KC–SWE CEO's Message

Our Kansas City SWE section is a great place to network with women in the engineering profession. The members of our KC section represent companies from the private sector like Black and Veatch, Honeywell, Burns and McDowell, EMC and Hallmark Cards as well as government entities like the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Highway Administration. We also have members representing area educational institutions like UMKC, The University of Kansas, Kansas State University and more. Our KC-SWE section boasts members representing every career stage from intern to executive to entrepreneur.

Our section goals for the 2010-2011 year focused heavily on improving our membership and membership involvement. While the KC-SWE board has not conducted our goal-setting session for the 2011-2012 year, we know that our section's goals will remain membership focused.

I hope you'll make it your goal to get involved in the KC-SWE section. Please take the opportunity, this year, to meet your fellow KC-SWE members by participating in some of our activities, the first of which is our Fellows' Reception on August 30th at the beautiful HNTB Building in downtown KC. Come out and meet some of our Fellows, officers and members while you enjoy yourself with food, drink and lively conversation. You owe it to yourself and your career to take advantage of the diversity we represent.

Please take some time to visit our new website at www.kcswe.com and remember that we have a standing invitation to all of our members to attend our monthly board meetings.

I look forward to meeting all of our members!

Susan Enneking
(susanenneking@sbcglobal.net,)
785.865.8127

KC-SWE Newsletter
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The Society of Women Engineers - Kansas City Section, P.O. Box 860426, Shawnee, KS 66226
email: swe.kc.mail@gmail.com - website: www.kcswe.com

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Save the Date! Upcoming KC–SWE Events

2011 Annual Fellows Reception

Tuesday, August 30th 2011, 6:00-8:00 PM
@ HNTB Conference Room #485, 715 Kirk Drive, Kansas City, MO 64105

The evening will include Fellows' Top Ten List, appetizers and refreshments.

Hosted by KC-SWE Section Fellows: Lynn Bertuglia, Managing Director, Black & Veatch, Jane Knoche, General Engineer, FAA, Cheri Leigh, Principal, Leigh & O'Kane Structural Engineers, Deb O'Bannon, Ph.D., Associate Professor, UMKC, Shelley Wolff, VP, HNTB

RSVP required by August 24th to jane.knoche@swe.org
ANNOUNCEMENTS

KC–SWE Elects New 2011 Officers!

The 2011-2012 elections were conducted in the Spring. Stepping into the role of KC-SWE CEO/President is Susan Enneking, whose predecessor Holly Lamar is now participating in an advisory role as our past CEO/President. Last year, Susan spearheaded our new KC-SWE website design and launch. Her goals this year include continuing to better involve and inform our members. She previously served as KC-SWE’s CFO/Treasurer. Taking on the role of KC-SWE COO/Vice-President is Amanda Wages. After being an active member of ASCE and SWE while attending The University of Kansas, Amanda looked to continue her society involvement post graduation by taking a leadership role in establishing the first annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) 2011. Shelley Wolff is our new CFO/Treasurer. Shelly is a past National SWE President and SWE Fellow.

Stephanie Wiehe DeCaro retains her position as KC-SWE CIO/Secretary/Newsletter Editor as does Jane Knoche as our COR Representative. KC-SWE Board-Members-at-Large include Libby Allman and Melissa Womack.

Congratulations to all of our Officers and Chairwomen!

KC–SWE Executive Board Meeting Schedule

Executive board meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month, excluding December, from 7-8 pm at Panera, 15108 W 119th St, Olathe KS 66062 (between Hwy 35 and Black Bob, N side of 119th). All members are welcome to attend.

KC–SWE Recognizes Volunteer Scholarship Judges

KC-SWE members Kristin Elhers, Susan Enneking and Angie Ladwig recently received appreciation awards for evaluating and judging 2010-2011 school year SWE Scholarships. Thank you for your time and talent!

New Kansas City SWE Section Website - www.kcswe.com

Please take some time out of your busy day to visit our new Kansas City Section Society of Women Engineers website at www.kcswe.com. The site contains information about our KC SWE section events, goals, officers and fellows as well as recent newsletters and links to the national SWE site. Our new website is intended to help us keep our members up-to-date on all matters KC-SWE, so we welcome your suggestions for making the site more valuable and usable. We already have some enhancements in the works, so the site will be evolving. Take a look, check back often and let us know what you think. Please email your suggestions and comments to swe.kc.mail@gmail.com.

