



FY18 Dallas SWE Elections

Candidate Bios

Shelley Stracener (President Candidate)

Company/role: My name is Shelley Stracener. I graduated with a BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Baylor University in 2005 and have twelve years of professional experience. I am currently a Senior Electrical Engineer at Abbott (formerly St. Jude Medical) where I design components for implantable neuromodulation medical devices to treat chronic pain and movement disorders.



Why you want to fill the nominated position: As a fourteen-year member of SWE, I have a passion for facilitating communication and bringing people together to share best practices and grow organizations. As Dallas SWE President, I've enjoyed helping Dallas SWE grow and succeed in FY17 and would be honored to continue serving you in FY18! My primary goals as Dallas SWE President are to increase engagement of our growing membership with a focus on member appreciation and to continue cultivating relationships with other local diversity organizations and corporate employee resource groups. I also plan to enable clear and open communication with Region and Society leaders as SWE implements changes in its governance structure to better position the organization as a successful international organization in the future.

Previous SWE experience: In Dallas SWE, I served as FY15 Section Representative and as FY11-FY16 Webmaster / Social Media Manager for our section and our Design Your World STEM Conference. My Dallas SWE website redesign in FY13 and expansion of our social media presence helped our membership grow significantly, especially among recent graduates and transplants to the DFW area. I am an active volunteer at outreach events, an enthusiastic participant in professional development panel talks, a mentor to younger women engineers, and, most recently as FY17 Dallas SWE President, a representative of our section to SWE HQ and the public. Before moving to Dallas in 2010, I was involved in the Austin, TX SWE section as their Webmaster and Newsletter Editor.

I also have experience with SWE's Regional and Society leadership teams. I served as FY16 Secretary and Webmaster for Region C (covering sections and Members at Large in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi). I rebuilt Region C's website and social media presence to revitalize communication and partnerships between our professional and collegiate sections. Since FY16 I have served as a volunteer on SWE Magazine's Editorial Board, contributing content and participating in feedback for SWE Magazine, the All Together blog, and SWE social media activities. I believe that my experience in these leadership roles and my extensive network of SWE contacts locally, in Region C, and nation-wide are valuable assets in the position of Dallas SWE President.

Your favorite thing about SWE: My favorite thing about SWE is the many opportunities this organization provides to meet people outside of my engineering discipline, industry, and culture and work together with them to do great things for women engineers and our communities!

Uche Maple

(Executive Vice President Candidate)



Company/role: Ucheonye J. Maple is a Sr. Systems Engineering Manager at Rockwell Collins, she held a variety of increasing responsible leadership positions with Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab(JHU APL), General Dynamics and Raytheon. Uche served as the Vice President of SWE@APL 2015-2016. In that role, she was responsible for Programs, Back to School Drive and the logistics for the SWE conference. She was responsible for bringing in monthly speakers that focused on Career Development, Professional Development and Technical Talks. She organized the Back to School Drive with Prepare for Success in Howard County at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (APL).

Why you want to fill the nominated position: She wants to fill the role of Executive Vice President because she is very passionate about SWE's purpose, which is to empower women to succeed and advance in the field of engineering and to be recognized for their life-changing contributions as engineers and leaders.

Previous SWE experience: She served on the SWE@APL Diversity and Inclusion Committee that focused diversity initiatives with the company. She was also responsible for communicating the organization events, highlighting members and advertising guest speakers.

Your favorite thing about SWE: Uche's has many favorite things about SWE. Being a member of SWE provided her the opportunity to network with other talented women engineers to gain insight into different technologies that can help her be more innovative and creative at work. SWE also provided her the opportunity to develop long lasting relationships with fellow engineers from other organizations and to mentor female engineers.

Amanda Posadas (Vice President of Membership Candidate)

Company/role: AT&T-Senior Specialist Requirements Management

Why you want to fill the nominated position: I have been involved in SWE since college both as president and vice president roles during my sophomore and junior years. As well as Nominating Chair during graduate school. In 2013, I attended the Conference in Dallas, TX and met my current employer at the career fair. I knew I wanted to give back to SWE in some way and I looked for a local SWE section when I made the move from El Paso to Dallas. I instantly felt welcomed and encouraged to become an active member. I initially became the alternate section rep and have continued on the following three years as a nominated section rep. During my time as section rep, I have enjoyed being a part of the larger SWE region providing my input and bringing back information to my section. I would like to expand my role as VP of Membership by helping those in our area know the benefits of joining SWE not just for the membership but for the comradery it provides.

