

GULF COAST NEWS

FEBRUARY 2007

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CONFERENCE INFO:

- March 23-25, 2007
- College Station, TX
- Hotel: Hilton College Station
- Regular/On-site Registration: Collegiate Member—\$45, Professional Member—\$95, Collegiate Non-member—\$100, Professional Non-member: \$125

REFLECTING UPON ACCOMPLISHMENTS, LOOKING AHEAD

WELCOME LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR



Happy New Year to everyone in the SWE Gulf Coast Region! Great things have been

happening this in the region during this SWE year (July 2006 – June 2007). And we have many more exciting opportunities in store. My goals for the region remain the same: recognition for all we do and opportunities for our members. I would like to point out some of the great things that we've done and highlight the opportunities.

Recognition:

- Region C has been recognized at the national SWE level for doing great things. Specifically:
- Winning major awards at SWE National Conference to include 3rd place SME Bowl, 1st place IBM Programming Excellence Award, and many section and individual awards. See the full list under the section on Exciting Things Happening in the Region.
- Updating region bylaws to the new template and having them approved

- Pilot sections in Region C (Dallas and Houston) have updated their section bylaws to the new template and had them approved

- Professional Development Grant for Mississippi River Section

- RCR Angela Nickels and CIR Ashley Alletag were recognized for producing a Collegiate Section President's Handbook – a best practice for all of SWE

- Many National SWE representatives have decided to come to our Region Conference! Some, but not all, include: Michele Tortolani, SWE President-Elect, Betty Shanahan, SWE Executive Director, Nora Lin, SWE Director of Regions, Melissa Tata, Speaker of the COR, Linette Patterson, SWE Treasurer, Megan Oemke, Chair - SWE GRPP Committee

- Opportunities for recognition are now at hand! Now is the time to submit your national individual award nomination packets – Due Mar 31st. Section and region award nominations should be submitted by June 30th. Make the effort to submit a nomination – you can't win without it! Go to the SWE home page and click on awards for more details.

Nominations for Region C awards are underway. Enter your section today! It only takes a few minutes. Contact Katy Weidenfeller, RMC at katyweidenfeller@gmail.com for more details. Win cash for your section and be recognized at the region conference!

Opportunities:

- The Region C Conference is almost here! Be sure to register now. I look forward to seeing everyone there! This is an important event for our region and I strongly encourage everyone to attend.
- Region C has implemented a new scholarship program for our collegiate members. These scholarships provide funding for travel to region and national conferences. Contact Angela Nickels, RCR, at anickels@mail.utexas.edu for details.

Region C is working on an exciting new award submittal for the IBM Programming Excellence Award. Since we won the award last year, our goal is to top last year's submittal! This fun activity is in the planning stages and will be pulled together at the Region Conference. If you'd like to participate, contact Lana Fountain at lanar.fountain@swe.org.

● Make plans now! The Region C Leadership Vitality Conference will be in early June! This fun getaway will be focused on succession planning and goal setting for next year. Outgoing and incoming officers should attend. Learn more about SWE and how to make the most of your section. The conference will be led by our excelled Leadership Coaches, Candy Robinson and Carol Bachman. This conference is geared towards professional sections but much

of the material is applicable to collegiate sections as well. Professional officers should plan to attend. Collegiate officers are welcome also!

Now is the time to start membership drives! Opportunity for growth is always available in our sections. Hold an interesting event and draw new members. Then apply for a region award based on your program and share the best practice!

I am very proud of everyone in our region. I hope everyone shares in that sense of pride and are receiving personal gain from their involvement in SWE. See you all at Region Conference!

Davinia Chism
Gulf Coast Region Governor



SME Bowl Participants and Winners!



Making Spirit Awards Banners



Region C Joint Meeting



Members at Celebrate SWE



BLAZING NEW FRONTIERS BEING AN ENGINEER: PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTION FROM MEREDITH EVERS, CONFERENCE COORDINATOR



Howdy! The Society of Women Engineers at Texas A&M University is looking forward to hosting the 2007 Region C Conference March 23 - 25, 2007 in College Station, Texas. The conference will be taking place

both on campus and at the Hilton Conference Center.

On Friday, be casual and comfortable for the evening. Look forward to an exciting night with the Round Up Social, sponsored by Baker Hughes, a fun opportunity to mix and mingle with all of the conference attendees. The Howdy Dinner, sponsored by Chevron, will take place afterwards so we can get the conference off to a great start. After dinner, we will be heading back to the hotel for social activities and mixers. Be sure to get plenty of rest for Satur-

day!

