

May 6, 2022 | Issue 1

The Society of Women Engineers at San Jose State University brings to you our first newsletter! Curated by our five executive board members.

Spring 2022

THE SWE POST



Aspire. Advance. Achieve.





About Us

Over 32% of women switch out of a STEM degree program in college. In the Davidson College of Engineering, only 23% of students are female. Entering the workforce, this number decreases to an astounding 13%. In efforts to increase the retention rate and motivate more women to pursue STEM, the Society of Women Engineers was established at San Jose State University in 1978 to empower women to reach their fullest potential as engineers and leaders.

Currently over 200 members strong with a board of 35 officers, we tackle the STEM gender gap through professional development, community building, and STEM outreach.

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President's Letter

Welcome to the very first issue of The SWE Post! What started out as a rough idea has become a full fledged newsletter that we aim to continue every semester. This has been a jam packed year for SWE and we hope that this newsletter will spotlight our exceptional members and achievements.

As of Spring 2022, women make up 23% of the total enrolled students in the College of Engineering and 29% in the Department of Computer Science. Here at SWE, we aim to support 100% of those women through community building and professional development. We strive to empower and retain not just our own SWEsters, but also strive to inspire young girls to pursue engineering through outreach efforts.

After nearly two years of Zoom University, I am thrilled to see the growth of our section in terms of membership size, engagement, and programs. It brings me so much joy to walk into the clubroom (AKA my second home) and hear chatter and stories from other SWEsters mingling. And I was beyond ecstatic to see familiar and new faces at last year's first General Meeting.

In just one year, we gained over 60 new members, expanded our board to 30 chairs, hosted over 40 events, made 20 new pairings in our Big/Little program, sponsored 20 members to WE21 in Indianapolis and 6 members to WE Local in Albuquerque, organized a two-day conference for high school girls all over California, and raised over \$16,000 for our section. Some of my favorite new initiatives include weekly clubroom socials, officer coffee chats, and Big/Little cohort socials like karaoke and roller skating!

As we begin to wrap up the school year and I begin to wrap up my last semester of college, I reflect on all the wonderful memories and opportunities that SWE has given me. When I stepped into this position, my biggest priority was to ensure that all new and returning SWE members feel safe and welcome, build friendships, and have the opportunity to grow, just as I had. This year has flown by and it is so bittersweet to say farewell to the community I have grown so much from. I am so grateful I got the chance to interact or work with so many of you all. It has truly been an honor to serve as your president this year.

Whether you've been with SWE for a few years or recently joined this year, I hope that you were able to learn, find a community, and grow personally and professionally. Most importantly, I hope you all gained the confidence to succeed as a woman in your field. This is only just the start of a new chapter and I hope you are excited for what the future of SWE holds!

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caitlyn Chan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Caitlyn" on top and "Chan" below it, both starting with a capital letter.

FY22 President



Meet Our Advisor!

Dr. Katy Kao

Dr. Kao is a Professor in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering. She generally teaches the senior-level ChE 160B Unit Operations II class in the Fall and ChE 194 Biochemical Engineering Laboratory technical elective in the Spring. Her lab has two research thrusts: (i) industrial biotechnology to engineer microbes for the sustainable production of chemicals and fuels from renewable feedstocks, and (ii) fungal pathogenesis to address clinical challenges in treating and preventing fungal infections. She also works closely with undergraduate and graduate students on research projects.

Thank you Dr. Kao for supporting our organization and providing us with the resources we need to succeed!

-Fy22 Eboard



Contact Info:

Email: katy.kao@sjsu.edu
Office: ENGR385K

Dr. Kao received her BS in Chemical Engineering from UC Irvine, PhD in Chemical Engineering from UCLA, and a postdoctoral fellowship in Genetics from Stanford. Her PhD work was on transcriptional regulation during changes in carbon source transition in *E. coli*. She was fascinated with how biological systems adapt to changing environments. When she went to Stanford for her postdoc, she learned how to use laboratory evolution as a tool for fundamental studies of how microbes adapt and evolve, as well as for development of strains with desired properties.

