SWE–KC President’s Message

What a year FY15 is turning out to be for the Kansas City section! We had great participation at the Fellows' Reception in September and our committees are actively engaging our members with outreach, tours and the Region i conference (iCON15)!

As you know, we are hosting iCON15 and Introduce a Girl to Engineering (IGED) jointly with UMKC SWE on February 27-28, 2015, at the Marriott on Country Club Plaza. The speaker submission deadline has passed, and all speakers have been notified. If you are interested in getting a free registration, be sure to download the sponsorship packet from www.swe-kc.org/icon15/sponsorship, and get your employer to sponsor the conference.

Thank you to all of the active committee members, and I hope to see everyone at our next Meet and Greet on December 9th at Harry’s Country Club

Sunita Lavin
SWE-KC President
lavin.sunita@gmail.com

Thank You SWE–KC Fellows

Thank you to our SWE-KC fellows for hosting a lovely reception on September 12th at UMKC’s Diastole Center. We had a wonderful evening of food and fun. We also got to hear cool stories about SWE Fellow Deb O’Bannon’s adventures during her sabbatical to Israel.

Be an Early Bird!
Register now for iCON15

iCON15 is February 27-28, 2015 right here in Kansas City. Register now and save $15! http://www.swe-kc.org/icon15/registration/
Prices go up on January 1, so don’t delay!
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Outreach Committee Members Needed
Do you have a passion for inspiring young women to pursue STEM careers? Then we need you to join the SWE-KC Outreach Committee!

The Outreach Committee coordinates almost all of SWE-KC’s K-12 outreach efforts, including Girls Ignite and Girls in Gear. The committee meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm via conference call. Contact Alyssa Zimmerman (azimmerman856@hotmail.com) for more information on how you can get involved today!

New Website is Up
We have migrated to a new Weebly website promoted by SWE headquarters. Check it out at http://swe-kc.org/

You can find out about our upcoming events via our email broadcasts, calendar on the website and Facebook—just join the “SWE-KC” group. (All event pictures are posted on Facebook.)

Region / Update

I. Scholarship Fundraising Campaign/Region / Polos
   a. Raising funds for $25,000 endowment funds for Region / scholarships. The goal is to raise $75,000 in the next 5-10 years. If you want to contribute, make checks payable to Region / "inspire" Scholarship Campaign and mail to: SWE Region / Treasurer, 388 Chalmette Drive, Hazelwood, MO 63042
   b. Region / polos are available for $40 – contact Chriss Chavez (gichic7@gmail.com)

II. Region Branding Update
   a. Professional feedback is that many do not want additional branding (aside from existing “/”)
   b. Will send one more survey with additional option to not have a logo/mascot.

III. New Region Awards
   a. Completely revamped system!
   b. Award packets are due Nov 28th. Have to do nomination form and awards packet, just like at society level.
   c. Still need judges for awards. Please contact Kristina George (kristina.george@swe.org) if you’re interested.
   d. Award categories: section, member, program, and company.

IV. Mentoring Program
   a. Anyone who has signed up already should have seen an email from Abigail Wendt with your pairing.
   b. If you are interested in participating, contact Abigail Wendt (membership_regioni@swe.org)
iCON15: Engineer a Game Plan in Kansas City

This year, you don’t have to travel anywhere to attend the SWE Region i Conference. It is being held right here in Kansas City at the Marriott – Country Club Plaza! SWE-KC is teaming up with UMKC SWE to host the conference, on February 27-28 – immediately following IGED. The theme was chosen not only to build on the recent success of the Royals (quite the coincidence in fact), but also to highlight the many notable world stadiums which were designed by Kansas City engineering firms.

Conference highlights this year include:

- Combining with IGED. Collegiates and Professionals throughout the region can participate in SWE-KC’s largest outreach event
- Tours of the Roasterie and the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
- Morning keynote professional speaker Shannon O’Leen: “Engineering your Career Game Plan”
- Evening keynote speaker Sherri Privitera (Principal Architect at Populous) on her personal experiences designing collegiate sports stadia

REGISTER TODAY at: http://www.swe-kc.org/icon15/registration/. Early bird registration prices are: $85 for professional SWE members and $100 for professional non-SWE members. Prices will increase by $15 on January 1, 2015.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS for the conference to help with registration, setup, teardown, and with the speaker sessions. Volunteers will receive a $10 discount on registration. Please share this opportunity with others who might like to volunteer. Volunteers do not need to be SWE members. Sign-up today at: http://tinyurl.com/iCON15-Volunteer

