



# CONNECTION

## *Greater Kansas City Chapter #92*

**September 2009**

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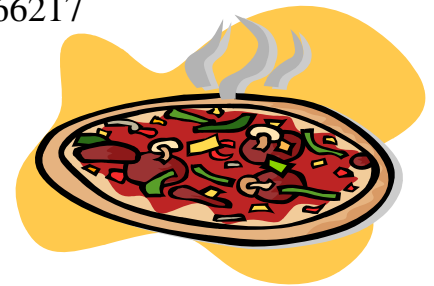
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### **1 – SEPTEMBER MEETING – LEAN ROUNDTABLE/OPEN MIC NIGHT**



Mark your calendars for Tuesday September 15th and plan to join the Kansas City IIE Chapter in a roundtable discussion of Lean ideas. Whether you want some fresh ideas or have recent successes to share, come prepared to join the discussion. It will be a great networking opportunity to talk with other individuals from around Kansas City. Hope to see you there!

- When:** September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
6:00 – 6:30pm: Networking time and Dinner  
6:30 – 8:00pm; Roundtable
- Where:** Barley's Brewhaus  
16649 Midland Dr; Shawnee, KS 66217  
(I-435 and Midland Dr.).
- Cost:** \$10 includes pizza buffet  
with coffee, tea, soda, and dessert
- RSVP:** By Sept 11th to:  
Beth Kelley at [bethkelley@hotmail.com](mailto:bethkelley@hotmail.com) or  
Brian McCarthy at [bmccarthy@mamtc.com](mailto:bmccarthy@mamtc.com)



### **Joint Engineering Council (JEC) Directory**



The 2010 edition of the JEC Directory will be published soon. If you would like to request that KCIIE not submit your contact info for listing in the directory, please contact Rachel Olson ([rolson2@hallmark.com](mailto:rolson2@hallmark.com)) by Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>.

## 2 – OCTOBER MEETING PREVIEW – MENTOR DAY

Fall is here! Time for school, football, and our Annual Student Mentor Day! The Greater Kansas City IIE chapter hosts this event each year for the students from Kansas State University and the University of Missouri-Columbia.


This year the Student Mentor Day will be held on Thursday, October 15th. For those of you familiar with this event, we are changing the format this year. We will not be doing a joint tour, so that the students and mentors can have more time together for the students to learn more about their mentor and his/her company and career. However, we will end the day together with a networking reception. The reception will be at Barley's Brewhaus in Shawnee at I-435 and Midland. Join us for an appetizer buffet, networking, and recognition of the recent recipients of the KCIIE scholarship funds donated to both schools.

Our chapter's Mentor Day is always a very popular event, and a unique event to IIE. The success of this event depends on YOU, therefore we encourage you to participate this year. If you will be able to host one to two students for this year's Mentor Day, please let us know.

 **KANSAS STATE** Thank you for your support of Student Mentor Day!  **MISSOURI**

- When:** October 15th, 2009  
9:00 AM Students and Mentors meet (exact start time to be coordinated between the students and mentors)  
3:00 PM Networking Reception
- Where:** Mentoring session will be at the Mentor's company, in the Kansas City metro area or surrounding cities
- Cost:** No cost
- RSVP:** By Friday 9/18/09 via  
Mentors - [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=wwPB39zLYatyQi44aZac1Q\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=wwPB39zLYatyQi44aZac1Q_3d_3d)  
Students - [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=YBBuo9NICe0ocIdSYWAgLQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=YBBuo9NICe0ocIdSYWAgLQ_3d_3d)

### KCIIE Economic Stimulus Package

 Announcing the KCIIE Economic Stimulus Package to both members and non-members. This package offers a \$40 membership discount to individuals who attend two of the remaining four scheduled activities for 2009. This includes the Lean Roundtable discussion in September, Mentor Day in October, the Fall Conference in November, and the Chapter Planning Session in December. This discount offers membership to first time and renewing members at a rate of \$99!

How do I take advantage of this? Attend two of the above listed events and then contact Rachel Olson (rolson2@hallmark.com) once you join or renew your membership. The reimbursement of \$40 will then be sent to you. Offer good through 8/31/10!

### 3 – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



As you may or may not know, our KC IIE Chapter President, Jairo De Jesus, has accepted a promotion with Farmland Foods and is taking on the role of Plant Manager for a facility in Atlanta, Georgia. We are sad to see Jairo go but are very excited for him as he takes on this new responsibility. Our thoughts are with him and his family as they relocate from Kansas City to Atlanta. With this move Jairo has moved on from the Chapter President’s responsibilities. We are very thankful for the leadership and service that Jairo provided during his time as an officer and we are hoping that he will find his way back to Kansas City in the future.

As a result of this news, I find myself addressing you as KCIIE members in this month’s newsletter. In this, my first Message from the President, I thought it fitting to share my thoughts over the last few weeks with you. During this time there have been three words that have been on the forefront of my mind: Change, Transition and Opportunity.

Undoubtedly, our chapter is going through a period of change which can harbor several various thoughts and feelings among different people. Fortunately, our chapter has been blessed with a strong officer group that has been through similar changes before and is capable of handling the uncertainty that can result.

