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WELCOME NOTE FROM THE GOVERNOR

CONTRIBUTED BY MELISSA TATA, GOVERNOR

Another terrific SWE year has completed with a bang. I hope you enjoyed this past year as much as I have. I have had a lot of fun as the Gulf Coast Region Governor for the past two years. Our region is full of friendly faces, substantial SWE experience, and a wealth of professional and collegiate energy and synergy. As a region, we are being recognized for our communication (such as our newsletter), our Outreach events, and our creativity (especially for the IBM Programming Excellence Award competition). Our region has demonstrated that we can pull together and get through

anything as we've survived two major hurricanes this year.

I'd like to highlight some of our region accomplishments toward our FY06 goals.

1. Increased membership.

Davinia Chism has leveraged her enthusiasm to augment region C upgrades, retention and membership growth. This year we have continued our upgrade party, collegiate upgrade letters, and region awards (along with adding some new ones). So far this year, collegiate retention is at 48.4% and professional at 72.1%. Collegiate membership growth is at 46% and profes-

sional at 12.3%. Thanks to Davinia for providing us with frequent updates on membership status and inspiring us all to take region C to the next level in synergy, growth and retention on membership.

Congratulations to the Mississippi River City (MRC) Section whose charter was approved at the 2005 National Conference after two years of effort. We welcome the University of Texas El Paso back to the region and wish luck to the four potential new collegiate sections - University of North Texas, University of Texas at Tyler, Arkansas State University, Midwestern University.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 15, 2006:

- Outstanding Collegiate Section Award submission deadline
- SWE Region Programming Excellence Award application due

June 1, 2006:

- Final BOD report due to Melissa Tata
- Professional Section Newsletter & Strategic Communication Council Website Award nominations due
- Motorola Foundation & Boeing Foundation Multi-Cultural Program Award nominations due
- Individual award recipients notified

June 9-10, 2006:

- BOD #4 Chicago, IL

June 15, 2006:

- Collegiate Poster Competition submission deadline

June 30, 2006:

- Strategic Communications & Member/Collegiate Member Program Award nominations due
- Best Membership Recruitment Campaign Award nomination due

June 30, 2006:

- E-Week 2006 Connecting Educators to Engineering Award nomination due
- Financial report & section rosters due

July 1, 2006:

- Renew SWE membership

July 31, 2006:

- Program Award, Event/Series Awards, and Media Award nominations due

Aug 1, 2006:

- Corning Career Guidance Incentive Grant nominations due
- Kimberly Clark Career Guidance Program Award Nomination due

Oct. 11-14, 2006:

- National Conference Kansas City, MO

Jan 20-21, 2007:

- BOD planning meeting Chicago, IL

Feb 18-24, 2007:

- National Engineers Week—Everywhere, USA

Oct 25-27, 2007:

- National Conference Nashville, TN

Nov 6-8, 2008:

- National conference Baltimore, MD

REGION C LEADERSHIP

Leadership Coach: Candy Robinson • candy.robinson@ieee.org



Candy is enjoying the first year of her two year term as a Leadership Coach for the Region. She is a Life member of SWE, a co-founder of the Mt Diablo Section (Region A), and has served as President and Section Rep for both Mt Diablo and Fort Worth Sections. She has served as a judge on national awards committees, attended and presented papers at many conventions, and been active in career guidance efforts since 1978. She holds a BSEE, MS Computer Science, and an MBA in Engineering and Technology Management. She is a database architect and administrator at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics on the F22 fighter jet program. She has two sons and two daughters. Her oldest daughter is an electrical engineer, and the youngest begins her studies in Aerospace Engineering in the fall. She is the proud grandmother of three future women engineers.

MAL Council Representative: Katy Breaux



Katy received a bachelors of science in Civil Engineering from Mississippi State University in August of 2003. She was active in the MSU SWE section and was president in the 2002-2003 school year. Currently she is serving as the council representative for the Members-at-Large in region C and is a member of the Student Transition Team. She was a counselor for Mississippi State SWE Student Section from 2003-2005. Katy is a Technical Professional in the Cementing Product Service Line for Halliburton Energy Services in Kilgore, Texas.

Collegiate Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Allee • regc-newsletter@swe.org



Jennifer is a second year student at the University of Texas at Austin. Her SWE career began when she was elected as the Freshman Student Engineering Council Representative. Since then, she has been active on several committees, has held a committee chair position and is currently the coordinator for her section's Careers in Engineering for Women summer camp, where she inspires middle school girls to consider careers in math, science, and engineering. Jennifer has been active in the College of Engineering through her involvement with the LeaderShape Institute. She has also served as Webmaster for the Architectural Engineering Institute.

In her free time, Jennifer enjoys mentoring, painting, photography, singing, and having philosophical conversations with friends over cups of coffee.

