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Society of Women Engineers
Philadelphia

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2016-2017 year!

Each year, the Philadelphia section strives to provide numerous events for its members to expand their networks, make new friends, develop professionally, and reach the next generation of engineers through outreach events. In October 2016, we have a unique opportunity to take advantage of all those aspects of SWE. The annual conference will be in Philadelphia October 27-29th at the Philadelphia Convention Center. I hope you can all take advantage of having the conference right here in Philadelphia – I come away re-energized about SWE every year! For information on the conference agenda, the benefits of attending, and more, please visit <http://we16.swe.org/>.



The Philadelphia section has a long history and we are looking forward to growing with all the new members that WE16 will bring to our section. Thank you to last year's officers and all those who have held officer positions before. Our section has an excellent foundation to continue to develop.

In addition to kicking off our year at the Great American Pub in Conshohocken, some of the Philadelphia SWE officers participated in the Region E Leadership Summit in Wilmington, DE during the weekend of September 17-18th. We came away with improved SWE skills and best practices from other sections in the Region. I look forward to seeing all of this new information benefit our section. In particular, you should now be receiving emails from philadelphia@swe.org through Constant Contact, a website that helps to streamline list serves and format emails nicely. We welcome feedback on this new communication method!

Keep an eye on your email, our Facebook, and other social media accounts for information on our upcoming events, including conferences.

I look forward to seeing you at an event this year. If you have ideas or questions, feel free to reach out to me at any time. I can be reached at marybethb422@gmail.com.

Mary Beth Biddle

Mary Beth Biddle

WELCOME 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
Chantal Irwin-Blake	Professional
Alexa Bartel	Professional
Mary Beckman	Professional
Kate Porter	Professional
Christina Cianci	Collegiate
Nefertiti Stanford	Professional
Marilyn Carson	Professional
Claudia Papola	Collegiate
Emily Snavelly	Professional
Kathryn Flannigan	Professional
Sharon Mafuru	Professional
Elizabeth Lower	Collegiate
Patricia Brett	Professional
Megan Fuller	Professional
Shana Kaplan	Collegiate
Adedoyin Popoola	Professional
Morgan Dunn	Collegiate
Stacey Horvitz	Professional
Barbara Carfolite	Professional
Denita Gardner-Walker	Professional
Lydia Goodwin	Collegiate
Carley Pawliski	Collegiate
Tanusri Balla	Collegiate
Kayla Marriner	Collegiate
Ciara Brown	Collegiate
Dora Paolucci	Professional
Megan Chapman	Professional
Lorena Alvarado	Professional
Maureen Sharon	Professional
Cinnamon Christian	Corporate

SOCIETY NEWS

Register Now for WE16!

WE16 is the world's largest conference and career fair for women in engineering and technology. It will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, Oct. 27-29 and will attract a global audience of more than 9,000 women at all stages of their engineering careers. From young collegiates interested in internships or their all-important first jobs, to seasoned professionals seeking new opportunities to grow, thousands will gather in Philadelphia.

WE16 represents the best opportunity you and your organization will have to connect with new colleagues and talent, provide professional development to current employees and support women in engineering and technology. Your investment in these few days will have a demonstrable short- and long-term impact on your personal and organizational growth.

Not to mention the impact you'll have on the futures of women seeking to affect change around the globe through a career in engineering.

Learn more at <http://WE16.swe.org>

Register now at <https://registration.experientevent.com/ShowWEC161/>



Photos from WE15!

Call for Workshop Presenters at the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Region E Conference

Deadline for Submission: November 2, 2016

We invite you submit your ideas for potential workshop presentations for the SWE Region E Conference in Syracuse, NY on **Saturday, February 25, 2016**. Leading a session provides a great opportunity to:

- Network directly with many of the women engineers and engineering students in attendance
- Highlight your expertise in your field
- Demonstrate your advocacy for the advancement of women in STEM

We anticipate approximately 300 attendees who will be participating in the various workshops. You do not need to be a SWE member to present a workshop. **Speakers are responsible for their own conference registration and transportation.** *NOTE: You do not have to register if you are only planning to attend your own talk.* The sessions will be **50 minutes** long and may be presented in the following formats: Lecture Presentations, Workshops and Panel Discussions.

Tracks for sessions may include Collegiate, Professional Development, Personal Development, Technical, and SWE. For more information, visit the conference website (www.sweregioneconference.org).

To submit your workshop proposal(s), complete the submission form [here](#). You will need to submit both the workshop abstract & bios for all workshop speakers involved for your proposal to be evaluated by the review committee. Abstracts must be submitted by November 2, 2016 for consideration.

Those who submit a presentation will be notified by email by December 8, 2016 if their workshop has been selected. Questions may be directed to [Region E Conference Planning Committee](#).

Call for Abstracts for the Research Poster Competition at the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Region E Conference

Deadline: November 15, 2016

Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit abstracts to showcase your research at a research poster competition session at the [2017 Region E Conference](#). The competition will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at Syracuse Marriott Downtown in Syracuse, NY. There are cash prizes for the top three posters.

To compete, you must submit an abstract, 250 word maximum limit, by **November 15, 2016** at this [link](#). Refer to the attached document, Call for Abstracts, for further information on submitting an abstract for the competition. Questions may be directed to [Dhanu Thiyagarajan](#), FY17 Region E Research Poster Session Chair.

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 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://Visit.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.

Attention parents and educators of middle school and high school aged girls! Register for **Invent It, Build It** on Saturday, 10/29 from 9am-3:30pm at the Philadelphia Convention Center downtown (part of the WE 2016 conference). Workshops are tailored for students in these grades, as well as parents and educators. Registration is \$7 and includes lunch and a t-shirt. Additionally, there will be a free expo from 11:15am - 2pm open to the public to learn more about engineering clubs, camps and outreach, including live hands on demos and giveaways! For more info including how to register, visit: <http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/invent-it-build-it>

SECTION NEWS

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

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.

