

## Letter from the President



Dear Members of SWE,

With over 40 new MIT SWE board members, we are excited to bring you another memorable year of SWE! One of the unique things about MIT SWE is that we are part of an enormous national organization, and this semester we are getting more involved in SWE on the National level. So far, we've hosted other SWE chapters from nearby colleges like Northeastern and Boston University for our February guest speaker event, and then SWE Boston Professionals for a networking dinner in March. Thus, we hope that this will set precedence for more collaboration in the future that will provide you with access to many unique resources.

Are you exploring new career paths or looking for how to land that dream job? Well, SWE is going to be organizing company tours, so interested students can visit companies on-site and see what a typical day is like or how the company culture truly is. We've also got a host of career development events coming up to help you, regarding entrepreneurship, graduate school, biotech/pharmaceutical companies, mock interviews/resume critiques, and networking dinners.

If you're interested in community service, we're looking to focus this year on reaching more underprivileged youth in the local community, by making them aware of all the opportunities for them in engineering. This has sparked the idea for new off-campus outreach events, where we physically go to these young children and mentor them in interactive engineering activities. As before, we are also continuing with our excellent KEYs and WiSE programs targeted at mentoring middle school and high school girls, respectively.

With all these things going on, we also want to make sure that the organization remains personable to its members. In light of this, we are starting a Big/Lil Sib program, as a chance for students to be mentored by upperclassmen in terms of classes, career goals, internship opportunities, or how to survive MIT in general! Besides the Big/Lil program and our amazing study breaks, we will also be having a lot of fun by traveling together! We recently had our MIT SWE leadership retreat to Plymouth, MA for a weekend of event planning, silly games, and good company. We're looking forward to the regional conference at the Olin College of Engineering this Spring, and then the National SWE Conference this Fall in Baltimore, MD. Whether we're traveling, doing community service, or becoming more career savvy, we always have a blast, so come and be a part of all this excitement, today!

Sincerely,  
Katherine Kuan  
MIT SWE President

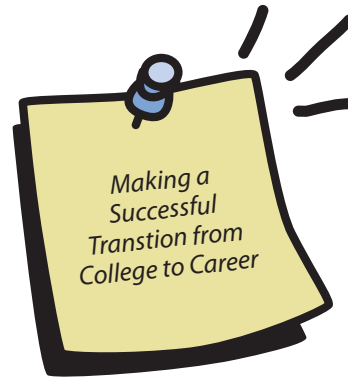
## Upcoming Events

1. Big/Little Event: March 12
- Summer Opportunit'es Panel: March 13
2. Beaver Dash: March 15
3. General Body Meeting: April 7
4. CPW: April 10-13
5. Region F Conference: April 16

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## Lindsey Pollak, acclaimed author of *Getting from Colleg to Career: 90 Things to do Before you Join the Real World*, Visits MIT SWE



At the February GBM, SWE was privileged to feature Lindsey Pollak as the guest speaker. Ms. Pollak shared 7 valuable tips from her book, which she has graciously allowed SWE to publish in this issue!

1. **Seek opportunities, take risks, and do not be inhibited**- these are key to achieving your dream career.
2. **Stop being a student and start being a professional**- keep a career notebook to organize your plans, goals, and contacts.
3. **Become an expert researcher**- read everything you can about your desired industry. Remain informed! Subscribe to an industry newsletter or magazine.
4. **Clean up your online image**- keep content of Facebook and MySpace appropriate. Employers have access to these pages.
5. **Email like a professional**- add a signature line and use more formal writing. NO emoticons or acronyms.
6. **Network with you neighbors**- the best way in any industry and the most competitive companies is to KNOW SOMEONE. Create a network through friends, family friends, classmates, employers, and professors. Expand your contacts.
7. **Be persistent**- keep in touch and follow up. Take action, be the initiator, and take responsibility. Don't wait for people to come to you.

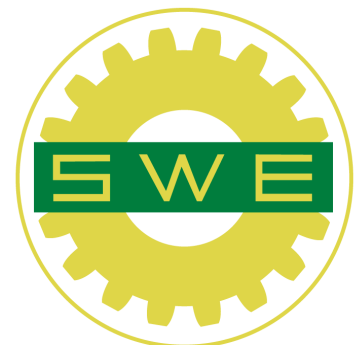
**Above all else, remain enthusiastic, passionate, and determined to achieve your career goals.**

For more advice concerning the transition from college to career, check out Ms. Pollak's book- *Getting from College to Career*- as well as her blog [www.lindseypollak.com/blog](http://www.lindseypollak.com/blog).

