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WELCOME NOTE FROM THE GOVERNOR

CONTRIBUTED BY MELISSA TATA, GOVERNOR

Hello and welcome to another great year with SWE. I hope you are as excited as I am for our new SWE momentum.

First, I'd like to highlight some of our region accomplishments for last year.

1. Increased visibility.

Region C published an article about their vitality retreat and their new Space Center section in the National SWE News. We also advertised our regional conference and had several members of the Board attend the region C meeting at National. We also had a great contribution to SWE year-book. All BOD reports were completed on time and included feedback from all professional sections and an overview from the student sections in the region.

2. Enhanced communication in the region.

I distributed emails to the CORs and Presidents about twice a month with information on regional and national announcements. We updated the region website and compiled a region newsletter.

3. Improved succession planning/Empowering region officers.

We empowered Irene Chang to become the Region Secretary and she helped with region communication including meeting agendas and minutes last year. Eileen Velez-Vega became Region Professional Development Chair and developed great sessions for the professionals to try to increase conference attendance. Davinia Chism began her term as Regional Membership Chair and initiated an upgrade party and region awards. Claire Shortall let the region nominating committee. This committee has been able to devise both a great candidate application form and a tool to fairly assess candidates. At the region meeting at the National Conference, Ebalina Roitberg brought a SWE dart board for students and professional members to indicate future positions they would like to have in SWE.

4. Improved regional conference attendance.

We established funding for

region membership and retention awards to be given at the conference. In the end, we had more attendance than most years with 56 professionals and 96 students. The enhanced professional seminars, professional and life member upgrade party, and region awards were all new features of the conference and we continued to focus on keeping costs low. Nekisha Harris, Callie McNair, Melati Tessier, Tammy Cheatham and Diane Doise were instrumental to the success of the conference.

5. Additional new sections.

Cami Dutton and her colleagues completed all the documentation and their charter for the Texas Space Center section was accepted at the October Board of Directors meeting at National conference. The Houston section helped establish section boundaries between the two sections. On Feb 18, this new section held a banquet to honor their initiation as a section.

6. Increased region membership.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 31 - Nov 1, 2005:

BOD meeting #2, Anaheim, CA

November 3 - 5, 2005:

National Conference: Anaheim, CA

February 19 - 25, 2006:

National Engineers Week

March 10 - 11, 2006:

BOD meeting #3, Chicago, IL

March 31 - April 2, 2006:

Region C conference University of Texas Austin, TX

June 9 - 10, 2006:

BOD meeting #4, Chicago, IL

October 12 - 14, 2006:

National Conference Kansas City, MO

October 25 - 27, 2007:

National Conference, Nashville, TN

November 6 - 8, 2008:

National Conference, Baltimore, MD

REGION C LEADERSHIP

Governor: Melissa Tata • Melissa_Tata@Dell.com



Melissa Tata is proud to be the Gulf Coast Region Governor for her second year. Melissa has prior experience as a two time President of the Southwest Texas section along with prior roles as Vice-President, Membership Chair, and Newsletter Editor. A 12-year member of SWE and a new life member, Melissa particularly enjoys the networking, outreach, and leadership opportunities provided through SWE. She is also a member of the MEGA issues and Professional Development FIGS and the proud recipient of one of the 2005 Distinguished New Engineer awards. At work, Melissa is the Senior Manager for Dell Americas Operations Inventory Control, managing 80+ people in 10 facilities nationwide. Tata is a Six Sigma Black Belt and has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and Minor in Science and Technology Studies from RPI and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from MIT.

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



Lana is a 1997 graduate of Louisiana Tech University, where she earned a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering. She is currently employed as a Payloads Structural Engineer for Jacobs Sverdrup/NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center. She is a member of Xi Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., where she serves on several program sub-committees, The National Society of Black Engineers – Houston Space Chapter, as Public Relations Chairperson, and Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. for Professional Women. She is also the sole proprietor of Eve Floral Design, a local Houston-Area floral décor company. Ms. Fountain was honored by her local SWE Chapter – Houston Area, as the recipient of the 2004 Young Engineer of the Year Award. Recently, she has been named as a member of the 2005 Power Pipeline Class, a training program for emerging women leaders in the State of Texas, implemented by the Foundation for Women's Resources. In her leisure time, Lana enjoys reading, international travel, spending time with friends and family, and working with rescue dogs.

