SWE–KC President’s Message

Our SWE-KC section has had a busy start to the new fiscal year (FY17)! There are two events I want to highlight.

We started FY17 off by co-hosting our first professional-development seminar! This has been a section goal for several years and we were proud to see it become a reality. “WE-KC: Succeeding as a Female in the Engineering and Construction Field” took place on Thursday, August 4th at Black & Veatch’s headquarters and had over 200 registrants. We heard a great keynote address by Julie Wellner, as well as had the opportunity to attend two breakout sessions. I encourage you all to reach out with any feedback or suggestions for our future professional development event.

The SWE-KC leadership team met in August to discuss our section goals for the upcoming year. We will continue to concentrate our efforts on the four focus areas: Professional Development, Outreach, Networking, and Recognition. Our core goal is to continue to plan & host events that are beneficial to YOU – our members! The Executive Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Panera (located in the Watts Mill Plaza) at 5:30pm. These meetings are open to any current or future members – we’d love to see you there. Contact me at adriana.aguilar25@gmail.com for more information.

My favorite thing about attending SWE events recently has been all the new faces! I’m not originally from Kansas City, so I’ve enjoyed getting to know the community that is SWE-KC. My hope is to continue to see new and familiar faces this year. We are always looking for volunteers – and this year our goal is to make it easier for you to help! If you want to get more involved, please contact us and let us know your interests and level of commitment. From there, we’ll match you up – whether it’s a one time commitment of 2 hours or becoming a regularly attending committee member.

Our next event is our October Meet & Greet on Wednesday, October 19. We encourage everyone to meet us at La Bodega in Leawood from 5-6:30PM for an evening of conversation & tapas. Otherwise, let us know if you’re attending WE16 (the largest conference for women in engineering & technology). We’d love to see you all in Philadelphia at the end of October!

Adriana Porter
adriana.aguilar25@gmail.com
SWE-KC FY17 President
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**IGED Junior Needs Mentors & Volunteers**

We are seeking mentors for our first ever IGED Junior event (Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day for middle school students).

When: Friday, November 11 @ 8:00 am to 2:00 pm ([Add to Calendar](#))

Where: UMKC Atterbury Success Center


Check out the IGED Junior [Website](#) for more information.

**Meet & Greets**

Our group gathers once a 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.

If you are interested in hosting a future Meet & Greet, please email us at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com.

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**SWE-KC Organizational Chart**

- **President** (Adriana Porter)
- **Vice President** (Neelima Parasker)
- **Treasurer** (Amy Gum)
- **Secretary** (Katie Lin)
- **Section Representative** (Becca Brader)
- **Events** (Suzie Carpenter)
- **Membership** (Marian McClellan)
- **Prof Development** (OPEN)
- **Outreach** (Alyssa Zimmerman)
- **IGED** (Kristin Murray)
- **Fundraising** (OPEN)
- **Awards** (Sunita Lawin)

If you are interested in getting involved, contact us at [swe.kc.mail@gmail.com](mailto:swe.kc.mail@gmail.com)!

Volunteer opportunities available in:
- Events
- Membership
- Outreach
- Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day
- Communications
### SWE–KC Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 13, 2016 8:30am-3:00pm</td>
<td>Girls Ignite Grandview Middle School</td>
<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 19, 2016 5:00pm-6:30pm</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet La Bodega (4311 W 119th Street, Leawood, KS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 27-29, 2016</td>
<td>WE16 Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>● ■</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3, 2016 8:30am-11:30am</td>
<td>Girls Ignite Martin City Middle School</td>
<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 6, 2016 1:00pm-3:00pm</td>
<td>Day of the Dead event Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art</td>
<td>■</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 11, 2016 8:00am-2:00pm</td>
<td>IGED Junior 2016 UMKC Atterbury Success Center</td>
<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 30, 2016 8:30am-12:00pm</td>
<td>Girls Ignite KCK Public Schools Central Office</td>
<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 8, 2016 5:30pm-7:00pm</td>
<td>SWE–KC Cookie Exchange</td>
<td>■</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24-26, 2017</td>
<td>ICON17 (Region i conference) St. Louis, MO</td>
<td>■ ■</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 3, 2017 8:00am-2:00pm</td>
<td>IGED 2017</td>
<td>●</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Legend of Event Types**
- ● Outreach
- ■ Networking
- ♦ Professional Development

### Region i Update

Region i held their monthly meeting on September 19, 2016.

