

# Society of Women Engineers



**SWE SPOKE**  
**Issue 2**

**October**  
**2002**

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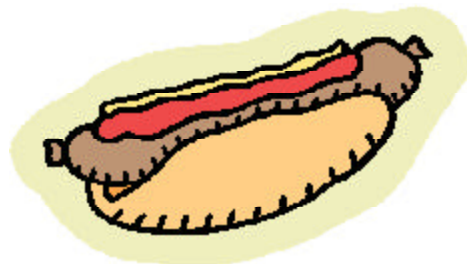
### **SWE's Mission:**

*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*

## Abbott Laboratories sponsors fall SWEenie Weenie cookout



*By Sarah Melsen*

On a sunny Monday morning, enthusiastic SWE members fired up their grills and sold over 120 hamburgers, 80 hot dogs and several cases of pop. Abbott Laboratories sponsored this semester's SWEenie Weenie to help promote their Abbott Days and earn money for UW-Madison's SWE chapter.

"The cookout offered a great opportunity to have fun with fellow SWE members and make strong corporate connection with those flipping

burgers right beside you," said Karen Mandl, a SWEenie Weenie volunteer. "Plus, we make a really tasty burger."

always needed, so be sure to get your grilling utensils ready for next spring. But to keep you in the grilling spirit, we have a great hot dog joke for you:

Q: What did the hot dog say when it crossed the finish line first?

A: I'm the wiener!



# SWE Officers

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## Event Calendar

### October

9-12 SWE National Conference  
13-19 UW Homecoming Week  
22 Communication Meeting, Room TBA, 6:30pm

### November

12 Communication Meeting, Room TBA, 6:30pm  
13 Section Meeting, EH 1800, 6:30 pm  
22 Winter Formal

This calendar is not complete.  
Check *This Week In SWE* or visit our website for more events!

## SWE starts the year with a retreat and a kickoff party

by Jenny Jirka

The Society of Women Engineers held its Fall Officer Retreat this year on September 8, 2002. The Fall Officer Retreat is an annual event which gives new and returning officers a chance to get re-acquainted with the Society and their individual duties and expectations as members of the executive board. Planning for the upcoming semester and reflection on the outcome of the previous semester are also accomplished at the Fall Retreat.

During the day, the SWE board members participated in an Adventure Learning Program through the UW Student Organizations Office. This gave the officers a chance to get acquainted with each other in a

more informal setting. A large group forum was also held to refine the Mission Statements of the UW SWE chapter. The calendar of events for the fall semester was set and the day was concluded with the formation of a Welcoming Committee to make to SWE Fall Kickoff on September 9 a success.

The results of the Fall Officer Retreat were seen at the Fall Kickoff the next day. The Kickoff was held in the largest auditorium in Engineering Hall and the entire room was filled with new and returning members. The SWE president

welcomed everyone and presented the mission statements of SWE formulated by the officers the day before. The committees were then presented and members were invited to join and become more involved with the Society. Those present at the meeting were invited to take

part in a class connections database, through which members can network with other members for academic resources. Surveys were taken to refine the fall calendar based on members' interests and all were invited to end the evening with free subs after the meeting.



*The SWE Officers pose for a group picture*

## Dorm Representative Program begins a successful semester

by Lara Sherman

The SWE Dorm Representative Program has kicked off to a great start. The program unites students who live in the dorms and are interested in SWE. Dorm groups meet at their dorm before SWE section meetings and walk to Engineering Hall together. Each dorm or group of dorms has a selected dorm

representative who coordinates a time and place for interested students to meet. This program has given students the opportunity to get more involved in SWE as well as meet people from their dorm and in their classes. Once at sections meetings, students can network with other SWE members, sign up for SWE activities and committees, and get free food. Dorm

Representatives also get the opportunity to promote SWE activities and gain valuable leadership experience.

There have been two section meetings so far this year and the Dorm Rep program has been a tremendous success. Numerous dorm reps have come to meetings and gotten involved in SWE; Alison Peschel of Sellery Hall came

with 5 people to our first meeting. I would like to thank all of the dorm reps for being extremely dedicated and flexible which has contributed to the early achievements of this program. The next SWE meeting is in early November, so anyone interested in being a part of the Dorm Reps program should contact me (Lara.larasherman@wisc.edu) so I can put you on the list.

*Notable Numbers*

Campus Women's Center  
263-8093

Rape Crisis Center  
24 hour crisis line  
251-7273

Sexual Assault Nurse  
Examiner Program  
267-6206

Univeristy Health Services  
Crisis Response  
265-6565

LGBT Campus Center  
265-3344

Multicultural Student  
Center  
262-4503

Dean of Students Office  
263-5700

SAFE Nighttime  
Transportation  
262-5000

Women's Transit Authority  
256-7233

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Madison)*

# General Mills visits campus for an evening with SWE and AIChE

*by Paolo Piagi*

On October the second, SWE and AIChE members met to welcome General Mills on our Campus. The meeting started with people eating some yummy pizza. The first part of the presentation was an



overview of the company profile and the different products and brands that it markets worldwide. Then, the focus shifted on the qualities needed for employees to create a successful team. We learned that a team that includes people with different characters creates the ideal environment for different views of the same problem to emerge. We also played a role game where people were divided in teams, each one led by a leader. Leaders in different teams were secretly instructed to either allow anything to happen, to ensure consensus or to push their own private agenda on

the rest of the team. It was instructional to see how the teams performed differently based on the attitude of their leader. Throughout the presentation, few dozens prizes were awarded to all the people that actively participated by making comments or asking questions. SWE and AIChE want to thank General Mills for providing us with brilliant speakers that were able to maintain an active interest in the audience during the whole presentation while giving us insights and suggestions for successful roles as team players.

