

### SWE-SCMI

Website! <http://southcentralmichigan.swe.org/>

Also join our FB group! [SWE South Central Michigan](#)

And we have a new Linked In page!! <https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=8393404>

November 2015

Volume FY16, Issue 3

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### WE15 National Conference—Reach Out to Reach Up!

The WE15 National Conference was held on October 21-25th in Nashville, TN. There were over 8,500 attendees and over 350 professional development sessions, making this year the most-attended conference to date! Nicola Palmer, the senior vice president and chief network officer for Verizon Wireless, gave a wonderful keynote breakfast speech about how she helped to grow Verizon and it's network into the company it is today. With fascinating stories and uplifting information about how she managed as a working mother with three children and continued on in her battle with breast cancer, Nicola was truly an inspiration to all women, but especially women engineers.



The opportunities for professional development were also abounding at the national conference! There were session tracks devoted to specific topics, such as Career and Life Transitions, K-12 Outreach, Career Enhancement, and Inclusion

and Cultural Awareness. But if the session tracks weren't enough, there were also many extremely interesting discussion panels, such as the panels "Partnering with Men to create an Inclusive Workplace" and "Introverts and Extroverts: Finding a Balance and Best Outcomes"; mega-sessions such as "The Power of Connectional Intelligence," where we learned how to use our social and professional connections to make a bigger difference in the world; or smaller sessions such as "Feedback: How to Give It and Receive It" and "Effective Negotiation."

#### 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](mailto:scmi.swe@gmail.com)
- ◆ Check out our Calendar of Upcoming Events (page 6) and make plans to join us!
- ◆ Get more out of your SWE membership by volunteering for one of the many opportunities to get involved!

## WE15 National Conference, Cont.

Lastly, the conference ended with an absolutely fabulous keynote speaker: Maria Fernanda Mejia, the Kellogg Latin America SVP and President. Maria Fernanda encouraged the attendees to be “Excellent Engineering Leaders” - not just “Excellent Engineers.” Through heartfelt stories and true-life examples she gave the attendees tips and insights on how to become the best engineering leaders that they can be.

Overall, the conference was a fantastic experience for networking and professional growth, and we can look forward to the 2016 National Conference in Philadelphia!



## Congratulations, SWE SCMI!!!

SWE SCMI won 3rd place at the WE15 National Conference in Nashville, TN for our Communications Program! This award was in recognition of the great work that our section has done over the last couple of years in growing and developing our members and section through our communications program. Sylvia Schonauer and Cheryl Fritz accepted the award on behalf of SWE SCMI at the conference.

**Congratulations SWE SCMI!!!**

## SCMI October Social at Arcadia Ales!

SWE SCMI got together for some drinks, food and friendship at Arcadia Ales in Battle Creek on October 28th! It was a great time to socialize, network, and catch up with some of our friends that we hadn't seen in a while!



**Please join us for our next social at Tavern on McGillen in Mattawan on November 18th!**

## Letter from the President

SCMI-SWE,

I hope everyone is enjoying this absolutely beautiful Michigan November! Remember this time last year? We had frigid temperatures and snow!

SCMI SWE is going beautifully as well. Our section has been very active, as demonstrated by everything in this newsletter. The activities we offer benefit our members on a professional level, they make a positive difference in our community, and they are fun to boot! None of this would be possible if it were not for the hard work of our members. I am continually amazed by the high level of energy exhibited and I am extremely thankful for all the time contributed to make our section a success.

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, it is a wonderful time to reflect on all our blessings. It is also the perfect time for us to intentionally reach out to people who have impacted our life in some way. That could be a co-worker, manager, mom, mentor, sister, dad, or many others. The practice of expressing appreciation for others can be very meaningful, both for those whom we thank and for us as well. It is our opportunity to acknowledge we are not alone in our success, and that we all need others in our life.

What are the ways you have expressed thankfulness to others? Please share on our LinkedIn site, it is great to share fun and different ideas on how to do this!

<https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=8393404>

Thank you for all you do SCMI-SWE!!