- The meeting opened with congratulations to Region i members who were awarded society level awards. The following KC area members were recognized: Shelly Wolff – Advocating Women in Engineering, Katie Gonzagowski – Outstanding Collegiate Member & Sunita Lavin – Distinguished New Engineer. Congratulations!
- The Scholarship Committee announced applications will be open until January 15, 2017. The application form is posted on the Region i website: [http://regioni.swe.org/region-i-scholarship.html](http://regioni.swe.org/region-i-scholarship.html).
- The Awards Committee announced the awards application timeline will go out Oct 1st. There are awards available for individuals, sections & companies. The region website has details on the award types. Some do not necessarily require an application too! If you are interested in recognizing someone in our section, feel free to contact Becca Brader, Section Rep, beccabrader@ymail.com or Sunita Lavin, Awards Committee Chair, sunita.lavin@gmail.com.
- The region awards committee is also still looking for judges. Judging happens in December & January. If interested, contact Jessica Anderson at jthornleyanderson@gmail.com.
- Region i conference, ICON17, will be held in St. Louis February 24-26, 2017. The theme will be Engineer Like a Girl. The call for speakers is out & you can apply online at [http://stl.swe.org/icon17-speaker-abstract-submission.html](http://stl.swe.org/icon17-speaker-abstract-submission.html). Conference registration will open in early November. However, the hotel block is open if you would like to reserve rooms early: [http://stl.swe.org/staying-in-st-louis.html](http://stl.swe.org/staying-in-st-louis.html).
- The meeting closed with a reminder that our next Region i meeting will be held at the national conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 27 12:45-2:15 pm EST.
Professional Development

WE-KC
By MaKayla Sprague

On August 4th, SWE-KC partnered with NAWIC (National Association of Women in Construction), Twin Fitness and Black & Veatch to host the first annual WE-KC. This professional development event was focused on empowering women across all STEM fields to take control of their careers and thrive in a male dominated industry. There were also opportunities for networking and learning more about local women in STEM organizations.

The night kicked off with a keynote presentation by Julie Wellner, Principal of Wellner Architects, on the topic of succeeding as a female in Engineering and Construction. Following the keynote there were two breakout sessions including female speakers from Black & Veatch, International Builders & Consultants, The Cordish Group, Hallmark and more. Finally, attendees had the opportunity to learn healthy habits to live well on a busy schedule from the founders of Twin Fitness. Overall the event was very inspiring and everyone left a little more confident in their path to success!

Leadership Summit
By Katie Lin

In August, I attended the Region i Leadership Summit in Oklahoma City, on behalf of our section. The leadership summit is open to at least 2 section leaders or members who are interested in attending each year. It is a great opportunity to learn more about SWE, meet other SWE leaders from around our region, and learn some great information to help us kick-start the year!

After the long 5 hour drive to Oklahoma City, I was instantly greeted at the hotel by some familiar faces. It was great to see several Region i SWE friends that I typically only see twice a year at the Annual and Region Conferences. The leadership summit started off on Friday evening with a networking hour (and cocktails from the hotel), where I was lucky enough to sit at a table with collegiate officers from nearby universities including UMKC, K-State, and Mizzou. This was followed by a couple sessions about SWE Leadership and the SWE Strategic Plan. The next day consisted of more fun and fact-filled sessions, including topics on fundraising, region tactical planning, professional section officer training, and much more! I learned a lot of great information and ideas to take back to our section to start planning for the year.

The weekend wasn’t all SWE business though. We even had some time for a scavenger hunt and dinner at Urban Johnnies on Saturday evening. It was a great way to see the sights of Oklahoma City!
SWE–KC Fellows’ Reception

By Neelima Parasker

A SWE Fellow is an honor conferred on SWE members in recognition of continuous service to the advancement of women in the engineering profession. We are very fortunate to have 6 SWE Fellows in our section, and are thankful that they host a networking reception each fall. This year's SWE-KC Fellows’ Reception, happened on September 7, 2016. The event was held at UMKC’s Diastole Center. With a beautiful building, an eclectic collection of books, and artifacts from around the world and photos of various artists, this venue is always a great attraction for SWE members and guests alike.

