Spring is Here!

This quarter we are springing into action! A new name and a few new faces call for an exciting last quarter of the academic year. We hope this has been a fantastic year for all of our CPP WE Ambassadors. This last issue of the year features some exciting news for the new quarter:

**Edison International Donation**

Edison International presented a $100,000 donation in March to CPP WE. In honor of this generous donation, the program has been renamed Edison International Women in Engineering Program.

More on page 2

**Women’s Reception**

Each year the college hosts Engineering Scholar’s Day for select admitted freshmen. This year the CPP WE staff teamed up with Society of Women Engineers to host the Women in Engineering Lunch Reception after the event.

Full recap on page 3

**Engineering Hall of Fame**

Four female engineering alumnae were honored at the inaugural Engineering Hall of Fame ceremony held in February.

Full bios on page 5

**New Faces**

The Maximizing Engineering Potential (MEP) program as well as CPP WE and PLTW have new staff members!

More on page 6

We would like to thank all of our wonderful CPP WE Ambassadors, faculty, and staff for a very eventful and successful academic year. We look forward to our continued growth with you all in the future.

**Have a great spring quarter and congrats to all our graduating CPP WE Ambassadors!**

**Spring Quarter Activities**

See event dates, times, and locations

Page 2

**Scholarship Winners!**

Three students have been awarded the “Young Leaders in Engineering” scholarship this year!

Page 6
Since the founding of the CPP WE program, the College of Engineering has strived to provide resources and support services to all female students in engineering. In partnership with Edison International, CPP WE has begun to build a community of strong female leaders and scholars. To continue building community and providing opportunities to students, Edison International has donated $100,000 to the CPP Women in Engineering program. In honor of the donation, the program will now be known as Edison International Women in Engineering Program.

A check ceremony was held at the College of Engineering where Edison leadership and engineering faculty, staff, and students were in attendance to accept the generous donation. Three CPP WE ambassadors, Holli Rosdail, Maria Medina-Alva, and Minerva Munoz, spoke on behalf of the college’s female population, sharing their personal experiences as female students and how the CPP WE program has provided them a place where they can feel confident inside and outside of the classroom. David Mead, senior vice president of Edison’s Transmission and Distribution Business Unit, presented the check to Dean Amouzegar, Associate Dean Ontiveros, and the CPP WE ambassadors.

For a full recap of the event, check out the articles posted by Edison International and PolyCentric.

PolyCentric: http://polycentric.csupomona.edu/2014/03/edison-gives-engineering-a-big-boost/#.UyDcZYUqgE

You’re Invited!

All female engineering students are welcome to participate in CPP WE activities. Students are invited via email and an RSVP is always required. To join our mailing list, please complete the Ambassador Interest Form and submit to either Kim Johnson (9-163) or Nicole Gutzke (9-169A).

Listed below are the activities planned for Spring Quarter. Remember to check your Cal Poly Pomona email on a daily basis and keep an eye out for any event invitations and updates from CPP WE. Our events fill up fast so be sure to respond as soon as possible!

We are also posting job, internship, research, and scholarship opportunities on a weekly basis on the CPP WE website.

Make sure to check on a regular basis as companies are constantly sending us openings and opportunities, specifically targeting female engineering and CPP students.

*Facebook Update: The CPP WE Facebook page has been temporarily deactivated. All CPP WE news will be posted on the College of Engineering Facebook page this quarter.

### CPP WE Spring 2014 Activities

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>WE Talk</td>
<td>12pm-1pm</td>
<td>162-1002</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>WE Chat</td>
<td>12pm-1pm</td>
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<td>April 22</td>
<td>WE Chat</td>
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<td>May 13</td>
<td>Female Faculty Lunch</td>
<td>12pm-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>End of Year Lunch</td>
<td>12pm-1pm</td>
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Women’s Reception
Saturday, March 15, 2014

Each year, the college hosts Engineering Scholar’s Day, a day full of presentations, lab tours, info sessions, and more. This year, over 150 admitted students visited campus to see what the College of Engineering has to offer. This year the CPP WE staff teamed up with Society of Women Engineers to host the Women in Engineering Lunch Reception for 100 female students and their guests. The luncheon provided admitted students the opportunity to meet current students, alumnae, faculty and staff. A presentation led by Dr. Ontiveros and student leaders from SWE and CPP WE provided an overview of what to expect as a female student in engineering. The event concluded with a discussion panel made up of two alumnae, Andrea Ferris and Andrea Gonzalez; a current student, Reeza Demonteverde; and a faculty member, Dr. Winny Dong, to answer any questions from students and their parents.

A special thank you to the SWE planning committee and volunteers for making this another successful event!