Since then, her lab has developed various tools based on laboratory evolution and has applied them to study how human fungal pathogens can develop resistance to anti-fungal drugs and host defenses, as well as to develop strains to produce biochemical and biofuels from sustainable feedstocks.

As our SWE faculty advisor, Dr. Kao wants to support the club based on your needs. She is here to provide feedback, suggestions and logistical support if needed. Her hope for SWE is to see it continue to grow in both membership and positive impacts on members and the SJSU community. She also really enjoys interacting with students and seeing everyone grow professionally through serving for student organizations such as SWE.

Fy22 Board



Executive Board

President - Caitlyn Chau
Internal VP- San Vu
External VP - Swati Chayapathi
Secretary - Risha Ray
Treasurer - Evelyn Chan
Counselor - Fiara Llaguno

None of what we do would be possible without our chairs. Thank you for all of your hard work, dedication, enthusiasm, and for allowing SWE SJSU to deliver its mission.

SWE++

Manasi Nekkar
Sharanya Udupa
Shivani Shaha
Anusri Chavali
Sohini Bagchi
Anushka Chokshi

WOW!

Nikitha Fernandes
Ohood Elbasheer
Nandhini Pandurangan
Neha Washikar

Evening with Industry

Areebah Iqbal
Poojitha Katta
Umama Oishi
Tara Hyde

Professional Development

Lysette Zaragoza
Sai Bharathula

Social Events

Aditi Falodiya
Sanjana
Jagarlapudi

Outreach

Rashmi Boddukuri
Kaitlin Chung
Michelle Dao

Public Relations

Kelly Nguyen
Aditi Jorapur
Chelsea Chu
Kimberly Cheung

Fundraising

Namita Deshpande
Amrit Randev

Membership

Asritha Bobbala

Webmaster

Shirley Li

Mentorship

Sunny Chen

Alumni

Selina Xie

Community Building

Scavenger Hunt Social

Big/Little Luau

Winter Brunch Social

Big/Little Friendship Bracelet Making

Clubroom Open House Socials

Bob Ross Painting Social

Women in CS Mixer

Bhangra Dance Social

SWE X Theta Tau Halloween Social

SWE X WIB X MISA Friendsgiving

SWE X WIB Galentine's Social

Bay Area SWE Trivia Night

Bay Area SWE Beach Trip



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LIBRARY



Professional Development

Texas Instruments Info Session + Workshop

Veritas Affinity Group Social

Lockheed Martin HOLA Panel

SWE X SASE #IAmRemarkable Workshop

Abbott X SWE X BMES Team Building Event

SWE X AOE X Agilent Panel

Bay Area SWE Professional Development Night

LinkedIn Photoshoot

UPWARD U.N.I.T.E.S. Intel

Evening with Industry

Fall: Friday, November 5, 2021

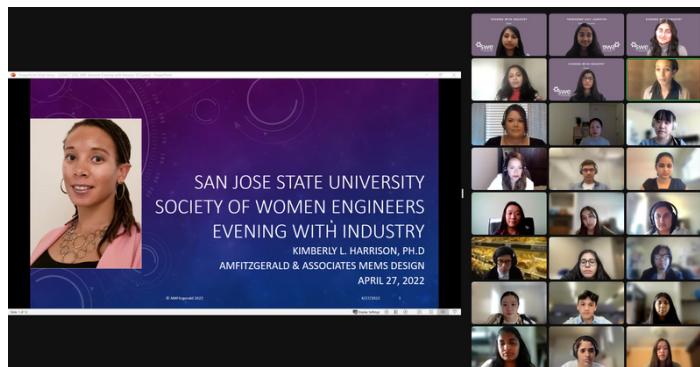
Spring: Wednesday, April 27, 2022



**Hewlett Packard
Enterprise**



Bi-annual networking event, bringing students and companies together to have insightful conversations over dinner. Students learn about the company's mission/culture, gain advice on long-term goals, and develop helpful connections for job/internship hunting.



