



# CONNECTION

## Greater Kansas City Chapter #92

April 2009

### IN THIS ISSUE

	pg.		pg.
1 – April Meeting Details	1	5 – News from Headquarters	3
2 – May Meeting Preview	2	6 – Career Development	4
3 – President’s Message	2	7 – Chapter Update	5-6
4 – Membership Update	3	8 – Officer Listing	7

### 1a - APRIL MEETING

#### Lunch and Learn

On Tuesday, April 21, the Greater Kansas City Chapter of IIE will host its first Lunch and Learn event guided to promote further interaction with all of our members and sharing different IE or continuous improvement practices, project, and ideas that we have used throughout our careers.



Our first event’s topic is “Advancement in Technology & Cost Savings Projects.”

We ask that you come and enjoy lunch with other IIE members and share your experience about cutting edge bursts in technology and cost savings efforts.

We ask for each attendee to please share one or two ideas or projects that have worked/been seen in the past or current efforts associated with technology and cost savings projects.



When: Tuesday, April 21st ; 12:00pm

Where: Pierpont’s restaurant at Union Station (30 W. Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO 64108)

Cost: Attendees will be invited to order lunch off the menu, at their cost

RSVP: via [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=wtkCNaP4yo7Fq9juTWR2\\_2bw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=wtkCNaP4yo7Fq9juTWR2_2bw_3d_3d) by Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

### 1b - APRIL SOCIAL EVENT



Join the KCIIE board and your fellow members for a social/networking event. This will also be a celebration for Jay Christensen, our newly elected Regional Vice President!

When: Thursday, April 23rd ; 6:00pm

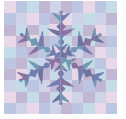
Where: Fox & Hound (10428 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS 66212)

## 2 – MAY MEETING PREVIEW

In May, we will continue our chapter's community service tradition with another Union Cemetery Work Day. The event is scheduled for May 16th, 9:30-11:30am followed by lunch. Details to follow in the May newsletter.

## 3 – PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone and Happy Spring! Well, I guess it's Spring season but the last few days sure don't look like it. I have encountered snow in every city that I have visited this past week (Pittsburg, PA, Sioux Falls, SD, Sioux City, IA, and Saint Louis, MO) and of course here as well...



We just ended another exciting event at the Frito Lay facility in Topeka, KS. Our very own Teniece Hardy did an outstanding job coordinating such dynamic, informative, and tasty tour. Thanks, Teniece for your leadership in this event.

Tough times requires tough measures... all of us recognizes the current world-wide financial crisis that we're currently living. Our IIE chapter officers recognize it as well.

You will notice that we have revamped our Career Development session of the Newsletter, which is intended to provide meaningful career oriented tips and tools for professional growth and development. We also publicize local jobs that suit our membership. Our goal is to continue to provide service to all of our members for the betterment of the Industrial Engineering profession.

Please let us hear your feedback about the Career Development session of the Newsletter. Feel free to share any meaningful tips and tools that we can share with our members and let us know about job leads as well.

We are going to start one of many events to come later on this month. We'll host a "Lunch and Learn" session guided for IIE members to come together for lunch and discuss different topics, projects, trends that we have experience in our careers. Our goal is for us to get to know one another better and to learn from one another providing us with more tools for our IE tool belt.

Ah... don't forget that you will also have the chance to enter a drawing for a gift card for any IIE event hosted by the Greater Kansas City Chapter... :) Please join us at the Pierpont's Restaurant at Union Station on April 21st for our first Lunch and Lean event.

Also stay tuned as our chapter continues our servitude efforts with a Community Service event coming up in May.

Until the next time, have a great and allergy free Spring!

Sincerely,  
**Jairo deJesus**  
President



## 4 - MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Region: South Central; Chapter: 92; Membership: 95

Welcoming returning member: Leonard Markle

**Leonard Markle** has returned to the Greater Kansas City IIE chapter after several professional experiences outside of the area. Leonard was very active with our chapter back in the 1980's while working at LCAAP. He was an officer for a couple years with responsibilities including meeting arrangements and publishing the newsletter before leaving the area in 1991. He remained a Chapter #92 member until about 2005 even after moving to Nebraska. Leonard has a background in IE management and disciplines, Lean/CI, Program/Project Management, information management including ERP/MRP II implementations (Oracle, Fourth Shift, ASI, COPICS) and software development (primarily MS Access). His work experience includes companies such as Lean Systems Solutions, Inc., Telex Communication, Newell-Rubbermade/Irwin Industrial Tool, Grant Hardware, Remington Arms/Dupont, and Cook Paint & Varnish. He is currently job hunting in the NE Kansas, NW Missouri, SE Nebraska, and SW Iowa areas. Leonard is also a current member of APICS and ASQ. He is Lean Management Certified through the Nebraska Business Development Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is scheduled for Six Sigma Green Belt testing in June. Leonard was born in Olathe and raised Louisburg, KS where his brother and mother still reside. He holds a BSIE from Kansas State University and an MBA from Rockhurst. He currently lives in Beatrice, NE.

