

UW-Madison SWE History

UW-Madison, SWE Student Section was chartered on February 20, 1977. SWE has been continuously active since that time. The SWE section organized programs such as technical presentations, academic seminars and social events for students. Our SWE section is now a very visible and prominent organization on campus with many programs held each year. We have also participated in SWE at a national and regional level for many years. In 1990, UW-Madison SWE Student Section hosted the Region H Conference and over ten years later, in 2004 UW-Madison once again hosted the conference with over 500 attendees. UW-Madison SWE members have also attended the National SWE Conferences for many years.

Many of our annual events were organized years ago and have evolved into fun fundraising events, scholarship opportunities, and successful outreach programs. SWE has hosted Evening with Industry annually since 1984 for all engineering students to attend. EWI is an informal interaction between the engineering students and the corporate representatives who attend from all over the nation. The evening has networking opportunities, a dinner, and a scholarship and awards presentation for outstanding SWE members. The SWE scholarships for active SWE members were created in 1990 by implementing a \$10,000 trust fund to provide future scholarships to women in engineering and SWE has been able to provide scholarships to members ever since thanks to company donations. Several of UW-Madison's SWE annual outreach events started many years ago. The SWE "Blitz" where we SWE members travel to junior high and senior high schools outside of Madison for 2-3 days was created in 1991. SWE members present to the students presentations to encourage student to consider a career in engineering and science. In 1991, SWE organized its first Engineering Tomorrow's Career week long summer camp for senior high school students. Lectures are given by professors on different engineering disciplines, hands-on labs are performed, various campus speakers speak to the students and fun social events occur during the summer camp. Originally, the summer camp was for Madison area high school students, but has expanded to reach students throughout Wisconsin and surrounding states. These events are just a few examples of SWE and its successful events.

Since the UW-Madison SWE Student Section was chartered in 1977, SWE has grown to a team of over 25 officers and has consistently had over 100 members. The SWE section has become known for its outreach events, reaching students and children of all ages and backgrounds, trying to increase the awareness of the opportunities in engineering. SWE at UW-Madison will continue to be active in the community and on campus for years to come.