WE21

October 21-23

Indianapolis, IN

WE Local

February 25-26

Albuquerque, NM

Last October, we sponsored 10 members to attend WE21, the largest and national conference for women in engineering, and 6 members to attend WELocal, the more intimate and regional conference.

Our members got to learn from female executive-level keynote speakers, attend educational sessions, meet SWEsters across the nation, and gain internship/full time offers at the massive career fair. Ticket, flight, and housing at no cost!





SWE X Agilent Networking Session

Friday 4/15 | 3:00PM - 4:30PM

Join our panel and informal networking event hosted by Agilent! Food and desserts provided.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/agilentevent>

professional development



#I Am Remarkable Workshop

RSVP here by March 2nd at 11:59PM

tinyurl.com/rsvpSASE

March 8th, 2022

3:00 PM

Zoom Link will be provided to those who RSVP.

Speakers: (More Speakers TBA)

Anne Cesa Klein
#IAmRemarkable Facilitator from Pure Storage

For more info about #IAmRemarkable:



Abbott Team Building

RSVP: Eventbrite link in bio →

Tuesday, March 15 | 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Join us for a team building and networking event with Abbott Laboratories, a medical device and healthcare company. All majors are welcomed! **Sign-ups close March 11.**

SWE x SASE Toastmasters Social

Thursday, April 7

Student Union Room 2A

4:00PM - 5:30PM

Join SWE & SASE for the chance to develop science communication skills and to meet fellow Spartan engineers over **free pizza!**

RSVP by April 6:

tinyurl.com/SWEtoastmasters

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS SJSU PRESENTS

Evening With Industry

When: Friday, November 5 From 5:30-7:30PM
Where: Gatherly (Virtual) Dress Code: Business Attire

RSVP: tinyurl.com/swesjsu-ewi21
\$5 Deposit to @swe-sjsu-treasurer

Deadline: Nov 2 at 11:59PM
(reimbursed after attendance)

TESLA

BAY AREA SWE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

join sjsu, scu, sfsu, and uc berkeley! learn how to improve your resume, practice mock interviews, and PREPARE FOR upcoming conferences (we21).

WHEN: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14 AT 6PM

WHERE: ZOOM

tinyurl.com/swe-pd-workshop

Outreach

SWE++

Every Saturday from
February 5 - April 9

Introductory Coding Course for Middle School Girls



SWE++ aims to reduce the gender gap in CS in the Bay Area community by providing a supportive and educative environment for middle school girls. We strive to provide mentorship and opportunities for the girls to meet like-minded individuals and foster connections that will last beyond the program.

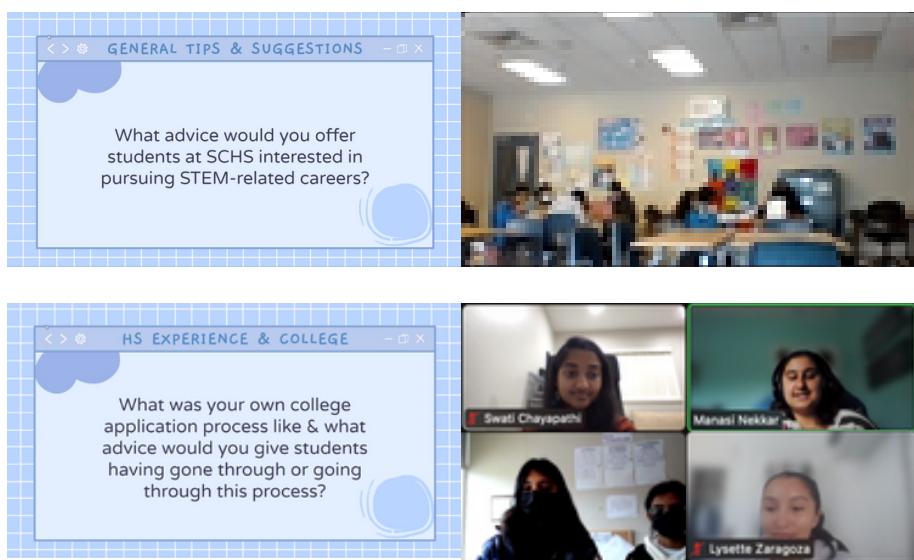
Over the course of 10 weeks, our SWE++ committee and high school volunteers teach Python and programming concepts, bolstered by in-class activities, homework, and a cumulative, creative final project. Additionally, software engineers, professors, and college students are invited as guest speakers to speak about various career pathways.

