

# SWE *Newsletter*



**Society of Women Engineers**

## Region E Conference

March 6-8, 2009

This spring, women in engineering from several states including New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia traveled to Cornell University to attend the SWE Region E Conference. The theme of the conference, “Advancing Innovation. Inspiring Confidence” was fulfilled over the course of the weekend, as students attended an ice cream social, various workshops, a career fair, and a catered banquet at the Statler Hotel. At the Friday night ice cream social, collegiates were treated to performances by several of Cornell’s a capella groups while getting to know each other in an informal setting. Saturday began with breakfast in Duffield Atrium followed by the keynote address by



Women in Engineering listen to a capella group Hearsay at the Region E Conference Ice Cream Social.

Rick Allmendinger, Cornell’s Associate Dean of Diversity and Faculty Development. Throughout the day, SWE members attended various workshops led by professionals from a wide range of organizations, including Corning, Lockheed Martin, the CIA, and IBM. Workshops included “Interview Skills,” “Lean, Six Sigma and Innovation,” “Effective Negotiation for Women,” and “Building Relationships in the Workforce.” During breaks between sessions, everyone was free to speak with representatives from several corporations at the career fair in Duffield Atrium. The day ended with a course offering, “Focus, Filter, Flourish: Managing Stress in a Complex World.” On Saturday night, conference attendees were invited to a banquet dinner at the Statler Hotel. The conference concluded with farewell breakfasts at Homewood Suites and Holiday Inn.



SWE members enjoy lunch at the Region E Conference.

## Expanding Your Horizons Conference

April 25, 2009

This year's Expanding Your Horizons (EYH), a one-day conference for 7th-9th grade girls, was a huge success. According to their website, "The goals of the conference are to stimulate the participants' interest in math and science through these hands-on activities, to provide them with female scientist role models, and to foster awareness of opportunities in math and science-related careers." About 300 girls converged on Cornell for a day of fun hands-on workshops on a wide range of topics organized by about 29 Graduate Students in Math and Science. Student workshops included such fun titles as "Predators on the Wing," "Holey Cow: The Ins & Outs of Milk!", "Crazy Cascadilla Creek," and "The Incredible Edible Foam." In addition to providing hands-on learning experiences for girls, the EYH also organized a session for parents to discuss opportunities for their daughters in math, science, and engineering with prominent women scientists. The panelists, Celeste Carmichael (Cornell Cooperative Extension), Professor Eun-Ah Kim (Cornell University), Professor Lois Pollock (Cornell University), discussed how their high school and college math and science classes helped them in their careers. This year's keynote speaker was Karen Harpp, associate professor of geology at Colgate University. The focus of her research is using chemistry to understand the workings of volcanoes; she has worked in exotic places such as the Galapagos, Iceland, Antarctica, and Ecuador. About 170 female volunteers served as buddies for participants unaccompanied by adults, and 100 general volunteers helped with various jobs throughout the day.

### Past Info Sessions

- GE Engineering Coop
- Susquehanna International Group LLP
- Morgan Stanley Technology
- Adventures of a Cornell Grad Working at Shell
- Bloomberg
- Lockheed Martin
- Schlumberger
- Microsoft

## Look out for these upcoming events!

**Sisterhood of Science:** Saturday May 2nd 10am - 2pm - Local middle school girls will be visiting Cornell to complete an environmental engineering project as the culmination to their monthly Science Club meetings. About 25 SWE volunteers are needed to help the girls with their projects. No previous knowledge of environmental engineering required! These girls come from schools where very few students go to college, so come encourage these girls to pursue higher education. Contact Jennifer Weil (jrw85).

**High School Outreach:** Monday May 4th - We all have such fond memories of high school; sitting through easy classes, spending our parents' money, getting excited for silly things like prom. Ever wish you could go back? Well you can! Join me and my fellow high school outreach chair, Natalie Katchmar, and volunteer for this year's SWE High School Outreach event. Sign up to help out with our activity either during the morning or afternoon of May 4 (the first day of study break) and have some science-related fun with high school kids! As a thank you for volunteering, we will provide breakfast for morning volunteers and lunch for afternoon volunteers. Plus, you'll get lots of SWE merit points for helping out! We hope you'll join us! Please e-mail Jessica Stark (jcs423) or Natalie Katchmar (nnk9) if you're interested.

## Prospective Candidates Weekend

April 17-18, 2009

In April, SWE hosted its annual activity-filled weekend for prospective female students who have been accepted into Cornell's College of Engineering. Throughout the weekend, SWE organized various social events, panels, and tours for the visiting students. Organized by SWE Engineering Admissions, and Diversity Programs in Engineering, the event was a great way for the women to explore campus, learn about life as a Cornell engineer, and figure out if Cornell is the right fit for them. Many current Cornell women in engineering volunteered to host a student overnight, ensuring the event was a success!