SWE–KC President’s Message

I am very excited to see the SWE–KC section off to an amazing start this fiscal year. We’ve already had three successful Meet & Greets, an awesome Fellow’s Reception with professional speaker Alana Muller, and a fun joint event with Girl Scouts featuring speaker Jill Tietjen. Thank you to the SWE–KC leadership team for working so hard this summer planning each of these events. I also want to thank everyone who attended any of these events. We’ve seen a lot of new faces, and I have really enjoyed getting to know so many people excited to learn more about SWE–KC.

Not only do we have a lot of new faces in SWE–KC, but we also have a new look! Gone are the days of the yellow and green gear. We now welcome the purple, gray, and yellow logo with a modern-looking gear! Please be patient with us as we work to incorporate the new logo into our communications, website, social media, nametags, tablecloth, signage, and much more.

In August, the SWE–KC leadership team met to set our goals for the fiscal year. I listed here a summary of the areas we chose to focus on this year.

- **Professional Development**: host speaker sessions; send members to SWE conferences; start planning a mini-conference event for Kansas City
- **Outreach**: plan and host a successful IGED 2016; host several Girls Ignite events at local middle schools; encourage girls to sign up for SWENext
- **Networking**: hold monthly Meet & Greet events
- **Recognition**: nominate members for awards; recognize members who received awards

As always, we are looking for new committee members to help us achieve these goals. We especially need people to help with the events committee, membership committee, professional development committee, and awards committee. We also will need many female, professional engineers to serve as mentors at our sixth annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) event on February 26, 2016. If you would like to learn more about ways to get involved, please contact us at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com. Remember that SWE is what we make of it, and for just a couple hours’ time commitment each month, you could be networking, learning new skills, and inspiring the next generation to aspire, advance, and achieve.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next Meet & Greet, where we will be stuffing Back Snacks at Harvester’s on November 8!

Katie Lin  
SWE–KC FY16 President
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**UMKC Section Counselor Wanted**
Interested in getting more involved with a local collegiate section? The UMKC (I057) SWE section is looking for a Counselor. The counselor must be a SWE member, and serves as a point of contact between the student and professional sections. She should attend a few student meetings each year. Contact Deb O’Bannon at ObannonD@umkc.edu for more details.

**IGED 2016: Registration now open!**
Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) 2016 will take place on Friday, February 26th at Bartle Hall in downtown Kansas City, MO. We are looking for at least 100 mentors to help with the event. If you are interested in being a mentor or volunteer for the event, register today: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HWRFD6

More event details can be found here: [http://kcsweiged.blogspot.com/](http://kcsweiged.blogspot.com/)

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**SWE-KC Organizational Chart**

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* Committee is looking for additional members. If you are interested in getting involved, contact the committee chair at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com.
## SWE–KC Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 8, 2015 10:30am-12:30pm</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet – Harvesters Back Snacks  3801 Topping Ave, Kansas City, MO 64129</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Outreach" /> <img src="image2" alt="Networking" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10, 2015 8:15am-3:00pm</td>
<td>Grandview Ignite  Grandview Middle School</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Networking" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 12, 2015 11:30am-1:00pm</td>
<td>WISTEMM – Engineers Working and Thinking Outside the Box  Central Exchange Downtown</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Professional Development" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18, 2015 8:30am-12:00pm</td>
<td>Girls Ignite  Kansas City, KS School District</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Networking" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 3, 2015 5:30pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet – Cookie Exchange  Black &amp; Veatch, 8400 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Networking" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7, 2015 5:30pm-7:00pm</td>
<td>KC STEM Alliance – Girls in Tech Kickoff Celebration  Federal Reserve Bank, Kansas City, MO</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Networking" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 22, 2016 5:30pm-7:00pm</td>
<td>Expanding Your Horizons  Science City, Kansas City, MO</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Networking" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26, 2016 5:30pm-7:00pm</td>
<td>Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED)  Bartle Hall, Kansas City, MO</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Networking" /> <img src="image1" alt="Outreach" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26-27, 2016</td>
<td>iCON16 (Region iConference)  Boulder, CO</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Outreach" /> <img src="image2" alt="Networking" /> <img src="image3" alt="Professional Development" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Legend of Event Types
- ![Outreach](image1)
- ![Networking](image2)
- ![Professional Development](image3)

## Region i Update

**Region i Mentoring Program:** The region’s mentoring program officially kicked off at the 2015 Leadership Summit, held in September at Edwardsville, IL. If you are interested in participating, contact Abigail Wendt (membership_regioni@swe.org). Consider being part of the program, either as a mentor or mentee!

