It has been a real honor to serve as this year’s SWE TAMU president. We have accomplished so much this year both in the Fall and in the Spring. We hosted our biggest Girl Scout Day in the Fall which I hope will continue in the future. This year’s High School Conference was held in January with about 100 participants. Even with the bad weather, it was our biggest High School Conference yet and was a tremendous success! SWE also participated in Engineering EXPO with a roller coaster design competition. We teamed up with other engineering organizations to make this first annual event fun for the high school, middle school, and elementary school participants. This semester has also been filled with other amazing events such as socials with other engineering organizations, FLAME luncheons, Big event with 40 SWE volunteers, and new mentorship programs just to name a few! Of course, we cannot forget Summer Camp is on the way in June with 64 middle school girls attending the event. I am sure that this event will be a great way to show them how cool engineering is!

I would like to thank all of our corporate sponsors, our advisors Ms. Lagoudas and Dr. Reed Rhoads, the amazing team of officers that have put on great events this entire year, and of course all the SWE members that have contributed to the success of this year! To all graduating seniors, thank you for your dedication to SWE and best wishes for whatever you do post graduation! For everyone else, I hope to see you back in the Fall and have a great summer!
High School Conference
Katie Walker, Sarah Gates, Jayci Blake

This year our High School Conference was a great success! Even with inclement weather, ninety-nine high school students were still able to make it out to take part in our Hunger Games-themed event. Once here, they participated in two design contests, spoke with representatives from various departments within the Dwight Look College of Engineering, toured our campus and various engineering labs, attended a corporate presentation addressing the possibilities that come with an engineering degree, and asked questions of a panel of college students. Overall, many of the participants enjoyed meeting new people and reported that they are now more interested in both Texas A&M and engineering as a result of the conference.

Public Relations
Priyanka Goswami, Allison Saxby

The IEEE Valentine’s Day social held on February 13th was a success. Members from both organizations enjoyed a classy and festive Italian meal on tables decorated with red and pink tablecloths. To top off the Italian meal, there was a wide variety of sweets to choose from. Two ice breakers were played to get to know each other; the first was to guess how many Hershey kisses were in a jar, and the next was the find their “other half”. Each person was given half of a cut-out heart on construction paper. He or she would then have to find their other half and learn a few things about the person. The evening was ended with the movie, Warm Bodies. Next, SWE hosted an ice skating social. There were lots of talented SWE members who showed off their ice skating skills.

SWE12 Middle School
Sophia Zhang

I was in charge of reestablishing and running the SWE12 Middle School Mentoring program with A&M Consolidated Middle School this semester. This duty involved a lot of communication and scheduling with the middle school faculty, the Texas A&M student mentor volunteers, and the Society of Women Engineers. Mentors visited their mentee once a week during their science class. The program works to boost the confidence of 8th graders who are struggling or uninterested in science. In previous semesters, the mentors focused on the class lessons during the sessions, but this year we took a new approach; the mentors still helped with understanding the science material, but they also worked on a simple STEM project with the student. The goal was to stimulate the students’ interest in both science and math and to hopefully increase their enthusiasm for these subjects.

“I learned a lot about the engineering profession… I am anxiously awaiting to join the Aggie family!”
FLAME (Females Leading Aggies as Mentors in Engineering) is a mentorship program whose primary goal is to allow students to build relationships with professionals in industry. This year we have professionals participating from a wide range of diverse companies such as GE, St. Jude Medical, Chevron, Air Liquide, NASA, and the Texas Heart Institute, among many others. Students and mentors communicate through email and are given discussion topics ranging from life/work balance to interview tips and professional development. The students and professionals are able to meet in person during two sponsored luncheons held in Houston and College Station. The first luncheon took place on February 22 at Palazzo’s Trattoria and was a great success. We will be having our second luncheon in College Station on April 12.

SWE12 High School Shivana Prabhudial

SWE 12 HS is an outreach program that pursues prospective engineers. The mission is to inform high school students about the various engineering disciplines, as well as to provide information about what to expect when transitioning into college. This is done through monthly newsletters which are mailed out to the high school students who are part of the SWE12 program. For each newsletter, SWE members answer questions and provide beneficial tips and advice to the high schoolers. Our hope is to present an accurate view of engineering and the expectations of students who may choose to pursue careers in this field. We hope our information will help students to confidently decide their career path after high school.