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



Eileen is happy to serve as the Region C secretary. Her journey began as a SWE student member of the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez where she was secretary, president, and chair of the 2003 SWE Region D Conference in Puerto Rico. At Region C, she was Professional Development chair (2004), and serves as the SWE counselor for the Louisiana Tech University. Eileen has been a speaker in Regional and National conferences, and served in the SWE Conference Programming Board from 2003-05. Recently she became the founder and president of the SWE Proposed Mississippi River City Section. She works as a civil engineer for the US Army Corps of Engineers in Mississippi, and is also working on her MS degree. Eileen is an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and enjoys traveling with her newlywed husband, and teaching Yoga and Pilates. For Eileen, SWE is an opportunity to develop as a leader and inspire engineers to achieve their highest potential.

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



Jennifer is currently working for Texas Eastern Products Pipeline Company (TEPPCO) as a Programmer Analyst in the SCADA department. She graduated from Lamar University in May 2002 with a Mechanical Engineering degree. After graduation Jennifer became involved with Houston Area SWE section where she has held several committee positions. On the region level Jennifer is the Region C Collegiate Interest Coordinator (what use to be the Region Student Coordinator). She is also working on a Masters degree in Business Administration. On a personal note she plans to get married in November of 2006.

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



Erin Roberts is honored to be the Region C Student Representative this year. She is a senior in Biomedical Engineering at Mississippi State University (MSU) and was the MSU Section President last year. Although an active member in her student section for the past four years, she has always loved working with the local girl scouts and the junior high and high school camps that the Mississippi State University SWE Section sponsor every year. She is planning on going to graduate school in August of 2006 and looks forward to her continued involvement in SWE.

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: Candy Robinson • candy.robinson@ieee.org

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

Region Professional Development Chair: Sandra Alridge

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

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

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

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

WELCOME NOTE FROM THE GOVERNOR (CONTINUED)

Davinia Chism has created great membership enthusiasm in the region. Last year's student retention was at 52% and professional at 80%. Student membership growth is at 51% and professional at 21% (highest in SWE). We had one life member upgrade at our region party and 35% student upgrades based on our membership drive.

Focusing forward, we have several key deliverables this year and several accomplishments already based on our work this summer. We have carried over all of our objectives from last year. The details on all the region officer goals are outlined later in this newsletter.

1. Increased visibility.

We plan to continue to engage the Board with updates on our best practices and invites to our events. Our added focus this year is more participation on National committees and National award

nominations.

2. Enhanced communication in the region.

I have continued to distribute emails to the CORs and Presidents on regional and national announcements and have increased the frequency to weekly. We plan for more frequent updates to the website and to have quarterly newsletters. This first newsletter is a great example of how we can communicate our strategy and successes.

3. Improved succession planning/ Empowering region officers.

Claire Shortall has obtained information on all the past CORs and Presidents from each of the sections to enable use to have better succession planning for Governor.

4. Improved regional conference attendance.

We have started work early on this. We

already have our collegiate leads, a date and a theme and have begun advertising. We hope to enhance the attendance at and value of our regional conference and begin plans to generate a profit from this event. We are focusing on the career fair and engagement of local teachers as part of our E-Week focus this year.

5. Additional new sections.

Eileen Velez-Vega and her colleagues have submitted the charter to establish a professional SWE section in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

6. Increased region membership.

Our membership retention goals are: professional 80% and collegiate 52%. Our membership growth goals are: professional 20% and collegiate 51%.

SUMMARY OF THE BOARD OF REGION'S REPORT

CONTRIBUTED BY MELISSA TATA, GOVERNOR

We are focused on improving their communication within the region through the newsletter, a region officer distribution list with weekly emails from the Governor, and website this year. All of the sections have held planning meetings and we've been successful in having a few joint events between sections. The FY06 Region C SWE Leadership Conference was held in Austin, TX, on July 30-31 with 14 attendees learning from Sarah and Jill, our leadership coaches. 7 out of 8 sections have submitted their vitality scorecard and their tactical plan/goals for FY06. We have compiled a list of all the past COR and Presidents for each section so the nominating committee has a list of potential candidates for governor.

We have selected our nominating committee and chair (Claire). The region has established several goals noted in the accomplishment section and we are particularly focused on enhancing our region conference including more student and professional participation and engagement by professors and teachers. We also are continuing to focus on member retention and growth and are having region officer meetings every other month. Eileen Velez-Vega submitted the charter petition for the Mississippi section to be voted on in Anaheim. We have been pleased that though many of our sections and members were affected by Katrina and Rita, we have not been notified of any fatalities and we appreciate the support of the SWE commu-

nity through the special forum.

We are publicizing the SWE Forum, which will allow the Student Section Presidents to come into contact with each other. We are also looking into a Student Section President Packet that can be sent out at the beginning of the year to each new president. Many student sections are trying to raise membership and involvement.