**SWE Next:** This is a new societal goal – help us spread the word by telling 10 non-SWE members about this program! With this program, students up to the age of 18 can be part of the Society of Women Engineers. Membership is **free** and they can sign up via the SWE website (swenext.swe.org). There will be SWE events, scholarships, webinars, contests, cool projects, and more. Help us connect with girls at a young age to teach them about engineering!

**iCON 16:** The annual Region i conference is taking place in Boulder, CO on February 26 & 27, 2016. The SWE Rocky Mountain professional section & CU Boulder section are co-hosting this year’s conference. Visit their website (http://www.swe-rms.org/icon16.html) for more information and to register. Last year’s conference was a huge hit in Kansas City, so consider attending another great conference! Contact any KC officer for more information.
Professional Development

Leadership Summit

By MaKayla Sprague

On September 11th, SWE Region i held the Leadership Summit in Edwardsville, IL. The summit kicked off with a Leadership 101 coaching session and plenty of networking opportunities. SWE-KC Vice President MaKayla Sprague and Membership Chair Neelima Parasker were in attendance. Saturday began with a keynote presentation on networking and marketing yourself. Coaching sessions were available for those who wanted career advice. The Region also provided professional headshots for all. The afternoon included a speaker who presented on how to increase productivity and accelerate results. These could be applied in either your job or personal life. The summit concluded with a networking event at the St. Louis City Museum. Overall everyone in attendance had a great time networking and enjoying unique professional development.

Networking

Summer Picnic

By Sunita Lavin

Kaeisha Akinmoladun, the chair of the Events Committee, had planned out the location, menu, decorations and games for a great outdoor event, but unfortunately, the threat of rain pushed us indoors. I was happy to host the SWE picnic on June 5th. We had so much food, and more importantly great company! We even had a surprise visit from our youngest SWE supporter, Hazel (only 2 days old)! I really enjoyed getting to meet some of the families of our SWE members. Not every networking event is conducive to bringing your baby or children, but the Annual Picnic is a great time to spend time with both your SWE friends and family. If you didn’t get a chance to attend this year, keep a lookout for the picnic next year in early June. Hope to see you there!
Meet & Greets

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 holding them on different days of the week.

Check out these great pictures from our July event at Llywelyn’s Pub, August event at Pinstripes, and October event at Brew Top Pub! Hope you can join us soon!

If you are interested in hosting a future Meet & Greet, please email us at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com.
Fellows’ Networking Reception
By Neelima Parasker

SWE-KC Fellows Reception 2015 was held at The Diastole Scholars’ Center on Sep 9th. This event hosted close to 50 SWE members and non-members and a 100% booked out event. The evening started off with participants enjoying exploring the center and learning about the various artifacts and education material the facility provided for new visitors and re-visitors alike. Guests mingled with fellow SWE enthusiasts while they enjoyed a great selection of drinks and hors d’oeuvres provided generously by the SWE-KC Fellows.

After most of the expected guests arrived, the group was asked to be seated into an auditorium for the main event. As soon as the guests were seated, Katie Lin, SWE-KC President, kicked off the event by presenting an overview of SWE-KC. This included the SWE mission, Focus Areas for SWE-KC, glimpses of previous Meet and Greets, and showcasing how SWE can help in Professional Development and the opportunities to get involved in Outreach activities throughout the year. SWE KC members, Sunita Lavin, Dr. Deb O’Bannon and Neelima Parasker were highlighted for their 2015 Awards by various organizations in STEM fields at this event.

Katie then introduced Alana Muller, a corporate Networking coach, workshop facilitator, keynoter, lecturer and the author of the book, *Coffee Lunch Coffee: A Practical Field Guide for Master Networking* and a companion blog. Alana Muller captured her audience with a great presentation on important tips to network like a pro costumed for women. There was an active interactive session for an hour where the audience dived deep into discussing their root problems and getting insights and suggestions from this expert networking coach.

