SWE-KC has had a spring in its step the last few months. We’ve been busy in all four of our focus areas, professional development, outreach, networking, and recognition. I’m thrilled to share some of the highlights with you.

In February, we had over 250 students attend our 9th annual “Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day”. Thank you to all of the mentors, volunteers, sponsors, and the IGED Planning Committee that help carry the love of STEM to the next generation. We also shared engineering with educators at the KCPT Tech Ed Conference, and introduced our Mocktails & Mingles series with conversations about College to Career adjustments and Career transitions.

We had members attend WE Local Conferences in both Denver and St. Louis throughout March. Between the two conferences, SWE-KC brought home four awards. Those awards are highlighted on page 3.

The SWE Fellows hosted SWE Talks: Why Girls Matter, an Evening with Joy Wheeler of the Girl Scouts in
April. It was an excellent discussion, and a great opportunity to engage with many folks in the SWE-KC community.

As we roll this fiscal year into the station, we have a calendar full of events to keep things rolling smoothly. Stay tuned to your nearest SWE-KC mailing list or website for the latest details. This is also a friendly reminder that SWE memberships do expire at the end of each fiscal year (June 30th). If your membership will expire, please checkout swe.org to renew (or join :)).

My gratitude goes to all of the people in and around SWE-KC who engaged with the section this year. This includes not only the Executive Council, meet & greet hosts, mentors, and volunteers but also anyone who attended an event or has given feedback to the section leadership. If you have an idea for an event or an item you think could be improved, please don’t hesitate to send an email or sign up to lend a hand.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your section president this year. I am confident that we have elected a strong set of officers to steer us through the next fiscal year, and I’m excited to see what SWE-KC continues to achieve in the future!

Warmest Regards,

Ragan Gum
SWE-KC FY19 President

"SWE-KC has had a spring in its step the last few months."

— RAGAN GUM, SWE-KC FY19 President

SWE-KC FY19
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WE LOCAL 2019: AWARD WINNERS

JUNE 10, 2019

AWARD RECIPIENTS

**WE LOCAL LEGACY**
- KERRIE GREENFELDER

**WE LOCAL ELITE**
- RAGAN GUM
- SUNITA LAVIN

**WE LOCAL OUTSTANDING OUTREACH EVENT**
- SWE-KC’S IGED & IGED JR 2018
WE LOCAL 2019: ST. LOUIS & DENVER RECAPS

WE Local St. Louis

by Katie Lin

In February, myself and several other SWE-KC members attended one of the WE Local conferences in St. Louis. I've attended several SWE region conferences in the past, but this year was my first time attending a WE Local conference, and I really enjoyed it! The weekend started off with a very powerful keynote address by Akberet Boykin Farr, Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion at Emerson. She kicked off the conference with some motivational words as well as telling her own story of how she was adopted as a kid from Africa and brought to America. It was a great reminder that we all come from very diverse backgrounds, and as long as we maintain our confidence and courage, we can be successful like her.

Throughout the two days of the conference, I also attended several speaker breakout sessions. I enjoyed a session on rapid prototyping, where two women who work at Milwaukee Tool discussed their rapid product development cycle on two power tools. Despite this being a completely different industry than the one I work in; I learned several things that could potentially be applied in my work environment to develop product more quickly. In another session, I learned about the root causes of several commercial airplane accidents, from a woman who worked at Boeing. This session made me think twice now about the seat that I choose when I get on an airplane, and also reminded me to pay attention to the airline safety briefing! One of my favorite sessions was from another woman at Emerson who discussed the Imposter Syndrome, which is a term used for people who often doubt their accomplishments and have an internalized fear of being exposed as a fraud, or “imposter”. This is a feeling many of us have experienced. She told us that she tries to instill confidence in her daughter at a young age, by having her say every night: “I am smart, I am strong, I am bold.” She also had all of us say it out loud. Just speaking those words makes a huge difference in being able to stand a little taller and have a little more confidence as you approach a stressful work day or a big presentation.

