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NJIT Hosts SWE Region E Conference

Shruthi Shankar, NJIT SWE

The New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) SWE section hosted this year's SWE Regional Conference at their campus in Newark, New Jersey. Region E student sections from as far away as the Virginia Military Institute, Drexel, and Cornell participated in a variety of seminars and activities, from financial management tips and a comparison of section best practices to a demonstration of hypnosis. The National SWE President Elect, Michelle Tortolani, was also in attendance.



The NJIT SWE Executive board enjoys a formal dinner at the end of the regional conference in March.

Student feedback confirmed the success of the event:

Tiffany Sands: It is nice to learn different experiences from women in the field of engineering, as they give good advice about how to shape a career

Attendee: These workshops provide a great opportunity to network among other colleagues from the same industry

Sybrina Blisset: I learned a lot from the conference even though I am not an engineering student..the workshops were not just focused on engineering

Nav-Air representative - *Seung Park* - It was an excellent experience to meet engineering students from a diverse background of experience. Our company welcomes such enthusiasm and diversity in our workforce.

Region E Attends SWE National Conference

Several Region E members attended the SWE National Conference this fall. Highlights from the event included ample chances to meet students and professionals nationwide, attend seminars and develop networking, leadership, and communication skills. As usual, the career fair was also a popular component of the conference. The conference concluded with an awards banquet and a spirit contest. Congratulations to the Region E Cornell University Section for winning an excellence award for large sections! Region D won the spirit contest for their unified "Diva" theme. Congratulations, Region D! Region E had the motto "We put the E in SWE!" Plans for next year's spirit competition are underway—send ideas to rcne-e@swe.org.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Remembering Virginia Tech*
- *Best Practices: R.I.T., Rutgers, and Cornell*



New Region Leadership Elected

Congratulations to the new collegiate regional leaders, Kavita Baba and Nastaran Hashemi. They were elected unanimously at the SWE Regional Conference in March, and will serve for FY08 beginning this July.

Kavita Baba is currently a sophomore in the Chemical Engineering program at Cornell. Previously, she has served as a Director of Corporate Relations for the Cornell SWE Section.

Nastaran Hashemi is a Ph.D. candidate and graduate research assistant in the Mechanical Engineering Program at Virginia Tech. She is expected to graduate at the end of next year.



Kavita Baba, RCR-E FY08

Stephanie Speaks

Stephanie Goldfarb, RCNE

We are entering a period of transition and change. We have suffered a tragic loss of life at Virginia Tech. Our hearts and prayers go to the Virginia Tech family. At Cornell, the student section has sent letters of support to the Virginia Tech SWE section, and several students have sent individual letters. I encourage other sections to do this as well.

In the wake of this tragedy, it is important to remember also that however painful, times of loss can be time of growth. We should all take time to appreciate the preciousness of human life. Please read the letters from Nes and Arwen on pages 2 and 6 of this issue; I believe they speak for all of us.

I encourage you also to use this time as a chance to renew your connection with your community. Throughout this newsletter are reports of recent SWE events and suggestions for ways to get involved.

Warmest regards,

Stephanie

Reflection on Recent Events

Dear Region E and all of SWE,

I believe I speak for everyone when I say how truly saddened I am by the recent events at Virginia Tech. After having spent time with the wonderful and talented women engineers at this great institution, I am at a loss to fully process the day's tragic events. I imagine the long term

effects have yet to ripple out. We as women engineers need to stay mindful of the needs that have yet to be expressed, and do our very best to lift one another up in support and comfort in the time to come.

My thoughts and well wishes go out to the victims and their families, with the offer of any help

that may be needed at this crucial time, or in the future.

With Deepest Sympathy,

Arwen

Former RCR-E
Manufacturing Engineer
Caterpillar, Inc

**SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS**

July 2007

- *Good luck with your courses and exams!*
- *July 1, 2007
Transition to new collegiate regional leadership complete*
- *August 1
Scholarship winners announced*
- *August 16-17
SWE Leadership Training Weekend in Bethesda, Maryland*
- *October 25-27
SWE National Conference in Nashville, TN*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Timely Advice for Seniors: Upgrade Your Membership!

Erin McGinnis, CLC

Have you ever thought about transitioning from a collegiate SWE member to a professional SWE member? The Society currently calls this process “upgrading.” The vast benefits that come with upgrading your membership include:

Diversity training * Professional Development * Career Management * Role Models & Mentors * Gender-specific Management Tools * Local Support * Leadership Training & Experience * Networking * Conferences * K-12 Outreach * Award-winning SWE Magazine * Web Seminars

The cost to upgrade to a professional member is only \$20. This \$20 pays your SWE membership dues for one fiscal year and your membership status changes from collegiate to professional member. Once you become a professional member there will be many opportunities to touch the lives of young girls and influence their interest in math & science. You will also have the opportunity to interact with other women in engineering, which not only is beneficial professionally, but has great personal rewards as well. The aspect that most members find beneficial is the networking and career contacts which are made through

SWE’s vast network of local, regional and national corporate sponsors. Why not upgrade? Becoming a professional member of SWE has no negative side effects—it’s good for you, it’s educational, it’s fun, and only \$20!

