



SWE C Signal

Volume 2 Issue 1

Voyage to Nationals

The University of Texas at Austin

By: Carrie Obenland

This October engineers from across the country gathered in Birmingham, Alabama for the Society of Women Engineers National Conference. There were around 3,000 in attendance, one third of which were students. The University of Texas sent 6 students, and I was lucky enough to be included. I had no idea what to expect, but it turned out to be an experience better than I ever could have expected.

We flew out on Thursday morning so that we could make the Region C Student Section meeting. The meeting was a successful idea swap where we got to meet many other schools from our region and exchange ideas about making our SWE sections better.

On Friday, following a keynote speaker breakfast on environmental concerns, was the most amazing career fair I have ever seen! Now I go to UT where our career fairs regularly include close to 200 companies, but the awesome displays and number of recruiters here was mind-boggling! I had the opportunity to talk to companies I had never heard of, as well as big names not from our region. There were tons of drawings for prizes, great give a ways, but most importantly, on-site interviews. Also on Friday, there were countless opportunities for workshops, lectures, and other training sessions.

Saturday was a big day for the students, not only because of football games! The Team Tech and Technical Presentation competitions took place. Congratulations to Annie Reza of Texas A&M University for her 1st place Technical Presentation! Saturday afternoon was a chance for the region to team up in the SME Bowl. Region C made it through the first round, but the competition was too tough! The SWE Council of Representatives meeting also took place and a new set of bylaws was finally passed.

Saturday evening was the culmination of the conference with a Student Mentoring Banquet at the McWane Center (science museum) followed by the Student Awards Ceremony at the beautiful Alabama Theatre. Texas Christian University received the Outstanding New Student Section award. Both Mississippi State and Baylor were honored regionally for outstanding programs. The University of Texas won the Student Net Increase Award for large sections and the University of Houston won the Student Net Increase Award for medium sections. Overall Region C won big and had a great time at the National Conference and I can't wait to go to the next one in Milwaukee!

(To find out more about these awards and how you or your section can be eligible, please visit [http://www.swe.org/SWE/StudentServices/SAC/.](http://www.swe.org/SWE/StudentServices/SAC/))

Prairie View A&M

By: Sherronda Martin

The student section here at Prairie View A&M University has progressed throughout the semester. We hold about two meetings a month. Our membership is small, but we are active here on the campus and very well recognized. Just to mention a couple of things, during the month of September SWE hosted along with the College of Engineering a Distinguished Lecture Series where invited guest Dr. Sandra Johnson came and shared some of her knowledge with us and my fellow peers. In October, we began our Service Raffle, which is running until the 12th of November, which is also when the drawing of names for the big winners of our raffle will be held. Also during the month of November we have planned a Can Food Drive, and a Candy Sale as a fundraiser for the organization. Our section will also be holding a SWE Night where the officers and members get together and chitchat, sort of like a Pot Luck type event. It will be fun and should keep our members interested as well as anxious for the next semester. In December we plan on hosting a Stress Reliever Night where we just let loose and take a break from the many stresses of studying for finals and things like that. SWE here at Prairie View is making much progress and we invite you to visit with us sometimes. Until then we'll **SWEEYA!**

FLAME Mentorship Program

Texas A&M University

By: Jaclyn Miles

In order to help our members prepare themselves for the world after graduation, the Texas A&M chapter has an e-mail based mentor program called Females Leading Aggies as Mentors in Engineering (FLAME). There are usually three to four SWE members, both upper and lower classmen, who are matched up with an engineer in the corporate world. The mentor groups are sent a "Question of the Month" every other week to discuss various topics, which can range anywhere from interviewing horror stories to balancing a family and a job, etc. The groups are given the opportunity to meet at two luncheons each semester, usually in Houston and College Station.

Our first luncheon this semester was on October 19 in College Station. We had a large turnout of SWE girls and quite a few mentors. It provided an excellent opportunity for the girls to learn some of the opportunities that an engineering degree provides after graduation. Several of the current mentors are recent A&M grads that were heavily involved in SWE. FLAME is an excellent development program that builds friendships and may also help students obtain internships or co-ops with their mentor's company.

Girl Scout Workshop

University of Texas at Arlington

By: Andrea Wilson

On November 15, 2003, UT Arlington SWE section hosted our Girl Scout Workshop. About 85 girls attended the event to earn their Science Sluth badge. The girls had to participate in 6 different experiments teaching them about water, sound, light, simple machines, paper making and following directions. The local student and professional SWE sections lead the experiments. Our next workshop will be held on February 28, 2004 and the girls will be earning their Making It Matter badge.

Replant

Texas A&M University

By: Jaelyn Miles

Until 1999, Texas Aggies gathered together in the fall to participate in the time honored tradition of Bonfire. Held before the game against The University of Texas at Austin, Bonfire provided a great way for Aggies to bond together in spirit with the help of a lot of trees. In 1990, Texas A&M University added an outreach program called Replant to the campus. This is a new tradition where Aggies plant trees around the Bryan-College Station area, as a way of replenishing the trees used in Bonfire.