Discussion panelists Dr. Winny Dong, Andrea Ferris, Andrea Gonzalez, and Reeza Demonteverde

Key Note Speakers Andrea Ferris, ’13 and Andrea Gonzalez, ’13 with Dr. Ontiveros

Dr. Ontiveros presents at the 2014 Women in Engineering Lunch Reception
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Monica Palomo

What first sparked your interest in engineering?
When I was a child I had a lot of fun with math, it was not a challenging subject for me. My dream was to become a scientist. My dad was a mining engineer, and due to his work I was exposed to different tunneling projects while I was growing up. He was trained to operate tunnel boring machines (TBM), on several occasions he took me underground to visit mine shafts, and to witness tunnel blasting activities. My dad would explain how the explosives are distributed in the surface of the rock to get a tunnel with the desired shape and size. He talked to me about ore extraction and the different processes to get precious minerals ready to become jewelry. By the time I was in high school he had shown me many applications of physical and chemical principles associated with engineering.

I think that the engineering path was my destiny, but it was not clear until the end of high school when I learned about how civil engineers in Mexico City were dealing with unstable soft soils to achieve stable, safe, and amazing high-rise buildings. I was fortunate to have a family that valued education and supported me when I decided to pursue a career in Civil Engineering.

What were the highlights of your college experience?
I participated in a national academic student Olympiad of the Mexican National Society of Civil Engineering Students, and I got second place in mechanics of materials, Mazatlán, México, 1996. I became the president of the National Society of Civil Engineering Student chapter in my CE department. Several years in a row (1993-1997), I received the annual acknowledgment of Outstanding Student in the Civil Engineering program at the University of Guanajuato. I received the NAFTA scholarship to participate as an exchange student at CSU, Sacramento, 1997-1998. I was on the dean’s honor list for two consecutive semesters at CSU Sacramento, 1997-1998. I received the National Association of Civil Engineering Schools (ANFEI) award as the best student of my graduating class in 1999. Right after getting my BS degree I received a Norwegian Government scholarship to participate in summer school at the University of Oslo, 1999.

Have you faced any challenges as a female engineer? How have you overcome these challenges?
The major challenge I have faced is that many times I have been labeled as “different”. Many times my different way of seeing things has not been well received. My different way of thinking (creativity), along with my confidence and my persistence have helped me to open doors to opportunities that have transformed my professional life; and that have provided rewarding life experiences.

What advice would you give to current female engineering students?
My advice to current female students is to believe in yourself, work every day to achieve your goals (excellence comes from dedication), knowledge and expertise come from practice, if you find a mentor keep in touch with him/her, enjoy your life as college student, and get involved with extracurricular activities.

What is the best advice you have ever received?
After graduation I got my first job as an entry level engineer, one of my professors told me that I was destined for a higher purpose. He advised me to open my eyes to other opportunities. A few months later, I got an offer to come to the United States to start my MS degree in Civil Engineering. That opportunity changed my life.

My mom has always been the most important role model; she knows what she wants and she has always been confident and determined to pursue her dreams. My mom was a professor in the Nursing School at the University of Guanajuato. She worked and had a family; she showed me that professional development and a balanced life could be achieved. At Cal Poly Pomona I have senior faculty and administrators as mentors. They have been important role models that have significantly contributed to my success and professional development at CPP.

AWARDS RECEIVED
- 2014 American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) National Conference Faculty Fellowship.
- Northrop Grumman Excellence in Teaching Award, winter 2013.
- 2011-2012 Provost Teacher Scholars Program Fellow
- 2012 USDA E. Kika De La Garza Science Fellow, summer 2012.
- 2011 CPP Lyle Center Faculty Fellow
- Department of Civil Engineering Student Award to the Most Caring Professor, spring 2011.
- 2009 ASCE ExCEED Fellow, summer 2009
Engineering Hall of Fame 2014

Four female engineering alumnae were inducted at the inaugural Engineering Hall of Fame ceremony held on February 19, 2014. Selected from thousands of outstanding alumni, this year’s class was exceptionally impressive.

Virginia Grebbien
President, Parsons Environment & Infrastructure
BS Civil Engineering, Cal Poly Pomona, 1986

One of just a half-dozen women in her graduating class from Cal Poly Pomona’s College of Engineering, Virginia Grebbien joined Parsons Corporation in 2008 and is now president of Parsons Environment & Infrastructure, an organization that provides customers with full-service engineering, construction and management services in environmental, water and sustainable energy infrastructure development.

“At Cal Poly Pomona I first encountered not only the Learn by Doing methodology but supportive and collaborative teams,” Virginia says. “I learned how to work in multidisciplinary teams solving real engineering problems that were consistent with issues I would face in the workforce. It was exciting to work in a team that valued all its members for what we brought to the table and I appreciated the culture at Cal Poly Pomona that encouraged and supported diverse teams.”

Prior to joining Parsons, Virginia held executive management positions at water management agencies in Southern California, including the Orange County Water District and the West Basin Municipal Water District.

Lynne Lachenmyer
Senior Vice President, ExxonMobil Chemical Company
BS Chemical Engineering, Cal Poly Pomona, 1980

Lynne Lachenmyer’s love of math and science led her to pursue a career in engineering and earn a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from Cal Poly Pomona in 1980.

