Welcome to the fall 2014 issue of the engineering, mathematics, and science Student Success Programs newsletter. You may have noticed our department name-change. Well, the 2013–14 academic year was a busy one for us; our services and programs have expanded, which meant it was time for an updated name that reflects the breadth of what we offer. So, in fall 2013, the office that was formerly known as Women in EMS and EMS Advising became EMS Student Success Programs.

This doesn’t mean that Women in EMS and EMS Advising have gone away—in fact, quite the opposite is true. Services and programs in both these areas have grown and will continue to exist moving forward. But now, in addition to these two great units, EMS Student Success Programs is also home to the College of Menominee Nation Program and the CenterPOINT. Despite this growth, the core of our mission remains what it has always been: to provide inclusive, collaborative services that help students maximize their educational experience inside and outside of the classroom.

We’ve tried this new name on for size and gotten a year under our belts, and we think it fits pretty well. Check out what’s inside this issue to learn about some of the great events and programs coordinated by EMS Student Success Programs this spring, and get a glimpse of what’s ahead for fall.

As always, we would love to partner with you to help you make the most of your college experience. Please don’t hesitate to drop in and let us know what we can do.

See you around campus,

Tammy Salmon-Stephens
CenterPOINT marks one year

The start of the fall semester marked the one-year milestone for the College of EMS CenterPOINT, located in Ottensman Hall, Room 170. With more than 7,000 visits from more than 700 unique visitors, the CenterPOINT had a busy first year. Students came to the space for lots of reasons, including individual study; group study; socializing; computer work; meeting with tutors, PALs, and mentors; using resources like phone chargers, calculators, and headphones; taking advantage of amenities like the Keurig coffee machine, microwave, and free snacks; and more.

If you were a CenterPOINT visitor last year, you’ll definitely want to come back this semester to see some of the new features, including a collaboration station with large-screen monitor and laptops now available for checkout. Also new for fall, students can reserve the CenterPOINT for student organization meetings, study groups, or social events on Saturdays. If you’re new to campus or didn’t get a chance to visit last year, come check it out.

Fall Hours:
Monday–Thursday 8 a.m.–10 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturdays by reservation
Sundays 1–10 p.m.

The Sky’s the Limit for participants in outreach program

Dreaming of the Sky, for seventh and eighth grade girls, was held in March and Exploring the Sky, for ninth and 10th grade girls, was held in April. Both weekends were centered around an infrastructure theme. Participants were able to learn more about the built environment and how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are part of our everyday lives.

At both events, UW-Platteville faculty and current students played important roles in helping young women explore and gain awareness of the STEM fields. They created and led fun, hands-on activities and served as role models, showing the girls that the sky’s the limit when it comes to career opportunities in STEM.

The next Sky’s the Limit event, Reaching for the Sky, for 11th and 12th grade girls, will be held in November. For more information, please visit www.uwplatt.edu/ems-success/skys-limit.

New look for the Women in EMS Mentor Center

Ottensman Hall Room 045 got a major update this summer. This room, better known as the Women in EMS Mentor Center, is home to the Women in EMS Program and the Society of Women Engineers and is also an oasis on campus where students studying in engineering, mathematics, and science gather to find and give support and encouragement. Heather Nuñez, a SWE member and frequent user of the Mentor Center says, “The Mentor Center is a second home to me. I love having a place to go where I can get the support I need to be successful academically, professionally, and just in life in general.”

Kim Sargent, Special Programs Manager for Women in EMS, is excited about the renovations and the new opportunities the space now offers students. “The updates provide a great space for collaborative studying, individual studying, and also a social environment for students. We have reorganized the computer work stations, added some smaller tables on wheels, and gotten new lounge furniture for relaxing and socializing,” she says.

Whether you’re a frequent visitor or have never been to the Mentor Center, make plans to attend the grand re-opening event on Sept. 24.

Youth explore STEM at community outreach events

Several UW-Platteville students got the chance to share their love of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with younger students this past academic year. Many schools and community organizations in the tri-state area are introducing STEM-focused events to allow youth to explore and understand these fields.

In April, six UW-Platteville students attended the Dubuque, Iowa, Family STEM Festival. Along with representatives from dozens of area businesses and universities, these students got to interact with kids of all ages and help them see how fun STEM can be. The UW-Platteville students created a paper windmill activity to help the kids learn about how wind energy works.

Jaclyn Esqueda, Special Programs Manager for the CenterPOINT, feels that this type of outreach is important not only for the youth, but for the college students, too. “At these outreach events, kids get to see all of the exciting, creative, world-changing opportunities that STEM careers can offer. And the college students get to reaffirm their own enthusiasm for STEM while serving as role models for the younger kids. It’s really a great way for students to give back,” she says.

