

## THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS

University of California, Berkeley Chapter: Aspire, Advance, Achieve

# Graduation Edition



## CONGRATULATIONS EXEC'S AND OFFICERS 2012-2013!

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## alumni-student dinner

By Mara Minner

*On Thursday, April 12th, SWE hosted the very first Alumni-Student Dinner at Mandarin Garden Restaurant. SWE alumni Monica Tanza, Ipsheeta Furtado, Jessie Tung, Yolanda Zhang, and Jamie Young came back to chat and dine with current SWE members as Berkeley's storm of the century raged outside. The alumni enjoyed being updated on what has changed at Berkeley since they have been gone, reminiscing about times when they still had summer and winter breaks, and catching up with old friends as well as meeting new ones. Students enjoyed learning about life after Berkeley, gaining insight into the job field, and eating an actual meal as opposed to dorm or apartment food. The alumni in attendance requested that this become an annual event, so hopefully this is the start of a new SWE tradition!*

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## Event recaps:

Pre Spring Break Social  
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## Top 10 Things to do before Graduation:

- 1.) Hike up the Big C
- 2.) Go up the Campanile
- 3.) Protest something, it doesn't matter what it is
- 4.) Eat ice cream from Ici and Fentons
- 5.) Try an ethnic food you have never had before
- 6.) Get lost in San Francisco
- 7.) Attend a concert at the Greek Theatre
- 8.) Visit the Berkeley Marina
- 9.) Go see a play -- student or professional production
- 10.) Spend the night in the library

## pre-spring break social

By Tasha Hodgson

*On the Wednesday before spring break, SWE and BMES cohosted a Pre-Spring Break social. The event gave everyone a chance to forget midterm and project stress for a few hours and take part in some fun activities with friends. There were arts and crafts, where all the materials needed to create any creature from the imagination were available, and of course, a few rounds of speed dating to acquaint everyone with each other.*

*The highlight of the event was making "candy sushi" which involved using crisp rice cereal treats, fruit rolls, and a myriad of other kinds of candy to put together sweet alternatives to the well-known Japanese specialty. Students collaborated to produce some truly inspired creations!*



## shadow an engineer: a snapshot by Anran Li

During Spring Break, SWE hosted a Shadow-an-Engineer Week where members had the opportunity to visit various engineering companies around the Bay Area. Another SWE member and I got the opportunity to shadow Caroline Jones, a Cisco Systems manager in supply chain management. At 9 AM on the Thursday of break, I arrived at Cisco corporate headquarters in San Jose, CA. The day was packed with events! Caroline had back-to-back and even overlapping meetings throughout the day. The content ranged across every topic and included team, client, and partnership meetings. My favorite presentation was about a software product that aids in tracking and visualizing the results of their supply chain system. During my stay, I also met many Cisco employees, including Caroline's team of program and portfolio managers. Everyone was very enthusiastic to meet me. Many of them were Cal Alumni and answered questions about life after college, Cisco, and their job positions. For lunch, the Cisco H&R team organized a gathering for all the Cisco shadows. Another group had been debugging for a software engineer in the TelePresence department. Cisco provided yummy pizza, soda, and snacks from a local restaurant. After lunch, I continued to shadow Caroline until the end of the work day. Overall, the experience was very fulfilling and fun! I learned a lot about the supply chain and what it is like to be a technical manager.

# OUTREACH in April...

## Mini-U by Paroma Varma



The SWE Outreach Committee hosted its sixth annual Mini University event on April 13th, 2011. The activities throughout the day were tailored for students from local high schools to learn about Berkeley Engineering and engineering in general. The day started off with inspirational speeches from Material Science and Engineering Professor Fiona Doyle and Engineers Without Borders president Dominic Molinari. The students were then introduced to specific areas of engineering through presentations by faculty and demonstrations by various engineering clubs on campus. While IEOR Professor Rhonda Righter taught

to students to literally "think out of the box" using brain teasers, Professor Terry Johnson made the complicated topic of fluid dynamics entertaining by showing MythBusters videos. The students got their hands dirty while making "Fruit Juice Caviar" with BMES, and made an intelligent program with HKN that could play tic-tac-toe. And to top it off, each of them successfully completed the engineering challenge of making a car using mousetraps, CDs, and other commonly used materials. The event ended successfully as the students left with a new and exciting perspective on the field of engineering.

## Science Saturday: Water Filters by Amy Tsai



April's SWE Science Saturday focused around Environmental Engineering. It took place on Saturday, April 7 as 20 excited elementary school students gathered to create their very own water filters. The students listened attentively as Tahoura explained to them the impact of water pollution on the environment. Then, the students divided into small groups and were given various materials such as cotton balls, coffee filters, gravel, spaghetti and rubberbands. Their challenge was to design and build a water filter to clean two homemade concoctions of dirty water. "Level 1" was a mixture of leaves, rocks and other organic material.

"Level 2" was slightly dirtier water polluted with finer particulate matter as well as more leaves and dirt. The young engineers consulted with one another to decide which materials they would use in their filter and in what order they would arrange them in the filter container. Each of the teams then got to test their filters with the "Level 1" dirty water. They were all surprisingly effective removing all of the large debris and most of the dirt. All of the teams had a chance to modify their filters based on the first test, and each underwent a second round of testing with the "Level 2" dirty water. Several of the groups found that their filters ran too slowly or did not let water through at all. Others were met with success turning the coffee colored muddy water into clear, almost drinkable appearing water. All of the students left with a little more knowledge about environmental engineering under their belt.



# {member} of the month

## Phyllis Wang

Phyllis has been a wonderful component to outreach committee. After joining SWE in the Spring Semester, she immediately became immersed in outreach by becoming an apprentice for the Junior Solar Sprint Challenge and attending every committee meeting and volunteering at almost every outreach event. She even taught middle school kids about buoyancy during our milk carton ships activity. Phyllis has been an irreplaceable component of SWE outreach who has helped the outreach chairs immensely this semester. Also, she has recently been selected as the HNFE Outreach Chair for 2012-2013. Congratulations on becoming the Member of the Month!

## {letter} from the editor

Hello! Thank you everyone for coming out to the final GM of the year! Isn't it such a relief to finally be done with another semester? I'd like to take this space to express my gratitude to all of the SWE officers and members. You guys have really made it a great experience for me and everyone else in SWE. I'm also really excited to accept the position of PR Officer for the coming fall! Thanks and congratulations to the Senior class of 2012.

Your friendly neighborhood newsletter editor,  
Amy Tsai

## {joke} of the month

*Five surgeons were taking a coffee break and discussing their work. The first said, "I think accountants are the easiest to operate on. You open them up and everything inside is numbered." The second said, "I think librarians are the easiest to operate on. You open them up and everything inside is in alphabetical order." The Third said, "I like to operate on electricians. You open them up and everything inside is color-coded." The fourth one said, "I like to operate on lawyers. They're heartless, spineless, gutless, and their heads and their butts are interchangeable." Fifth surgeon said, "I like Engineers...they always understand when you have a few parts left over at the end..."*

## << calendar >>

April/May						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
23	24	25 GM 4 7PM	26 Profesisonal/ Collegiate Mixer 6PM	27	28	29
30	1	2	3 RRR Week	4 Spring Mem- bership Ban- quet	5	6
7	8	9 Finals Week	10	11	12	13

\*\*For times, location, and absolute up to date information on future events, please visit [swe.berkeley.edu/calendar](http://swe.berkeley.edu/calendar)