Previous SWE experience: Dallas Section Rep for the last 4 years.

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.



Shannon Cruise

(Vice President of Membership Candidate)

Company/role: Shannon Cruise earned a B.S. in Construction Engineering Technology from University of Toledo in 2011 and is a Facilities Space Planner for Raytheon, after relocating to Cleveland five years ago. In October of 2012, she joined the Dallas chapter of SWE.



Shannon has also been a volunteer in the community, mostly for Equest Therapeutic Horsemanship and has been a witness to the healing power of equine therapy. She has won several awards for her volunteer work and plans to apply her positivity, compassion, and drive to the role of Vice President of Membership.

Why you want to fill the nominated position: Shannon would like to get more involved with SWE and show others what the chapter means to her by working to increase and retain membership. She enjoys networking and loves to spread the word about SWE.

Previous SWE experience: Shannon has been a SWE member for about five years. She has not yet served the group but would embrace the role as Vice President of Membership.

Your favorite thing about SWE: Shannon really loves the community and networking that SWE provides as well as the wonderful friendships that she has made through SWE.

Terriekka Cardenas

(Vice President of Outreach Candidate)



Company/role: Terriekka holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Tulsa and AAS in Computer-Aided Drafting and Design from Mountain View College. She is a certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and Yellow Belt. From her enjoyment in seeing inanimate objects come together to make something useful, she worked as an engineer in manufacturing industry for over 13 years in varied capacities and department leadership roles at companies such as Valspar, Momentive Specialty Chemicals, PepsiCo, and Ecolab. In order to gain more flexibility and availability for her family, Terriekka dove head first into entrepreneurship and started her own consulting firm, Perceptive Engineering. The firm is a provider of consultancy services across design, new product development, process monitoring and other technical and project management business needs. Outreach and serving the community are very important to her. With her belief that no one should be denied exposure to STEM careers, she created the organization Full STEAM Ahead. She and other STEM professionals collaborate to facilitate workshops and classes surrounding various disciplines and skills in a fun and engaging atmosphere. Students are shown how STEM is infused in their everyday lives. The primary focus is to target demographics of youth whom are grossly under exposed to the subject matter. In 2008, Terriekka became the first African American woman to be employed as the Site Engineer in the US plant operations for the then Hexion Specialty Chemicals. She actively serves as the President of the Board of Directors for SimiDigi, Inc., a creator of simulated digital interactive workforce training. Additionally, she is the STEAM Program Coordinator for Destiny World Children's Ministry. She has been a mentor to students participating in the Future City Competition, where her inaugural 2016 team received special awards in multiple categories.

Why you want to fill the nominated position: Outreach is a passion of mine. I'm constantly looking for challenging and rewarding opportunities to channel that passion. I believe as the VP of Outreach, I will be able to not only maintain the standard of excellence set by my predecessors, but push our members to join in ascending above them.

Previous SWE experience: Heavily involved as a DYW and other Dallas SWE outreach volunteer.

Your favorite thing about SWE: I've learned over the years that it is imperative to develop a solid network of support as a minority in the STEM workforce. Involvement in SWE on the collegiate level provided that for me. It was sort of a sisterhood, the one place where you weren't the only girl. As a professional, being apart of Dallas SWE has shown me the importance of advocacy for young women and the impact of being present for them. I have derived so much personal and professional fulfillment serving as a part of the outreach committee for the chapter as it strives continually to remain an active pillar of the community. This organization personifies my belief whole hearted that once armed with knowledge, one can have a solid impact on the world around them and make effective changes right where they are, regardless of their age, gender, and socioeconomic background.

Rosa Leal (Vice President of Outreach Candidate)

Company/role: Rosa Leal graduated in 2000 as a mechanical engineer from University of Carabobo, Venezuela, and she is also an inventor currently working at Lennox International. She started in 2007 as a product development and research design engineer for the commercial air conditioning division and joined the product management and marketing team for controls. She is currently supporting the international global export division. Prior to Lennox Rosa had worked in the automotive industry in the engineering and quality department. Rosa enjoyed being a volunteer in SWE because it gave her the opportunity to be bold for change and inspire girls to be engineers. Rosa had the opportunity to volunteer in the 'design your world' stem conference for girls and also in career interviews to mentor young adults to be ready for real life work experience. Rosa loves to give back to the community and education is one of the main ways to support and inspire young females. In 2013 Rosa started an employee initiative at the PD&R Carrolton facility called "Let's connect" to enhance employee engagement and support diversity and inclusion. She also served as an officer in the Lennox Women's Business Council (LWBC) as secretary and previously supported the global outreach committee to create and engage different LWBC chapters at different locations.



