It’s hard to believe that spring is upon us and summer is right around the corner, and another SWE fiscal year is coming to a close. I know many of you participated in outreach events during National Engineers Week and are currently working on outreach events; Please make sure to capture your events in the SWE Outreach Metric Tool. We want to make sure your events are getting counted, and helping with Colleen’s goal of ‘Reach Out to Reach Up’. Thank you for reaching out and engaging young minds.

Many MALs, including the reps, attended their region conferences this year, and this newsletter contains several highlights on the experiences gained by attendees. Read on for some great articles and insight.

The MAL awards program has been announced. If you or someone you know are deserving of one of the awards, please get your application in by June 15. Information on the awards is on the MAL website, along with other great information. Please check it out, along with our Facebook page!

Finally, as many of you saw, our FY17 slate was announced in April. I want to thank everyone for all their hard work in FY16. We had a lot to accomplish this year, and I appreciate everyone’s hard work and effort. Have a wonderful summer!

Debbie Jacklitch-Kuiken
SWE FY16 MAL President
debbie_jacklitch@yahoo.com
MAL FY17 Slate

In accordance with our bylaws, unopposed candidates for MAL representatives and alternate MAL representatives are declared elected when the slate is published. The the FY17 MAL representatives and alternates will be:

MAL-A Open
MAL-B Lorna Holt
MAL-C Victoria Tinsley
MAL-C (2) Olivia LeBlanc
MAL-C-Alt Claire Shortall
MAL-D Jennifer Cooper
MAL-D-Alt Nancy Manley
MAL-E Beth Mellott
MAL-F Brianna Sporbert
MAL-G Alicia Anderson
MAL-G-Alt Cynthia Reid
MAL-H Diane Peters
MAL-H-Alt Anne Lucietto
MAL-I Christi Patton Luks
MAL-J Sara Hough
MAL-J-Alt Linda Thomas

If you are a MAL in the Golden West Region (A) and are interested in filling the open representative position, please contact MAL President Debbie Jacklitch-Kuiken by May 15.

The FY16 MAL representatives will elect the FY17 MAL officers next month. The nominees are:

President Debbie Jacklitch-Kuiken
Vice President Emily Ongstad
Secretary Beth Mellott
Treasurer Claire Shortall

The MAL officers will approve appointment of the remaining leadership positions:

Awards Chair Stacey Culver
Financial Assessment Committee Chair Sara Hough
Leadership Coach Beth Posey-Leonhard
Membership Coordinator Claire Shortall
Newsletter Editor Emily Ongstad
Outreach Coordinator Maryam Rahmani
Website and Social Media Coordinator Jennifer Cooper

The MAL Teller will be elected at the MAL Council meeting during the Society conference in October.
Nominations for MAL Awards Due June 15

By Stacey Culver, SWE-MAL Awards Chair

The Members at Large organization strives to recognize MALs for various accomplishments. We are currently seeking nominations (as well as volunteers to serve as judges) for the 2015 MAL awards program.

Nomination packages, accompanied by the nomination form, must be submitted by June 15 for three awards. You may nominate another deserving MAL, or, if you feel you would be a good candidate, please have a colleague or friend nominate you since the nominator does not need to be a MAL (or even a member of SWE).

- **Rising Star Award** — for professional MALs with less than 8 years of work experience
- **Shining Star Award** — for professional MALs with between 8 and 15 years of work experience
- **Outreach Award** — for collegiate or professional MALs who participated in outreach activities during the fiscal year

Details about the program and requirements for preparing nomination packages can be found here.

If you would be available to judge the MAL awards (Best Newsletter Article, Rising Star, Shining Star, and/or Outreach) please contact MAL Awards Chair Stacey Culver. Serving as a judge will most likely take several hours this summer. Thank you for taking the time to acknowledge our members for their exceptional contributions!

West Virginia University SWE Hosts Girl Scout Day

By Ali Anderson, SWE-MAL G Representative

On April 9th, 2016, the West Virginia University section of the Society of Women Engineers held their annual Girl Scout Day event, bringing in over 300 scouts and their parents for a day of hands-on STEM learning. This year the event featured a new program designed to engage the parents. Region G MAL representative Ali Anderson coordinated the event with help from the Outreach Chair-Elect Mary Zeis and a team of WVU SWE members to launch the first Parent Educator Program. The program featured an overview of what engineering is with current students from each of WVU’s engineering departments; a "Mom Panel" comprised of a current engineer, a former engineer now stay-at-home mom, and a mom with no STEM background; a hands-on engineering problem solving activity; and presentations from our outreach and enrollment coordinators at WVU.

