SWE–KC President’s Message

As we start a new year, I reflect on all that SWE-KC accomplished in 2015. We hosted a Region Conference, we successfully held our fifth annual IGED, we reached out to over 500 girls to teach them about engineering, we met many new SWE-KC members, we updated our SWE brand and logo, we learned about networking from professional speaker Alana Muller, we supported several of our members as they received prestigious awards, we travelled to the Annual Conference in Nashville, we stuffed 626 back snack bags at Harvesters, and we ate some delicious cookies in December. This was a pretty incredible list of accomplishments from a non-profit organization of only 100 members! As we enter 2016, I would like to see SWE-KC do so many more great things, but to do this, we need your help. We need new leaders and fresh ideas. We need people to step up and lead an event, learn a new skill, follow through on a great idea, or volunteer at an outreach event. Being more involved in SWE changed my life—and I’m sure it can change yours as well.

I joined SWE in college, back in 2006. Many of my close friends from college, I met in SWE. I was encouraged by these friends to be a leader in my SWE section. Through my officer positions, I gained leadership skills, confidence in myself, communication skills, improved my public speaking abilities, and much more. I also was able to travel to SWE conferences and attend the career fairs, which helped me practice interviewing, networking, and talking to recruiters. These skills were invaluable in helping me secure my first internship, and later, my first full-time job.

Graduating college with my SWE friends.

After graduating, I moved to Kansas City, and I wanted to stay involved in SWE but wasn’t ready to jump into a leadership position right away. I heard about Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, and that they were looking for people to help with the planning committee. I always loved helping with outreach events in college so I jumped at the opportunity. I soon met many amazing women from various companies across Kansas City, who quickly became my friends. I’ve now spent many volunteer hours with these friends to plan 5 IGED events! The most rewarding thing about being involved in IGED is not only working with close friends, but also seeing the reaction on the girls’ faces at the events when they complete a working wind turbine or hydraulic hand. You can see the confidence building in the girls, as they realize that they do have the skills to be an engineer. I find it extremely rewarding to know that I had a part in inspiring the girls’ future careers.

Celebrating another successful IGED with (Continued on Page 2)
ANNOUNCEMENTS

IGED 2016

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) 2016 will take place on Friday, February 26th at Bartle Hall in downtown Kansas City, MO. Mentor and volunteer registration is now closed. If you missed out on signing up and are interested in volunteering, please contact Kim Bartak (kim.bartak@gmail.com).

More event details can be found here: http://kcsweiged.blogspot.com/

Professional Development Event Survey

The Professional Development committee is starting to plan the first Professional Development Conference for Fall 2016. Please take a couple minutes to fill out this quick survey to assist them in planning.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/22H8F5Z

If you are interested in joining the Professional Development committee, please contact Tiffany Dooley at DooleyT@bv.com.

President’s Letter (continued)

Being involved in SWE-KC has been very rewarding, not only in my personal life, but also in my professional life. Since I am often running off to SWE events after work, many of my coworkers and my managers know that it is a big part of my life. Thus, they support me when I ask to take off work to go to conferences or help out at IGED. They know that the skills I learn at SWE events will help me develop professionally. In being involved in SWE, I have once again been able to hone my communication skills, public speaking skills, organization, time management, delegation, and leadership skills. The great thing about SWE is you often get the chance to practice these skills in a safe environment (with your SWE friends) before you ever need to use them at work. For example, when I was SWE Treasurer, I learned about budgeting and forecasting before I had to lead a project at work. My SWE friends were also always there if I had any questions along the way.

I love being involved in SWE—it has helped me acquire new skills, give back to the community, and make many close friends. I hope many of you would like to get more involved as well. There are many opportunities to get involved, depending on how much time you have to give. We are looking for new officers, new committee chairs, committee members, and volunteers in 2016! Check out our website to learn more about these roles and time commitments: http://swe-kc.swe.org/role-descriptions. If you are interested in learning more, contact us at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com. We are eager to jumpstart 2016 with lots of new faces, fresh ideas, and energy and excitement to propel our organization forward!

Katie Lin
SWE-KC FY16 President
## SWE–KC Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 2, 2016</td>
<td>SWE-KC Fundraiser and Meet &amp; Greet</td>
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<td>Jose Peppers, Overland Park, KS</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 26, 2016</td>
<td>Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED)</td>
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<td>Bartle Hall, Kansas City, MO</td>
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<td>February 26-27, 2016</td>
<td>ICON16 (Region 1/Conference)</td>
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<td>Boulder, CO</td>
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<td>March TBD</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet</td>
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<td>March 11, 2016</td>
<td>SWEetie Pi at FIRST Robotics</td>
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<td>MCC - Business and Technology, Kansas City, MO</td>
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<td>April TBD</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet</td>
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<td>April 6-9, 2016</td>
<td>Greater Kansas City Science and Engineering Fair</td>
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<td>Union Station, Kansas City, MO</td>
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<td>May TBD</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet</td>
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<tr>
<td>June TBD</td>
<td>SWE-KC Picnic</td>
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**Legend of Event Types**

- ○ Outreach
- ■ Networking
- ◆ Professional Development

## Region i Update

**Region Volunteer Opportunities:** There are several volunteer opportunities available on the region level. This is an excellent opportunity for SWE-KC members to become involved. The following have immediate openings:

- Committee members for the Region Nominating Committee
- Member for a one-time committee to conduct a financial assessment.
- Membership Chair

Anyone interested should contact Jenna Harpole ([jenna.harpole@swe.org](mailto:jenna.harpole@swe.org)).

