Dear SWE-KC Members and Supporters,

First, I would like to say thank you to Jenny Lu, our humble president, who has carried us through a very busy first part of the year. Jenny did a fantastic job steering the Kansas City Section in a direction of excellence. We are halfway through the SWE fiscal year, and we have a lot to be proud of. SWE-KC was honored to receive three mission awards from the National Society: Partnerships with Collegiates, Professionals, Industry, and Academia, Professional Development, and the Silver Mission Award. The National Society recognizes SWE groups that embody SWE core values and demonstrate continuous improvement and growth as they work to achieve the Society’s strategic goals. Receiving these awards would not be possible without the hard work of our society’s executive council and the support of our membership. Thank you all for your help in making these awards a reality.

(continued on page 2)
Over the past few months, SWE-KC has been very busy. Several of our members took the opportunity to attend WE 19 in Anaheim, California in November. If you haven’t had the opportunity to attend a national SWE Conference, it’s probably something you want to stick on your bucket list. It is a great way to connect with other women engineers, attend one of the largest engineering career fairs, and gain professional development by attending the hundreds of sessions provided to attendees. During the conference, SWE-KC coordinated a meet up at a local brewery for all of the Kansas City Section attendees. Mark your calendars for November 5-7, 2020 to attend WE 20 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In November, SWE-KC hosted 153 female students for our annual outreach event, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Jr. Thank you to our 87 volunteers that helped make this event possible. SWE-KC partnered with American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to host a volunteer day at the Harvesters Food Pantry. It was a well-attended event! We continued our regular professional development series with Mocktails and Mingle with an academia and professional panel focused on research and innovation. The December Cookie Exchange was a huge hit with many of the members and the event gave us a fantastic view of the plaza lights! February and March were busy months with Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (10th year), Culture of Business: Effective Leadership Skills through Diversity hosted with Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE-KC), First Robotics Lunch, the March Meet and Greet-Cookie and Beer Pairing, and Mocktails and Mingle: Knowledge of SWE.

I hope all of you are as excited as we are for what’s coming up the rest of this year. Please contact us anytime through our main email swe.kc.mail@gmail.com if you have any ideas, suggestions, or comments. Our contact info is also located below, in case you would like to get in contact with anyone on the team directly.

Sincerely,

Stacy Friling
SWE-KC President
The World’s Largest Conference for Women Engineers was held in Anaheim, CA from November 7th thru 9th, 2019! The theme “We Live – We Learn – We Lead” was apparent throughout the three days of conference activities. For perspective - there were over 250+ professional development sessions - ranging from sessions, keynote speakers, mega & plenary panels, and networking. It is a jam-packed conference, but I always walk away feeling inspired by the sessions I attend and the people I meet / re-connect with! My conference got to a quick start when I, along with two other Leadership Coaching Committee Members, presented on “Mentorship: The Secret to Filling Your SWE Leadership Pipeline.” The premise of the topic was that mentoring (both formal and informal) can be a very useful tactic in building a leadership pipeline in SWE! The other big item on the agenda for me was recruiting at the Black & Veatch booth. The two-day career fair brings over 400 companies and organizations! I attended both the WE19 Awards Banquet and “Celebrate SWE” Banquet. The first is held on Friday night and recognizes numerous females and males for the contributions to the STEM community and advancement of women. Over 60 award receipts were recognized! The conference ends with the banquet on Saturday night – Celebrate SWE! The keynote speaker was Jayshree Seth, who spoke on developing your brand of confidence and being authentic. She is 3M’s Chief Science Advocate – next time you see a 3M commercial, you may see her! In addition to the keynote speech, numerous collegiate and professional sections, as well as Employee Resource Groups and SWE Next! Clubs, are acknowledged with Mission Awards. SWE-KC received three awards – Professional Development Best Practice, Partnerships with Collegiates, Professionals, Industry and Academia Best Practice, and Silver Level Mission Award.
This year brought a new activity to the morning events. Students were given a 2D image of a 3D object and asked to build the objects with plastic bricks. The fun with brick rolled right into the “hands-on” activity. Students used their creative and engineering skills to build pneumatic prosthetic hands. Their task: one minute to move objects across a 5ft lane. Some of the objects included a Styrofoam ball (1 point), an awkward duck (2 points), and a dense rubber ball (3 points). They had their choice of supplies from paper clips and straws to pipe cleaners, rubber bands, and string. The girls never cease to amaze us with their ingenuity. Over lunch, Libby Allman, Vice President Manufacturing and Global Procurement at Hallmark Cards Incorporated, shared her engineering experience and how engineers are integral to the greeting card-making process. The day was rounded out with a panel of high school students active in STEM and a rousing game of Engineering Quiz Show!

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TIGED and IGED Jr. are SWE-KC’s largest events, and they are not possible without the generous support of our sponsors. A big THANK YOU to our sponsors Bayer, BHC Rhodes, Black and Veatch, Burns & McDonnell, Catalent, Corner, CRB, Garmin, HNTB, Honeywell, JE Dunn, Kiewit, and MMC Corp from myself and IGED planning committees. The outstanding mentors and volunteers that join us for each IGED program are indispensable. Thank you to those mentors for the dedication of time and energy to introduce the engineering fields and inspire the next generation to pursue STEM.

