



NEWSLETTER ***March 2018***

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President's Column

Why should writing be so hard? I had this thought in my mind as I attempted to get a kick start on my pile of SWE writing assignments sitting at a public library on a Saturday morning! Growing up in a multi-lingual country with emphasis on a math and science based curriculum, I didn't get to practice my writing skills in English. SWE gave me the opportunity to carve this skill between the blogs, the president note, the abstracts, the recommendation letters, process documents and/or the professional communication. The learning is good but I wish I had more tools and support to enable short turnaround times. I should probably influence our section and board to start a writing meet up/club too☺.



**SWE CRS Newsletter
Editor
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Please send articles, ideas and info for future newsletters. Comments and feedback are also appreciated.

I started with this subject today as I thought there could be many others in my shoes, especially this time as we are seeing a bunch of emails calling for WeLocal and society awards, We18 abstract submissions, the Section scholarship, Section and Society leadership nominations, E-week activities blog, We local presentation prep etc. I encourage each of you to take time for these activities ahead of time if they are on your plate and/or suit your palate. This will help bring out the comprehensive appreciation of the applicant's work in a recommendation letter for awards, complete self-advocacy in your Bio of a scholarship application or a society leadership nomination, a compelling abstract that aligns with We18 tracks and the

theme - "Let's break Boundaries", a stellar presentation that boosts you and your session attendees confidence/knowledge at WeLocal PDX. It is this time and support that will make a difference to portray your own, or your Swester's achievements. Please lean into your section to be your critic to review and prepare you well for success. I am indebted to our Secretary, Carina Hahn for managing the board meeting logistics, minutes and I have started to ask her to be my reviewer.

Kudos to Sonali Fernando for bringing a fun event to the WE board and section to bond over cooking and eating the tastes of Greece. I would also like to share my appreciation to the SWE board and team volunteering at E-week and SHINE program events! Our Outreach is going strong touching a number of little girls with dreams to help them turn into strong women with vision. You can check out some of these results yourself [in this article](#). Thank you all for the amazing work!

The prominent SWE communication I would like to bring up is running for the leadership positions at the Section and Society level. Section and Society leadership nominations are due April 1st 2018. I would like to cheer on the new leadership on our board and will wait for your nominations. Columbia River Section scholarship application deadline is March 23rd. Please keep the applications coming. I look forward to meeting the winners at We Local PDX conference.

So many activities and so little time. Yes! It is busy time for our section with We Local around the corner. We can use your help in design lab volunteering and volunteering in general on that day. Please contact us if you are attending and would like to be more involved. If you have job openings at your firm and like to recruit at [WeLocal PDX](#), connect with [us](#). No, it is not too late yet.

We all entered the workforce to fulfill a profession in STEM and chose the harder path to fill more shoes. SWE applauds your strength and stands by you, for support. **Malala Yousafzai** said, "We cannot succeed when half of them are held back". As I close today, I would like to wish you all Happy International Women's day and call everyone to be the person who fights for themselves and their fellow Women's rights and recognition! One becomes strong and confident, when nurtured by the love and support! Empower you, and them!! Who run the World? Girls☺.

Cheers,
Siri Akula
FY18 President
Columbia River Section
Society of Women Engineers

Event Recap

Professional Development

1. Culinary Event



On **February 22nd**, a group of us attended the **culinary event workshop that was hosted by professional development**. Sonali organized the event and the **"Greek Feast" topic was selected for our cooking lesson**. The event took place at Portland's Culinary Workshop in downtown Portland.

When we arrived, we had cooking workstations already set up for us, and the ingredients were all ready to go. We were also given an instruction packet that we could follow. Our instructors were amazing and we were able to get many dishes made that included spanakopita, a chicken dish, hummus, baba ganoush, baklava, and more.

