From the President’s Desk

Moriah Thompson

SWE has had a busy and successful fall semester! Attendance and membership are at an all time high, and each of our individual programs has continued to improve. Our general meetings started off with eager SWE members lined up outside of the door and even the building. At each meeting we enjoyed informative and enthusiastic speakers as well as excellent food. A special thanks to Williams, FMC Technologies, Chevron, Schlumberger, and Intel for making our general meetings a success.

This semester has been full of outreach activities, socials, career building events. We kicked off the football season with our first annual SWE Tailgate sponsored by Cooper Industries. Members enjoyed good food and fun before the game. Also in the sports arena, the ladies of SWE went all the way to the championships in intramural volleyball!

SWE helped to promote math, science, and engineering interest in youth through our participation with E-day activities and a Girl Scouts event. Members took a break from the books on Halloween and participated in our annual Halloween costume contest. The winner this year was a phenomenally dressed peacock.

Best of all, we were able to take 16 members to represent our section at the SWE National Conference in Baltimore, MD. The group spent four days attending modules and networking with other collegiate and professionals from all over the country. We were also able to squeeze in some sight seeing including a short day trip to the Washington D.C. and the Smithsonian museums. Thank you to the Association of Former Students for helping to sponsor this year’s trip! The 2009 National Conference will be held in Long Beach, California on October 15th through the 17th.

Next semester we are looking forward to our annual High School Conference in February. The conference introduces high school students from around the state to engineering and the university experience. Also, SWE members will be attending the Region C Conference in Houston, TX on February 6th through the 8th. Our summer camp co-chairs are also furiously preparing for the annual SWE Summer Camp for junior high girls. I am looking forward to another rewarding semester with SWE.

Thank you to each and every SWE member! Your involvement and hard work is what makes SWE a positive force in supporting women’s pursuit of careers in engineering. Also, I would like to extend my appreciation to each of our sponsors. In addition to those mentioned, I would like to thank Atwood Oceanics, Centerpoint Energy, USG, and Taylor Exhibition Services for their generous support. Our sponsors are vital to the success of our events. We could not operate without your support. Thank you!

Have an excellent holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you all in the spring!
Outreach
April Moore
Outreach Co-Chair 2008-2009

The Outreach committee is responsible for organizing community service projects for SWE members. This semester we participated in several events, E-Day, SWE Girl Scout Day, and Celebration of Learning. Helping local Girl Scouts throughout our region earn a badge and mentoring elementary students was a very rewarding experience. Members involved in our committee have really made this year a success. Thanks to all those who participated in our events!

This year SWE will be participating in Big Event, Celebration of Learning, Special Olympics, and Habitat for Humanity. If there are any projects that you would like SWE to be involved in please feel free to email us at outreach@swetamu.org with suggestions. Come to any SWE meeting and find out why Outreach is a fun and fulfilling way to get involved with SWE and the community.

High School Conference
Maria Villa
HSC Co-Chair 2008-2009

This year, the 33rd SWE Annual High School Conference will have approximately 250 students, parents, and counselors in attendance. In addition to our traditional class visitations, engineering competition, and motivating speakers, HSC will have corporate representatives from various engineering backgrounds at our interactive workshops. It is in these workshops where students will be given the opportunity to speak one on one with an engineer and discover the endless possibilities of an engineering degree. HSC is an event held to introduce, engage, and inspire high school students to pursue a higher education in engineering. We would like to thank Williams and Atwood Oceanics for their generous donations which will help make this year’s conference a success.

Focus On:

Celebration of Learning

Natalie Begnaud
Outreach Co-Chair 2008-2009

This semester one of the events that Outreach took part in with SWE members was a program called Celebration of Learning.

This program concentrated on tutoring and mentoring elementary students in both Math and English throughout the fall semester. Members also had the option of eating lunch once a week with a student.

We are incredibly proud of the members that choose to participate in this program; you have really made a difference.

Jeanna Knott, the program coordinator at College Hills Elementary, an elementary school in College Station, was very excited to be working with SWE and its volunteers again. She was appreciative of their time and effort too.

We plan on participating in this program again next semester, so make room in your schedule!!!
Socials
Shawn Yates
Socials Co-Chair 2008-2009

Socials started with a bang this semester when Cooper Industries hosted the SWE A&M vs. Miami tailgate at Spence Park. Buppy’s BBQ was provided, and it was a fun and informal atmosphere to converse with the Cooper representatives and other SWE members. We had a great turnout, and we plan to continue this tradition next football season.

The next social event was hosted by SunGard and was conducted a little different from usual. A group of SWE members had dinner at Boston’s Pizza with the SunGard representatives to discuss job opportunities and the like in an informal environment. This event gave SunGard and the SWE participants an opportunity to talk and get to know each other without all the pressures.

