



## FY20 Dallas SWE Elections

### Candidate Bios

# Zaineb Ahmad

## (President Candidate)

**Company/role:** I currently work as a Systems/Human Factors Engineer at Collins Aerospace. I earned my BS in Biomedical Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis and an MS in Mechanical Engineering from University of Alabama at Birmingham. I previously worked in Healthcare IT as a Business Analyst, a role that brought me to Dallas in 2014.



**Why you want to fill the nominated position:** Serving as your FY19 President has been my way of giving back to SWE, as Dallas SWE has been an essential part of my personal and professional life. In FY19, we continued contributing to the section's growth, stability, and inclusivity, trends I aim to continue in FY20. I would really like to continue to build an engaged and productive section, while continuing to try new things or modify existing events/opportunities to serve a growing section. I am continuously dedicated to the goals and mission of SWE, while aiming to provide a sense of community for everyone who wants to be a part of SWE.

**Previous SWE experience:** I joined SWE in college at WashU and immediately got involved with STEM outreach, professional development activities, and Society conferences. After returning to SWE as a professional, I held multiple leadership positions in SWE at the local, region, and society level. I am finishing my term as Dallas SWE President for FY19. I served two terms as Dallas SWE Vice President of Membership in FY16 and FY17, expanding the roles of the membership and award committees. I also served on multiple committees, including Programming (FY15), Nominating (FY17), and Outreach (FY18). I served as Awards Chair from FY14-FY17.

In SWE Region C, I served on the Awards committee and vetted candidates as a member of the Nominating Committee in FY16 and FY18. At the Society level, I have been a SWE Freshmen and Upperclassmen Scholarship Reviewer since FY14 and on the Awards committee since FY19.

**Your favorite thing about SWE:** My favorite thing about SWE is the sense of community that includes being surrounded by passionate, inspirational, and encouraging women.

# Amanda Alsbrook

## (Executive Vice President Candidate)

**Company/role:** I recently changed industries and am working as a Sr. Design Engineer for NCH Corporation. I work in their Global Engineering group and help design and test chemical dispensers and parts washer. It is a great company, and I am grateful to be expanding my knowledge and skill set in this new role. I have previously worked in both the medical devices and oil & gas industries. I graduated from Christian Brothers University in Memphis, TN, with a BS in Mechanical Engineering.



**Why you want to fill the nominated position:** In the 2 years I have been involved with Dallas SWE, I have met countless wonderful people involved in the section, and I want to continue to give back by serving on the Executive Committee. I am passionate about helping others find confidence and meet their goals. I have found that Professional Development and the Programs Committee are ways I can directly impact my SWEsters in these areas. In the upcoming year, I would like to continue to grow the Programs Committee and create exciting meetings and events in which attendees can learn, network and enjoy themselves.

**Previous SWE experience:** This past year I served as Executive Vice President for Dallas SWE, during which I was also involved in the Outreach Committee and assisted other officers as needed. I have been the Registration Chair for the last three Design Your World Conferences and have volunteers at other outreach events throughout the year. I enjoy the planning aspect of events and then the joy and excitement of kid's faces as they learn about STEM and build confidence.

**Your favorite thing about SWE:** Meeting intelligent and inspiring technical women within the organization and being able to work with Outreach to introduce or expand young girls knowledge of STEM.

# Rana Karimi

## (Vice President of Membership Candidate)

**Company/role:** I currently work for Accenture as a Management Consultant in the North America Resources Supply Chain & Operations practice. In this role, I leverage my engineering skillset and experience to advise my clients on how to optimize their supply chain while utilizing digital technologies. Before joining Accenture, I was an Engineering Project Manager at Frito-Lay and prior to that, a Manufacturing Engineer at Schlumberger. My diverse experience in automation, manufacturing, and supply chain enabled me to pivot to a career in consulting where I can draw upon my technical experiences to generate value for my clients. I am a UT Austin graduate and my background is in Mechanical Engineering.



