

SWE Memphis Newsletter

Society of Women Engineers Memphis Professional Section

Special points of interest:

- The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is the world's largest advocate for all women in engineering and technology.
- The Society of Women Engineers inspires women to achieve their full potential as engineers and leaders.
- SWE Memphis serves professional Society members in the greater Memphis metropolitan area.

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Celebrate SWE Memphis Event a Resounding Success

On February 23, 2017, the "Celebrate SWE Memphis" event was held to a sold out crowd at the Double Tree Hotel in East Memphis.

Past SWE President Colleen Layman was the keynote speaker and spoke about the SWE mission, benefits of membership and the impact SWE is having in shaping public policy for women in STEM.

Medtronic R&D VP Tommy Carls shared his experience on how SWE can be a corporate partner in attracting, development and retaining female engineering talent.

The event inspired executives from area engineering firms to support SWE and contributed to 40% SWE Memphis member-

ship growth since the first of the year.

Special thanks are due to the event sponsors DuPont, FedEx, Medtronic, Microport Orthope-

dics, Memphis Reprographics, Smith & Nephew and Wright Medical.

Proceeds from the event are supporting STEM outreach.



SWE Memphis Leadership Team receiving its charter from Past SWE President Colleen Layman .

New Fiscal Year '18 Leadership Team

The new SWE fiscal year starts July 1, 2017 and the newly elected SWE Memphis Executive Council members are:

- Julia Alspaugh, President from Wright Medical

- Shannon Vittur, Vice President from Medtronic
- Bhava Vendra, Secretary from Smith & Nephew
- Loraine Tomeh, Treasurer from Southwest Community College
- Amy Curry, Section Representative from University of Memphis
- Helene Rynczak, Alternate Section Representative from Smith & Nephew

Best wishes for the new year!

Middle School Robotics Program Wraps up a Successful Season 4



Over 180 area middle school students participated in the SWE Memphis Middle School Robotics Program in 2017.

SWE Memphis concluded its fourth consecutive year of its Middle School Robotics Program on May 7, 2017 with the final competition at the University of Memphis.

The program is intended to provide role models to students to expose them to the diversity of STEM professionals and career opportunities.

Students work throughout the school year, learning to program and design a robot to meet certain small test chal-

lenges. Mid-year the grand competition challenge is revealed, and students put their learnings to the test. The competition scoring is based upon robot performance and a poster presentation.

The program has experienced strong year-over-year growth with over 180 students making up 35 teams this year.

Special thanks are due to teachers, parents, and volunteers and sponsors from these area organizations: Brunner

Printing, Central BBQ, Kiewit, Medtronic, Piedmont Plastics, Shelby County Schools, Smith and Nephew, Team Logic IT, ThyssenKrupp, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the University of Memphis.

Interested in participating as a program mentor, volunteer and/or sponsor? Visit www.swememphisrobotics.com

“The Society of Women Engineers inspires women at all stages of their careers and lives to achieve their full potential as engineers and leaders.”

Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon, Inc., (BWSC) of Nashville, TN, awarded a Community Fund Grant to SWE Memphis for the Middle School Robotics Program. The BWSC Community Fund was established by the employees at Barge Waggoner to assist in carrying out the company’s inherent spirit of giving back to the communities where we live and work. The BWSC Community Fund also

recognizes those organizations that advance the interests of society in the areas of health and wellness, education, and workforce development.

The generous donation provided will fund up to an

additional 8 teams over the 2017-2018 school year! A big thank you to BWSC.



BWSC awarded a Community Fund Grant to SWE Memphis and the Middle School Robotics Program.

SWE and ASQ Partner on Creating Quality Cultures



SWE and ASQ Memphis Presidents Sharon Rozzi and Jeremy Black join forces to promote Creating Quality Cultures through Lean

On May 16, 2017 SWE Memphis partnered with the local chapter of the American Society for Quality (ASQ) for a professional development event on the topic of “Creating a Quality Culture through Lean.”

Many companies struggle to create a quality, customer centric culture where the behaviors associated with rapidly address-

ing problems are engrained in the fabric of the enterprise DNA. The Shingo Prize Model, built on universally accepted principles of Lean, tells us that to create an improvement culture managers must architect systems aligned to the principles of Lean. Sharon Rozzi, SWE President, shared her industry experience applying the

Shingo Model to create a quality (improvement) culture through the creation of systems that guide principle-based behaviors, the result of which is improvement that happens organically.

