Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a fantastic holiday season and is ready for a new season of SWE-KC. Our section and members had many accomplishments in 2016, as highlighted throughout this newsletter issue.

Let me start by asking you to add one more New Year’s Resolution to your list. If you haven’t already, now is a perfect time to become a member of SWE. You can register online at societyofwomenengineers.swe.org. The membership fee will provide you with invaluable professional and personal development opportunities (including discounted conference registration, such as the upcoming iCON17 in St. Louis). Please keep in mind that there are several membership types, so make sure you look for possible discounts (i.e. recent graduates, unemployed, retired, and K-12 educators).

Of course, you can certainly commit to a more ambitious resolution! There are many ways to become a more active SWE member. If this is you, please let us know! We have four focus areas: Professional Development, Outreach, Networking, and Recognition. We’ll ask for 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. Below is a list of volunteer opportunities we currently have:

- Host a Meet & Greet Event: Activity & Date is your choice! Previous events have included happy hours, community service activities, or Pinot Palette events.
- The Outreach committee needs 3-4 volunteers at the annual ‘Expanding Your Horizons’ event on Friday, February 3rd.
- Volunteer at Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day on Friday, March 3rd. Mentors will need to be available from 8am – 2pm. For a lesser time commitment (2 hours), consider signing up as a volunteer.
- Attend the iCON17 conference on Saturday, February 25th in St. Louis, MO. You can register at the following website (stl.swe.org) and get more details.
- Finally, we are always looking for volunteers to be guest bloggers. Check out our website for example posts.
- Do you have any ideas for the membership committee? If so, we’d love to hear them!

(Continued on Page 2)
**SWE–KC Officer**

**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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**SWE–KC President’s Message (continued)**

One final reminder – 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, so we invite you to attend. Contact me at adriana.aguilar25@gmail.com for more information.

We’ll have a lot happening in the next several months, so please visit our website (swe-kc.org) often to stay up to date on all the upcoming SWE-KC events. As always, feel free to contact any of the officers directly or email us at swe.kc.mail@gmail.com if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. Our core goal is to continue to plan & host events that are beneficial to YOU – our members!

Have a prosperous 2017!

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

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**SWE–KC Organizational Chart**

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**Organizational Structure**

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**Outreach**

**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
Over 12 SWE-KC members attended the SWE Annual Conference in Philadelphia in October. Several members were also speakers at the event, including Kerrie Greenfelder, Sunita Lavin, Adriana Porter, and Una Nowling. We also were honored to have 2 SWE-KC members recognized at the SWE Awards Banquet for the first time in many years. Sunita Lavin received the Distinguished New Engineer Award. Shelley Wolff received the Advocating for Women in Engineering Award. In addition, Katie Gonzakowski, a SWE-UMKC member, received the Outstanding Collegiate Member Award; and Jordan Love from Olathe Northwest High School received a SWENext Award. Congratulations Kansas City ladies! Read on to learn more about several members’ experiences at the conference.

Becca Brader’s Experience

WE16 was an outstanding experience again this year. This year I attended as tourist, SWE-KC Section Representative, job seeker and celebratory friend.

This year WE2016 was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I had never been to this city and was excited to be a tourist and explore the city. My first day at conference, I took a Philly foods tour. I ate tomato pie, hot soft pretzels, cheese whiz fries and of course a famous Philly cheese steak. Next I was able to walk to see the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. My biggest surprise was that the Liberty Bell was not as big as I had thought it was going to be.

I was able to attend conference this year because I am SWE-KC Section Representative. I attended the Region i meeting where I was able to meet other Region i representatives face to face. This was a nice change because generally our monthly meetings are conference calls and we never see each other. I was able to spend some time and get to know our St. Louis representative which is great because iCON17 will be held in St. Louis and will see her there for sure.

This year was the first year I attended the career fair as job seeker. My biggest learning was that on the second day the career fair opens an hour early just for professionals looking for new opportunities. This hour was great because interview lines were greatly reduced. It was also nice because companies were more focused and prepared to talk to professionals about current open opportunities. During the career fair I was able to speak and interview with several companies I was very interested in.
Finally, this year was the first time I attended the awards ceremony and cheered fellow SWE sisters on. SWE-KC members Sunita Lavin and Shelley Wolff received national awards. Sunita received the Distinguished New Engineer Award and Shelley the Advocating for Women Award. It was my favorite part of the conference.

WE16 was a great experience. I hope to attend again next year in Austin, TX!