ASK YOUR COMPANY TO SPONSOR. We have five levels of sponsorship, a career fair, advertisements, and in-kind opportunities. Find out more information at: http://www.swe-kc.org/icon15/sponsorship/. If your company sponsors the conference, you could get a free registration! Questions can be sent to: sweicon15.finance@gmail.com
SWE Annual Conference

Katie Lin (SWE-KC Section Rep) and Kristin Murray (SWE-KC Vice President) were two of the SWE-KC members to attend the annual society conference this year. It was an exciting conference filled with interesting speaker sessions, networking with new and old friends and one of the largest career fairs you can find. Continue reading to learn more about their experiences.

Our trip to LA...

Katie
As I walked into the ice cream social on the first night of the conference, I was quickly greeted by someone I knew from SWE four years ago! I love the SWE family—even though there were over 8,000 people present, I still saw so many people that I knew and hadn't seen since my last SWE Annual conference 4 years before.

One of the best parts of the conferences is an abundant selection of speaker sessions. I attended a few sessions on women's leadership. Here are some of my takeaways:

- "Finding and Using Your Power"
  - Women typically have to work harder to find opportunities to use their power, since we are typically smaller than men and have higher voices than men (both of which denote weakness)
  - Some ways that can help
    - Making sure to always sit at the table
    - Raise your seat higher instead of lowering your seat (it's okay to have your feet dangle off the floor!)
    - Women are usually better at exercising referent power (when people admire you and want to be more like you)

- "Building Your Brand as an Emerging Leader"
  - If you feel like you are the best kept secret in your organization, you need to change something!
  - Find out what you want your brand to be
    - What are you passionate about
    - What skills do you have
    - What does your organization need
  - Here are some brand ideas
    - Strategic thinker
    - Problem solver
    - Six Sigma/Lean expert
    - Courageous decision maker
    - Many more!
  - Find opportunities to promote your brand.
My favorite session was one that was totally different than what I expected. I attended "Humanistic Engineering: Creating with Your Emotional & Social Sensibilities." I was expecting a session about emotional intelligence theories and how it applies to engineering. Instead, we heard from a 26 year old CEO who invented a soccer ball that charges a battery inside it during play, and can thus act as a power source. She had this idea from growing up in Nigeria where they had frequent power outages and lived by generators and kerosene lamps to get by (which are extremely dangerous). Since soccer is a very popular activity amongst Nigerian kids, she put the two together and figured out how to produce it! It was such an inspiring message about not giving up on your ideas and your dreams.

Kristin
I had a bit of a different experience than Katie since I went to recruit for my company. So, instead of walking into the Ice Cream Social Wednesday night, I walked into a Honeywell team meeting, but I still enjoyed catching up with other Honeywell women that I had met at previous conferences. I then ran into several SWE friends over the next couple of days with sessions, career fair and standing in line for some awesome food truck lunch!

Here are some of my takeaways from my favorite sessions:

- "Giving and Receiving Feedback"
  - The most important thing about giving feedback is making sure that it is something that YOU witnessed or happened to YOU
  - Process for giving feedback:
    - Make sure the person is open to hearing it
      - Ask if they have time to talk about...
        - If they say no, try again later
    - Describe observation
    - Describe the impact of the observation
    - PAUSE – stop talking and let the person soak in what you are saying and ask questions
    - Offer suggestions for future behavior
  - Process for receiving feedback:
    - Listen ACTIVELY
    - Consider the feedback and try to think about when that could have happened
    - Ask questions to clarify the feedback
    - Thank the person giving the feedback
      - If someone is giving you feedback, it is because they want to help you, so show appreciation for the effort
  - The more you give feedback, the more people will be comfortable with giving you feedback which will build trust and can only make you better!