**Why you want to fill the nominated position:** I would like to serve Dallas SWE as Vice President of Membership because I want to continue playing a strategic role in strengthen women in STEM in our community. I would like to look into starting new programs, such as mentoring, that will bring our members closer together and make Dallas SWE an even stronger section than before

**Previous SWE experience:** My previous engagement in SWE includes membership and leadership in both collegiate and professional sections. While a student at UT Austin, I served as Community Affairs Director where I led our outreach efforts and managed our presence in the Austin community. After graduation, I joined the SWE-Houston Area section and was active in outreach events and volunteering. Upon moving to Dallas, I took on more leadership with SWE. I served Dallas SWE as Webmaster since February 2018, and Secretary since August 2018. In these roles, I was responsible for communications management, including content creation and delivery, to our membership. These included bi-weekly newsletters, blog posts on multiple Dallas SWE websites, event management communications and registrations, and meeting minutes. Prior to taking on these leadership roles, I founded the Dallas SWE Book Club, which has increased membership engagement and networking opportunities while creating additional leadership opportunities for our section.

**Your favorite thing about SWE:** Learning from all of the experience of our diverse and talented members is my favorite thing about SWE. Growing with so many other female engineers in our community inspires me. Having so many experienced professionals in our group make it so much easier to navigate career challenges and stay committed to having a demanding, technical career. I am proud to be a part of this community!

# Thi Dao

## (Vice President of Outreach Candidate)

**Company/role:** I am a Reservoir Engineer at Fleur de Lis Energy, overseeing Wyoming CO2 enhanced oil recovery assets. I received my Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. I began my career at Denbury Resources where I oversaw reservoir management and surveillance along with field planning, optimization, and economic evaluations across CO2 EOR and waterflood assets in the Gulf Coast.



**Why you want to fill the nominated position:** I would be proud to serve on the Dallas SWE Executive Council as the Vice President of Outreach, because I believe in our mission in advancing women in STEM and expanding the image of STEM fields in our community. I want to continue providing enriching science and engineering experiences to students of all age groups and leave them with a heightened confidence in their skills to succeed in STEM fields. My goal is to continue the fantastic work the committees have done and help to expand the reach and impact of our efforts.

**Previous SWE experience:** I joined Dallas SWE in October 2017. Since then, I have served as FY19 Program Committee Chair, Nominating Committee Chair, Spring & Fall 2018 Design Your World Volunteer Coordinator, and Upperclassmen Scholarship Reviewer since FY18. I have served on multiple committees, including Outreach DYW, Membership, Programming, and Nominating. When I'm not serving on a Dallas SWE committee, you can find me volunteering at a STEM outreach event.

**Your favorite thing about SWE:** Before I discovered SWE, I was looking for a community of women engineers demonstrating empowerment and inclusion. It's an incredible organization where I found all of these inspirational and supportive women giving back to their own community in Dallas. There's nothing better than to know you have this entire community behind you ready to support you in your professional and personal growth. That and STEM outreach is my jam.

## **Katie Mills** **(Treasurer Candidate : 2-year term)**

**Company/role:** I recently moved to the Dallas area from Austin, where I worked as a Global Operations Engineer for Dell's Enterprise division. I enjoy working with people from around the world, problem-solving, and improving processes through Six Sigma. I have an SB in Computer Science Engineering from MIT. I am currently taking a break from the professional world to spend time with my two boys.



**Why you want to fill the nominated position:** Building on my past experiences as treasurer of the Southwest Texas Section, I believe I can best contribute to the Dallas Section in this role.

**Previous SWE experience:** I have served in SWE section leadership positions for many years, including a stint as section president for the Southwest Texas Section, 6 years as treasurer of that section, and 3 years as a section representative for SW Texas.

**Your favorite thing about SWE:** I value the varied opportunities offered by SWE for building leadership experience and networking with like-minded individuals from a variety of backgrounds.

## **Lex Clark** **(Secretary Candidate)**

**Company/role:** PepsiCo – Supply Chain Engineer for Frito Lay North America. I'm a Project Manager (PM) and I lead \$MM projects for capacity and innovation for salty snacks (i.e. Doritos, Fritos, Lay's).

**Why you want to fill the nominated position:** I want to serve as Secretary for Dallas SWE because I have been benefiting from my commitment to SWE for 7 years now. I enjoy everything about the community, leadership opportunities, giving back to SWENext, and continuing to show the world that I look like an engineer. SWE has empowered me and I only want others to see the benefits of SWE.