**Region i Elections:** The region is currently accepting applications for the FY17 Region Leadership team. Please visit the region website ([http://regioni.swe.org/fy16-region-i-elections.html](http://regioni.swe.org/fy16-region-i-elections.html)) for more information on the leadership descriptions and application process. Several officer and committee chair positions are open. The deadline is February 20th. Elections will start on April 1, 2016.

**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’ll be SWE events, scholarships, webinars, contests, cool projects, and more. Help us connect with girls at a young age to teach them about engineering!
Professional Development

WE15 (SWE Annual Conference): Reach Out to Reach Up

By Sunita Lavin

I was thrilled to attend WE15 on October 22-24th, 2015 this year! This was my first time as a participant at Annual Conference, and I was excited and a little nervous about presenting a lightning talk called “The Gift of Outreach.” I was amazed by how quickly acquaintances became friends. As corny as it sounds, it really was like having 9,000 new friends all in one place. Kim Bartak and I would be in our room each night with pocket guides and cell phones trying to decide which of the 20 choices we’d select for each timeslot the following day. Sessions ranged from stories about taming perfectionism to Karen Gilbertson and Kim Blair’s very informative and polished session on “Implications of a Late Entry Engineering Career” to how to advocate for SWE. The good but difficult problem of selecting which sessions to attend plagued us each night.

Nashville, aka “Music City,” didn’t disappoint. It seemed like there was music everywhere! At registration, a fiddler lent me his fiddle so I could accompany a banjo player. There were live bands at seemingly every restaurant, and the Opening Career Fair Reception had a band and dancing. It was lively and fun! And, surprisingly for a conference with over 9,000 female attendees, the bathroom lines moved quickly.

Next year’s conference WE16 will be held in the city of Brotherly Love: Philadelphia. Papers are being accepted now. One of the concerns when attending Annual Conference is that it can be expensive. You can get 50% off of registration if you speak at a session or volunteer for a few hours. As a SWE-KC officer next year, you will also be eligible to get a substantial reimbursement for expenses. In my opinion, this alone can be a HUGE benefit of being a SWE-KC officer.

This year, using the proceeds from our successful iCON15 in KC, SWE-KC sponsored 4 members to go to Annual Conference. Here are a few quotes illustrating our experiences:

My favorite part of WE15 was the lightning talks. These sessions featured 5-6 speakers on a wide variety of topics. Each speaker was given 20 minutes to give their speech and answer questions. I enjoyed hearing all of the different perspectives on work/life balance, gender bias in the workplace, STEM outreach, and many other topics. ~ Kim Bartak

Becca Brader volunteered for a few hours at Sing It to Begin It! Here’s what she had to say about it:

I originally volunteered at SWE15 to reduce my registration fee by 50%. However, it really was my favorite part of the conference. I met so many ladies, and we had great conversation. We talked about great places to eat downtown, conference volunteering strategy and different events at our own sections & regions. It was really a highlight, & I will definitely volunteer again! ~ Becca Brader
SWE-KC Treasurer Sunita Lavin had the opportunity to demonstrate her fiddling skills with one of the local musical acts.

Kim Blair (Denver) & Karen Gilbertson (SWE-KC) presenting a session on “Implications of a Late Entry Engineering Career”

SWE-KC member, Sunita Lavin, presented a lighting talk on the “Gift of Outreach” at annual conference. She is shown here, talking about all the great benefits SWE and Outreach have provided her.

SWE-KC Ladies enjoying dinner and a Royals’ game at WE15. (l-r) Sunita Lavin, Kara Staub Bono, Adriana Porter, Katie Lin, Kristine Clark, Kim Bartak, Becca Brader.