Why you want to fill the nominated position: to be able to serve the community and impact girls to be engineers.

Previous SWE experience: Participated in Design your world Stem conference and volunteer for College career mentoring

Your favorite thing about SWE: Networking events and volunteer opportunities

Liz Hainey

(Treasurer Candidate)



Company/role: Liz earned her B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Lehigh University, and her M.S.E. and PhD in Chemical Engineering from The University of Michigan. After spending 10 years in the Oil & Gas industry, Liz joined Raytheon, where she is now an Engineering Fellow. She oversees the overall technical development for her sub-mission area, and works closely with Business Development to provide innovative solutions to DoD and Intelligence Community customers. Liz lives in Plano with her husband and two boys, and enjoys playing both tennis and golf.

Why you want to fill the nominated position: Liz is excited to be part of the Dallas SWE chapter so that she can expand her current mentoring roles within Raytheon to future women engineers.

Previous SWE experience: Current Dallas SWE Treasurer; past experience as treasurer of various organizations

Your favorite thing about SWE: My favorite thing about SWE is the people I meet and the different technologies they represent. The monthly outreach events, hosted by different companies, showcases the wonderful people and capabilities that make up the metroplex.

Amber Scheurer (Secretary Candidate)



Company/role: I have a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Central Florida. I moved to Dallas in 2012 to begin working as a Process Engineer for Texas Instruments, and I'm currently in the DLP® Products Engineering Rotation Program.

Why you want to fill the nominated position: I would like to be secretary to continue to ensure clear and informative communications. I would also use my organization skills to maintain useful meeting minutes, and document important ideas that can be acted on in FY17 as well as shared with future officers.

Previous SWE experience: I held various positions as a collegiate, including President of a section with over 70 members and 18 officers. As a professional, I have served as the Counselor of the UTD Section for the past 3 years. I have been involved in planning, executing, and speaking in at least one major outreach event every year since joining SWE in 2008 with an emphasis on the parent/educator content.

Your favorite thing about SWE: I am continually motivated to give back to SWE because it was the organization that most prepared me for the workforce and now as a professional provides me with insight into diverse companies and perspectives.

Barbara Reed (Section Representative Candidate)

Company/role: Barbara Read works as a Quality Engineer at Raytheon in Richardson, TX. She has been certified by the American Society for Quality as a Certified Quality Engineer. Barbara earned BS and MS degrees in Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Barbara also serves as the Membership Chair of the DFW Association of Software Engineering Excellence. She is also active in her congregation, serving as the president of the women's group, singing in the choir, serving on Long Range Planning Committee and supporting School Accreditation studies. Barbara also volunteers for the Friends of the Library semi-annual book sale at the Richardson Public Library.



Why you want to fill the nominated position: I ran for Section Representative in FY17 because I wanted to continue to be involved with Dallas SWE. As Section President, I had been involved in the Region C Council conference calls, and am already familiar with the role of Section Representative. FY18 is likely to be the year that Regions are dissolved. While we may have mixed feelings about the dissolution of Regions (I certainly do!), I want to do my part to make the process as effectively planned and executed as possible. My past experience as Dallas SWE president (FY15 - FY16) and section representative (FY17) will be valuable given the important business facing the Region C Council, including Section Representatives, next year.

Previous SWE experience: Barbara's most recent experience is as Dallas SWE Section Representative in FY17. Barbara served two terms as the President of Dallas SWE in FY15 and FY16. She was the Dallas SWE Vice President in FY13 and FY14, and was the primary individual planning the professional development meetings for the section. She has served on the Dallas SWE Scholarship Committee and been involved in numerous STEM outreach activities. At the Region C level, Barbara has served on the Awards Committee. At the Society level, Barbara has judged scholarship applications of graduating high school seniors.