Collegiate Communications Chair: Karolina Sarnowska • regc-communications@swe.org



Karolina Sarnowska is a senior Computer Science and Mathematics major at Mississippi State University (MSU). She has been involved with SWE for the past four years and has previously served the MSU Section as Vice-President and Treasurer. Karolina will be going on to graduate school in the fall at the University of Virginia and will miss Region C!

Collegiate Activities Chair: Jessica Hammerly • regc-activities@swe.org

We have such a great opportunity to empower other young women to take charge of their lives and make their dreams come true. Jessica is so privileged to have had the chance to serve as the Region C Activities Chair and see a whole new side of SWE. She is a junior Electrical Engineering major at Lamar University and has been the LU-SWE treasurer for two years. Jessica is currently running for LU-SWE president 2006-2007. Although she has been on a co-op at DuPont this semester, she continues to serve her section to the best of her abilities. On a more personal note, Jessica has also been busy planning her wedding that will take place in May 2007.

Governor: Melissa Tata • Melissa.Tata@swe.org

Lieutenant Governor: Lana R. Fountain • lane.r.fountain@swe.org

Secretary: Eileen M. Vélez-Vega • eileen.velez@swe.org

Treasurer: Diane Doise • Diane.Doise@swe.org

Membership Chair: Davinia Chism • rmc-c@swe.org

Region Collegiate Membership Chair: Nicole Lewis • rcmc-c@swe.org

Nominating Committee Chair: Claire Shortall

Professional Vitality Coach: Jill Almaguer • capsusa@aol.com

Leadership Coach: Carol Bachman • Carol.Bachman@PACCAR.com

Region Professional Development Chair: Sandra Alridge

By Laws Chair: Marie LaPlante • Marie.Laplante@swe.org

Region Collegiate Interest Representative: Jennifer Dahse • rsc-c@swe.org

Collegiate Representative: Erin Roberts • regc-studentrep@swe.org

WELCOME NOTE FROM THE GOVERNOR (CONTINUED)

2. Increased visibility.

We had six Board members attend and speak at our region conference this year. Jude Garzolini (President-Elect), Virginia Connally (Director of Education), Elizabeth "Libby" Allman (Director of Membership Initiatives), Naomi Brill (Director of Regions), Linette Patterson (Speaker of the COR), Laura Beth Bienhoff (Collegiate Board Representation). Numerous region C members attended the National conference. Among the highlights were the awards our region received. In addition to numerous scholarships, Bonnie Dunbar won the Achievement Award, Melissa Tata won Distinguished New Engineer. Laurie Carrillo - Rice University, Lori Shannon - Texas Christian University, Marielle Soniate - Mississippi State University, and Kelly Walsh, University of Texas Austin won the SME Bowl. Reena Singhal from the Southwest Texas section also won the New Faces in Engineering award.

Region C took SWE's leadership in National Engineers Week to heart. February 18th and 19th, the Houston section of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) teamed with the Children's Museum of Houston to kick-off Engineers Week by hosting, "Engineering Minds: Solving the Mystery of Engineering", a two day outreach event with the help of a SWE Development Grant. Approximately 4,238 visitors passed through the museum and were exposed to the wonders of engineering and science as well as women engineers in action. The Dallas area DigiGirlz pilot program was a HIT! Betty Shanahan and Karen Horting attended the program and were pleased with how SWE and Microsoft teamed up to put together such a nice program. The program went so well that plans are already underway for next year's version, which will be twice as long (four days).

The Fort Worth, Spindletop and Southwest Texas professional sections all held Girl Scout events. In addition to these events, the region also hosted "Develop, Design, Discover...Women Innovating with Technology" to encourage young women to become involved with engineering and technology in Austin. This was a joint event sponsored by SWE, IBM, and the UT Austin Women in Engineering Program.

3. Enhanced communication in the region.

We have continued to distribute emails to the CORs and Presidents on regional and national announcements weekly. We have had more frequent updates to the website including region and national conference announcements and this is our third terrific newsletter. Among our newsletter, email and website updates have been important date reminders, which we hope will result in more nominations for national awards and national position applications. We have continued to have a majority of our sections provide updates for our Board reports and many professional sections have expressed interest in linking with other sections to discuss similar issues. I'd like to thank Marie Laplante for her leadership of the region bylaws committee – we will be voting to approve our bylaws in May.

4. Improved succession planning/ Empowering region officers.

Claire Shortall obtained information on all the past CORs and Presidents from each of the sections to enable use to have better succession planning for Governor and we actually had numerous nominations for the majority of the region positions on the ballot. This will continue to be a focus for next year as many of our region officers will be vacating their positions to allow new folks to take over. Thanks to Claire for leading our region nominating committee and for the committee members Jennifer Bell (Houston Area), Amy Garner (MAL), Jaclyn Miles (Dallas), and Meg Reese (Baton Rouge). The election ballots will be emailed out in May.