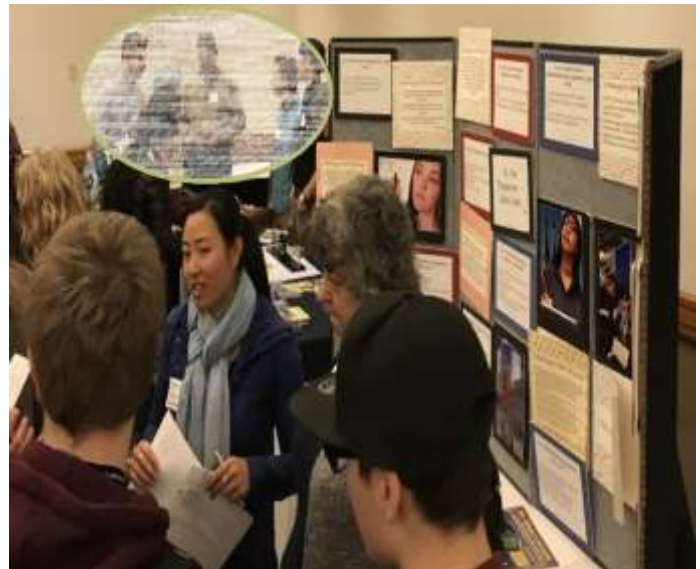
Throughout the experience we also learned many valuable cooking skills, such as how to properly hold a knife and the easiest way to cut an onion. Our instructors made the experience fun and we ended up with quite a feast at the end of the cooking lesson. Everyone enjoyed the event so much that we hope can continue to hold this event every year!

Event Recap

Outreach

1. SWE booth at E-Week

Details: SWE hosted an Outreach booth at E-week on 23rd Feb promoting SWE next agenda and also educating people on what SWE offers for professional women. Around 60 people attended the booth and got benefited by advice from SWE members. ~300 students came to enquire about SWE at the booth. We gave out SWE next flyers and also promoted WE'18 local Design lab opportunities for Middle and High school students. 3 SWE members and 1 non-member hosted the booth at E-week.



2. SHINE program events

February 6: Olga Mezentseva (Design Mechanical Engineer @ Schmitt Industries) and Chrissy Wood (Manufacturing Process Engineer at Nike) shared their career paths and helped the students build Salt-Water Powered Robots

February 13: Stacy Yee (former Intel engineer and current world traveler) shared her career path and helped the students build and launch marshmallow catapults.

Announcements

Professional

1. CRS FY19 Elections

Heads up on the upcoming call for nominations for FY19 Columbia River Section officers board elections. Announcements will be sent by **March 15th** in email, please start thinking which leadership roles you are interested in and be sure to follow up with nominations.

2. PSU Alumni Mingling Event at Daimler Headquarters

Date: March 16th

SWE veterans will be at the SWE booth at this event. If you happen to attend this, please drop by to say hi.

Outreach

1. SWE booth at Girls Fest

Date/Time: Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m

Venue: The Portland Expo Center

Please contact Jill Murfin/Priyanka Dobriyal (Co-VP outreach) if you would like to participate.

Announcements

Collegiate corner

1. \$1,500 SWE Columbia River Scholarship is now OPEN!

Could you do with some money to help pay for school? Are you a female engineer? Would you like to join us for an awards banquet? If so, this opportunity is for you!

Due: March 23, 2018

Online Application:

<http://columbiariver.swe.org/scholarships>

Eligibility:

- Female SWE Collegiate Member in good standing
- Active within SWE Collegiate Section
- Minimum 3.0 GPA
- Full-time student (minimum 12 credits/semester or trimester)
- Incoming sophomores, juniors, seniors and masters students

Requirements:

- Transcripts
- 1 Letter of Recommendation
- Personal Statement
- Online Application

For more information, or if you have any additional questions, please contact the Scholarship Chair, Joy Marsalla, at joy.marsalla@gmail.com

Announcements

WE Local PDX Conference

1. WE Local - PDX Conference Volunteering Opportunity

The **SWE conference, WE Local, is coming to Portland April 6 – 8**, and we need your help! Volunteers are needed to keep everything running smoothly, from helping with registration, to directing people to the next session, to helping attendees find coffee or the restroom. **This is separate from the Design Lab activity, which is also looking for volunteers.**

Conference volunteers can sign up for one or more shifts from as short as 25 minutes to 3 hours. If you volunteer for 3 hours, you get a 10% discount on your registration. On the website <https://welocal.swe.org/portland/>, go to the Attendee tab, then click on Volunteer to view the available positions and to sign up.