The program was a great success! Parents commented on the number of resources they learned about and how they now have a better understanding of what engineering is. Ali hopes to continue to grow this program to reach more parents during the annual Girl Scout Day event.

Parents at WVU SWE’s Girl Scout Day developing a product to clean up ‘toxic beans.’
MALie the C Turtle Goes to the Region C Conference

By Tori Tinsley, SWE-MAL C Representative and MAL Outreach Chair

My name is MALie the C Turtle and I am the official mascot of the Region C MALs. The very talented Region C Secretary, Shelley, crotched a sea turtle mascot for Region C and is working to make a baby turtle for all of the professional and collegiate sections as well as one for the MALs in Region C. I currently live in Texas with the Region C MAL Rep, Victoria (Tori) Tinsley, her husband Gavan, their Rhodesian ridgeback puppy Vela, and their two Tux cats Orion and Artemis. In February 2016, Tori and I traveled to Rogers, AR, for the FY16 Region C Conference hosted by the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

We spent Friday afternoon volunteering at the Conference Outreach Event. We made squishy circuits with play dough, batteries, and small LED lights. Two of the girls attending the event helped me make a self-portrait.

On Friday night, we had a MAL networking social with several MALs in the lobby of the conference hotel. We forgot to take a picture but had a great time making new friends. We are looking forward to having a bigger MAL social at the FY17 Region Conference! Then we participated in the conference icebreaker Trivia Night with ladies from the LeTourneau University Section. While we didn’t win, we had a great time and made lots of new friends.

Tori and I had breakfast on Saturday morning with the ladies from LeTourneau and listened to the key note speaker, Kristina Worgan, who currently works as the Director of Operational Excellence for Baldor. It was interesting to hear about the wide range of technical and managerial roles she had held over her career. Then we attended the joint professional and collegiate Region C meeting for a State of SWE Address by Jessica Rannow, the SWE President-Elect, and updates on various aspects of the Region. For lunch, we sat with ladies from the Texas Tech University Section and listened to the lunch key note speaker Ami Spivey, the Senior Vice President of Walmart International Activity Management Office. In her current role, she leads a team that ensures that corporate resources are aligned and executing to International and Enterprise Strategic Objectives. I really enjoyed Ms. Spivey’s talk—she gave examples of inspiring people, inspiring products, and inspiring possibilities over the course of her experiences. It was interesting to hear how her work with Walmart has taken her all over the world and she has met people from many different backgrounds.

In the afternoon, Tori and I attended several of the conference sessions. One (Continued on page 5)
of our favorite sessions was “The Financial Confident Woman” by Heather Yarbrough and Anita Barnett from Ameriprise. They talked about the importance of savings at all stages of your career, both for unexpected events and for retirement. They recommended having a minimum cash reserve of three months living expenses and then as able, increasing that reserve little by little to 12 months living expenses. For retirement savings, they recommended first taking advantage of any matching 401K program your company offers, and then looking into a Roth IRA. They also recommended building a household budget, and minimizing and/or eliminating credit card debt as much as possible. It was a very interesting talk and gave us several things to look into when Tori and I got home.

The final event of the conference was the Region Awards Banquet. We had a great time celebrating the accomplishments of individuals and sections in our region! Tori and I sat with the ladies from the University of North Texas Section, who have one of my turtle siblings as well as their own turtle in school colors that one of their members made.

We also sat with several collegiate MALs from McNeese State, who were in the process of forming a Collegiate Interest Group (CIG). I was super excited to meet these ladies and listen to their plans. (Editor’s note: Congratulations are in order, as these collegiates were transferred from the MALs to the McNeese State CIG after it was approved in March.)

Overall, it was a great conference! I got to learn more about SWE, and meet many very interesting people. I would highly recommend you attend your Region Conference! It’s a great networking opportunity and a way for MALs to be involved with others from their Region and from SWE. Hopefully I’ll see you at a Region Conference sometime soon!

Redding Hosts EWeek 2016 Event

By Ashley Kellogg, SWE MAL Contributor, Photographs by Mary Lascelles

The 7th Annual Wow! That’s Engineering event was held on Saturday, February 20th on the Simpson University Campus. The event was hosted by the MALs in Redding, CA and is held during National Engineers Week each year. With 140 students in attendance, the event was the largest to date for the group. Outside of the 140 girls in attendance, there were also 45 students on a waiting list who had hoped for a spot.

