to join, or sharing any opportunities the upperclassmen may know of.

After the girls are paired, emails are regularly sent out with suggested questions for the sisters to get to know each other better and to provide questions that underclassmen may not even think to ask. Additionally, there are two socials per semester to provide sisters the opportunity to meet in person and to meet other sister groups and ultimately form a larger network of support and experience to draw from.

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Socials
Courtney & Becky

As the socials co-chairs we plan several events throughout the year. From the spring banquet to painting ceramics at U-paint-it in the fall, we try to make the events as fun as possible for our members. This spring we are hoping to have a social opportunity at Mount Aggie as well as another fun, interactive event. As stated above, this is also the semester of the SWE banquet. This is usually hosted at a country club and this year has the option of being in the new MSC. This event is a lot of fun and gives an opportunity to not only meet fellow SWE members but also the faculty advisor. The SWE scholarships are also given out at this event. As socials officers we are also in charge of food and drinks for the meetings. So far this has included Fazoli’s, Rosa’s Cafè, Layne’s, Panda Express, and Dominos. So come join us at meetings and socials to experience all the great things SWE has to offer.

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Society of Women Engineers

Volunteering at “Engineering is Sweet” Girl Scout Camp

SWE goes to Midnight Yell

FUN at SWE SOCIALS!
Interview with GE Engineer

Shawn Yates is a Texas A&M graduate, Class of 2008. She received her bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering and served as the Socials Chair for two years in SWE. She graduated in 2008 and began a rotational development engineering program with GE, a two year rotational leadership program that worked towards receiving her Master’s Degree. Yates has been part of a Performance Engineering Group in the Aereodervative Gas Turbines in Houston for the past two years.

What is your favorite Aggie Tradition?

Because it has been a tradition during and after college, Fighting Texas Aggie tailgating.

What do you enjoy doing during your spare time?

I have participated in triathlons, marathons. I love coming back to College station, traveling. My job right now allows me to travel. I was in California this summer, Colorado at the end of last year. About a year and half ago I went to China.

What impact did SWE have in your collegiate career?

You know, I probably have to thank SWE for my job. GE was on campus and I was not able to go, but SWE sent out resumes to GE. I sent mine, had a phone interview, and got an internship that led to my job. I had a lot of professional networking with being involved with SWE.

What is your favorite SWE memory?

The National Conference in Baltimore! The trips were fun because it gave officers and members a chance to get to know each other better. We had a very good time there, got to know a lot of the girls, went sight seeing.

What obstacles have you faced as a woman in engineering?

I get that question pretty often and personally I have not noticed any disadvantage of being a woman engineer. GE is known for being one of the best companies to work for as a woman. I feel like if you voice your opinion you’re heard. I do not have noticed any disadvantage of being a woman engineer.

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How different is life as a professional than life as a college student?

Well, you have money and you get to travel! You definitely have to plan and time manage. In college you have a lot of time on your hands, it’s not an 8-5 job where you need to get your errands done after 5, you have a meeting you might need to get to. Time management is a big thing. Positively, I think it is great, financially you are okay. For me, I didn’t grow up with a lot of money so it is nice being able to have money to travel and do those things you want to do. And then of course responsibility of your actions. By actions I mean you turn in your homework assignments and perhaps do not double check it but in the real world, you need to triple check your work because it can affect lives. Accountability for decisions that you make and work that you do is also important. Definitely a lot of self initiative to follow through with your goals. Not every boss is going micromanage you; they will trust you to get your work done and on time.

What is a normal day like in the day of an engineer?

In my job, I have short cycle engineering tasks. I work on some things for just a day, for a few weeks, a few months, and I work at a very fast pace. I work a lot with sales and customers where they need a response overnight. I also go in the field and do testing. One summer I found out about 5 p.m. that I needed to travel to California the following morning. And it’s just my job. Every job is different. Some require more field work, some require more office work. Every now and then you have to present to engineers, making sure your designs are solid, working well, and that everyone approves.

What do you enjoy the most about your job?

Most of the time we are in the office working with sales, trying to get customers information related to the performance of our gas turbines. We make performance guarantees for our engines related to efficiency, power emissions, etc. We perform risk analysis on projects related to performance. We are a tech support role for the customers. We also execute or oversee performance acceptance tests when units are installed on customer sites to ensure they are meeting guarantees we make. It is a lot more hands on and requires data analysis. And that is what I enjoy the most; going out in the field because it is never perfect, something typically goes wrong so it keeps things challenging and exciting.

Do you have any advice you would like to give SWE members?

I would encourage them to do a few things. If you don’t know what kind of job you want to do or what interests you, there are many companies that are doing rotational programs for entry level engineers. I was able to choose from many products during my rotations such as wind turbines, has turbines or other renewable energy products. You have the opportunity to find something like that and what you don’t like, it’s great. Other tips, ask questions during your interview, make sure the job is for you. Ask what it is like to be in that role. Am I going to be in the field? Am I going to travel? Am I going to have a mentor? Figure out what you like and dislike. So that you can stick with it and become an expert. I encourage everybody to really consider the industry they are going to work for. You want to start building your skills from the get go, so you can have something valuable to offer over your career.
Howdy! My name is Mayra Magana, a senior Mechanical Engineer with a Project Management Certificate at Texas A&M University. I am your Regional Collegiate Representative for Region C. Region C includes Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi. Region C is one of the largest regions in the United States so we have two RCR’s. I have the privilege of working very closely with Nikhita Garg, a Senior Electrical Engineer at the University of Texas. Some of my responsibilities include being member of the Region Council, conducting/running conference calls with the Section Presidents, the RCR coordinators, and the Regional Collegiate Team. However, most importantly I am here to represent the collegiate voice to the region. I keep constant communication with the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of SWE. Communicating with professionals that are already working in the industry and the regional leaders of SWE has given me the opportunity to grow as a leader and as a professional. SWE has prepared me to go into the real world and be the best Latina Engineer. I look forward to meeting all of you at WE12!
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