Santa Clara High School Girls Who Code Club

March 29, 2022

Women in STEM Panel

SWEsters were invited to speak with SCHS GWC members during their lunch session to share advice on navigating the college applications process through acceptances and the decision-making process. This panel took place during their lunch period with SWEsters phoning in over Zoom.



College Insight Panel

Our College Insight Panel aimed to provide high school juniors and seniors with guidance on the college application process.

Through this event, high school students had the opportunity to learn more about San Jose State University and ask any questions they had to current engineering students.

Our panel, consisting of 1st and 2nd years, provided relevant advice to the high schoolers.

November 6, 2021



The graphic features the SWE logo with a gear and bone icon, followed by "SWE" and "San Jose State University". Below the logo, there is a purple box containing event details: Date: November 6th, 2021; Time: 1:00-2:00PM PST; Register: tinyurl.com/534f24se. To the right of the purple box is a white box with bullet points: "Learn more about panelists' experiences at SJSU, insight into college, and general college applications advice during this FREE event", "Opportunity to meet SWEsters one on one for any questions", and "Win an Amazon Gift Card" with an Amazon logo.

PANELISTS



Nikitha Fernandes

My name is Nikitha Fernandes, and I am currently a second-year student studying biomedical engineering at SJSU.



Shreya Aggarwal

Hi everyone! My name is Shreya and I'm a computer engineering sophomore. I love dancing, watching shows/kdramas, listening to music, and cooking.



Shirley Li

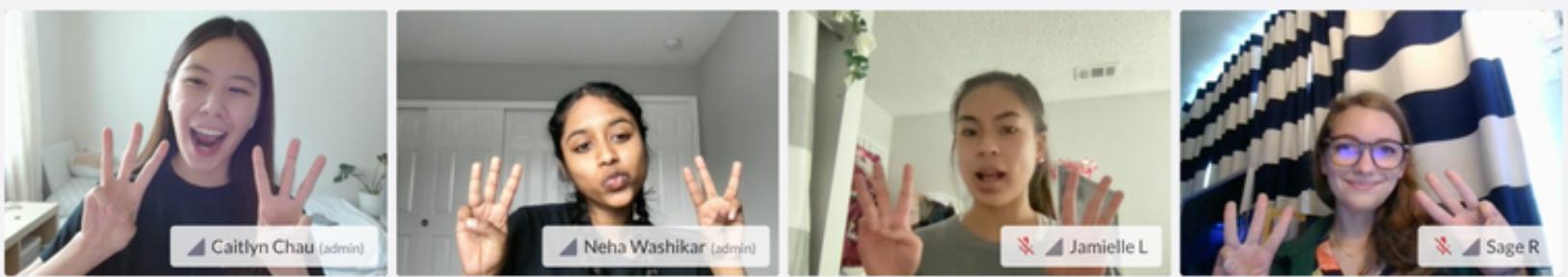
I'm Shirley, a freshman studying CS at SJSU! Outside of coding, I love playing video games (currently garbage 1 in Valorant and AR 55 in Genshin Impact), reading fanfiction, and hanging out with friends!