*Elizabeth Fuhrman*

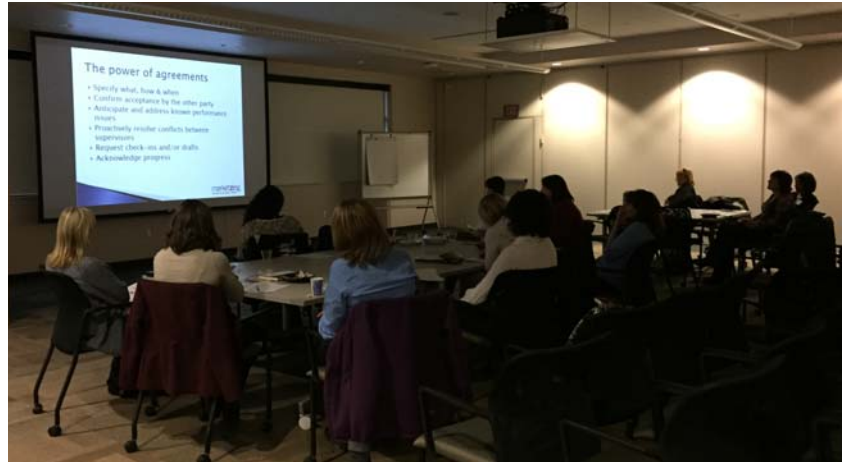




## October Webinar: Managing through Influence: Communication Skills Around Accountability, Conflict, and Candor

**Article by: Tonya Killick**

The webinar event at Perrigo was very well received. Fourteen ladies, representing various southwest Michigan companies were able to learn techniques, tips, and communication styles that pertained to accountability, conflict, and candor. The discussion following the 60 minute webinar allowed the group to share personal examples that everyone could relate to.



One of the statements in the presentation around accountability was “You can’t “hold” anyone accountable for anything”; however, you can set clear expectations and administer consequences. I found this to be good advice as we tend to use the word “accountable” as something we can control.

The discussion and webinar was a valuable experience that allowed me and others with differing backgrounds to be candid about topics that pertained to the webinar and everyday work situations.

## WMU Resume Night

**Article by: Christina Lincoln**

Another Successful Resume Review Night at WMU is in the books! On September 29<sup>th</sup> over 64 WMU students received tips on career fair preparation and resume critiquing. Five SWE professionals from Kellogg, Stryker, and Rockwell Automation split up into small groups to assist the enthusiastic students, after sharing their professional experience and a presentation on resume tips.

The students were definitely eager for input on their resumes. Questions ranged from: “How

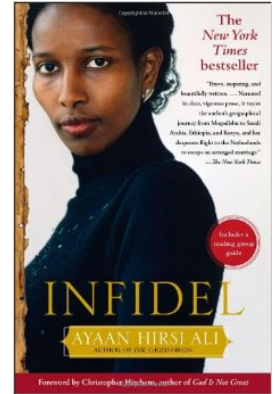


should I format my resume?” to “How should I include non-engineering jobs?” The students left the event excited to update their resume and share them at the Engineering Expo on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

## November Book Club: “Infidel” by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

**Article by: Gretchen Merkel**

On Tuesday, November 10, a dynamic group of ladies met at Epic Bistro for comradery and stimulating conversation. The chosen book for discussion was *Infidel*, by Ayaan Hirsi, an autobiographical work that details the Bildungsroman of a tenacious woman, who was both a Somalian refugee and eventually a member of Dutch Parliament. Discussion ranged from surprising events from the book, impressions, and personal experiences, but the group especially recognized what privileges we were born with and may regularly take for granted. Unequivocally, Ayaan’s story is an inspirational one, as she details her obstacles and her grit to surmount them. The wit and compassion from the women at the table yielded a robust conversation, over a delicious dinner, dessert, and coffee.



Please join us for the Spring book club, book to be announced, regardless of your availability to finish the book!

## Call for Nominees: SWE New Faces in Engineering Award!

There is a great opportunity to be recognized for professional accomplishments and involvement in SWE! If you are a SWE member and under 30 years of age, you are eligible to apply for the 2016 SWE New Faces of Engineering Award.

If you are interested, please contact Sylvia Schonauer (Sylvia.schonauer@kellogg.com) or check out the [2016 New Faces Nomination Guide](#) for more information!