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!

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

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!



Tania Cai, Materials Engineering

1) Where do you work and what do you do?

I work as a sales engineer at Spraying Systems Co. I am responsible for the promotion and sale of a broad range of spray products. Products include Air Atomizing, Automatic Spray nozzles and Spray System Controllers, TankJet® Tank Cleaning Products, SprayDry® Nozzles, Pulp and Paper Spray Products, WindJet® Air Products, Handheld GunJet® Spray Guns, and Steel Industry Spray Products, and Spray Analysis and Research Service.

2) *What is the most important lesson you have learned throughout your career?*

One lesson I learned from my career is to be flexible to change. There are routines that we follow every day; however, unexpected situations can happen. For example, the customer needed to get the product ASAP, but factory didn't have any in stock. To solve this problem, I found an old model in the office and let the customer use for free until they received the unit they ordered.

3) Who do you admire most and why?

Hedy Lamarr; she is a great actress and inventor. She proves that women can be both beautiful and smart. Her experience shows that women can contribute to art and science.

4) What do you think is the biggest benefit of being a SWE member?

SWE provides a strong network of women engineers from academia, government and industry. I can share knowledge, concerns and experiences with these members.

5) What are you looking forward to the most in the upcoming year being the PHL SWE Vice President of Professional Development?

I am looking forward to providing many events, so SWE members can have a diverse social and professional experience.

Philadelphia SWE Technical Spotlight

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



**Sibia Ranjbar, Ph.D., Environmental Engineering
B.S. & M.S., Chemical Engineering**

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

I am an adjunct professor and a visiting research scholar at Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, Temple University. I teach “The Environment”, a science general education course, to non-STEM undergraduate students. As a researcher, I conduct research in simultaneous wastewater treatment and biofuel production using green algae. In another research collaboration, I use publicly available data to model the trends in energy consumption and environmental degradation; particularly, waste production and air quality.

2) What are the major differences between working in academia and working in industry?

Prior my Ph.D., I worked in the field of engineering consulting in the oil and gas industry for five years. In my opinion, the major difference between my current and the previous positions is that in academia, you are not usually given a protocol to proceed but in industry, you need to be good at following the standards (pre-written protocols) and apply them to your current task. Even though there are many overlaps in these two areas, you need to be stronger in particular skill sets to succeed in each. In academia, you should be able to design experiments to test a hypothesis that you have come up with after careful investigation on the subject. You usually have access to a slightly more flexible timeline and budgeting. In industry, on the other hand, the focus is more on delivering the tasks in a timely and cost effective manner.

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

To reach your goals, you need to have two sets of capabilities. You need to have the knowledge to do your work: so, take your courses seriously and find the real world implication of them. You also need a collection of soft skills such as leadership, communication, and ability to work productively under stress: the best way to learn and practice these skills is to be actively involved in different student clubs such as Society of Women Engineers. What you would experience as a student organization’s board member is no different than what you will encounter in your future job. Why not learn how to deal with them now, when it is less stressful and more fun.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SWE/AWIS Wine Tasting



When: 6:00 PM, October 18th, 2016

Location: Capital One Café, 17th and Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA

Cost: \$29 per person, includes dinner and cooking demo of holiday themed dishes

Discover The Science of Wine: Tastes and Flavors! Vicki Miller of [Vinocity](#) will lead us through a sampling of six wines throughout the course of the event. Cost is \$26 per person (AWIS-PHL will handle registration) and includes the presentation, the venue, the wine and the food (a cheese, olive, vegetable, cracker, bread, etc. assortment from DiBruno Brothers). We hope to see you there!

PREVIOUS EVENTS

Philadelphia SWE Kickoff Event @ The Great American Pub

Philadelphia SWE kicked off the year at The Great American Pub in Conshohocken PA! New and returning members dined on light refreshments as they discussed what's new this year, and the exciting ways they will be able to get involved. The Pub provided a great atmosphere, and a chance to get to know each other. Everyone had a wonderful time, and are looking forward to the next event!



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>
Executive Council Voting Members		
President	Mary Beth Biddle	marybethb422@gmail.com
Sr. Vice President Outreach	Elisha Rios	phila_outreach@swe.org
Vice President Prof Dev	Tania Cai	phila_profdev@swe.org
Vice President Communication	Julie Williams	phila_communications@swe.org
Secretary	Janelle Johnson	phila_secretary@swe.org
Treasurer	Sharon Vuong	phila_treasurer@swe.org
Section Representative	Cassandra Zook	crz333@gmail.com
Section Representative	Maria Legato	legato.maria@gmail.com
Section Representative	Jessi Kaestle	jessica.kaestle@gmail.com
FY16 Committee Chairs and Section Leaders		
Outreach Group		
Certificate of Merit Coordinator	Nicole Wilson	nicolecwilson@hotmail.com
Collegiate Liaison	OPEN	
Girl Scouts Chair	Elizabeth Rowland	erowland1824@gmail.com
Engineering Mini-Camp	Vicki Brown	vbrown@mail.widener.edu
Scholarship Coordinator	Diane Ess	phila_scholarship@swe.org
Science Fair Coordinator	Cassie Zook	crz333@gmail.com
Science Carnival Chair	Kathryn Rieger	kathryn@cogdes.com
FY16 Professional Development		
Corporate Liaison	OPEN	
Meeting/Events Coordinator	OPEN	
Awards Coordinator	OPEN	
Awards Banquet Chair	OPEN	
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SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS
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REGION E

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 18 th	The Science of Wine: Tastes and Flavors
October 27 th – 29 th	WE16 Conference



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