Tufts SWE wins Outstanding Collegiate Section Gold Award

Tufts SWE chapter was awarded the highest level SWE award for a collegiate section, the Outstanding Collegiate Section Gold Award. Tufts SWE was one of just 19 collegiate SWE sections across the country and the only section in New England to earn the Gold Award for 2016.

The award recognizes the section’s ability to meet SWE’s strategic goals of developing women engineers, promoting diversity and inclusion, and advocating for the success of women in engineering and technology. Tufts SWE accomplished these goals by hosting a variety of professional development, outreach, and networking events throughout the year.

“The fall semester was filled with so many great achievements,” said Lindsey Sundvik, a senior civil engineering major and Tufts section president. “We have continued to grow, not only as a chapter, but also as individuals through our professional development, outreach, and networking initiatives. None of these things would have been possible without the hard work of our executive board, and the continued support from alumni and faculty members. I look forward to seeing what the future has in store for Tufts SWE!”

The semester started off in September with the annual “Sweets with SWE” General Interest Meeting. More than 90 students from all engineering majors and class years attended, making it the largest SWE GIM in the past 4 years.


**Professional Development**

**Region F Leadership Summit**

On Saturday, September 24th, Tufts SWE hosted the Region F Leadership Summit, a one day leadership development event for 100+ SWE collegiate and professional members in the Region F (New England) area. Lauren McIsaac, Mechanical Engineering ‘17, was chair of the event.

The day started off with a welcome address from Jessica Rannow, FY17 President of SWE, who came to Tufts all the way from Ohio. Next, the SWE Leadership Coaching Committee presented modules on how to build teams and manage effective meetings.

In the afternoon, collegiate members participated in sessions on topics such as communication, innovation, and presentation. Speakers included former Tufts SWE President Emily Anderson, our SWE Counselor and Tufts Alum Denise Griffin, and Tufts Gordon Institute Director of the MSIM Program Kevin Oye. Special thanks to Robin Kahan from the Tufts Career Center and Gordon Institute Professor Jennifer Braggin for help during the event.

**WE16 Conference**

Thanks to the generosity of the engineering departments, the School of Engineering Dean’s Grant, Tufts Gordon Institute, TCU, and our own fundraising efforts, we were able to send 20 members to the WE16 Conference on October 27-29.

This annual event is the world’s largest conference for female engineers. 12,000+ female engineers attended the conference this year at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA. We learned about a range of topics over the three days at sessions such as “Systems Thinking”, “Pitch Yourself”, and “Engineering and Innovating for Sustainability”. The conference also featured a career fair with 300+ employers. From the career fair, we received a combined total of 25 interviews at companies such as 3M, Clorox, GE, Ford, Medtronic, and Microsoft. Other events included a SWE Boston Breakfast and a Tufts Alumni Dinner.

Sonja Hartmann, Civil Engineering ’19, said about the experience, “My favorite part of the conference was seeing the different paths my career could go in the future. The environment was professional but inclusive, and having the chance to network, attend sessions, and talk to recruiters in a community of women engineers was a great way to be exposed to the professional world.”
On-Campus Events

Networking It!

We continued our “All-SWE” meetings started by last year’s president Sarah Vinnetto to make our meetings more inclusive and engaging.

We were thrilled to have Annette Sawyer from the Museum of Science and Tufts Gordon Institute speak at our meeting on October 16th. She shared some of her tips for networking, how to present yourself at career fairs and more! Everyone enjoyed her dynamic and interactive presentation.

Walks of Life

In November, we welcomed back four alums for our annual “Walks of Life” panel. They told us about their journeys after Tufts and provided valuable insight into searching for internships, work/life balance, and overcoming challenges in the engineering field.

This year’s panelists were: Annie Brown Environmental Engineering ’14, Ariel Hamlin Computer Science ’13, Lisa Pinnals Electrical Engineering ’12, and Brooke Schreiber Civil Engineering ’13.

Outreach

Strong Women Strong Girls

On Saturday, November 5, SWE ran a workshop for the SWSG girls where we discussed “What is engineering?”. The girls designed a building for an imaginary town and built a model of the building with playdoh, straws, and popsicle sticks.

Community Day

On Sunday, October 2, our SWE table at Tufts Community Day on the quad was sweet and educational. Children from the Somerville/Medford area built gumdrop and toothpick structures and tested to see if their structure could support the weight of a book.

Grad SWE is here!

In collaboration with the newly formed Tufts Graduate SWE group, we hosted a panel about PhD and Masters programs. The five panelists were: Nicole Raia (PhD, BME) Casey Corrado (BSMS, ME) Jessica Stiegitz (PhD, ChemE) Gabby Raymond (Masters, CS) Karen Panetta (EECE Professor) Panelists talked about why and when they decided to go to graduate school, how to find good mentors, and how to keep a good work-life balance while being a graduate student.
2016 Board Members
Current membership facts: 97 registered members, 91.36% retention rate, and 29.63% chapter growth!

Lindsey Sundvik, President
Camille Saidnawey, Vice President
Lauren McIsaac, Treasurer
Lily Buechler, Secretary
Meredith Reynolds, Conference Planner
Catherine Gao, Conference Planner
Jenny Skerker, Community Service Outreach
Megan Tse, Tufts Engineering Community Outreach
Sara Pearce-Probst, Corporate Relations
Rachel Eisenberg, Corporate Relations
Jordan Nagy, Webmaster

Vivian Zhong, Event Planner
Jessica Lunte, Event Planner
Kristina Chu, Event Planner
Sonja Hartmann, Publicity Chair
Patricia Blumeris, Fundraising Chair
Jisoo Ann Han, Scholarships and Awards
Janani Baskaran, New Membership Coordinator
Danielle Skufca, General Board Member
Emma Cusack, General Board Member
Nhu Nguyen, General Board Member
Shelley Kwok, General Board Member

Faculty Advisors: Karen Panetta and Ayse Asatekin, SWE Counselor: Denise Griffin
All Tufts students are welcome to join SWE. Please email swetufts@gmail.com for more info.

Coming Spring 2017…
Annual Student & Faculty Dinner, Company Info Sessions, Engineering Week, High School Outreach Events, and more. Plus, Tufts SWE was founded in 1977, so we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary this spring!

Contact Us
Send us an email at swetufts@gmail.com for more information about Tufts SWE or if you would like to be a part of our Spring 2017 events.
Visit us online at http://ase.tufts.edu/swe/ or check out our Facebook page “SWE Tufts” for the latest updates.