Upon graduation, Lynne began her career as a process engineer with Mobil Oil at the Torrance refinery. In a career spanning more than 30 years with ExxonMobil, she has had the opportunity to work in manufacturing and business assignments that span environmental, sales, marketing, planning and logistics functions. In 2004, Lynne moved to Singapore as regional manufacturing director. Since 2010 Lynne has been accountable for several global petrochemical businesses as senior vice president for ExxonMobil Chemical Company.

Lynne believes there is tremendous value in education, such as the one she received at Cal Poly Pomona. Consequently she supports STEM activities in the community, sponsors scholarships for studies in engineering and serves on the Board of Junior Achievement.

“A Cal Poly Pomona education opens doors,” Lynne says. “Have confidence in your capabilities—with an engineering degree, an inquisitive mind, hard work and perseverance, your dreams can also come true.”

Dr. Cordelia Ontiveros
Associate Dean for Academic Programs & Student Services
Cal Poly Pomona, College of Engineering
BS Chemical Engineering, Cal Poly Pomona, 1978
MA Chemical Engineering, Princeton University, 1983
PhD Chemical Engineering, Princeton University, 1988

Dr. Cordelia Ontiveros’ parents were her biggest source of support and inspiration. The daughter of an engineer and a registered nurse, Cordelia came to Cal Poly Pomona to study chemical engineering. Cordelia went on to receive a master’s degree and a PhD in chemical engineering from Princeton University. In addition, she attended the Harvard University Management Development Program.

Her career has included work in the private sector, at NASA’s John F. Kennedy Space Center and in academia. Within the California State University, Cordelia has held positions as professor, department chair, associate vice president for faculty affairs and senior director for academic human resources. Today, she is associate dean for academic programs & student services.

Rebecca Ritt Rhoads
President, Raytheon Global Business Services and Chief Information Officer, Raytheon Company
BS Electronics Engineering, Cal Poly Pomona, 1980
MS Electronics Engineering, Cal Poly Pomona, 1986

Rebecca Ritt Rhoads studied electrical engineering at Cal Poly Pomona because she believed electronics would play a significant role in the future. She began her career as an electrical engineer at General Dynamics in 1979 and, through a series of acquisitions, became part of Raytheon Company in 1997.

Today, Rebecca is president of Global Business Services, an organization that provides innovative, high technology services and solutions to Raytheon, and is also CIO for Raytheon. She was inducted into the CIO Hall of Fame by CIO Magazine in 2007 and was listed by The Boston Globe as “The Most Powerful Woman in Technology.”
Young Leaders in Engineering: Scholarship Winners Announced!

Each year, the College of Engineering awards three female students the Young Leaders in Engineering Scholarship, recognizing the academic and leadership accomplishments of members of the Cal Poly Pomona chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. Scholarship funding is provided by Lynne Lachenmyer, a CPP chemical engineering alumna, 2014 Engineering Hall of Fame inductee, and Sr. Vice President of ExxonMobil Chemical Co. Applications for next year’s award will be accepted in the fall quarter.

New Faces in Engineering

Lily Gossage, MEP Director

A welcoming addition to CPP WE, Lily has had a rich work history in engineering education. Previously, she was employed at California State University, Long Beach for 15 years, where she served as Director of the Engineering Admissions & Advising, Engineering Recruitment & Retention, and the Engineering Honors Program. Beyond college student success, she was the founding Director of the CSULB “Women in Engineering Outreach” program, which includes numerous K-12 programs for girls. She finds women-in-engineering advocacy the most gratifying aspect of her efforts. Understanding the importance of parental support in young girls’ intellectual and confidence development, in 2011 she developed the “My Daughter is an Engineer” program, a summer residential program for 5th-grade girls/parents where learning is focused on basic electronics and control systems in daily life. Recognizing that poverty is one of the greatest barriers to children succeeding in school, in 2013 she developed “Engineering Girls – It Takes A Village,” a summer residential program that brings girls and mothers from local homeless shelters to spend a week in university housing to learn about engineering. Outside of her work in engineering educational management, she participates in scholarly and community-based pursuits. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Women in Engineering ProActive Network (WEPAN) – national non-profit organization with members from 150 engineering colleges, small businesses, Fortune 500 corporations, and non-profit organizations – and the American Society for Engineering Education Pacific Southwest section.

Nicole Gutzke, Project Lead the Way and CPP WE Coordinator

Nicole joins the engineering team to provide support for two of engineering’s newest initiatives; Project Lead the Way and the Edison International Women in Engineering Program. She is involved in the daily coordination of both programs and will take the lead this summer on the PLTW core training sessions. Nicole is also involved in local Girl Scouts educational events and activities, including the Girl Scout Bridge Day that was hosted by CPP WE last summer. On her off time, Nicole attends classes to earn her bachelor’s degree in Human Services, and spends time with her three beautiful daughters.