Sample networking questions for informal discussions with alumnae

In some examples below, you can replace the * with so many things! Be creative! (Sample topics for the alum include: her current profession, current company, current field, past jobs/internships/companies, past/current degree programs, professional/student organizations, etc.)

- How did you get involved with ____*___?
- What do you love/enjoy most about ____*___?
- What qualities/skills/attributes do you possess which helped you get where you are today?
- If you could redo some time in your education/career, what would you do differently and why?
- What significant changes have you seen take place with ____*___ over the years?
- What do you see as coming trends with ____*__?
- What separates your ____* from the competition?
- What would make someone a perfect fit for your company?
- What do you or your company look for in potential new hires?
- What advice would you give to someone who is not certain about which engineering major to choose? Which career path to take (academia, industry, professional degrees, etc.)?
- What problems, if any, should women engineers be prepared to face? (e.g., gender bias in the workplace)
- What advice do you have for finding and excelling in leadership roles?
- How do you maintain a work-life balance?
- What challenge have had to face in your career and how did you overcome that challenge?
- Do you know anyone in your company who works on __[insert your field of interest]____and whom I might contact for more information (e.g., to ask questions for an "informational interview" Google this term if you are not familiar with it –conducting these can help you to sort out what types of careers may be best for you by asking questions of people currently in that career field)
- What advice would you give to someone in my shoes?