CenterPOINT plans to continue coordinating community outreach events this year, so be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities.
Living Learning Community supports cancer research

On May 4, members of the Women in STEM Living Learning Community hosted a St. Baldrick’s Foundation head-shaving event, where 29 individuals shaved their heads to show support for the 175,000 children worldwide who will be diagnosed with cancer this year. In the process, they were able to raise $3,400 for childhood cancer research. In addition to the free haircuts, the event also featured a hat sale, pizza-eating contest, and raffle with prizes from local businesses.

WiSTEM LLC member Annelise Roti Roti was one of the “shavees,” as they’re called. “I was happy to give up my hair to help children have a chance at the life they deserve,” she says.

WiSTEM LLC member and event coordinator Ashley Wojatelwicz says she is proud of the success of the event, the first-ever of its kind to be held on the UW-Platteville campus. “Helping to coordinate this event really showed me that we can do amazing things if we’re working together for a common goal.”

College of Menominee Nation Program takes root

The relationship between the College of Menominee Nation and UW-Platteville continues to grow. In August of 2013 a group of Native American high school students participated in a session of the Explore Engineering Summer Program which was presented at the CMN campus in Keshena, Wis. Faculty from both institutions collaborated in the program.

During the spring 2014 semester, the articulation agreement with the College of Menominee Nation received the endorsement of the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. A formal signing ceremony of the articulation agreement will be held in fall 2014.

CMN’s first pre-engineering student graduated with an associate’s degree in May of 2013 and began taking courses at UW-Fox Valley as a collaborative student in fall of 2013. Currently, there are approximately six pre-engineering students at CMN who plan to come UW-Platteville as transfer students or as collaborative students at UW-Fox Valley.

Banquet celebrates women in STEM

More than 200 guests joined the Women in EMS Program at the ninth annual Women in STEM Banquet, sponsored by Alliant Energy, in April. The banquet was a vibrant evening of networking and making connections as industry sponsors, faculty, staff, students, and alumni came together to honor, celebrate, and encourage UW-Platteville’s women STEM students.

Two graduating senior women STEM students offered inspiration through speeches that highlighted their own struggles and triumphs and Alliant Energy recognized all of the graduates in attendance with congratulatory gifts.

Next year’s Women in STEM Banquet is tentatively scheduled for April 9, 2015.

Society of Women Engineers members build career networks

The Society of Women Engineers at UW-Platteville has always done a great job of promoting the organization’s mission of helping women achieve their full potential in engineering careers. During the 2013–14 academic year, UW-Platteville SWE members had the chance to attend the organization’s regional and national conferences.

“The conference helped me develop my networking skills and confidence in talking to potential future employers as well as helped me realize the kind of company I want to work for in the future,” says Heather Hubbard, SWE treasurer and conference attendee.

Four UW-Platteville SWE members attended the national conference in Baltimore, Md., in October 2013. It was an excellent event for networking and making connections, says SWE president Amy Borkenhagen. “The conference is a great way to meet with other SWE sections to get ideas as well as learn more about leadership and other professional development topics.”

In February, 17 UW-Platteville SWE members attended the Region H conference, held at Michigan Tech in Houghton, Mich.

Jordan Roberts, SWE fundraising co-chair, says the experience was worth the long bus ride. “I enjoyed meeting other women from different SWE sections and also hanging out with members of our own section and getting to know them all better.”

The UW-Platteville SWE chapter plans to send representatives to the national conference again this fall, this time in Los Angeles, Calif.

College of Menominee Nation Program takes root

The relationship between the College of Menominee Nation and UW-Platteville continues to grow. In August of 2013 a group of Native American high school students participated in a session of the Explore Engineering Summer Program which was presented at the CMN campus in Keshena, Wis. Faculty from both institutions collaborated in the program.

During the spring 2014 semester, the articulation agreement with the College of Menominee Nation received the endorsement of the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. A formal signing ceremony of the articulation agreement will be held in fall 2014.

CMN’s first pre-engineering student graduated with an associate’s degree in May of 2013 and began taking courses at UW-Fox Valley as a collaborative student in fall of 2013. Currently, there are approximately six pre-engineering students at CMN who plan to come UW-Platteville as transfer students or as collaborative students at UW-Fox Valley.

Banquet celebrates women in STEM

More than 200 guests joined the Women in EMS Program at the ninth annual Women in STEM Banquet, sponsored by Alliant Energy, in April. The banquet was a vibrant evening of networking and making connections as industry sponsors, faculty, staff, students, and alumni came together to honor, celebrate, and encourage UW-Platteville’s women STEM students.