SWE Memphis looks forward to future events with other area STEM professional societies.

Collegiate Engineering Expo! Recognizes Area Students

SWE Memphis hosted its second annual Collegiate Engineering Expo! at the University of Memphis on April 21, 2017.

The event is intended to showcase student engineering research and design projects, and solicit feedback from area professional engineers.

Thirty-six undergraduate and graduate students participated from three area universities: Christian Brothers University, University of Tennessee Health Science Center and

the University of Memphis.

Twelve professional engineers from eight area engineering organizations judged the competition: BASF, Evaporcool, FedEx, Medtronic, R&N Systems Design, Smith & Nephew, Smith Seckman Reid, and the University of Memphis.

The posters presented spanned a half dozen different engineering disciplines. There was a diverse range of topics included such as medical devices for scoliosis correction, concrete

composition for more durable roads and a bicycle recharging system .

Students competed for cash prizes, and made valuable connections to help with their future job search.



Thirty-six students registered to compete in the second annual SWE Memphis Collegiate Engineering Expo! at the University of Memphis on April 21, 2017.

SWE Participates in CBU's Women in Leadership Conference

Christian Brother's University (CBU) President's Commission on Women hosted its second Women in Leadership Conference on March 24, 2017. The event was well attended by SWE Memphis members seeking to grow their leadership competency.

The event featured a number of leadership topics including entrepreneurship, negotiation and

collaborating effectively with diverse and multi-generational teams.

SWE Memphis participated in the conference by chairing the Women in STEM panel discussion. Panelists included Cara Madzy from BASF, Malinda Fitzgerald from Christian Brothers University, Traci Hamerson from DuPont, Zondra Cawein from Fedex, Georgetta Carr of

Medtronic and McKenzie Shackle of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The panelists shared their wisdom and experience by answering questions about leadership and how they developed their careers in their respective engineering fields.

"The Society of Women Engineers champions the value of diversity by being a catalyst for change."

Middle School Students Learn to Program

SWE Memphis partnered with IT Go Girl! to deliver an Introduction to Java Programming class for six Saturdays Feb 25–April 1, 2017 at the Collierville Burch Library .

The class was taught by SWE Memphis STEM Outreach Chair and IT Go Girl! founder Kay Cooper, and David Waddell (both from FedEx).

Twelve middle school students participated, including students from Schilling Middle School and home-school students.

Most of the students were already interested in STEM careers and the class sparked their interest in computer science.

The students expressed their

appreciation for their new-found programming skills with chocolates for the instructors!



Middle School students get a taste of computer science through a six-week Introduction to Java class.



The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is the world's largest advocate for all women in engineering and technology. The Society champions the value of diversity by being a catalyst for change. SWE inspires women to achieve their full potential as engineers and leaders. The Society will be there for women as they seek to be their authentic selves through all stages of their careers and lives. SWE Memphis serves professional Society members in the greater Memphis metropolitan area. The Society of Women Engineers is a not-for-profit educational and service organization.

Aspire / Advance / Achieve

Contact Us:

SWEMemphisprof@gmail.com

Follow SWE Memphis on the web and in the social media:

www.memphis.swe.org



Upcoming Events

SWE Annual Meeting WE17 in Austin, TX October 26-28, 2017. Registration is now open.

<https://registration.experientevent.com/ShowWEC171>

SWE Webinars:

Use Networking Tools to Grow Your Career Using a "Tour of Duty" Mind Set on June 13, 2017

"Power Up Your PowerPoint" on June 22, 2017

"How to Jump Pay Grades Like a High Jumper" on July 6, 2017

Present with Power and Credibility on July 20, 2017

SWE Webinars past and future are available to members on advancelearning.swe.org

Locate specific local Memphis event information by visiting our website calendar on www.memphis.swe.org or our SWE Memphis Facebook page

Interested in volunteering for figure SWE Memphis events? Send us an email at swememphisprof@gmail.com



Join us on for the SWE Annual Meeting "WE17" in Austin, TX October 26-28, 2017.