

SWE NEWSLETTER

MIT Society of Women Engineers

<http://web.mit.edu/swe/www>

Letter from the President

Tina Ro

Dear MIT Society of Women Engineer Members,

Another year has surprisingly passed me by-- as we are now well into December. Reflecting upon 2010, I am filled with great thanks and a tinge of sorrow. Serving as president of the Society of Women Engineers at MIT has been one of my most rewarding college experiences. I began the year with great shoes to fill—left by the legacy of great leaders—and as I finish the term, I am sincerely thankful of the wonderful support of the executive and general board I received. My vision was to create the opportunities, experiences, and memories I have had within SWE for others. The greatest aspect of SWE that I witnessed this past year is the impressive new board and exec members that stepped up into their positions, and really went above and beyond. Observing the growth and the passion of the young leaders was personally inspiring for me.

As we continue December with our final end of the year Board Banquet and also our Executive Board Elections, the month is marked with both a spirit of celebration of our great past accomplishments and also an excitement for the future leaders that will carve and continue SWE's impact on the community. I am fully confident that SWE will continue to be a strong force on campus and will further increase its positive influence it has in our community in year 2011.

Thank you to all the members, leaders, and volunteers for another great year filled with numerous outreach events that touched thousands of children, creative new professional programs that facilitated a comfortable ground for networking with professionals, delicious study breaks that brought the campus together, and finally opportunities that brought a diverse and

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talented group of individuals together. MIT's section was also recognized as an Outstanding Collegiate Section—Silver Award—at this year's National SWE Conference in Long Beach, California, where MIT's SWE was represented by 18 students.

Finally, I personally thank the wonderful board members that I had the opportunity to work with. Your hard work and enthusiasm have always encouraged me.

Sincerely,
Tina Ro



Meet the Professionals

The Meet the Professionals Dinner was held on October 19th at 6:00PM in W20-491.

Every semester, MITSWE Career Development invites professionals to meet and network with students over a casual dinner. We not only hope that students can learn more about career opportunities, but also learn about being an engineer in the workplace.

The companies that attended were: Akamai, GE Aviation, IBM, Intel, Oracle, Schlumberger, and Orbital. Food was from Boston Market and 45 students attended the dinner.



SWE Collegiate Senator: Katherine Kuan

Hello, my name is Katherine Kuan and I am your Region F collegiate senator! The SWE senate is a newly formed body within SWE's governing structure that gives a greater voice to the sections. This new structure gives collegiates 30 percent of the vote, a huge increase over the previous system. As your collegiate senator, I will be representing your opinion on major issues such as bylaw motions and amendments, which we voted on last month at the Annual SWE Conference 2009 in Long Beach, CA. The senate also approves official statements such as a policy paper on affirmative action and equal opportunity which establishes SWE's political stance on related federal policies. We will also be involved in trying to address some mega-issues that concern SWE, such as, "What will be the impact of the changing demographics of the engineering workforce?"

I hope to keep you all updated on what is going on in SWE at a society level and definitely welcome any feedback from you! Check for updates on our Region F blog (<http://regionf.wordpress.com/>) and feel free to reach me with any questions or comments at kkuan87@mit.edu.



Pictured: SWE Collegiate Senators
Kat is in the front row, second from the left.

Career Fair

The MIT Career Fair was held on September 17th from 10:00AM to 6:00PM in Johnson Athletic Center.

The Career Fair was hosted by the MIT Graduate Student Council, Class of 2010 Council, and the MIT Society of Women Engineers.

Despite the economic downturn and recession, we are excited to report that this year's Career Fair still upholds its status as the only nationwide student run flagship recruiting event with a record number of sponsors and over 280 attending companies. Over 5,000 students came to network with employers in this unique opportunity just in time for the recruiting season to kickoff. We welcomed our returning Platinum Sponsors: Oracle and Vecna, whose dedication to MIT students is evident through their previous support over the years.



In addition to the Career Fair itself, we hosted MIT Career Week (Monday, September 14th to Friday, September 18th) in which sponsoring companies host opportunities to meet with students. Sponsorship from the MIT Career Fair helps fund year-round events hosted by the MIT Society of Women Engineers.

WiSE Events

On Saturday, October 24th, WiSE held its kick-off conference for the upcoming year! The conference was attended by 27 participants and 12 mentors, and the day was packed with exciting programming that introduced the girls to the WiSE programs and some of its focuses. In the morning, the girls attended the SWE Majors Fair, which gave them a closer look at different majors in science and engineering through panel discussions and a lab tour. The programming in the afternoon revolved around the mentoring aspect of WiSE; the girls were introduced to their mentors through a "speed-dating" activity. The girls traveled in groups of two or three and had a few minutes to talk to each of the mentors in order to better know one another and their respective interests.