Visit SJSU Day

April 23, 2022



SWE tabled at Visit SJSU Day to admitted students. Following the event, our Outreach Committee matched admitted students with college students of the same major for a 1:1 meeting to help them learn more and ask questions about their respective majors.



WOW! That's Engineering

March 26 - 27, 2022

This year, we hosted a successful 2-day, virtual and statewide, WOW! That's Engineering Conference, inviting over 100 high school girls to learn about the different engineering fields and inspire them to pursue STEM.

Across two days, the girls were able to hear from inspiring keynote speakers, rotate educational workshops, meet other attendees in socials, and hear innovative solutions to support water conversation!

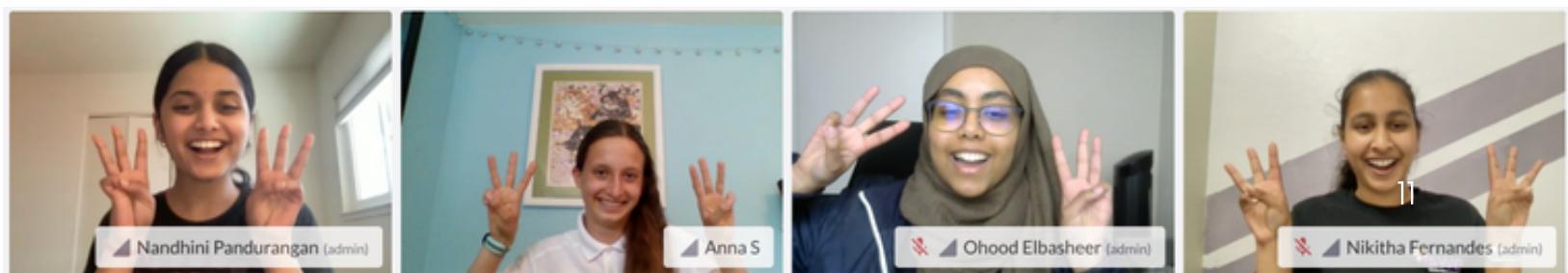
Thank you to our WOW! Chairs: Nandhini, Nikitha, Neha, and Ohood, for all of your hard work and for leaving a lasting impact on all of the young girls who decide to pursue a career in STEM.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Kathryn Terrazas
Mechanical Engineering Manager, Northrop Grumman

A purple-themed profile card for Kathryn Terrazas, featuring her photo and title. Below the card is a row of five small video thumbnail images of conference attendees.



Carrd: swesjsuwow.carrd.co
Instagram: @swesjsu.wow



Chair Spotlights



OUTREACH CHAIR Kaitlin Chung

Civil Engineering, Class of 2022

How do you like being a chair?

I love being a SWE chair! It has allowed me to grow close to the rest of the other members of the board while giving back to the club and community. Being a chair pushes me to be more active and involved by attending more club events. As outreach chair, I help host events with groups outside of SJSU such as high schools or robotic teams by hosting informative panels and arranging opportunities for mentorship. It is rewarding knowing that I'm helping empower younger students pursue a career and education in STEM!

How has being a SWE chair impacted you?

Being a SWE chair gives me the opportunity to step up and take more of a leadership role within SWE. I'm constantly collaborating within my committee, but also working with other committees and groups to make events happen. As a chair, I witness all the hard work that is being put in to host events, and it gives me a huge understanding of how much effort the SWE board puts in to make events happen. Witnessing the planning and execution of these events amazes me and it pushes me more to want to give back to our SWE community.



What did you learn? How did you grow?

The opportunity to be a SWE chair has grown my leadership, organization, and communication skills. By being a chair, I am constantly taking on new tasks on top of my course work. I've learned to keep myself organized by utilizing a calendar and schedule, but have also relying on other committee members. Being a SWE chair has taught me so much with leaning into my peers for support and learning how to bounce ideas off one another. But I also learned how to step up, and take more of a leadership role when I want to get something done. Being a SWE chair has taught me so much and I'll continue to use these skills as I navigate my life and career.

