



Spring 2013

SWE-KC NEWSLETTER

Kansas City Section of the Society of Women Engineers, P.O. Box 860363, Shawnee, KS 66286

Email: swe.kc.mail@gmail.com Website: swe-kc.org

SWE-KC President's Message

Congratulations to our FY14 Board Officers! What an amazing group of women we have stepping up to lead the Section. I hope they find the connections, experiences and leadership skills gained by participating in SWE leadership as valuable as I have.

Several SWE-KC section members and I made the trip up to Omaha in March for iCon13. As a first time conference attendee, I was impressed with the range of speakers. From a blind engineer/Ironman competitor to an organizing specialist to financial advisors, there was something for everyone. The Eastern Nebraska section and the University of Nebraska student section did an excellent job hosting our regional conference.

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending the Girl Scout's Green Gala in honor of our incoming President Kristin Ehlers and her fellow Pearl Awardees. Kristin is a co-founder of the Kansas City IGED program, Chair of this year's KC IGED event and Section Outreach Chair FY2012-2013. Her contributions and those of the other Pearl Awardees in encouraging young women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) are truly inspiring. SWE and the Girl Scouts certainly share a common goal in bringing awareness and support to STEM.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SWE-KC President's Message	1
3 rd Annual Potluck Picnic	1
SWE-KC FY14 Officers	
and Call for Open Committee Positions	2
Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day 2013	3
Region / Conference	4
Girl Scouts' Pearl Award	5
Upcoming Events	6

Don't forget to renew your SWE membership. EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ENDS June 30th! Find more coupon codes here - <http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/index.php/coupon-code-descriptions-for-swe-fy14-membership-products>.

Finally the warm weather is here to stay, and I cannot wait to enjoy it at the third annual SWE-KC Picnic on June 6th. Bring your family, friends and dogs for Frisbee fun.

Lastly, I would like to thank the FY2013 SWE-KC Officers, Committee Chairs and Members for all their hard work this year.

Stephanie DeCaro
SWE-KC President
stephanie.decaro@yahoo.com

3rd Annual SWE-KC Potluck Picnic

Friday, June 7, 2013 – 6:00 PM

Loose Park Shelter

5200 Pennsylvania Ave Kansas City, MO 64112

Coordinator: Alyssa Zimmerman

Questions? Call 913-707-3624 or email azimmerman856@hotmail.com

Bring your family, friends, kids and pets to the 3rd Annual SWE Picnic! The event is Potluck so please sign up to bring something with you. Feel free to bring your favorite yard games as well. We will be meeting at Loose Park at 6pm; there are areas for kids to play and plenty of room for dogs to roam.

There is no charge for this event.

SWE-KC Officers

President

Stephanie DeCaro
stephanie.decaro@yahoo.com

Past President

Susan Enneking
susanenneking@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

Amanda Wages
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Secretary

Sunita Gupta
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Treasurer

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swolff@hntb.com

Section Representative

Jenna Walsh Harpole
WalshJennaG@JohnDeere.com

JEC Representative

Karen Gilbertson
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Outreach Chair

Kristin Ehlers
kristin.ehlers@swe.org

Open Positions

- **Events Chair**
- **Newsletter Editor**
- **Membership Chair**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New FY14 Officers Have Been Elected!

The FY14 (July 2013 – June 2014) elections were held in April. The Officers' bios will be available on the website <http://swe-kc.org/> under the "SWE-KC Officers" tab starting July 1st. FY14 Officers are

- President: Kristin Ehlers
- Vice President: Sunita Gupta
- Secretary: Theresa Ferguson
- Treasurer: Katie Tepper
- Section Representative: Jenna Walsh Harpole

SWE-KC Executive Council Meeting Schedule

Executive council will not be meeting during the summer, but the email account will be monitored. Fall meetings will start in September. New this year, meetings will be a mix of teleconferences and in person meetings. Details will be available on the online calendar. All members are welcome to attend, but they will need to RSVP to swe.kc.mail@gmail.com to get the call-in number.