Saturday will start off with a nice breakfast, with some help from BAE Systems, followed by the first two workshop sessions. Topics include resume writing, interviews, internships and co-ops, and financial planning. The Lonestar Luncheon and Awards Banquet, co-sponsored by IBM and Schlumberger, will then take place. Afterwards, buses will leave from the hotel to head over to campus where the Career Fair will take place, along with the third workshop session and Sharing Ideas Dinner, sponsored by Caterpillar. At the career fair, we will have IBM, Schlumberger, Chevron, Shell, Caterpillar, Lyondell, Lockheed Martin, Baker Hughes, Capital One, and Eastman just to name a few!

For our professional members, there will be a professional social held to allow you all the chance to mix and

have some fun. If you are a graduating senior and looking to upgrade to professional membership, be sure to attend the Upgrade Social at the Starke Galleries, located at the Memorial Student Center. Meet with other graduating seniors, as well as professional members and enjoy yourself!

Sunday morning will start off with breakfast, followed by the joint and separate region meetings. Be sure to stick around, because we will be working on the new IBM Programming Excellence Award submission. Region C won last year, let's keep up the tradition and win it again!

Texas A&M University Society of Women Engineers is looking forward to seeing all of you in March! Thanks and gig 'em!

Meredith Evers
Region C Conference Coordinator

KEEPING IT RURAL IN AGGIELAND

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTION BY MEREDITH EVERS

The question has probably occurred to many of you who will be attending this year's regional conference. What in the world is there to do all the way out in College Station? Let us help you find something to keep you entertained during the lulls in conference activities!

Looking to expand your mind or gain a little culture? These may be to your liking...

The George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

1000
George Bush Dr.
College Station, TX
77845



(979) 691-4000

Open: Monday - Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Recommended viewing: 2 hours

The Museum at the George Bush Presidential Library reveals the unique influences and challenges which shaped George Herbert Walker Bush's life and presidency through artifacts, films, photographs, documents, music and interactive video that creates a museum experience that is both educational and entertaining.

J. Wayne Stark University Center Galleries

Texas A&M Campus College Station, TX 77844

(979) 845-8501

Open: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Recommended viewing: Varies with Exhibits

The Stark Galleries host about 14 traveling exhibitions each year. Visitors will see exhibits ranging from the traditional fine arts and crafts to anthropology, archaeology, history and science. One can also explore some of the highlights of Texas A&M University's permanent collection, which includes works by Texas artists such as E.M. "Buck" Schiwetz, John Biggers, H.O. Kelly, Julian Onderdonk and Dawson Dawson-Watson.

Messina Hof Winery & Resort

4545 Old Reliance Rd. Bryan, TX 77808

(979) 778-9463 / (800) 736-9463



Open: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Recommended viewing: 1 hour for Tours

Messina Hof Winery and Resort is the most awarded premium winery in Texas. The produce 24 varietal wines at their state-of-the art winemaking facility. Messina Hof Winery and Resort offers daily winery tours and wine tasting, vineyard cuisine at the award-winning Vintage House Restaurant and luxurious overnight accommodations at The Villa, voted one of the most romantic B&Bs in the U.S. Special events include the Wine & Roses Festival, Harvest Weekends and Murder Mystery Dinners. Special event facilities are also available for private dinners, weddings and receptions.

TAMU Horticulture Gardens & Laboratory

Hensel Dr. College Station, TX 77843

(979) 845-3658



Open: From Dawn until Dusk

Recommended viewing: 1 hour

The TAMU Horticulture Gardens consists of over 1,000 specimens in 30 different beds and planting areas. This collection is a valuable tool for teaching, research and extension activities. Habitats currently range from bog and wetlands to desert southwest. These planting areas allow for the study of adaptability of a wide range of plant materials to central Texas growing conditions. The walking path winds through the gardens for approximately one-eighth of a mile, with seating every 100 feet. Educational information is located throughout the garden focusing on gardening tips and techniques for the Brazos Valley.

Just want to have a little fun, cut loose with the girls? Northgate is the place to head...

