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Check out our updated webpage at: http://swe.tamu.edu

Try out our new Opportunities Page at: http://swe.tamu.edu/opportunities

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Howdy Momentum Readers,

As my time as a student nears to an end, it’s exciting to reflect back on how SWE has helped me reach my goals. Like many of you, I joined SWE after I heard about all the wonderful food offered at the meetings. Little did I know that SWE would be my main source of motivation and inspiration for finishing my engineering degree.

My favourite thing about SWE is that it’s an “all-in-one” organization. I could participate in community service, attend socials, network, and learn about the industry without having joined several organizations. This feature was a huge time saver; it allowed me to focus on school work, while still growing outside the classroom.

As a freshman, SWE was how I met many of my friends and mentors. I was able to meet other freshman girls and study together for common exams or just grab a cup of coffee to relax from studying. At the same time, I do remember looking up to the officers; they all seemed so happy to be at the meetings! These officers taught me that classes would always be challenging, but it really helped to have a support system. SWE was a community that helped me feel like I wasn’t alone and the officers allowed me to realize that it was not impossible to graduate with an engineering degree.

This year was my 5th year as a student. In all honesty, my focus for my last year was to just graduate! However, meeting the freshman at the beginning of the school year was an absolutely refreshing experience. It was exciting to see their excitement about beginning this new journey! Often, we look to those who have achieved great success for inspiration, but I’ve found that sometimes we just need a reminder of where we started and the obstacles we overcame to finish our journey on the highest note.

It has been a true honour to be the President of such a great organization. I was blessed to work with the amazing people that compose our officer team; they did a fantastic job to make this year be a success! In addition, our faculty advisors, Diane Hurtado & Magdalini Lagoudas, provided us with insightful advice and guidance to help us achieve our mission. Lastly, our sponsors continue to go above and beyond to support SWE’s mission, thank you for your time and dedication!

Nahomi Merida Morales
Summer Camp

Ami Kassebaum, Hersha Sawlani, and Kate Stuckman, Summer Camp Co-Chairs

Every summer, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) at Texas A&M University hosts a week long summer camp for middle school girls, featuring the many opportunities available in the fields of science and engineering. Through hands on demonstrations, tours of laboratory facilities, team-building activities, and design competitions, the girls will discover that engineering is an exciting and rewarding field.

SWE Summer Camp exposes these young campers to not only the academic aspects of engineering, but also to the career possibilities that exist after college. SWE Summer Camp 2011 will be held from Sunday, July 31 through Friday, August 5.

In addition, company speakers come to share their knowledge and excitement about engineering through engaging presentations or hand-on labs. We also have many opportunities for corporate sponsorships. Companies interested in either of these opportunities to support the SWE Summer Camp can send an email to summer-camp@swetamu.org by Friday, April 29.

MENTORS NEEDED
20 mentors are needed for 80 female high school students. In order to participate you must be a student during the 2011-2012 school year. Mentors and mentees will meet in person in the spring.

Big Event

Catie Reid, Outreach Co-Chair

Outreach gives SWE members the opportunity to do service and give back to the community. The first event for the semester was The Big Event. This is a one day service project, the largest in the nation, run by Texas A&M students to give back to the local community. SWE members gave back to two different Bryan/College Station families by doing various tasks such as painting and yard work. The next event is planned to be with Phoebe’s Home, a shelter for families’ currently experiencing homelessness and for victims of domestic violence. Members will spend a few hours passing out food, playing with children, and helping to brighten the lives of people in need.

SWE Banquet

When: Sunday May 1st 12:20-3:00pm
Where: Messina Hoff
**Big Sis Lil Sis**

*Katherine Zanghi, Big Sis Lil Sis Chair*

Howdy! This semester has flown by so quickly! Once again, the groups were split up by major and graduation plans, where an upperclassman acts as a “big sis” to the underclassmen, giving them advice on everything from which professors to take, how to balance school and a social life, and how to get the job of your dreams. The BSLS groups have gotten to know each other through bi-weekly emails and outside socials with their group. The groups met each other at the beginning of the semester at a Sunday brunch, complete with doughnuts, juice, and coffee. The next social will be on Saturday, April 16th.

**Graduate Student Program**

*Laura Hill, Graduate Liaison Co-Chair*

The graduate program has had an excellent semester so far with great speakers at our monthly luncheons and great attendance by graduate students! Our first luncheon was with Dr. Christine Economides, who spoke about her experiences working in the industry and academia as a woman engineer. Her talk was very well received and opened up some great discussion.

Our second luncheon was with Traci Toone from health services and she spoke about stress management, which is something, all graduate students in engineering struggle with all the time. We discussed lots of great tips for dealing with the everyday stresses in our lives and I think it was very helpful for all of us! There will be one more luncheon this semester featuring an IMG financial group talking about personal finance and I am sure it will be successful as well. I hope to continue to increase graduate student involvement in SWE.

**FLAME Luncheon**

*Tehniya Wadhwani, FLAME Chair*

Females Leading Aggies as Mentors in Engineering (F.L.A.M.E) pairs women working in industry with undergraduate or graduate students. They are paired based on the mentee’s major or company preference. 16 mentors and 29 mentees are participating this semester. Mentors include women working in industry and medical students. Mentors and mentees get to communicate through bi-monthly e-mails.