The Greater New Orleans section has created their strategic plan but hasn't been able to meet as a group due to Hurricane Katrina. The Baton Rouge and Spindletop sections have also been affected by the hurricanes and have had to delay some of their activities as a result.

The Houston Area section held several planning meetings and their SWE-ista Membership Extravaganza. They also published monthly newsletters and held a FHPW Women of Excellence Banquet and HESTEC Panel Presentation and continued their professional development weekly sessions.

The Baton Rouge section held their Membership kickoff meeting to recognize new members who have been actively participating in the section activities and included Greater New Orleans. They have also initiated their scholarship program and are planning a professional development workshop for next year.

The Southwest Texas section began the SWE year with two officer meetings. The

first focused on officer transitions and the second event planning. Their section has a calendar full of meetings and events planned for the upcoming year.

The Dallas section officers met to prepare FY06 goals and tactical plans. Member survey data from last year was reviewed, events for the year planned, financial investments agreed upon and a first draft budget was set. They also assisted with the 2-day DigiGirlz pilot program hosted by Microsoft.

The Fort Worth section held a leadership planning meeting to define the section goals for FY06, to set a tentative calendar for the year, and to form committees. A networking event was held with the Dallas SWE section at the Winery in Grand Prairie, TX. Monthly membership business meetings were also held.

The Spindletop section held an executive planning meeting to discuss their calendar of events. Decision was made to have 1 meeting a month with a monthly rotating cycle of social meeting followed by a technical/career development meeting. They are planning a membership drive.

The Texas Space Center section is planning future events and continuing with their monthly lunches. In their newsletters were advertising events local to the Houston area as well as just the Clear Lake area. They are working on their website and increasing membership.

PROPOSED NEW BHAG

QUOTED FROM "PROPOSAL FOR UPDATE OF THE ENVISIONED FUTURE SECTION OF SWE'S STRATEGIC PLAN"

The Council of Representatives (COR) is responsible for the 5 - 30 year context of the Society Strategic Plan. One part of this is the Envisioned Future, which includes the Big Hairy Audacious Goal and Vivid Descriptions. During a general update of the Strategic Plan during FY05, SWE members voiced concern over the current BHAG, citing that many members did not feel that it expressed the essence of why SWE exists and what SWE is striving to achieve over the next 20 - 30 years.

The Environmental Scanning FIG reviewed the current BHAG and Vivid Descriptions and decided to solicit feedback to ensure the new BHAG represents the ideas voiced by our members.

The BHAG is equivalent to bold mission—a huge daunting challenge. It is a clear and compelling statement that serves as a unifying focal point of effort. It engages people; it is tangible, energizing and highly focused. It is visionary, and the organization must believe it can reach the BHAG, even though the likeliness of it happening is 50 - 70%. The Vivid Descriptions

are vibrant, engaging and specific descriptions of what it will be like to achieve the BHAG. They translate the vision of the BHAG from words into pictures. They create an image that people can carry around in their heads. Passion, emotion and conviction are essential to the Vivid Descriptions.

The Proposed BHAG:

Transcend the need for the "W" in SWE

The Proposed Vivid Descriptions:

1. We are known as a premier provider of professional development for engineers and engineering leaders.
2. Our Board of Director positions are coveted because of their prestige.
3. SWE activities positively impact women's career decisions to stay in the engineering profession.
4. Our outreach activities convince girls that engineering is awesome, increasing the number of women that enroll in engineering curriculums to 50%
5. We regularly read and hear about engineers, especially women engineers,

and their accomplishments in the news.

6. We are widely recognized as the primary resource on women in engineering.
7. We have tremendous support from corporations and organizations as they recognize the value we provide to society.
8. No woman studying or working in engineering passes up the opportunity to join SWE.
9. Women engineers are sought after for distinguished leadership positions at the world's top companies and institutions.

The Current BHAG:

To be the recognized authority on, and advocate for, women in engineering.

To view the current Vivid Descriptions can visit the "Descriptions for FIG/COR Roles" page (link located on the COR homepage) and view the document "COR Motion - FY06 BHAG "

COR TRAINING MOTIONS UPDATE

CONTRIBUTED BY CLAIRE SHORTALL, NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Although a region council meeting was scheduled following the region COR training session on October 5, a quorum was not present to conduct business. The proposed motions will be presented for region council consideration during the region meeting on November 3 at the national conference in Anaheim, California.

The four motions relate to nominations

and elections. The first is to elect the chair of the region nominating committee. Claire Shortall, who is the region's representative on the Society's nominating committee, has been acting as region nominating committee chair at the request of Governor Tata. The other three motions cover nomination and election policies. The region council is required under the new region bylaws to establish

policies for (1) how members of the nominating committee are selected; (2) the deadline for issuing the slate for all positions other than governor to the region council; and (3) who may issue the election ballots. The text of the motions has been provided to the region council. Last year's nominating committee reviewed the proposed policies and recommend approval by the region council.

