

SWE *Newsletter*



Society of Women Engineers



SWE members volunteer at Bridges Cornell Heights.

Valentine's Day Community Outreach Event

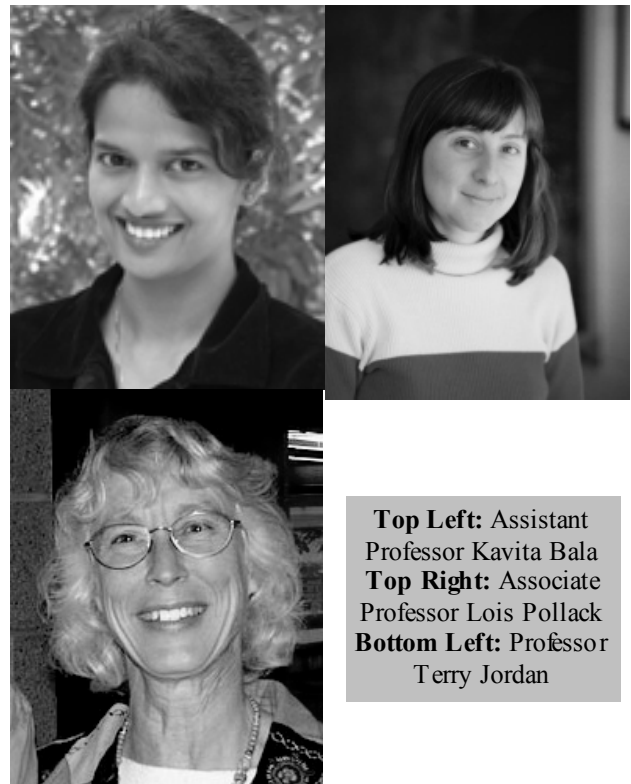
February 14, 2009

Conveniently located just north of Cornell University, Bridges Cornell Heights is a Senior Assisted Living Center. This past Valentine's Day, a group of about ten SWE members decided to "share the love" with residents of the retirement home. The girls spent the day helping the seniors make valentines for their loved ones. In addition, SWE members made valentines for the residents themselves. It was a unique experience for Cornell students to connect with people so much older than themselves, some of whom had lived in Ithaca for most of their lives. Life in a small town like Ithaca is very different from the more cosmopolitan experiences most Cornell students are used to. Conversely, the retirees also enjoyed hearing stories about the lives of Cornell students.

Meet the Faculty Luncheon

February 10, 2009

Last month, SWE held a luncheon catered by Aladdin's restaurant for students and women faculty members from the College of Engineering. Four faculty members participated in the event: Kavita Bala, Assistant Professor of Computer Science; Terry Jordan, Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences; Lois Pollack, Associate Professor of Applied Engineering Physics; and Catherine Becker, Lecturer of Engineering Communications. A variety of topics were discussed, including research, graduate school and internship/co-op opportunities. Around 20 students attended the event, many of whom enjoyed getting to know the professors on a more personal level.



Top Left: Assistant Professor Kavita Bala
Top Right: Associate Professor Lois Pollack
Bottom Left: Professor Terry Jordan
Bottom Right: Catherine Becker

Engineering Day at the Mall

February 21, 2009

On a Saturday afternoon in February, eight ambitious SWE members got together at the Shops at Ithaca Mall. The objective: show kids at the mall just how fun engineering is in honor of the annual Engineering Week. They set up a table to make gak (a squishy substance similar to Silly Putty) with passersby. The recipe was simple: adding Elmer's glue to a zip-lock bag, mixing in a few drops of food coloring, and then adding a saturated aqueous solution of Borax (a laundry detergent) to the baggie by the teaspoonful, mixing thoroughly every time. The SWE ladies may have had even more fun than the kids! While setting up, they experimented with different viscosities, discovering consistencies ranging from clay-like to bouncy, as well as new colors. The event attracted dozens of children, many parents, some older teens, even and adults. One visitor in particular, a retired nurse, was so thrilled with the process that she couldn't wait to show the gak to her grandchildren!



SWE members make gak with Ithaca children.

Past Info Sessions

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

Newsletter Chair: Natasha Gangjee

Look out for these upcoming events!

Region E Conference: Friday March 6th – Sunday March 8th - This event is a great opportunity to network and socialize with other students and professional women in engineering. The registration fee includes:

- Friday night ice cream social with entertainment
- Saturday morning break fast
- Saturday workshops
- Career Fair
- Saturday lunch
- Saturday banquet dinner at the Statler

SWE Research Panel: Wednesday March 11th 4:30 - 6 pm - Come learn about all the research going on here at Cornell, and find out how to get involved! March 4th! Location TBA

Corning Incorporated and BAE Systems Day Trips: SWE would like to plan two day trips for this semester! The first will be to Corning Incorporated in Corning, tentatively on Friday, March 27. The second trip we are planning to take is to BAE Systems in Binghamton with a date TBD. Both of these trips will be day trips and will include transportation and lunch. These day trips will provide excellent networking opportunities and will be both informational and fun. Contact Noreen (nfr2) or Emily (ekc45).

Girl Scout Day: Saturday March 28th 9am – 3pm - Help Junior Girl Scouts earn the "Making it Matter" badge! Stay for the morning, afternoon, or all day. Food will be provided! This is a great opportunity to encourage young girls to pursue science and math. Contact Caitlyn (cvd24).

Expanding Your Horizons: Saturday April 25th 9am – 4:30 pm - This conference is held every year at Cornell to get local girls in grades 7-9 interested in math, science, and engineering. The program consists of workshops and exhibits throughout the day. General Volunteers are needed to help with tasks to help the conference run smoothly (setup, registration, giving directions, etc.) Being a General Volunteer is a good idea for people who can only commit to a partial day of the conference. Contact Ellen Keene (ek237). Buddies are needed to escort the girls around campus and accompany them during all activities, including workshops, lunch, keynote speaker and viewing exhibits. Buddies must be female and must be available for the entire day (roughly 8:30-5:00). Contact Katie Sullivan (kjs237). Lansing Volunteers are needed to help run the mini-EYH conference which is held before the full conference itself at the Lansing correctional facility. Date TBA. Contact Sharon Gerbode (sjg53).

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).