This event ended with a drawing to announce the winners of the Garmin sponsored gifts (BPA-free reusable cup with lid, Vivofit2 activity tracker with designer bands) and Coffee Lunch Coffee Mugs for 2 more raffles winners. No guest returned empty handed as each and every one of the 50 participants received a FREE copy of *Coffee Lunch Coffee* by Alana Muller. Thanks again to our SWE-KC Fellows (Shelley Wolff, Deb O’Bannon, Libby Allman, Cheri Leigh, and Jane Knoche) for hosting this wonderful event!
Outreach

Joint Event with Girl Scouts

By Kaeisha Akinmalodun

SWE-KC, partnering with Girl Scouts Daisy’s Circle, hosted a featured speaker on September 22, 2015 at the Black & Veatch Ruisch Auditorium. The event drew more than 100 attendees (adults and children) who flooded the halls to meet and partake in the presentation given by the featured speaker, Jill Tietjen. Jill Tietjen is an author of the bestselling HarperCollins book, Her Story: A Timeline of Women Who Changed America.

After networking, the attendees entered Ruisch Auditorium where the presentation was hosted. Jill’s presentation gave recognition to a few of many women who have been trailblazers in STEM throughout American History. After the presentation, there was a Q&A session where many youth bravely asked Jill who she wanted to be the next female president, how many presidents has she met and who inspired her the most in her youth? The event was concluded with Jill Tietjen signing copies of her book. This was a successful, inspiring and education event at its best!

Q&A With Annaleigh Hobbs

Annaleigh won a copy of Her Story at the event. She shared her own story with Sunita Lavin.

1. Tell us about yourself.
   I'm a sophomore at Shawnee Mission South and a Girl Scout. I am working on earning my Gold Award by helping at Park Meadows Memory Care facility.

2. How did you get started helping at Park Meadows Memory Care facility?
   My grandmother is a resident of Park Meadows Memory Care facility. Mainly, I am making packets full of games and memory questions like "What are your favorite activities?" or "Did you go on vacation often when you were younger?". I make them so if the residents' family members do not have something to do or talk about with their loved one, they can use these packets to connect and spend time together. Sometimes, I include singing songs from the late 30's to the mid 60's with the residents to add in some fun. I have created a packet for each month with a theme that usually corresponds with holidays in that month. Once a month, I go and hold sessions with the residents and do the activities inside the packets with them.

3. What are you planning to major in?
   I am still exploring my options for what to major in, but I am mostly interested in law, communications or education. I know that in the future I would like to have a career that involves communicating and interacting with other people.

4. What's been your favorite thing about Girl Scouts?
   My favorite thing about Girl Scouts is being able to impact the community positively through an organization that empowers young women and teaches them that they can do anything that they set their minds to.
Recognition

Members Receive Community Awards

By Katie Lin

SWE-KC congratulates Sunita Lavin, Dr. Deb O’Bannon, and Neelima Paraskar for their recent award achievements!

Sunita Lavin received the Rising Trendsetter STEMMY Award from Central Exchange on September 24. This award is given to only five women in Kansas City who have exhibited significant achievements early in their career in a STEM field. Sunita also was awarded the Athena Young Professional Leadership Award from the KC Chamber of Commerce on October 7. This award honors just one person annually who has achieved the highest level of professional excellence, devoted time and energy to the community, and has opened the doors to leadership opportunities for women. With Sunita’s leadership in SWE-KC, FIRST Robotics, and in her career at Garmin, Sunita is very deserving of both these awards.

Dr. Deb O’Bannon received the WiSTEMM Educator STEMMY Award from Central Exchange on September 24. This award recognizes Dr. O’Bannon for being an excellent educator based on student and faculty assessments, along with her involvement in STEMM-related student activities. Dr. O’Bannon is extremely deserving of this award, as she has served as the faculty advisor for the SWE-UMKC section for many years, as well as helping with the iCON15 committee last year.

Neelima Paraskar received the Technology All-Star Award by Consumers Energy & Women of Color Magazine on October 15. This award celebrates outstanding achievers and initiatives that directly improve results. Neelima is very deserving of this award with her strategic leadership impact in the technology field at IBM and also as the SWE-KC Membership Chair.

Have someone in mind you would like to recognize? Please let us know of any significant achievements, promotions, or recognition of SWE-KC members at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com. We would love to highlight more women in our next newsletter!
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