A Word from Our President

Howdy! This fall has been a very busy SWE semester! This semester has seen an overwhelming number of new SWE members with our section’s paid membership at 404, which is the largest of all Engineering Student Organizations at Texas A&M University! We kicked off this year with several new programs. SWElites is a leadership program for freshmen in SWE that we started for the first time this semester. We hosted our second annual SWE Corporate Networking Night in September which had a great turnout. In addition, we renamed three of our programs. They are called SWEInspire, which was previously the SWE12 High school program that sent out newsletters to targeted high schools in Texas. SWE Engage is the new name of the SWE12 Middle school mentoring program, and SWE Explore is the new elementary school program that we launched. I hope all of you have enjoyed attending SWE socials, participating in our mentorship programs (BSLS & FLAME), being part of our committees and getting to know your SWEsters better!

The spring semester has a lot in store with SWE for everyone! We will be hosting our 39th Annual High School Conference, attending the SWE Region C Conference in Austin, TX and hosting a new Spring Leadership Retreat! Be on the lookout for applications and information about these upcoming SWE events and I hope to see you all at some of them!

SWE-TAMU would not have been able to implement all our programs without the help of our corporate sponsors, our advisors- Ms. Lagoudas and Dr. Reed Rhoads, our amazing officer and exec team, and all of the SWE-TAMU members who participate in our events! I really appreciate all your support and will strive to deliver the best to you.

Good luck with the rest of the fall semester and if you have any SWEet questions, you can always reach me via email at president@swetamu.org.

Thanks and Gig’em!

-Ishita Mandhan
F.L.A.M.E

Females Leading Aggies as Mentors in Engineering (FLAME) is a mentorship program in the Society of Women Engineers at Texas A&M University (SWE-TAMU) that enhances student academics through relationships with female industry professionals and/or graduate students.

Students are grouped with a female mentor based on engineering discipline and company interest and maintain communication during the semester through discussion topics e-mailed by the FLAME. Topics range from job interview tips to post-graduation lifestyle adjustment. Two luncheons are held every semester in Houston and College Station, providing an opportunity for mentors and students to meet. One of the best qualities of the program is that mentors can bring about a great impact with just a small commitment of time and effort.

This fall, we have 26 mentors and 86 students in the program, and the first luncheon was held on October 4th in Houston at Buca Di Beppo. There were 10 mentors and 26 mentees in attendance at the luncheon. Icebreakers were conducted to get to know each other a little better and then the mentors and mentees were divided into smaller tables to discuss topics and answer any questions the mentees had. After the successful luncheon in Houston, FLAME will be having its next luncheon on December 6th in College Station, TX.

If you’re interested in the program, please contact the FLAME chair at flame@swetamu.org.

F.L.A.M.E Luncheon in Houston

High School Conference

Sarah Wilson, Sophia Zhang, Gissel Gardea

The High School Conference is a two-day opportunity for high school students to gain a better understanding of both engineering and Texas A&M. Past conferences have included lab tours, class visits, design contests, campus tours, company presentations, opportunities for students to talk with the different departments in the college of engineering, and more. Additionally, participants sometimes have the option to spend the night in a dorm on campus with a current college student. This upcoming January 30-31st will be our 39th annual conference, and our theme is "The Lego Conference: Engineering is Awesome!". The conference is a great program to discover more about engineering and life as a student at Texas A&M.

Interested in helping with High School Conference? Email hsc@swetamu.org for details. We still need more volunteers and dorm hosts!
**Big Sis Lil Sis**

Big Sis Lil Sis is an undergraduate mentorship program between students of the same major to assist in either the transition from high school to college or from under level to upper level classes. However this year, due to an outstanding participation response, instead of one on one mentorship, participants have been put into "families". Each family has an upperclassmen along with six to eight underclassmen. This program, geared mainly toward freshmen, is an outlet for questions, concerns, or just general advice in the form of those who had similar experiences during their collegiate career. We cover topics such as class registration and professor tips, study abroad experiences, help with resumes and internships, or just general information about engineering and college via bi-weekly email discussions. Big Sis Lil Sis also has socials like class registration parties, dinners, and movie watching. It's a great way to get to know women engineering peers in your major!

**SWE Engage**

The goal of SWE Engage is to encourage the involvement of middle school girls in math and science through tutoring and mentoring of 7th and 8th grade girls by Texas A&M SWE members at a local middle school. Through this program, we hope to help increase girls' confidence in their abilities in academics and involvement in STEM fields. Because of the immense popularity of this program with A&M's mentors, we foresee expansion into the math department at the local middle school and long-term expansion to other middle schools in the area.