Socials
Raquel Belnap, Katrina Schilling

Besides providing the food to every general meeting, Socials has been involved in two main events. We began this semester with a Self Defense workshop with the Shorin Kempo Karate Jitsu. Our instructor was, Hanshi Montoya, he has been a police officer for 27 years, and he taught us to kick and punch correctly, as well as many tactics to avoid unpleasant encounters. Now we very busy with planning the end of year banquet that will happen on April 27. It will be held at Pebble Creek Country Club in the Mediterranean Room. The space is very nice, with a beautiful view of the golf course, and there will be a scrumptious meal for lunch. During the banquet we will announce the scholarships as well as commemorate the end of the year with SWE members and sponsors.
Mobilize to Energize
Region C Conference in Houston, Feb. 7-9

We met former NASA astronaut Dr. Bonnie Dunbar!

Clemence collected our “Outstanding Collegiate Section” certificate!
Outreach

Tasnim Mohamed, Kendall Crouch

Outreach provides SWE members with the opportunity to take a few hours out of their busy schedules to make a difference in the community. We wrapped up last semester with Girl Scout Day, also known as Engineering is SWEet! The event is designed to introduce Girl Scouts to engineering and emphasize its versatility. This year we had over 130 participants, double that of previous years, ranging in age from 5 to 17. Hands-on activities showcased six of the major engineering disciplines: mechanical, electrical, chemical, biomedical, aerospace, and civil. We also had Carrie Alexander, an electrical engineer from Citgo, talk to the girls during lunch. The event was a huge success, and we are looking forward to partnering with the Girl Scouts more in the future. This semester we also hosted Roller-coaster Rush, a design competition at the TAMU Engineering EXPO. In it, teams of 6-8 were challenged to construct roller-coasters using nothing but newspaper and tape. To wrap up the semester, on March 29th over 35 SWE members joined with 20,000 of their friends to participate in Texas A&M University’s Big Event, the largest one-day, student-run service project in the nation. SWE members worked to assist local residents, whether washing windows and raking leaves or painting and assembling furniture.

Graduate

Rachel Unruh, Swathi Manda

This spring we focused on reaching a wider audience through collaboration with graduate sections of other women engineer organizations on campus. The semester kick started with our first ever welcome Lunch n’ Learn specifically for women graduate students; the event saw great turnout and active participation as graduate students came together to exchange ideas and network. We also held a Lunch n’ Learn with IMG Financial, where Chris McBee presented on the nuances of smart personal financing for engineers. We brought together graduate students from SWE, WISE, WGSN and AWICS at a Lunch n’ Learn with Halliburton, where we had a successful open forum with Ms. Candice Landry and Ms. Elena Gearheart, as graduate students asked questions regarding transitioning successfully from a long academic career to industry. SWE has also successfully started the Graduate School mentorship program to connect graduate students with juniors and seniors who are considering graduate school. Our graduate community is now enthusiastically guiding the undergraduates through the experience of successfully applying to graduate schools.

Big Sis Lil’ Sis

Kelly Satterfield

Big Sis Lil’ Sis is a mentorship program designed for students within the same major, where upperclassmen assist underclassmen with the transition either from high school to college or from lower level to upper level classes. This program facilitates relationships between women and is an outlet for questions and concerns regarding engineering and college life in general. Topics covered over the semester include class registration, professors, extracurricular experiences, career search advice, or just information about life as an engineering major. Big Sis Lil’ Sis includes socials, class registration parties, dinners, and movies. All events are geared towards helping the members get to know their sisters and the other members of SWE.
Want to get more involved?

Visit our website, swe.tamu.edu

Join our Facebook group, Society of Women Engineers Texas A&M

Join our listserv to receive announcements about all SWE events!
Talk to an officer or email membership@swetamu.org

Check out the Region C blog, regionc.wordpress.com