Please write to rsc-e@swe.org for more information on the upgrading process or to better understand the benefits of being a Professional SWE Member.

Best Practices

SWEets for Sale!-*Melissa Przyborowski, Rutgers*

This semester, the Rutgers University section of SWE is starting a very sweet and smart fundraiser! In order to raise funds for meetings & events, we are printing men's shirts, women's tank tops, and panties with an I love you design that any engineer would love! Along with that, we are creating affordably priced baskets filled with the clothing, chocolate, stuffed animals, and other goodies so that engineers can pick up last minute Valentine's Day gifts for their sweethearts.



“Operation Holiday”-*Nkiruka Okeke, R.I.T.*

On December 12th, Sojourner House held its annual “Operation Holiday” event, where almost 200 women and their families benefit from the gifts and festivities that is provided by Sojourner House through the community and other organizations. Sojourner House is an organization that helps transitional women in the community with shelter, counseling and even with developing skills by obtaining degrees or certification.

This year, the SWE section at Rochester Institute of Technology participated in this event by helping with set-up, donating decorations and welcoming the women and their kids who attended this event. This activity was part of the Community Service/Community Building initiative that RIT SWE tries to accomplish this year.

For more information on Sojourner House, visit <http://www.sojournerhouse.org/>



Prospective Candidates Weekend-*Stephanie Goldfarb, Cornell*

This April, Cornell SWE Members living in on-campus housing hosted prospective engineering students. The students came to campus, spent all of Friday attending classes and lab demonstrations, and then spent the evenings with the SWE members. SWE members planned the event with the support of the school Diversity Programs in Engineering and worked hard to match students and hosts by interests and experience. This event has a storied history—many Cornell SWE leaders got their start as PCW attendees a few years earlier!



How to Maintain Your Student Group's Relationship with an Employer

Robert Raybits

Manager, University Relations & Recruiting
Electronic Systems
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Congratulations! You're about to graduate, and have just completed a very successful year as an officer, director, or active member of your campus student run organization. During your time of involvement, you've had the opportunity to meet and interact with numerous company representatives, either through workshops, guest speakers, mock interviews, resume critiques, etc. Perhaps you were the group's industry liaison, or were just very active in getting to know recruiters as you visited at their booths over the years during campus career fairs. Whatever the situation, if you were active in your organization's activities, then you undoubtedly have come into contact with various company representatives. Now What?

Before you graduate, you owe it to the organization(s) that you served so well during your student years, to educate your successors as to the many key contacts that you've cultivated over time. Good relationships take time to develop...don't let them dwindle away and lose purpose. Each Spring, many student organizations hold events such as banquets or awards dinners, in which they typically install the officers for the following academic school year. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your friends from industry to join you in these events. Don't focus on having industry sponsor such events, but rather use them as a springboard to introduce the new officers to the relationships that have served you so well during your time of involvement with the group. Don't let the relationships fall apart, just because you are graduating.

Each year, companies will evaluate where they have enjoyed successes in the recruiting process, and make decisions as to where they wish to invest the following year. The company that I represent, Northrop Grumman, is no different. Representatives from across the 8 sectors of the company hold discussions annually to identify the organizations that have served us well, those we desire to become more involved with, and finally, those which have not proved to be a valid investment in the past. Taking the initiative to preserve the relationships that you have nurtured and introducing them to the new leaders of the organization, will go a long way in promoting their longevity. Remember, you never know where your next job may come from. Even after you've departed campus for the professional work world, these same relationships may one day be called upon to secure your next employment opportunity when you least expect it. Remember your relationships as you move forward, and they in turn, will remember you.



Your Student Region Staff

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ACHIEVE**

We're on the Web!
[www.swe.org/SWE/
regione/students/](http://www.swe.org/SWE/regione/students/)



SWE Mission (Adopted in 1986)

Stimulate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life, demonstrate the value of diversity.

SWE Values

Integrity

We aspire to the highest level of ethical behavior as evidenced by honesty and dignity in our personal and professional relationships and responsibilities.

Respect

We acknowledge gender, ethnic, cultural and other differences, and strive to respect the added values they bring.

Mutual Support

We provide an organization that fosters mentoring, and the development of professional and personal networks.

Professional Excellence

We conduct our activities in a professional manner, demonstrating and demanding the highest standards of business practices.

Remembering Virginia Tech

On behalf of all of us within SWE, we want you to know that we are praying for you and those around you. If there is anything any of us can do, please ask. Coming down would not be a problem. Several of us are sending you letters.

If there is anything I know it is this event will make each and everyone of you stronger...

Again please let me know if there is anything we can do to help.

Sending SWE Love,

Nes

Nes Robinson

CIR-E

