Take a look back at our Fall Kick-Off Meeting

November 14, 2014

The new school year has introduced many new WE Ambassadors who have joined the team in an effort to build a stronger and closer female engineer support system. At the meeting our WE Ambassadors were given the chance to meet and greet with the fellow ambassadors, WE Coordinators, and faculty; a small word scramble ice-breaker helped the women feel more comfortable with socializing. The purpose of this meeting was to provide opportunities for the ambassadors to get more involved with the program including laboratory tour training opportunities, the “Spring Quarter Ice Cream Social”, and the ability for the ambassadors to pitch their own ideas of what they want to see from the program.

“A good scientist is a person with original ideas. A good engineer is a person who makes a design that works with as few original ideas as possible. There are no prima donnas in engineering.”

~Freeman Dyson
Fall Quarter WE Chats
Students had the opportunity to have their questions about succeeding in the engineering field as women answered, and were provided with information of the routes the featured faculty took in their journey to success. Inspirational conversations, great laughs, and an overall good time was offered to these future leaders!

Industrial & Manufacturing WE Chat
Featuring Dr. Saeideh Fallah-Fini and Dr. Shokoufeh Mirzaei
The first WE Chat was held on November 4, 2014 where Dr. Saeideh Fallah-Fini and Dr. Shokoufeh Mirzaei discussed engineering prospects and what our Industrial and Manufacturing engineering females may face in their academic and professional careers. One of the attendees said “hearing stories about their success motivates me to try harder and reach for my goals”.

Mechanical Engineering WE Chat
Featuring Dr. Angela Shih and Dr. Priscilla Zhao
At our second WE Chat, held November 25, 2014, Dr. Shih and Dr. Zhao spoke of their educational background, industry experience, and academic careers. Attending this WE Chat was beneficial to the attendees who said things like “the stories related to the things I go through” and “learning to separate emotion and logic makes me feel better.”

Distinguished Scholar Lecture
Featuring Joan Robinson-Berry
November 18, 2014
Ms. Robinson-Berry was invited to Cal Poly Pomona to speak about her accomplishments as the Vice President Supplier Management and Shared Services Group at The Boeing Company. The informational lecture was inspiring and enlightening to all students, especially our female engineering students. The highlight of her speech was the advice she gave her audience: “More is less”; efficiency and sustainability are large factors driving Aerospace advancements.

Nothing is
IMPOSSIBLE
The word itself says
I’M POSSIBLE
~Audrey Hepburn
Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Shima Hajimirza,

Where are you from and what is your education background?

I was born in Tehran and studied math and physics in high school. I obtained a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Mazandaran and a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Southern Illinois University and in Bio-engineering from California Institute of Technology. Then I obtained a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas in Austin.

Why did you choose to study engineering?

I enjoyed studying and solving physics problems since I was 15. I would see physics as a systematic way of simplifying the rules of the universe. I have always been interested in modeling complicated real-world dynamics such as movements of particles, transfer of heat and energy, conversion of energy in different forms and so on. Developing mathematical and physical models that describe these dynamics and amazingly predict their outcomes or states gives me a lot of joy. It is mostly within the realm of engineering sciences that you can learn how to define and utilize these models, and work on new ones for different problems.

Where did you work prior to coming to Cal Poly Pomona?

I worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences of UT Austin, and worked as a research scientist on developing computational statistical models for advanced molecular dynamic systems. I then joined the Mechanical Engineering Department of the Tennessee State University as an Adjunct Professor where I had temporary teaching and research appointments.

What has been your biggest challenge or obstacle you have had to overcome in your professional career?

Speaking as a scientist and researcher I can say that one of the biggest challenges is maintaining your excellence and making sure you do well continuously. As a woman however, sometimes I have had the feeling that I am not taken seriously in different situations.

"Courage allows the successful woman to fail and learn powerful lessons from the failure so that in the end she didn’t fail at all."

~Maya Angelou
Resident Advisor: Madeline Perez

“As the Resident Advisor for the ladies of the Engineering College Themed Community in Palmitas Hall, it has been such a great experience collaborating with the women of WE. Nicole and Dr. Ontiveros have been so supportive in my mission to enrich the college experience of my residents, and encourage their success through programs and academic resources.”

Puzzle!

Goal: Figure out which months and companies go with the rockets.

