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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello SWE Philadelphia!

Welcome to another year of fun, inspiring, and engaging activities! We kicked off the new fiscal year (FY18) with a great planning meeting from the board. We have a lot of great things in the works for this year, so stay tuned! We already had a professional development event, hosted by our corporate partner Merck. Merck leader Gargi Maheshwari spoke to attendees about executive presence, using examples from her own experiences and employing an interactive approach to incorporate comments from audience members well. Gargi was extremely personable and everyone left with a better idea of how to present themselves.



As I write this letter, I am preparing to travel to WE17 in Austin, TX. This year's SWE conference will be the largest one yet – reaching maximum capacity for the convention center! From personal experience, I know that attending the conference results in additional energy to tackle tasks at both work and within SWE. With over 12,000 attendees, there are sure to be many inspirational speakers, lots of networking, and many opportunities to catch up with old friends. If you haven't had the chance to attend a SWE conference yet, I highly recommend you do so. The attendance at conferences has been increasing each year, a testament to how much SWE members are getting out of the experience. After returning, I'll recap the event, including a recap of the Mission Awards. Philadelphia SWE earned the Silver level this year, along with a Best Practice Award! Kudos and thanks to all the members who had hand in our successful FY17!

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](mailto:phila_president@swe.org).



Mary Beth Biddle

## NEW MEMBERS



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

Name	Membership Type
Janine Roe	Professional
Elizabeth Dolan	Professional
Olga Morris	Professional
Terri Kemmer	Professional
Christopher Henley	Collegiate
Meghan Brolley	Professional
Elizabeth Linton	Professional
Shanita Charmichael	Professional
Mirlande Derisier	Collegiate
Lindsay Keller	Professional
Bryn Murphy	Collegiate
Carly Ragan	Collegiate

## SOCIETY NEWS

### [Drexel Partners with SWE for Discounted Courses](#)

SWE Headquarters has partnered with Drexel University to offer SWE members tuition discounts for online courses. Furthering your education will provide you with new opportunities for career advancement, and personal growth. For a list of available courses, including the PE prep courses, visit <https://online.drexel.edu/partnerships/overview.aspx>.

### [Listen to SWE Podcasts](#)

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) has dozens of podcasts to inform you and engage your mind as you commute to work, wait at the airport, get some exercise, do housework or just relax at home. We post them in our [Advance Learning Center](#) and on our blog, [All Together](#). You'll find them on [SoundCloud](#) and [iTunes](#).

We feature entertaining subjects and fascinating people. One of our most popular [podcasts is about a comic book writer](#) who wrote SWE's first comic book: *Constance & Nano's Engineering Adventure #1*. Another one features the founder and drummer of [an all-female rock band, The Mrs](#), who are performing at SWE's Annual Conference, WE17, in Austin, TX.

SWE also has podcast series such as Women Executives in Engineering, Men as Diversity Partners, and many more!

## SECTION NEWS

### Don't delay, renew today!

The recommended deadline for SWE membership renewal has past, but there's still time to make sure you don't miss any of the upcoming Philadelphia SWE activities! If you are unsure about your membership status please contact our Philadelphia SWE Membership Chair at [phila\\_membership@swe.org](mailto:phila_membership@swe.org). You can also check online by going to [login.swe.org](http://login.swe.org). If you have forgotten your login information select *forgot my password* and follow the prompts. If you would prefer to renew your membership via your phone, call SWE at 1.877.793.4636 and ask to be connected to the engagement department. If you need further assistance, please send an email to [phila\\_membership@swe.org](mailto:phila_membership@swe.org) and Jill will be happy to help.

### The Fighting Robovikings Take 1<sup>st</sup> at the Girl Power Competition!

The Fighting Robovikings, sponsored by Philadelphia SWE, took first place at the **Girl Power** competition on September 16! **Girl Power** is a competition in which only female members of the team are allowed to operate and drive the robot. (The males are allowed to coach and help with lifting the robot only). The event empowers young women to apply their knowledge of **STEM** and to demonstrate their leadership skills. Our team did a great job in the qualifying matches and won in the elimination rounds! This was the first off-season competition and we are off to a great start!

### Volunteer Training - Resources

If you plan on volunteering with a Philadelphia SWE event, please review the following resources on STEM volunteering!

2017 Engaging Diverse Communities in Hands-On STEM (presented by the Franklin Institute)

- [Presentation](#)
- [Webinar](#)
- [2014 Philadelphia SWE Outreach Volunteer Training](#)

Please contact [phila\\_outreach@swe.org](mailto:phila_outreach@swe.org) with any questions.

## **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](mailto:phila_profdev@swe.org)

## **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.

### **Corporate Liaison**

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

### **Awards Coordinator**

Focuses on member and section recognition. Compiles packages 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.

### **Girl Scouts Chair**

Hosts STEM outreach events for Girl Scouts in the greater Philadelphia area, typically one in the fall and one in the spring. Sources funding for the events.

### **Science Fair Coordinator**

Each year, Philadelphia SWE attends the Delaware Valley Science Fair. The coordinator organizes volunteers to attend the science fair. The group judges students who are presenting engineering related projects. After the science fair, the coordinator sends recognition to the winners.