- "Say it Like You Mean It!"
  - Word choice plays a significant impact in the message of your communication – especially during phone conversations or communication when body language is not a factor
    - Use action verbs and stop qualifying your statements with introductions like “I think” or “I feel” or “I hope”
Tone
- Women naturally speak in a higher pitch than men – you can’t change that, but you can take some steps to improve your tone
  - Speak slower – it lowers the pitch of your voice
  - Breath from your belly – it makes your tone more full and rich

Body Language – largest impact in face to face communication and can have an effect even if nobody can see you as it affects your tone
- Don’t make yourself small – even if it is freezing in the conference room don’t cross your arms across your chest and hold yourself together

Message
- Consider the audience’s point of view
- Present the problem, then the solution

Your mind can change your body and your body can change your mind.
- When you’re nervous, tell yourself you’re excited!
- Use power poses to build confidence before going into a stressful communication

In addition to the educational and engaging sessions, another great part about the conference is the Career Fair. Even if you are not looking for a job, it’s definitely a sight to see with hundreds of booths, thousands of people, and of course, hundreds of different giveaways and raffles! This year I enjoyed a nice refreshing iced beverage from Keurig and was able to snag several magnetic chip clips – something we always seem to need at my house! However, I think the best giveaway I picked up this year was a manicure kit. Leave it to a conference focused on women to find some great, practical giveaways!

Overall, we both had a great time and enjoyed catching up with old friends and meeting new people – including some Royals fans as we watched the Royals beat San Francisco in Game 3 of the World Series! We are both looking forward to attending next year too when the conference moves a bit closer, to Nashville, TN.
Meet & Greets

Have you ever wondered exactly what SWE-KC does? What we are involved in? And how you can get involved?

If you have, we invite you to come out to a Meet & Greet

Our group gathers the 2nd week of each month to meet new faces, catch up with friends and stay in tune with the many opportunities to get involved in the community. For the convenience of our members, each month the Meet & Greets are held in a different location and this year, we are going to hold them on different days of the week.

If you keep hoping to have a Meet & Greet near your work or home, now’s your chance to host one! It’s as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Email swe.kc.mail@gmail.com and let us know which month you would like to host
2. Reserve a table for 10 for SWE-KC from 5:30pm-7:00pm
3. Show up, network and take a photo!

If you are interested, please email us at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com.

SWE–KC Communication Survey

Want to tour more cool places around Kansas City? Have a preferred evening for Meet and Greets and other events?

Fill out the SWE-KC Communication Survey to let us know! https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/J89LMY8
SWE–KC Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 9, 2014</td>
<td>Meet and Greet hosted by SWE-KC Vice President Kristin Murray</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm-7:00pm</td>
<td>Harry’s Country Club in Kansas City, MO</td>
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<td>January 25-26, 2014</td>
<td>Future City Great Plains Regional Competition</td>
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<td>January 27, 2015</td>
<td>Meet and Greet with KU Section hosted by Karen Gilbertson</td>
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<td>6:00pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Burger Stand at the Casbah in Lawrence, KS</td>
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<td>February TBD</td>
<td>Meet and Greet</td>
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<td>February 27, 2015</td>
<td>Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) (Joint with UMKC Section)</td>
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<td>Marriott on the Plaza, Kansas City, MO</td>
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<td>February 27-28, 2015</td>
<td>Region / Conference</td>
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<td>Marriott on the Plaza, Kansas City, MO</td>
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<tr>
<td>March TBD</td>
<td>Meet and Greet</td>
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<td>March 12, 2015</td>
<td>Greater Kansas City Science &amp; Engineering Fair – Judging Union Station</td>
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<td>in Kansas City, MO</td>
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<td>March 13, 2015</td>
<td>Kansas City Regional FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Women’s Dessert</td>
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<td>Reception</td>
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<td>March 11-14, 2015</td>
<td>Greater Kansas City Regional FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Volunteering</td>
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Legend of Event Types

- Volunteering
- Networking
- Professional Development

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) 2015

Information on the fifth annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) is now available! This year as we celebrate 5 years of the largest outreach event hosted by SWE-KC, we plan to make things bigger and better by expanding registration numbers and combining with the Region i Conference to bring in a keynote speaker and mentors from outside of KC! But we still need your help!! Please consider signing up to be a mentor at our signature outreach event to be held on Friday, February 27th at the Marriott on the Country Club Plaza. The key to the success of this event is the recruitment of female mentors willing to spend a day with our participants. Our goal is to have at least 75 mentors so please consider volunteering as well as encouraging your friends and co-workers to sign up.


We are also accepting student registrations so if you know of a female high school student interested in engineering, please share this fantastic opportunity.

Student Registration: [http://tinyurl.com/IGED2015-StudentRegistration](http://tinyurl.com/IGED2015-StudentRegistration)

Additional information can be found at [http://kcsweiged.blogspot.com/](http://kcsweiged.blogspot.com/)

Please contact Kim Bartak at kbartak@burnsmcd.com with any questions.