

SWE-SCMI

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Aug 2019

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SCMI 10 Year Anniversary

Article by: Megan James

This summer we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of our SWE section. We've probably held 100+ events over those 10 years giving SWE members and friends lots of different opportunities to network, socialize, learn, and give back to the community. A few of my favorite events have been: Plant tour at Cook Nuclear power plant (~2014), Book Clubs, Glass Blowing in Downtown Kalamazoo (~2017), Women's panel, Murder Mystery dinner (~2016) and every STEM outreach I've ever gone to!

I am truly grateful to the women who founded this section for giving us a great group to embrace women in engineering! Below is a list of most of the founding members and their company affiliation at the time. Thanks to you all and anyone else I may have missed!

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Carrie Baracka | Kellogg |
| Guisselle Cedille | Kellogg |
| Helene Cornils | Eaton |
| Dace Dixon | RDS Engineering |
| Krisana Gutierrez | Kellogg |
| Tawnya Hatcher | RDS Engineering |
| Nancy Marks | Kellogg |
| Karla Romereim | Kellogg |
| Sylvia Schonauer | Kellogg |
| Molly Williams | Western Michigan University |

Quick Notes:

- ◆ Make sure to add our admin email to your safe senders' list so you don't miss out on any new/activities!
scmi.swe@gmail.com
- ◆ Get more out of your SWE membership by volunteering for one of the many opportunities to get involved!

It's a new year - Welcome to FY20 Officers!



President—Robyn Cornish

I am a Senior Industrial Engineer at Pfizer Inc in Portage. I have been an active SWE member for the past 4 years. My past SWE roles have included Air Zoo Corporate Engineering Challenge Lead for 2017 & 2018 and Section Representative. I look forward to the opportunity to enhance and grow our local activities in the areas of professional development and outreach. As the mother of a high schooler and college freshman I am kept busy with their extracurricular activities including sports, musicals, boy scouts and Irish dancing.



Vice President—Tamanna Akter

I am a proud Boilermaker, graduated from Purdue University in 2015 with an MSc in Industrial Engineering Technology and in 2013 with a BSc in Technology Leadership and Supervision. I am currently working as a Continuous Improvement Engineer at Hi-Lex America. I moved to Battle Creek in 2016 from Indiana with a job and have called Michigan my home ever since. When I am not working my hobbies include traveling, reading and volunteering in anything my time permits. I have been a SWE professional member for a little over a year now. I have volunteered at the corporate challenge for the last two years and served as one of the two SCMI Event Coordinator



Treasurer—Megan James

I am an engineer at Stryker, where I design medical devices. I've been at Stryker for 22 years. I have a Mechanical Engineering degree from Penn State. I've been a member of SWE-SCMI since 2011, helping found the Air Zoo event in 2014, and have been treasurer for the past 3 years. I really enjoy our SWE chapter for the events we do and getting to know many other female engineers in the area! I have 2 children Rebecca who is 13 and Will who is 10. I also am an avid triathlete and spend a decent amount of my time swimming, running and biking. I am very happy spring time is here

so I can get outdoors more often! I am excited to be an officer for the 2019-2020 year and help our section continue to grow and thrive.

It's a new year - Welcome to FY20 Officers! - cont.



Secretary—Rebekah Mohilo

I am a Navy Veteran, turned Engineer. I have a bachelors in Electrical Engineering, and currently work as Validation Engineer for Performance Validation. I am a NICU mom to two adorable preemie fighters, my son Andrew, and my daughter, Aiden. Andrew is almost two, and Aiden is our newest addition at 3 months old. My family and I moved to Kalamazoo last May when both my husband and I left active duty military service. When I'm not busy at work, my hobbies include running my own business, hiking with our three dogs, baking, and a little too much NCIS watching. This is my second year as a professional SWE member. I have been active in the chapter as a Co-Chair for the Air Zoo event this year, and I have spoken at the WE Local event in St. Louis on a national involvement. I am looking forward to being more active with SWE this year, and am hoping to grow our community. Looking into the next year, I have been asked to sit on two separate panels for WE19, and have submitted my own speaking package for a 3rd topic. I would love to see what we can do to engage more women here at home.