In particular, I'd like to thank Jennifer Dahse, Collegiate Interest Committee Representative, and Nicole Lewis, Collegiate Membership Chair, for their numerous years serving as Student Region Coordinators. I'd like to thank Sarah Nuttall and Jill Almaguer for their prior leadership of Professional Section Vitality and congratulate Candy Robinson and Carol Bachman for their new positions as Professional Leadership Coaches. They are already diligently working on our third annual Leadership retreat and hope to have more collaboration with the collegiate sections this year. I'd like to thank the continued efforts of our collegiate leadership coaches – Britton Cooksey (lead), Mary Saulog, Melba Harris,

Charmaine Cuyos, Tricia Saulog, and Tracy Alexander. Katy Breaux continues to lead our MALs in region C.

Of course, I must thank the three women who made my job easy by taking ownership for their region officer roles and more while having very busy years with their life changes – Lana Fountain, Lieutenant Governor (congrats on your engagement and somewhat recent new job); Diane Doise, Treasurer (congrats on your new house and job); and Eileen Velez-Vega, Secretary (congrats on your new home and job, we'll miss you but region D is lucky to have you). Thanks also for the great leadership of our collegiate officers this year – Erin Roberts, Jennifer Allee, Karolina Sarnowska, and Jessica Hamerly.

5. Improved regional conference attendance.

We started advertising early and the University of Texas at Austin hosted our largest ever region conference with 263 total attendees and numerous events sold out. The preliminary conference feedback showed that this event was a huge success. Special thanks to Sriya Anbil (Conference Chair), Angela Nickels (VP Corporate Relations), and Ashley Alletag (UT Austin section President). Others actively involved in conference planning were Evelyn Chen & Tricia Berry, Odette Tan and Sandra Alridge (Region Professional Development Chair). Thanks to Jean Cathcart, Lana Fountain, Davinia Chism and Carol Bachman for their leadership of the Law & Order SWE event.

Under the leadership of Lana, Jennifer and Diane, we created a region conference bidding process that we are piloting this year. Texas A&M is following UT's example and has already begun planning a fun-filled conference for next year.

It's going to be sad to step down from this position, but I am leaving the region in very capable hands and I feel satisfied with the impact I've been able to make during my tenure as Governor and Lieutenant Governor. My successors have great enthusiasm and ideas to continue to augment the Gulf Coast Region and I will be in close touch with all of you as I move on to my newest position as Speaker of the Council.

GREETINGS FROM FY07 COLLEGIATE LEADERSHIP

Region Collegiate Representative: Angela Nickels



Cheers! My name is Angela Nickels and I am studying Electrical Computer Engineering at the University of Texas - Austin. For the 2006-7 academic year, I will be the Regional Collegiate Representative. I have held SWE officer positions at both a very large student section and a very small section. I hope to use these experiences to help you. I look forward to assisting the collegiate sections in Region C to achieve their individual goals and strengthen and celebrate the region as a whole.

A little bit of history: I am a Senior at UT and contemplating going to law school. This is my second career; my first was in investments and retail banking. I'm married to John, who is getting his Masters and J.D. at the University of Florida. I have a cool dog... he's a 6-year old Jack Russell terrier. I love to read 19th century novels and I love to be out in nature: hiking, camping, rafting, etc.

Take time to celebrate and savor your accomplishments of the year that is now coming to a close! Then let's get ready to take Region C to new heights!

Region Collegiate Newsletter Editor: Nina Lu



Hey there! My name is Nina Lu, and I'm a 1st year electrical engineering major at UT Austin. I was born in China, and I moved to the United States when I was 7, so I lived in Edinburg and Harlingen, Texas for 11 years. I moved to Austin to attend UT, and I absolutely love this city!

In my spare time, I like to listen to Japanese rock, do logic puzzles (and yes, sudokus), dance, read (when I find the time), and I'm online all the time. My other interests include math, graphics design, badminton, foreign languages, and I'm always up for a great debate. :)

I joined SWE my very first semester in college, and I was elected to be the Freshman SEC (Student Engineering Council) Representative for the UT Austin chapter, and staying involved has made me love engineering that much more. I'm looking forward to an exciting year as your new newsletter editor, and I hope to get the chance to meet some of you!

Communications Chair: Bria Whitmire



I am greatly honored to have been elected to be this years Region C Webmaster. I am a senior at the University of Texas at San Antonio, majoring in Civil Engineering with a minor in Management Science. I also work part time at the Texas Transportation Institute San Antonio office. I was previously a Control Systems Engineering Technology student in my home town of Corpus Christi, Texas, at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. Though I am very happy with my decision to transfer, both schools and majors, I do regret the loss of so many credit hours! I currently plan to graduate December, 2007. After graduation, I hope to attend graduate school at Texas A&M University - College Station for Transportation Engineering, Notre Dame for Structural Engineering, or UTSA for Management of Technology. Too far away is the decision to go for a doctorate or not.