This annual event enables local 4th through 6th graders to explore various areas of engineering via three hands-on workshops. The workshops are rotated each year so that returning students won’t experience the same workshop twice. This year we welcomed back the highly enjoyed Catapult workshop. The girls were given a set amount of supplies, including Popsicle sticks, rubber bands, a plastic spoon and masking tape, with which they were to design a simple catapult to launch a pencil top eraser. The most successful designs launched the erasers over 30 feet!

Along with Catapult, the girls were also able to design and construct a structure from coffee stirrers and modeling clay. When the structure had met the minimum dimension requirements, it was secured to a base with a single piece of tape and then put through earthquake simulation with our tennis ball shake tables. We saw some very creative and colorful designs that withstood some
large shakers!

Our third and final workshop, My Robot Friend, was co-led and sponsored by Build It Redding. The girls were divided into teams and one was selected to be the ‘robot’. While the robot was transformed with a paper bag robot head, the other team members wrote code to direct the robot to stack plastic cups in a specific pattern. Their code was then tested with their robot friend. The girls also got to experience a real robot that functions as a 3D pancake printer! Not only were the pancake designs really neat, they tasted good too!

At the end of the day the girls took home not only some awesome lessons and experiences from the workshops, but goodie bags and prizes as well. Prizes were awarded for the most successful designs in the Catapult Workshop. Prizes and goodie bag were provided by several local and national businesses and organizations. Event planning is accomplished by 8-10 dedicated SWE members with 30 additional volunteers, including students, donating their Saturday to ensure a successful event.

(Continued from page 5)

Participants building catapults.

SWE Is My Constant

By Jacquelyn K. Nagel, SWE MAL Vice President

I recently attended the Region E Conference in Newport News, VA with seven of my students and had the opportunity to re-connect with many collegiate and professional members from around the region but also to build new connections with members from across the region. During this conference I also participated in a panel session on ‘Benefits of Joining SWE as a Professional’ and gave a session on ‘Fostering a Thriving SWE Collegiate Section’. Throughout my interactions with other SWE members, participation or attendance to sessions and meetings, and listening to speakers a theme emerged - SWE Is My Constant. Perhaps this theme was influenced by Society President-Elect Jessica

(Continued on page 7)
(Continued from page 6)

Rannow in her opening remarks during the state of SWE, however, I found it to be true for many SWE members. Jessica has been a SWE member for over 20 years, and while she has switched jobs and companies, changed responsibilities, and moved around the country as her career has grown over those 20 years her involvement and leadership in SWE has remained constant. I personally have experienced the same. I joined SWE in 2001 as a sophomore in college. I was at a community college when I joined SWE, but knew there were collegiate sections at the 4-year institutions I was considering transferring to. I sought out those groups as I was going to be moving away from home for the first time and wanted to find a new support network. SWE seemed like the perfect fit, and it was. After I transferred to Missouri University of Science and Technology I ran for an officer position and in my senior year I served as the section president. While in graduate school I remained a member of SWE and although I was not as active in the local collegiate section I engaged in leadership at the society level by representing the collegiate voice on the Conference Advisory Board. Toward the end of my graduate studies my advisor accepted a position at another university. I, and all but two students in the research group, followed him to Oregon State University. One of the first things I did once arriving at OSU was to contact the local SWE section and establish myself with the group. When it came time to move to Virginia after graduation I took the same approach only now I was a professional member. Living in Harrisonburg puts me 2 hours away from the nearest professional SWE section, thus I joined the Members at Large in Region E. Once again I took the same approach. I reached out to the local section and found out how I could get established. I started by running for Region E MAL Representative and then positions on the executive council. SWE has been a constant during the evolving changes of my professional path.