Chair Spotlights

MENTORSHIP CHAIR Sunny Chen

Computer Science, Class of 2023

How do you like being a chair?

I really enjoy being a SWE chair! As mentorship chair, I get to meet so many new SWE members each semester and as the Big-Little program increases each semester, I get to know each member a bit better through all the socials and events we have. In addition, I get to know the entire SWE board better during our monthly meetings and I get to see how all their hard work pays off.

How has being a SWE chair impacted you?

Being a SWE chair has allowed me to get out of my comfort zone and become a more outgoing and confident person. As someone who used to be really shy, I could have never imagined myself being in the position that I am now, where I lead and plan events for large groups of people.

What did you learn? How did you grow?

As mentorship chair, I learned a lot about what goes into having a successful big/little program. From planning the timeline of the program to leading the socials, I have developed so many new skills such as public speaking, and I am proud to say that I have grown a lot through this position.



Chair Spotlights



WEBMASTER

Shirley Li

Computer Science, Class of 2025

How do you like being a chair?

Being a SWE chair is really fun! It's a great opportunity to interact with members, chairs, and the eboard. It gave me the opportunity to interact with people of all experiences and backgrounds. As a chair, it has given me the opportunity to learn a lot through maintaining the website. Having to understand the code that was previously written and implement personal pieces to it has allowed me to explore web development. I was able to follow the style that was written before me and learn how to handle legacy code. It is an educational experience with something new to learn each time!

How has being a SWE chair impacted you?

Being a SWE chair pushes me to be on top of things through making timely updates on the website and actively participating in events. I was also able to interact with other chairs. These opportunities helped push me out of my comfort zone. Since SWE is one of my main extracurriculars, this has been a great way to allow me to spend as much time on campus as well through all the events hosted.

**"Go at your own pace. Shirley but slowly.
Try to find a balance."**



What did you learn? How did you grow?

I learned and grew by taking on volunteering opportunities because I was able to give back to the community. I volunteered for the outreach panel for high-school students and although I was unsure if I was qualified enough to take on this opportunity, I decided to take the initiative to give back. It was also very fun to volunteer at WOW where I was in the Abbott group. Although Abbott focuses on biomedical engineering, which is different from my major, CS, this was a great way to explore other fields of engineering. It was also interesting to see how CS interacts with other fields of engineering.



Big Little Spotlight



Manasi is a 2nd year Applied Math major from Campbell, CA. She joined SWE as a freshman in Fall 2020, in the midst of the pandemic, wanting to make friends. What stood out to her was that SWE offered both professional development and outreach events. A match made in heaven! Her favorite SWE memory this year was going to the first General Meeting & Social and meeting all the people she met last year online, in-person! This year, she picked up 2 littles, Aditi F. and Nani. Manasi rediscovered a passion for reading last semester and is currently co-leading SWE's book club. Currently, she is serving as a SWE++ chair and her favorite part of the program was seeing the middle school girls have their "OMG this is so cool!" moment.

BIG
Manasi Nekkar

LITTLE
Nani Ahlawat

Anandi (Nani) Ahlawat is a 1st year Computer Engineering major from Torrence, CA. She joined SWE this semester and wants to meet people of all majors. Nani joined the Big/Little program this semester wanting to find someone going through similar experiences at SJSU. Having always been interested in sports and playing a lot of sports growing up, Nani hopes to work as a trackside engineer for a Formula 1 racing team and get a Masters in Motorsport Engineering (which is only offered in Europe!). Outside of SWE, Nani is member of KSJS, a student-run radio station and organization that delivers underground, local music to the SJSU community. She is currently training to be the assistant to the head of the sports department as well as training to get her certification to be on air.

