

SWE-SCMI

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Women's Panel

Article By: Jessika Yankovic

On April 18th, members of SWE-SCMI and the community gathered at Eaton in Galesburg to discuss and learn about changing workforce expectations, how to champion new workplace policies, and how to survive and thrive after taking a break from the workplace. Leaders from Stryker, Perrigo, Kellogg, Pfizer, and Eaton shared their experiences as an eager audience listened and shared stories of their own.

The panel was titled "Changing the Workplace for a Changing Workforce," and each of the panelists brought and shared their unique experiences and many thoughtful pieces of advice. Stryker's Jennifer Goff, an Engineering Compliance Manager, shared her belief that communication is the key to making flexible schedules work, and she has successfully put that belief into practice with her team. Jill June, an API manager at Pfizer, shared some of the struggles she faced related to maternity leave, discussed her extended leave to care for her children, and also talked through her transition back into the workplace.



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!



Women's Panel, cont.

Kellogg's Kristine Mauro, Vice President of North American Integrated Planning, shared her experiences in pioneering and participating in a new workplace policy at her company. Debra Keller, a Product Quality for Eaton's Vehicle Group, talked about her experiences in creating women's groups in the workplace, leading high performing teams that took advantage of flexible schedules, and engaging in flexible work solutions as a manager to increase employee participation. Jennifer Hoffman, an Account Executive at Perrigo, shared advice about splitting responsibilities at home with her partner so that they can both pursue their career and personal goals.

Conversations continued after the panel discussion in an impromptu networking session, and we continued to learn from the panelists and from each other. Thank you to all who attended, participated, and helped make this year's Women's Panel a great success!



Youth Symposium



Article by: Sylvia Schonauer

Rockets were blasting and inspired future packaging engineers were busy determining pack fits during the 2016 Youth Symposium held on March 12 at Western University! SCMI partnered with Sigma Gamma Rho to provide science and engineering related activities for 39 girls in Grades 3-12. Ten SWE volunteers introduced their STEM careers and backgrounds to the girls before leading them through 2 engaging activities.

This year's activities included building and launching paper rockets, led by Angela Clark. It was truly a lesson in engineering and creative problem solving when we had failure of our launching mechanism and had to alter the activity to make it work. There was a lot of excitement and unique designs as the girls worked in groups of two to build their rockets from the supplies provided. Several of the groups built multiple rockets to see what impact the differences in the design had on distance of travel.



Youth Symposium, cont.

The second activity, led by Maranda Ledvina and Geneva Jones, was designed to teach how the bulk density of rice changes from the time of harvest, through the various process stages to finished puffed rice product, and how important knowing bulk density at the various stages is when designing storage equipment, process equipment, and finished food packaging. The girls saw visual samples of rice at each stage of the process, compared bulk density of different finished products and saw how package size or weight



changed accordingly, then conducted their own pack fit exercises. Finally, they had a chance to puff the rice to see how the puffing process changes the bulk density. The girls were very excited to meet the volunteers and learn about the various roles engineers can have in their careers. Much of the feedback included comments on not realizing there were so many types of engineers and different roles they can have. Several commented that they learned how to work as a team and to never give up. Many also thought the volunteers were awesome teachers and want to bring their friends next year!

This is an annual event so please make plans to join us next year on the second Saturday of March to make a difference in the lives of many! Thanks to all of the volunteers that helped make this a special, inspiring day for the youth!

March and April Socials

We had some pretty amazing times getting to know each other better through our SCMI socials these past couple of months! In March we met at Moonraker in Battle Creek, MI, and in April we met at Lawton Brewery in Lawton, MI! Hope you will come join us at Territorial Brewing Company in Springfield, MI on June 21st!



Community Service Event: SWE SCMI Helps the Food Bank of SCMI!

Article by: Ben Meikle



With a focus on giving back to the community, SWE SCMI decided to hold a philanthropy event at the Food Bank of South Central MI on May 17th. The Food Bank of SCMI services eight counties and relies on volunteers to carry out a significant amount of the labor required to provide nourishment to such a vast area in need. The SCMI SWE team was presented with two different projects that were carried out side-by-side. Naomi Curtis (Special Events

Coordinator at the Food Bank) described the result needed for beets and cabbage, it! The "engineer" in contributed to laying out simple, efficient processes that enabled us all to contribute, network, and learn more about each other with the end result being many pallets of fresh vegetables ready to be distributed. It was a great feeling to walk away from the event knowing we helped those in need while simultaneously getting to know many SWE'rs and family members better!



If you have an interest in an easy way to provide service to the community or need to assemble a team building activity for work, church, or any other group, please contact the Food Bank of South Central MI <http://www.foodbankofscm.org/>

Join us for our Year End Wrap-Up Event!

Please join us at Territorial Brewing Company in Springfield, MI on June 21st at 5:30 pm! We will be celebrating our successes from FY16, and introducing the newly-elected officers for FY17!

If you think you are able to make it, please RSVP at the Sign-Up Genius link below by **June 14th!**

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c44a5a823a6fb6-scmi2>



Vote for FY17 Officers



FY16 is almost over, so we are busy looking forward to FY17! If you are an active (paying) member of SWE SCMI, please remember to vote for the FY17 officer slate by **June 9th!**

If you have questions about where to find the ballot, please email scmi.swe@gmail.com.

New Facebook Page!

SWE SCMI has a new Facebook business page! You can find the page by searching for "SWE South Central Michigan Section, or by following the link below:

www.facebook.com/scmi.swe

Please like our new page to expand your network of women engineers and keep up-to-date on all of the fun and awesome things that SWE and SWE SCMI are doing!



Letter from the President

Hello SCMI SWE,

It is nearing the end of SWE's Fiscal Year, and what a year it has been for our Section in South Central Michigan!

We started the year with a collaborative planning session, after which we had our year's scheduled events and some key event sponsors identified. Since that planning, we have followed the plan fairly closely with adjustments as necessary. As a group, we have accomplished a lot!

In a nutshell, we learned at our professional development events, helped others at our community service event, encouraged each other at our social events, and shared engineering with young girls at our outreach events. All of this while having oodles of fun and growing our network of female engineers in the area!

Thank you for all that you do to progress your SCMI SWE Section. The section is what we make it, and our combined efforts have made it great. Please accept this personal invitation to join me for the year's final event at Territorial Brewing Company on June 21st. We will review the year's activities and celebrate our successes. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Thank you SCMI SWE for a Great SWE Year!

Elizabeth Fuhrman



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!

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Call for Volunteers—SWE SCMI Committees!

We have some very active and engaging committees and leadership opportunities at SWE SCMI, and we are always looking for more volunteers!

- **Awards/Nominations Committee:** Responsible for recognizing the achievements of members of our section through award nominations and recruiting of future SCMI leaders. Led by Sylvia Schonauer (Sylvia.schonauer@kellogg.com).
- **Communications Committee:** Responsible for the social media sites (Linked In, Facebook, Website, etc) and the quarterly newsletters. Led by Cheryl Fritz (Cheryl.fritz@kellogg.com).
- **Event Sponsor:** Each event that SWE SCMI puts on is led by an event sponsor. Responsibilities of the event sponsor include planning the event, communications about the event (flyers, RSVPs, etc), and documentation of the event (pictures, newsletter article, etc).

Being involved in a committee or being an event sponsor for SWE SCMI is a fantastic way to build your network of other women engineers and to have an influence on the section and our activities!

Please email scmi.swe@gmail.com if you are interested in participating in any of these committees or becoming an event sponsor!