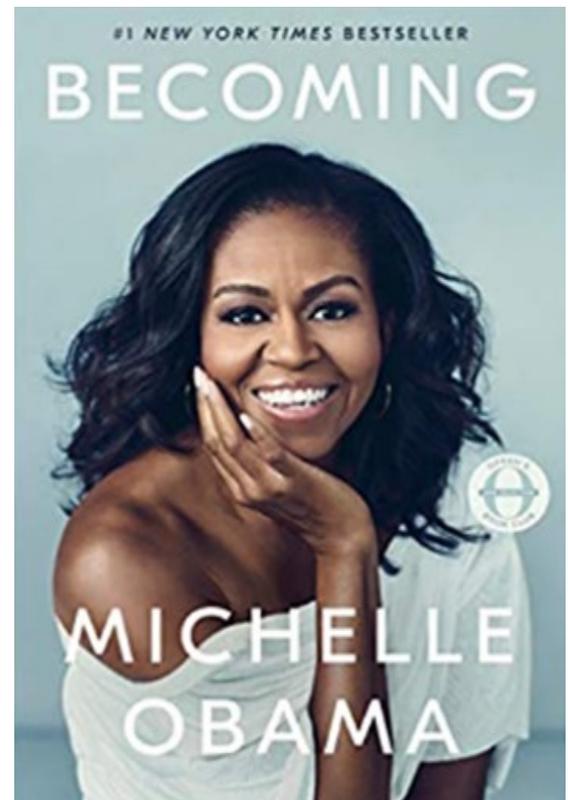
Summer Book Club

Article by: Tamanna Akter

Few members of SWE came together to discuss and share their opinion about the book “Becoming” by Michelle Obama, they enjoyed reading or listening as part of the May’19 Book Club. Members discussed about the challenges and differences between Manufacturing industries and Law, how difficult it is manufacturing industry to find mentor or build the kind of relationship Michelle had with her friends.

Members also discussed about different phases of her life, how gracefully she was able to maintain the work life balance. Her initiatives as first lady and trying to give their children a normal life living in white house.

Michelle’s becoming of the strong woman she is today inspired our members to have the strength and courage to move forward.



Tech-Gyrls

Article by: Robyn Cornish

This July we had the privilege to be invited to be a part of the YWCA Tech-Gyrls Engineering Challenge! The organizer at YWCA was impressed with our CEC organization, challenge structure and challenge tasks. She was looking to have the girls compete in a “Junk Drawer” Vehicle design. As the girls have competed in the CEC in past years she was looking to SCMI SWE for guidance, resources and advice. The YWCA Tech Gyrls host summer week long camps, July 9th myself and another CEC organizer were able to participate in their event as judges and cheering teams. Three teams participated to design a vehicle that would smoothly travel down a ramp with the use of gravity (and stay together 😊). The vehicle to travel the furthest generated points. Additionally they made great use of our light up “payload blinky balls”. If the ball was not jostled it would not light up, thus a successful, safe vehicle! We were happy to participate in this event as knowledge base, judges and it was a great way to donate the supplies we have accumulated over our CEC events.

This is our second endeavor in a smaller scale iteration of the CEC, they are very fun and engaging. Our first was a successful partnership with an engineer minded Otsego high school senior last November. The planning and organization is on a smaller scale the Annual CEC. It is a great way to reach out to a larger audience of girls that are not always able to travel to or register for the annual event. We are looking forward to planning more of these in future, if you would like to participate in more events like this please reach out to admin email. We would love to have more volunteers and opportunities for outreach.



10 Year Anniversary Celebration!

Article by: Tamanna Akter

SWE SCMI celebrated their 10 years anniversary on July 20th. Thank you to the founding members for starting this chapter. A lot of SWE members got together and enjoyed BBQ in a nice summer afternoon. Games and SWE swag were provided for the attendees. It was a great opportunity for socializing and networking between new and old members.