Alumni Spotlight



Qien Qien Lee graduated from SJSU in Spring 2021 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. She currently works at Synaptics as a System Engineer, focusing on device characterization. In her role, she validates silicon chip designs for smart sensing displays, such as touchscreens.

Qien Qien learned about SWE as she passed by during club tabling and checked out SWE's website. She first joined the board as Webmaster, which familiarized her with SWE. Following this, she served as WOW! Chair in FY19 and Vice President in FY20. Her favorite SWE memories were hanging out in the clubroom with everyone and studying together. She remembers when lockers used to be competitive to get!

Do you miss school?

I miss seeing friends at school and having more time to do things on the weekdays, but I also enjoy having clearer boundaries between work and my personal time now so I can practice more self-care and pursue my hobbies on the side.

Did you pick up any new hobbies after graduating?

After graduating, I made it a point to start exercising. In school, I never found time to watch my diet. Although I was a complete beginner, I started going to Judo after work and I enjoy the sport because it allows me to give my all into it and uses every part of my body.

Qien Qien Lee

Electrical Engineering, Class of 2021





Asritha Bobbola
Statistics



Caitlyn Chau
Computer Science
Minor in Sustainable Energy



Kaitlin Chung
Civil Engineering



Rashmi Boddukuri
Computer Science



Risha Ray
Software Engineering



Swati Chayapathi
Computer Science
Minor in Dance

*Farewell
Seniors!*



Class of
2022

Senior Quotes

I encourage all fellow SWEsters to network with not only representatives at company events, but with each other within the club. You could do this by being a part of the board, going to social events, and/or joining the mentorship program! I can guarantee that the relationships you make and the related bonding experiences will be the most memorable when you look back on your university days.

- Asritha

My favorite part of SWE is being surrounded by such a supportive group of members who constantly works to empower me and our community. Being in SWE allows me to foster new relationships and help strengthen current ones. I know that I can count on any of the members for guidance and undeniable love and support.

- Kaitlin

Take advantage of SWE! SWE not only provides a tight knit community of female engineers but also provides opportunities for professional development.

- Rashmi

One piece of advice I would give to fellow SWEsters is to take advantage of every opportunity offered. Even if you're hesitant about going to an event, do it! It's always better to seize the opportunity than not go and wonder what it would've been like. Similarly, when it comes to career opportunities, ask questions and talk with company reps. It may seem nerve wracking at first, but go for it. You can always start off casual and then think of the questions you really want to ask.

- Risha

Joining the board was the best decision I made in college. To all new SWE members, and I know there's many of y'all, don't be afraid to attend events and get involved. If you think of everything as a learning experience, you will always gain and never lose. Don't be afraid to attend industry events! Even if you don't have any experience, these events are great practice for networking and growing professionally. Take advantage of all the resources (job postings, scholarships, networking events) the shoutout and SWE HQ has to offer!

- Caitlyn

There's something really beautiful about having a community of people that share a similar background, sentiment, or even vision for the future. SWE opened so many doors for me that I didn't even know existed, allowing me to improve my public speaking, technical skills, and even relationships. Continue to keep your head up and seize every opportunity.

- Swati

Awards & Recognition

At this year's **11th Annual Student Leadership Gala**, we SWEeped the awards, winning in four categories!

- Collaboration of the Year
- Program of the Year
- Excellence in Fundraising
- Organization of the Year

