



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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SWE-KC CEO's Message

Aren't we all glad to see the arrival of spring? I'm so looking forward to the flowering dogwoods in the older neighborhoods of Kansas City. And it is equally encouraging to see our Kansas City SWE Section come back to life. I am grateful that our section has the flexibility to quickly create a program (3/21/09) that responds to the employment downturn. I hope to see you at our work-life balance panel brunch at the Blue Bird Bistro (4/25/09). Please come enjoy yourself in a lovely setting. And then we're finishing up with a marvelous family-friendly event at the Moon Marble Factory on May 23, 2009.

I believe that a healthy SWE section is essential to the robust engineering community in Kansas City, and we are becoming a healthy section again. Thank you for a great year. Next year, I will be the chairwoman of SWE Editorial Board -

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CEO's Message	1
Save the Date! Upcoming Events	1
SWE-KC Officers	2
Job Search Tool in Uncertain Job Market	2
SWE at Moon Marble Company	2
Recent Events	
January Brunch	3

taking care of our fine magazine, but I'll try not to fade too quickly from sight here at our SWE home. Please consult our website and the rest of this newsletter for more details and get these events on your calendar! Enjoy the spring weather and flowers - it'll be gone before we know it.

Prof. Deb O'Bannon, F.SWE
SWE-Kansas City '08-'09 President/CEO

Save the Date! Upcoming SWE-KC Events

Saturday, March 21, 2009 - 11:00 A.M.

Job Search Tool in an Uncertain Job Market (for more information, see article on page 2)

Mid America Investment Advisors, 7301 Mission Road, Suite 338, Prairie Village, KS
Use entrance B to get into the building - we will meet across the hall from the elevator on the 3rd floor.
Refreshments provided.

Map - <http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Prairie+Village&state=KS&address=7301+Mission+Road>

Saturday, April 25, 2009 - 10:00 A.M.

Work-Life Panel

Several women engineers in different life stages will reflect on their balance of work, family and other interests. This relaxed setting will encourage networking with other attendees and the panelists (TBA). Please check the website for a list of panelists.

Blue Bird Bistro, 1700 Summit, Kansas City, MO

Map - <http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Kansas+City&state=MO&address=1700+Summit#a/maps/m::12:39.09305:-94.593349:0:::/e>

Saturday, May 23, 2009 - 1:00 P.M.

Moon Marble Company Outing (for more information, see article on page 2)

Moon Marble Company, 600 East Front Street, Bonner Springs, Kansas

Map - <http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Bonner+Springs&state=KS&address=600+East+Front+Street#a/maps/m::12:39.05904:-94.877329:0:::/e>

Plan to drive over to Dairy Queen after the event for some ice cream: 103 E Front St, Bonner Springs, KS

RSVP for all events to Kelli Deuth at kellideuth@gmail.com

Add meeting information to your Outlook calendar! Visit: <http://o.web.umkc.edu/obannond/SWE/when-where.html>



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Job Search Tool in an Uncertain Job Market

By Holly Lamar

According to the Wall Street Journal, new U.S. claims for state unemployment benefits jumped to a 26-year high in February while total claims cracked the five million mark for the first time ever. With the recession reaching in to a second year, the landscape of the job search is changing with the times. Job applicants are looking for more tools that are far reaching to give them an edge in the job market. One such tool is LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com), a networking tool similar to Face Book, but professional in nature. With upwards of 75% of jobs found through some type of networking, LinkedIn give applicants an opportunity to get introduced to employees of a company where they want to work who can tell them about a company's culture, a topic that is often difficult to research online. Not only are job seekers using LinkedIn to get connected to possible job opportunities, recruiters and hiring authorities worldwide are locating and screening prospective employees.

The nature of networking is personal, a connection that leads to another connection and so forth until the final destination is reached, a new career. The path a job applicant takes can have many turns efficient networking can enable an applicant to reach that new career much quicker. LinkedIn is a professional network so when creating and populating your account profile, careful thought is required to best represent and market yourself to your connections. Building a huge network of connections may give allow for millions of possible connections in the third degree, but may not increase your success in the long run. What happens when you attend a business function and meet a new business associate? This relationship does not grow unless there is continued communication or a renewed connection.

SWE - KC is sponsoring a beginning training session on LinkedIn on March 21, 2009 at 11 am. Come join us get LinkedIn and learn some tips on better utilizing this powerful networking tool. Space is limited. Please RSVP to Kelli Deuth at kellideuth@gmail.com to learn additional session details.

SWE at the Moon Marble Company

By Holly Lamar

Join other SWE members and families at the Moon Marble Company (www.moonmarble.com) for a look at how marbles are made. For the kids and "kids at heart", a \$6 participation fee will allow you to learn some marble games taught by one of Moon Marble Company's own experts and pick out your own tube of marbles to take home. There is a large store packed with games and marbles for browsing during the program. Everyone gets to watch how a marble is made. You could win this marble in a drawing held the day of the event. HURRY, RSVP's are required. Space is limited to the first 34 game participants.

Saturday, May 23, 2009 - 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
 Moon Marble Company, 600 East Front Street, Bonner Springs, Kansas 66012
 Phone: 913-441-1432

RSVP: Kelli Deuth kellideuth@gmail.com by May 20

"Engineers like to solve problems. If there are no problems readily available, they will create their own problems." – *Anonymous*

Recent Events

January 24, 2009 – Brunch/Succession Planning Workshop/Harvesters

SWE-KC members gathered at Libby Allman's house for a networking brunch, a presentation with Janis Pfungsten from SWE nationals discussing succession planning for the SWE-KC chapter, and a collection of donations for Harvesters.



Back row (L-R): Jane Knoche, Deb O'Bannon, Holly Lamar

Front row (L-R): Kelli Deuth, Shelley Wolf, Janis Pfungsten, Libby Allman

“Engineers ... are not superhuman. They make mistakes in their assumptions, in their calculations, in their conclusions. That they make mistakes is forgivable; that they catch them is imperative. Thus it is the essence of modern engineering not only to be able to check one's own work but also to have one's work checked and to be able to check the work of others.” – *Henry Petroski, To Engineer Is Human*