This year’s overall homecoming theme was Bonded by Blue and White. With true Penn State Spirit, SWE paired with Alpha Kappa Lambda (AKL) to work together before and during Homecoming week to design and produce the best apparel, float, banner, carnival booth, and talent show entry working with our personal theme of Finding Nemo. Our very own SWE President, Danielle DaSilva, was named to the Homecoming Court and after a week of campus-wide voting, she was named Homecoming Queen at the pep rally! The next day at the football game, SWE and AKL were named the first place overall Homecoming competition winners!

Penn State Homecoming

SWE National Conference

From November 4-6th, 16 members represented PSU SWE and Region G at the National Conference in Orlando, Florida. We attended various networking and career development sessions, the career fair, luncheons, and much more! We also met up with a few alum and corporate representatives at a dinner! In addition, Penn State had 2 representatives in the Subject Matter Expert (SME) Bowl where each region competed against each other. Region G took 1st place in SME Bowl! It was a great time!
Meet the Officers and Learn about Penn State SWE’s Structure

Our officers have been working very hard all semester to make SWE a recognized organization within the college and throughout the campus. Not only are they heavily involved with SWE, you can find them participating with other activities such as Engineering Ambassadors, Women in Engineering Program, Engineering Career Resources & Employer Relations Office, International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience, and many more!

Current Officers:
President: Danielle DaSilva
Vice President of Corporate Relations: Krystal Doheny
Vice President of Student Relations: Sinead Guerin
Secretary: Whiteny Tarchinski
Treasurer: Katie Kirsch

In addition to the 5 officers, there are 10 directors that work directly under the officers to plan and organize events for each section. The sections are Publicity, Service, Social, Recruitment, and University Relations. Back in September, many members applied for Committee Chair positions and many of these positions were filled by first-year students!

Stilettos to Steeltoes Competition

Schlumberger sent representative’s to our campus early in the semester to give a presentation and encourage SWE members to consider non-traditional career paths. Then members were posed with the task to write a short essay that explores those alternative career paths for women. The incentive? Cash prizes for the writer of the top three essays for each section, a monetary donation for the section for each submission, an additional monetary reward for the section that had the most submissions, and prize money going to the respective region to support the Spring Regional Conference. After a couple weeks of only having a few essays, Penn State SWE pulled way ahead in the competition in the last days of the contest to submit a grand total of 118 essays: the most submissions by any section! When the results were released, the next closest school had about half our number with 58 essays. There were 15 schools totaled that competed. The winners were recognized at the National Conference.

Fall Career Events

This past fall, Penn State SWE has helped with two major career events.
The first, SWE’s annual Fall Networking Reception, was on September 14th. This was the first year it was held in Alumni Hall in the HUB. 33 companies were represented at the largest networking reception to date! Hundreds and hundreds of students attended this event, which was the night before the Fall Career Fair, to network with representatives and learn more about companies to help in their job search for internships, co-ops, and full-time positions. SWE members volunteered to organize the event during the weeks leading up to and during the evening making sure everything was running smoothly.

A few weeks later on October 19th, SWE volunteered at the Architectural Engineering Career Fair to assist with the student registration and the bag check area. Both of these were successful events!
Expand Your Horizons: Balloon Mania!

This year’s EYH challenge was titled Balloon Mania. About 12 middle school and high school girls visited SWE’s activity to build the best balloon rocket. They were challenged to explore different variables including weight, positioning, and materials used. The girls were split into partner groups and SWE volunteers taught them to use the engineering design process to make their rocket. After brainstorming and discussing different possible designs, they were able to build their very own balloon rocket. After going through some test runs, each rocket was tested for the fastest time and the longest distance traveled. Prizes were awarded to the best teams in those categories as well as the most creative rocket name.

Community Service and Outreach Events

This past semester, SWE volunteered at many different community service and outreach events. Here is a listing of some:

- Women Build: A few members spent a Saturday helping out Habitat for Humanity to build a house for a single mom of two boys from the area.
- USA Science and Engineering Festival Outreach: Several members drove to Washington DC for a day to host a booth with GWIS called “Make Slime: A Cool Polymer”
- Advent Family Fun Night: SWE sent some members to help out young children make arts and crafts for the holidays.
- Angel Giving Tree: Many SWE members “adopted an angel” and bought presents and toys for less fortunate

College of Engineering Holiday Mixer

SWE hosted the very first College of Engineering Holiday Mixer - a fun event for students from the college and different organizations such as Engineers Without Borders, National Society of Black Engineers, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and many others to relax before finals. Food was provided and there was a tacky sweater contest!
Thank you for your patience this semester as we work to get the Alumni Relations program of Penn State SWE rolling. We hosted a successful dinner with some of you during the National Conference and have started a “Networking with Alumni” segment on the website. If you have any additional recommendations or comments for the next semester, please let us know at psu.swe.alumni@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!

-Kylie Sheplock and Amanda Siergiej (Alumni Relations Chairs)

Upcoming Events for Spring 2011

- THON 2011 is fast approaching and will occur Feb. 18-20. SWE has been working hard to fundraise for the big event. SWE will host its annual Mr. Engineer competition on Feb. 8th with the money going to THON.
- SWE has a Rube Goldberg Team this year! This year’s challenge is to water a plant in 20 or more steps. On February 26th, SWE will show off their machine with a Toy Story theme!
- The SWE Stayover will be from March 24-26. We will host high school senior girls interested in attending Penn State!
- The College of Engineering Semi-Formal will be on April 2nd. This event includes a night of food, dancing, and fun!
- SWE once again will be participating in Relay for Life on April 8 and 9th.
- SWE’s End-of-the-Year Banquet will be on April 17th.