We are excited about the developments that have taken place in WiSE since last semester, and are

currently in the process of matching the girls to their mentors. There are two upcoming WiSE sessions that will take place this semester, one on November 14th and another on December 5th. Each session will be featuring both academics-related programming as well as career-related activities. Some things to look forward to include a trip to the MIT Museum, personality-profiling, and a college admissions panel.



Summer Spotlight

Ellen McIsaac worked with the Gradecak Group in Course III (Materials Science and Engineering) this past summer. She has been working with them since the spring semester and continued her research over the summer. The group focuses on nano-photonics and electronics. Her project involves growing semiconducting nano-wires and optimizing those growth methods to grow uniform wires. Ellen has been trained in several types of microscopy so she can look at her work after she does it. She thinks that it is really cool to be able to see such tiny things, and work in a world where 1mm is huge! Ellen is excited to get more involved with the group and potentially expand to work on other projects as well.



Study Breaks



September 30, 2009: Course 1, 2 and 4 Cusi study break. There were about 50–70 students at the event. Everyone enjoyed talking to each other and freshmen got to know more about these courses.

October 20, 2009: Dumpling study break. There were about 50–70 at the event. Everyone really enjoyed the dumpling from Mulan.

November 24, 2009: Cheesecake study break for Course 7, 10, and 20 for freshman to talk to current students in the three majors.

November 30, 2009: Breakfast study break for Course 3, 16, and 22.

Brownie Day

MIT SWE held its annual Brownie Day on October 31st, 2009. Well attended by Brownie Girl Scout Troops surrounding Boston and even as far as Cape Cod, the day featured four hands-on science experiments. The experiments, density, strawberry DNA extraction, slime, and acid-base invisible ink, all were lead by MIT student mentors. The day included a visit from Tim the Beaver and a snack as well as short presentations about what MIT students are doing and what it means to be an engineer!



SWE National Conference

The 2009 Society of Women Engineers National Conference, now known as the Annual Conference for Women Engineers, was held on October 15th-17th, 2009. 17 MIT SWE members were flown out to sunny Long Beach, California for a long weekend of professional and collegiate networking, job hunting, and fun in the sun.

So what actually happens at the National Conference, you ask? The Conference officially begins on the Thursday of the conference week with the Career Fair kickoff, although a number of smaller events occur all through the week. Generally, attendees browse the career fair and make a number of contacts, often setting up appointments for full time and internship interviews on Friday. The day is also filled with numerous engineering focused workshops. On Thursday evening, sponsors of the conference host "Hospitality Suites," many of which are open to all, some of which are invite only to specific collegiate sections or attendees. These suites offer an informal opportunity to network with corporate and government recruiters while enjoying delicious food, entertainment, and freebies.

Friday also consists of the career fair, and more workshops. The evening is usually spent with the rest of the members of MIT SWE attending the Conference, with dinner and other activities after, depending on the location of the Conference. Saturday is filled with sponsored tours, workshops, and other fun activities for attendees, but this year, many of MIT's women took the opportunity to explore Long Beach and enjoy the sun (and the ocean!). The last activity of the Conference is Celebrate SWE, a dinner and showcase of each regional SWE section to perform a skit exhibiting the fun/unique qualities of their region on Saturday night. This is also where SWE awards are given out. This year, MIT SWE won the Silver Award for Best Collegiate Section.

The Annual Conference for Women is a great way to get to know other MIT SWE members better, as well as network with company representatives and other National SWE members. Next years Conference is in Orlando, FL, so be on the lookout for information on that! If you are interested in attending a SWE conference on a much smaller level, the SWE Region F Conference (to be held April 10th, 2009 at Boston University) is a great way to start. This is a conference of just the collegiate and Professional Sections within our region (Boston, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and eastern New York), which also includes workshops and a career fair.

Diandra Drago
Outgoing VP Membership and Information



Beyond MIT: What happens now?

By: A Senior

When I first came to MIT, I was overly ambitious, clearly deluded, and completely unaware of what I was getting myself into. I loved high school. High school was so much fun. MIT, on the other hand, was a whole different country. Classes were challenging, everyone was intelligent, and there were no more Friday night football games to look forward to. Looking back, I wish I took full advantage of pass/no record. What was I thinking? Now I really wish I lived a little more, gone out more, and spent more time with friends. I'm not going to lie; I wouldn't have gone to another school. As much as I like to imagine myself somewhere else when it's 4 a.m. and I'm still working on the same pset for the past 6 hours, I wouldn't have it any other way. I definitely have a love-hate relationship with this place. IHTFP. I wanted to be a junior forever and didn't want to start senior year. I cringed at the thought of going out into the real world and working. As the job hunt began in September of this year, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. While I was at the Career Fair, each recruiter would ask me, "What are you interested in?" If I had it my way, I would say, "Well I love watching movies, helping people, and going shopping." But of course that would never land me a job. I wish I thought about my future sooner. I really wish I tried different types of jobs prior to senior year. There is nothing wrong with taking on an externship or internship that you never envisioned yourself doing. Who knows? You might find that you have a hidden talent or passion you never knew about!