### **Social Media Chair**

Publishes content regularly to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram

### Webmaster

Regularly update website content based on upcoming events, offer changes, etc. Receive input from President, VPs, and biweekly emails

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

## 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](http://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](http://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 Technical Spotlight

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



### **Dani Schroeder, Engineer in Training, Civil Engineering**

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

I work as a Graduate Structural Engineer for Pennoni Associates at their Headquarters in Philadelphia, PA. My work mainly consists of bridge design both for rehabilitation and reconstruction. Currently, my main project is designing a truss retrofit for the Burlington Bristol Bridge. Once I complete the NHI Bridge Safety Inspector Certification Course in March my job will also include going out in the field and inspecting bridges

#### **2) What types of engineers do you work with? How does the diversity impact your work?**

Although I mainly work with civil engineers, there are a variety of sub-disciplines in my field such as traffic, bridge, highway, and municipal engineers. Because each sub-discipline has their own field of expertise and

technical jargon, I not only must understand my scope of work but also must understand the scope of other sub-disciplines. For example, although my work is usually abutment to abutment, I need work with highway engineers to make sure our horizontal and vertical alignments match with the rest of the roadway.

#### **3) If you could give advice to an undergraduate engineer studying in your field, what would it be?**

The best piece of advice I can give is utilize co-ops or internships! With so many sub-disciplines in the field of civil engineering; you need to find your fit and explore what you want to do as a profession. I also encourage to try pursuing research sometime during your collegiate education. The summer after my freshman year I took part in research in the field of water resources, and although I realized I did not want to pursue it further, it gave me the opportunity to better understand what I enjoy. Also, try to get your FE done before graduation. Professional licensure is very important in the consulting field, so having your EIT certification when applying for full-time jobs will help you stand out from the rest of the other applicants.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### Upcoming Philadelphia SWE Events



## PREVIOUS EVENTS

### Philadelphia SWE October Meeting: Executive Presence

On October 12<sup>th</sup> the Merck MS&T Diversity Council welcomed the Society of Women Engineers and the Merck Women in Science and Engineering for an evening of networking, learning, and inspiration. Philadelphia SWE President, Mary Beth Biddle, provided a Philadelphia SWE update, followed by a presentation titled, “Executive Presence,” presented by Gargi Maheshwari, PhD, Executive Director, Biologics Process Development and Commercialization. Gargi’s presentation was engaging and gave the audience great insight into how they can better present themselves.



### Summer!

We hope you had a great summer hanging out on the beach, taking vacations, and doing all the other fun-in-the-sun activities. Now let’s get ready for some light jackets, pumpkin spice everything, and lots of SWE events!

## MEMBER NEWS

### Congratulations Elisha!

Philadelphia SWE member Elisha Rios, and her husband, Seth Rios, welcomed their son, Ethan Edward, into the world on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Weighing 9lb 8oz, he came into this world as a healthy, curious guy, and his mom and dad are hoping this curiosity leads to a future in engineering!



*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

<b>FY17 Elected Officers</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>Executive Council Voting Members</b>		
President	Mary Beth Biddle	<a href="mailto:phila_president@swe.org">phila_president@swe.org</a>
Sr. Vice President Communication	Julie Williams	<a href="mailto:phila_communications@swe.org">phila_communications@swe.org</a>
Vice President Prof Dev	Jillian Ditzler	<a href="mailto:phila_profdev@swe.org">phila_profdev@swe.org</a>
Vice President Outreach	Jennifer Ligo	<a href="mailto:phila_outreach@swe.org">phila_outreach@swe.org</a>
Secretary	Kimberly Lam	<a href="mailto:phila_secretary@swe.org">phila_secretary@swe.org</a>
Treasurer	Sharon Vuong	<a href="mailto:phila_treasurer@swe.org">phila_treasurer@swe.org</a>
Section Representative	Maria Legato	<a href="mailto:legato.maria@gmail.com">legato.maria@gmail.com</a>
Alternate Section Representative	Aurora Achong	<a href="mailto:aurora.achong@gmail.com">aurora.achong@gmail.com</a>
<b>FY17 Committee Chairs and Section Leaders</b>		
<b>Outreach Group</b>		
Certificate of Merit Coordinator	Mariah Cushman	<a href="mailto:mecushman@gmail.com">mecushman@gmail.com</a>
Collegiate Liaison	Dani Schroeder	<a href="mailto:danielle.schroeder17@gmail.com">danielle.schroeder17@gmail.com</a>
Girl Scouts Chair	OPEN	
Engineering Mini-Camp	Vicki Brown	<a href="mailto:vbrown@mail.widener.edu">vbrown@mail.widener.edu</a>
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Science Fair Coordinator	OPEN	
Science Carnival Chair	OPEN	
<b>FY17 Professional Development</b>		
Corporate Liaison	OPEN	
Meeting/Events Coordinator	OPEN	
Awards Coordinator	OPEN	
Awards Banquet Chair	OPEN	
<b>FY17 Communications</b>		
Membership Chair	Jill Foster	<a href="mailto:phila_membership@swe.org">phila_membership@swe.org</a>
Newsletter Editor	Diana Russella	<a href="mailto:phila_newsletter@swe.org">phila_newsletter@swe.org</a>
Newsletter Co-Editor	Haydee Euceda	
Webmistress	OPEN	
Social Media Chair	OPEN	
<b>FY17 Collegiate</b>		
Drexel Counselor	Elizabeth Henning	<a href="mailto:eah827@gmail.com">eah827@gmail.com</a>
Swarthmore Counselor	Rebecca Rose	<a href="mailto:rebecca.snelling@gmail.com">rebecca.snelling@gmail.com</a>
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Bryn Mawr Counselor	Alisha Tricciola	<a href="mailto:alisha.trocciola@gmail.com">alisha.trocciola@gmail.com</a>

**SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS**  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS




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*

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