The discussion topics are organized by the FLAME chair and vary from advice about networking, college to industry transition, and work or grad school lifestyle. Two luncheons, one in Houston and the other in Bryan/ College Station, are organized every semester to give FLAME members a chance to meet face-to-face. This year the Houston luncheon was at Benihana.
Howdy! My name is Mayra Magana and this year as one of three HSC Co-Chairs, I had the privilege of organizing the amazing 35th Annual High School Conference together with Carrie Pottmeyer, and Natasha Inamdar which was held on February 11th and 12th. It made me feel accomplished because I was able to have an impact on the lives of other high school students.

The Mentoring Enrichment Seminar in Engineering Training at the University of Houston that I once had personally in high school was a memorable and successful experience that encouraged me to pursue a career in engineering. I feel that with this conference, I may have influenced other high school students similarly.

More than 90 high school students from across Texas arrived at Texas A&M University to learn more about the engineering field. They interacted with a student panel, parent panel, an engineering competition, and department tours that inspired them to explore the great opportunities within the Dwight Look College of Engineering.

After the end of this amazing conference all the participants were greatly satisfied, and said that the 35th High School Conference had given them beneficial insight into engineering. I was extremely happy when one of the HSC participants said, “I wanted to study at the University of Texas but after this Conference there is no doubt that I want to study engineering at Texas A&M University”.
Interview with Samsung Austin Semiconductor

The Society of Women Engineers recently interviewed Teresa Estrada who is an Engineer 3 in the Samsung Austin Semiconductors plant regarding the various opportunities for females in the semiconductor industry. She joined Samsung through the college recruiting program and is also a Texas A&M University Alumni.

What are the different kinds of semiconductor memory chips that Samsung Austin Semiconductor produces and how is Samsung Austin Semiconductor going green?

Samsung Austin Semiconductor produces Nand Flash Memory and is currently starting production on logic devices (LSI). Samsung Austin Semiconductor protects the environment and conserves natural resources by striving to be a leader in reducing, reuseing, and recycling, as well as ensuring that all wastes are properly handled in a safe and environmentally approved manner.

What skills does Samsung look for in its employees? What is the CORP Engineering program?

Samsung Austin Semiconductor looks for employees with engineering degrees that align with the semiconductor industry, such as Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical, or Industrial engineering. Samsung values flexibility and innovation and attracts employees who enjoy a challenging, fast-paced environment. Samsung Austin Semiconductor recruits college graduates through our CORP engineering program. Applicants typically apply during their senior year.

As a former Texas A&M student, what part of college life/Texas A&M do you miss the most?

I miss being involved in student organizations such as getting together and planning organizational activities. I also miss the feeling of being on the A&M campus and the student life that the university has to offer.

Did you find the transition from university life to the Samsung Austin Semiconductor facility in Austin difficult?

Not at all, the Electrical Engineering program at Texas A&M prepares you on working hard to get the job done. Samsung Austin has a wonderful network within each new hire class. The group of people you start working with often times become great friends and colleagues. Most new hires classes stay close after they have been placed into a department.

As a Texas A&M alumni, did you find any course that was particularly helpful which you would recommend students to take?

Any semiconductor class that the electrical engineering department offers would be helpful. However most of my learning was on the job training here at Samsung.

Many students consider the work culture, or location of the office, or the salary offered as the most important factor in their decision. Could you tell us what made you decide to work at Samsung Austin Semiconductor?

One of my main factors in choosing to work at Samsung was the industry. The semiconductor industry is a fast-paced, fast-changing, and challenging environment. I was driven towards this environment where each day there is something different. The technology here is amazing. My second factor was the location. Austin is a wonderful city to be in. The outdoor activities, nightlife, entertainment, and events make Austin a nice place to live.

Is there any additional information or tips that you may want to add for the current women in engineering at Texas A&M?

Life is so different when you enter the real world and start working. Try your best and let your personality be one of your strong points, in the long run this will be very helpful.
A Freshman’s Perspective

Laura Bolling

When I signed up for the Society of Women Engineers regional conference, I had absolutely no idea what I was getting myself into. I just figured anything with a trip away from College Station and a stay in a nice hotel was worth a try, but during the conference, I gained far more than I had imagined was possible. That weekend, I was able to meet and interact with industry representatives to learn about the exciting opportunities with different types of companies and hear about the journeys of the experienced women engineers while I also created ridiculous road trip and dance party memories with other women engineers from Texas A&M. As a result, the regional conference truly opened my eyes to my future and what was possible for me, so I matured greatly as an engineering student, and I was able to have a blast in the process.

SWE Region C Conference at Austin, TX

Nahomi Merida Morales, President

The SWE Region C Conference is a great opportunity for SWE members from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi to get together! This past February, 20 SWE-TAMU members participated in this conference in Austin, TX.

All members participated in SWE business meetings and seminars. The business meetings covered topics such as the state of SWE, collegiate officer elections, and a joint meeting with collegiate and professional members. In addition to networking at the seminars, members were given an additional opportunity to make professional connections at the career fair. While younger members gained experience in working the career fair, several of SWE-TAMU’s junior/senior members were successful in getting follow-up interviews!

There conference wrapped-up with an awards banquet! We are happy to announce that Dr. April Lauper, Class of 1973, won the Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented to a SWE member who demonstrates at least 10 years of service and leadership in the organization. SWE-TAMU also won the Most Creative Membership Campaign for its unique approaches towards membership growth and retention.

Hope to see you at the 2012 Region C Conference in Lubbock, Texas!