Teen Voices

Teen Voices is a magazine written purely by youth for youth. Each session, a group of high school girls interns at Teen Voices to come up with all the content for the magazine. Their work can be found here:

<http://www.teenvoices.com/>

For the past two years, MIT SWE has been volunteering twice a year to organize workshops for these young teens. We usually do a technology training workshop highlighting and showing them different web tools that can be helpful in their research and article-writing. This time, we organized a workshop to teach the girls how to use Microsoft Powerpoint 2007 for a presentation they will deliver at the end of their session on their work at Teen Voices. We showed them how to insert images, audio, video files into their presentations as well as add content and animations. We also went over tips on how to deliver an effective presentation and a brief background on the SWE!

The experience was rewarding in that the girls were very enthusiastic about the features in Powerpoint and we hope that they find it to be a useful skill in their future endeavors!



Pictured: Wendi Li and Kat Kuan
helping with Teen Voices!

Why should you join today?

Become a member today! You DON'T have to be majoring in engineering, sciences, or even a woman! Wow! Seriously, anyone can join SWE, and in the process meet some fun and interesting people. We hold many professional, social, and community activities throughout the year.

As a member, you are part of a community of peers with access to the tools, training and role models you need to realize your aspirations as an engineer and a leader. Your section will immediately become a

valuable resource for academic, professional and fun activities.

Enjoy access to a huge network of SWE professional members and mentors, faculty/student socials, recruiter/student socials, plant tours, workshops, speakers, community activities, scholarship eligibility, and much more! PLUS! If you decide to join National SWE, MIT SWE will give you 50% off membership.



Congratulations to our new executive board 2010!

President:	Diandra Drago
VP Membership:	Sandra Chen
VP Campus Relations:	Nan Wang
VP Corporate Relations:	Ellen McIsaac
VP Outreach:	Joy Jiao
Treasurer:	Kuan Cheng
Secretary:	Sara Comis



SWE Board Members 2009

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:	Tina Ro
VP Membership:	Diandra Drago
VP Campus Relations:	Karen Li
VP Corporate Relations:	Karen Zhou
VP Outreach:	Maryelise Cieslewicz
Treasurer:	Amy Leung
Secretary:	Stephanie Wang

MEMBERSHIP AND INFORMATION

Membership Development:	Elli Pula and Emily Shao
Publicity:	Sara Chen and Pooja Yabannavar
Newsletter:	Ying Yang
Historian:	Helen Liang and Tiffany Chu
Media Technology:	Wendi Li and Anisha Jethwani
National SWE PR:	Katherine Kuan
Alumni Relations:	Amy Du
Webmaster:	Susie Fu

CORPORATE RELATIONS

Career Fair Banquet:	Christine Chen and Edna Ezzell
Career Developmental:	Sandra Chen and Kuan Cheng

OUTREACH

Event Outreach:	Ellen McIsaac and Joy Jiao
Girl Scout Outreach:	Amanda Fried and Sarah Simon
KEYs Chairs:	Alice Yu and Candice Murray
WiSE Chairs:	Sumi Sinha and Kimberly Li

CAMPUS RELATIONS

Campus Social:	Eileen Yang and Nan Wang
Internal Social:	Crystal Mao and Monica Hu
Scholarship:	Linda Fong
Advocacy:	Mary Hong and Janice Mathew
Department Liaisons:	Fan Wei and PhitchayavPhothilimthana

FRESHMAN REPRESENTATIVES

Outreach Rep:	Elizabeth Rowland
Campus Relations Rep:	Sara Comis
Corporate Relations Rep:	Sabina Sood

Email Diandra Drago, VP of Membership, for more information:

ddrago@mit.edu

Life is SWEet!

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<http://web.mit.edu/swe/www>

OUR MISSION

SWE Mission: Adopted in 1986

To stimulate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life, and demonstrate the value of diversity.

MIT SWE Mission: Adopted in 2006

To educate members about career choices in engineering and promote community between professionals, students, and alumni. To inspire younger generations and encourage their pursuit of engineering. To promote diversity in engineering and advocate the needs of women engineers at MIT. To build community at MIT SWE, bridge a relationship with local and national chapters, and record as well as disseminate the culture, history, and events of MIT SWE.

MIT SWE

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Become a National SWE Member!

MIT SWE will reimburse you \$10 for registration! Gain access to support systems, SWE Career Center for internships and full time employment search, SWE Magazine, SWE National and Regional Conferences!

Visit: www.swe.org/join

Forward your email receipt to:
swe-vp-membership@mit.edu for reimbursement!



Society of
Women Engineers

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