Letter from the President

Welcome to SWE SCMI fiscal year 2019-2020! I hope your summer is filled with all the indoor/outdoor, poolside, lakeside, sports and relaxation activities you can schedule both at work and home. Mine seems to be sailing by, but this is the time of year that makes the “polar vortex” manageable. Our fall activities and planning are sneaking up quickly. My list of what I want or need to do all-ways seems to outweigh the time in my week.



We have some great pop-up informal social events planned to reconnect with each other and meet new faces! Our first one is this month August 15 5:30 pm at One Well. Please take a break from work to join us. Each month we will pick a different location. Additionally, this month on August 28 at 5:30 pm we have our annual FY20 Planning meeting. This is the time we really love to have your input as to what events we should do this upcoming year. Please join us, your ideas and participation are essential to making our section engaging to all members.

As a SWE member, I have enjoyed all of our planned activities (book clubs, plant tours, Halloween trips, and art projects). But the ones that have given me the most satisfaction are the outreach events like the CEC. Watching the girls gain confidence and inspiration is the best feeling. A few of us were able to work with the YWCA for a small CEC event this summer. Their appreciation and enthusiasm is contagious. I hope this year we can broaden our outreach events and take the CEC format to area organizations. I am very excited and look forward to all the opportunities this year can bring!

-Robyn



Leadership development is one of the benefits to participating in a non-profit, professional organization like SWE SCMI. One easy way to participate is to volunteer to work on a committee or event.

We are looking for the following committee chairs and members:

Social Media

Event Coordinator

Outreach



Interested in volunteering?

Reach out to scmi.swe@gmail.com

The 7th Annual
Corporate Engineering Challenge
will be

Saturday February 15th.

If you are interested in helping with the planning of the event please reach out to

scmiswe.cecevent@gmail.com

sWe19
The World's Largest Conference
for Women Engineers

November 7-9 2019

Anaheim, California @ Anaheim Convention Center

- The premier conference for women engineers around the globe
- Attend one of the world's largest career fair
- Be in the presence of global thought leaders sharing their insights on succeeding in engineering
- 250+ professional development sessions to help you advance in your career

WE Local will be heading to the following cities in 2020.

San Diego, January 31-February 1, 2020

Salt Lake City, February 7-8 2020

Raleigh, February 21-22 2020

Buffalo, March 27-28 2020

Des Moines, April 17-18 2020

LOCAL
sWe

SWE-SCMI



Society of Women Engineers
South Central Michigan Section
[http://
southcentralmichigan.swe.org/](http://southcentralmichigan.swe.org/)
Headquarters: <http://swe.org>



We're on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/scmi.swe>



And Linked In!

[https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?
gid=8393404](https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=8393404)

FY20 OFFICERS

Robyn Cornish, President

Tamanna Akter, Vice President

Megan James, Treasurer

Rebekah Mohilo, Secretary

If you would like to contact any of the FY20 officers, please reach out to scmi.swe@gmail.com!



FY20 Planning Calendar

Mark your calendars with the tentative schedule for the rest of FY20!

We are always looking for volunteers to help organize these events and the events that are being planned for FY20! If you are interested, please email scmi.swe@gmail.com!

SCMI Monthly Social Hour—3rd Thursday of Month
A chance to meet other SWE Members in the area, connect, network and socialize. Each Month will be at a different location

August 15th 5:30-7:30pm
One Well Brewing—Portage



FY20 Planning Party

August 28th 5:30-8:00pm
Brewster's Fine Food & Spirits —Portage



This newsletter has been sent to you on behalf of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) South Central Michigan Section, based on your interest in SWE. If you prefer not to receive email messages from SWE-SCMI, please send a message to: scmi.swe@gmail.com Please allow 5-7 days for removal. To change the email address that this type of message is sent to, please send a message to scmi.swe@gmail.com Note: Please send messages from the email address or list the addresses you may have provided originally for messages.