Sunita Lavin’s Experience

The thing I love about Annual Conference is being among motivated and inspirational women engineers from all around the world. With over 11,000 female engineers, WE16 did not disappoint. My favorite part of the conference was meeting Stueti Gupta who was a fellow Distinguished New Engineer recipient. Stueti came all the way from Pune, India, to attend WE16. Among her many accomplishments was starting the first SWE affiliate in India. How amazing is that! Although Indian female engineers share many of the same challenges as women engineers in the USA, they also have unique cultural challenges. For example, often when a female engineer gets engaged, she hands in her resignation with the explanation that "I'm getting married." Most Indians would just nod at that, but the SWE's Pune affiliate is trying to get women to question that kind of attitude. WE16 really helped me think about worldwide perspectives, and how SWE is making a difference around the world.

Katie Lin’s Experience

WE16 was my 7th SWE Annual Conference! However, it was my first time to represent my company to help with interviewing candidates. I was very excited to help with the Honeywell recruiting team, and I felt a lot of pride for being a part of a company that had such a huge presence at the SWE conference. I also enjoyed networking and meeting many other Honeywell women from across the country.

During my first day at the conference, I was inspired by Luann Purdy’s keynote. She offered a lot of personal advice for women trying to succeed in engineering and leadership roles. My second favorite part of the conference was attending the Friday night Awards Banquet. It was my first time attending the awards banquet, and I was eager to attend to cheer on SWE-KC members, Sunita Lavin and Shelley Wolff, as they each received a SWE Award.

On Saturday of the conference, I met up with my sister, who is a mechanical engineering graduate student at the University of Michigan. Since I don’t see her very often, we had a good time catching up and doing some sightseeing around the Philadelphia area. We checked out the Liberty Bell, ate lunch in Reading Terminal Market, and we took our first Uber ride to the highly recommended “Jim’s on South Street” to try our first Philly cheesesteak. We finished out the evening with a nighttime stroll near some historic Philadelphia sites, including Betsy Ross’s house and Ben Franklin’s grave.
Adriana Porter’s Experience

WE16's theme was "Life's Variable: SWE's Your Constant." This relates to my biggest takeaway from the conference. It's great to be able to catch up with all my SWE friends - those I've met in college, committees, Region leadership, and at conferences! While as female engineers we face unique challenges in the workplace, SWE will always be there to support us. SWE members are doing great things all around the world and the annual conference is one place where it's so obvious to see!

My favorite part was having my sister at the conference! We'd never been at a conference together, so it was great to be able to see her. Another highlight of the conference is also attending the annual Purdue breakfast. I love seeing Purdue alumni and hearing what's new!

Region i Update

Here are some highlights from the Region i call in December:

- If you signed up for the mentoring program, you will receive instructions about what to talk about at your first mentor/mentee meeting. Expect to see something in January.
- There is a new members voice poll on the Region i Facebook page. A new poll question is posted each month.
- There is still time to register for iCON17. Speakers, schedules and tour information should now all be posted. Regular registration goes through January 26, 2017 Register Here. Region i is providing a discount to those interested in volunteering 2 hours of time. The discount will be given as a refund after the volunteer hours are completed. Event t-shirts are available to buy online if you cannot attend. Also, Region i is continuing the 100 Club and will have ribbons at conference for those interested in donating.
- There are several committees looking for volunteers: Scholarship, Mini Grant, and Mentoring. See Region i website for more details or contact one of the ladies below:
  - Scholarship – Pam Buzzetta (pam.buzzetta@gmail.com)
  - Mini Grant – Jennifer Halstead (Jennifer_Halstead@msn.com)
  - Mentoring – Abigail Wendt (Abigail.Wendt@magellanlp.com)
- Also there are Society Program Grants, Region i Mini Grants and Region i Scholarships still available for award as well. If interested in applying, see Region i website for more details.
- Region i nominations for next year’s leadership team are open. You can self-nominate. Contact Jenna Harpole if interested, jennagwalsh@gmail.com.
Networking

Meet & Greet with KU SWE at The Roasterie

By Katie Lin

In October, I attended the SWE-KC and KU joint networking event at The Roasterie. Since the event started around lunchtime, I decided to try out The Roasterie’s Food Truck Brunch before the event. There were three different food trucks offering both breakfast and lunch options, including chicken & waffles, pizza, wings, and even some Cuban food. It was a gorgeous day, and I enjoyed eating my lunch outside and listening to the live guitarist.

I finished my lunch and entered The Roasterie Café just in time for the 12:30 tour to start. I found a couple of the SWE-KC ladies and we started the tour with an introductory video. We then proceeded on the tour and learned a lot about air-roasted coffee. Our tour guide was very informative and captivated the audience with his clever jokes. Along the way, we met several KU SWE members, and we had some time to network with them at the conclusion of the tour. Two of the KU SWE members were seniors and getting ready to enter the workforce, and others were freshmen. We encouraged them to consider attending upcoming SWE conferences, including the Region Conference in St. Louis in February. It was a great opportunity for SWE professional members to network and mentor collegiate SWE members. There was even some mentoring happening between the seniors and the freshmen students.