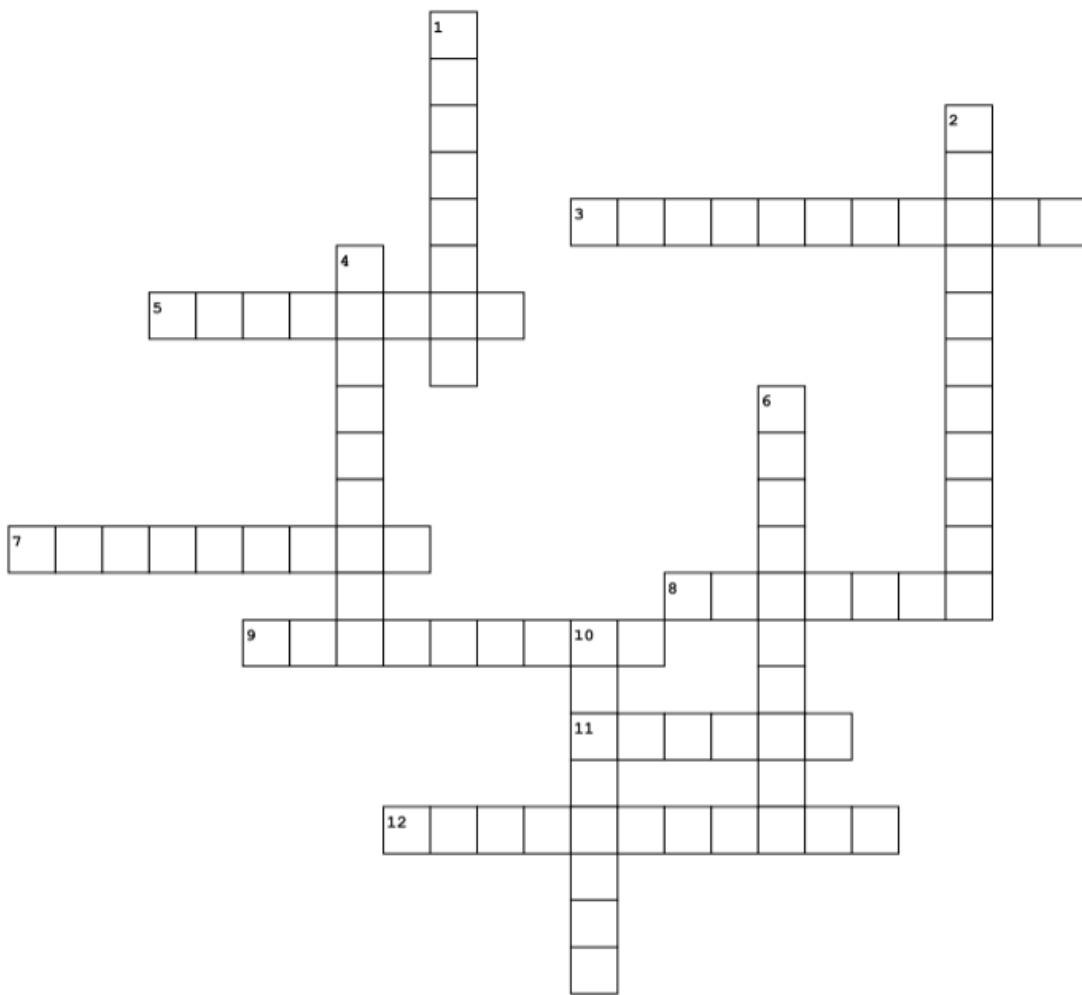
Additional awards we received this year:

- Most Engaging Presentation, College of Engineering Showcase
- Best Marketing Award, AS Spartan Showcase
- 2nd Place, Engineers Video Competition Week

Thank you to our executive board members and chairs for all of your hard work!



Crossword



Across

3. first female engineer
5. a person or thing that precipitates an event.
7. the practice or quality of including or involving people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, sexual orientations, etc.
8. person in SWE
9. a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.
11. direct one's hopes or ambitions towards achieving something
12. the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights

Down

1. the belief in or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others.
2. a professional who leads a team through a project using Agile project management techniques
4. a process or set of rules to be followed in calculations or other problem-solving operations
6. physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity.
10. the combined action of a group of people, especially when effective and efficient



Answer Key

Thank you!

SJSU | CHARLES W. DAVIDSON
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



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 **Kiewit**

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 **synaptics***

Aspire. Advance. Achieve

 **SWE™**