

# Society of Women Engineers

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2010



## Event recap: Ballroom Dancing Social

Hey! Engineers can dance too! On Friday evening, September 10th, the first ever ballroom dancing event was held at Lower Sproul Plaza with Theta Tau, the co-ed engineering fraternity. The air was brewing with excitement while people arrived without knowing what to expect. Accompanied by a variety of upbeat music, one of the Theta Tau brothers, led the group in learning basic steps to the salsa and cha-cha. Following clear instructions and repeating simple motions, the crowd eventually moved in sync to the beat. We were

then told to pair up with a partner. After all, that's what ballroom dancing was about!

To me, meeting people for the first time, can sometimes be nerve-racking, so put under the circumstances such as ballroom dancing--something that I have never done---was predicted to be quite overwhelming! As each song ended, everyone switched partners, and we all met someone new. In the end, dancing that night brought us to realize its old-fashioned form of a good icebreaker.

People had great conversations in between steps, and the intimate setting allowed everyone to get to know each other a little bit better outside of our everyday environment. If you're looking to have some fun and meeting people, I highly recommend everyone to check out our upcoming social events!

-Elina Lin; Intersocietal Coordinator

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ask our officers	2
Event recap cont'd	2
Avoid midterm blues	3
Letter from the Editor	3
Engineering joke of the day	4
Event Calendar	4

### TOP TEN PLACES TO GO IN BERKELEY:

1. ICI'S ICECREAM
2. CHEESEBOARD
3. BIG C
4. LA BURRITO
5. FENTON'S
6. UC BOTANICAL GARDEN/ROSE GARDEN
7. 4TH STREET
8. SATURDAY FARMERS MARKET
9. IRON WORKS
10. LA MED



## Ask our Officers!

*What is your favorite non-engineering class?*

- Music 128B (Beethoven) was interesting class that analyzed the music and life of Beethoven himself—Constance
- Classics 28, Greek Mythology. Every lecture was story time :) - Sargam
- Femsex (decal) - Michelle

*What do engineers do on their spare time?*

- Studying hard... and then partying even harder than sorority girls... j/k—Sunny
- Read the math pages on Wikipedia so we can sound smart—Neal
- Study, sleep, study, and sleep.. and SWE—Jamie
- Same thing non-engineers do except add the nerdy lingo and random physics facts in once in a while—Deidre

*What is your favorite spot on campus?*

- The hidden grass field behind VLSB and LSA building—Tracy
- My desk in Sutardja Dai. It makes me feel professional—Neal
- Morrison Library: Feels like it came right out of "Beauty and the Beast". Most beautiful room on campus—Kelsey

*What would you do if I gave you a pack of goldfish snack?*

- Genetically engineer them to become healthier to eat like those farmed salmon... - Sunny
- ...and eat them! (bioengineers love to eat) - Jessie

-I'd use the interblogs to run a quick background check on you, and assuming you checked out okay, I'd eat it—Neal

-Assuming I wasn't hungry, I would put them in a river and time how long it takes them to pass from one landmark to another, thus calculating the speed of the river—Kelsey

-As an Industrial Engineer, I would optimize my learning experience by eating them in class so I don't fall asleep—Michelle

-Use it to test out a goldfish snack launcher I invented—best for snacking on the go when your hands are full—Elina

*What is your most embarrassing school related story?*

-I gloved up and jumped in the middle of a cadaver demonstration, only to realize afterwards that I interrupted a



demonstration by the professor to the GSI on how to conduct the next lab—Tracy

-I was in Davis Hall's stairwell, pretending to kick a fellow student in the face, when I heard my engineering geology professor say, "Having fun down there?" from the stairs above us.—Michelle

*Any advices for our young engineers?*

-You're going to get progressively fewer hours of sleep, so value every second of it and don't waste it youtubing at 3am—Tracy

-Get involved! Berkeley offers an amazing array of opportunities; it would be a colossal waste not to take full advantage of them.—Kelsey

-Work hard and play hard! (Berkeley is tough, but you need to find ways to release all that stress.) - Constance

-Don't worry about your grades too much—you're here because you deserve to be here and everyone knows its just about the hardest engineering school on the planet—Sara

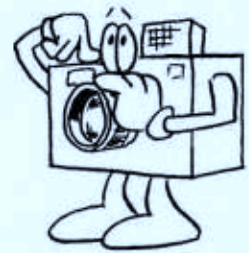
## Event Recap (cont.): Photo Scavenger Hunt

Although only 4 people showed up, we had a blast chasing squirrels. Who knew they'd be so eager to lick a granola bar wrapper? We also climbed trees (there's a good one next to the Moffitt library across from VLSB that has low branches)

that looked perfect for studying on! And did you know UC Berkeley has one of the oldest Eucalyptus forests around here? There are tons behind the Life Science Addition building, where it feels like you're going camping! To those who couldn't make it to the scav-

enger hunt, you missed out on loads of awesome-ness!!