On October 18, Texas A&M SWE sent a group of 14 girls out to help plant trees. We were assigned to a small park in College Station where we were to plant two crepe myrtles. After arriving at the park on that beautiful Saturday, we divided into two groups and set to work with our shovels. With our engineered approach and our brute strength, we managed to have our trees planted in no time.

Trinity University

By: Allison Elledge

On September 13th, the Trinity University chapter participated in Habitat for Humanity. A member proposed the idea of a project that would help out the community, help us to get to know our brand new members, and incorporate engineering. Habitat for Humanity successfully met all of these goals.

The last couple of years we have discussed our desire to have professional female engineers come and speak with us about their experiences (college, grad school, work experience). Last year we made lots of connections through email. We've struggled to find a convenient time for both the speakers and the students. This event was even more successful than imagined! Student attendance, both male and female, was great! The speakers all work in different areas of the same company and have such diverse backgrounds that it was very helpful in presenting a range of things that can be done with an engineering science degree. We plan to continue looking for speakers to come visit with us in the future. We have also been working with the "TULIPS: Trinity University Ladies in Physics" organization to coordinate speakers and a service project for next semester!

Halloween Canned Food Drive

The University of Texas at Austin

By: Srujana Pattabathula

Our next meal is something many of us take for granted. We are so wrapped up in our lives that often we fail to remember that we are part of a fortunate few who don't go hungry day to day.

The Student Engineering Council acknowledges this and participates in an annual Halloween Canned Food Drive (HCFD) to help the Austin Capital Area Food Bank. Every year, the various societies within College of Engineering come together, through friendly competition, to help the community.

In an effort to raise the most cans for HCFD, the Society of Women Engineers held a HCFD Auction on October 21st. Students, faculty, and businesses around the community were encouraged to donate services and items to the Auction. The proceeds from this Auction, which totaled over \$600, were used as part of the HCFD.

On the night of Halloween, all the participating societies went to Fiesta to determine the winners of the Most Mass, Most Mass per Member, and Most Spirited prizes. SWE ended up raising the most mass and scoring extremely well on Most Spirited. Through the efforts of dedicated members, SWE won the Grand Prize for the HCFD by raising just under 4000 pounds for the Austin CAFB.

Region C Officers

You have 4 Region Officers at your disposal to help you out and to give you ideas! Region C has a unique region in that we have 4 regional student officer positions - most regions have only 2. For information on the 4 officer positions, check out the region website at www.regioncswe.org. If you are interested in being a region officer in the future be sure to attend the Region Conference in March where the officers are nominated and voted on.

The current region officers are:

- Region Student Representative: Kasie Holle from The University of Texas at Austin
Email: studentrep@regioncswe.org
- Newsletter Editor: Nola Li and The University of Texas at Austin SWE Section
Email: newsletter@regioncswe.org
- Activities Chair: Amy Garner from Lamar University
Email: activities@regioncswe.org
- Communications Chair: Charmaine Cuyos from Lamar University
Email: communication@regioncswe.org

2004 Region C Conference - South Padre Island, Texas

The Region C Conference will be hosted by the University of Texas - Pan Am in South Padre Island, TX March 26-28, 2004.

More details will be sent out as they become available.

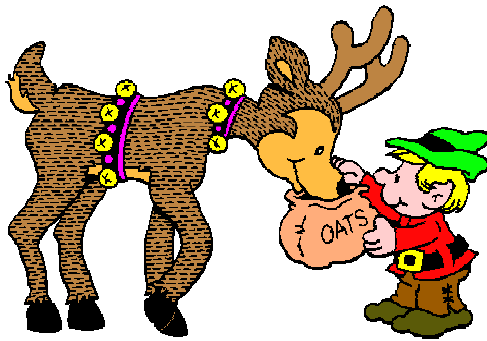
New Region C Officers will also be picked at the conference.

Honor Your SWE Member

An idea at Nationals was brought up to select an outstanding member from the Region to be honored in the SWE C Signal. I think it's a great idea, but since as a region we have such a diverse group of members I would like to broaden this idea. I would like to honor more than one person, one from each SWE Section in Region C. (This newsletter will be in Publisher format so will look like a real newsletter. I will have the program again in January to make the newsletter as soon as I get my computer back with a working hard-drive. The newsletter will also be put on www.regioncswe.org). If you have a member who is outstanding and you want to have her/him recognized you can send me a bio, why she is being honored, and/or picture to be put in the Spring 2004 newsletter. Let's give this a try. I think it will be great!

HOST YOUR OWN EVENT FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Multiple sections host their own events for middle school and high school girls to learn about engineering (UT Austin, A&M, and Greater New Orleans Section are a few). If you would like to start an event of your own or want to make yours better feel free to e-mail any of the Region Officers. They will be more than glad to help you get a contact to talk to. ☺ This also goes for any ideas that your SWE section might be thinking of but need a little help in getting started.



Seasons Greetings