Barbara attended WE12, WE15, and WE16. She attended Region C conferences in 2013 (Dallas), 2014 (Houston), 2015 (Austin), 2016 (Arkansas), and 2017 (College Station). She helped plan the professional sessions for the 2013 conference.

Barbara is an advocate for STEM education, and appreciates that SWE encourages girls and boys to choose STEM careers. She designed and led an activity for the first Design Your World – STEM Conference for Girls in May 2012 and has volunteered for DYW – STEM conferences, Engineer Week events, the Great Minds program, MATHCOUNTS, and Moon Day.

Your favorite thing about SWE: My favorite thing about SWE is the opportunity to network with women who have similar experiences and share common interests in advancing STEM.

Taylor Boswell, P.E. (Section Representative Candidate)

Company/role: Project Engineer at TNP

I attended college at Texas A&M University where I was a member of SWE and was on the public relations committee. Since graduating, I have not been as involved with SWE and would love the opportunity to become more involved now. After I volunteered at this year's Design Your World conference I knew I wanted to become a more active member of the Dallas chapter of SWE. The work SWE does to spread encouragement to younger girls is truly inspirational and I want to be a bigger part of that. I am proud to be a female engineer and would be honored to represent you as a section representative.



Why you want to fill the nominated position: My main reason for running for a leadership position within SWE is that service and giving back to my community is a high priority and passion for me. Currently I volunteer as a certified victim advocate and advocate trainer with the Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center (DARCC). I volunteer on the DARCC crisis hotline to provide information, crisis-intervention, emotional support, and referrals to callers. I also serve as a hospital advocate to provide emotional support, information about the reporting process and options, and offer resources to sexual assault victims. Being a part of DARCC has been a life changing experience for me where I get to support victims in the Dallas area. I plan on continuing my service with DARCC but am looking to branch out and help serve my community in other areas as well. I believe that SWE leadership would be a perfect fit for me and I would love to represent you if I am selected.

Previous SWE experience: Current member of SWE, Volunteer at Design Your World conference

Your favorite thing about SWE: What I love most about SWE is that our members are helping to break down stereotypes in the engineering world by creating an atmosphere of acceptance and encouragement for both current engineers and younger women in the community. SWE is an organization where professional female engineers can be supported by their peers and have opportunities to grow both personally and professionally. I believe that we all have the power to make a true impact on our community and help make Dallas a better place because of organizations like SWE.

Kim Concillado (Section Representative Candidate)

Company/role: Controls Engineer at Wynright Corporation

Why you want to fill the nominated position: I want to fill this position because I'd bring a fresh perspective to the team. I've been an active member of Dallas SWE for a year now and I want to bring my personal strengths to the table in order to grow and improve this chapter. I've seen the transparent communication that the past section representatives have championed this year and I want to both follow suit and improve upon their solid foundation.



Previous SWE experience: Within my first month in Dallas, I took initiative in coming out to a joint professional development event with WATT as well as asking about taking on social media relations early on. Since then, I've maintained our accounts on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and recently, our new Instagram. In conveying clear information, growing our follower base and maintaining online relations, I gained more insight into SWE responsibilities and leadership. As an avid advocate for STEM outreach, the drive that began at Ohio State SWE has carried over to this professional chapter where I've staffed many of the SWE outreach events including Girl Scout NETX Intellectual Property Day, Self eSTEM, Design Your World and Dallas ISD STEM Expo.

Your favorite thing about SWE: The best part of SWE is having a network of mentors to gain insight from as well as peers to share knowledge with and pay it forward.

Katie Mills

(Financial Advisory Committee Candidate)

Company/role: Staying at home with my two boys.

Most Recent Professional Role: Operations Engineer, Dell, Inc.

Background: Computer Science Engineering degree from MIT



Why you want to fill the nominated position: I have extensive experience with section-level finance and would like to put that knowledge to good use for Dallas SWE. Having fairly recently relocated to Dallas, I'm also interested in joining the board to gain a better understanding of this section's operations and typical events and to get to know the other officers and members.

Previous SWE experience: Before moving to the Dallas area, I was on the executive board of SWE Southwest Texas (Austin & San Antonio) from 2003 - 2015 in a variety of roles including President, Vice President, Section Rep, many years as Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor.

Your favorite thing about SWE: My favorite thing about SWE is the opportunity to meet a wide variety of interesting women who share my interest in science and engineering.