Northgate Entertainment District

What started as a small commercial area to service the local college is now a popular eclectic entertainment and specialty district. Located on University Drive adjacent to the Texas A&M campus, you will find more than just the Dixie Chicken. With night life from trendy to country and cuisine for any palate - nouveau, Chinese, fresh Mex, steaks, sushi and burgers. Visit the new Northgate Entertainment District - one that plays host to concerts and special events throughout the year. Convenience parking serves both Northgate Entertainment District and the Texas A&M campus.

For more information, visit the Bryan-College Station Visitors and Convention Bureau online at www.visitaggieland.com.

SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE EVENTS

Friday (attire: casual dress)

3:00 pm - 7:00 pm: Check In / Conference Registration
 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm: Optional Tours
 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm: Buses
 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm: Round-Up Social
 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm: Howdy Dinner
 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm: Buses
 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm: Optional Events

Saturday (attire: business—business casual)

8:00 am - 9:00 am: Breakfast / Conference Registration
 9:15 am - 12:00 pm: Workshops 1 & 2 (break included)
 12:00 pm - 1:45 pm: Lone Star Luncheon
 & Awards Presentation
 1:45 pm - 2:15 pm: Vans leave for A&M
 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Career Fair

Saturday (cont)

3:00 pm - 3:45 pm: Professional Social
 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm: Upgrade Social For Graduating
 Collegiate Members and Professionals
 Interested in Life Membership
 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm: Buses
 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm: Workshop 3
 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm: Sharing Ideas Dinner
 8:15 pm - 9:00 pm: Buses
 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm: Optional Events

Sunday (attire: business casual)

7:30 am - 9:00 am: Breakfast
 8:00 am - 9:00 am: Separate Regional Meetings
 9:00 am - 10:00 am: Joint Region Meeting
 10:00 am - 11:30 am: IBM Programming Excellence
 Workshop - to develop our NEW
 Award submission!

2006 REGION C MEMBERSHIP AWARDS! APPLY NOW!

Please go to the SWE website, <http://www.swe.org/regionc> for guidelines and applications for the 2006 Region C Membership Awards. Applications for the special awards are QUICK, and Katy will do all the work on the data-based awards. Region Awards are:

Professional (database awards)

1. Highest Membership Growth
2. Highest Membership Retention

Collegiate (database awards)

1. Collegiate Membership Growth, Highest Percentage
2. Collegiate Membership Growth, Revival Percentage
3. Collegiate Membership Retention, Highest Percentage
4. Collegiate Membership Retention, Norm Percentage

Special

1. 2006 Member Upgrade Award, Professional
2. 2006 Recognizing Excellence Award

Send the completed application via email to Katy at katyweidenfeller@gmail.com on or before **March 3, 2007**. Winners will be announced (and awarded fabulous prizes) at the Region C Conference in College Station, TX.



TRINITY SWE BACK IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTION BY BRITTNEY ELKO

This past semester, Trinity University's SWE section saw a lot of events blossom and many more are still in the making. Our section increased its membership by over 100% this semester and jump started new ongoing activities such as weekly tutoring for all engineers, dinner nights with representatives from industry, and numerous social events including pumpkin carving. SWE also brought in a company – Mustang Engineering - to recruit our engineering students and conduct interviews as well. Our members also participated in Habitat for Humanity and it was a huge success, in fact, we are hoping to do it again this semester. In the off campus area, SWE sponsored a booth at a local elementary school's science expo – an event where 200+ parents and children attended and saw just

how cool science and technology can be. It was a first time event for the school and brought huge numbers and success! Our section also brought in the university career services to give a resume building workshop. This event had an 80% turnout rate for our members.

Our upcoming event schedule includes an interview workshop from a representative of Shell, hosting a campus wide Engineering Extravaganza Day during E-Week, as well as participating in an event unique to San Antonio. The Girls Inc. Science Festival is sponsored by HEB and we will host a booth and get girls K-12 interested in engineering. SWE will also participate in hosting some events for Women's History Month in March as well as tour Toyota come April.



BEST PRACTICES FROM AROUND THE REGION

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTION BY DAVINIA CHISM, GOVERNOR

"SWE Houston held their second annual "Shop & Learn – Fund-raiser with Ten Thousand Villages" on November 14. This is an event which benefits SWE Houston by serving as a fund-raiser and holiday social for the section while benefiting a worthy non-profit organization. The Ten Thousand Villages mission is to provide vital and fair income to artisans in over 30 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East and is one the largest fair trade organizations in North America. The Ten Thousand Villages store in Houston is

run primarily by volunteers and offers to host the SWE Houston November social and to donate 15% of the sales proceeds for the evening to SWE Houston. SWE members are invited to the social to network and shop at the store filled with unique and beautiful gifts and works of art – perfect for holiday gift shopping and a fitting event for the season. SWE members enjoy light refreshments and networking while their purchases ... help to bring dignity to the lives of the artisans.