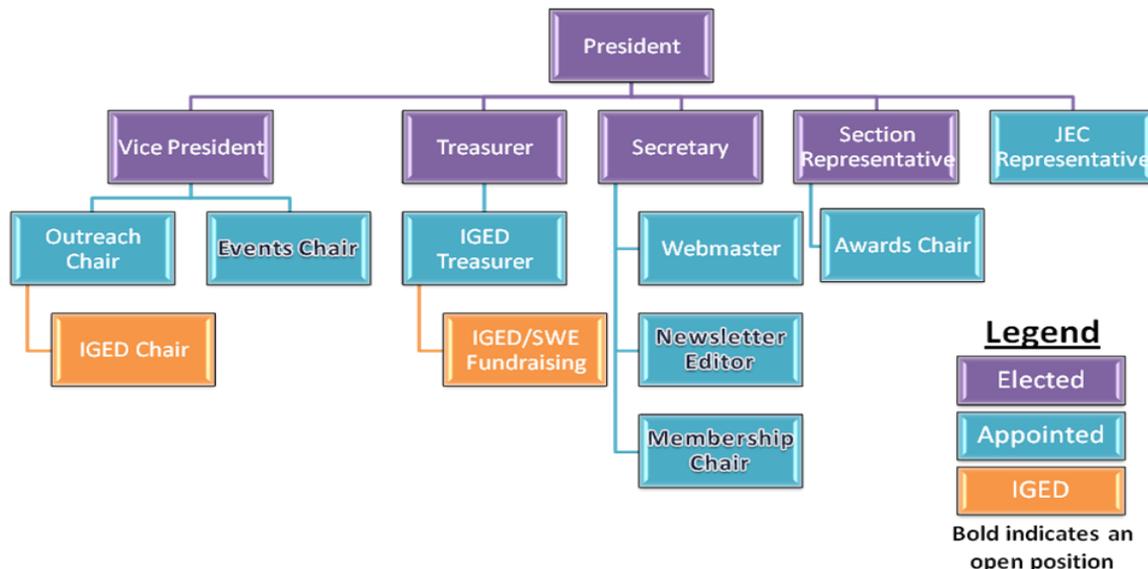
Committee Chairs

SWE-KC is looking for volunteers to serve as committee chairs. We have openings for a few positions:

- **Events Chair**
- **Newsletter Editor**
- **Membership Chair**

The time commitment for being a chair is flexible. The responsibilities include

1. Holding regular meetings, in person or via teleconference, with your committee.
2. Reporting to their officers monthly in time for Executive Council meetings.
3. Attending Executive Council meetings twice a year.



Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED)

by Angie Ladwig

A National Engineers Week initiative, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) is an annual event that promotes and encourages young women to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). This year's national event was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Sally Ride, America's first woman in space and a leading proponent of fostering girls' interest in STEM. Highlighting the importance of this event, the National Engineers Week press release stated that 'For young women interested in engineering, the walls are coming down, the ceiling is cracking and the opportunities have never been greater or more exciting.'

Despite a cancellation of the original February event date due to snow and the appearance of more snow (in May!) on the re-scheduled date, KC IGED 2013 was a huge success. On May 3, 2013, more than 90 girls and 50 mentors braved the inclement weather and joined together at the University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC) for a day full of activities and networking. Now in its third year and hosted by the Kansas City Section of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE-KC), KC IGED 2013 increased student participation by 50% and mentor participation by 30% from that of last year's event.

In addition to a motivating and inspirational Key Note speech from Libby Allman, Director of Process and Program Management at Hallmark Cards, Inc., an industry fair and an interactive collegiate panel, students were also exposed to the different types of engineering. This year, led by the SWE UMKC Collegiate Section, the discipline fair provided in depth detail on the many types of engineering that exist, with some booths hosting hands-on activities. As in years past, the industry fair continues to grow and be well represented by local universities, companies and organizations such as SWE-KC and KC STEM Alliance.

The students and mentors finished the day by collaborating together on an engaging, hands-on activity that simulated an oil spill and its clean-up efforts. With the guide of their mentors, students built an eco-system and then contaminated it with olive oil. Before beginning the clean-up efforts, students hypothesized the cleaning effectiveness of a variety of materials such as wood chips, gauze and cotton balls. After using the materials to clean up the oil, the group then discussed how their results compared to their hypothesis. Students impressed everyone by their innovative problem-solving by using several of the materials together in unique ways.

The IGED 2013 Planning Committee would like to give thanks to all the wonderful mentors for not only donating their time but also for their personal commitment to promoting STEM. Many thanks also go to the teachers, school counselors, industry fair, discipline fair and college panel participants. We also want to thank our corporate sponsors for their generous sponsorship and support.

We look forward to seeing you at IGED 2014 scheduled for February 21, 2014!



Students, teachers and mentors



"I feel hopeful about my future in engineering" ~ IGED student

Join the Committee!

We have just started planning for our 4th Annual IGED Event, and we would love to have more people involved in our committee. As far as time commitment goes, we meet about once a month from August to December. Starting in January, we usually meet biweekly, and about two weeks before the event we need a lot of help to put together all the last minute details.

If you're interested in getting involved, please email kc.iged@gmail.com.

Region *i* Conference 2013

by Jenna Walsh Harpole

Region *i* Conference was held in Omaha on March 1-2. The conference was filled with professional development sessions, networking with the region and had a fantastic keynote speaker.

