Southwest Michigan SWE Section

Want to stay connected with SWE while working from home? Join our newly created SWE SWMI Linkedin group! Also, check out our website as well as our Facebook group and keep an eye out for stories on the WHR360 GPO and Twin Cities Channels!

Q2 2020 Newsletter
July 10, 2020

Southwest MI SWE Leadership Team

ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!
Here are the 2020-2021 SWMI SWE Board Members.

Executive Board:
President - Nicole Ernat
Vice President - Himabindu Yamana
Treasurer - Brianne Anderson
Secretary - Patricia Davis

Chair Positions:
Social - Brooke Gundersen
Membership - Michele Wilcox
Professional Development - Pervin Taleyarkhan
Social Media - Lisa Blumenthal
Outreach - Christine Golden & Randy Gelisse

President’s Corner

Nicole Ernat
The SWE Southwest Michigan Chapter is excited to welcome our new executive board and committee leads as we start FY21! FY21 runs from July 2020 through June 2021.

Together as a team, we look forward to helping support the SWMI SWE Chapter through the focus on our mission. "To support engineers across Southwest Michigan to grow and develop while surrounded by a positive network of support, to develop STEM presence in the community, and to grow top talent while being a positive catalyst for change externally."

If there are any events or resources you’d like to see this year, please reach out!
2020 - 2021 Planning
Executive Committee

**FY21 planning is underway and we need your help!**
Attached [here](#) you will find a 2020-2021 SWMI SWE Survey. It is important to receive feedback from all members as input to the planning. PLEASE take a few moments to provide your candid and transparent feedback to assure a successful year.

Deadline to have feedback submitted is Monday, July 20.

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**Professional Development Update**
Pervin Taleyarkhan
See all details surrounding Q2 Professional Development under the Networking Lunches & Social Events write up below. Both chairs teamed up in Q2 to combine virtual events that allowed for Social Networking while remaining focused on Professional Development during Michigan’s Stay at Home order.

As we head into Q3 2020, stay tuned for more event announcements and resources geared toward helping us all develop ourselves both professionally and personally.

If you have any topics that you’d like to see addressed during future professional development events, please be sure to include them in the 2020-2021 survey or send them directly to Pervin Taleyarkhan at pervin_r_taleyarkhan@whirlpool.com.

Outreach Update
Christine Golden & Randy Gelisse

Stay tuned for initiatives that will kick off in the next school year, and ways to involve ourselves in activities that showcase the Engineering profession.

GIRL SCOUT DAY
Michele Johnson

Excitement for the 2020 Girl Scout Day was rampant and our plans to “Think like a Programmer” with our scouts were all in place. We were fortunate to have 99 scouts registered, which is double the attendance in our previous years! Our team of volunteers were ready to go! Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we made the hard decision to cancel the event. We are currently monitoring the COVID situation to determine when it will be safe to start this event up again in the future. Our priority is the health of our guests and volunteers, therefore we will not schedule the next date until we are certain we can ensure that everyone can have fun together in a safe environment.
Southwest Michigan Section
Michele Wilcox

Be sure to keep your contact information updated if there are any changes so we can keep in touch. Also, be sure to invite your friends and co-workers to join the SWMI SWE chapter. Email Michele with the names and contact information and Michele will be sure to send them information on how to become a member.

michele_wilcox@whirlpool.com

Networking Lunches & Social Events:
Himabindu Yamana & Pervin Taleyarkhan

This Quarter given the COVID pandemic, the Social and Professional Development Committees combined efforts to give our members the best events possible without being overwhelmed with virtual invites. Below you will find a summary of the events.

Be sure to watch your calendars for updates to future Networking Lunches and Social Events as plans begin to develop. And don’t forget to provide your feedback in the survey!
May 13, 2020 - Virtual Networking Lunch
Recognizing that especially as women and aspiring leaders in general, one of the hardest, yet most important, things we can do in any profession is receive (and give) feedback. To help share experiences and support each other’s development in this skill, our May SWE Networking event was themed around a discussion of the “tips & tricks” shared in a video (available as a SWE member benefit) during which our SWE Professional Programs team guided us in how to navigate feedback & value criticism from our colleagues. Attendees engaged in meaningful discussions led by our Social Chair Himabindu Yamana.

June 23, 2020 - Virtual Networking Event
In Light of the layoffs that were planned for late June, we shared a few informative articles to cope up with the challenges the layoff/restructuring actions might bring to any of us. Additionally, we called for a support group event during which we could openly share the emotions we all are going through during this difficult time and provide positive & uplifting stories where others have grown and excelled when faced with unexpected change.

June 23, 2020 was National Women In Engineering Day!
Take a look at these links to obtain information, inspiring stories and how to get involved. Enjoy the reads.

Days of the Year Link
SWE All Together Link
International Women’s Day