Welcome Back!  CPP WE hopes your summer was fabulous and that your transition back was smooth. The time has come to get those calculators and engineering paper out to get back on the school track. With the new academic year comes new opportunities for research projects, networking with industry and of course CPP WE events! CPP WE has many events in store and you don’t want to miss out!

CPP WE would like to congratulate our Graduating Class of 2016!

On June 9, 2016 the Maximizing Engineering Potential program and CPP WE joined to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating female engineering students. Congratulations to these CPP WE graduates:

Seydeh Fatemeh Bassir  Maria Medina Alva
Stephanie Chavez  Victoria Medinilla
Gabriela Del Real  Sarah Reyes
Reeza Demonteverde  Fatima Rincon
Tanya Ibarra-Martinez  Melissa Rios
Fatima Islam  Eunjung Shin
Rebecca Markosia  Guadalupe Talavera
Alexis Mascarinas  Reyes

College of Engineering Class of 2016 female graduates pose at the annual MEP & CPP WE Graduate Recognition.

What is CPP WE?

CPP WE - Cal Poly Pomona Women in Engineering (CPP WE) is dedicated to engaging ALL women within the College of Engineering. CPP WE promotes a close community for female engineering students by providing proactive retention activities. CPP WE seeks to create an environment in which women can thrive in the classroom and beyond in their careers.

Such activities include:

CPP WE Talks - WE Talks are an alumnae speaker series. Alumnae are invited to come and speak to current female engineering students and offer tools to succeed in various areas of engineering, including academics and professional development.

CPP WE Chats - WE Chats provide the opportunity for female faculty and students to connect and learn about each other.

Ambassador Socials - Quarterly meetings, study sessions, and outreach events
New Faculty

**Dr. Farhana Abedin**

Dr. Abedin is a new faculty member in the Electromechanical Engineering Technology Department. After growing up in Bangladesh, where she received her B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, she decided to move to the U.S. to pursue graduate programs in Kansas. Dr. Abedin completed her M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Wichita State University and then continued on to receive her Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering, with an emphasis in Materials Engineering, from the University of Kansas. During her graduate studies, Dr. Abedin worked on a variety of research projects in the biomedical field. For instance, she worked on developing a material meant to act as a delivery system for cancer treatments, as well as improving the lifetime of materials used for dental fillings.

Dr. Abedin believes that STEM outreach to K-12 females is important because it will bring confidence needed for young females to pursue engineering. She believes one of the hardest things as a female in engineering is not having confidence in yourself, but once you have confidence in yourself you can do whatever you set your mind to.

Hobbies: Painting, reading thrillers, and traveling to try new foods

**Dr. Zahra Sotoudeh**

Dr. Sotoudeh is a new faculty member in the Aerospace Engineering Department. She is originally from Iran, where she completed both her B.S. and M.S. degrees. For her master’s degree, she wrote two books about airplane structural analysis and aeroelasticity. Additionally, Dr. Sotoudeh worked on research projects focused on high altitude long endurance (HALE) aircrafts. Later she moved to Atlanta, Georgia to pursue her Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering at Georgia Tech. Soon after completing her Ph.D. she continued her postdoctoral work at Virginia Tech and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

At Cal Poly Pomona, Dr. Sotoudeh says she likes seeing the diversity on campus and in her classes. For some students, they are the first generation to go to college and change their future. Because of this, she feels students are more attentive and put more effort into their classes. Dr. Sotoudeh appreciates the high percentage of females in engineering classes and can see the impact that it has made for the female engineers on this campus compared to the only-girl trend she left in school.

Hobbies: Swimming, traveling, creating new cooking recipes
New CPP WE Faculty Coordinators

Dr. Lisa Wang

Dr. Lisa Wang grew up in China and later moved to the U.S. to receive a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering. Dr. Wang was the first in her family to attend college, which was an opportunity her parents did not have. During her Ph.D. studies, Dr. Wang acquired a teacher’s assistant job for a professor that traveled frequently. This gave her the opportunity to teach some classes while he was away. From teaching these lectures and through office hours, Dr. Wang found she enjoyed helping students learn and problem solve.