The key is finding this type of organization to partner with and

scheduling the event to fit with the holiday season to make it special. Organization of the event is simple – set the date with the store, publicize the event, arrange for simple refreshments, prepare handouts on upcoming SWE events and then have a good time. The event was a great success. It raised \$220 for SWE Houston with minimal expense and through the sales, improved the lives of artisans and their families by providing income for food, education, and other basic needs."

(continued on next page)

BEST PRACTICES FROM AROUND THE REGION (CONTINUED)

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTION BY DAVINIA CHISM, GOVERNOR

"This year, Rice SWE had the pleasure of participating in the Sally Ride Science Festival and Girl Scout Day, the latter of which was hosted by SWE. SWE managed to hold two workshops to teach approximately 50-60 young girls about engineering and set up a booth promoting SWE at the Sally Ride Festival."

"The Graduate Studies Workshop was very successful. It drew 30 people from most of the engineering majors. The workshop featured three speakers and a graduate student panel. The workshop covered how to find funding for graduate school and how to tackle the dreaded personal statement. After the speakers, five graduate students and a recent recipient of a doctoral degree fielded questions."

"Since we are in a large city, we have been able to get access to industrial facilities for tours. Last month, members of our chapter were able to tour

the Shell Lubricants plant in Galena Park, TX. It is the largest lubricants plant in the world. The girls found it to be very interesting and informative and have requested tours of other facilities."

"The following practices seemed to be quite effective over the last semester:
1. Awareness of the participation of male members in SWE: This increased the membership of male and female members this semester
2. New officers and volunteer positions in SWE. This encouraged all students to contribute to SWE in their own way.
3. Officer meeting phone tree reminder: Each officer was responsible for calling another until all members were reminded of upcoming meetings the day before the meeting."

"We use Google groups to send our members e-mail messages about events, meetings, reminders, etc. It is

easily maintained and the entire membership can be reached with one e-mail address. It also keeps our member's e-mail addresses confidential."

"The president's handbook that was given to us at the National Conference is a very helpful book. It included needed information and helped our understanding of SWE and what it involves. The teleconference for the section presidents was also a good idea. I enjoyed talking with the other girls and getting ideas for our section. I think that both of these things is something to continue."

"One of the things that our section does well is showing interest in the lives of our new students. We all remember how scary college, especially engineering, can be, and one of our focuses is to help the new female engineers adjust to college life. "

SOME OF THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF REGION C

Region C is making great progress the FY07 year. Accomplishments include:

- Approval of new Region Bylaws
- Approval of Section Bylaws (new template) for Dallas and Houston
- Approval of Region Budget
- Planning for the Region C Conference is underway and final details are being worked. Registration (on line and via mail) is open
- Onsite LCC coaching has been provided to 2 of our 3 struggling professional sections
- Onsite CLCC coaching has been provided for Prairie View A&M.
- Interest in new professional sections in Lafayette, AR and Amarillo, TX has been expressed

Region C was honored with the following section and individual awards at National Conference:

-Distinguished Service Award: LeEarl Bryant, Dallas

Section

-Work / Life Balance Award: Tawnya Smart, nominated by Dallas Section

-SME Bowl, 3rd Place: Region C

-IBM Programming Excellence Award: 1st Place Region C

-Outstanding Collegiate Activity: University of Texas, Austin

-Outstanding Collegiate Activity: University of Texas, Dallas

-Outstanding Collegiate Activity: Baylor University

-Corning Career Guidance Incentive Grant: Southwest Texas

-Best Print Newsletter Award, Large Section: Houston

-Strategic Communications, Large Section: Houston

-National E-Week Program Award, Large Section: Houston

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE REGION

At the Region level, focus has been on implementing goals, participating in National Conference, preparing for Region C Conference, region awards and the next IBM Programming Excellence award submittal. The region budget has been approved and the new region by-laws have been officially approved.

Great progress has been made in on re-establishing communication with professional and collegiate sections that were not actively reporting last year. Angela Nickels, Region C RCR,

has spear-headed the effort with the collegiate sections and LCC chairs Candy Robinson and Carol Bachman have worked with professional sections in need of help.

