

SPOTLIGHT ON: SWE HISTORY

CONTRIBUTED BY SANDRA MARTINEZ

While SWE today serves its members as an expansive resource and network for dedicated women engineers, many members may not be familiar with its humble origins.

The Society of Women Engineers met for the first time in New Jersey on May 27, 1950—nearly 60 years ago. Dr. Beatrice A. Hicks was elected the first president of SWE, which at the time had 65 plus members. The club offered resources to women in engineering and provided an environment for these women to share ideas and support in a male-dominated profession.

The first National SWE Convention took place in New York City in 1951, which was also the year that the first additional chapter was chartered, in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The first SWE journal was also published that year and included meeting notes and news. The original *SWE Newsletter* evolved into the full-fledged magazine *U.S. Woman Engineer* in 1980, which ultimately became what we know it as today—*SWE: Magazine of the Society of Women Engineers*—in 1993.

Though it is called the Society of Women Engineers, the society admitted men as full members in 1976 with full rights and privileges of membership. In 1977, SWE voted not to hold its national convention in any state that failed to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, a U.S. constitutional amendment which ultimately failed to gain ratification.

Today, SWE has expanded to many sections and regions throughout the nation with the same goal since its creation: to empower women to succeed and advance in engineering and be recognized for their contributions as engineers and leaders.

LEGO LEAGUE EXPO JANUARY 30, 2010



Kerianne Dobosz and Laura Castrale volunteer their time at the Junior *FIRST* LEGO League Expo, held in Duffield Hall, by helping kids with fun science activities

FACULTY VALENTINE'S SOCIAL FEBRUARY 10, 2010



SWE members prepare for Valentine's Day after enjoying a light lunch by making candy bags filled with Hershey's Kisses and other sweets



Beatrice Hicks, the first President of SWE and President of a precision parts firm, works in her factory in 1956

Upcoming Events

BREAKFAST FOR DINNER

MON., MAY 10, 2010

5:30PM-7:30PM

Stop by Upson Lounge for a great meal and a break from studying! Co-sponsored by SHPE, NSBE and AISES.

HIGH SCHOOL OUTREACH

MON., MAY 10, 2010

Want to volunteer for a Physics of Carnival Games activity at Ithaca High School? Contact Hannah (hak47) or Maya (mm828).

ELEMENTARY OUTREACH

TUES., MAY 11, 2010

Volunteer at Belle Sherman Elementary School to make gumdrop bridges with 2nd graders. Contact Kate (kag268) if interested.

FACULTY LUNCHEON

TUES., MAY 11, 2010

10:30AM-12:00PM

Come celebrate the end of the semester and enjoy a light luncheon with faculty members.

ETIQUETTE DINNER

FEBRUARY 3, 2010

Many manners-minded engineering students chose to attend SWE's Etiquette Dinner earlier this semester to hear guest speaker Robert Shutt. The dinner, sponsored by Lockheed Martin, gave attendees the opportunity to learn about proper dinner etiquette, with an emphasis on business, professional, and interview contexts. Shutt's tips ranged from the classic, "Arrive early," and, "Don't slurp your soup," to more thought provoking advice, such as not to drink wine or any other alcoholic beverage when on an interview—even if it's offered by the interviewer—and for women to take active roles in pulling out their own chairs and opening doors, else risk subliminally priming others about gender inequity or inferiority. Each attendee left with a full stomach, goodies from Lockheed Martin, and a handy pocket-sized etiquette guide for use in the future.



Robert Shutt presents on proper dinner etiquette to engineering students

ENGINEERING DAY

AT THE MALL

FEBRUARY 20, 2010



SWE members enjoy their time volunteering to help kids make silly putty at Ithaca Mall

RELAY FOR LIFE

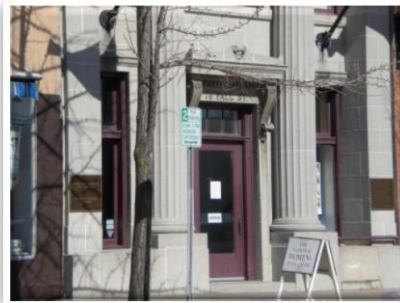
FEBRUARY 27-28, 2010

As part of a campus-wide effort to raise money for cancer research, SWE's Relay for Life team raised \$290!

NATIONAL WOMEN'S

HALL OF FAME

MARCH 6, 2010



Cornell SWE members ventured to Seneca Falls to visit the National Women's Hall of Fame

PI DAY FACULTY SOCIAL

MARCH 12, 2010



Kimberly Lin makes the π symbol in celebration of Pi day (officially 3/14), while SWE members enjoyed pie with faculty members



Students enjoy their catered dinners as they practice their etiquette

GIRL SCOUT DAY

MARCH 13, 2010



SWE members volunteer with local girl scouts to do activities like constructing water filters and creating paper cities

REGION E CONFERENCE

MARCH 20-21, 2010



Cornell representatives at the SWE Region E Conference in Philadelphia

Past Info Sessions

Air Products
Baker Hughes
Bloomberg
Exponent
General Electric
Lockheed Martin
Sapient
Schlumberger
Yahoo!

Newsletter by Jennifer Doughty,
SWE Newsletter and Photography Chair

Have an amazing summer, and
we'll see you in the fall!

