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Society of Women Engineers
Philadelphia

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT	1
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS	2
SOCIETY NEWS	2-4
SECTION NEWS	5-10
UPCOMING EVENTS	10
PREVIOUS EVENTS	11
MEMBER NEWS	11
CONTACT LIST	12

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello SWE Philadelphia!

I hope you are all doing well as the weather begins to get cooler!

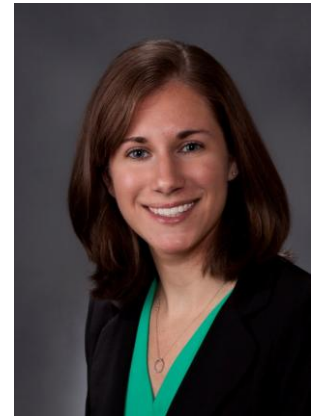
After WE16, I came away reenergized about SWE and my strong network of female engineers. It inspired me to read a few books on the status of women in the workplace and the challenges we still have to overcome. Recommended by Fortune magazine, I picked up two different books: *Feminist Fight Club* by Jessica Bennett and *Earning It* by Joann Lublin.

Earning It recapped some monumental events in the careers of some very successful women, whether that be the executive who impressed the men by taking a ride in a F-16, the woman who declared that there must be a female and a minority on all interview panels, or more than one woman who had to deal with unwanted advances from coworkers. All of the women interviewed for the book have impressive career paths and continue to pave the way for women to come behind them, and almost all of them cited a mentor or sponsor who helped push them to excel.

Feminist Fight Club detailed ways for women to fight against coworkers who may be attempting to disrupt our careers and successes. It also went into details about ways that women can hurt themselves without realizing it; the tips provided on how to overcome those challenges and insecurities were honest and relatable.

You may see more of those topics during our panel event with AWMI in the spring, but I encourage everyone to consider SWE as a resource for both finding a mentor and seeking out a friendly face to discuss any workplace issues you may be having. The changes are very high that someone else has been in your shoes – take advantage of the great network that SWE provides!

Keep an eye on your email, our Facebook, and other social media accounts for information on our upcoming events. Registration is open for the Region E conference (the last one ever!) in Syracuse, NY and nominations are being accepted for FY18 Region E positions.



I am excited to keep the ball rolling this year. If you have ideas or questions, feel free to reach out to me at any time. I can be reached at phila_president@swe.org.

Mary Beth Biddle

Mary Beth Biddle

NEW MEMBERS



The Society of Women Engineers is constantly growing and welcoming new women engineers in all stages of their careers. Here are the recent newcomers to the SWE Philadelphia Section.

Name	Membership Type
Dorothea Bender	Professional
Haley Vozzella	Collegiate

SOCIETY NEWS

[“In the Heart of NY” – 2017 Mid-Atlantic Region E Conference](#)

The Greater Syracuse Professional SWE Section and the Region E Conference Planning Committee invite you to the 2017 Society of Women Engineers Region E Mid-Atlantic Conference. The Conference will be held at the Syracuse Marriott Downtown, in Syracuse, NY, from February 24-26, 2017.

Our conference will offer a diverse selection of events, including: technical & professional development workshops, a career fair where attendees can search for their next exciting position, networking events and catered meals. The conference will feature distinguished speakers who inspire and elevate through their amazing accomplishments. These events will facilitate connections between students, professional SWE members, corporate representatives, and members of the academic community.

Early Bird discounted registration closes January 15, 2017. Registration closes Friday, February 10, 2017. Note: the collegiate + hotel option will only be open through early bird registration – no exceptions will be made!

Opportunities are available to sponsor this conference as well as advertisements within our conference program. We ask that potential sponsors and advertisers commit by January 6, 2017. Online registration, hotel room block information, information on how to become a sponsor and additional conference details are available on the [Region E Conference website](#).

Come experience SWE "In the Heart of NY!" Questions may be directed to [Region E Conference Planning Committee](#)

FY17 Region E Awards – Applications Due by January 28

The FY17 Region E Awards packet is now available on the [Region E website](#). The Region E Awards Program consists of the Outstanding Collegiate Section Award, the Communication Media Award, the Governor's Choice Award, the Outstanding Mentor Award, and Membership Awards. For more information about individual award criteria and requirements, please see the awards packet.

Applications are due by January 28, 2017.

Please send any questions about the awards program to [Region E Awards Committee](#).