To close out the conference, we had the honor of seeing one of our own, Sunita Lavin, receive the WE Local ELiTE award (Emerging Leader in Technology & Engineering). Congratulations Sunita!

Throughout the conference, I also enjoyed re-connecting with several SWE-KC members, as well as a few other SWE members from other sections that I haven’t seen in awhile. I saw one of my old coworkers who now works in St. Louis. I also had fun catching up with an old classmate from my Mizzou SWE days. Reconnecting with other SWE members has always been one of my favorite parts of the SWE regional conferences, and it was exciting to see that the WE Local conferences are no different. I’m already looking forward to next year! (The WE Local conference locations for 2020 are: Des Moines, San Diego, Raleigh, Salt Lake City, and Buffalo.)
WE Local Denver

by Ragan Gum

WE Local Denver kicked off on March 15th, 2019. A blizzard earlier in the week, required some flexibility in our travel plans, but Ragan, Kerrie, and Sneha from SWE-KC all arrived safely and ready to enjoy time with our SWE Folk. Erica Sodos brought magic to Friday morning to get the group motivated and ready to take on the rest of the conference. Friday ended with a celebration - trivia, a ski-themed photo booth, and some DIY crafty goodness.

The "Local Power Hour" lunchtime on Saturday gave us a great talk from Jill Tietjen who talked about her career and life experiences. Another one of my favorite sessions on Saturday was presented by Janet Williams who discussed how to create a decision paper to frame strategic management decisions. The session was interactive and packed with information.

WE Local Denver wrapped up with the WE Achieve Ceremony where Kerrie Greenfelder received the WE Local Legacy award. Ragan Gum was awarded the WE Local ELiTE (Emerging Leader in Technology and Engineering) and SWE-KC’s IGED and IGED Jr 2018 events were recognized with the Outstanding Outreach Event Award.
Our beloved SWE Fellows hosted their fantastic annual event "SWE Talks" on the evening of April 4th. This one was entitled "Why Girls Matter," and featured Joy Wheeler, CEO of the Girl Scouts of NE KS & NW MO.

The Fellows provided delicious hors d’oeuvres and drinks for pre-talk mingling at HNTB overlooking Kansas City, and the Girl Scouts organization brought their ever-popular cookies. SWE had 2 prize drawings for SWE memberships, and the Girl Scouts also brought four raffle prize bags and gave each attendee a box of Girl Scout cookies! Recent SWE award winners (both at SWE conferences and the Kansas City area at large) were highlighted and presented with flowers, and SWE Fellow Libby Allman, a member of the Girl Scouts board here in KC, introduced our guest speaker.

Joy brought insights from her business background in the healthcare industry and shared numerous statistics, including some from the Girl Scouts research arm, about the current state of girls and women in terms of education and financial stability, and the positive, measured impact of Girl Scouts. She also spoke about the need for improvement on multiple fronts in society, from encouragement in STEM to fighting for equal pay and being willing to invest as women in the girls coming up behind us, as well as the job market of the future and what Girl Scouts is doing to help develop character and leadership skills in girls as young as kindergarten. There was a call to action, with a reminder of how we can be involved at whatever level we have time for and are willing to be, whether it’s to donate, buy cookies, be a troop leader, or help with the occasional STEM activity or event.

Our thanks to Joy for sharing her passion for girls, women, and making a difference, and to all who came and made it another successful SWE Talk!
MOCKTAILS & MINGLE

By Jenny Lu

The first Mocktails & Mingle, which took place on February 26, was a huge success! We had wonderful discussions with wonderful women engineers and delicious treats and mocktails.

Thanks to Aswathi Pradeep and Myette Simpson for organizing, and thanks to Katie Bushong and BHC Rhodes for hosting!

P.S. Apologies for not taking better pictures - I was too into the discussion that was happening at my table!