BY LAW AMENDMENTS AFFECTING STUDENTS

There are four by law amendments, proposals 5-9, up for vote at the national conference, which will affect student members.

Proposals 5-8 set forth to change the word "student" to "collegiate." In other words, student member will become collegiate member, student representative

and student section becomes collegiate section.

In the past, many non-collegiate students (high school students and younger) have been issued SWE memberships. The purpose of these amendments is to eliminate the confusion of who can be a student member.

Proposal 9 clarifies the role of the SWE counselor while simplifying the language.

For more information and the exact wording of the proposals, please visit the COR homepage, on the SWE website, and view the document "FY06 Regional Council Training."

KEY EVENTS TO ATTEND AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Wednesday, November 2

8:00 AM - Noon and 1:00 - 5:00 PM
Committee meetings

8:00-10:00 PM
"A California Evening" Ice Cream Social

Thursday, November 3

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
* **Council of Representatives Mega Issues**

Noon - 1:00 PM
Student welcome lunch

1:00 - 2:30 PM
* **Collegiate meeting**

2:30 - 3:30 PM
* **Joint meeting**

3:30 - 5:00 PM
* **Professional meeting**

6:00 - 8:00 PM
Career Fair and Exhibits Opening Reception

8:00 - 10:00 PM
Hospitality Networking Suites

Friday, November 4

10:00 - 11:00 AM
FIG meetings

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Career Fair and Exhibits with Lunch

1:00 - 5:00 PM
MAL meeting

1:00 - 4:30 PM
Leadership coaching

4:00 - 5:00 PM
Life Members Reception
(by Invitation only)

4:00 - 5:30 PM
Exhibitors and Sponsors Reception
(by Invitation only)

6:00 - 7:00 PM
Awards Reception

7:00 - 10:00 PM
Awards Banquet

Saturday, November 5

8:00 - 10:00 AM
* **Executive Panel**

10:00 - 11:00 AM
* **Membership Meeting**

11:30 - 1:00 PM
* **Student Leadership Lunch**

1:00 - 5:00 PM
* **COR Meeting**

1:00 - 5:00 PM
Collegiate Leadership Coaching

Please note the events in **green**. Attend the appropriate collegiate, joint, and professional meetings. In addition, if you are an elected COR or alternate, also be sure to attend all relevant COR meetings.

REGION C JOINT MEETING AGENDA—NATIONAL CONFERENCE

- Intro by any board members present (5 min) - Melissa
 - Intro of region officers and goals (10 min) - Melissa
 - Roll call (5 min) and quorum determination - Eileen
 - Discuss/approve motions (5 min) - Claire
 - Discuss/approve budget (5 min) - Diane or Melissa
 - Advertisement for region conference (5 min) - UT lead
 - Discuss collegiate section counselor/faculty advisor needs (5 min) - Jennifer
 - Updates on newsletter and website (5 min) - Jennifer & Karolina
 - Membership update (10 min) - Davinia
 - COR motions (10 min) - Claire
 - National announcements (5 min) - Melissa
 - Discussion on generating funding via region conference (15 min) - Melissa
- Estimated Time: 1.5 hours

REGION C PROFESSIONAL MEETING AGENDA—NATIONAL CONFERENCE

- Introductions (20 min) - All
 - Vitality update (5 min) - Jill
 - Prof dev ideas for region conference (5 min) - Sandra Alridge
 - Succession planning for region officers (5 min) - Claire
 - Region bylaws (10 min) - Marie
 - Ideas for E week (5 min) - All
- Estimated Time: 1 hour

CONFERENCE PLANNING GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

CONTRIBUTED BY TRACY LEAVENS

SWE conferences are a GREAT place to develop your personal and professional skills, as well as providing the perfect opportunity to create a network of industry contacts. But, to fully benefit from a SWE conference, you have to be prepared! Here are a few tips on how to get the most out of a SWE national or regional conference.

WHAT TO BRING

Resumes and business cards: Even if you are not looking for a job, or if this is your first conference experience, it is important to bring a resume and business cards with you (both on paper and on disk). If you end up talking to any company reps, which is likely to happen over the course of the conference, you want to have something for them to remember you by at the end of the conversation. Plus, resumes are a great conversation starter if you are talking to any reps at the career fair. Also, use the new SWE career website to your advantage – upload your resume so that companies attending the career fair can get in touch with you beforehand if they are interested in you.