KC-SWE to Participate in B&V Explorer Post Annual College Night

Once again, KC-SWE members are taking part in the Black & Veatch Explorer Post annual College Night to be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011. This event highlights information about collegiate opportunities in math, science, and engineering for students aged 14-19 and their parents. The evening will begin with a panel discussion at 7:00 p.m. in Ruisch Auditorium (located through the South entrance of Black & Veatch Power Building - 11401 Lamar, Overland Park, KS) followed by a College Career Fair. We expect the 2011 College Night to be successful for all involved, with 300 or more high school students and parents from the entire KC Metro area in attendance. If you are interested in helping and representing KC-SWE at this event, please contact Susan Enneking, (susanenneking@sbcglobal.net).
RECENT EVENTS

Speeeeed Mentoring  by Stephanie Wiehe DeCaro

On May 25, 2011 over a dozen women came together for KC-SWE's first ever Speed Mentoring. Similar to Speed Dating, Speed Mentoring provides opportunities for brief and informal mentoring sessions that may lead to more structured mentor/mentee relationships. In small groups each mentee picked a card from the deck and answered the thought provoking question it contained on the topics of Challenge, Opportunity, Journey or Messages. The group’s mentors were then given a chance to comment and contribute their personal experiences on the question. Special thanks to our mentors for sharing their stories; Cheri Leigh, Principal, Leigh & O’Kane Structural Engineers, Shelley Wolff, Vice President, HNTB, Dr. Deb O’Bannon, Professor, UMKC and Libby Allman, Director, Hallmark Cards. Look for more Speed Mentoring events to come in 2012.

UMKC Tour with NWAIC  
by Amanda Wages

On July 11, 2011, KC-SWE members toured the vertical expansion of the KU MED Center. JE DUNN is the lead contractor on the project and they provided a great tour explaining some of the unique circumstances that were dealt with. It was most interesting that with this type of hospital project, none of the other floors were being shut down. This made for the team to get strategic with making sure each step was taken appropriately. In addition, the elevators had to be raised, but only one could be under construction at a time. When we toured the outside walls and windows had not been installed, it was indicated that the project would pick up speed once that happened, since high wind velocities at 9+ stories high had prohibited work occasionally. The tour was hosted by the National Association of Women in Construction (NWIC) Greater Kansas City Chapter followed by a mixer at Jazz. Approximately 25 people were in attendance, and made for a great networking opportunity with other women in the community. We look forward to teaming up with the NWIC organization in the future.

Stay tuned for details on these events in our next newsletter

Great Plains Regional Future City Competition, January 21st 2012, KU Campus, Lawrence, KS

2011 Introduce a Girl to Engineering (IGED) Kansas City, February 2012

First Robotics Kansas and Western Missouri Regional Competition, March 2012
MO Governor on Girls in Engineering and Teaching Careers.

by Libby Allman

I had a unique opportunity recently to meet with Missouri Governor Jay Nixon at the Governor’s mansion. He spoke to me and 25 other female senior leaders from businesses across the state who are part of a program called the Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge. In the brief time he spoke (less than 15 minutes), he spoke of topics near and dear to me and I wanted to share.

1. The importance of getting girls interested in careers in engineering. In May he spoke at Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly UMR) and 100% of their soon-to-be graduates had jobs. (He contrasted this with a speech he gave at a law school where the percentage was in the 30-40%). He followed up by saying that getting all genders interested in engineering is a great thing, but his emphasis was on girls.

2. The importance of teachers and the need for us to publicly talk about the higher calling which teachers take and the appreciation we must have for them. He said that everyone wants to talk about removing bad teachers and he wants to talk about how we get more good teachers. While the pay isn’t like that of engineers, we must encourage young people to pursue this as a career.

3. Urgency on #1 and #2.

As you can imagine, the fact that he chose to focus his time with us on these issues was music to my ears.

Are You Going to SWE National Conference 2011?

We are! This year’s national conference, WE11, is considered the largest gathering of forward-thinking women engineers and technologists. It will take place Oct. 13-15 at McCormick Place in Chicago, IL. Nearly 5,000 expected participants worldwide will have the opportunity to network and gain knowledge that will advance their careers, launch innovation and help them define their own success. At WE11, benefits for professionals include;

- Participate in professional development sessions and earn CEU credits through the Career Enhancement series
- Network with other like-minded professionals
- Become a mentor to young engineers starting their careers and engineering students earning their degrees
- Experience the city of Chicago with technical and sight-seeing tours
- Explore career options at the Career Fair, featuring more than 250 exhibitors

If you are interested in attending and/or sharing costs with other KC-SWE professional members, please contact Jane Knoche (jane.knoche@swe.org) or Karen Gilbertson (karen.gilbertson@dot.gov). For more information and to register, please visit the WE11 Annual Conference website, we11.swe.org

Don’t Forget: Early Bird Discounts End September 16th

Go to we11.swe.org to register NOW!