SWE–KC President’s Message

Can you believe that we’re only a few months away from a new fiscal year? I hope everyone has been enjoying warmer weather— and their Spring Breaks!

We had a busy few months this winter. This year’s Region i Conference took place in St. Louis, MO from February 24th – 25th. I was excited to see that sixteen SWE-KC members treated themselves to attending the conference. This year’s theme was “Engineer Like a Girl.” Highlights included networking and the personal, professional, and SWE development opportunities.

Governance changes will be starting to take effect in FY18 and that starts with conference formats. There will no longer be 10 Region Conferences throughout the year. Instead, you’ll have the opportunity to attend a WE Local conference at the location of your choice (regardless of what region you belong). This will be the new conference format, designed to bring the excitement, energy, and learning environment of SWE’s annual conference directly to the member’s backyard! For a list of FY18 WE Locals, check out the following: http://welocal.swe.org/2018-local-locations/.

On March 3rd, we hosted the 7th annual “Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day.” Over 270 high school students attended, with more than 100 female engineers serving as mentors for the day. THANK YOU to all of the mentors, volunteers, and sponsors who helped make the event possible. I also want to thank our IGED Co-Chairs Kristin Murray and Amanda Porter, as well as the rest of the IGED Planning Committee for all their efforts!

Though the end of our fiscal year is quickly approaching, our executive board is still hard at work planning events for all of you to attend! Mark your calendars for our next Meet & Greet on May 18th at Rye in Mission Farms. Our annual Summer Picnic/Member Appreciation event will take place in June. We hope to see you there!

Before you head off for summer vacations, remember that your SWE membership might be expiring at the end of June. More information can be found on the SWE Website (http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/membership). Don’t forget to renew your membership!

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

**SWE–KC FY18 Officer Elections**
The SWE-KC Nominating Committee presents the slate of candidates for the FY18 Executive Council. Elections are from May 1 – May 22. SWE members may vote today.

**Time to Renew Your Membership**
SWE Members - it's time to renew your annual SWE membership. Your current annual membership runs from July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017. Please renew your membership by Sept 30 to avoid paying another application fee! (Instructions to renew membership)

**Call for Committee Members**
We are seeking interested volunteers to help with our various committees for FY18! Opportunities include IGED, IGED Jr, Outreach, Events, Membership, and Communications. More information about our various committees and ways to get more involved in SWE-KC can be found at our website. Please contact swe.kc.mail@gmail.com if you are interested.

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**SWE–KC Organizational Chart**

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**SWE–KC Officers**

**President**
Adriana Porter
adriana.aguilar25@gmail.com

**Vice President**
Neelima Parasker
neelima.parasker@gmail.com

**Secretary**
Katie Lin
katherine.t.lin@gmail.com

**Treasurer**
Amy Gum
amygum@gmail.com

**Section Representative**
Becca Brader
beccabrader@ymail.com

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**Outreach**
Almosa Ziemerma

**Membership**
Mariam McClaren

**Prof Development** (OPEN)

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**Networking**

**Professional Development**

**Recognition**

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If you are interested in getting involved, contact us at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com!

Volunteer opportunities available in:
- Events
- Membership
- Outreach
- Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day
- Communications
**Professional Development**

**iCON17: Engineer Like a Girl – St. Louis, MO (Feb 24–25)**

In February, we had over 20 SWE-KC members attend the Region i Conference in St. Louis. The conference consisted of tours, networking, and a day full of speaker sessions. Hear from the experiences of 3 of the ladies who attended:

**Amy Gum’s Experience**

SWE iCON17 was a great opportunity to meet other engineers from around the region and get to know Kansas City section members better. The trip started off with a road trip with a fellow SWE-KC member across the great expanse that is Missouri. Once we arrived at Union Station in St. Louis, we checked-in and I grabbed my “Engineer like a Girl” t-shirt. We caught the tail end of the beautiful 3D Light Show in the Grand Hall before networking with our SWE folk in the welcome reception.

Saturday was filled with all sorts of informational and fun sessions. My three favorite sessions a summary of each are below:

Where are the Other Women? (Sunita Lavin): Sunita’s presentation dove into how the women at Garmin went about creating their employee resource group for women from the ground up (rather than HR driven) and how it has grown over the years. It gave me some ideas for things I can try to do at my work place such as Lunch Lottery, where groups of ladies go to lunch in random groups to network with one another.