Extra bag: If you think you get a lot of free items from companies at your school's career fair, wait until the national conference career fair! Make sure you bring an extra bag or have lots of extra room in your suitcase to take home all of the giveaways you will receive.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE CAREER FAIR

Before the conference:

- Research the exhibitors.
- Polish up your résumé and make lots of copies. Be sure to put your résumé on the SWE Career Center (www.swe.org/careers). All exhibitors have access to the résumé database and many fill the first day's interviewing schedule by inviting candidates they have selected from the SWE Career Center database.
- Dress appropriately.
- Check out the SWE Career Center for tips on finding a job.

WHAT TO WEAR

In general: As a student who will eventually be looking for a job, you want to make a good impression on whoever you meet. This means dressing appropriately and carrying yourself with dignity and confidence.

Daily Attire: At most activities throughout the day, like the workshops and the career fair, business attire is the way to go. This means a business suit or a nice slack and sweater outfit. Typically you want your hair pulled back out of your face, and go light on the make-up and jewelry. If you wear a skirt, make sure it is an appropriate length and that you wear nylons with it. Closed-toed shoes are a business attire standard. For the region meetings, tours, and any event that may be slightly less formal, business casual is fine. A great example of business casual is khaki pants with a polo shirt that shows off your school or SWE spirit.

Evening Events: Many of the events in the evening call for formal wear. This is the time to bring out the "little black dress." A cocktail dress or business suit with a skirt is perfect, but don't go overboard.

What Not to Wear: Capri pants (unless they're business slack style), shorts, jeans, prom dresses, open toed shoes, short skirts, platform shoes, spaghetti strap tank tops, heavy make-up and jewelry. **It is always better to dress slightly more formally than you think you need to, than to be underdressed.**

Extras: The conference hotel often has a pool or a gym, and sometimes there are aerobics classes offered for free in the mornings so don't forget your swimsuit

At the conference:

- Attend the sessions that help you prepare for the Career Fair.
- Polish up your résumé or do last minute research on prospective employers at the Career Resources Center.
- Take advantage of the Career Fair's opening reception and all the Career Fair hours to meet employers.
- Learn more about the employers while enjoying the refreshments and fun of Thursday's Networking Night..
- Be prepared to do an interview on site!

WHAT TO DO

Network: Shake hands, make eye contact, learn people's names and company/school/SWE position. Be sure to get someone's business card when you are done talking to them. You may want to make a quick note on the back of the card to remind you of what you talked about with that person, or how they may help you in the future.

Be Prepared: Once you check in at the conference, you will get a lot of material to look through. Most important is the program book. Take some time out the first night to read through everything and to circle the events and workshops you don't want to miss. Be sure the important workshops are covered by at least one officer from your section (i.e. the treasurer's workshop, or the National Award workshop). The activities at conference can give you great ideas for what to do with your section back home, so don't miss them. Also, always have a pen and paper handy so you can take notes during workshops, or so you can jot down any creative SWE ideas when you come up with them.

Participate: Most likely, someone is sponsoring you to go to the conference. Whether it be your local SWE section or your school, it is important that you respect the fact that someone has gone out of their way to get you to the conference. This means going to workshops, tours, awards nights, etc. Remember, you are there to take advantage of all of the opportunities the conference provides.

After the Conference: Write emails to anyone you think may have the potential to help you in the future, i.e. a company rep for a company that you may be interested in working for. Let them know that you enjoyed meeting them, remind them of what you discussed, and possibly attach your resume if you wish to pursue a job in the future with that company. Also, if you were sponsored by a person or group, write them a thank you note and let them know how much you got out of the conference. They'll be eager to send more people like you in the future!

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE: MORE IDEAS

Conference is a great place to gather ideas and motivate sections. Use conference to your best advantage: hold nightly meetings with your sections to plan what workshops everyone is going to the next day; to gather ideas from everyone on what they learned from their workshops; to do strategic planning/goal setting; to discuss how you will implement these ideas in their sections; and to figure out how you will take your excitement back to your sections and carry it through the year.

Think towards next year: Didn't apply for any awards this year? Start planning now! Make sure to attend Celebrate SWE, where SWE section award recipients, scholarship recipients, and other yearly award recipients are honored; talk with winning schools to get advice and evaluate your section's strengths and determine which awards are within your reach. Some awards have only a few applicants, so your chances of receiving

an award are good. You just have to start planning now.

Want to get an award this year? Join Region C as we try for the Spirit Award! This goes to the region that has the most spirit at the Celebrate SWE event. Start thinking of ways that Region C can show their spirit! Anything goes!