Over 400 students joined us in one of our IGED programs in 2019. A student from Blue Springs commented, “I look forward to IGED every year. I really appreciate this.”.

Each year, these events are planned and executed by two small committees of SWE-KC members who are committed to developing the next generation of engineers. Please reach out at kc.iged@gmail.com to inquire about open roles on either of our IGED or IGED Jr committees.

Over 150 students and 75 mentors joined us for the 4th annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) Jr. event at UMKC. This day-long event gives middle school girls a peek into the world of engineering with hands on activities, a keynote speaker, games, and a mentor. Each of our mentors, local women engineers from across the community, joins 2-3 students to guide them through the day, shares their journey in engineering, and what it means to be a successful woman in a STEM career.

READ ABOUT THE 10TH ANNUAL IGED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!
Part 1: SWE Advocacy Goals and Strategic Objectives

**Goal:** The Society of Women Engineers will be the preeminate advocate for females throughout the engineering and technology pipeline.

**Advocacy Objective 1:** Empower females in engineering and technology to advocate for themselves and for SWE’s mission.

**Advocacy Objective 2:** Expand SWE’s sphere of influence to create and promote opportunities to engage more females in the engineering and technology pipeline.

**Advocacy Objective 3:** Advocate with employers and policymakers for the recruitment, retention and advancement of females on their own terms.

In future articles we will examine the above objectives. We will look at what SWE is doing nationally and what we are and could be doing more locally. There are some exciting items to talk about!

SWE-KC Past Events

**October | Paint Night**

by Alejandra Doresky

In the spirit of Halloween, SWE-KC hosted a social event at Pinot’s Palette in Leawood on October 22nd. SWE locals got to enjoy some wine tasting while exploring their creative and spooky side! Check out what the empowered hallow-queens designed that night! Decor definitely worth showing off every Halloween!
UMKC MOCK INTERVIEWS

by Sunita Lavin

Remember back to when you were a college student getting ready to the Career Fair? You probably had a lot of questions:
1. What do I wear?
2. Is my resume good enough?
3. Will it be awkward?

SWE-KC members Becca Brader, Sunita Lavin and Marian McClellan presented at the SWE-UMKC meeting to get the students ready for a successful Fall Career Fair. We covered the basics of the job application process from the career fair to interviewing to job offers. We also had students create an elevator pitch and practice shaking hands. Students asked questions about what types of work experience should be listed on their resume, potential interview questions and how to address problem areas, such as a bad grade. It was a rewarding to help our future colleagues get a jump start on their careers. If you are interested in helping in the future, this opportunity comes up twice a year in time for the Fall and Spring Career Fairs.

DECEMBER | ANNUAL COOKIE EXCHANGE

by Olivia Fletcher

On the evening of December 11th, 2019, a group of nearly 20 female engineers (a mix of members and those new to SWE) participated in a cookie exchange. Those in attendance made and brought at least a dozen cookies, and went home with a plate full of cookies from others. The setting was the spacious Sky Club at Plaza Apartments with a great view of the beautiful holiday Plaza lights, and in addition to cookies there was hot chocolate and cider to sip. The group enjoyed conversation, a white elephant gift exchange (optional), and games (fishbowl -- a mix of Catchphrase, Taboo, and charades -- and taking turns opening gifts with oven mitts on). Great turnout, great views, great treats -- very much a successful holiday event!
In November, SWE-KC and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) had their annual day of service at Harvesters. Our assembly line of 27 engineers and family members were able to pack 456 meal boxes for area seniors! Afterwards, ASCE treated all the volunteers to lunch at Waldo Pizza.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR SWE-KC PRESIDENT

We are living in a time of tremendous uncertainty, and we are facing the challenge of a global pandemic. I want to assure you that your safety, the safety of your family and the safety of our members is our highest priority. On March 15, Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas said no events or gatherings with 50 or more people will be allowed in the city for the next eight weeks. To help ensure SWE KC follows this guidance and as a safety precaution, we are canceling all in-person events through May 15. The event cancellations include:

- April 2 - SWE Talks
- April 17-18 - WE Local Des Moines (more info below)
- April 25 - Expanding Your Horizons
- May 12 - Trivia Meet and Greet at Davey's Uptown

We will reassess the situation as it gets closer to that date for future events. Additionally, the executive council is considering virtual events in the meantime. Ideas such as virtual movie night, virtual Ted Talk, virtual meet and greet, and virtual professional development topics are being considered. We’d love to hear from our membership about what virtual events interest you. Reach out to us via email at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com.

WE LOCAL DES MOINES

IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS, WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU WE LOCAL DES MOINES IS CANCELLED AND WILL BE POTENTIALLY POSTPONED TO 2021. AT THIS TIME, THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS HEADQUARTERS (HQ) STAFF IS WORKING WITH VENDORS, VENUES AND ALL PERSONNEL TO DELIVER THE BEST SOLUTIONS AND OUTCOMES TO ALL IMPACTED. WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AS WE WORK TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER.