WE16 National Conference Update

WE16 is the largest conference for women engineers in the world, and was held this year in Philadelphia, PA! There were over 11,000 attendees from all over the world, and over 300 organizations participated in the WE16 Career Fair. WE16 is a fantastic opportunity to grow professionally, as well as network with other women engineers. There are always fantastic keynote speakers and presentations at the national conference, and this year was no exception.

Luann Pendy, Senior Vice President of Global Quality from Medtronic, was the opening keynote speaker and gave some fantastic insights about her career and how other women can succeed as leaders in their organizations. Even though she was not an engineer herself, she gave several hints towards being a professional success.

The social climate in our world today is one that is leading many companies to a conversation about unconscious bias. This topic was addressed in one of the many interesting presentations at the WE16 National Conference in a presentation entitled “The State of Women in Engineering.” Research has shown that almost 40% of women engineers leave the workforce by midcareer, and SWE partnered with the Center for WorkLife Law at the University of California to study engineers’ experiences with implicit bias in the workplace. More information about the research study can be found at this link: http://research.swe.org/swe-research/

There were many other fantastic presentations given at the WE16 Conference, and the WE16 Virtual Conference is now available at this link: http://advancelearning.swe.org/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=84296. If you are a SWE member and attended the conference, you can register for the Virtual Conference before January 8, 2017 for a discounted price of only $20 with the coupon code “WE16Philly”!
Philanthropy at SCMI Food Bank

SWE SCMI partnered with the Food Bank of South Central Michigan in Battle Creek, MI on November 30th for a night of philanthropy!

The Food Bank of South Central Michigan is a member of Feeding America, a national organization that supports over 200 food banks around the country.

The SCMI Food Bank serves over 189,000 people annually throughout eight counties in South Central Michigan through their network, and they rely on over 9,000 volunteers who regularly give their time to feed the hungry.

SWE SCMI spent a couple of hours repacking potatoes from 50-lb bags into smaller, more usable 5-lb bags and restacking donated pallets of cereal. Through our work, we packed almost 4,400 lbs of potatoes, which will feed approximately 3,650 individuals!

This event was an excellent opportunity for our section to help others in our community and celebrate the holiday season by giving back!
October Social at Bowen Mills

Just before Halloween a group of SCMI SWE members met at Historic Bowens Mills in Middleville, MI to see their cider pressing and try their delicious donuts and apple dumplings. It was a perfect fall day and the second generation family-owned and operated State Historic Site provided a beautiful, West Michigan backdrop. We watched the apples climb the conveyor belt into their pressing room, where we were sprayed with apple juice as the hydraulic press came down. At one point, the operation stopped because of a slipped belt overhead. The employees quickly found a rickety ladder to climb up and slide the belt back into place (guardless). The safety and industrial engineers would have had a field day. Don’t worry: one guy held the ladder as the other climbed. The pressing continued and cider drained through filters to the lower level. Once complete the solid remains on the press were thrown out the second story door to a pallet below. It’s a process that hasn’t changed in more than 100 years. As we walked out, we bought gallons of the very batch of cider we saw pressed. It was the best cider I had all season!

Registration for Region H Conference

Registration for the SWE 2017 Region H Conference is now open! The conference will be held in Ann Arbor, Michigan on March 10-12, 2017. Don’t forget to register by January 25, 2017 to reserve your spot! Registration can be done at this link: http://www.sweconference2017-umich.com/blank-3
Webinar at Performance Validation

The November webinar at Performance Validation was well attended. Ten ladies representing various Southwest Michigan companies learned practical ideas and inspiring tips for achieving greater success in the workplace. Becky Blaklock, a veteran Fortune 500 executive, presented on her recent book "DARE: Straight Talk on Confidence, Courage and Career for Women in Charge".

Becky’s presentation included how to gain confidence, speak up, find mentors, bounce back from failure, build a network, and manage others. The discussion following the sixty minute webinar allowed the group to share personal examples everyone could relate to.

Letter from the President

How is it the end of the 2016 already?! This year has flown by!

One of the messages that really got my attention during Becky Blaklock’s webinar in November was the importance of setting goals and focusing on what really matters. As time continues to fly by and we enter the season of resolutions and self-improvement, I’m taking her message to heart. She talked about not only setting goals for yourself, but writing them down and having a plan for achievement. By taking the time to actually write down your goals and dreams, studies show you significantly increase your chances of accomplishing them. The message has stuck with me and I’m taking action!

What are your goals for 2017?
In 5 years, where do you want your career to be? 10 years?
What’s getting in the way of what’s important and what can be outsourced? (get a cleaning lady, hire a handyman, delegate at work)

On that note: If any of you have goals of getting more involved (like that transition?), we unfortunately are losing a member of our executive board. Jessika Yankovic is moving to warmer California with her family and has resigned as Vice President. Please join me in wishing her well! If you or someone you know is interested in the position, let me know!

- Maggie
December Social—Glass Blown Ornaments

We had an awesome opportunity to network, socialize and learn the art of glass-blowing during our December social at Glass Art Kalamazoo! Along with delicious food catered in and ample time to catch up with one another, we had a blast learning about the process and making our very own glass-blown ornaments! The instructors also made a beautiful vase as a demonstration of more complicated glass art. What a great way to start the holiday season!

Other STEM news!

There are some pretty amazing examples of how STEM is being promoted throughout the US, and a recent example is that PepsiCo and 21st Century Fox teamed up in a campaign to sponsor a scholarship contest tied in to Fox’s new movie “Hidden Figures.” More information about the program is in the following Marketing Daily article: http://www.mediapost.com/publications/article/288977/pepsico-fox-hidden-figures-contest-supports-nex.html
January Book Club

Mark your calendars for our January Book Club! We will be meeting on January 21st at Water Street Coffee (3037 Oakland Dr, Kalamazoo, MI) at 10 am. The book that has been picked for this book club is “The Five Dysfunctions of a Team A Leadership Fable” by Patrick Lencioni. Description of the book from Amazon is as follows:

“In The Five Dysfunctions of a Team Patrick Lencioni once again offers a leadership fable that is as enthralling and instructive as his first two best-selling books, The Five Temptations of a CEO and The Four Obsessions of an Extraordinary Executive. This time, he turns his keen intellect and storytelling power to the fascinating, complex world of teams. Kathryn Petersen, Decision Tech's CEO, faces the ultimate leadership crisis: uniting a team in such disarray that it threatens to bring down the entire company. Will she succeed? Will she be fired? Will the company fail? Lencioni’s utterly gripping tale serves as a timeless reminder that leadership requires as much courage as it does insight.

Throughout the story, Lencioni reveals the five dysfunctions which go to the very heart of why teams even the best ones often struggle. He outlines a powerful model and actionable steps that can be used to overcome these common hurdles and build a cohesive, effective team. Just as with his other books, Lencioni has written a compelling fable with a powerful yet deceptively simple message for all those who strive to be exceptional team leaders.”

Hope you can join us!

FY17 Calendar

January
- Book Club—January 21st @ 10 am @ Water Street Coffee, Kalamazoo
- Social—TBD

February
- Air Zoo Corporate Engineering Challenge—February 18th @ AirZoo, Portage
- Engineer Week

March
- Youth Symposium
- Regional Conference—March 10-12 in Ann Arbor, MI
- Spring Fling Social

April
- Speaker w/ WMU chapter: How to Dress for Work
- Social

May
- Facility Tour
- Book Club
- Women’s Panel

June
- Winery Tour

***Please note that all of these events (with the exception of those that have dates already specified) do not yet have dates and are subject to change. Keep an eye out for emails and calendar invites for final event dates, times and details!
**Look Forward to our 2017 Corporate Engineering Challenge at the AirZoo!**

On February 18th our section along with the Air Zoo will host the 4th annual Corporate Engineering Challenge. This is an event designed to get girls interested in science and engineering. It also showcases many of our local companies and our section. This is one of our biggest events of the year and we could use your help!

So far we have the following companies sponsoring/participating in the event: Albemarle, Bendix, Consumers Energy, Mann Hummel, Performance Validation, Perrigo, Pfizer, Rockwell Automation, Stryker, Thermo Fisher Scientific, WMU, JR Automation, Welsh and Associates, Whirlpool, CRB Engineers, Parker, and Zoetis.

How you can help:

1) If you are a company liaison for your company make sure you are signed up at [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094aadaf2ea0fe3-2017](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094aadaf2ea0fe3-2017)

2) If you don’t see your company listed and would like them to participate contact Ann: [AnnZuzu-ly@Eaton.com](mailto:AnnZuzu-ly@Eaton.com)

3) If you would like to sign up as a volunteer for the event contact Leslie: [leslie.romanowski@stryker.com](mailto:leslie.romanowski@stryker.com) or sign up at this link: [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4eacaf23a7fd0-corporate1](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4eacaf23a7fd0-corporate1)

Stay tuned for more information on this awesome event!!