Guests started to arrive around 5:30 pm and were welcomed by the six SWE-KC Fellows and other SWE-KC officers, who helped check-in the guests and direct them to the space where they had an opportunity to network. The reception had drinks and refreshments sponsored by the SWE-KC Fellows. Guests got to enjoy good company and indulged in the delicious hors d'oeuvres for about an hour.

Around 6:30 pm the group was directed to the auditorium within the center that could accommodate all of the 50+ attendees for the event comfortably. The program was kicked off with a welcome and announcements by SWE-KC President Adriana Porter. She had an opportunity to present to SWE members the accomplishments of the section and recognize recipients for different Awards that SWE members were honored for the year thus far. She also informed the group about upcoming major events for the section. Later, SWE Fellow Libby Allman started off with an introduction of another Fellow and they in turn introduced each other. This was one of the exciting highlights of the event! Guests could not only feel the warmth, support and respect they had for each other, but it also demonstrated the strong bond SWE members have for one another, as they have supported each other throughout their careers. The SWE-KC Fellows continue to inspire us each year!

Around 7:15 the Guest Speaker Denise Mills spoke to the group and addressed various questions she had gathered during her networking earlier in the event. She shared her observations for the team and encouraged the members to be more appreciative of one's accomplishments and to set written goals in every aspect of life. We were all given an "Atta Girl" card to write down our accomplishments to remind us of our successes when times are tough. I was accompanied by my 10 year old daughter that day and Denise inspired her to fill out her 2 "Atta Girl" cards the next day!

The event ended with raffle drawing for various prizes including books, coffee mugs, and Garmin's Vivofit fitness band.
Networking

July Meet & Greet
By Sunita Lavin

SWE-KC's July Meet and Greet was hosted by KU Edwards in Overland Park on Saturday, July 23rd. The event started with some networking time and snacks. After we met each other, Dr. Angie Pastorek presented "Pitch Perfection: How to Gain Advocates for Your BIG Ideas." Dr. Pastorek gave us 5 major points to keep in mind when making a pitch. The one that stood out the most to me was be prepared for the right moment. You should know when your stakeholder is the most at ease and not rushed. That's the right moment to pitch your idea.

The session was also fun because we each got to fill out a worksheet with our own idea and how we'd use what we learned to pitch it. It was interesting to hear about other's experiences. I said that I used to spend too long writing follow-up emails because I pore over them. To curb that, I write the follow-up email before my pitch meeting. That way I have a deadline for it, and I can send it right away after my meeting. Another participant said that she didn't realize other people did the same thing she did with writing follow-up emails!

Sleuthin' on the Plaza – August Meet & Greet
By Amy Gum

In August, SWE-KC joined KC Women in Technology to scavenge the Plaza looking to solve clues from Breakout KC. We started at the J.C. Nichols Memorial Fountain at the Country Club Plaza. Armed with smartphones and smarts, we started to assess the 10 clues set before us.

How many lions guard the grill of capital importance so that we can enjoy a safe evening of fine dining?

How many friends and of what kind enjoyed Ben Franklin as he hangs out on the plaza?

These puzzles and more awaited our solving. The clues took us up and down, east and west across the Plaza. Once each clue was deciphered, we embraced our best cheese for a selfie, and used the answer to find a website on our phones which contained pieces to a final clue. With the 10 pieces to the final clue finally acquired, one last selfie was taken before heading back to the J.C. Nichols Fountain.

The first team back was rewarded with gift cards to local businesses. Thanks to The Nerdery, Snow&Co., Intouch Solutions, and Up/Down for providing the awesome prizes!
**SWE-KC Summer Picnic**

*By Suzie Carpenter*

Kaeisha Akinmoladun, chair of the Events Committee, planned a picnic and games for our summer picnic at Shawnee Mission Park in a pavilion right by the lake. It turned out to be perfect weather! I really enjoyed getting to meet some of the families of our SWE members and the opportunity to socialize with each other. We had members, parents, children, and spouses attend this year. We even had a visitor from Oklahoma who is possibly moving to Kansas City and wanting to stay involved with SWE. If you didn’t get a chance to attend this year, keep a lookout for the picnic next year in early June. We look forward to seeing you there!