After Dr. Wang earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine, she worked at an engineering consulting firm in Orange County designing buildings and bridges. In the industry, she repeatedly saw few females in the work place and realized that by becoming a college professor she could effectively contribute toward gender equity in the engineering field. Today as a professor, she feels that she can connect with the female engineering students and encourage their success in the College of Engineering. Dr. Wang affirms, “[Although] it is no secret that women have been historically underrepresented in the field of engineering, as the new WE Faculty Coordinator, I look forward to working toward developing and implementing strategies to recruit, retain, and build a community of women within the college.”

Dr. Norali Pernalete

Dr. Norali Pernalete comes from a family of engineers, including her father and two sisters. She decided to receive her electrical engineering degree from the University of South Florida. Dr. Pernalete, is a professor in the Electromechanical Engineering Technology Department. She engages in team-based learning and innovative research in rehabilitation robotics. Dr. Pernalete’s research improves the hand-eye coordination in children diagnosed with poor graphomotor skills using robotic mapping from a haptic user interface to a virtual environment. She took part in the creation of the Robotic Haptic System that these children use. Dr. Pernalete is interested in robotics because she “sees engineering as a way to improve the lives of the people who need assistance with assistive technologies or rehabilitation”. Dr. Pernalete’s advice for students is to be curious about what is out there beyond Pomona, California and even the United States and to “be ambitious and never stop dreaming.”
Hi, I’m Shannon and I’m a fourth year civil engineering student. I interned at L.D. King, Inc. over the summer, which is located in Rancho Cucamonga. It was an amazing experience, and I improved my drafting skills, interpersonal skills, and work ethic. I’ve been helping design the streets and padding for condominiums and housing in the Preserve in Chino. It’s cool because I live 10 minutes from there and sometimes I drive by and get so excited by the progress and that I am able to play a part of the future of the area. This summer my family and I went to Seattle and then Canada, and my dad, who is also a civil engineer, and I were analyzing the roads and structures in Canada to compare to California. It was an amazing experience!

I am currently working for General Mills Inc. at the Yoplait facility in Carson, California as a Manufacturing and Engineering Associate. Specifically I am a process lead for Go-Gurt, where I help drive system performance. What I love the most about my job is the ability to be able to be hands-on and actually see the product being made. I originally interned for the company in the summer of 2015 after interviewing with them at the HENAAC conference. I received a full time offer upon completion of my internship.

I am currently working as a Hardware Design Engineer at Faraday Future. It is a startup that’s creating the next generation premium, highly connected electric vehicles. I design Electronic Control Units (ECUs) for the EVs, mostly related to Battery Systems. The company was at CPP’s spring career fair last year and that’s how I started working here. I did an internship with them summer 2015, mostly researching and testing batteries and was able to file two patents with them. Then I worked as a Test Engineer for the ECU team during fall and winter while attending school. I started working as a design engineer here since last Spring. It's been a very exciting journey so far. I was able to organize a few recruiting/info sessions to create a bridge between Cal Poly Pomona and Faraday Future and was able to hire multiple interns from CPP.
Message from the Dean

Networking with other students, faculty and practicing engineers is a valuable aspect of your education, and one of the goals of CPP WE is to provide a welcoming environment. I met many of you at the recent CPP WE Welcome Lunch and I hope that you were able to meet and connect with other female students and faculty in the college.

Because engineering in practice is a team effort, strong people skills lead to more opportunities for career advancement. Involvement in student organizations provides a way to hone these skills. We want to help you thrive in the classroom and beyond in your careers. I encourage you to be involved with CPP WE as well as other clubs and organizations on campus.

Dr. Cordelia Ontiveros  
Interim Dean, College of Engineering

“Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the

Stay Updated with Upcoming Events!

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** You will receive invites via email.

CPP WE held its annual WE Welcome Lunch on October 4, 2016 welcoming new incoming freshmen and transfer engineering students. Current ambassadors, representatives from Southern California Edison (SCE), and female faculty attended in support of our program.

During the lunch Dr. Ontiveros introduced Leanne Swanson, Electrical Engineering Alumna, as the SCE Representative. Also, representatives from the Society of Women Engineers and Phi Sigma Pho were also present.

Check out pictures from the event on the College of Engineering Facebook: Cal Poly Pomona College of Engineering