

# Society of Women Engineers Spring 2011 Newsletter

This semester, Colorado State University's section of Society of Women Engineers has been active in solidifying on-campus relationships, while reaching out to the community around us. In addition to continued business presentations and networking events, our section also toured an engineering work environment. All of SWE's events are organized with the purpose of advancing our members' opportunities in their engineering future.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we held our bi-annual "Evening with Industry" at the Rio Grande Restaurant. This event, sponsored by Schlumberger and Suncor, gave members of SWE and other students in the college a chance to network with engineering recruiters in a comfortable and casual setting.



CSU Students enjoying dinner with engineering representatives at "Evening with Industry".

Freshmen were given the chance to learn about internships and start networking with

recruiters. This event benefitted the upper classmen given that graduation was right around the corner. The event gave them an opportunity to speak with recruiters individually. "Evening with Industry" is an event that we are proud to host every semester as an opportunity for engineers to network with companies.

SWE was honored to have meetings featuring presentations from Hewlett-Packard, Schlumberger and Raytheon. The companies' representatives provided SWE members with dinner and explained the primary goals of their company. The presenters shared information about what the company does and what their workforce needs are. This provided SWE members with exposure to multiple engineering companies. After the presentations, freshmen could better understand the fine points of resume-building, and upperclassmen could narrow down their employment searches. We greatly appreciate these presentations because it prepares SWE members for their life after graduation.

We were very excited to receive a tour of Union Pacific Rail Yard. Many CSU SWE members traveled to Cheyenne, Wyoming on April 16<sup>th</sup> to visit the Union Pacific Rail Road's Engines. We were also given a tour of a passenger car that was a century old!

An experienced Union Pacific Engineer gave us a tour of many of the engines and the maintenance facilities where the engineers work. We were able to see where the train conductors control the trains with the dozens of valves and gauges. This tour gave CSU SWE members further insight into train engineering. We greatly enjoy company tours to experience the working environment in a variety of engineering companies – so don't hesitate to contact us if we can tour your workplace!



SWE members listen to an experienced Union Pacific employee on a tour of the train engines.

SWE is truly dedicated to outreach. In the past two semesters, SWE members have volunteered at the Loveland and Fort Collins Boys and Girls Club for an event called Fundango. At these events, SWE members participated in activities that taught school-aged foster children fun projects that involved engineering, inspiring the children to enjoy math and science. Also, members learned patience and how to better interact with children. Outreach is a great way to spread awareness of SWE and show how entertaining and dynamic engineering can be.

Many Colorado State University's Society of Women Engineers members represented our section at the Region I conference from March 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> in Golden, CO at Colorado School of Mines. One of our members, Caylee Johnson, spoke at one of the leadership seminars. Members attended



SWE Members heard from many inspirational speakers and attended leadership seminars.

different skill building workshops that focused on industry practices not necessarily exposed to in the classroom setting. Such seminars included lean manufacturing, forming the best "elevator speech," and professional attire. Regionals was a great opportunity for members to network, build

friendships with each other and other women from nearby universities, and also build leadership skills that can increase the productivity of our section.

Colorado State University's section of SWE built strong friendships and networking connections this past semester. We are very excited to implement the skills we gained in the years to come!