Like to find new and innovative SWE "merchandise". The SWE Boutique is the place for student sections to sell their SWE logo items. If your section would like to sell items, contact Jeanne Elipani at Jeanne.Elipani@swe.org let her know what you will be selling.

Of course, don't forget to visit the national conference website (link located on the national SWE homepage), to look over the schedule of events (important one listed in this newsletter) ahead of time, to attend the multitude of workshops provided, and to take advantage of the career fair and networking opportunities.

THINGS TO DO IN ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

While it cannot be stressed how important it is for you to attend SWE functions during the conference, your entertainment options before and after the conference, and in the evenings are endless.

Not only is Anaheim home to Disneyland, it also has a plethora of shopping, dining, and recreational options. In addition, it features 42 miles of incredible coastlines, cultural museums, and historic sites.

Orange County offers something for every visitor.

For more information and ideas, visit:

<http://www.anaheimoc.org/things/index.cfm>

SWE FORUM

CONTRIBUTED BY ERIN ROBERTS, COLLEGIATE REPRESENTATIVE

In the September Quarterly Report, one of the main concerns that many Student Section Presidents had was keeping in touch with other Presidents and knowing what was occurring in Region C. The best way to do this has already been implemented. There is a SWE Forum open, at any time, to all SWE members, with a section of the forum specific to Region C.

I would like to encourage the Student Section Presidents to post on this forum to receive ideas from other section Presidents. This would be a great way to learn best practices, such as how other schools increase or maintain active membership, cool activities or speakers, and more. Please visit and feel free to post at www.swe.org/sweforum

Don't forget!!!! There will be four student section awards given at the Regional Conference this year. Just like last year they are Retention Mid, Retention High, Growth Rate Small, and Growth Rate High.

FORUM INSTRUCTIONS

CONTRIBUTED BY ERIN ROBERTS, COLLEGIATE REPRESENTATIVE

The SWE website has a great tool for its members to use. It is the SWE Forum where you can post and read messages about news or events. Region C has its own forum and here is how you get to it:

1. login in to the SWE website (www.swe.org). There is a Member Log-in button at the top of the page. You should have been given a username and password with your SWE membership. If

you don't know yours please email headquarters. (hq@swe.org)

2. Once logged in Click on the Member Services button on the left hand side of the page.

3. On the Members Services page there is a selection called "Enter Discussion Forum". That will take you to the forums page where you can view the different forums available to read and

post messages. Region C forum is called "Region C General Discussion Forum" and it is under the SWE Regions and Sections.

The region plans to use this forum to post announcements and information about up coming events. Please check it regularly and feel free to post your own messages.

Please email rsc-c@swe.org with any questions.

SME BOWL

SME (or Subject Matter Expert) Bowl is a regional student competition on engineering and SWE trivia. Think you have what it takes?

Contact the Erin Roberts, the Collegiate Representative, at regc-studentrep@swe.org. Positions on the Region C team will be filled on a first come, first serve basis; extra spaces will be filled at the Student Region Meeting at conference. Individuals on winning teams, and their respective regions, will receive cash prizes.

Help Region C win first place!

FISCAL YEAR 2006 REGION C GOALS

Melissa Tata

> Governor

- Contribute in the planning, and execution of the Regional conference budget, and establish a revenue allotment between the student section hosting the conference and the Region
- Circulate updates to region at least twice a month
- Submit updates for all sections for each BOD report
- Submit annual goals for each professional section and monitor progress
- Insure all sections are represented at COR and training
- Lead a diversity event at regional conference
- Compile report for all sections for 2004-2005

Lana Fontana

> Lieutenant Governor

- Regional conference programming
 - Increase professional attendance by 20%
- Work with professional development chair to circulate interest survey throughout region with feedback from at least 50 members
- Work with RCIR and RCMC to increase student attendance by 10% especially through advertising
- Have at least 5 individual and 10 section nominations for National awards

Eileen Vélez-Vega

> Secretary

- Work with RCIR and RCMC on 3 newsletter publications per year, and website updates every week or as needed
- Obtain approval for Mississippi professional section
- Increase regional communication by organizing our SWE distribution lists to improve our current methods of communicating Regional meetings and events with the Section officers

Diane Doise

> Treasurer

- Move student and professional accounts to one bank with Treasurer and President signature authority
- Increase quantity of region conference career fair attendees by 50%
- Establish budget and provide quarterly updates and annual report

Davinia Chism

> Membership Chair

- Train RCMC
- Professional Sections
 - Retention Goal = 80%
 - Growth Goal = 20%
 - 2 new Life Members
 - Every professional section have a joint meeting with all student sections in their area
 - Work with secretary to obtain approval for Mississippi professional section

