

# Society of Women ENGINEERS

SWE SPOKE  
Issue 2

Dec/Jan  
2001-2002



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### *SWE's Mission:*

- *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*
- *Demonstrate the value of diversity.*

## LET'S BRING SWE REGIONALS TO MADISON!

Over the weekend of November 2, nearly 30 SWE members opted for a roadtrip of fun and adventure to the Land of the Gophers (otherwise known as the University of Minnesota). The Region H Conference was an opportunity for student chapters and professional members to hold their annual meeting to discuss the future of the society. Women and men from the Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indian, Michigan, and Wisconsin came together to share their excitement and enthusiasm for the engineering society.

The Badger caravans trickled into Minneapolis Friday evening, and members arose from their slumber bright and early Saturday for breakfast and a motivational speech. The regional chapters converged for the first time in 2001 to elect officers and vote on a site for the 2003 Regionals. The University of Michigan came out on top and soon the anticipated afternoon sessions began. Members chose hour-long workshops to attend, including such topics as financial planning, accepting job offers, graduate school planning, and yoga. In the late afternoon, SWE members had the chance to go on campus and local plant tours (including tours at XCEL Energy and Caterpillar) and attend at contests, raffles,

and a career fair. The evening banquet took place at the Science Museum in St. Paul, where keynote speaker Heidi Piper, a NASA astronaut, spoke of some of the challenges of being a woman engineer. The day closed with Comedy Sportz, dancing, and, for some, a night on the town. Sunday morning came, and it was time to return to the UW. The weekend was a great opportunity for new and old members and officers to become acquainted, network with companies, and exchange ideas with other SWE chapters.

After the buzz and excitement of the weekend together, numerous members wondered if perhaps UW-Madison could sponsor the conference in 2004. Currently a committee is forming to work on just that. Headed by newly elected co-chairs Hillary Gutknecht and Julia Bickler, the committee is looking for enthusiastic people to work on the logistics of finances, session organizing, and evening activities. After the success of this fall's Regionals, members are left to anxiously await next year's Nationals in Detroit MI, and coordinate Regionals 2004.

*Hillary Gutknecht*

## GOALS OF SWE

- To inform young women, their parents, teachers and counselors, and the general public of opportunities in the field of engineering.
- To disseminate information on the qualifications and achievements of women in engineering.
- To encourage women engineers to attain high levels of educational and professional achievement.
- To create a sense of belonging and unity among engineers with diverse backgrounds and interests.

# SWE OFFICERS

<u>Position</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Email</u>
President	Megan Gullicksrud	mgullicksrud@hotmail.com
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Section Vitality	Katie Salo	tba
Special Events	Amy Hertig	alhertig@students.wisc.edu
Tech Events	Currently open	Contact our president if interested

## Contact Info

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www.cae.wisc.edu/~swe

## JAN/FEB EVENT CALENDAR

For more information on these events (including time and location), visit our website (<http://www.cae.wisc.edu/~swe>) or check your email for *This Week in SWE*, our weekly email message with details on upcoming SWE events.

### January

22 Classes begin; tickets for EWI go on sale!  
29 SWE Spring Kickoff, 6:30 pm, 1800 Engineering Hall  
31 Evening with Industry and SWE Scholarship Awards, 5pm–10pm,  
Monona Terrace



### February

10 Joint Human Factors & Ergonomics Society (HFES)/SWE International Potluck. More details in upcoming TWIS; RSVP to pawley@cae.wisc.edu by Feb 1.  
11 Section Meeting with Intel, 6:30 pm, room TBA  
21 SWE/GWIS Panel: Employment in Teaching and Academia for Women Scientists and Engineers

This schedule is not complete. Check TWIS in January for more winter events!

## SECTION MEETING WITH JOHNSON CONTROLS ON CO-OPS, INTERNSHIPS, AND GRAD SCHOOL

On Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> SWE held a panel discussion about internships, co-ops, and graduate schools. The panel was composed of three SWE members, Alice Pawley, Katie Hickel, and Cori Zancig. A representative from Johnson Controls and a recent UW Madison graduate, Katie Conant also sat on the panel.

