



December 2008

# SWE-KC NEWSLETTER

The Society of Women Engineers - Kansas City Section  
Online: <http://o.web.umkc.edu/obannond/SWE/swe-kc.html>

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*Happy Holidays!*

## SWE-KC CEO's Message

Hello, SWE-KC. I hope you noticed that we've hosted a few events already this year and have more planned. The what/where page of the SWE-KC web page is kept up-to-date with section events.

One of my goals this year is to have one or two of our members nominated for SWE awards, such as Distinguished New Engineer. If you or someone you know in SWE is a good candidate, please let me know. We have been remiss in recognizing our members lately, and I hope we can remedy the situation. Angie Ladwig is our recognitions chair and she will help coordinate award submissions.

The national SWE conference in Baltimore was terrific, and it was big. There were 5700 attendees and 275 exhibitors. SWE initiated a networking lounge (the Lava Lounge) where one could record how SWE

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enhances her life. The SWE magazine is also collecting some mutual interviews between students and professionals at the conference.

I'm the person who writes the crossword puzzles in the SWE magazine - the next one is titled, "Let it Snow!" I hope you enjoy that little diversion - I enjoy writing the crossword puzzles.

Onward and upward,

Deb O'Bannon, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE, F.SWE  
2008-2009 SWE-KC CEO

## Save the Date! - January 24, 2008

Join us on **January 24, 2008** for brunch, networking and a benefit for Harvesters!

**What:** Brunch/Networking/Workshop

**When:** Saturday, January 24 - 10:00 a.m.

*Networking and food 10am-11am*

*Succession planning workshop 11am-12pm*

**Where:** Libby Allman's house

118 NE 43rd Street, Kansas City, MO 64116

Bring your favorite brunch treat! If your last name begins with:

**A-H** Bring fruit or juice

**I-P** Bring savory/salad/bread

**R-Z** Bring sweets

*Eggs and coffee will be provided.*

RSVP to Kelli Deuth at [kellideuth@gmail.com](mailto:kellideuth@gmail.com)



Our service project this year is:

**HARVESTERS**  
**Community Food Network**

We will be collecting food and monetary donations!

*Food drives are an important source of nutritious food for those in need. The most-needed items are canned fruits and vegetables, soups, peanut butter, boxed meals and cereal. For every dollar we can donate, Harvesters can provide five meals.*

**Bring your food and/or monetary donation to our January event!** Can't make the event, but still want to donate? Network with us and we'll figure out a way to pick up your Harvesters donation and get it to our event! Contact Jane Knoche @ 913-422-1463

## SWE-KC Officers

### Chief Executive Officer

Deb O'Bannon  
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### Chief Operations Officer

Jane Knoche  
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### Chief Information Officer

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### Chief Financial Officer

Susan Enneking  
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### Joint Engineering Council Representative

Holly Lamar  
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### Section Representative

Sharon Jean-Baptiste  
[Sharon.jbaptiste@gmail.com](mailto:Sharon.jbaptiste@gmail.com)

### Recognitions Chairwoman

Angela Ladwig  
[aladwig@kcp.com](mailto:aladwig@kcp.com)

### Board Member-at-Large

Libby Allman  
[Libby.Allman@swe.org](mailto:Libby.Allman@swe.org)

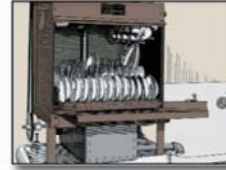
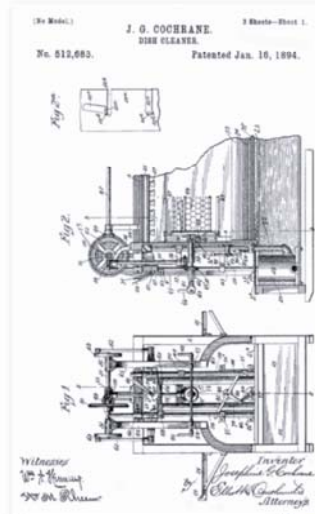
### Board Member-at-Large

Melissa Womack  
[womackmj@bv.com](mailto:womackmj@bv.com)

### Past-President

Michelle Wirth  
[mwirth@olatheks.org](mailto:mwirth@olatheks.org)

## Women Engineers in History



# Josephine Cochrane

## Dishwashing Machine

Josephine Garis Cochrane invented the dishwasher in 1886. Mrs. Cochrane was a rich woman who had lots of fancy dinner parties. She didn't do any of the dishes herself because she had servants to do the job for her, but she wanted a machine that could do the job faster without breaking as many dishes. The first hand cranked wooden machine had in fact been invented and patented by Joel Houghton in 1850. For her invention, Mrs. Cochrane first measured the dishes, then built wire compartments specially designed to fit either plates, cups or saucers. The compartments were placed inside a wheel that lay flat inside a copper boiler. A motor turned the wheel, while hot soapy water squirted up from the bottom of the boiler and rained down on the dishes. Cochrane's washing machine was described as "a new and useful improvement in dish washing machines." She formed her own company, Cochrane's Crescent Washing Machine Company to manufacture the machines and the washing machines initially sold mainly to hotels and restaurants. She showed her invention at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair and won the highest award. Cochrane's Crescent Washing Machine Company eventually became the Kitchen Aid Company.



*"To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be."*

~Unknown



## Recent Events

### *25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - October 14, 2008*

SWE-KC members joined together at the UMKC Diastole to celebrate over 25+ years in the Kansas City area, including our inception as Women Engineers of Kansas City.



*1982 Charter Members*



# Her Story Book Signing – November 12, 2008

Spanning the centuries from 1587...this book will allow women and men to become more aware of and informed about the women who have been instrumental in giving us the quality of life we enjoy today.

– Madeleine Albright



**Charlotte S. Waisman, PhD**  
Principal of the AthenA Group  
and founding member, trainer  
and coach of the Women's Vision  
Leadership Institute



**Jill S. Tietjen, PE.**  
CEO of Technically Speaking

Jill Tietjen, former SWE national president, signed her book, *HerStory: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*, and presented some of her favorite technical women in history.

**Books are still available!** If you would like to purchase your own signed copy, contact Jane Knoche @ 913-422-1463 or email [jane Knoche@earthlink.net](mailto:jane Knoche@earthlink.net).

*"There is a special place in hell for women who do not help other women."  
~Madeleine K. Albright*