Jessica and I are not the only ones. This theme was mentioned several times during the panel session on ‘Benefits of Joining SWE as a Professional’ by professional members Mary Beth Biddle, Stephanie DeCotiis, Gail Dyer, and Amanda Weissman. In the panel discussion of the benefits of joining a professional section after college many of the same reasons that Jessica and I stated were reiterated, with networking and meeting others being the strongest benefit. Finding a sense of place and where one feels like they belong can be empowering, and SWE can provide that. Perhaps it is not at the local level, as I experienced in graduate school, but there are a multitude of ways to be connected through SWE so finding one that fits is important as well. The benefits of being a dedicated member, however, are many, and include a mix of professional and personal benefits. Not only does SWE provide a sense of community but also a network for finding jobs and mentors, or building skills and competencies that will serve one throughout their career. In the session on ‘Fostering a Thriving SWE Collegiate Section’ I pointed out that finding a faculty advisor or SWE Counselor that has prior SWE leadership experience is important as they will understand the organization and its benefits at a deeper level and be able to share that knowledge and enthusiasm with the collegiate members. Current collegiate members should consider joining SWE as a professional not just to reap the benefits of membership but so one day they might be able to give back to future collegiate members as a faculty advisor or SWE Counselor. Just as for Jessica and many others, SWE has been a constant in my professional career and the benefits and rewards just keep getting better each year. As a member of SWE I feel welcomed and a part of something bigger than myself, and know that I have the support of many other women. I hope you find the same.
Build, Grow, and Shape the Content of Your Digital Footprint

By Jennifer Cooper, SWE-MAL D Representative and Website and Social Media Coordinator

A digital footprint is a trail you leave behind you online as you visit websites, register for forums, participate in surveys, shop, and send emails for example. As you may have realized, others can gather some information about your habits or interests depending on what you are sharing and your level of privacy settings.

Your passive digital footprint consists of those websites you visit, your search history, and your IP address. These may or may not contain very personal information. You also maintain an active digital footprint consisting of all of the content you publish (emails, blogs, tweets, profiles, posts, etc.).

You can control the content of your digital footprint with the content you publish and continue to grow this according to your professional (and personal) interests. This is the face you show to the digital world. There are several ways to build, grow and shape the content in your digital footprint.

For example, Nancy is an electrical design engineer who dabbles in a local weekend Maker Space with 3D printing and enjoys photography. She utilizes a variety of media platforms to showcase her design projects and professional expertise as well as her personal interests.

Nancy starts with a LinkedIn profile to showcase her professional expertise and occasionally publishes a LinkedIn article on related topics.

This leads Nancy to online groups and forums where she can discuss design, Maker Spaces, 3D printing, and photography to gain knowledge and share design expertise. Nancy utilizes social media to post unscripted interactions with other designers and to schedule photography posts with some of the people she has met in person and online.

Nancy visually showcases her Maker projects through photographs, collages, and videos as well as other local Makers. She later creates a website or web portfolio to showcase all her photography projects.

These are just a few examples of ways to build, grow and shape the content of your digital footprint. There are many tools and resources to fit a variety of interests and time schedules. Start small and build momentum slowly as you build your expertise and content.

Advocating with Educators

By Jacquelyn K. Nagel, SWE MAL Vice President

I attended the session ‘What is SWE Advocacy?’ at the Region E Conference and learned a lot from Mary Perkinson, SWE Director of Advocacy, and Alexis McKittrick, Strategic Planning Committee Chair-Elect. Advocacy is one of the Society’s newest strategic initiatives and covers much more than outreach in classrooms, family events, or discussing the importance of diversity and inclusion in STEM fields with your country or (Continued on page 9)
(Continued from page 8)

state capitals. Advocacy impacts us all, as we can advocate for others (collegues, future generations of females in engineering and technology) as well as ourselves. SWE is helping members to do just that through the creation of eLearning modules, the “Why Advocate” series on the All Together blog, and spreading the word about resources available to members such as through conference presentations. The eLearning modules provide insight on advocacy at the basic level – providing members direction on how to speak to your audience (e.g., women, future engineers, K-12 students) and how you can utilize your own story to support your advocacy efforts – and at an advanced level – providing members direction on how to speak to congress on matters of STEM education, women in science and technology and Title IX. The modules help members to identify roles in advocacy as well as venues where they can speak out and spread the message. The “Why Advocate” series on the All Together blog provides snapshots of what members are doing to advocate for themselves and others. The personal stories and reflections are meant to provide real examples of what others are doing to inspire more and different efforts.

I found the presentation to be informative and am glad to see SWE spearheading such important initiatives. At the end of the presentation we had a discussion where members were sharing their stories and ideas for advocacy. The topic of advocating with educators came up, and is something I think Members at Large could be particularly great at. Teachers and counselors that work with K-12 students are people of influence, adult influencers in some circles, and have the ability to inspire and empower girls to consider STEM careers. For example, a one-on-one conversation, offering a class related to engineering, seeing potential and commenting on it to the student or parents, or connecting the fields of engineering as well as STEM broadly with the goal of “helping people” are all ways educators influence girls’ career trajectories. I can say from my own experience that if it were not for my high school drafting teacher telling me about engineering and how engineers solve problems I would not be writing this article. No one in my family is an engineer and there were not engineering outreach events in my area, so I simply did not know about engineering. If we can help educators understand more about engineering, then they can better spread the awareness to their students.