# SWE 'siblings' get acquainted at Big Sib/Little Sib Kickoff

*by Jessie Palmer*

Big Sib/Little Sib Kickoff had a huge turn out. Of the 30 matches (60 members) signed up for the program, 46 people came! It was on Monday, September 16, 2002. We started the night with a brief welcome talk by co-chairs, Christy and Jessie Palmer. We then had getting to know each other

activities, followed by some free food! We also gave out the Big Sib/Little Sib challenge. The first 2 groups of sibs to complete the challenge will get a free dinner at a restaurant of their choice.

Our first event was an ice cream social with resume review, held on Tuesday, October 1, 2002. It was a fun time eating lots of ice cream and gave sibs a

chance to discuss their resumes: their appearance and what should be included on them. The ice cream social also gave the sibs a chance to get to know each other and get advice on all their engineering questions!

The next event planned is to attend a UW-Madison hockey game. The date of this event will be announced soon.

## SWE members adopt a highway

by Diana Rapp

On an early sunny Saturday morning of September 28th, when most college students were trying to catch-up on their sleep after a previous night of fun, seven dedicated SWE members were picking up trash, such as beer cans and fast-food wrappings, along a 2-mile stretch of Highway 12. So who were these brave souls who have ventured out into

the world beyond their college campus in hope of making a some sort of difference in the surrounding community? I'd like to thank and applaud Christine Mui, Stephanie Goodchild, Allison Selk, Linda and Lisa Vanevenhoven, and Laura Baures, all of whom contributed their valuable time and energy to this volunteering event and thus have collected a total of 10 bags full of trash in about an hour and a half.

Also, thank you to everyone who gave their suggestions, ideas, advice and support for this event! Great job, everybody!



## Rockwell Automation gives career preparation presentation at September Section Meeting



by Jenny Halkey

On Monday, September 23, SWE held its first section meeting of the 2002-2003 school year. Rockwell Automation, out of Milwaukee sponsored the meeting and three women engineers

came to speak to us. They gave a very interesting presentation on what we can do now that will help our future.

Their presentation focused around three main topics: work experience, involvement, and GPA. Work experience will help us learn about what jobs are out there and gain knowledge of the dif-

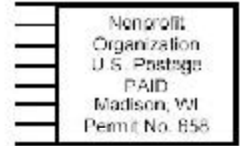
ferent jobs within your engineering field. They also suggested you be in organizations to look good on your resume, SWE being one of them! And finally, your GPA will get you in the door for a good job, but your work experience and college involvement will be the deciding factor in finding a job for the future.

Rockwell also stayed and answered many of our questions that we had about the company, and their presentation.

*"They also suggested you be in organizations [to improve your resume], SWE being one of them!"*

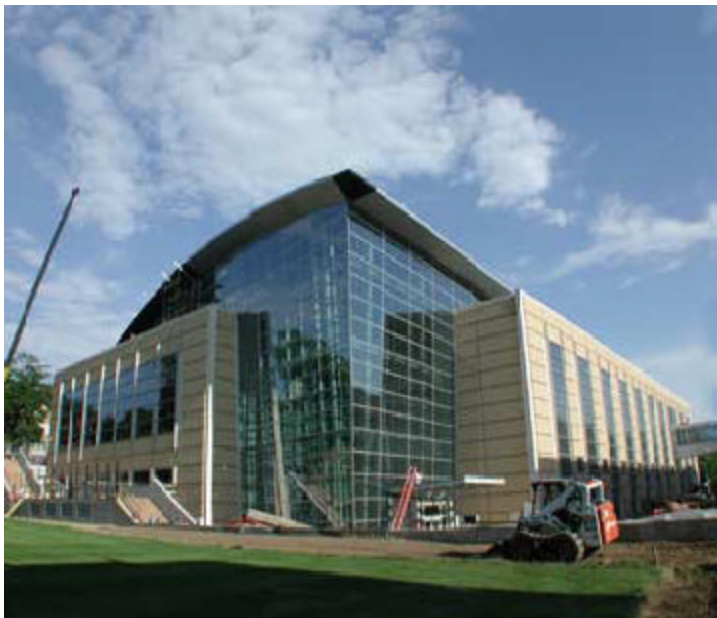
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## **SWE SPOKE**

Issue 2, October 2002

THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS  
STUDENT SECTION NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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