**SWE & Engineering Trivia**

1. From what Latin word does engineer originate?
2. Lillian Gilbreth contributed greatly to the fields of both industrial engineering and organizational psychology. The Society of Women Engineers even has a scholarship named for her. What biographical novel did her children write about their family?
3. What decade did the first woman receive a diploma from Texas A&M?
4. Who is the current SWE president?

Answers are on the back of this page.

**SWElites-SWE Leaders**

Inspired to Engineer Success

This year we have started a new leadership committee just for freshmen in SWE, and it has been a great success. There was huge interest in the program application process, and final selection of the 18 members was very competitive. This semester we have gotten to know each other as a group through both socials and meetings. Also, we are in the process of planning a large service event, and are attending a leadership conference in November to develop some hands-on leadership experience. We look forward to seeing how this exciting new committee develops in the coming year!
Graduate Program

Rachel Unruh, Judy Amanor-Boadu

The graduate program started on a great note this semester with a Dinner-and-Learn session with Laura Hartman from USC. Laura represented the USC Viterbi School of Engineering and presented us with many interesting facts about their graduate engineering programs and provided a great start to the semester. Furthermore, we have organized a mentorship program between grads and undergrads to foster dialogue about concerns pertaining to applying to and surviving in graduate school. In conjunction with the electronic communication among the mentorship groups, we are organizing various social events throughout the semester for the mentorship program participants, one of which is a Graduate School Informational Student Panel where students shared some tips and tricks about being successful applicants to the most competitive graduate programs of the nation. Additionally, we are coordinating with the national SWE Graduate Committee to provide our members with webinars addressing graduate student-specific topics such as presenting research effectively.

SWE National Conference

SWE Executive Team

Each year SWE members from all around the world travel to network at the SWE Annual Conference. This year the conference was held in Los Angeles, CA as a joint conference with the international network of women in engineering and science. WE14 & ICWES16 provided SWE-TAMU members with a lot of great ways to grow professionally as they continue their journey at Texas A&M and prepare to enter the industry in the future.

SWE-TAMU sponsored 16 members to attend the conference from October 23-25th in the beautiful city of Los Angeles. We attended Region C meetings both with the professional and collegiate sections, and several seminars. In addition, SWE members were able to attend Corporate Hospitality suites, look for jobs and internships at the career fair, and network with numerous women engineers!

Our members had a group dinner on Friday night, and on one of our free mornings we decided to venture out to explore the city and see the pacific while in California. We enjoyed it tremendously!

At the closing banquet of WE14, SWE-TAMU won two awards- Outstanding Collegiate Section-Gold and the Outreach Series/Event- first place. This was a great accomplishment for our section to get national level recognition for our events and programs!

Overall, WE14 was a very enriching experience for all the attendees and we hope to see you at WE15 in Nashville, TN next year!

Trivia Answers

1. The term “engineer” can be traced to the Latin word for engine, *ingenium*, which means “clever invention.”
2. Frank Gilbreth and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey wrote the book *Cheaper by the Dozen* about their large family. Lillian sure managed to find a way to balance career and family!
3. In 1925, Mary Evelyn Crawford received an official degree from Texas A&M. However, she was given it privately without ceremony. It would still be many years until women were admitted to A&M on a regular basis.
4. Elizabeth Bierman is the president of SWE. She is a senior project engineer at Honeywell Aerospace in Minneapolis.

Region C Conference will be Feb. 6th-8th in Austin! Check our website swe.tamu.edu for applications. Register by Nov.25th!
Socials

Raquel Belnap, Bailey Bauman

Howdy SWE! Socials is in charge of getting all of the food and drinks for all of the SWE general meetings as well as planning two social events per semester. This semester we started off with a Luau social. This was a great way for us to have fun and meet new people while dipping various foods in chocolate. What’s not to like? Our next social was a joint social with ASME that SWE hosted. We got in the Halloween spirit and carved pumpkins while socializing with a bunch of great people. Feel free to come talk to us at general meetings or email us if you have any questions – or if you just want to say hi!

SWE Summer Camp

Hannah Murphy, Megan Rodriguez, Paige Maloy

Summer Camp 2014 was an incredible success! The five day long camp truly opened the minds of each attendee to pursue a STEM related path in the future. The 64 middle school girls that attended were thrilled to take part in our many engineering opportunities, including company visits, a week-long design project, making ice cream with frozen nitrogen, and many more small design activities. Through corporate involvement, Summer Camp 2014 gave each girl an opportunity to catch a glimpse at the fun and professional side of engineering here at Texas A&M University. We hope that our members and our sponsors continue to show support for this wonderful, time-honored tradition. We look forward to Summer Camp 2015 and cannot wait to inspire and excite another great group of young women.

Socials

Luau Social

Pumpkin Carving Social

Raquel Belnap, Bailey Bauman

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