I have been selected to be a part of the Interdisciplinary Studies In Tsunami Impacts and Mitigation, or ISTIM, program at Notre Dame this summer, which happens to overlap with the beginning of my term that starts July 1st. Though at that time I will be out of state, and then out of the country until August 12th, I will still be in touch via the internet and will uphold all duties of my position. I have also recently been elected to be this years President of the UTSA SWE Student Chapter, and am excited to continue our chapters regional and national involvement. Having attended this past years Regional conference, and hearing our chapter be announced as in the top five for retention and growth, we are very motivated to continue our progress, and are eager to become more involved with the Society of Women Engineers.

Thank you all for giving me this opportunity, and I look forward to doing everything that you expect from me, and more!

Activities Chair: Meredith Evers



Howdy! My name is Meredith Evers and I am an electrical engineering major from Texas A&M University, class of 2007. After graduation, I plan to attend law school and receive a degree in patent law. Hopefully, I will be able to move to Houston and work there.

I am currently the summer camp co-chair for the Texas A&M chapter of SWE. Aside from being elected activities chair for the region next year, I was also elected first vice president and chosen as a regional conference co-chair for my chapter. Next year, I would like to bring a more active role to my position as activities chair, as well as continuing the current duties.

Thank you for your confidence in me, and I look forward to serving you next year. As we say in Aggieland, gig 'em!

FLAME - FEMALES LEADING AGGIES AS MENTORS IN ENGINEERING

CONTRIBUTED BY TIFFANY DILLON, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SECTION PRESIDENT

The Texas A&M chapter has several committees which are vital to the organization. One such committee is the Academic Committee. Among other things, this committee coordinates our chapter's mentor program, Females Leading Aggies as Mentors in Engineering (FLAME). The program matches three to four SWE members, usually a mix of upper and lower classmen, up to engineers in the corporate world. The mentor groups are sent a question set every two weeks to discuss various topics, which can range anywhere from interviewing horror stories to balancing a family and a job. The groups are given the opportunity to meet at two luncheons each semester, usually in Houston and College Station. This is a great opportunity to answer questions and hopefully encourage young female engineers to stick with engineering. FLAME builds friendships and may also help students obtain internships or co-ops with their mentor's company.



SWE members at the Houston luncheon

This semester FLAME has been very successful. Our corporate support has been so high that some mentor groups only have two students matched up to a mentor instead of the usual three to four.

The first luncheon of the semester was held in Houston, TX at The Cheesecake Factory. Approximately five mentors and

20 students showed up for the event despite the 2-hour drive. In addition to the free food at the event, SWE members and professional mentors alike got the chance to talk in an informal setting about the challenges and opportunities for young female engineers entering the workforce today. It was also an excellent opportunity for the students to meet their mentors face-to-face. The second luncheon of the semester will be held on May 3 in College Station, TX. Hopefully this one will be even more of a success.

In addition to the recognition the FLAME program gets here at A&M, it was also recently recognized at the Region C Conference as the Most Outstanding Joint Activity with a Professional Section for its ability to give professional women and college students a chance to network and learn from each other. We fully expect the FLAME program to continue its tradition of success for several years to come.

GIRL SCOUTS AT BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

CONTRIBUTED BY EVELYN WEYKER, BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SECTION PRESIDENT

On February 18, the student chapter of SWE at Baylor University held a Girl Scout Merit Badge Day for two local Brownie Girl Scout troops. The Girl Scouts were given the chance to earn up to five merit badges in the following areas: Science in Action, Movers, Math Fun, Point, Click and Go, and Computer Smarts. Girls had to complete four different activities in the different areas to earn the merit badges. For Science in Action, held by SWE members Jennifer Whittington and Andrea Walker, the activities Weird Glop, Balloon Blowing, Butterfly of Many Colors, and Light and Color were completed. For Movers involving different applications of wind, held by SWE members Evelyn Weyker and Jenna Eppink, the activities Paper Copter, Ring Glider, making a Windsock, and Balloon Rocket were completed. For Math Fun, held by SWE member Carmen Li Shen

and SWE Faculty Advisor Cindy Fry, the activities Telling the Time, Can You Guess?, Alphabet Code, and Budget for Your Troop were completed. For Point, Click and Go, held by SWE member Jackie Moon, and Computer Smarts, held by SWE member Jennifer Rockwell, activities were completed using the computer and Internet applications. While most of the girls were only able to earn four of the five merit badges due to limited time, the girls were able to learn more about math and science and have fun. At the end of the activities, the girls sang several Girl Scout songs to thank the SWE chapter for holding this event for them, and everyone celebrated over pizza. This was the first time the Baylor chapter of SWE ever put on an event like this, and it served as a great lead in to National Engineers Week. The Baylor chapter of SWE would like to expand on



Jenna Eppink and Evelyn Weyker help the two Girl Scouts with 'Movers'

FIRST SWE PROFESSIONAL SECTION IN MISSISSIPPI

CONTRIBUTED BY EILEEN M. VÉLEZ-VEGA, MISSISSIPPI RIVER CITY SECTION FOUNDER

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Mississippi River City Section is the first SWE professional section in the state of Mississippi. After two years of active participation, the charter process was completed on Nov. 1 at the 2005 SWE National Conference in the Anaheim, Calif., Convention Center.