As of the end of January, Region C Professional membership retention was 71.99% (goal 80%), and growth was 16.53% (goal 20%). Collegiate membership retention was 48.80% (goal 52%), and growth was 49.87% (51%).

Region C won the \$5,000 IBM Programming Excellence award

for our Law and Order: SWE submission. Region C also won 2nd place (\$1500) in the SME Bowl at National Conference. Planning has been underway for ways to spend the money in the region to help our collegiate sections. The plan includes a scholarship/sponsorship program to help collegiate members attend National and Regional conferences, an investment fund, seed money for fund raising and section vitality coaching.

BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL SWE MEMBER

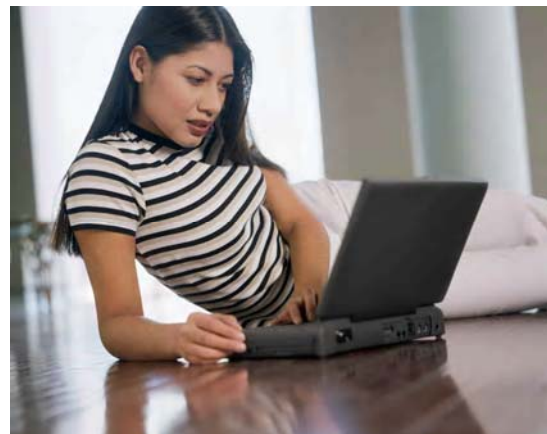
Have you ever thought about transitioning from a collegiate SWE member to a professional SWE member? The Society currently calls this process "upgrading". The vast benefits that come with upgrading your membership include:

- Diversity Training
- Career Management
- Gender-specific Management Tools
- Leadership Training & Experience
- Conferences
- Award-winning *SWE Magazine*
- Professional Development
- Role Models & Mentors
- Local Support
- Networking
- K-12 Outreach
- Web Seminars

The cost to upgrade to a professional member is only \$20. This \$20 pays your SWE membership dues for one fiscal year and your membership status changes from

collegiate to professional member. Once you become a professional member there will be many opportunities to touch the lives of young girls and influence their interest in math & sciences. You will also have the opportunity to interact with other women in engineering, which not only is beneficial professionally, but has great personal rewards as well. The aspect that most members find beneficial is the networking and career contacts which are made through SWE's vast network of local, regional and national corporate sponsors. Why not upgrade? Becoming a professional member of SWE has no negative side effects - it's good for you, it's educational, it's fun and only \$20!

Please contact **Katy Weidenfeller** at katy.weidenfeller@swe.org or **Elizabeth Leary** at eleary17@yahoo.com for more information on the upgrading process or to better understand the benefits of being a Professional SWE Member.



Make sure you check the regional and conference websites for updates!

<http://www.swe.org/regionc>

<http://www.tamu.edu/swe/regionc.htm>

CHECKLIST FOR REGION CONFERENCE

Have you:

- registered?
- looked at the schedule online to see what you'd like to attend?
- prepared your resume?
- made transportation arrangements?
- brought business casual clothes?

A reminder from SWE Region C Secretary Dutton:

"I'd like to take a brief moment to discuss communication within the region. As Secretary the roster is one of the mechanisms used to convey contact information to both Region Leaders and Section officers. We've had lots of changes this year and keeping track of them is a challenge.

Please, if anyone has any changes or corrections get them to me as soon as possible at :

camela.p.dutton@boeing.com.

One of my goals is to ensure there's an up to date roster for distribution at Region conference. That will help facilitate communication with in Region C. When I first put together the roster this year we were missing a lot of information and a few sections didn't send in information at all.

Other methods for communication include the Region website, email lists and Newsletter. An accurate roster will help ensure we have up to date email lists. If there's any information you're like to see on the Region website or notice that something is out of date please let us know.

This is just a reminder that Region Conference is coming up and now is a good time to submit changes or updates for the roster. Also if you know of anyone who hasn't been getting proper Region information or doesn't have a roster please let us know so we can ensure they remain properly informed about key region infor-

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT CONFERENCE!

Is your section doing something amazing that the rest of us should know about? Do you have new recruitment or retention ideas?

If so, Region C would love to hear from you!

It's easy to have your section have a share of the spotlight in the next newsletter. Simply send in your story to me, your newsletter editor, and I will make sure that your story is shared!

Send in your questions, comments, and articles to: rcne-c@swe.org