GREATER KANSAS CITY SCIENCE FAIR AWARD

by Becca Brader

The SWE-KC science fair award was presented on April 6th. Our winning project was “The Isolation of Anthocyanin from Brassica oleracea for the Detection and Prevention of Dehydration”. Special thanks to Jenny Lu and Courtney McKelphin who helped judge bright and early at 7am Thursday morning.
UMKC RESUME WORKSHOP

by Sunita Lavin

Remember back to when you were looking for your first job? You were unsure what to wear to the career fair and creating a resume seemed daunting? As professionals, the resume is still daunting, but we were able to help SWE-UMKC students get prepped for the UMKC Career Fair on Friday, February 15. Chelsea Pfaffly (UMKC graduate), Marian McClellan and I presented on the job search process and reviewed 7 students’ resumes at SWE-UMKC’s meeting on Wednesday, February 13. The event was really timely, which made it very useful for the students. This is a great low-commitment event that makes a big impact on students. I hope you will consider volunteering with us next year!

INTRODUCE A GIRL TO ENGINEERING DAY (IGED) 2019

by Jenny Lu

The 9th annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) took place on Friday, February 22, 2019. Close to 300 female high school students joined us for a packed day of engineering exposure and activities. Students designed and created prototypes of mechanical hand grabbers, and then tested them in a competition with other teams!

We couldn’t have pulled it off without the dedication from all of the women engineering professionals who spent the day with us, volunteers, and the dedicated planning committee who spent months planning the event! Can’t wait for next year’s big milestone event: the 10th IGED!
KC STEM POLICY WORKSHOP

by Ragan Gum

SWE’s Congressional Outreach Day took place in late March. SWE-KC wasn’t able to attend, but a couple of us did participate in a KC STEM Policy Workshop which was hosted by the Missouri Science & Technology Policy Fellows on April 23rd. We learned how to effectively engage with local, state, and federal decision makers to advance policies we’d like to see implemented.

Here are some takeaways:

1. Know who represents you at the local, state, and federal level

2. Prepare Message
   a. Address only one issue at a time (each email, letter, visit, etc)
   b. Why is this issue important – Not only to you, but more importantly, to the legislator, their constituents, and the broader community.
   c. Be brief and clear about your position
   d. Tell them a story. Humanize & Personalize your message
      i. The more personalized the message is, the more your opinion will be taken into account

3. Best Communication Methods (Most effective to least effective)
   a. Office Visit or Office Call – Get to know the staff.
      i. Don’t just call when it’s time to grumble. If you the legislator did something you appreciate, let them know that too!
   b. Handwritten Letter or Typed Letter
      i. Due to security, it may take 3-4 weeks for a letter to reach a DC legislator; however, state & local representatives should receive them quicker.
   c. Personalized Email or Template Email
      i. If starting from a template from another group or organization, and least 30% should be personalized or it risks becoming just noise or spam.
   d. Social Media

SWE advocates for public policy which impacts the advancement of women in STEM. You can find more information and learn how to take action on the SWE Public Policy website (https://swe.org/public-policy/). The SWE research (https://research.swe.org/) may be helpful when you’re crafting that next message to your legislator.
UPCOMING EVENTS

SWE-KC is excited to host the second Mocktails & Mingle event on June 18th! The event will feature the topic of “Branding Your Career” with guest speaker Chelsea Laub.

The next event is on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, from 6-8pm, hosted by BHC Rhodes. Visit swe-kc.org for registration information.

MOCKTAILS & MINGLE
JUNE 18

STEAM OUTREACH @ APACHE ELEMENTARY
JULY 12

WE-KC 2019: THE POWER OF A MOMENT

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: CINDY WALLIS-GAGE

WE KC IS SWE-KC’S ANNUAL SIGNATURE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT, WHERE WE EMPOWER AND INSPIRE WOMEN IN STEM ALONG THEIR CAREERS THROUGH AN EVENING PROGRAM OF EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS, KEYNOTE SPEAKER, AND NETWORKING.

DATE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 5PM
LOCATION: KU EDWARDS CAMPUS

REGISTRATIONS OPENING SOON AND DETAILS AT:
SWE-KC.ORG/WEKC

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