We look forward to her return to MIT!

## Become a National SWE Member!

MIT SWE will reimburse you \$10 for your registration, so join today! For \$10 per year, you gain access to **Support systems, SWE Career Center for internship and fulltime employment search, SWE Magazine, SWE National and Regional Conferences.** Visit [www.swe.org/join](http://www.swe.org/join) today and start participating in professional development seminars and career fairs! Forward your email receipt to [swe-vp-membership@mit.edu](mailto:swe-vp-membership@mit.edu) for reimbursement.



## Plymouth, Massachusetts: Board Retreat 2008



For this year's leadership retreat, the SWE board spent the weekend of February 16 in Plymouth, Massachusetts. It was a memorable weekend and a time for bonding, recreation, and planning. Problem sets were forgotten (if only for a brief time!) and everyone made an effort to meet new people and welcome new board members. VPs and Chairs worked together to outline goals for the year and discussed upcoming events. All of the girls on SWE board who attended enjoyed their time together and truly got to know one another during the activities and the relaxing drive through Massachusetts. We thank those involved in the planning who made the event a success!

## The IAP Activities of your Board Members

### **Sushama Dasari- Treasurer**

Fidelity Capital Markets  
Financial Engineering Extern

I worked on a proprietary algorithmic trading strategy which takes market impact into account. Market impact, also known as price impact, is the effect of large block trades on stock price in the open market. Different firms have different models for market impact; I used Fidelity's model. During the externship I used Java, Matlab, and Q, which are specialized languages used in the financial sell-side area to analyze, quote, and trade data. I also learned quite a bit of statistics and was motivated to take a high-level statistics class this semester!

### **Connie Yee- Director of IT**

BlackRock  
Financial Engineering Extern

As a course 2 major, I had never worked in the financial industry, or done intense coding except in two of my classes at MIT. Luckily, my externship at BlackRock in New York City changed that. I worked as a C++ and Perl developer. I redesigned the structure and display of an existing Quality Control program. I found this a truly rewarding experience, both as an addition to my finance background and an enhancement to my software development skills.

### **Mahati Chintapalli- Off-Campus Outreach**

UROP

Over IAP I conducted a UROP in the nuclear reactor lab. There, I studied the heat transfer between steel and boiling water as well as the coatings that increase the efficiency of heat transfer.

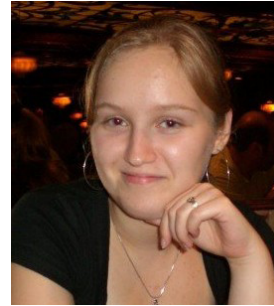


## Outreach Activities

Between February 18<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup>, MIT SWE Outreach celebrated National Engineering Week by sponsoring engineering activities at the Boston Children's Museum. During this week, thirty MIT students volunteered at the museum by hosting activities for the children. The activities included building straw bridges, launching alka-seltzer film canister rockets, building simple circuits, and extracting iron from cereal. Through this outreach event, many children had the unique opportunity to learn about different types of engineering, as well as talk to college students studying engineering. Both the children and the MIT students enjoyed their time together. SWE looks forward to hosting future events at the Children's Museum!



## Officers of the Month



SWE proudly features Amanda Fried and Maryelise Cieslewicz as the officers of the month! As Outreach Chairs, both tirelessly worked to make Engineering Week a success and a memorable experience for both the children and the MIT students who volunteered. Congratulations and keep up the great work!



## Upcoming Outreach Activities

### 1. Junior Girl Scout Brownie Day: March 15, 9 am

Volunteer to work with over 160 Brownie Girl Scouts on 4 exciting engineering activities. Email [asfried@mit.edu](mailto:asfried@mit.edu) or [mecisle@mit.edu](mailto:mecisle@mit.edu) to volunteer.

### 2. Beaverdash Design Competition: April 5, 9 am – 4 pm

Mentor a team of local high school boys and girls on a daylong engineering design competition. Email [nour@mit.edu](mailto:nour@mit.edu) or [meciesle@mit.edu](mailto:meciesle@mit.edu) for more information.

### 3. KEYs (Keys to Empowering Youth): April 5

Mentor young middle school girls by doing engineering projects with them! Email [nour@mit.edu](mailto:nour@mit.edu) or [taniam@mit.edu](mailto:taniam@mit.edu) to help with this event.

