

FY2016 Dallas SWE Elections

Candidate bios

Barbara Read

(President candidate)

Company/role: Raytheon, Senior Quality Engineer

Why you want to fill the nominated position: The past few years Dallas SWE has gathered a solid base of members. Our professional development meetings provide value to our members. We are reaching out to employer sponsored members. We have created or become involved in several STEM outreach events. My goal is to continue what was started: to lead Dallas SWE so we can improve upon what we are already doing and continue to grow our membership.

Previous SWE experience: Currently serving as Dallas SWE President (FY15). Served as Dallas SWE Vice President FY13 - FY14. Participated on Region C Awards Committee (FY15). Designed and led an activity for the first Design Your World - STEM Conference for Girls in 2012. Volunteered at subsequent DYW STEM Conferences and other STEM outreach events, including Sally Ride Festival, Moon Day, and Invent It Build It at WE12.

Your favorite thing about SWE: I joined SWE because I enjoyed the opportunities to network with some pretty amazing women in technical fields. I also appreciate that Dallas SWE sponsors or participates in numerous STEM events each year, so we can encourage the next generation of scientists, engineers, technologists and mathematicians.

Cherrie Fisher

(Vice President candidate)

Company/role: AT&T, Sr. Technical Team Lead

Why you want to fill the nominated position: I would like to establish continuity between this year and last year. Under my leadership, the Programming Committee was successful in creating a template that we used to plan each monthly meeting. We successfully secured speakers and venues for each month, planned and executed corporate tours to Haliburton and Emerson Electric facilities. We also successfully planned a Leadership Workshop (April 2015) which will not only help the Dallas Chapter solidify a Strategic Plan for 2015-2016, the Ft. Worth and collegiate chapters will benefit as well.

The Dallas Section has done an excellent job of establishing a K-12 program, however, research shows that even though women represent 50% of the population, we only represent 15% of engineers in the U.S. in addition women are twice as likely as men to leave the profession within the first 10 years of their careers. So in my mind, Professional Development for our working members is just as important as a strong K-12 program.

If elected I will work on a Strategic Plan for Professional Development – I was able to secure a template from Region I which will provide the Dallas Section with a starting point. The Plan will include monthly meetings at Corporations, Joint Diversity Activities with SHPE and NSBE and a focused professional development plan for our members so that we can become leaders within our respective corporations and academic institutions.

Previous SWE experience: Vice President Dallas Section last year. Speaker Parent Panel DYW. Responsible for all Professional Development Programming, managing monthly meetings.

Your favorite thing about SWE: Comradery, leadership opportunities, making new friends.

Zaineb Ahmad

(VP of Membership candidate)

Zaineb Ahmad is the Business Analyst for MEDHOST's perioperative software applications, which brought her to Dallas in January 2014. Soon after her move, she joined Dallas SWE, serving as the Dallas SWE Awards Committee Co-Chair from January 2014 - June 2014, and currently serves as the Awards Committee Chair. In this capacity, she helped Dallas SWE win the Outreach Award - Parent/Educator Event, in recognition of Design Your World, and a Dallas SWE member win the Outstanding Counselor award, both at the national level.

Zaineb is also a part of the Dallas SWE Programming Committee, which included planning and taking lead on the Emerson/Dallas SWE Joint meeting (March 2015). She previously worked as the Biomedical Engineering Activity coordinator for Design Your World - UTD and demonstrates her commitment to supporting STEM initiatives through participation in various SWE outreach and mentoring opportunities.

Dallas is one of the fastest growing cities in America; Dallas SWE is growing about as fast. Since becoming a member of Dallas SWE, Zaineb has seen new members at almost every meeting. As Vice President of Membership, she would personally engage new members and attendees, encourage them to come to future meetings and events, and provide a friendly face in a sea of new faces. With some of Dallas SWE's initiatives still in their infancy, including the younger members' brunch or company-sponsored members' group, she would work to nurture these groups, ensuring member participation based on their needs and requests.

Zaineb's favorite thing about SWE is the sense of community that includes being surrounded by passionate, inspirational, and encouraging women; as Vice President of Membership, she aspires to foster this sense of community. Furthermore, she will work to increase membership retention in Dallas SWE with input of the members. She believes an organization is only as strong as its member base and wants to ensure Dallas SWE continues to have a vibrant, engaged, and robust member base.

Nandika D'Souza

(VP of Outreach candidate)

Company/role: University of north Texas/ associate chair of mechanical and energy engineering

Why you want to fill the nominated position: I have enjoyed this position and see a few more areas to impact

Previous SWE experience: VP for outreach 2013 to present. Secretary 2012-2013

Your favorite thing about SWE: Seeing positive ways to impact the engineering experience for women engineers.