Many different aspects of internships and co-ops were discussed. The panel talked about the best ways to find an internship. Cori Zancig stated that contacts were the best way to find an internship. She has had internships ranging from Ford Motor Company to the CIA. She said that she obtained her internship at the CIA and others by networking at the SWE Regional and National Conferences. Katie Conant also mentioned that UW Madison's Engineering Career Services was a good resource, but she also had to use other resources as well. The panel agreed that the earlier a person starts looking for internships/co-ops as soon as they feel ready. Internships and co-ops are a great way to gain experience, find out what engineers actually do in the work place, meet new people, and have fun.

Other topics discussed in relation to internships were daily life, location, and whether or not to return to the same company. The panel pretty much had the same daily schedule of working on a project and sometimes going to meetings. Their projects ranged from sitting at a desk all day to working in a lab to working out in the field. All mentioned that they learned a lot on their internship and had a great time socially. Katie Hickel recommended trying different locations for internships for future knowledge when looking for a permanent position.



Katie Conant interned at the same company two summers in a row, while Cori has never interned at the same company twice. Cori's decided to try a variety of companies because she did not know what field of Material Science she wanted to specialize in and wanted to compare the different industries.

Alice Pawley was the only graduate student on the panel. She discussed how she chose Madison and what the application process was like. Things that influenced her decision were location, the caliber of the school, and she also met some of the professors beforehand. She was also the only panelist that did undergraduate research, which she thought was important for applying to graduate schools. She said that the application process was a lot like applying to college. She needed letters of recommendation, for some schools she had to write an essay, and then she also had to take the GRE. She also described her typical week. She goes to classes about two to three days a week, and the rest of the time she is at work or doing research.

The panel was very helpful for the underclassman. When freshman enter college they know a little bit about internships, co-ops, and graduate schools through fliers, other people, etc. But sometimes they do not know how to access the information they need or get their questions answered. It was an excellent meeting where people could get their questions answered in a relaxed environment from students that were in their same position just a few years ago.

Amanda Lum

*"Internships and co-ops are a great way to gain experience, find out what engineers actually do in the work place, meet new people, and have fun."*

## A VISIT FROM NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

On October 30, Adam Sweet from National Instruments gave interview tips to all SWE members in attendance at the meeting.

Adam hires engineers full-time and had lots of information to share from his experiences. One important thing he mentioned was to always ask interviewers a question about the company or their job to express interest and show your knowledge about the company. He gave some excellent examples of questions that could be asked.



Adam also provided guidelines regarding appropriate questions for during first and second interviews and follow-up.

SWE greatly appreciated Adam's valuable advice and National Instruments sponsorship. On behalf of National Instruments, everyone enjoyed Cousin's Subs and learned a lot.

Christy Palmer

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## NOTABLE NUMBERS

Rape Crisis Center  
24 hour crisis line  
251-7273

Sexual Assault Nurse  
Examiner Program  
267-6206

University Health  
Services Crisis Response  
265-6565

Campus Women's Center  
263-8093

LGBT Campus Center  
265-3344

Multicultural Student  
Center 262-4503

Dean of Student Office  
263-5700

SAFE Nighttime  
Transportation 262-5000

Women's Transit  
Authority 256-7233

*(Published by Associated  
Students of Madison)*

## TRICK-OR-TREAT...FOR CANS!

Admit it...each year when Halloween rolls around a small part of you wishes you were ten years old again so you could dress up in a fun costume and run around the neighborhood collecting candy. But, you're a big kid in college now and you can only dream of going trick-or-treating...or can you?

On Wednesday, October 31, 2001, more than a dozen SWE members and their friends had a chance to go trick-or-treating "college kid style" and serve the Madison community in the process. They participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trick-or-Treat for Canned Foods organized by Chi Epsilon civil engineering honor society. Teams of 3-5 people from SWE and other engineering organizations headed out to neighborhoods west of campus to collect canned foods for the Second Harvest food pantry in Madison. SWE had



seven teams participating...more than any other organization!

We received strange looks from some people before they found out what our mission was, but it was amazing to experience the generosity of the community. Madison residents donated canned foods, and most would not let us leave until we took candy too. This was a fun event that gave SWE members a chance to serve the community and be a kid again for an evening. SWE teams collected a total of 906.36 pounds of food, the second highest amount. As a whole, the engineering organizations had 78 people out trick-or-treating and collected 56000 pounds of food to donate to Second Harvest. Thank you to all who participated in this community service event!