**Previous SWE experience:** I have served as Historian (FY14) and Secretary (FY15) for The Ohio State University SWE. I served one term as Region G Collegiate Senator (RCS – FY16). For the past 2 years (FY17-18) I have served as the Webmaster for the Central Ohio SWE professional chapter ([Centralohio.swe.org](http://Centralohio.swe.org)). I also lead PepSWE (PepsiCo SWE Network) at the Plano North American Headquarters for Frito Lay.

**Your favorite thing about SWE:** My favorite thing about SWE is surrounding myself with people who have similar interests and an understanding of what I do on another level. It's a community of people of all races, ages, and genders, who truly support women in STEM. SWE has always been my constant throughout college and in my professional career. My annual girls trip with my best friend is to the SWE Conference.



# Sammy Zellner

## (Secretary Candidate)



**Company/role:** I am currently a graduate student at the University of North Texas (UNT) pursuing a MS in Materials Engineering with a thesis on Charpy impact testing of high entropy alloys. I earned my BS in Materials Engineering in May 2018. During my undergraduate career, I worked as a research assistant for the UNT Department of Materials Engineering, and I also interned at General Motors in Summers 2016, 2017, and 2018. I will earn my graduate degree in Summer 2019, and I will be starting as a manufacturing engineer at Texas Instruments in their Richardson Fab in June 2019.

**Why you want to fill the nominated position:** I love volunteering for SWE positions, and I believe that my previous experiences in effective communication and organization make me an ideal candidate for this position. I love sharing the goals and accomplishments of SWE and its members, and, as secretary, I plan to increase the social media and website presence of Dallas SWE. I would like to redesign the website to make it more interactive for members, and provide more opportunities for members to share their SWE and engineering experiences on the website and through social media.

**Previous SWE experience:** I started attending UNT SWE meetings in Fall 2014, and I have been an active member ever since. In FY16, I served as the UNT SWE section event coordinator, and I started the “Brain STEMs”, an award winning after school program for elementary and middle school students in the Denton community. I also enhanced internal UNT SWE programs by creating a recruitment campaign, titled “POWER Week” and starting a professional development workshop series, titled “One Busy Girl”. However, one of my favorite opportunities that year was serving as the Collegiate Co-Chair with Dallas SWE for Design Your World in Spring 2016. Through all these positions, I learned how to effectively communicate as I recruited volunteers, found speakers, and worked with students.

I then served as the UNT SWE Section president from FY17-18, operating as the main point of contact for the section. I created a fundraising campaign during my tenure as UNT SWE section president to send a total of 38 UNT students to 4 different SWE conferences. This position taught me much about organizational management and further increased my communication skills.

**Your favorite thing about SWE:** My favorite thing about SWE is the numerous opportunities that the organization provides to its members. From conferences to networking to outreach, SWE has something to help all members further themselves in their careers as engineers and leaders.



# Shelley Stracener

## (Investment Committee Candidate : 3-year term)

**Company/role:** I am a Senior System Design Engineer at Abbott's Neuromodulation division in Plano. I have fourteen years of professional experience in three major Industries (server computing and storage, aircraft interiors, and medical devices. I hold a BS degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Baylor University (c/o 2005).

**Why you want to fill the nominated position:** As a sixteen-year member of SWE, I have a passion for giving back to this organization. After my 2-year tenure as Dallas SWE President, I am familiar with the financial needs of the section and with our section's current investment holdings. I also have experience managing my household finances and investing in both retirement and non-retirement mutual funds. I am a SWE Life Member, therefore personally invested in the future of this organization, and would be delighted to assist in helping assure that Dallas SWE is financially poised to succeed into the future.

**Previous SWE experience:** In Dallas SWE, I have served as Section President (FY17-FY18), Nominating Committee Chair (FY18), Section Representative (FY15), and as Webmaster / Social Media Manager (FY11-FY16). Before moving to Dallas in 2010, I was involved in the Austin, TX SWE section as their Webmaster and Newsletter Editor (FY08-FY10), and I was a member of Baylor University SWE as a collegiate.

I also have experience on SWE's Regional and Society leadership teams. I am currently in my first year as a Society Nominating Committee member (FY19-FY20). I served as Region C Secretary (FY16) and Webmaster (FY14-FY16). I am also a member of the SWE Magazine Editorial Board (FY16-FY19).

**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!