City Museum (Ashley Kaempf): If you don’t know about the City Museum in St. Louis, you should really check it out! It’s an eclectic collection of art, engineering, and fun. Ashley showed us some of the projects she’s done in the museum and answered a lot of questions about her workplace and process.

Communicate like a Professional (Kim Burton): Kim makes her presentation about communicating like a professional all sorts of fun and her energy is contagious. She gave some tips on calming your nerves when speaking and communicating information clearly.

Saturday ended with a yummy dinner and a keynote speaker, Kristin Robertson, from Boeing who gave us an interesting perspective from many points throughout her career. After many worthy winners from around the region were given awards and scholarships, it was time to head back west to Kansas City. It was a short but SWEet time in St. Louis and it was great to see old friends and meet and network with new ones.

**Mandy Kelley’s Experience**

This was my first SWE conference that I’ve ever attended. I really had no idea what to expect. I was open to a new experience, and hoped to learn something that could help me. I carpooled there with three other Honeywell employees, and the car ride alone helped me connect with people that I’d worked with, but didn’t really know outside of work. So that was really great! Our first agenda item was to attend the Busch stadium tour. We got there 30 minutes late due to St. Louis construction crews that stopped traffic to repair pot holes for 40 minutes. Needless to say it worked out fabulously because we got our own private tour with Jay! He took us to see places that the normal tour didn’t go. For example, we got to see the owner’s suite, the TV monitor room, radio announcer’s room, locker room, practice batting cages, and the dugout. It was a great time!
There are many things that I’ve taken from the conference. I was encouraged to hear from Ed Purvis, COO of Emerson Electric, Inc., that Emerson sees the value of having women engineers and leaders in their company and has taken action to retain them, which is showing to be successful. I’ve taken many notes from Sunita Lavin’s presentation about the WBF, Women’s Business Foundation, in which Garmin has created. She took us through their mission, growing pains, lessons learned, examples of events that they have, and their successes. I took a lot from that and plan to bring these ideas to Honeywell FM&T.

I also took away some learning points from Dorothy Tannahill-Moran, aka the Introvert Whisperer’s, presentation, “How to Authentically Self-Promote Without Being Obnoxious.” She mentioned five methods to help promote yourself.

1) “Seed” a conversation. In other words, in everyday conversations mention what you can provide for the team or your manager, like, “I have done xx in my past, and I can do that for you.”
2) Start with your results, not your title when you introduce yourself. What does Technical Manager really mean??
3) Give updates to your manager. They don’t have to be formal. They can be as simple as when you pass them in the hall.
4) Make others a hero. Make it a point to recognize others when they do something great.
5) Volunteer. Use your capabilities and skill.

I plan on incorporating some of these steps in my daily routine and also will share them with my team.

Finally, the most important thing that I got from this conference was a chance to meet other women from the Kansas City area and broaden my network of professionals. It was a great experience, and I look forward to attending in the future.

Sunita Lavin’s Experience
iCON17 was the last official Region i conference, and it went out with a bang! One of my favorite things about region conferences is seeing Region i SWEsters at this annual reunion! We had a big group of SWE-KC members attend. I also got to catch up with some important region leaders:

- Jenna Harpole, Region i Governor,
- Jacquelyn Sommers and Megan Wolf, the 2 Region i Collegiate Representatives, and
- Katie Gonzagowski, Region i Collegiate Communications Editor
I was pleasantly surprised when I made an old acquaintance into a new friend! I met Kim Burton from Wichita SWE at iCON14 when she presented a session about her husband, a stay-at-home dad. At iCON17, I found out that we are both in Toastmasters, a public speaking organization. Kim not only helped me fulfill one of my speech requirements by evaluating my session entitled “Where Are the Other Women?”, but we found out that we worked on the same airplanes through a Garmin and Cessna partnership.

One of the sessions I attended was especially eye-opening for me: “Breaking Barriers – Conversation Circle.” Conversation Circles started as a conflict resolution tool. There were 2 concentric circles of chairs. The inner circle had 4 chairs and the outer had many chairs. I think the most powerful part of the circle is that only the moderator and the people seated in the inner circle can speak while everyone else listens. The session started with the panelists seated in the inner circle. They introduced themselves then gave their thoughts about a topic, like goal-setting. As soon as they were done speaking, they moved to the outer circle and anyone with thoughts about that topic or a new question could take a seat in the inner circle. I liked this idea so much that I am hoping to use it for the next speed mentoring event hosted by Garmin’s Women’s Employee Resource Group.

