

# DragonPrints



## Letter from the Editor

Hello everyone!

I'm so happy to be able to spend my second year with SWE at Drexel. Joining SWE was my saving grace last year—my first as an engineering undergraduate. I spent a lot of time being the only girl in engineering lab groups so going to SWE meetings were kind of a relief.

Coming from an all girls high school to a major where I spend most of my day hearing about computer games and football rosters was a bit of a culture shock. Boys are great, but after a while I got to be a little more acquainted with the logistics of virtual reality games than I'm comfortable with.

There's a lot going on in our chapter so I hope you're able to check out our events in the news-

letter and online

Also look out for my new engineering column on our website at <http://www.pages.drexel.edu/~dsoswe/> coming soon! Enjoy!

- Meaghan Paulosky, Newsletter Editor

### Upcoming Events!

**11/1 General Body Meeting**  
**6:30 in the MEM seminar room**

**11/17 Speaker Series-Grad Student**  
**5:00 location TBD**

2011-2012

SWE Officers

Stephanie Etherton

President

Leila Aboharb

Vice President

Caitlin McRae

Treasurer

Sierra Tilton

Secretary

## SWE National Conference



Drexel SWE

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Every year, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) hosts a national conference to call together respected professionals, organization leaders, and driven young females from various universities. This year's event, held in Chicago, Illinois, lived up to previous years' prestige boasting a 250+ exhibitor career fair, multiple workshops, and panel sessions.

Two of Drexel SWE's officers, Caitlin McRae and Claudia

Guitierrez, were able to attend the conference and brought back nothing but positive experiences to share. Says Caitlin, "We realized how truly inspiring people are in SWE. We had the opportunity to speak personally with...higher ups at Johnson Controls and even women who engineer nuclear missiles."

Our officers were even able to attend the massive career fair and begin to make their way into the professional engineering world by

networking for co-op opportunities.

The annual aim of the conference, and the daily aim of SWE, is to promote the power of women in the workplace and in engineering fields. By providing workshops and presenting mentors for young female engineers to admire, SWE enables women to envision themselves in positions of influence and gives them the tools they need to get there.

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

"Drexel University Society of Women Engineers" and @DrexelSWE

## SWE Events: Philly Cares Day!

The most powerful way to impact your community is to serve it. On Saturday October 22, the ladies of Drexel SWE made their mark on Philadelphia by volunteering their time at John Wister Elementary School in honor of Philly Cares Day.

The school, located in Germantown,

was in need of some playground repair. Every child deserves a safe playground, so the girls put on their work boots and spent the day clearing vines and poison ivy from the yard fencing.

Despite the blistered hands and tired eyes everyone who volunteered was able

to have a great time helping to clean what is arguably, the most important part of a school. For anyone interested in putting on their own work boots, visit the Philadelphia Cares website and volunteer your time to make Philadelphia an even better place to live and learn (and play)! <http://www.gpcares.com/index.html>

### Ladies is Engineers Too

Anyone currently in a science field or studying to enter one knows that it can easily become a man's world. Here a few tips to make sure that you don't get left behind!

1. Join a support group of peers (\*Hint—SWE)
2. Find a mentor (Knowing someone who's already done it makes everything easier.)
3. Get involved in a research project (Seeing just how powerful your

work can be is always a good motivator.)

4. Don't be afraid to be assertive (Sometimes people won't ask you what you think, you have to tell them.)
5. Have confidence (People will automatically give you more of their trust if you actually have trust in yourself.)
6. Enjoy yourself (This one is a little more obvious, but so many people forget why they do what they do. Remember that you picked engineering because it's fun!)

## GirlPOWER

Being lovers of math and science, members of SWE know how important it is to educate younger girls that engineering is in fact fun. In an effort to fight the good fight, two SWE officers took the time to attend a local Robotics competition and show the students there that girls can play with robots too!

FIRST Robotics is a national organization that aims to introduce elementary school and high school students to the world of robotics, something that not many children would otherwise have the opportunity to do. The most recent competition, called the GirlPOWER Robotics Competition, took place on Saturday, October 8th at a local high school. Naturally Drexel Engineering seized the chance to be a part of this, and several SWE members, officers, and Drexel students were there to represent the female population

and act as mentors and judges.

Having once been in high school size shoes, our Drexel students were able to impart some engineering wisdom on the girls present and came back with pure amazement at how receptive their young audience was. They reported that all the younger girls were asking questions about engineering in college and what they should be doing to put themselves ahead of the curve.

It's safe to say that there is hope for the female engineering future. With programs such as GirlPOWER and SWE and young women like those who volunteered, who knows? Maybe one day there will be more girls than boys asking for LEGO sets at Christmas-time.

### Event Photos



Photo of Philly Cares Day by Caitlin McRae



Photos from FIRST Robotics by Daniel Lofaro