-Sunny Kung;  
Social Coordinator



## Want to avoid the midterm blues? Check out the following rules!

With the end of September comes cooler weather, aversion to dining hall foods, and the dreaded beginning of midterm exam season.

Some lucky people have already had their first midterm, but rest assured, there will be more to come. And for those that are in the midst of preparation, don't fret because we understand exactly what you're going through. As a matter of fact, we're probably freaking out just as much as you are. So to make the process a little less painful for everyone, here is a brief list of 3 ways to surviving this midterm season!

**Don't panic**- As much fun as hyperventilating into a brown paper bag is, it's not very productive. Try not to over-think everything because while it may seem like there is a lot to do, once you sit down and start crackin', you might just realize how quickly your to-do list shortens. Let's try to avoid the panic attacks and mental breakdowns while we can, maybe save them for finals instead?

**Avoid the computer**- It's difficult, I know. Being the children of the technology age means that we're

almost never off the computer. Not to mention, all those homework assignments teachers now post on the web are adding to the problem. But unfortunately, the interweb holds way too many distractions for us college students to handle, and unless you're a pro at multi-tasking, those procrastination sites like sporcle, facebook, and youtube will call to you in a way that homework never has. So while they're all very dear to our hearts, it's time to let go and make a date with those practice midterm problems.

**Be optimistic**- First off, there's always the magic of partial credit. If you really don't know the answer, write something down. It's worth those few points, especially if you have some idea of the process. And even if you don't, you might scrape up an extra point here or there so never leave an answer completely blank.

Second, for those classes that are curved, just tell yourself that you don't have to get 100% on the exam. You just have to beat out the other 75% of your class to get an A. Now think of how much

more doable that is! If your class isn't curved, well... you're screwed. Just kidding! If you study hard and go in prepared, there's no reason you shouldn't dominate that exam.

Remember, bombing midterms is part of the college experience. We engineers have it tough unlike those slackers in L&S, complaining about how much reading they have. Engineering is all about application, not memorization, so chances are the problems we see aren't ones that we've worked with before. But if you learn the material and learn from your mistakes, you'll pass the test with flying colors! And maybe next time it might be a good idea to hit the books sooner than an hour before the exam. All the same, I would wait until those scores come back to know for sure whether hermit-ing in the library is a hobby you need to take up. I mean, when everything comes down to it, what's life without a little bit of fun now and then?

-Amy Zhang, PR committee



## A Letter from the Editor

*Hey there SWE members!*

*Thank you so much for coming out to our second General Meeting. I hope you liked our food, enjoyed our presentation, and now love SWE even more! Remember, there are many ways to be involved with SWE. The best way, of course, is to join a committee. If you would like to contribute an article for the next newsletter, you are more than welcome. Watch out for the weekly SWE-mails for upcoming events. Until next time, see ya!*

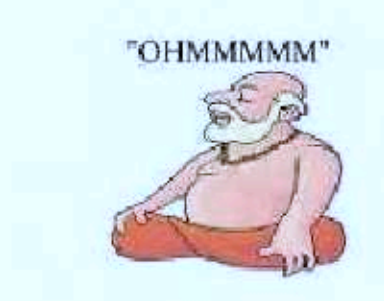
*Yours truly,*

*Tracy Chuong*

*tracychuong@berkeley.edu*

# ENGINEERING JOKE OF THE DAY...

## How do Electrical Engineers meditate?



Got a hilarious joke you want to share?

Send them to Tracy at [tracychuong@berkeley.edu](mailto:tracychuong@berkeley.edu)

## October 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27 General Meeting 2	28 Capture the Flag w/ TBP	29 Cisco Info Session	30	1	2 SWE Science Saturday 1
3	4 Ir-Resistor- able Jewelry/ Game night	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 SWE Science Saturday 2
17	18 General Meeting 3	19	20	21	22	23 Have No Fear, Engi- neer
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### UPCOMING EVENTS

9/28/10  
Capture the Flag  
8:30-10pm  
Hearst Mining Circle

9/29/10  
Cisco Info Session  
6-7pm  
Wozniak Lounge

10/2/10  
SWE Science Saturday  
10am-12pm  
235 Dwinelle

10/4/10  
Ir-Resistor-able Jewelry/  
Game Night  
6--10pm  
Wozniak Lounge

10/16/10  
SWE Science Saturday  
10am-12pm  
250 Dwinelle

10/18/10  
SWE GM 3  
6-8pm  
Wozniak Lounge

10/23/10  
Have No Fear, Engineer  
9am—3pm  
100 Wheeler

For absolute up-to-date info, please visit [swe.berkeley.edu/calendar](http://swe.berkeley.edu/calendar)

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Tracy  
at [tracychuong@berkeley.edu](mailto:tracychuong@berkeley.edu)

*Aspire, Advance, Achieve.*