Our New Office!!!!!

By Laura Webster

Our big project this year was redoing our SWE office in Sisson! The office had been run down and over used for who knows how long. It was difficult to hold exec meetings in the office because the space was unorganized. Whenever we needed something for our meetings we had to buy it because we were unsure of what we had and where it was. We decided it was time for a change.

Although there was more than enough money in our account for a new office we decided to have a fundraiser so that the money could collect more interest for future SWE. We sold “You know you’re an engineer if” T-shirts. We ended up making more money than we spent on the office!

During an exec meeting we talked about how we wanted our new office to look. We decided that we wanted a good way to organize everything, a place to put old notes and textbooks, a good layout to hold conversations during meetings, and a place for people to study.

So we went shopping! We bought sky blue paint, new carpet, shelves for our study files, and a big table to do homework on. With the addition of a free filing cabinet, and a SWE quilt we had everything we wanted.

Now it was time to put the office together. We painted the office, replace the outlet and switch covers, put the new carpet in, and organized everything. Then, we organized the furniture in a way that makes conversations easier. Our large fold away table makes homework in the office easy to do without interfering with meetings.

We love our new office and the new carpet! The study files are much easier to use now. The office has stayed organized now that we have a good system in place.

SWEET!! New Carpet!!
Conference

The National conference was in Baltimore, Maryland this year. We had 5 members attend and learn a lot while they were out there. In the second picture on the right is four of the members, the gospel choir that performed, and the current president of national SWE, Virginia Connolly. The conference also has a large career fair that takes place, but not only job searching goes on at it. Previous BU SWE president Christine Cabrera and alumni member Sarah Kief played guitar hero at one of the career fair booths (see below). The college of engineering was gracious enough to help support SWE to cover the travel fees. The regional conference was in Indianapolis, Indiana. In the picture to the right, the crew is at the regional conference sporting the recently received SWE hoodies and showing off the new SWE quilt that Kate Lyon’s mom made for us!

Meetings

SWE meeting are a great place to meet new people, make friends, have loads of fun, and oh…do something engineering related. Some of the general meetings this year included events like ginger bread (or graham cracker) houses, mini-pumpkin chucking catapult making competition, and fondue. We also had some great speakers. Our speakers taught us about generations in the workplace and how to dress for success. SWE also participates in events up on in the Peoria area. This year’s we attended the Morton Pumpkin Chucking Competition, the State Farm crash investigation site, and Tanners Orchard.
Tanners Orchard

A few of the SWE girls went to Tanners Orchard to meet up with some professional section members. We had some difficulties and never managed to find them, but we had fun anyway. We enjoyed a hayrack ride, mini-golf, and the animals! We even found out how tall Kate (current vice president) really is. We also enjoyed some snacks and sweet treats. “Mmmmmm, caramel apples!”-Sara Klinger. “I want kettle corn!”-Laura Webster. “Look everyone I’m five foot tall!”-Kate Lyons. (pictures below and to the right)

Shack-A-Thon

Every year shack-a-thon (a fundraiser and awareness event for the homeless) starts out the same way, with a hunt for boxes. This year after getting a few boxes from Circuit City it was obvious more were going to be needed. The hunt took us into a golf supply store. The bored but very friendly workers happily gave us several golf club size boxes. They even aided in loading them into the car! The golf club boxes were used as the main structure and support beams of the shack. Then, the large TV boxes were cut open and used as the walls and roof. The result: a very spacious and sturdy shack. After surviving the whole night without a single sign of weakness in the structure it was time for the shack to come down. This was going to be no small feat. A friend of SWE, Zac, finally got to do what he had been aching to do since he heard about the sturdy SWE shack. He got a head start and ran right into one of the walls. Disappointed with the small dent he had made, Zac decided he needed a more aggressive destruction technique. He jumped onto the roof of the shack expecting to make it collapse. The roof fell slowly cushioning his fall. However, the walls still stood and the roof although greatly damaged, was still hanging in there. Disappointed, Zac began ripping apart the shack with member Laura Webster and anyone else passing by. Needless to say, the shack did not survive much longer.
Out Reach

This year one of Bradley SWE’s focuses was having outreach events. At the science sleepover, we taught fourth grade girls about stability. Using the water table we showed them why you should sit when you are on a boat. We used foam for our boat material and weights at different heights to represent a person sitting, standing, or jumping on a boat. The girls observed how the stability of the boat changed as the person changed their position. Several different boat designs were tested before the girls were asked to design their own. Their goal was to make a boat that was more stable than Dr. Reyer’s boat. The girls loved the water table and learned about stability. But that was not the most important thing they learned that day. On their way to Jobst, one of the girls asked, “Why are we going there? Only boys can be engineers.” After meeting our SWE crew filled with female engineers, they all soon realized “girls can be engineers!”

SWE also participated in the 4th grade outreach. Using some simple props we taught the girls about friction, levers, and forces. They were excited to see which wooden block would win the race down the board covered in various materials. They were able to observe first hand how different materials created different friction forces. At another station, they got to play with a car that had a fan attached to it. There they learned that the way you apply a force can make a big difference. As the fan rotated the car moved at different speeds and sometimes in a different direction. At the third station the girls were encouraged to show off their muscles. They were taught how a lever works. They also learned the importance of the location of the fulcrum. The girls experienced first hand how the force required to lift the same weight can change if the fulcrum is moved.

Science Sleepover

Some found it hard to believe that with a big enough lever and a properly positioned fulcrum that they could lift an elephant (if they had one).

SWE also participated in E-week and events at the local grade schools. SWE plans to do more outreach programs next year. They might even do a fundraising event to fund their outreach programs.
To:

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