Eileen M. Vélez-Vega, GSL, was the president of this new engineering society and received a special recognition at the SWE National conference for the start of this new professional section. The launch of this new SWE section represents the advancement in professional development of women engineers and scientists at the professional and student level in Mississippi. The new section includes parts of Warren County – Vicksburg, Port Gibson,

Redwood and Valley Park. Approximately 25 women engineers and potential members have attended one or more of the 12 section events and meetings held by SWE in Vicksburg. The membership campaign began with the development of an initial database of more than 100 local female engineers from the ERDC and the Corps' Vicksburg District.

There are currently two active SWE student sections in Mississippi --the Mississippi State University (MSU) student section and the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) student section. Since there were no SWE professional sections in Mississippi, the student sections have struggled with professional guidance and participation for their events. The SWE Mississippi River City section is now an excellent

mentoring and professional development source for these SWE student sections. This section is also planning to support the Girl Scouts in Mississippi in their future outreach and technical badge activities and workshops. The new group has developed a section logo that represents its individuality and geographical area in Mississippi. In December the MRC section had a member social where they exchanged Christmas ornaments and presented Eileen Velez-Vega with a going away present. MRC is still transitioning with Eileen Velez-Vega leaving and Amy Welch Bednar taking over as President.

Dr. Amy Welch Bednar works for Applied Research Associates Inc. in Vicksburg. For more information, please contact Dr. Bednar at abednar@ara.com.



(Pictured from left to right) Front Row: Michelle Moore, Dr. Sandra Knight, Halley Parsons, Janet Simms, Eileen Velez, Second Row: Lee Ann Riggs, Holly Porter, Lulu Edwards, Dr. Amy Bednar, Renee Turner, Lora Johnson



Charter Luncheon in Vicksburg. (Pictured from left to right) Eileen Velez, Amy Bednar, Lora Johnson, Janet Simms, Renee Turner, Michelle

IBM AND IMPROV: NETWORKING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

CONTRIBUTED BY ASHLEY ALLETAG, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN SECTION PRESIDENT

Retention is one of the hardest things for us at The University of Texas at Austin. Therefore, in an attempt to entice upperclassman to be more engaged in SWE we sought to find an event catered to them. Here in Austin the downtown scene is a very popular nightlife event for upperclassman. One of the fun venues downtown is called Esters Follies. It is a live comedy club that features various acts throughout the evening and had been in Austin for almost twenty-five years. We thought this would be a fun

way to have a social event that many of our members would enjoy and it would give people a chance to network with each other. We also had corporate support for this event and company representatives stuck around afterwards to tell us about their experiences in the engineering world. It was a night of laughter, commiserating, and hanging out with friends. We were all entertained by the amazing magic acts that seemed to defy physics; people floating in air and bodies cut in half. I think many of

us found ourselves with soar cheeks and stomach aches as we were laughing so hard throughout the night. This event was a nice treat for many of our members to hang out somewhere besides campus and enjoy the great big city of Austin that we live in. We had a good turnout for our Esters Follies social with about 25 members and 5 company representatives. Doing fun socials like this is a great way to recruit upperclassman and enjoy a good night out with SWE friends!

NETWORKING PANEL AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

CONTRIBUTED BY DIANA RAZ, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON SECTION PRESIDENT

The University of Texas at Arlington's SWE collegiate section recently hosted a panel discussion on networking in the engineering career world. Presenters were all members of the Fort Worth SWE Professional Section, and came from Lockheed Martin and Carter and Burgess. The seminar included a mix of helpful advice from the presenters and questions from the students on topics on networking, career fairs, and even helpful resume tips.

Many questions were asked by members. Just some of them were:

"How often should continue talking to a contact?"

Answer: If you are not currently looking for a job, only contact them every once in a while to keep in contact. If you are looking for a job, then around once a week

"What to do if your GPA is lower than what is desired by the company?"

Answer: If you want the job, apply anyways. Every company needs a minimum standard, but that doesn't mean they won't look at people who are below that standard.

"What's the best way to meet contacts?"

Answer: Attending professional sections meeting, and getting to know the professionals. Attending SWE National Conference is also great place!

One other helpful piece of advice was to remember and keep in contact with recruiters that give you their business card at a career fair. Most recruiters only keep a limited amount with them during a career fair, so if they hand one off to you, that means they liked you.

This was a great way to interact with a local Professional SWE chapter and a great way to learn insight about how to meet and stay in contact with people that could help you get your dream job!