Society of  
Women Engineers

ASPIRE • ADVANCE • ACHIEVE

### Get Involved in these Programs!

- MIT Women's Technology Program**  
Become a TA for MIT's WTP program this summer and work with high school girls interested in engineering! Visit <http://wtp.mit.edu/> for more information.
- Monster Diversity Leadership Program**  
Apply to be a part of one of the most fulfilling leadership conferences. Meet inspirational college-age student leaders from across the nation, take part in fun and interactive workshops, and forge corporate connections. Visit <http://www.monsterdlp.com/start/default.asp> to apply.

## Register for the SWE Regional Conference!

Interested in participating in workshops and acquiring summer jobs? Then come to the SWE Regional Conference on **Saturday, April 12** at Olin College!

- The registration is **free**
- 40 companies (including **Raytheon, IBM, Bose, GE, Liberty Mutual**) will be represented at the career fair
- Six concurrent **workshops** will be hosted
- High profile professionals- **Rebecca Rhodes, Raytheon Corporation CIO and Regina Darmoni, IBM executive**- will be keynote speakers

Visit <http://www.swe.org/regionf/regconf08/RegFregistration.htm> to register!

## SPOTLIGHT: SWE Boston April Meeting

**SWE Boston April Meeting**  
**Speaker: Paula Lyons**  
**Topic: Projecting a Strong Executive Presence**  
**Sponsored by Medtronic, Inc**

Thursday, April 10, 2008

RSVP by April 3, 2008

Paula Lyons will present a lively program that unlocks the secrets of projecting a strong executive presence. Through stories, anecdotes, and interactive exercises, participants learn:

- How to manage the signals you send
- The role of personal style
- How to create an informal presentation quickly
- The power of non-verbal communication
- The importance of voice
- The value of soliciting feedback
- The importance of listening well
- How to be memorable

This program helps participants clearly **identify** and **understand** the elements which constitute the **unspoken "language"** of business leaders. This presentation will bring the intangible into the realm of the practical.

Register today at [www.sweboston.org](http://www.sweboston.org) via Acteva. Direct questions to [swebos@sweboston.org](mailto:swebos@sweboston.org).



## Job Opportunities

These companies have personally contacted MIT SWE to let us know about their upcoming job opportunities. They are very interested in hiring our members, so please check out these exciting companies!

### 1. Lincoln Labs

The Laboratory offers scientists and engineers the opportunity to work on challenging problems critical to national security. A Department of Defense federally funded research and development center (FFRDC), Lincoln Laboratory has a focused commitment to research and development, with an emphasis on building prototypes and demonstrating operational systems under live test conditions that meet real-world requirements. Three areas constitute the core of the work performed at the Laboratory: sensors, information extraction (signal processing and embedded computing), and communications, all supported by a broad research base in advanced electronics. The research and development activities at the Laboratory are encompassed under six primary mission areas: space control; air and missile defense technology; communications and information technology; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems and technology; advanced electronics technology; and homeland protection. The Laboratory also undertakes government-sponsored non-defense projects such as the development of systems for the Federal Aviation Administration to improve air-traffic control and air safety, and systems the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration uses in weather surveillance. For more information please visit <http://www.ll.mit.edu>. The Laboratory has career opportunities for theoretical investigation as well as work with experimental systems in the field. Due to the highly complex nature of our work, we have the greatest need for graduate engineers with an MS or a PhD in Electrical Engineering or Physics and for BS or MS-level software engineers and scientific programmers. Due to our contracts with the Department of Defense employment at the Laboratory requires U.S. citizenship. We are also recruiting undergraduates and graduate students for our summer research program. Eligibility requirements, program details, and the application process are attached and available at <http://www.ll.mit.edu/careers/summer.html>.

### 2. APT

APT (Applied Predictive Technologies) is seeking dedicated, analytical, hard-working Business Consultant and Software Engineer interns to work in its Washington DC and San Francisco offices this summer. Candidates will work with an experienced management team in a dynamic organization for 8-10 weeks over the summer. Successful interns will have the opportunity to build a long-term and exciting career with APT. Founded in 1999 by MIT Alum Jim Manzi, APT is a rapidly growing strategic consulting and enterprise software company with offices in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco. APT is revolutionizing traditional management consulting through a powerful combination of analytically driven consulting and advanced software. We work with many of the Fortune 500 companies, including Starbucks, Victoria Secret's, Staples, Wells Fargo, DSW, Sprint, Circuit City, BP, American Express and many other leading companies. APT was recently recognized as one of top 100 private companies in North America by Red Herring magazine. Check us out at <http://www.joinapt.com>. We're looking for applicants with strong analytical skills to join this team in our Washington, DC and San Francisco offices. Business Consultant intern candidates may apply to both offices; software engineer intern candidates should apply to the Washington office only. Please direct any questions to APT's MIT recruiting manager, Marek Polonski at [mpolonski@predictivetechnologies.com](mailto:mpolonski@predictivetechnologies.com).