Jennifer Dahse

> Region Collegiate Interest

Representative (RCIR)

- 3 newsletter publications per year and website updates every week or as needed
- Increase student regional conference attendance by 10%

Nicole Lewis

> Region Collegiate Membership Chair (RCMC)

- Student Sections
 - Retention Goal of 52%
 - Growth Goal of 51%
 - 52 upgrades to professional membership (20% of graduating seniors)

Claire Shortall

> Nominating Committee Chair

- Compile candidates for all regional positions by Feb

Jill Almaguer

> Professional Vitality Coach

- Lead a vitality retreat
- Obtain a co-chair by November
- Increase attendance for calendar year 2006 vitality retreat by 20% and have at least 80% of sections represented
- Distribute feedback from attendees on what worked well and what can be improved
- Determine why folks didn't attend

Sandra Alridge

> Region C Professional Development Chair

- Work with lieutenant governor to circulate interest survey throughout region with feedback from at least 50 members

Marie LaPlante

> Bylaws Chair

- Obtain approval for region bylaws from COR and National

WELCOME NEW MALS!

Marisela Avalos - El Paso, TX
 Felicia Carolyn Brown - Gautier, MS
 Paulina M. Diaz - Little Rock, AR
 Lee Ann Henderson - Harlingen, TX
 Christine M. Hymel - Lafayette, LA
 Lora Lynn Johnson - Vicksburg, MS
 Amanda Jo McBurney - Midland, TX
 Noel Nunnally Schulez - Mississippi State, MS

REGION C CONFERENCE—UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

From March 31– April 2, 2006, the University of Texas at Austin will be hosting the FY06 Region C Conference, to be held at the Radisson Hotel & Suites. Conference coordinators, Sriya Anbil and Judy Tu, have been hard at work to ensure that the conference will be enjoyable, fulfilling, and beneficial to all.

The theme this year is “Resort SWE.” The intent of the weekend is provide a relaxing atmosphere while facilitating regional business, and personal and professional growth.

In addition to workshop sessions, some exciting activities planned are a movie night social, a “Love-Yourself Night,” a dinner cruise on Town Lake, tours of local industry, kick boxing sessions, and much more!

Regional Conference is a great way to network with other sections—students and professionals alike: Gain ideas regarding best practices. Exchange success tips for the work place and the academic setting.

Region C leadership and the University of Texas at Austin would like to encourage all sections to attend the Region C Conference. It's not to be missed!!

For more information, please visit the Region C Conference website:

<http://www.engr.utexas.edu/swe/regionC.htm>

Attention SWE Members!

Want to learn more about SWE “Behind the Scenes”?

Want to meet you Leadership Team and be a part of the Vision for SWE’s Future?

Make Plans to Attend the Region C Meeting

@

SWE National Convention – Anaheim, CA!

Region C has an outstanding leadership team – dedicated and working hard to make SWE the premier organization for women engineers! Come learn about the ‘business’ of SWE; how the Region interacts with the National Office to institute programming, and further SWE’s Mission; and to get to know your Regional Leadership Team, and their vision for our organization, first-hand!

See you @ the Region C Meeting in Anaheim

Thursday, November 3 @ 1 p.m.!

See your conference schedule for more details!

BETTY SHANAHAN SHARES HER RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

EXCERPTED FROM "BETTY SHANAHAN SHARES HOW SWE INFLUENCED HER LIFE WITH HOUSTON AREA SWE", WRITTEN BY RUBY S. PEREZ, HOUSTON AREA PUBLICITY CHAIR

To have a network of your peers to lean on, learn from, and succeed with is invaluable. Houston area SWE members welcomed the opportunity to learn from SWE Executive Director and CEO, Betty Shanahan. Betty greeted the Houston Section on January 11, 2005 and inspired a lively and interactive conversation with the section. Sharing things that many in the Houston section could relate to - being excluded from outside work "guy" teambuilding activities, assumptions being made about a preference for a job assignment, recognition gifts being male centric - really got the conversation started with the Houston section! Betty went on to note that although these things may still exist we need to continue to push forward. We all bring unique value to our employers.

Betty closed by reminding us about the importance of our work with a quote from an Op-Ed piece that ExxonMobil sponsored in February in the New York Times, Washington Post, Houston Chronicle and other papers: "Engineering is also important. All of us want to have confidence that the planes in which we fly are safe, that the bridges we cross will stand, that offshore oil platforms will be able to weather the elements and contain the pressures found in reservoirs of oil and gas. We also want to have better cars and faster computers and efficient appliances with more conveniences. Engineering makes our lives more secure, more comfortable, more rewarding. It gives us possibilities and enrichments that earlier generations could not have imagined."

