



Society of Women Engineers

Universidad de Puerto Rico

Recinto de Mayagüez

SWE UPRM NEWSLETTER

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March 24 – Since very early in the morning the participants of Puerto Rico's second "WOW! That's Engineering!" started to gather. The event was organized by Puerto Rico's student chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). The event was aimed at young girls between the ages of 11 and 17, parents, counselors and teachers with the purpose of teaching them what is engineering and to stimulate the girls interest of pursuing careers in this field. The event was divided in workshops for the girls and workshops and talks for the parents and teachers.

The girls

For the girls the event started with the ice breaker "Computer Sorting" which simulated the processes of evaluation that computers use for sorting the information, here the girls were assigned numbers and placed at random and they would end up in descending order. After this the volunteers gave a presentation on what is engineering and which schools of engineering are available in campus After the presentation the girls were divided in groups assigned to volunteer leaders who would guide and help them with the projects.



Once in the classrooms the fun began, the girls had the opportunity to work with hands on projects such as: "The Harmless Holder" which focused on developing a support for six soda cans made out of recycled material to substitute plastics; "The Water Raft" which aim was to search for materials that were less dense than water in order to create a boat that would stay afloat and using the principles of action reaction create a "motor" to move across the water; "The Building" which served to teach girls about the importance of a structure's good and how to make it cost effective by means of a "payment" system for all the materials; "Airplane" which was a project to build a small

predesigned airplane and see if it would fly; and by popular demand the "Solar Car" made an appearance, this was one of the projects our participants enjoyed the most last year, this one was based on building a car with a small solar panel and then test it so that they can see how electric and mechanical engineering come together to produce force and move the car.



The Parents

For the parents the event started out with a panel on engineering and the development of students in campus during their college years. The panelists for this year were Ivelisse del Valle, President of SWE Professional Puerto Rico; Mauricio Cabrera, Industrial; Engineering and SWE UPRM counselor; Valentina de la Fe, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Georgia Tech; Marisel Silva, Mechanical Engineer at Exxonmobile; Ellen Rios de Acaron, Director of the COOP program at UPRM ; and students Mariam Ramos and Sara Rivera.

In this panel the students spoke about their personal experiences in the field and highlights about the opportunities and job experiences they had obtained. They also expressed the need for parents to tell their girls that as women they should not feel limited in engineering because they might think that engineering is a man's world.

After that Georgia Tech's Valentina de la Fe, explained to parents that students that had a good mastery of English and wished to study in the U.S. should consider taking the SAT or ACT various times in order to obtain good scores and have a better chance at getting admission into any universities that they apply to in the U.S. Afterwards Ivelisse del Valle added on the importance of having a good mastery of English for any student that is considering a career

in Engineering because it is key for communicating when you work in the field in Puerto Rico or the United States.

Marisel Silva stressed the importance of the parents in the motivation of their children to be good students before they get to college in order for them to be able to benefit from all the opportunities and grants available for freshmen and if students come from underprivileged households there are also financial aid for their studies so that money should not be a limiting factor. The Director of the COOP program along with the professor Mauricio Cabrera suggested students should take advantage of engineering camps and activities as this to get used to the campus and explained the importance of participating in undergraduate research, COOP experiences and summer internships as well as being a full time student in campus.

After the panel parents wer able to work with the some of the projects their children were working on.

¡Puerto Rico Does it Better!

Thanks to the contributions and efforts of our volunteer staff and sponsors, SWE UPRM was



endowed with two outreach awards on a national scale for the excellent work done at last year's event which was the first time it was held at Puerto Rico.

Thanks to all those who made this event possible once again. See you all next year!

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WOW!
That's Engineering!



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