Although this was the last Region i conference, it doesn’t mean that Region i SWEsters won’t see each other again. I look forward to seeing a strong Region i presence next year at the WE Local in Tulsa!

Region i Update

- Region Committee Members needed:
  - LCC – Leadership Coaching Committee (contact Abigail.wendt@magellanlp.com)
  - Mini Grants Committee (contact Becca Brader at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com for more information)
- Region Elections
  - All SWE members should have received an e-blast with voting details for the society and region ballot
- Governance Updates (changes to SWE reporting structure)
  - Text 56512 to get the latest and greatest updates about governance changes!
  - You can also contact governance@swe.org with questions
- Region i Leadership Summit
  - August 25 – 27, 2017 in Oklahoma City
  - Looking for volunteers to help with the planning committee
- Region Membership Update
  - Region i had the second best membership retention, second lowest membership growth, and 7th largest membership overall
- iCON17 Conference Survey
  - Please fill out the survey if you attended! SWE iCON17 Conference Survey
- Save the date for WE Local Tulsa!
  - January 25 – 28, 2018
Networking

SWE–KC Hosts New Member Welcome Event

By Marian McClellan

We welcomed some of our newest members on March 28 at Pig & Finch Gastropub with networking, appetizers, and lots of SWE stories. The new members received welcome gifts of SWE notebooks and pens. Sunita Lavin spoke on the priorities of SWE and two of our SWE Fellows spoke about how important SWE has been to them over the years. One of our new members won the raffle, which was a $25 AMC gift certificate.

On behalf of the SWE-KC section, I welcome all our new members and hope that I have the opportunity to see you at the next event.

SWE–KC Upcoming Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 12, 2017</td>
<td>Ignite Outreach Event</td>
<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30am-11:30am</td>
<td>Center Middle School</td>
<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18, 2017</td>
<td>May Meet &amp; Greet</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm-7:00pm</td>
<td>Rye Restaurant (10551 Mission Rd, Leawood, KS 66206)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25, 2017</td>
<td>Ignite Outreach Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30am-10:00am</td>
<td>Smith-Hale Middle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>June TBD</td>
<td>June Picnic &amp; Member Appreciation Event</td>
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<td>Details TBD</td>
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Legend of Event Types

● Outreach
■ Networking
◆ Professional Development
Outreach

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED)
By Katie Lin

SWE-KC held its 7th annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day on March 3, 2017 at the Kansas City Convention Center. This year, we hosted 270 high school girls alongside 90 professional female mentors. Each girl was paired up with a mentor throughout the day.

The event started with the “Morning Mingle”, featuring local FIRST Robotics Team 1710 from Olathe Northwest High School, robot designs from Wichita State Engineering College, and a new networking BINGO game. Each student and mentor had a BINGO card with tasks such as “find someone who shares the same name as you”, or “find someone who is left handed”. The students had to complete a BINGO by finding mentors to sign their cards and vise versa for the mentors. Everyone who finished a BINGO on their cards was submitted into a drawing for a prize!

Next, the student/mentor pairs attended the engineering discipline fair and the industry fair. Our company sponsors held tables at the industry fair, discussing with students the various engineering opportunities available at their company. Universities, including Pitt State, Mizzou, UMKC, and Wichita State, also attended to share information about their engineering colleges. Before the start of the discipline fair, the students first received an overview of the various engineering disciplines. They were then able to check out a few tables of their choosing to learn more about a discipline that interests them. There were also hands-on activities at each table demonstrating what that type of engineering is. For example, students practiced building a simple circuit to turn on a light bulb and sound a buzzer at the Electrical Engineering table.

After the fairs, the girls worked in teams with their mentor to design a structure using gumdrops and various household supplies, such as toothpicks, straws, popsicle sticks, and index cards. The gumdrop structures were then tested to see how many sandbags it could support before collapsing. The girls far exceeded our expectations, and the winning structure held 38 sandbags which is equivalent to approximately 19 pounds!
During lunch, we were honored to hear from keynote speaker, Tara Ruttley, PhD. Ms. Ruttley works on the International Space Station at NASA, and she had some incredible stories about her experiences as a rocket scientist. Her talk was a highlight of the day! My favorite quote of hers was “Trust the people who see something in you even if you don’t see it in yourself”. The girls really enjoyed her talk, and several of them were able to talk individually with her later in the event.