Call for Nominations for FY17 SWE Region E Professional Officer Positions

It is time to identify and nominate potential candidates for FY18 Region E Collegiate Officer Positions. **The deadline for professional officer nominations is January 13, 2017.** The Region E nominating committee is charged with the responsibility for selecting at least one qualified candidate for each of the following positions for FY18.

Professional Officer Openings:

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Professional Senator
- Region E Nominating Committee Chair

Please complete the nomination form and the **professional consent form** for each recommended candidate. The nominating committee chair must receive this confirmation of consent and eligibility before the candidate will be considered.

The basic duties of each position are listed on the [Region E website](#). Additional questions about eligibility, duties of office, or the process the nominating committee follows can be directed to the nominating committee chair.

Sign Up to Be a Girl Day Role Model

Join DiscoverE in inspiring girl's futures by introducing them to the world of engineering! Leading up to Girl Day you will receive periodic emails filled with ideas, activities, training opportunities and more that you can use to help motivate girls to explore the world of engineering.

Sign Up: <http://discovere.org/content/sign-up-to-be-a-girl-day-role-model>



Stay Current on the State of Women in Engineering

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) has launched a new website with the latest research on women in engineering, research.swe.org. The website was created to provide a centralized location for data and serve as a resource for SWE members and others interested in this information.

The website features studies and statistics on women in engineering and other STEM fields. The information is organized into five categories: K-12; higher education; workplace; global; and SWE research and contacts.

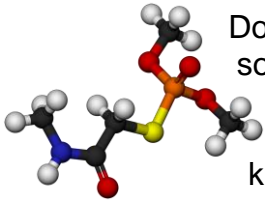
[Research.swe.org](http://research.swe.org) includes SWE's own research to supplement the knowledge base around issues affecting female engineers. Being able to provide data and information that can support decisions affecting women in academic and professional workplace environments is an important part of SWE's goal to advocate for the success of women in engineering and technology .

One of SWE's most recent studies, soon to be released, focuses on female attrition in the STEM workplace—the first gender-based workplace culture study of its kind conducted in the STEM space in the U.S. The data sheds light on differences between female and male personal and workplace priorities, including the gaps that are driving females to leave the workforce. SWE plans to release a similar study this fall that focuses on workplace experiences, and gender and racial bias.

[Visit research.swe.org](http://research.swe.org) to learn more about the state of women in engineering, and trends and data impacting this sector. For more information or data requests, contact Roberta Rincon, Ph.D., SWE's manager of research, at research@swe.org.

SECTION NEWS

Special Request – Encourage an Engineering Enthusiast Daughter!



Do you work in biomedical or biomechanical engineering? A local mom is looking for someone in the field for her daughter who is interested in exploring engineering. She would like to set up an internship in January for her daughter's Junior Project. Please contact Elisha (riose130@gmail.com) if you or someone you know could provide this opportunity.

Open Positions – Philadelphia SWE

Part of what makes the Philadelphia SWE section so great is the amazing participating of our members who keep it running like a well oiled machine. Read the open positions available for our section to see how you can get involved in FY16!

Meeting Coordinator

Assist the VP of Professional Development in coordinating meeting locations, invites, attendee lists, and other miscellaneous task.

Collegiate Liaison

Facilitates communication between section and local collegiate section presidents and counselors including flowing information to collegiate sections or requests for support from the collegiate sections. Assists collegiate MALs in the Philadelphia Section with any questions they may have.

Philadelphia University Counselor

Assist Philadelphia University in getting their collegiate section up and running; advise on SWE best practices and potential events; connect the collegiate section to local professionals.

Corporate Liaison

Connect Philadelphia SWE to local companies, some of whom may be able to provide meeting locations, or financial support.

Awards Coordinator

Focus on member and section recognition. Compiles package to submit section for regional and society awards. Assists in submitting packages for members nominated for society awards. Helps identify any awards to be given at end of the year banquet. This year, will begin to develop foundation for yearly section awards for members.

Awards Banquet Chair

Plans and organizes the SWE Philadelphia End of Year Banquet.

If you're interested in any of these positions, please send an e-mail to Mary Beth Biddle at marybethb422@gmail.com.

Event Coordinators Needed – Help Plan an Event with PHL SWE!

Are you interested in helping to plan a tour, technical talk or social for SWE Philadelphia in the upcoming months?

- We are looking for 1 volunteer for each event to finalize event dates & details and to act as the SWE lead working with event partners (i.e. meeting location and other partner groups participating in the event, if applicable).
- Responsibilities include: working under the direction of the VP Professional Development (Tania Cai) to communicate with partners to set up event, finalize event logistics, and to attend the event & provide a copy of the attendance list to SWE officers.
- Time estimated to plan an event is ~1-2 hours total.

If interested, please email Tania (VP Professional Development) at: phila_profdev@swe.org

Philadelphia SWE Member Incentive Program

Purpose: To encourage Philadelphia SWE members to increase participation

Goal: Reward most active Philadelphia SWE member with a paid membership (or prize of equivalent value for Life Members or those who have membership paid for by employer)

Structure: Each event type is associated with a point value (social=5 points, professional development=10, outreach=15). When a Philadelphia SWE member attends an event, he or she is awarded the appropriate point value; these points will be recorded by a Section Representative (Cassie Zook for FY17). On 04/14/17, the points will be summed; the member with the most points will have his or her SWE membership renewed by the Section.

A Philadelphia SWE member who plans an event will receive double the point value listed on the schedule.

Bonus Communications Points: 1 point for each post on social media (up to 10 points) – must include hashtag #PhilaSWE

Do you shop on Amazon? You could be missing an opportunity to help SWE!



AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same Amazon Prime benefits. All you have to do is use a specified link when signing in to Amazon to shop like always and Amazon donates money to the organization you specify. If you shop on Amazon but use the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-2604522> to log in 0.5% of the price of your purchase will be donated to Philly SWE! It only takes one click and then Philly SWE gets extra money to host events for you!

Seeking Corporate Contacts

If you know someone in your company who is in charge of or interested in making donations to a philanthropic organization, please let the Society of Women Engineers Philadelphia Section know so that we may get in touch!

The Society of Women Engineers is the world's largest advocate and catalyst for change for women in engineering and technology. We help members reach their full potential as engineers and leaders through networking, professional development and the shaping of public policy. And, we inspire young girls to become engineers and support them with scholarships. To that end, the Philadelphia section solicits donations and allocates the funds to scholarships and programs geared towards professional development and outreach.

Stay up to date with SWE PHL through social media!

Website: <http://philadelphia.swe.org/>

Find the latest events, add our google calendar, and learn about volunteer opportunities

Facebook: www.facebook.com/philaswe

See past event photos, upcoming events and interesting articles

Twitter: [@PhilaSWE](https://twitter.com/PhilaSWE)

Join in the conversation, event reminders and photos! **#PhilaSWE!**

Instagram: [@PhilaSWE](https://www.instagram.com/PhilaSWE)

Share your SWE memories with us and check out photos from this year's events!

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=4173718

Show your colleagues your professional interests by joining the SWE Philadelphia group and find professional opportunities shared with SWE through our network

Philadelphia SWE Member Spotlight

Check out the answers to these interview questions below to see what they have in store for our section this upcoming year and get to know them a bit better!

Susan Best, Civil / Traffic Engineer



1) What companies have you worked for? Which was your favorite and why?

I have worked for a number of different consulting firms over my career in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Philadelphia. Locally, I've worked for Orth-Rodgers Associates (now part of Burns Engineering), McCormick Taylor & Associates, Vollmer Associates (now part of Stantec), and Urban Engineers. I was also the Executive Director of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia for the five years before I retired. I can't say that any one organization was my favorite. They all provided me with different opportunities for learning, career opportunities, and types of projects.

2) How has the world of engineering changed since you were an early career engineer?

The obvious one is that there are now more women engineers than in 1976 when I started. There are so many more opportunities for leadership training, from high school and into the work place.

Technology has also changed considerably. One of my early projects with Bechtel Power Corporation in Los Angeles involved running structural analysis models on a mainframe computer using punch cards; it was an upgrade when I finally had access to a terminal to modify and submit computer runs (that sometimes needed to run overnight). In the early 80's, I was working on a software program that, when we moved from dialing the mainframe on a phone line, we worked with 8" floppy disks. And now we work with laptops, phones, and tablets. While I still like to have hard copy plans and documents to review, being able to access plans or reports from anywhere on a phone or tablet is so convenient – much better than lugging a lot of paper around.

3) If you could give a single piece of advice to early career women engineers, what would it be?

Be focused, yet flexible. Have an idea of your ultimate career goals and work towards them, but flexible enough to re-evaluate and take a great opportunity that comes your way. I know you only asked for a single piece of advice, but I have to add: Know Yourself. Only you can decide whether an opportunity is right for you or not. Don't get sucked into a higher profile position if it's not right for you.

4) You were a Philadelphia Representative for the WE16 Conference Planning Committee this year. How much effort goes on behind the scenes for planning of the annual conference? Were you excited to share Philadelphia with over 11,000 SWE members?

Most of the work for the conference is handled by SWE staff and contracted consultants and vendors (particularly Jeanne Elipani of Show Management). The local committee provided some ideas for local flavor and local tours and staff took care of the rest of the work. We also helped to solicit local members for volunteer positions, particularly for newly created Core Volunteer positions, which involved a bit more responsibility than the General Volunteers. Our Volunteer Co-Chairs, Amanda Weissman and Dhanu Thiyagarajan, had the bigger responsibility during the conference itself, followed by the Daily Volunteer Co-Chairs, making sure that over 400 volunteers were in place for their assigned roles. It was a great experience being able to show off what I believe is one of the best convention centers that I've seen. If I've counted correctly, I've attended 22 or 23 SWE conferences, and to see the changes over the years has been phenomenal.

5) What is your motto?

I can't say that I've ever had a motto.

Philadelphia SWE Technical Spotlight

Learn more about where your fellow SWE Philadelphia members work in the Greater Philadelphia area!



Laura Posner, Chemical Engineering

1) What company do you work for and what do you do?

I work for OSIsoft, the makers of the PI System. We provide a data infrastructure to collect, store, analyze and visualize historical and real-time time series data (such as reactor temperature or motor vibration) and the meta data that gives it context. As a Technical Support Engineer, I help answer customers' questions about our software and resolve any issues they experience.

2) How important is teamwork for the projects you work on and why?

In Customer Support, teamwork is essential to our goal of helping the customer. I often work with Product Specialists and Software Developers to identify issues with our software and provide solutions. If our documentation needs clarification, I work with the Documentation team to improve it. I am lucky to be on a very collaborative and supportive team.

3) What project have you worked on that you are most proud of, and what challenges did you face along the way?

I received a Technical Support call a few months ago from customers who experienced an unplanned power outage and needed help fixing the resulting file corruption. They were pretty new to our software, and the issue was affecting their production data. The main challenge was that their company policy did not allow them to share their screen with me, so I could not see what was going on. We were able to get their system up and running again through clear communication and logical steps in troubleshooting. I felt proud because my engineering training helped resolve a production-critical issue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GIRL CODE: An Intro to Coding Workshop for High School Girls



When: 1:00 PM, December 4th, 2016

Location: Yardley, PA

Cost: Free

Our first Girl Scout Outreach Event of the year will be held on Sunday 12/4 from 1-3pm in Yardley, PA. We will be joined by Nicole from The Coding Space, who will teach high school Girl Scouts how to code through hands-on workshops. We will then have a Q&A sessions for the girls to learn more about our experiences in STEM. Volunteers are especially needed for the Q&A panel, and if you would like to come for the entire event, we will also be available to assist the girls. I am hoping to have a variety of careers represented for the panel. Please email me (erowland1824@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Generously sponsored by GE and Barb Faust

PREVIOUS EVENTS

Villanova SWE's Eleventh Annual Networking Dinner



On November 16th, over 150 professionals, Villanova students, and Villanova professors attended the Eleventh Annual Networking Dinner, hosted by Villanova SWE. This dinner was generously sponsored by Harris Corporation, and we were fortunate to have a number of Harris representatives in attendance. The night began with a brief networking session, followed by opening remarks from the Vice President of Villanova SWE and Event Chair, Katie Scoboria. A delicious dinner was catered by Villanova's Dining

Services. After the dinner, the President of Villanova SWE, Kristen Poole, touched upon Villanova SWE's future plans. Alan Bernstein, the Director of Talent Acquisition at Harris, followed by emphasizing the importance of organizations such as SWE as well as diversity in the workplace. The guest speaker, Sheena White, Director of Consumer and Co-Brand Partnership Development at American Express, concluded the evening by discussing the connection of her own career path and Villanova's core values of truth, unity, and love. Villanova SWE would like to express its gratitude to all in attendance, as well as everyone who helped make the night such a success.



MEMBER NEWS

Do you have exciting news to share? It could be anything from graduations to birthdays, engagements to professional accomplishments. Email the [SWE Newsletter Editor](#) with your exciting news!

OFFICER CONTACT LISTING

<u>FY16 Elected Officers</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
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Awards Banquet Chair	OPEN	
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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4 th	GIRL CODE Workshop



Search SWE Philadelphia



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, demonstrating the value of diversity

The Philadelphia Section was one of the original chartering sections of SWE, chartered on May 27, 1950