

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA SECTION MONTHLY NESWELETTER

February 2017

February was full of fun events, including our General Meeting hosted by SWE Minnesota, which included a panel of some leaders in the SWE MN section. We also celebrated the inauguration of the SWEWeekend at the U event to host 72 high school girls on campus and show them what CSE and SWE are about here at the University of Minnesota. Enjoy the reflections below!

SWEWeekend at the U Recap:

The University of Minnesota SWE section partnered with the College of Science and Engineering to host 72 girls on campus for the inaugural SWEWeekend at the U, which is a full day and overnight on March 2nd – 3rd. The event started with the CSE Dean’s Showcase where the students checked in and received their schedules. After a presentation by CSE Admissions, a student panel, and an activities fair with other accepted students, the SWEWeekend girls started their adventure. The high school students were paired up with SWE representatives to hunt around East bank with clues to learn more about life on campus and visit popular CSE spots. Next, the girls and their parents joined SWE members, professors, and admissions faculty from the college for a social dinner. Afterwards, the girls were challenged with Disney trivia! After spending the night in the Commons Hotel, the students experienced a stellar breakfast at 17th Avenue Residence Hall and attended an Organic Chemistry lecture from Dr. Salmon. The students then toured the Medical Devices Center, the Valspar Lab, and the Frontier Residence Hall, which has the WISE and Taylor House Living and Learning Communities. They finished a great day with lunch at an off-campus location of their choice and a recap with the organizers and CSE admissions staff. This event was planned by Morgan Conley, Anna Dourgarian, and Mackensie Schuster, who have put in tons of work over the course of a year to make this inaugural event a success!

SWEWeekend at the U: Director Comments

“Overall SWEWeekend was a huge success! We were able to give the girls a more in-depth look into the College of Science and Engineering here at the U, as well as all the opportunities that SWE provides. We received a lot of positive feedback from the girls about their experiences and our volunteers also did a great job helping run the event! We look forward to seeing this become a great recruiting event for the University of Minnesota and SWE in the future!”

- Mackensie Schuster, Morgan Conley, and Anna Dourgarian (SWE University Directors)



SWEWeekend at the U activities

Attendee Feedback from SWEWeekend at the U:

“The event really helped solidify my decision to attend the U of M. I had so many questions answered that I did not know I had. Thank you for being so open/knowledgeable on so many different topics!”

“I had a lot of fun visiting for the first time – I hope I will see you in the fall!”

“Awesome experience! Getting on campus for this weekend really made me want to go to the U and join SWE”

“Super fun weekend thing”



SWEWeekend at the U Attendees and Organizers

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS
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Arduino/Sword making events

This past week we had the amazing opportunity to organize two hands-on SWE events! Our first event, the Ladies+ Makerspace Night Sword Making Event turned out wonderfully. The SWEeties who came out to that event had the opportunity to make wooden swords, utilizing tools in the Exceed Lab. Kate Kuehl from MnDrive headed this event, and we could not thank her enough for allowing us to participate in this event with her. MnDrive funds research in areas aimed to improve the economy in Minnesota and keep us a competitive force, while also doing outreach to bring underrepresented groups into STEM fields. Kate state that this event was “a ton of fun and [they] got anonymous feedback and all of it is very positive so far” . There will be two more of these ladies+ makerspace events to come, including laser cutting and 3D printing, and we are thrilled to be able to offer these events to you (keep your eye out in SWEeklys to come).

Our second event, Arduinos and Fun was, well, so much fun! We had a great turnout of people interested in getting hands-on experience with physical computing. Between playing with Arduinos to seeing how Little Bits work, everyone seemed to be learning new material while also having a blast. This was a part of the Physical Computing and Internet of Things Collaborative ran by the amazing Professor, Lana Yarosh. Lana does a lot of research with Human Computer Interaction and is always more than willing to help teach anyone about Arduinos and much more. If you came out and enjoyed it, or missed it and are interested in coming to the collaborative, we meet every Friday in Mechanical Engineering 2314 (there are always snacks and coffee too). Throughout the rest of the semester we hope to continue to be able to offer more events like this, that can be used for prototyping skills.

- Sarah Prescott,
Website and Social Media Director,
Event Coordinator



Arduinos and Fun Event

Cookies & Conversation Reflection

This month we partnered with the Science and Engineering Student Board (SESB) for the first even in their series about diversity in CSE, called *Cookies and Conversation*. We had Dorothy Cheng and Madalyn Radlauer, from the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) initiative, and Chris Cramer, the graduate student coordinator attend. They presented on challenges women face in CSE. Through this conversation, we started a dialogue around implicit biases and micro-aggression. As a rest, SESB is planning an implicit bias training workshop. In addition, great connections were made between graduate students and undergraduate students in CSE. SWE is hoping to work with more graduate student groups in the future.

- Kelsey Harper, Vice President

SAVE THE DATE!

CSE Ball: Friday, March 31, 7:30 – 11:00 PM
MacNamara Alumni Center

A Second chance at a High School dance will be a fantastic night hosted by SWE! There will be a DJ, light refreshments, snacks, a photo booth, and a cash bar! Tickets are \$5, which can be purchased through the SWEekly link. Invite your friends! Limited space, so buy your tickets soon!



SWEeties at the 2016 CSE Ball

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.