SPOTLIGHT ON: SWE HISTORY
CONTRIBUTED BY SANDRA MARTINEZ

While SWE today serves its members as an expansive resource and network for dedicated women engineers, many members may not be familiar with its humble origins.

The Society of Women Engineers met for the first time in New Jersey on May 27, 1950—nearly 60 years ago. Dr. Beatrice A. Hicks was elected the first president of SWE, which at the time had 65 plus members. The club offered resources to women in engineering and provided an environment for these women to share ideas and support in a male-dominated profession.

The first National SWE Convention took place in New York City in 1951, which was also the year that the first additional chapter was chartered, in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The first SWE journal was also published that year and included meeting notes and news. The original SWE Newsletter evolved into the full-fledged magazine U.S. Woman Engineer in 1980, which ultimately became what we know it as today—SWE: Magazine of the Society of Women Engineers—in 1993.

Though it is called the Society of Women Engineers, the society admitted men as full members in 1976 with full rights and privileges of membership. In 1977, SWE voted not to hold its national convention in any state that failed to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, a U.S. constitutional amendment which ultimately failed to gain ratification.

Today, SWE has expanded to many sections and regions throughout the nation with the same goal since its creation: to empower women to succeed and advance in engineering and be recognized for their contributions as engineers and leaders.

Upcoming Events

BREAKFAST FOR DINNER
MON., MAY 10, 2010
5:30PM-7:30PM
Stop by Upson Lounge for a great meal and a break from studying! Co-sponsored by SHPE, NSBE and AISES.

HIGH SCHOOL OUTREACH
MON., MAY 10, 2010
Want to volunteer for a Physics of Carnival Games activity at Ithaca High School? Contact Hannah (hak47) or Maya (mm828).

ELEMENTARY OUTREACH
TUES., MAY 11, 2010
Volunteer at Belle Sherman Elementary School to make gumdrop bridges with 2nd graders. Contact Kate (kag268) if interested.

FACULTY LUNCHEON
TUES., MAY 11, 2010
10:30AM-12:00PM
Come celebrate the end of the semester and enjoy a light luncheon with faculty members.

LEGEND EXPO
JANUARY 30, 2010

FACULTY VALENTINE’S SOCIAL
FEBRUARY 10, 2010

Kerianne Dobosz and Laura Castrale volunteer their time at the Junior FIRST LEGO League Expo, held in Duffield Hall, by helping kids with fun science activities.

SWE members prepare for Valentine’s Day after enjoying a light lunch by making candy bags filled with Hershey’s Kisses and other sweets.
**ETIQUETTE DINNER**  
**FEBRUARY 3, 2010**

Many manners-minded engineering students chose to attend SWE’s Etiquette Dinner earlier this semester to hear guest speaker Robert Shutt. The dinner, sponsored by Lockheed Martin, gave attendees the opportunity to learn about proper dinner etiquette, with an emphasis on business, professional, and interview contexts. Shutt’s tips ranged from the classic, “Arrive early,” and, “Don’t slurp your soup,” to more thought provoking advice, such as not to drink wine or any other alcoholic beverage when on an interview—even if it’s offered by the interviewer—and for women to take active roles in pulling out their own chairs and opening doors, else risk subliminally priming others about gender inequity or inferiority. Each attendee left with a full stomach, goodies from Lockheed Martin, and a handy pocket-sized etiquette guide for use in the future.

**ENGINEERING DAY**  
**AT THE MALL**  
**FEBRUARY 20, 2010**

SWE members enjoy their time volunteering to help kids make silly putty at Ithaca Mall.

**RELAY FOR LIFE**  
**FEBRUARY 27-28, 2010**

As part of a campus-wide effort to raise money for cancer research, SWE’s Relay for Life team raised $290!

**NATIONAL WOMEN’S HALL OF FAME**  
**MARCH 6, 2010**

Cornell SWE members ventured to Seneca Falls to visit the National Women’s Hall of Fame.

**PI DAY FACULTY SOCIAL**  
**MARCH 12, 2010**

Kimberly Lin makes the π symbol in celebration of Pi day (officially 3/14), while SWE members enjoyed pie with faculty members.

**GIRL SCOUT DAY**  
**MARCH 13, 2010**

SWE members volunteer with local girl scouts to do activities like constructing water filters and creating paper cities.

**REGION E CONFERENCE**  
**MARCH 20-21, 2010**

Cornell representatives at the SWE Region E Conference in Philadelphia.

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Past Info Sessions

Air Products  
Baker Hughes  
Bloomberg  
Exponent  
General Electric  
Lockheed Martin  
Sapient  
Schlumberger  
Yahoo!

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Have an amazing summer, and we’ll see you in the fall!