With this experience, we have moved to a point of transition. We are adjusting resources and refocusing efforts to accomplish the goals which remain for this year. Individuals are stepping into new roles and a solid support structure is in place to achieve success as we move forward.

Finally, we have reached a point of opportunity. This is where the rubber meets the road for you as members. With change and transition, there are inherently gaps that need to be filled and a challenge to individuals to rise to the occasion. There are opportunities to lead, serve, educate, learn; the list goes on and on. There are many opportunities to get involved, now more than ever. If you have considered becoming more involved in IIE, I encourage you to contact one of the officers and discuss small or maybe large roles that you could take on for the remainder of the year.

Two individuals that have accepted this challenge are Jennifer Hedberg and Sara DeHaven. Jennifer has agreed to transition immediately into the President-Elect position and finish out the remainder of the year in this role. Sara DeHaven is taking on the role of the Kansas State Student Chapter Liaison and will be helping to coordinate the IIE mentor day in October. Please join me in welcoming Jennifer and Sara to their new roles.

I look forward to the remainder of 2009 and the opportunities that lie ahead for our chapter.

Best Regards,  
**Kyle Grabill**  
President



## 4 - MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Region: South Central Chapter: 92 Membership: 94

Welcoming new member: Luis Occena

**Sara DeHaven is the new KSU Student Chapter Liaison Officer.** She is a recent



graduate from Kansas State University and was the fifth student to participate in the Concurrent MS/BS program, graduating with both a MS and BS in IE in December 2007. While in college, she held several officer positions for KSU IIE Student Chapter and has fond memories of the help and interactions with the KC Senior Chapter. She particularly remembers her experiences at Mentor Day, and how these days opened the field for where IEs could work along with giving examples to what she was learning in classes. With these experiences, Sara is excited to work with KSU students and Student Chapter Officers for upcoming events.

Since graduation, Sara has been working as a technology consultant for Accenture out of the Kansas City office. Previously, she has done design and implementation work for a new website that integrated the legacy systems for call center representatives. Currently, Sara is working on a project for the Department of Administration, State of Kansas in Topeka. As a member of the technical team, she is responsible for extracting tables from the day-to-day transactional system and loading them into the data warehouse for reporting.

Growing up in Springfield, Missouri, the Kansas City area is not completely new for Sara; however, she has taken the opportunity to discover the lesser known areas and local restaurants this area has to offer. Sara also enjoys her free time exploring the Overland Park trail system and visits to the OP Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. As the end of the summer approaches and the weather starts to turn cooler, Sara gets excited for football season. She plans to host watch parties in the house she just bought over the summer.

## 5 – NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Be sure to check out [www.ienet.org](http://www.ienet.org) for more details on these upcoming IIE conferences!

Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> :	Operational Excellence Conference, St. Louis
Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> :	SHS/ASQ Conference and Expo, Atlanta
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> :	Applied Ergonomics Conference and Expo 2010, San Antonio
June 5 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> :	IIE Annual Conference and Expo 2010; Cancun, Mexico

## 6 – CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### Career Development: 20 Tips for the Young

By Wally Bock

<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/career-development-20-tips-for-the-young.html>



"If you're just starting out and want to get ahead, here are some ideas about what to do from a businessman who's watched decades of people come and go. After watching careers for almost forty years, I've got a clear idea of what you should do to build yours. Here's some advice if you're starting out.

1. Seek and use feedback. Feedback will turbocharge your career and put you on the path to continuous improvement.
2. Get help. You can't know it all yourself. Get help from mentors, friends, peers, books, classes and role models.
3. Seek out challenges. That's how you grow.
4. At some point you will fail. It will be painful. Instead of sitting in the ashes of your life and shaking your fist at the sky, pick yourself up, learn from what happened and keep going. Ask my mother's favorite question for all challenges: "What good can we make of this?"
5. Build on your strengths and help others build on their strengths. Figure out what you do both well and joyfully. Do the same for your team. Spend your time on developing and using strengths. Make weaknesses irrelevant.
6. Admit your mistakes, graciously. Forgive the mistakes others make. Figure out how to move on and learn from experience.
7. Say "Thank you." Write thank-you notes. Send thank-you emails. People will remember you.
8. Learn to write lucid memoranda. You can't communicate if you can't write.
9. Learn to make good presentations. In today's world this is a requirement. Learn to marshal the research. Learn to tell relevant stories.
10. Help your boss and your employer look good. That's part of your job and it pays dividends over the course of a career.
11. Learn to keep your mouth shut when it's important. Don't discuss sensitive issues or your customer's business on your cell phone in a public place. Don't gossip. Keep sensitive documents secure.
12. Clarify expectations until they are crystalline. Make sure you understand what your boss wants from you. Make sure the people who work with you understand what you want.
13. Fight for the important stuff and give in gracefully otherwise. There are very few things in business or in life that are worth messing up a relationship for.
14. Develop habits and checklists that help you get the routine work done routinely and well. You will develop a reputation for reliability.
15. You don't know when an opportunity to stand out from the crowd will appear. Read and study and listen so that you're ready when a big opportunity comes your way. Create learning programs for yourself.
16. Ambition can be a driving force but it needn't be obvious and self-serving. It certainly needn't be aggressive. Let others become known for their ambition while you build a reputation for excellence.
17. Keep your promises. Nothing can destroy a career faster or more thoroughly than a reputation as untrustworthy.
18. Every day identify the most important thing you need to do. Then do it.
19. Work hard. Some people succeed without working hard, but some people win the lottery, too. Very few people achieve meaningful and lasting success without working hard.
20. When in doubt about what to do, act like the person you want to become.

