

# Female adviseries spearhead period products drive

Marich and Malamuth adviseries collect menstrual products and money to Support the Girls  
*by Claudia Levens*

Two weeks ago, the Marich and Malamuth senior girls' adviseries spearheaded a period product drive to collect pads, tampons, and donations for women and girls in the Chicagoland area who cannot afford them.

The two adviseries partnered with Support the Girls - Chicago, an organization that distributes period products to various depositories in the Chicago area including shelters, social workers, and post-incarceration centers.

The drive began on Apr. 13, and the adviseries are still accepting donations.

Wanting to collectively plan a service project, the adviseries came up with the idea to provide hygienic necessities that aren't as easily accessible to women who needed them, partially inspired by a similar drive run by Girl Up last year.

In addition to collecting these products, "We also wanted to bring

awareness to this issue.

Menstrual products are some of the most needed, but least donated products in homeless shelters," said math teacher and adviser Dyan Marich.

Period products can cost women thousands of dollars in a lifetime, and many women in the Chicago area and across the world are unable to afford them.

"It's something most of us take for granted—being able to have such easy access to that. For some girls and women it's not quite as easy," said Eloise Trout, a senior in the Marich advisory.

Another Marich advisee, senior Rebecca Miller, said, "It's a basic human right to be able to be comfortable and clean every month, and we wanted to provide that by donating as many period products as possible."

The advisees have been visiting other adviseries and collecting throughout the rest of the day as well.

"They came to my advisory around two weeks ago and a lot of us donated extra pads and tampons that we had, including my adviser Mrs. Smith," said Junior Eileen Wolff.

"I think a lot of us, while not by any means in the same situation as some of these women, understand how important access to feminine hygiene products is."

While the nature of the drive



Girls in advisory organizing products to be taken to I Support the Girls | Lee

would seem to encourage the participation of women and girls who are more likely to have pads and tampons in their backpacks, the adviseries wanted to make sure to send the message that access to these

necessities is an issue that requires participation from everyone. As a result, in addition to collecting pads and tampons, they've also collected cash donations to purchase more products.

"The best part of this process has been seeing how excited both guys and girls get about the cause. I was expecting most of the boys to just avoid eye contact, but I actually got far more cash donations from the boys than from the girls," said Miller.

The taboo surrounding periods and feminine hygiene has caused female students to adapt and handle emergencies independently. The drive also serves to destigmatize periods and feminine health.

"This is a human rights issue—not just a women's issue—so all students should be aware of that, and consider making a donation," said Marich.

This was a subject of discussion earlier in the year when legislation passed in Illinois requiring all school districts and charter schools grades 6-12 to provide period products in bathrooms to students for free.

"Usually girls tuck tampons into sleeves, under waistbands, and in big pockets before running to the bathroom and discreetly changing. While we were going to different adviseries and asking for donations though, we were literally carrying giant gallon Ziplocs of tampons and pads down the halls. It was really cool to see girls not being ashamed of something that's completely natural," said Miller.

# Teamwork makes the engineering dream work

Engineering creates real-world experience through project  
*by Jesse McCauley*

Typically, as the year begins to come to a close we are faced with a final challenge. Whether it's a final exam or project, we all know what it feels like to find the motivation for that one last push.

The second and third year engineering classes know this all too well, as they are given a chance to create products from scratch in their annual "big project."

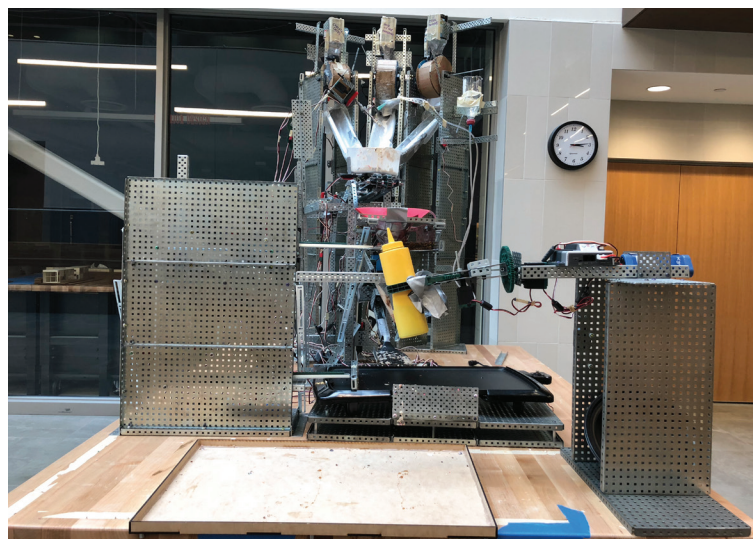
This year, students had to construct a fully automated pancake machine, pizza maker, chocolate cookie maker, or a tray delivery system. The entire project is student-led.