We often think about talking with the K-12 students, but we should not overlook the adult influencers. Educators (and parents) need to know about engineering stereotypes, public biases, and research on what influences girls to choose engineering or any STEM discipline as a career to be able to overcome or address them in their own classrooms. They also need to know qualities of a successful engineer beyond good math and science skills. Engineers need to work in teams, communicate through writing and presentations, think creatively and critically, adapt to changing problems, manage people and projects, design, and abide by a code of ethics. There is so much more to engineering than math and science! By sharing our knowledge and resources with K-12 educators we can help them understand the factors influencing girls’ decisions about STEM careers and what they can do to influence and empower more girls to consider STEM careers. As a MAL, I recognize that it can be difficult for MALs to organize an event as we are geographically disperse. I think, however, we can advocate on an individual level with K-12 educators in our local areas. If we each take 10-20 minutes to talk with a K-12 educator, we can collectively begin to break down the engineering profession stereotypes and the public biases that heavily influence girls away from STEM careers. #WhyAdvocate
Set in 1890's England, The Importance of Being Earnest is a play written Oscar Wilde about two friends who both use the pseudonym “Ernest”—one to escape his country life and visit London; the other to visit his friend’s country estate. This works until both gentlemen, under the name Ernest, fall in love with two different ladies, which leads to a comedy of mistaken identities when both men and both ladies end up at the same country estate. If you’ve never seen or read it, I highly recommend the 2002 movie version starting Rupert Everett, Colin Firth, Frances O’Connor, Reese Witherspoon, and Judi Dench. Ultimately, everyone involved realizes the importance of just being you.

I was reminded of this during one of my conversations at the Region C Conference in February. I was talking a college student about my career path, and how I got to my current job as a Technical Service Engineer with a plastics company. Prior to moving into tech service, I was a process engineer for several years with the same company. We talked a lot about why I like my job and why I think it is a good fit for me. But we also talked about the fact that although I’m glad I worked in the polyethylene plant as the process engineer—I learned a lot about equipment and it gave me a good background for my current job, but I did not enjoy being a plant engineer. For me, it just wasn’t a good fit. I didn’t like being expected to drop everything and come in if there was a production issue.

The student looked at me with a stunned face and commented that she’d never talked to a chemical engineer who admitted to not liking a traditional chemical engineering job like process engineering. Everyone she had talked with gave the impression that they loved being in a refinery or manufacturing plant. She is a chemical engineering major and completed her second internship last summer in a refinery. She told me she was considering changing her major because she didn’t enjoy her internships and didn’t think she would be happy in a process engineering job after graduating. She was worried something was “wrong” with her because she didn’t like a traditional chemical engineering job. I told her there is nothing wrong with not liking a particular job or aspect of your field, and I encouraged her to consider other opportunities that used what she did like about chemical engineering (blend of math, chemistry, and problem solving).

When talking with students (K-12) or undergraduate students, don’t forget the importance of being earnest! Be honest about what you like and what you don’t like about your past and current positions or companies. You never know when or how that information might help someone else!
## MAL Leadership Contacts

### MAL Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
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### MAL Representatives

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### MAL Alternate Representatives

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### MAL Committee Chairs/Coordinators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stay Connected!
As a MAL, it can be difficult to stay connected to SWE. Find us on social media and online to stay in the know about MAL and the Society!

Help Wanted!

**Awards Judges:** If you’re interesting in judging the MAL Awards packets, please contact MAL Awards Chair Stacey Culver.

**Newsletter Contributors:** Looking for articles 200-1000 words to include in future newsletters. A broad range of possible topics include but are not limited to your local outreach events, career tips, leadership, mentoring in your workplace, etc. The MAL awards committee will select the best newsletter article award each fiscal year. Additionally, authors of all published articles are eligible for the newsletter contributor drawing. If you would like to contribute, please send your articles to our editor, Emily Ongstad. This is your newsletter!

### MAL Calendar

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAL Awards Deadline</td>
<td>June 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>WE16 Annual Conference for Women Engineers, Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>October 27-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAL Summit</td>
<td>October 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAL Meeting</td>
<td>October 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awards Banquet</td>
<td>October 28</td>
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