Marzia Monty

(Secretary candidate)

Company/role: Texas Instruments Inc./Customer Quality Engineer

Why you want to fill the nominated position: I love to keep myself involved in women's career and technical development. I am involved in some activities within TI and I would like to expand that scope towards women Engineers' community in Dallas. Being relatively new in this location and 2 years into my Electrical Engineering career, I think this is a good time for me to start getting more involved and with my prior involvement in SWE, I believe a Secretary role would be a good way to start to reach out to other women in the area for exchange of information and help!

Previous SWE experience: I recruited entry level Electrical/mechanical Engineers for TI (For Technology Manufacturing Group & Quality – Females & Males) in SWE National Conference 2014 in Los Angeles. I plan to continue this year in Nashville as well.

Your favorite thing about SWE: It really opens the door for tons of opportunities that you won't think an organization may have to offer! I myself have never participated in National conferences when I was a student. I am now on the other side recruiting the women talents and I am mesmerized at what I missed out on. I really want to encourage all women Engineers & young students (like I do to my younger sisters) to take full advantage on this.

Elizabeth Gentry (Secretary candidate)

Company/role: CHRISTUS Health/Clinical Process Improvement Specialist

Why you want to fill the nominated position: Being in Texas less than two years, I want to meet more people and get involved in SWE. When I was in college, I was the secretary in my sorority, so I feel like this would be a great position for me.

Previous SWE experience: College Chapter

Your favorite thing about SWE: That we are all engineers and women wanting to network and grow to be women that girls of the next generation can look up to

Elizabeth (Liz) Hainey (Treasurer candidate)

Company / Role: Raytheon / Technical Director

Why you want to fill the nominated position: I have served as Treasurer on several large high school choir booster clubs, and enjoy working with Choir Directors and board members to make sure they have the funds they need to achieve their goals. I would now like to extend that experience to help the Dallas SWE chapter manage their increasing revenue to support new opportunities for professional development and STEM outreach.

Previous SWE experience: I recently rejoined SWE (I was an active member as both an undergraduate and graduate student) because I wanted to expand my experience of mentoring young women engineers beyond what I have been doing on campuses and within my company.

Your favorite thing about SWE: SWE allows me to network with some amazing women that I wouldn't have met otherwise. We can share our experiences with younger women to help them achieve their career goals and have a work/life balance.

Amanda Posadas

(Section Representative candidate)

Company/role: AT&T-Requirements Management

Why you want to fill the nominated position: When I moved across Texas I looked for a SWE section in my area and instantly felt welcomed and encouraged to become an active member. I initially became the alternate section rep and have continued on this past year. As a section rep, I enjoy being a part of the larger SWE region providing my input and bringing back information to my section.

Previous SWE experience: Previous Section Rep

Your favorite thing about SWE: My favorite thing about SWE is it provides a welcoming place for women engineers. I also enjoy the friendships I have made with my fellow SWEsters.

Sadia Khan

(Section representative candidate)

Company/role: Texas Instruments/ Semiconductor Packaging Engineer

Why you want to fill the nominated position: I feel lucky every day to be an engineer. I want to use that passion to take an active role in the Dallas community by helping motivate other female engineers to reach their full potential with the resources available to SWE.

Previous SWE experience: Started recruiting female engineers for Texas Instruments at 2014 SWE Conference

Your favorite thing about SWE: Big tech companies like Google and Apple reported recently that only 17-20% of their workforce in tech are women. My favorite thing about SWE is that it encourages diversity in the work place and will hopefully give me the opportunity to play a small role in increasing those numbers.

Arwa Kassamali

(Board of Trustee candidate)

Company/role: Project Manager, Abbott Laboratories: Point of Care

Why you want to fill the nominated position: As women are rising in their technical and corporate roles, there's still many hurdles and discussions to be had. As the new generation of women rise, they need our (SWE) support. I'm passionate about helping and managing the SWE reserves and budgets to ensure there is a consistent stream of income for the organization; so we're continually there providing the support to keep SWE running.

Previous SWE experience: I've been involved with SWE as a volunteer, Scholarship Chair, the Chair of Women Engineers at Abbott Laboratories, and SWE BOT for Dallas.

Your favorite thing about SWE: The strength that SWE has with its growing number of members and accomplishments. I also love all of the conversations and involvement with STEM programs.

Justa Trevino

(Board of Trustee candidate)

Company/role: Retired from Raytheon/Systems Engineer

Why you want to fill the position: Support the SWE mission

Previous SWE experience: Member of DFW professional chapter, supporter of SMU SWE chapter

Favorite thing about SWE: Talking to the collegiate members and supporting their future.