Furthermore, the Halloween Social was a spooky success this year! We had games, pizza, drinks, desserts, goodie bags, Casper the movie, and a costume contest. The “gooey finger grabbing, guess what body part I represent” game was quite entertaining for the participants. Shawn Yates, dressed as a fabulous peacock, won the costume contest.

Additionally, the Navy came to speak on campus to SWE members about their Nuclear Officer Program for interested students. Socials will be ending the semester with a Christmas Party that should wrap up the fall semester.

The Socials committee is here to serve the Texas A&M Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers by helping its members have fun and enjoy their collegiate experience.

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Intramurals
Samantha Edington
Intramurals Co-Chair 2008-2009

The SWE intramural teams were outstanding! For the fall of 2008, SWE participated in co-ed indoor dodgeball and women’s indoor volleyball.

For volleyball, even though we lost a few games, we managed to reach the championship playoff game in our division! We also participated in dodgeball, which brought out many eager SWE members excited about this overlooked sport. Both of these sports were great for exercise and relief from studying!

The great thing about SWE intramurals is that it accommodates to every skill level. We even hosted a social where we watched the movie Dodgeball, ate pizza and met our fellow teammates.

In the spring, we will be participating in more sports and host other exciting events and socials!!!
Summer Camp
Pamela Gutierrez
Summer Camp Co-Chair 2008-2009

Summer Camp is an amazing opportunity for eighth and ninth grade girls to learn more about engineering and what it takes to become an engineer.

The girls will have an 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 field trips and movie nights.

Summer Camp 2009 will be held during the third week of June. 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 like to thank Williams and Centerpoint Energy for their generosity in helping to fund this year’s Summer Camp.

Student Engineers’ Council
Vivian Hui
SEC Representative 2008-2009

Student Engineers’ Council is an organization that aims to promote communications between the engineering societies on campus.

Past events in this semester include Taco Tuesdays, a social event every Tuesday night at 7pm at Rosas Cafe that allowed the members to meet and talk to other people in the college of engineering and enjoy cheap and delicious tacos.

We also took part in E-Day, which took place on October 25 all day at the Chemistry building. It was a day for kids as well as parents in the local area to learn about science and engineering. We had tons of fun showing kids how to make words disappear and reappear again with windex and vinegar at our invisible ink booth.

If you missed out on SWE/SEC events this semester, don’t worry! There are plenty more next semester, such as E-week, ultimate frisbees, as well as social events.

Females Leading Aggies as Mentors in Engineering
Deena Akinrinola & Cindy Diaz
Academic Co-Chairs 2008-2009

FLAME has continued to be a successful and beneficial program for students and mentors alike.

In case you are unfamiliar with this great program, 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 weekly emails. These emails contain questions about general engineering advice, life as a female engineer, and various experiences that help break the “glass ceiling”.

The first luncheon was held on Saturday, November 15, 2008 at The Cheesecake Factory in Houston. Students and mentors were excited to see one another, and were able to enjoy a nice conversational lunch. Let’s not forget the delicious cheesecake that we all indulged in!

Our next luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2008. As we all know, finals are around the corner and this next luncheon would be an excellent study break. It will be exciting as mentors and mentees reunite during this scrumptious lunch!

We would like to thank to all of our participants this year. A special thank you goes out to FMC Technologies and Centerpoint Energy for their generous donations! Thank you to the mentors for your continued support of this wonderful program. 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.

We look forward to seeing you all in December!

A Note From
FLAME’s Corner...

- 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?  
- Do you enjoy having a nice conversation over an elegant lunch? (not to mention --- free!)

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

Don’t Forget!! Next FLAME Luncheon is on Saturday, December 6 in College Station
SWE National Conference
Moriah Thompson
President 2008-2009

Every year SWE collegiate and professional members from around the country travel to the SWE National Conference. Our SWE section was able to take 16 members to this year’s conference in bustling Baltimore, Maryland on November 6th through the 8th. The group arrived in Baltimore late Wednesday, ready for a full day of modules, meetings, and networking. The SWE officers were able to meet with leaders of collegiate sections throughout the region and country. Friday held the impressive SWE career fair, where members spoke to company recruiters in every engineering field located around the nation.

On Saturday the group was able to take a day trip to historic Washington, D.C. SWE members walked the National Mall and the reflection pool just below the Washington Monument. After visiting the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, members made their way to the Smithsonian museums.

The conclusion of the conference was the Celebrate SWE banquet on Saturday night. Texas A&M SWE members joined the stage with other colleagues from the region to perform a rendition of “Be Our Guest” in the region spirit competition.

The national conference provided each of the travelers valuable career related experiences and exposure to successful women in industry from every corner of the United States. We are extremely grateful to the Association of Former Students for providing our members with this incredible opportunity.

Women Leading a Technical Revolution
Baltimore, Maryland
November 6-8, 2008

All members should be sure to apply for next year’s trip to the 2009 National Conference on October 15th through 17th in Long Beach, California!

See you there!
Special Thanks to All Our Sponsors

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