The largest career fair for women in engineering and technology takes place at SWE’s annual conference. There were hundreds of exhibitors, all excited to talk to the SWE members in attendance.
NASA Event

By Becca Brader

National Auto Sports Association, NASA, Central Region recently adopted SWE-KC as their benefitting organization. In 2015 NASA donated $1,400 to SWE-KC enabling us to sponsor the KC Science & Engineering Fair and the Future Cities competition, as well as send additional SWE members to the Annual Conference. In September, NASA invited SWE-KC Executive Committee Members, Katie Lin and Becca Brader, to enjoy a day at the Kansas Speedway with NASA. “We arrived late in the afternoon, and when entering we were allowed to drive directly onto the track in the midst of race cars, racers and tents. Being a little out of our element we were surprised & a bit thrilled that we were able to drive right inside! We observed some impressive cars & some worn out racers! Next we attended an awards dinner with racers from the day. During our dinner were able to meet one of the officers of the NASA Central Region.” Katie and Becca thanked him for NASA’s donation to SWE-KC and the invitation to the event.
Networking

**Harvesters BackSnacks**
*By MaKayla Sprague*

Just before Thanksgiving, SWE-KC and ASCE members spent the morning with Harvester’s packing BackSnacks. This program provides weekly backpacks filled with nutritious food for underprivileged children to take home over the weekend. Many of these children receive breakfast and lunch at school however may not have food outside of school hours. BackSnacks helps bridge the gap and give more than 100,000 metro area children the comfort of a guaranteed meal.

The 25 volunteers took the time to pack as many backpacks as they could assembly line style, over 1,300 meals! When finished, the group toured Harvester’s to learn more about their other outreach programs. The day ended by having the opportunity to mingle and write holiday cards to housebound seniors receiving assistance from Harvester’s. The event was an amazing opportunity for SWE-KC to give back and spread the joy of the season.

**SWE–KC Cookie Exchange**
*By Kaeisha Akinmoladun*

SWE-KC hosted their first ever Cookie Exchange at the Black & Veatch offices. Members brought beautifully decorated and delicious desserts to share while holiday music played in the background! Among the networking and sharing of our favorite holiday memories, members were able to create two separate cookie gift packages presented by Tressie Nootz. Members were then able to finalize their gift packages by filling them with a vast amount of desserts brought to the meet and greet.

A stamping kit door prize donated by Mimi Henwood with Stamping Up was won by our SWE Fellow Deb O’Bannon. And the “best cookies” prize was awarded to Adrienne Anderson with her delicious cranberry biscotti. Who knew crafts, desserts and a wonderful group of women could be so fun!
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 November event at Harvesters, December Cookie Exchange, and January event at Panera! 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.
Outreach

Expanding Your Horizons

Written by Katie Lin
Pictures by Katelin Reinert

Anna, Katelin, and myself volunteered at the Expanding Your Horizons event at Science City on January 22. The event consisted of over 20 science & engineering related workshops. The girls in attendance could choose 2 workshops to attend. The SWE-KC workshop taught the girls about Aerospace & Mechanical engineering through a balloon airplane activity.

We reviewed Newton’s 3 laws of motion and discussed what forces act on an airplane in flight. The girls then worked in small teams to build an airplane, consisting of a straw (the airplane body), a balloon (the engine), and paper (wings and nose). To test the planes, the girls blew up the balloons while we threaded a string through the airplane straw. When they released the balloons, we tested how far the airplanes could travel down the string. At the end of the workshop, the teams competed to see whose airplanes traveled the farthest and the fastest. It was a fun evening working with the girls, and encouraging them to explore their design and build skills!
Recognition

SWE-KC congratulates Kerrie Greenfelder, Alyssa Zimmerman, and everyone who helped with IGED 2015!

Kerrie Greenfelder, P.E., received the Emerging Leader Award at the SWE Annual Conference in October. Kerrie was one of 10 women across the country to receive the award. The emerging leader award honors women engineers with 10-15 years of engineering experience who have demonstrated outstanding technical excellence resulting in significant accomplishments. Kerrie was recognized for her technical expertise in water/wastewater treatment, outstanding project management skills on the job and in the community, and a commitment to socially responsible engineering practices. She currently works at Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City, but has spent the majority of her career at CDM Smith in New Mexico. We are happy to welcome Kerrie to Kansas City and would like to congratulate her on the Emerging Leader Award!

Alyssa Zimmerman was recognized as one of the “30 under 30” in her sorority’s fall newsletter, Alpha Sigma Alpha’s The Phoenix. This was the first year for the award, and Alyssa was very deserving of being part of the first 30 under 30. Alyssa was recognized based on her efforts promoting STEM in the community. She has not only served as the SWE-KC Outreach Committee Chair for the past 3 years, but she has also led STEM activities at Honeywell FM&T, and has been an advisory board member for Project Lead the Way. With her efforts, she reached over 900 students last school year alone. Congratulations Alyssa and thanks for all you do for STEM Outreach!

The SWE-KC section received the Outreach Event/series Award for IGED 2015 at the SWE Annual Conference in October. This was a huge honor for our section, since we are very proud of our annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Event, and only a few SWE sections receive this award. We would like to thank everyone who helped make IGED 2015 a success, including the IGED Planning Committee, the mentors and volunteers, and all our sponsors. It was great to be recognized by the Society for our fifth annual event!

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!