Remember that careers are built from the things you do every day. You're more likely to succeed in the long run if you take every opportunity to develop yourself, your skills, your friends, and your relationships. Good luck."

Wally Bock helps organizations improve productivity and morale by selecting and developing great leaders at all levels. He coaches individual managers, and is a popular speaker at meetings and conferences in the US and elsewhere. This article first appeared in the Three Star Leadership Blog ( <http://blog.threestarleadership.com/> ). Check out Wally's Working Supervisor's Support Kit ( <http://www.threestarleadership.com/supervisorsupportkit/> ).

## 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 local chapters across the US. Each month, we will continue to take a look into what the CAR program means to our local chapter.

Last month, we completed our review of the Chapter Program section of the CAR by outlining the remaining programs scheduled for 2009. We encourage your participation and feedback for these activities as we endeavor to provide programs that add value to our membership.

This month, we take a look at the Membership Communications, Growth & Retention section of the CAR. As the title of the section indicates, this section of the CAR has two primary areas of focus. The first is directed at the communications that are sent out to the chapter membership which is primarily the responsibility of our officer team. We are happy to say that the KC Chapter scored all 10 points possible in this section for 2008, and we have picked up this effort for 2009 where we left off. Membership Communication is tied closely to the monthly newsletter in addition to the surveys, mailings and chapter website that the officer team manages and coordinates. We hope that you find this communication relevant and informative to you and appreciate any feedback that you may have for improving these communication

The second area of focus for this section pertains to Membership Growth and Retention. This area is tied primarily to membership numbers for the year being evaluated in addition to the chapter activities held to promote growth and retention. The membership numbers for 2008 were strong. Overall, the chapter saw a net increase of 13 members with 12 first year members joining the chapter. As a result, the chapter membership at the end of 2008 totaled 100 members. This resulted in the Chapter receiving the full 7 points possible for membership growth. Furthermore, the chapter received 9 out of 10 points possible for the activities held to promote growth and retention.

Membership numbers have been on a slight decline for 2009. Currently, the chapter membership is at 92 members meaning there has been a net loss of 8 members so far for 2009. While this may be correlated to the economic downturn, this is something that our chapter takes very seriously and is looking to turn around immediately. As part of this action, we are introducing the KC IIE Economic Stimulus Package which offers a discount to first time members or for renewing members who participate in two of the four remaining activities for this year (please see the newsletter section highlighting the KC IIE Economic Stimulus Package for further details). We would also call on you as members to share with others the value you find in being an IIE member. This is ultimately the best method for promoting IIE and encouraging others to join. In addition, we hope that you will invite members and non-members to join you in upcoming chapter events and to participate in the KC IIE Economic Stimulus Package!



Sincerely,  
**Kyle Grabill**  
President

## 7 – CHAPTER NEWS CONT.

**Summer Event Recap** Thank you to those of you who ventured out to Community America ballpark for the recent IIE event at the T-Bones game! The Christensen family, Gill family, McCarthy family, Jennifer Hedberg & Liz Fine enjoyed the beautiful weather and 2 for 1 “beverages” as the T-Bones took on the Goldeneyes on July 29th. Jay's three year-old son, Kyle, provided most of the group's entertainment for the evening! Also, congrats to Brian's son, Kevin, on earning his driver's permit!



**Upcoming Chapter Events** In addition to the events announced in this newsletter, our chapter will be hosting two more events before the end of the year (Reminder – you'll want to note these in order to take advantage of the KCIIE Economic Stimulus Plan!).

**November - Fall Conference** – *The Fall Conference is a great opportunity to learn from experts in the field at a relatively low cost. We are in the beginning stages of this year's conference planning and are striving to provide relevant training that meets your current needs. With this in mind, we welcome your ideas on conference topics and thoughts for potential speakers (please send to [kyle.grabill@garmin.com](mailto:kyle.grabill@garmin.com)).*

**December - Officer Banquet; Planning Session** - *If you are looking to become more involved in the chapter, the yearly planning session is a great place to start. Here, the chapter reflects and realigns its strategy for the upcoming year. It is also the time and place where we elect new officers. We strongly encourage you to attend this event and hope you will consider holding an officer position in 2010.*

## 8 – STUDENT CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

The Fall semester has just gotten underway at Kansas State University and the University of Missouri. The KCIIE chapter is looking forward to partnering with both schools on events this semester – starting with Mentor Day in October.

## 9 – OFFICER LISTING

### **President**

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