The day ended with a College Panel. 4 current engineering college students from various universities served as the panelists, and they did an excellent job answering questions from the students about what college life in engineering is all about. Many students had questions about how difficult engineering is in college and if they would have time to enjoy a social life or other extracurricular activities. The college students assured them that while the engineering classes are challenging, there is still time for other activities and fun! They encouraged the girls to continue to follow their passions and be involved in what interests them.

Overall, the event was a huge success. Thank you to all of our mentors, volunteers and sponsors who helped make this event possible! We look forward to seeing you next year at IGED 2018!

SWE–KC Special Award Presented at Science Fair
By Becca Brader

On April 6th SWE members Becca Brader, Amy Gum and Autumn Schleicher met at The 66th Greater Science and Engineering Fair held at Union Station to select the winner of the SWE–KC Special Award. The award is given to a female high school student to not only acknowledge her scientific work but to also encourage her in future STEM pursuits. The team spent an hour reviewing projects' background information, problem statements, hypotheses, procedures and conclusions.

The variety of subjects varied greatly: Parkinson’s disease, breast cancer, penguin dialects, graphene sheets, fingerprinting, ground cover and water quality. Our winner Liza’s project was on clean laundry. "Clean Laundry?" looked at different natural laundry products and their ability to inhibit e.coli. On Saturday April 8th we presented Liza with her award.
SWEetie Pi Luncheon at FIRST Robotics
By Julie Stuckey

On March 17th SWE-KC, KC STEM Alliance and FIRST Ladies hosted a SWEetie Pi Luncheon for the ladies that participated in the Kansas City Regional FIRST® Robotics competition held March 16 – 18, 2017 at the Metropolitan Community College Business & Technology Campus. The ladies took a break from the robotics competition to enjoy lunch, network with ladies from other teams, meet women that are currently working and studying in STEM fields, participate in two hands-on activities and listen to guest speaker Dr. Jackie Gill, MCC-Business & Technology President. Dr. Gill inspired the ladies to continue their journey in STEM fields and shared her thoughts on working in fields where women are under-represented.

The hands-on activities included a drone obstacle course and building an electric circuit. Laughter and fun ensued while both activities had the ladies and mentors demonstrating the FIRST® values of Gracious Professionalism ® and Coopertition ®.
Recognition – Member Spotlights

Michelle Maurer
- Chemical Engineer at Honeywell FM&T (Metallurgy Lab)
- Michelle joined SWE a few years ago to meet other women engineers. It’s kept her out meeting new people and new adventures!
- Michelle’s favorite hobby is riding a tandem bike with her husband. They attend at least a couple tandem rallies a year where they meet up with 120-400 other tandem pairs for a weekend of bike riding together. They can easily ride 200 miles a weekend! So far, they have attended rallies in Iowa, Ohio, Texas, Georgia, Virginia, Vermont, Illinois, and Indiana.

Ellen Kirk
- Majored in Chemical Engineering at Missouri S&T
- Works as a Process Engineer at Honeywell FM&T
- Ellen joined SWE in college at Missouri S&T. It gave her a wonderful outlet to network with women engineers from other disciplines. Now in KC, she enjoys working with SWE-KC outreach events, namely IGED. Showing younger girls how fun it is to be in STEM and encouraging them to pursue STEM paths is so important for our future.
- Ellen loves to travel! In 2016, she travelled with friends to Munich, Rome, and Florence. This year, she plans to travel to the Smoky Mountains and possibly the Bahamas!

Andrea Moll
- From Fairfield, Connecticut
- Majored in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University
- Andie was a SWE member in college and then just rejoined last year. In college, she got to travel to Puerto Rico to present her biomedical engineering research at a SWE conference. More recently, she had a wonderful time at the iCON17 regional conference in St Louis!
- She loves to run and will be running her second and third half marathons in April (Garmin) and May (Running with the Cows)!

Suzy Corria
- Majored in Electrical Engineering from Oakland University
- Works as a Regional Quality Systems Engineer at Yanfeng Automotive Interiors
- Suzy joined SWE in 2002.
- She earned her pilot’s license in 1983!

Gwen Belt
- Majored in Nuclear Engineering & Electrical Engineering from Kansas State University
- Works as a Production Support Engineer at Honeywell
- Gwen joined SWE in college. She did not become a professional member until she started working at Honeywell. She’s enjoyed getting involved the last couple of years – attending conferences, meeting fellow women engineers young and old. The energy is fantastic!
- Gwen is a mom to 4 fabulous kids all in college or beyond.

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 2017 Sponsors

2017 Silver Level

2016 Bronze Level

2016 Friend Level