**The deadline is November 20th, so act soon!!**

## Call for Volunteers: 2016 AirZoo Corporate Engineering Challenge!



Planning for the next SWE AirZoo Corporate Engineering Challenge is underway! The date for the event is Saturday, February 20th, 2016. **There is an immediate need for anyone who has an interest or experience in advertising to help out with advertising for the event!** However, there are plenty of other awesome volunteer opportunities available, so if you are interested in helping with this fantastic event, please reach out to Jessika Yankovic (JessikaYankovic@Eaton.com) or Corrine Kupstas (Corrine.kupstas@perrigo.com)!

## FY16 Planning Calendar—Look for emails and flyers for details!

### November 2015

- Monthly Social Event: Tavern on McGillen, Mattawan, MI: November 18th



### December 2015

- Community and/or Holiday Service Project

### January 2016

- Monthly Social Event: Koffee Klutch, Galesburg, MI
- **Murder Mystery Event at Henderson Castle: January 18th**



### February 2016

- Monthly Social Event: One Well Brewing Company, Kalamazoo, MI
- **Women’s Panel, hosted by Eaton**
- **AirZoo Engineering Challenge: February 20th**
- Regional Conference



### March 2016

- Monthly Social Event: Battle Creek Moonraker, Battle Creek, MI
- Zingerman’s Creamery Tour
- **Youth Symposium Outreach: March 12th**



### April 2016

- Monthly Social Event: Lawton Barn Brewers, Lawton, MI

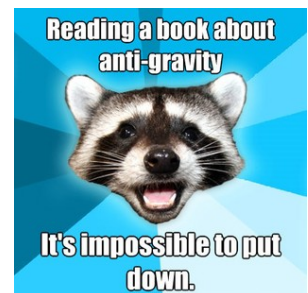
### May 2016

- Speed Networking Event



### June 2016

- Monthly Social Event: Dark Horse Brewing Company, Marshall, MI
- Book Club and Discussion



### July 2016

- Family Fun Event

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!



## 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!**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/swe.scmi/>



**And Linked In!**

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

## FY16 OFFICERS

**Elizabeth Fuhrman, President**  
[elizabeth.fuhrman@stryker.com](mailto:elizabeth.fuhrman@stryker.com)

**Carrie Baracka, Vice President**  
[caroline.baracka@kellogg.com](mailto:caroline.baracka@kellogg.com)

**Megan James, Treasurer**  
[megan.james@stryker.com](mailto:megan.james@stryker.com)

**Cheryl Fritz, Secretary**  
[cheryl.fritz@kellogg.com](mailto:cheryl.fritz@kellogg.com)

**Heather Ivey, Section Rep**  
[Heather.ivey@postfoods.com](mailto:Heather.ivey@postfoods.com)

**Kristin Sanburn, Alternate Section Rep**  
[kristin.sanburn@kellogg.com](mailto:kristin.sanburn@kellogg.com)



## Member Highlights!

This section is reserved for highlighting when members are achieving successes in the workplace! The amazing successes that have been achieved by SWE SCMI members in the last few months are:

- **Megan James** was promoted in July to Senior Principle Engineer at Stryker Instruments! She also completed the first production representative build of a new handpiece that she designed! Congratulations to Megan on her huge accomplishments!
- **Shelley Crawford** was promoted in October to Group Engineering Manager at Kellogg's in the Global Snacks Process Engineering Group. Congratulations to Shelley on her promotion!
- **Sam Dyer** was promoted in September to Process Engineer in Ready-To-Eat-Cereal Process Engineering at Kellogg's! Congratulations to Sam on his promotion!
- **Danielle Habitz** was promoted in August to Lead Process Engineer in Snacks Process Engineering at Kellogg's! Congratulations to Danielle on her promotion!

Please send an email to [scmi.swe@gmail.com](mailto:scmi.swe@gmail.com) to submit your career success so that we can celebrate with you!

## Call for Event Sponsors!

There are still two events left this year that still need event sponsors: Speed Networking in May and the Family-Fun event in July! Please consider becoming an event sponsor; it gives a wonderful opportunity to expand your leadership and networking skills! The event sponsor is responsible for organizing their event and following a checklist laid out by the leadership team to make sure we capture all of the awesome events that we do!

**If you are interested in becoming an event sponsor, please email our SWE SCMI gmail account: [scmi.swe@gmail.com](mailto:scmi.swe@gmail.com)!**