"The goal of the 'big project' is to simulate a real work environment that consists of thinking, prototyping, building and most of all communication and project management," said Department Chair Jason Boumstein.

Students have been working on this project for several months. Senior Whitney Hoban, who has been doing engineering for two years and plans to study engineering in college, built a chocolate machine with her group.

"The idea for our machine was evolving through the entire project and our idea for each machine started off completely different than how it ended up," she said.

The skill to adapt and make changes is common throughout these projects. In order to counteract these roadblocks, communication is crucial. No one can make a fully automated pancake machine on their



Students constructed a fully automated pizza maker as shown here | Lee

own.

"There is a design cycle in engineering and failure is part of making something succeed. Furthermore, communication is a major takeaway. Each class is setup with four or five subgroups with different tasks and they all have to communicate throughout the project," Boumstein said.

Dylan Bruno, a junior who is potentially pursuing a career in engineering, worked on the pancake

*"Projects don't go perfectly and there are obstacles you cannot plan."*

maker.

"The whole class needed to be on the same page to work together and complete the machine as a class, instead of individual parts that won't work altogether," he said.

As Hoban expressed, things don't always go as planned. Ideas may change and students must adapt with them.

"Sometimes in real world situations, projects don't go perfect and there are obstacles you cannot plan with a project of this magnitude," Hoban said.

Especially in a time constraint, problems can be more catastrophic. "There were too many times where my group or others had to fix or rearrange designs which could waste large amounts of time that was crucial to completing our machine," Bruno said.

Despite the sophistication of these projects, Boumstein observed a certain discipline in his students that helped them produce a quality end product.

At the conclusion of the project, students have the opportunity to show off their work to their parents during parent night.

"The pride and discipline students have for designing a concept and making it a reality impressed me. By the end of the assignment, students are so personally invested that it no longer is just an assignment, but rather their own masterpiece," said Boumstein.

# Outdoor Ed reaches new heights at annual trip

Students, sponsors spend weekend adventuring  
*by Stephanie Kim and Alyssa Pak*

From Apr. 28 to 30, the Outdoor Education class took an excursion to Devil's Lake State Park in Baraboo, Wisconsin, where they strengthened their relationships with one another through activities ranging from slacklining to cooking.

"Getting to spend a weekend together in the wilderness without the distractions of technology was so nice. We were able to just be present with each other," said sophomore Anni Magnusson.

Senior teaching assistant (TA) Stina Hawkinson stated that the environment fostered by Outdoor Education is unlike many other classes where students don't always get the chance to really interact with their peers.

"You feel encouraged to take risks and try things that you might be afraid to do," said Hawkinson. This attitude played a role in the class's trip, as students got to put their outdoor skills to the test.

The Outdoor Ed students were well-equipped not only with their camping supplies, but with knowledge on how to survive in the outdoors.

"We used many skills taught in class," said Magnusson.

Junior William Naviaux described a particularly interesting hike, where students were able to see "really interesting canyon walls where you could see the different layers of the rocks."

Students then got the chance to take their climbing skills to new heights, climbing the 60+ foot cliffs that overlook Devil's Lake as well as taking part in top rope climbing.

"Top rope climbing was really interesting as it was the first time I

have done it outdoors. It was really cool to have the increased height of these walls that we don't have at school," said Naviaux.

Participants did not just focus on honing their climbing skills. Hawkinson noted that the cooking unit during the year was an important component of the trip. "Knowing how to tackle those faulty camping stoves is really important in order to actually make good food, and our practice with that in class really helped," said Hawkinson.

Naviaux was excited to apply these skills. "I thought it was cool that we were able to actually do the things we were simulating in class," explained Naviaux.

On top of being able to experience in the real world what Outdoor Ed has taught them, the students also bonded with one another.

"Having that time to get to know each other better and experience things together—like the cold nights and huddling around a campfire—is such a good way to grow closer," said Magnusson.

This bonding was never forced through intentional team-building activities.

According to senior TA Meagan Rittmanic, it arose naturally out of the joy of being collectively invested in the trip.

"You do tend to bond a lot naturally," said Rittmanic. Citing a memory from last year, she explained, "I found that last year, that was extremely true. I remember at this one dinner with my cooking group, everyone else was sulking because it was so cold and our picnic tables were underwater, and we were over at another table hysterically laughing. It's a really great time."

In spite of the cold weather that characteristic of the trip, many of the students wouldn't change a thing about the unforgettable experience.

"If I could do the trip over again, I would do it all exactly the same," said Hawkinson.