Two graduating senior women STEM students offered inspiration through speeches that highlighted their own struggles and triumphs and Alliant Energy recognized all of the graduates in attendance with congratulatory gifts.

Next year’s Women in STEM Banquet is tentatively scheduled for April 9, 2015.

Society of Women Engineers members build career networks

The Society of Women Engineers at UW-Platteville has always done a great job of promoting the organization’s mission of helping women achieve their full potential in engineering careers. During the 2013–14 academic year, UW-Platteville SWE members had the chance to attend the organization’s regional and national conferences.

“The conference helped me develop my networking skills and confidence in talking to potential future employers as well as helped me realize the kind of company I want to work for in the future,” says Heather Hubbard, SWE treasurer and conference attendee.

Four UW-Platteville SWE members attended the national conference in Baltimore, Md., in October 2013. It was an excellent event for networking and making connections, says SWE president Amy Borkenhagen. “The conference is a great way to meet with other SWE sections to get ideas as well as learn more about leadership and other professional development topics.”

In February, 17 UW-Platteville SWE members attended the Region H conference, held at Michigan Tech in Houghton, Mich.

Jordan Roberts, SWE fundraising co-chair, says the experience was worth the long bus ride. “I enjoyed meeting other women from different SWE sections and also hanging out with members of our own section and getting to know them all better.”

The UW-Platteville SWE chapter plans to send representatives to the national conference again this fall, this time in Los Angeles, Calif.

Banquet celebrates women in STEM

More than 200 guests joined the Women in EMS Program at the ninth annual Women in STEM Banquet, sponsored by Alliant Energy, in April. The banquet was a vibrant evening of networking and making connections as industry sponsors, faculty, staff, students, and alumni came together to honor, celebrate, and encourage UW-Platteville’s women STEM students.

Two graduating senior women STEM students offered inspiration through speeches that highlighted their own struggles and triumphs and Alliant Energy recognized all of the graduates in attendance with congratulatory gifts.

Next year’s Women in STEM Banquet is tentatively scheduled for April 9, 2015.
Looking Ahead: Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar now and plan to take part in these fall College of EMS Student Success Programs events.

**Society of Women Engineers Welcome Event**
Sept. 4 | 6 p.m. | Mentor Center (Otts 045)

**WEMS Mentor Program Mentee Application Due**
Sept. 9

**Society of Women Engineers Social – Scavenger Hunt**
Sept. 10 | 6 p.m. | Mentor Center (Otts 045)

**WEMS Mentor Program Kick-off**
Sept. 15 | 6 p.m.

**Society of Women Engineers Section Meeting**
Sept. 16 | 6 p.m. | Ottensman 203

**Covance Career Exploration Workshops**
Sept. 23 | 6:30 p.m.

**WEMS Mentor Center Grand Re-opening and EMS Student Success Programs Open House**
Sept. 24 | 2–6 p.m. (drop-in)
Mentor Center (Otts 045) and CenterPOINT (Otts 170)

**Society of Women Engineers Social – Self Defense**
Oct. 4 | 10 a.m. | PAC Studio 2

**CenterPOINT Career Exploration Trip to Kimberly-Clark**
Oct. 8-9

**Society of Women Engineers Section Meeting**
Oct. 14 | 6 p.m. | Ottensman 203

**Women in Engineering Career Day**
Oct. 27 | 8 a.m.–2 p.m. | Ullsvik Hall

**Society of Women Engineers Evening with Industry**
Nov. 6

**Society of Women Engineers Section Meeting**
Nov. 10 | 6 p.m. | Ottensman 203

**Sky’s the Limit: Reaching for the Sky**
Nov. 14–16 | Engineering Hall

**Society of Women Engineers Social – Belly Dancing**
Nov. 20 | 6 p.m. | Mentor Center (Otts 045)

**Society of Women Engineers Section Meeting**
Dec. 1 | 6 p.m. | Ottensman 203

**Society of Women Engineers Social – Cookie Decorating**
Dec. 8 | 6 p.m. | Mentor Center (Otts 045)

For more information or to request disability accommodations for any of the listed events, please contact Jaclyn Esqueda, 608.342.7158 or esquedaj@uwplatt.edu.

---

Connect with EMS STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAMS

In person: Ottensman Hall, Room 170
On the phone: 608.342.7342
Online: www.uwplatt.edu/ems-success

Join us on Facebook!

For updates about upcoming programs, events, and ways to get connected, “like” UW-Platteville Women in EMS Program and UW-Platteville CenterPOINT.