If you have any questions, please contact the volunteer coordinator, Melinda Holtzman, mjholtzman@comcast.net.

Thank you for helping make WE Local Portland a success!

Announcements

WE Local PDX Conference

2. WE Local – PDX Conference Volunteering Opportunity with Design Lab

As you may know that SWE's regional conference "WE Local" (<https://welocal.swe.org/portland/>) will be happening in Portland OR this year. As part of the conference, SWE will host a "Design Lab" on **Saturday, April 7, 2018, 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** to provide our local community an opportunity to inspire 150+ middle school girls into a STEM career. **Would you please consider volunteering as a 'Role Model' during the DesignLab event?** It is a fantastic opportunity to share your love of engineering with a table of future engineers!!! Also as an added incentive, if you volunteer for 3+ hours, entry is free and you get 25% discount on the conference registration. If you're not available during the design lab or would prefer to help in another capacity, there are many other opportunities to help with material set up, parent/educator program, day of the event support, etc.

Please sign up today by clicking on the "Volunteer" tab:

<https://welocal.swe.org/portland/designlab/>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Priyanka Dobriyal/Jill Murfin (Co-VP Outreach).

Announcements

WE Local PDX Conference

3. Region J Call for Awards Nominations FY18

Region J is pleased to announce that it is now **accepting applications for its FY18 awards program**. All submissions are **due by Friday, March 23rd** and awards will be **presented at WE Local Portland April 7th**. As this is the last year that region awards will be presented, we want to reach out to as many people as possible to participate in the awards program this year.

Further details on awards to be given and requirements for application are provided [here](#). Please feel free to reach out to Amy Williams (contactamywilliams12@gmail.com) with any questions.

From the Professional Development team:

March Book: The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine who Outwitted America's Enemies, by Jason Fagone

When: Last Thursday of March 29th, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Where: Lucky Labrador Brewing
1945 NW QUIMBY ST. PORTLAND, OR 97209

LinkedIn Group: SWE Columbia River Section Professional Development

Hello CRS! **We completed our February book, *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcom Gladwell**, and we are on to yet another fantastic book to continue fueling ourselves with inspiring material and developing professionally with new insights, tools, stories, and the opportunity to reflect and ask ourselves big questions about our own growth and direction. Our participating members want to mix up our reading list with a book that's more about story and the lives of women who paved the way for before us. Thus, we give you our book for March!

Goodreads review: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/32025298-the-woman-who-smashed-code>



Time to Plan a Celebration

June 29, 2019, will be the 40th anniversary of the chartering of the Oregon SWE section. In 1997 the name of the section changed when the Willamette Valley section was chartered.

Please start thinking about how we should celebrate this milestone and if you would like to participate in the events planning, as the anniversary date approaches we will appoint a committee to plan the celebration.

SWE Life Membership

Have you considered becoming a SWE Life Member? As a Life Member your SWE dues are waived in perpetuity.

To become a Life Member, you contribute \$2,000 to the SWE Endowment Fund Inc. - Headquarters Account

There are three plans available:

Plan A \$2,000 payable in cash when the contract is signed.

Plan B Readily marketable securities with a minimum value of the full life membership contract payable when the contract is signed.

Plan C Three-year contract:

\$500 payable in cash at the time the contract is signed;

\$500 payable in cash on each of the three successive contract anniversary dates.

If you are interested in checking this out, go to the SWE website:

<http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/index.php>

Select "Membership"

- "Types and Benefits"
- "Membership Types"
- "Life Membership"

SWE Milestone anniversaries

Years	First Name	Last Name
30	Laura	Demory
25	Joanna	Ambroz
20	Abigail	Kimerling
15	Linda	Mantel
15	Holli	Pheil
15	Maria	Pat Chavarria
10	Joan	Vardanega
10	Catherine	Spence
10	Stephanie	Labasan
5	Carolyn	Duran
5	Sireesha	Akula
5	Kimberly	Harr
5	Lindsay	Hussey
5	Victoria	Leliefeld
5	Karli	Coe
5	Amy	Williams
5	Pamela	Jackson
5	Natalie	Sherwood
5	Rose	Judge
5	Sonali	Fernando
5	Olga	Mezentseva