Active Clues

1. The Gralax will launch 1 month after the rocket developed by Rubicorp.
2. Of the Cornick and the rocket that will launch in March, one is made by Rubicorp and the other is made by Techtrin.
3. The Athios will launch 1 month before the Cornick.
4. The Exatris, the rocket developed by SpaceZen and the rocket that will launch in March are all different rockets.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>months</th>
<th>Athios</th>
<th>Cornick</th>
<th>Exatris</th>
<th>Gralax</th>
<th>Rubicorp</th>
<th>SpaceZen</th>
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Answers provided on the following page!

Be Sure to Check This Out! Dr. Saeideh Fallah-Fini’s System Approach to Obesity

Dr. Saeideh Fallah-Fini is an assistant professor here at Cal Poly Pomona, and holds an adjunct assistant professor position at the Department of International Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Fallah-Fini’s research mainly focuses on the application of systems engineering to address obesity as a major public health issue. At the 2014 Institute for Operating Research and Management Science’s (INFORMS) annual meeting she chaired a session related to systems engineering in public health; not only was Dr. Fallah-Fini representing GOPC by presenting and listening to public health discussions, she also has recently published a paper that was featured in a special issue of the American Journal of Public Health. Read more on her featured paper here: [http://www.globalobesity.org/news/saeidah-fallah-fini-systems-approach.html](http://www.globalobesity.org/news/saeidah-fallah-fini-systems-approach.html)
Get Involved this Quarter!

Hello ambassadors! Many of you said that you would love to be more involved. There are two events where you can help during winter quarter. One of them is our Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, which is February 23 from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Of course, you don’t have to be there the whole time! You can email Shannon at sbnguyen@csupomona.edu to have your name put down on the volunteer list, and please include the hours you would be available to volunteer. Likewise, there is a Women’s Reception event on Saturday, March 7 from 8 A.M. to 2 P.M. Like the Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day event, you do not have to be there the whole time. Just email Shannon showing your interest as well as the hours you would be available to help out.

Upcoming Events: Please check your email for your invites

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 20, 2015</td>
<td>WE Faculty Lunch</td>
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<td>January 23, 2015</td>
<td>WE Ambassador Kick-off Meeting</td>
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<td>January 27, 2015</td>
<td>WE Talk</td>
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<td>February 10, 2015</td>
<td>WE Chat</td>
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<td>February 22-28, 2015</td>
<td>National Engineers Week</td>
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<td>February 23, 2015</td>
<td>Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 3, 2015</td>
<td>WE Chat</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 7, 2015</td>
<td>Engineering Scholars Day &amp; Women’s Reception</td>
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Ice Cream Social Points

3 Points: Nicole Quintero, Tanya Ibarra

2 Points: Abigail Ang, Alejandra Castellon, Alyssa Figueroa, Andrea Cervantes, Angelica Guzman, Baongoz Nguyen, Crystal Chea, Elsi Cervantes, Genesis Ponce, Holli Rosdail, Jaclyn Molnar, Jennifer Huynh, Ma Anna Gabrielle Santos, Nikta Mousavi, Odelia Stepanian, Ramelle Ramucula, Samantha Cabrera, Sarah Flaherty, Shannen Sharma, Ymonne Tajzoy

1 Point: Aireal Tran, Alcira Terrazas, Alyssa Rivas, Alyssa Emerson, Amber Nopwaskey, Antonina Di Padova, Caroline, Ross, Cassidy Duran, Clarissa Moreno, Devyn Granados, Elise Hough, Emilia Der Sarkissian, Evelyn Mateo, Isabella Bailon, Ivania Ramirez, Jacqueline Medina, Jazmin Acevedo, Jenise Baca, Jessica Rule, Jessica Cho, Jo Evangelista, Kaliaya Deaws, Kaylee Firestone, Kelsi Kleinow, Mae Alfaddagh, Maiya Sims, Makayla Plate, Michelle Pham, Nabina Iqra, Nadia Boutros, Paola Nestor, Regina Dilig, Sarah El-Knuffash, Sayana Domingues, Sevanne Calle, Shelby Worrel, Tamara Talverdian, Tselot Kahesay, Veronica Velasquez

PUZZLE ANS.

Athios: January, SpaceZen
Cornick: February, Rubicorp
Exatris: April, Ubersplore
Gralax: March, Techtrin