SWE MERCHANDISE FROM UT ARLINGTON

Shirts—\$10



Polos—\$20



Graduation Stoles—\$20



To order, visit UT Arlington SWE at http://www.uta.edu/student_orgs/swe

ENGINEERING MINDS: SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF ENGINEERING

February 18th and 19th, the Houston section of the Society of Women Engineers teamed with the Children's Museum of Houston to kick-off Engineers

Week by hosting "Engineering Minds: Solving the Mystery of Engineering," a two day outreach event with the help of a SWE Development Grant. Approximately 4,238

visitors passed through the museum and were exposed to the wonders of engineering and science as well as women engineers in action.



Houston section E-Week planning committee. Jennifer Brownlee, Jeannie Gardner, Ashley Alex-



Jorge Quezada and Jeannie Gardner.

REGION C CONFERENCE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

CONTRIBUTED BY SRIYA ANBIL, REGION C 2006 CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

The 2006 Region C Conference was hosted by the University of Texas at Austin this year. Due to the student sections' perseverance, 284 students, professionals, and corporate representative attended a three-day conference featuring educational workshops, an outstanding career fair with 24 companies, a dinner cruise, and pampering night. The events at the conference reflected the theme of the Region C Conference, 'embracing the woman engineer in you.'

The Kick-Off Dinner was held at Spaghetti Warehouse in the heart of downtown Austin. Attendees enjoyed a relaxed Italian meal at this popular restaurant. The premiere of the conference ended with a movie

night featuring 'Pride and Prejudice' and Texas Hold 'Em poker.



UT Austin student volunteers: (pictured from left to right) Front Row: Nidhi Maheshwari, Crystal Kadakia, Jennifer Allee; Middle Row: Nina Lu, Sriya Anbil, Kathryn Moore, Danielle Kamel; Back Row: Ashley Alletag, Angela Nickels, Kelly Walsh, Kate Hull

Saturday began with entertaining workshops such as 'Effective Meeting Management', 'Managing through Influence', and 'Gender Communication'. The conference ended with a dinner cruise on Town Lake and a pampering night.

The University of Texas at Austin students made this Region C Conference very enjoyable and informative. Sriya Anbil, Kathryn Moore, Natalie Roszel, Ashley Alletag, and Angela Nickels were instrumental in the organization, planning, and executing of this flawless three-day event. The 2006 Region C Conference was a great success.

The 2007 Region C Conference will be hosted by the SWE stu-

SWE OUTSTANDING COLLEGIATE SECTION COMPETITIONS

The Society of Women Engineers welcomes submissions for SWE Outstanding Collegiate Section Competitions. The Outstanding Collegiate Section Awards were first established in 1975 to recognize outstanding Collegiate Sections. Sections must submit a report to SWE HQ based on the requirements in the 2006 OCS Awards Packet. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will be awarded in each size section, Large,

Medium and Small. One Outstanding New Student Section will also be awarded. Also, Certificates of Merit will be presented to Collegiate Sections in recognition of outstanding collegiate activities, either associated with a special project or for their overall program. Recipients will be selected by the committee judges and based on Report Content.

The submission deadline for the OCS/ONCS report is **May 31, 2006**. Awards will be presented on October 14, 2006 at the Celebrate SWE! Banquet at the Society of Women Engineers National Conference in Kansas City, MO.

The 2006 OCS Awards Packet can be downloaded at www.swe.org, just click on 'Awards – Section'. Please also view the reports of past section winners.

SWE COLLEGIATE POSTER COMPETITION

INNOVATION. RESEARCH. EXPERTISE. CREATIVITY.

Introducing a NEW Competition for Collegiate Members! Its time to BLAZE YOUR TECHNOLOGY TRAIL!!

This year, the SWE Awards & Recognition Committee introduces the Collegiate Poster Competition sponsored by IBM and Rockwell. All undergraduate and graduate collegiate members are invited to prepare a technical poster that presents an engineering project or technical research.

This competition replaces the Technical Presentation Competition. The requirements have been revised to allow a wider distribution of participants. This technical poster competition is designed to emphasize the ability to deliver visual presenta-

tions. Both undergraduate and graduate collegiate members can enter this competition. Interested participants must submit an abstract to SWE HQ based on the requirements in the 2006 Collegiate Poster Competition Packet. 10 abstracts will be selected for each category, Undergraduate Collegiate and Graduate Collegiate, and those candidates will be asked to display a technical poster at the National Conference. All finalists will receive a \$250 travel stipend to attend National Conference, FREE Collegiate Registration, and 1 ticket to the Celebrate SWE! Awards Banquet. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place cash prizes (\$500, \$250, and \$100, respectively) will be presented on October 14, 2006 at the Celebrate SWE! Banquet.

The submission deadline for the abstracts is June 15, 2006. All submissions must be submitted ONLINE at www.swe.org/postercompetition. NOTE: Please download the 2006 Collegiate Poster Competition Packet to find out all the information you will need to complete a nomination online. The 2006 Collegiate Poster Competition Packet can be downloaded at www.swe.org, just click on 'Awards – Section'.