Day of the Dead Event

By Katie Lin

On November 6, several SWE-KC members met up at the Nelson-Atkins museum to attend their annual Day of the Dead event. It was a very crowded event, and it was difficult to meet up with other SWE-KC members who were trying to attend. Some of us managed to find each other and snap a picture with a woman in costume. Day of the Dead, or Dia de Muertos, is a Mexican holiday which is also recognized internationally in other cultures. The holiday focuses on praying for friends and family who have died. Many will clean and decorate their deceased loved ones’ graves, build altars, and some will even dress up as the deceased. It is meant to be a fun gathering of friends and family to remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones who’ve passed.

At the event, we had some delicious Mexican food, visited the spectacular altar (made of hundreds of decorated paper mache skulls), and then toured some of our favorite exhibits at the Nelson. We saw the Buddha, walked through the Asian Art gallery, and went out to the sculpture garden to walk through the glass maze. All in all, it was a fun event where we learned more about the Dia de Muertos, and the Nelson exhibits.
Volunteering at Harvesters

By Gwen Belt

On November 29, 2016 a group of people from the KC sections of SWE and ASCE volunteered at Harvesters, Kansas City’s regional food bank. Harvesters’ mission is to feed hungry people today and work to end hunger tomorrow. Harvesters serves a 26-county area of northwestern Missouri and northeastern Kansas. Harvesters provides food and related household products to more than 620 not-for-profit agencies including emergency food pantries, community kitchens, homeless shelters, children’s homes and others. They also offer education programs to increase community awareness of hunger and teach about good nutrition.

I’ve known about Harvesters for a long time. I put items in their barrels when I see them in stores. I scour my shelves for non-perishables to send with the kids to school for food drives. But this was my first invitation to hands-on volunteer at their facility. There were about 12 or 13 in our group so they split us in to two groups. My group started boxing up containers of bleach, cleaning supplies and laundry supplies into ~25 pound boxes. Stacking the boxes on pallets until they were 4 high. In the first hour we boxed up all they had and filled more than 2 pallets. Next they moved us to food in glass containers. For the next hour we filled boxes with at least 20 pounds of glass containers – jars of jelly, spaghetti sauce, pickles, baby food – an amazing array of food. As I picked out different kinds of food to put in each box I wondered about the people who would receive it. Would they have little kids who really wouldn’t like pickled beets? Would a struggling single parent with teenagers get a box with baby food in it?

My husband went with me. One woman brought her son and daughter with her. They worked hard. When I told my 23 year old where I was going that night she said she wished she’d known. She would have liked to come too. Was it fun? Not so much. Was I glad I went? Definitely. I plan to volunteer again next year and I’ll be bringing my kids with me.

Calling All Volunteers!

SWE-KC’s Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) 2017 will take place on Friday, March 3rd from 8 am to 2 pm at Bartle Hall Convention Center in downtown Kansas City, MO. We are looking for at least 110 mentors and 20 volunteers 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/8HXL9WW

More event details can be found here: http://kcsweiged.blogspot.com/
SWE–KC Cookie Exchange
By Andrea Moll

For those who braved the brisk wintery weather on December 8, the SWE-KC Cookie Exchange provided an evening of great conversations, rapid-fire holiday Pictionary and a lively White Elephant gift exchange. And that’s all before we got to sample and exchange an amazing assortment of holiday cookies! The winning cookies were impeccably hand-decorated white and silver snowflake sugar cookies (made by Hilary Zerr) that were almost too beautiful to eat! A big thank you goes out to Suzie Carpenter and Kaeisha Akinmoladun for coordinating and hosting this event and to Black and Veatch for providing the venue.

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>January 21, 2017</td>
<td>Great Plains Regional Future City Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am-2:00pm</td>
<td>Kansas State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 25, 2017</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Gordon-Biersch (11652 Ash St, Leawood, KS 66211)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 3, 2017</td>
<td>Expanding Your Horizons</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00pm-10:00pm</td>
<td>Union Station (30 W Pershing Rd, Kansas City, MO 64108)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 4, 2017</td>
<td>NAWIC’s Block Kids Competition</td>
<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am-11:30am</td>
<td>The Builders Training Center (105 W. 12th Avenue, North Kansas City, MO 64116)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 8, 2017</td>
<td>NAWIC Joint Meeting: Drones Where do They Fit In?</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm-8:00pm</td>
<td>The Builders’ Association Education &amp; Training Facility (105 W. 12th Avenue, North Kansas City, MO 64105)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24-26, 2017</td>
<td>iCON17 (Region i conference)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 3, 2017</td>
<td>IGED 2017</td>
<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00am-2:00pm</td>
<td>Bartle Hall Convention Center</td>
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Legend of Event Types