*Jill Grodecki*

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## MMMMMMMMMMMMMM, FOOD!

Big Sib Little Sib recently had a cookie decorating social. There was music, cookies, hot chocolate, sprinkles, frosting, and lots of fun. There were many creative cookies; the most creative cookie prize goes to Alonna for her candy cane cookie. The social also included an intense game of Password. Also, congratulations to Mary Jischke, Natalie Mandaville, Megan Gul-

licksrud, and Julia Bickler for being the first sibs to complete their mission. The winners were taken out to dinner at Paisans. Thank you to all the sibs who participated in the events of this semester. We're looking forward to next semester.

*Merideth Bond & Liz Thottakara*

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## SCHOOL OUTREACH: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Are you going to be in or around Madison over break? The School Outreach committee needs some help. If you can volunteer to help at any of the following dates, please contact Amanda Lum at arlum@students.wisc.edu

**Thursday, 17 January 2002: Winter Blitz**  
8:15 - 2:30  
Sugar Creek Elementary School

(We're going to Sugar Creek Elementary for the entire day to talk to some really excited 4th and 5th graders. It's never too early to reach girls and get them interested in Engineering.)  
**Week of 22 January 2002 (any day except Monday)**  
8:30 - 10:30  
O'Keefe Middle School

# ROBYN RYAN (BRANDT) MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: MOST SELFLESS MEMBER

A new scholarship for SWE has been established in honor of Robyn Marie Ryan (Brandt). This scholarship is intended to support the education of SWE members at the University of Wisconsin who have given themselves selflessly to promote education in engineering and science.

Robyn earned her B.S. degree in Engineering Mechanics from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and a Master’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Wichita State University. After college, she worked for Raytheon Aircraft Company in Wichita, KS and for ERDA’s Medical Systems Division in Marinette, WI.

As an active member and leader of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Robyn was awarded the SWE Outstanding Member Scholarship. She held a number of positions in the organization, always to the benefit of others. She contributed enormous amounts of her time to the organization’s goals, holding several leadership positions in both the Madison and Wichita chapters. As the SWE Outreach Chair, she organized student SWE members to visit other schools in Wisconsin to perform various activities and experiments to get girls interested in math and science.

While in Wichita, Robyn continued her activities in SWE, where she was elected to the office of Vice President. She sponsored many events to promote science and engineering among young students including a huge science fair held at Raytheon Aircraft for home schooled chil-



dren in the Wichita area. She also tutored disadvantaged elementary students for nearly two years. In Marinette, she worked hard to develop a new high school curriculum, complete with handouts and lecture notes, to promote engineering and technology careers among local area high school students. She completed the project just days before she passed away from Leukemia on September 17, 2001, at the age of 28.

This scholarship honors Robyn’s tireless efforts assisting other people and making the world in which we live, a better place for everyone. Through this scholarship, her spirit and memory will live forever and she will continue helping other people, even in her passing. If you normally give to charities, please consider Robyn’s charity this year in support her memory and to help support the mission of the Society of Women Engineers. The scholarship is just like a regular charity and is fully tax deductible. The money you donate today will earn the income to drive the fund and support a SWE member’s dream tomorrow. More information about Robyn, her interests, activities, and her scholarship can be found at <http://home.new.rr.com/mbrandt>

*Michael D. Brandt  
(Robyn’s Husband & Graduate of UW-Madison,  
BS Engineering Mechanics and Astronautics)*

*“...please consider Robyn’s charity this year in support of her memory and to help support the mission of the Society of Women Engineers.”*

## Robyn Ryan (Brandt) Memorial Scholarship SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS – MOST SELFLESS MEMBER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

My contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.  My company matching gift form is enclosed

Please charge my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my:  MasterCard  Visa  American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder’s name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

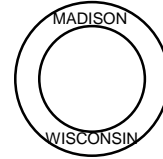
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the University of Wisconsin Foundation, Attn: Deb Holt, 1848 University Avenue, PO Box 8860, Madison, WI 53708-8860. Include fund number 12343302 in the memo section. You will receive a receipt for your contribution.

# Society of Women ENGINEERS

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## SWE SPOKE

ISSUE 2, DEC/JAN 2001-02

THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS  
STUDENT SECTION NEWSLETTER  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Editor: Paolo Piagi  
Layout: Alice Pawley

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