Specific questions concerning the Collegiate Poster Competition can be directed to Jennifer Braganza at postercompetition@swe.org.

FUTURE CITY COMPETITION

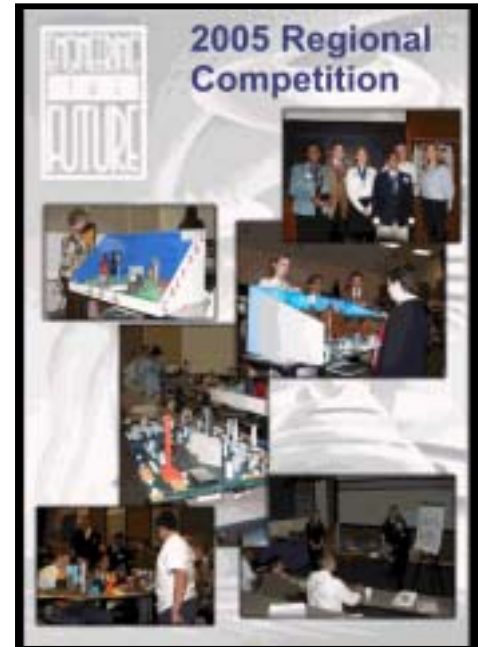
CONTRIBUTED BY CANDY ROBINSON, FORT WORTH SECTION

The Fort Worth Section took on a new challenge in the 2005-2006 school year! While we still volunteer to be judges and to help with the national Future City competition, we also are now the official school coordinators for the North Texas event. As such, we are responsible for acting as the liaison and information to the schools so that teams are formed, students compete, and the competition is a success.

What is Future City? There is a lot of information on the website – locally at www.dfwfuturecity.org and the national website: www.futurecity.org. There is an introduction video on the national website that explains the competition (about 10 minutes worth). The mission of the competition is to provide a fun and exciting engineering program for 7th and 8th grade students that combines a stimulating engineering challenge with a hands-on application to present their vision of a city of the future. Teamwork and communication skills are fostered in the program as students work with the help of their teachers and engineer mentors to design and

build a prototype. The SimCity software program is used to evaluate a number of real issues apropos to city design. The team discovers the multi-discipline nature of engineering. Deliverables include a computer design, a physical scale model, an essay, abstract, and verbal presentation. Winning teams are sent to Washington D.C. around Engineer's Week to compete at a national level.

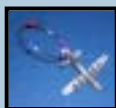
The Fort Worth Section starts early in the fall by updating the contact list for the surrounding school districts and home school parents. Letters are emailed to the contacts, soliciting interest and participation in the program. The committee then serves to answer the questions of participants who sign up, and to inform them of dates, deadlines, and administrative details as the competition approaches. Providing these services helps the Section maintain contact with area schools for other programs, and positively increases the visibility of SWE. Above all, it sparks interest in technology in the students who are served.



SWE MERCHANDISE FROM FORT WORTH

Wine Charms —\$10 (per set of four)

Each set includes one SWE logo and the choice of three of the following: a bridge, airplane, car, purse, pencil & ruler, computer, calculator, light bulb or SWE charm



Aprons—

\$ 15 for Adult

\$10 for Child



All merchandise can be found on the Fort Worth section website: <http://www.swe.org/swe/regionc/sections/c006/index.htm>.

Download the order form or email Kendra at kendra.schmies@swe.org for more information.

INTRODUCE A GIRL TO ENGINEERING DAY—UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

CONTRIBUTED BY CHRISTIN BURNS, UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SECTION PRESIDENT

In February the Ole Miss School of Engineering celebrated Engineering Week. One activity that took place during E-Week was "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day." This day was designed to encourage young high school women to consider a future in engineering. Less than 10% of American Engineers are women, but the Ole Miss SWE is looking to change that statistic.

Ten young women from three Mississippi high schools participated in "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day." These girls were nominated by their high school teachers. The day began with a luncheon attended

by the SWE members and a portion of the women engineering faculty. After lunch the schedule for the girls was packed with activities. The girls sat in on a chemical engineering class and watched a lab demonstration. The staff in electrical engineering demonstrated to the girls the robot that some students are building to be entered into a competition. Next, they watched a geological engineering presentation that focused on the recent Tsunami. Then, a tour of the mechanical engineering composites and pultrusion laboratories was given followed by a presentation in the civil engineering depart-

ment. The civil presentation focused on a bridge that is being built to cross the Mississippi River. The day ended with a reception for the girls and Kai-Fong Lee, Dean of the School of Engineering said a few words of encouragement. Each student was presented with a small gift bag and everyone left with a smile.

The whole day was designed to make more young women aware of the opportunities for them in engineering. A few of our guests expressed an interest in pursuing a career in engineering. We felt that the day was very successful and hope to have an even better turn out next year.