● Outreach
■ Networking
◆ Professional Development
Outreach

2016 Ignite Events Come to a Close
By Alyssa Zimmerman

Society of Women Engineers, PREP-KC and Honeywell teamed up to facilitate the fourth annual Ignite events to schools in the Kansas City metro. Over the past four years, Ignite has been implemented in the Kansas City Kansas Public School District (reaching eight middle schools), Grandview Middle School, Martin City Elementary School and new this year, Ruskin High School. Ignite allows the students who participate to experience various engineering disciplines through hands-on activities that are led by industry professionals. Ignite reached 707 boys and girls this year alone! 1589 students have been through the Ignite events over the past four years.
Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Junior (IGED JR)
By Alyssa Zimmerman

On Friday, November 11, the Society of Women Engineers hosted the first annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Jr. (IGED Jr.) at University of Missouri-Kansas City's Pierson Auditorium. IGED Jr. is an all-day event for 6th through 8th grade girls to receive an introduction to engineering through hands-on activities, a keynote speaker and industry professionals. Once the students arrived at UMKC, they participated in "Minute to Win It" icebreaker activities and paired up with their assigned industry professional and a student from another district.

The students were given an overview of different types of engineering before diving into the first hands on activity, Slime! While making Slime, the students learned about the properties of Non-Newtonian fluids. Valerie McCaw, President of VSM Engineering, presented the students with her story of becoming an engineer and the challenges she met along the way. The afternoon was filled with a bridge building competition. The students were challenged with building a bridge with a limited amount of supplies that could hold 4 engineering textbooks. The winners built a bridge that could hold 11 engineering textbooks!! We had 79 students, 41 mentors and 12 volunteers present for the event.

If you are interested in volunteering for IGED Jr. or outreach events like this, please contact Alyssa Zimmerman (azimmerman@kcp.com).
Recognition

At the SWE Annual Conference in Philadelphia, we were excited that for the first time, three SWE-KC members received awards. Congratulations Shelley, Sunita, and Katie!

Shelley Wolff received the Advocating Women in Engineering Award, “for a commitment to opening doors for women engineers that spans a career in civil engineering; active participation in community organizations; and decades of service to SWE.” Shelley is one of SWE-KC’s founding members, she is a SWE Fellow, a lifetime member, and is a past Society President. Shelley has remained committed to advocating for women in engineering. She mentors many women at HNTB and is a charter member of the KC Central Exchange WiSTEMM committee. Shelley was one of 5 women to receive this prestigious award. Congratulations!

Sunita Lavin was one of 10 women to receive the SWE Distinguished New Engineer award, “for exceptional people and project management skills, for enthusiastic SWE leadership, and for spirited community advocacy of STEM for women and girls.” Sunita has served in multiple officer positions in the SWE-KC section, where her enthusiasm for SWE and STEM Outreach shines through with everyone she meets. Sunita is involved in FIRST Robotics, IGED, and she has started several STEM Outreach programs at her own company. She is a project manager at Garmin, where she has worked for 7 years. Way to go Sunita!

Katie Gonzagowski is a collegiate SWE member at UMKC, but we often consider her part of the SWE-KC section, since has worked closely with us during iCON15 and IGED planning. Katie was one of 10 collegiates to receive the Outstanding Collegiate Member award, “for enthusiastically supporting K-12 STEM programs, for more closely connecting collegiate and professional sections, and for leveraging social media skills to heighten participation across the region.” Katie is now the RCCE (Region Collegiate Communications Editor) where she uses social media and a blog to keep the region informed of best practices and upcoming events. Katie is a senior at UMKC, majoring in Civil Engineering. Congratulations!

We’d also like to recognize Sunita Lavin for her acceptance to the prestigious Centurions Leadership Program, Alyssa Zimmerman for her recent promotion, and Adriana Porter for appearing in the KC Options magazine (page 48-49).

Lastly, here’s a shout out to Jordan Love, who was one of five ladies recognized as an “Outstanding SWENexter” at the SWE Annual Conference. Jordan is from Olathe Northwest High School and is the CEO of her FIRST Robotics Team 1710.

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 2016 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 CONSTRUCTION  mca KANSAS CITY

IBM  IEEE PES  MMC CORP 1932

Power & Energy Society®  NNB Builders  MMC

2016 Friend Level

HNTB  OLSSON ASSOCIATES