## 5 – NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

### 2009 IIE Annual Conference

May 30 - June 3

Doral Golf Resort & Spa

Miami, Florida

Industry managers, top-notch researchers and outstanding educators reveal creative and innovative solutions at the Institute of Industrial Engineers Annual Conference and Expo 2009, an event open to all involved in process improvement, at the Doral Golf Resort & Spa in Miami, Florida. The conference includes research presentations from more than 700 individuals representing industry and academia plus more than 80 industry-focused practical solutions, keynote speakers, awards, simulation competition, facility tours, networking, student events and everything about industrial and systems engineering you could ask for and more.

Would you like to get involved with the IIE South Central Region activities? Our new Regional Vice President, Jay Christensen, is looking for volunteers who are interested in supporting the region through webinars, newsletters, etc.

If you are interested, please contact Jay at ([kjchrist@jcpenny.com](mailto:kjchrist@jcpenny.com)).

## 6 – CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### Job Search Survival 2009

Undoubtedly, this is the toughest year on record to land a new job. Reaching your career goal will take courage and nerves of steel. Are you up to the challenge? Here are three tips for job-search endurance that will keep you on the right track toward your employment goal.

#### 1. Keep your career goal realistic.

This is not the time to strike out in a risky career direction. Following your heart toward a career in which you have little qualifications could yield months of frustration as you find yourself competing against legions of candidates far more qualified. Unless you are in the position to hold out for a very long job search, concentrate on positions where you are best qualified.

#### 2. Realize it will take longer to land your next position.

If you've never experienced a lengthy job search, set your expectations out several months and practice patience. You will apply for many positions as the perfect candidate, and get no response. Expect that. You will conduct perfect interviews and hear nothing back. Expect that as well. Just remember that eventually the right company with the right job at the right time will come your way if you stay calm and focused and don't let discouragement keep you from moving forward. Just keep with it.

#### 3. Write a better resume than your competition.

Less jobs and more applicants equals extremely high competition. The quality of your resume has never been more important. For the best possible resume keep these guidelines in mind:

- Focus your resume. Avoid a one-size-fits-all resume.

- Showcase your best information in the top half of page one.

- Include accomplishments that illustrate your ability to solve today's business challenges.

#### 4. Sharpen your interview skills.

With employers interviewing only the best of the best, when you are chosen to interview be sure you are your competitive best. You CANNOT “just wing” an interview and expect to be called back for a second. Today it takes solid interview strategy to earn a second round of interviews. Interview books are helpful, but they usually fall short of teaching you how to read the interviewer's mind to understand his/her hiring motivations. A study in the art of selling is more effective to achieve great interview performance. A few basic selling strategies include:

- Asking the right questions to understand the interviewer's “hot button” motivations.

- Formulate answers around the interviewer's motivations.

- Know your accomplishments well enough to weave them effectively through your interview to achieve top candidate status.

Throughout 2009, the best jobs will go to those who persevere and stay focused. Keeping your expectations and goals realistic will help prevent the emotional ups and downs. Prepare for your job search as if you were competing in a marathon. With patience, endurance and skill you will win your next job.

Thank you

Deborah Walker, Career Coach

AlphaAdvantage

## 7 - CHAPTER UPDATE

CAR stands for the IIE Chapter Activity Report. It is a method that IIE uses to track the progress and trends of all the individual local chapters across the US. Each month, we will continue to take a look into what the CAR program means to our local chapter.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Kansas City Senior Chapter will be receiving the Gold Award for the chapter's activities performed in the 2008 calendar year. This marks the third year in a row that our chapter has received this honor which is the highest award given by IIE headquarters for a Chapter's performance. Furthermore, the KC Chapter realized a net increase in points awarded over the previous two years. While this is something to be celebrated, we realize there is still room for improvement that our Chapter can make.

This month we begin outlining the points awarded to the Chapter in the five sections of the CAR and discussing the Chapter's strategy for maintaining or improving performance. The first area is the Chapter Strategic Plans & Operations. We are happy to report that we received 15 out of 15 points in this section. The points are awarded based on the following:

Strategic Plan Timeliness – Points 4/4

*Dependent on due dates being met for this report*

Strategic Plan Quality – Points 5/5

*Reviewed and awarded by the South Central Regional VP*

Number of Board Meetings Held – Points 6/6

*Based on the number of board meetings held by the KC IIE Officer team*

As you can see, this section is awarded primarily based on the KC officers performing their functions with due diligence and providing a strong strategy for guiding the chapter forward. We encourage all of you to review the Strategic Plan for the 2009 calendar year which is available on the KC IIE Chapter web-page. I would greatly appreciate any feedback or ideas that you may have as I will be drafting the 2010 Strategic Plan towards the latter part of this year. You should also know that our chapter officers have been very active this year and have met on a monthly basis to review chapter initiatives and plan monthly events. We are excited to continue to serve you and represent the KC IIE Senior Chapter.