Friday night consisted of a networking night with casino games, some shopping and spa elements, dancing, food and raffles. It was a great way to unwind from the week and meet old and new friends.

On Saturday, the keynote speaker was Patricia Walsh, an Olympic Hopeful and World Record Holder. She talked about her journey as a blind engineer: how she got interested, working at Microsoft and why she decided to pursue athletics and motivational speaking full-time. She emphasized to the audience that we should dream big and not let others limit our potential.

Additional highlights from the conference are

- Watch for the WorkLife Integration mega issue that will highlight the top 5 things an employee can do!
- SWE will launch an employer sponsored membership pilot
- Membership toolkit available for membership committees to use off the SWE homepage
- SWE hosted websites will be moving to Weebly software beginning in April
- 2nd Annual SWE Region I Leadership Summit will be held Saturday, August 17th in the Kansas City Area
- SWE13 will be October 24-26 in Baltimore



Professional development sessions were offered on a range of topics from Marketing Yourself for Success to Strategic Planning. The Kansas City Professional Session had three speakers at the conference including Denise Gray who spoke on Leading to Leave, Adriana Aguilar who spoke on Strategic & Tactical Planning and Jenna Walsh Harpole who spoke on Active Listening.

The conference closed with a networking dinner and lively Dueling Pianos Entertainment.

Region *i* Conference 2014 will be held in Wichita!



SWE-KC members at the Region *i* Conference in Omaha, NE

Kristin Ehlers Receives the Girl Scouts' Pearl Award

by Shelley Wolff

The Girl Scouts (GS) Pearl Award honors outstanding women of exceptional professional or community achievement who are exemplary role models for today's girls. As a part of the GS celebration of STEM, this year's Pearl Award recognizes exceptional women leaders in science, technology, engineering and math.

To be eligible for the award, a candidate must demonstrate significant professional and/or community impact in STEM; demonstrate qualities of courage, confidence and character; act as a champion of equality and fairness for women and/or girls; and be an inspirational role model and mentor who is committed to the advocacy for improving the lives of women and/or girls.

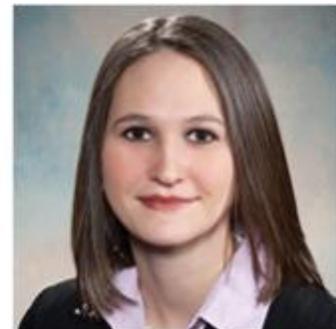
We are proud to announce that SWE-KC's Kristin Ehlers is a recipient of the 2013 Pearl Award from the Girl Scouts of NE Kansas and NW Missouri.



Florence Boldridge



Dr. Kathleen Boyle Dalen



Kristin Ehlers



Dr. Carol Fabian



Cindy Wallis-Lage



Ruth Weltj, Ph.D.

2013 Pearl Recipients

As an Industrial engineer in the National Nuclear Security Administration's Kansas City Plant Operated by Honeywell FMT, Kristin leads the production agency's product realization team for a new major electrical assembly product. At Honeywell, Kristin established the Middle School Engineering Projects Program, a program that provides an opportunity for the engineers at Honeywell FM&T to give back to the community classroom at a local middle school.

Kristin's volunteer efforts extend to many area outreach programs such as the Science Knowledge Bowl, Science Olympiad, Expanding your Horizons, Future Cities, and Project Lead the Way. Kristin is also the co-conceiver of the Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) program held annually in Kansas City, Kristin obtained grant funding and currently serves as Chair of the event.

Kristin was honored at the Girl Scout's Green Gala held on May 18th at the Overland Park Convention Center.

Congratulations Kristin!

Don't Forget: Early Bird Membership Renewal Ends June 30th

Go to swe.org to register NOW!

Meet and Greets on the Move



We will continue our Meet and Greets on the Move next fall. If you would like a Meet and Greet very close to your work or home, volunteer to coordinate one. Coordinating only requires 15 minutes of preparation and 1.5 hours of attending the event. If you are interested, please email us at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com.

2013 Upcoming Events

Date(s)	Event	Type
June 7	3 rd Annual Potluck Picnic coordinated by Alyssa Zimmerman Loose Park Shelter , Kansas City, MO	●
June 12	Meet & Greet coordinated by Sahar Chapuk Sullivan , Leawood, KS	●
July 10	Meet & Greet coordinated by Kristin Ehlers Harry's Country Club , River Market area, Kansas City, MO	●
August 7	Networking Night coordinated by the Membership Committee Garmin Headquarters , Olathe, KS	● ●
August 7	Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) Committee Kick-off Meeting Garmin Headquarters , Olathe, KS	●
August 14	Meet & Greet TBD	●
October 24-26	WE13 Annual Conference Baltimore, MD	● ● ●

Legend of Event Types

- Volunteering
- Networking
- Professional Development