### 3. Bridgewater Associates

Bridgewater Associates, Inc., is one of the largest managers of hedge fund strategies, with approximately \$170 billion in global investments. We currently manage this money with approximately 475 employees, so having the best technology is critical to our success. A Technology Associate Intern at Bridgewater develops the infrastructure and tools used to analyze the global financial markets, manage our portfolios, execute thousands of trades each day, and service our institutional clients. Bridgewater makes use of the latest technologies and programming methodologies, including high-powered databases, object-oriented programming, a richly developed internal Web, and the .NET framework. At many firms, programmers are distanced from the core business, servicing requests and implementing decisions that others are making. Technology at Bridgewater is quite the opposite. Our developers are embedded within our various departments and share the same goals and responsibilities of our Investment Associates. We expect Associates to actively identify problems, take responsibility for resolving them, and formulate extensible solutions that make sense from both a business and technological perspective. As a result, they must understand how Bridgewater works and our approach to investing. To that end, Associates are provided with in-depth training on portfolio management and the markets.

### 4. hi5

Launched in early 2004, hi5 is one of the largest social networks in the world with over 35 million active members. Each day, millions of people around the globe repeatedly visit hi5 to stay connected with friends, share photos of their experiences, and discover the latest news. Today, the service is offered in nine languages, serves as the #1 site in 7 countries, a top 10 site in more than 30 countries across the world, and the #1 social networking service for the global Spanish-speaking audience.

# SWE Event Calendar

Come partake in the numerous activities sponsored by SWE!

## MARCH/APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Board Meeting
2	3	4 March GBM	5	6	7	8 Advocacy Women's Brunch
9	10 Study Break	11	12 Big/Lil Activity	13 Career Panel	14	15 Board Meeting, Brownie Day
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 -----	25 -----	26 Spring Break!	27 -----	28 -----	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5 Board Meeting, Beaverdash, KEYs
6	7 April GBM	8	9	10 -----	11 CPW	12 ----- Region F Conference
13 -----	14	15	16	17	18	19 Board Meeting
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			





## Social Events

Interested in finding an upper-class mentor through MIT SWE? Join the Big/Lil program organized by the Social Chairs, Danan Ren and Amy Du. Three social events have been arranged during the spring for members to spend time together and get to know each other.

- On March 12, there will be an ice cream sundae study break in McCormick. Freshman will have the opportunity to sign up for the big/little program and get to know upperclassmen.
- In April, big/little pairings will be revealed. As a bonding activity, SWE will go to Build-a-Bear, where each sibling pair will build a teddy bear together. Dinner and dessert will be provided!
- As the final social activity, SWE will spend time in Harvard Square walking around, shopping, and getting dinner!

To learn more about the activities and participate in the big/little program, email the Social Chairs at [amyweidu@mit.edu](mailto:amyweidu@mit.edu) or [dren@mit.edu](mailto:dren@mit.edu). We look forward to seeing you soon!

The logo for MIT SWE, consisting of the letters 'SWE' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font, set against a green rectangular background.

To advertise in SWE Newsletter, contact the Newsletter Chair, Kristina Cibor, at [knc131@mit.edu](mailto:knc131@mit.edu).



Visit <http://web.mit.edu/swe/www/> to learn more information about your new board members, upcoming events, online services, scholarship opportunities, and leadership positions on the National SWE level.



## Our Mission

### SWE Mission: Adopted in 1986

To stimulate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life, and demonstrate the value of diversity.

### MIT SWE Mission: Adopted in 2006

To educate members about career choices in engineering and promote community between professionals, students, and alumni. To inspire younger generations and encourage their pursuit of engineering. To promote diversity in engineering and advocate the needs of women engineers at MIT. To build community at MIT SWE, bridge a relationship with local and national chapters, and record as well as disseminate the culture, history, and events of MIT SWE.



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