Next month, we will begin looking at the Chapter Programs section of the CAR and will discuss the programs that we have outlined for this year. Stay tuned!

Sincerely,

**Kyle Grabill**

President – Elect

Are you looking for a way to get more involved in your local IIE chapter? Do you want to give back to the community and to the profession? If you answered "YES" to either question, we have an opportunity for you! The KCIIE chapter has initiated committees for various projects and is currently looking for volunteers to help with Community Service and the Fall Conference.

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact Beth Kelley ([bkelle1@hallmark.com](mailto:bkelle1@hallmark.com)) for Community Service and Kyle Grabill ([kyle.grabill@garmin.com](mailto:kyle.grabill@garmin.com)) for the Fall Conference!

Some upcoming events that we are considering for support include: Friends of Scouting, Math Relays, KC Science and Engineering Fair, E-Week, and First Robotics.

# 7 – CHAPTER NEWS CONT.

## April Meeting Recap

Thank you to all that attended the AMAZING tour of the Topeka Frito Lay Production Plant. We were able to see all aspects of the plant that was built in 1956. The tour started with a basic overview of how the potatoes and the ingredients are brought to the plant and how they filter down through various paths to begin the chip making process.



We were then lead to the production area where we saw each type of chip produced individually. The potato chips (Wavy Lays during our tour) are peeled, cut into shape, fried for a few minutes (while being conveyed about 50 feet), then cooled slightly and seasoned. The Cheetos Puffs and Crunch followed the same process as the Wavy Lays, just cheesier.



Next we saw the extruded products – Cheetos and Funyuns. They were sent through an extruder, fried (or baked in the case of some Cheetos), and seasoned. (Funyuns are extruded similarly to PVC pipe!) The cornmeal based products, Fritos, Doritos and Tostitos, are processed similarly to the extruded process but are also cut to shape on large cookie cutter-like cylinders. In a recently expanded area we saw Sun Chips, which follow an extrusion process similar to the cornmeal products. This area also has room for the new line they will be installing this year for Tostitos Scoops; they plan on designing the line to produce baked or fried chips. And of course, we had the luxury of tasting all these chips as they came off the line. YUMMY!

Lastly, we saw the packaging process and the warehouse. The packaging process ranged from completely automated to primarily manual. It was also exciting to learn that product made onsite stays in their warehouse for a maximum of 5 days. All in all, it was an exciting and fulfilling tour. Thanks to Mary Ann Kramer (our tour guide) and Frito Lay for providing such a fantastic tour.

Below are some of the results of the recent meeting survey – Thank you for your feedback!

Page: Institute of Industrial Engineers- Frito Lay Tour 3/24/09						
1. Please complete the following question using a scale 1-5, with 5 being "Highly Satisfied" and 1 being "Improvement Needed".						
	5	4	3	2	1	Response Count
Overall tour experience	75.0% (9)	25.0% (3)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	12
Location of tour	50.0% (6)	41.7% (5)	0.0% (0)	8.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	12
Day of week of the tour	41.7% (5)	41.7% (5)	16.7% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	12
Presentation by the tour leader	66.7% (8)	25.0% (3)	8.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	12
Length of tour	50.0% (6)	41.7% (5)	0.0% (0)	8.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	12
Ability to ask questions	58.3% (7)	8.3% (1)	25.0% (3)	8.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	12

2. Would you participate again?			Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		100.0%	12	
No		0.0%	0	

## 8 – OFFICER LISTING

Introducing our new Community Service and Fall Conference Co-Chair...Doug Gill



Doug Gill has joined the chapter as Co-Chair of Community Service and Fall Conference. He has work experience in Continuous Improvement Engineering (last employment at Heatron in Leavenworth) focusing on implementing Toyota's lean model. He has held positions with Ingersol Rand, Marley Cooling, Stanley Tools and Allied-Signal (now Honeywell). Doug's last 10 years have focused in lean implementation within manufacturing. Doug also spent 3 years working as a consultant at several companies in Kansas City and one in Ohio. Doug holds a bachelors degree in Industrial Engineering from Kansas State University and an MDiv from The Master's Seminary in Sun Valley California. In preparation for career opportunities, Doug is now working through ASQ's Lean Sigma Black Belt for Service (the hidden factory), which is a 145 hour e-course. Doug is looking for a company to volunteer in order to complete his first six sigma project, which is a prerequisite for black belt certification.

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