ROLL 'EM! ENGINEERING IN THE MOVIES

CONTRIBUTED BY REENA SINGHAL, SOUTHWEST TEXAS SECTION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The SWE Southwest Texas section stepped up in March to get local Girl Scouts interested in engineering, through the "Engineering in the Movies" event hosted for girls in 4th through 6th grade.

The event kicked off at the Austin headquarters of the Girl Scout Lone Star Council with a lively presentation on "Science in the movies" by Austin-based special effects expert Steve Wolf. Wolf has special effects credits on such movies as Cast Away, A Time to Kill, The Jungle Book and The Firm. His lively and interactive presentation showed how physical science relates to behind-the-scenes special effects for movies, such as how chemical reactions can create fire or sound effects. Approximately 40 local Girl Scouts and their parents were thrilled by the show.

Following the presentation, the girls were

led by the SWE members in 5 workshops on a focused on various engineering disciplines and relating them to movies. The workshops included:

- Shrek's Swamp, where the girls learned about polymers and made silly putty,
- Willy Wonka's Factory, where a manufacturing facility was simulated and the girls learned about industrial engineering,
- Girlstart Garage Band, where the girls made their own sound effects and burned a CD of their creation

Evaluations from both the girls and the parents expressed that the event was an excellent and fun way to learn about engineering, while working with several role models in industry.



Reena Singhal speaking to parents and students

SWE-BR'S 20TH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BANQUET

CONTRIBUTED BY MELATI TESSIER, BATON ROUGE SECTION PRESIDENT



Pictured Left to Right: Melati Tessier (Section President), Alysson Combest, Kayla Campbell, Courtney Mayeux, Tess Kopecki, Sarah Kneiling, Elizabeth Ainsworth, Courtney Allen & Dana Scott (Scholarship Chairperson)

The Baton Rouge section held their annual scholarship award banquet this year at the Faculty Club on LSU campus. 2006 Scholarship Recipients:

- Alysson Combest - St. Amant High School (Rubicon Academic Excellence Scholarship)
- Kayla Campbell - St. Joseph's Academy (Shell Chemical Academic Excellence Scholarship)
- Courtney Mayeux - Dutchtown High School (OxyChem Academic Excellence Scholarship)
- Tess Kopecki - Woodlawn High School (BASF Academic Excellence Scholarship)
- Sarah Kneiling - McKinley Senior High School (The Jan Wahrmond Memorial Scholarship)
- Elizabeth Ainsworth - Baton Rouge High School (Kean Miller Law Firm Academic Excellence Scholarship)
- Courtney Allen - Plaquemine High School (Syngenta Academic Excellence

WELCOME NEW MALS!

Vanessa Arvay	Tammy Herman	Kristi Jean Wold
Grisel Adriana Del Hierro	Deborah Settoon	Sobia Farooq
Felicia Hammon	Crystal Winger	Erin Lowe

A LOOK BACK AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Region C joint meeting attendees in Anaheim



Region C leadership team at region meeting in Anaheim.

Top (left to right): Diane Doise (treasurer), Claire Shortall (nominating committee chair), Jill Almaguer (professional leadership coach), Candy Robinson (professional leadership coach), Marie Laplante (bylaws chair), Katy Breaux (MAL rep), Eileen Velez-Vega (secretary)

Front (left to right): Jennifer Dahse (collegiate team lead/CIC Rep), Karolina Sarnowska (webmaster), Jennifer Allee (newsletter editor), Melissa Tata (governor), Erin Roberts (collegiate rep), Britton Cooksey (collegiate leadership coach), Davinia Chism (professional membership)

A LOOK BACK AT FY 05 REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN BATON ROUGE, LA



Left Picture:

Katrin Smith, Carla Haslsuer, Lauren DeRouben, Amy Wormsley, Nekisha Harris, Callie McNair, Dr. Christina Sabilov, Cymonde Ford



Right Picture:

Callie Mc Nair, Nekisha Harris

A S P I R E . A D V A N C E . A C H I E V E .

CALLING FOR FALL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Does your section host a fun and exciting activity? Do you think that your section does something particularly well, such as recruitment or retention? Do you have some amazing members who have made significant contributions to their communities?

Region C would love to hear about what YOU have to say!

There will be another newsletter release this fall highlighting member accomplishments, section activities, and best

practices. Every section is encouraged to submit an article about something that they are proud of or feel would be of interest to others in the region. Keep the regional newsletter in mind when planning your events for next year. Remember, the newsletter cannot exist without YOU!

Please direct questions and comments to the newsletter editor at regc-newsletter@swe.org

LETTER FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I would like to thank the region for its excellent support this year for the newsletter. It was my goal to increase communications between the student and professional sections. I believe that this was accomplished, but only because of your support. I will be handing my position off to another member of my section and I know that she will also serve the region well.

If you have any suggestions regarding the design, content, or distribution of the newsletter, please submit them to me at regc-newsletter@swe.org and I will make sure that these changes are implemented next year. Thank you again. It has been a pleasure!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Allee