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**Happy Bottoms – May Meet & Greet**

*By Becca Brader*

On May 10, 2016, SWE-KC volunteered at Happy Bottoms diaper bank. Happy Bottoms is an area diaper bank that works with charitable agencies to distribute diapers to families in need. For low income families, expensive diaper costs sometimes can be hard to manage. Many people don’t know, but families can’t buy diapers with food stamps or WIC.

SWE-KC began the evening with light appetizers & introductions. Happy Bottoms staff gave us an overview & tour of the facility. Happy Bottoms receives diaper donations from diaper companies & private donations. They also buy diapers at discounted rates. Happy Bottoms receives orders from charitable agencies. Volunteers worked to sort & package donated diapers according to size to fulfill the orders. SWE-KC had 11 volunteers who packaged/processed 6300 diapers to be distributed the following day to area families.
Outreach

Girls in Gear
By Laura Agee

In June, the SWE-KC outreach committee coordinated a new event called “Girls in Gear” at the Gregg/Klice Community Center. This event focused on partnering with the Kansas City Parks & Recreation Department to spark an interest in STEM topics for girls enrolled in their summer camp.

After Kristin Murray provided an introduction to the various engineering fields, the SWE-KC volunteers led girls aged 5 – 13 in hands-on activities. The girls were split into two age groups, with the older girls participating in teams to build and race their own balloon airplanes. The younger girls had the opportunity to learn about a variety of engineering fields through making silly putty, building with Goldie Blox, and participating in a demonstration on electricity.

Each girl left with a brightly colored “Girls in Gear” bracelet to remind her of the event. Thanks to the nine volunteers representing SWE-KC and Honeywell FM&T who made this first event a success!
On September 28th, three SWE-KC ladies won awards at the Central Exchange’s 3rd annual STEMMY awards. We are so proud of them!

Libby Allman received the Groundbreaker Leadership STEMMY Award for holding a leadership position at Hallmark and making significant contributions to the STEM community. She is Vice President of Manufacturing and Product Procurement at Hallmark Cards. Libby has been a great role model for SWEsters through her active involvement in SWE at the section and Society level. Libby was SWE-KC President from 1995-1996, National Vice-President from 2003-2004, National Director from 2004-2006, on the SWE Board of Directors, and stays active in SWE-KC through the annual Fellows’ Reception. Recently, she was also a featured speaker at WE-KC, the SWE professional development conference in August co-hosted by Black & Veatch. We are proud that Libby’s professional excellence at Hallmark and her active involvement in the community through SWE and Girl Scouts were recognized!

Kristin Murray received the Rising Trendsetter STEMMY Award for being a woman in STEM and demonstrating significant achievements early in her career. Kristin was recently promoted to a Lead Project Manager at Honeywell, FM&T. Kristin’s leadership in SWE-KC includes SWE-KC President from 2013-2014 and founding SWE-KC’s annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED). Kristin is co-chairing the 7th annual IGED, which is anticipated to have over 300 high girls mentored by 100 female engineers! Way to go Kristin!

Katie Gonzagowski received the WiSTEMM Student Achiever STEMMY Award for demonstrating academic achievements, being involved in the community and having professional aspirations related to STEM. Katie is a senior Civil Engineering major at UMKC, and although she is technically a member of SWE-UMKC, we call her an honorary member of SWE-KC. Katie was very involved in iCON15 and has gotten SWE-UMKC actively involved in the IGED Discipline Fair. Congratulations Katie!

We’d also like to recognize MaKayla Sprague and Kristin Murray for their recent promotions at Honeywell FM&T; Neelima Parasker for recently starting her own company; Sunita Lavin for being accepted into the Centurions Leadership program; Adriana Porter for receiving her PE certification and promotion this past spring/summer; and Alyssa Zimmerman for receiving her PMP certification in August.

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!
IGED Sponsors

2016 Gold Level

Honeywell  Kiewit

2016 Silver Level

BURNS MCDONNELL  Cerner

2016 Bronze Level

BLACK & VEATCH  GARMIN  Google fiber

BAYER  KC STEM Alliance  JE Dunn

IBM  IEEE PES

MMC CORP  1932

2016 Friend Level

HNTB  OLSSON ASSOCIATES