Downtown Meet & Greet

Photo Courtesy: Nicole Zimmerman

Upcoming Meet and Greets

Gresham, March
Wed Mar 21, 11:30 am
Sweet Betty's Bistro,
1000 N Main Ave,
Gresham, OR
97030, 503-665-5052
 RSVP to Ann Simmons
ann.e.simmons@boeing.com

Vancouver, March
Wed Mar 14, Noon
McGrath's Fish House,
12501 SE 2nd Cir,
Vancouver WA
98684, (360) 514-9555
 Please RSVP to Jennifer
jen.kootstra@gmail.com

Downtown, March
Thu Mar 8, 11:45 am
LeChon
113 SW Naito Parkway,
Portland, OR
97204, (503) 219-9000
 RSVP to Melinda Holtzman
mjholtzman@comcast.net

South I-5, March
Fri Mar 16, Noon
Thai Win,
8292 SW Nyberg St,
Tualatin OR 97062,
(503) 692-4334
 Please RSVP to Laura
lbnkmk@gmail.com

Beaverton/Hillsboro,
April
Fri Apr 6, 11.45
Oasis (Lebanese),
22293 NW Imbrie Dr,
Hillsboro OR
97124, 503-372-6503
 Please RSVP to Shelley
shelleyw715@gmail.com

Want to know about our Collegiate sections and their happenings? This is where you find out about them and how you can help! Every month we will be featuring updates and happenings from our collegiate sections so you can find out more about our SWE Collegiate sections.

Portland State's SWE collegiate section has some exciting things planned for the year, with a strong focus on community building and outreach. They are currently working with the robotics club at St. Mary's Catholic as the high school students prepare for the First Robotics national competition in February, entering as one of the only all-female teams in the contest. The PSU SWE section aims to provide guidance and support by holding specialized engineering workshops for the girls as they prepare their robot for the event. In addition to this, they are also working on developing other outreach activities in conjunction with various schools in the Portland metro area in order to encourage the next generation of engineers into action and promote diversity within the STEM fields.

In anticipation of WE Local 2017, the section has placed a particular emphasis on encouraging its members to develop their networking skills this fall by holding informational meetings and resume-building workshops. They are currently working on scheduling tours with companies such as Portland General Electric and Intel in an effort to help students learn how to bridge the gap between college and the professional world. Fundraising has also been a highlight within the section's goals, with a few mixers and events planned for later in the school year.



BOARD MEMBERS

Position	FY18 Officer	Email
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President-Elect	Nicole Woodman	J002.Pres.Elect@gmail.com
Secretary	Carina Hahn	J002.Secretary@gmail.com
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VP of Outreach	Jill Murfin	J002.VP.Outreach@gmail.com
	Priyanka Dobriyal	J002.VP.Outreach@gmail.com
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Scholarship Chair	Joy Marsalla	J002.Scholarship@gmail.com
Data Officer	Coral Jean Cotterell	J002.Database@gmail.com
Bylaws Chair	Stephanie Chin	J002.Bylaws@gmail.com
Nomination Chair	Wendy Obenauf	J002.Nominations@gmail.com
Social Chair		J002.Social@gmail.com
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Gresham	Ann Simmons	J002-Gresham-M-G@gmail.com
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South I-5	Laura Ken Kramer	J002-I5-South-M-G@gmail.com
Vancouver	Jennifer Kootstra	J002-Vancouver-M-G@gmail.com
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Portland State University	Nicole Woodman	J002-PSU-Counselor@gmail.com
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OIT-Wilsonville	Pratima Rao	J002-OIT-WV-Counselor@gmail.com
Food Bank Coordinator East Side	Kari Nichols	J002-Food-Bank-Coord@gmail.com



YOUR DREAMS
MAY BE

BIG and BOLD

BUT IT TAKES

HEART & CREATIVITY

..... to make the world a better place

YOU'LL HAVE TO
TINKER • INVENT • BUILD

IT MEANS

BEING YOU

BE SILLY
BE OUTRAGEOUS
BE STRONG
BE AMAZING

**JUST
BE YOU**

EXPLORE YOUR PASSIONS

..... achieve your goals

create THE WORLD'S
FUTURE

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AROUND YOU

SPACE • SKYSCRAPERS • SMARTPHONES

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