From all of us in Houston, "Thank you



Betty Shanahan pictured on Left

"DIVERSITY IN THE WORKFORCE" BY CAROL BACHMAN

Congratulations to Carol Bachman for her terrific write-up on "diversity in the workforce" in the Fort Worth newspaper, the Star Telegram, on February 13. Carol obtained recognition for her work with Peterbilt Motors and the benefits her unique perspective have achieved. Not only is Carol unique to the engineering field in gender, but she also started later (at 29) after she started her family.

Initially, she was one among several women in her engineering classes at the University of Texas at Arlington; by the time she graduated, she was the only one in many of her classes. Ten years ago, "she says she was the only woman in her group of about 100 TI engineers. Bachman, 50, has long been networking with other women engineers and encouraging young girls to go into the field. As presi-

section of the Society of Women Engineers, she often holds workshops with Girl Scouts groups because half of all women engineers were once Scouts. Women aren't exactly breaking down the walls. In 2003, they held less than 11 percent of all engineering jobs. The number of women in the field ticked up in the mid-1990s but has been flat for the past five years."

NEW PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP COACHES

Congratulations to our two new professional leadership coaches, Carol Bachman and Candy Robinson. They will be

joining Jill Almaguer in this role. We appreciate all of the effort Sarah Nuttall put forth in her tenure in this role and wish

her the best of luck as she focuses on her new daughter. Sarah was instrumental in orchestrating our annual vitality retreat starting in 2004.

SWE BIRTHS!

Owen William Story was born April 18th 2005 to Rob and Amy Story. He was 9lb 12 oz and 21 inches long.

Aubrey Thacker was born July 7, 2005 to Karen and Corey Thacker. Karen was Texas Space Center FY05 Vice President.

PROVIDE US WITH YOUR NEWS FOR PUBLICATION!

We would love to hear about big events in your life! Announcements may include engagements, marriages, pregnancies, births, awards, promotions, etc.

Please send professional member announcements to Eileen Velez-Vega at eileen.velez@swe.org and student member announcements to Jennifer Allee at regc-newsletter@swe.org.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Region C is home to amazing engineers; we would like to take a moment to recognize some individual accomplishments and contributions to the engineering community.

Margaret Anderson:

Margaret Anderson has made her profession teaching people to get what they need from others. However, she has had a hobby of mystery writing for many years. This year her hard work paid off and she won first place, genre fiction category, in the Writers Digest Annual Writing Competition. This is a very prestigious contest and Margaret was in competition with about 3000 other participants. In addition to receiving over \$1000 in cash and other prizes, Margaret's story "Duet for Flute and Phantom" will be published in an anthology along with the first place winners from the other categories.

Margaret recently interviewed on Biz Radio, 1320 AM in Houston, on Monday, October 10th at 7:45 AM. The interview was part of a series on women who have overcome obstacles in

Cynthia Oliver Coleman:

Cynthia Oliver Coleman is one of the women engineers included in the upcoming "Women Engineers: Extraordinary Stories of How They Changed Our World" book. The book will debut as part of National Engineers Week 2006. She feels honored to have been nominated to be included in the book. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.engineeringwomen.org/list.cfm>

Melissa Tata:

Melissa Tata, Region C Governor, is a 2005 Recipient of the Society of Women Engineer's Distinguished New Engineer Award. The Distinguished New Engineer Award is awarded to women who have demonstrated outstanding technical performance for the first ten years of their engineering career. Region C is proud to be led by such an extraordinary woman.

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. I encourage every section to submit an article about something that they are proud of or feel would be of interest to others in the region. E-mail me, Jennifer Allee — Newsletter Editor, at regc-newsletter@swe.org with your articles, suggestions, and questions.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: REGION C CONFERENCE FY05

Highest Overall Growth and Retention

Region C MAL

Dedication Award (greatest distance traveled)

University of Texas at El Paso

Greatest Number of Attendees at Conference, Professional Section

Houston

Greatest Number of Attendees at Conference, Student Section

University of Texas at Austin

Highest Retention, Professional Section

Fort Worth

Highest Retention, High Student Section

Mississippi State University

Highest Retention, Mid Student Section

University of Arkansas

Largest Growth, Professional Section

Houston

Largest Growth, Small Student Section

Prairie View A&M University

Largest Growth, High Student Section

University of Texas at San Antonio

Check out the Region C Website at

www.swe.org/regionC

REGION C FY05 STATISTICS

- **Professional Membership**
 - Total: 700
 - Retention: 79.56%
 - Growth: 21.27%
- **Collegiate Membership**
 - Total: 1122
 - Retention: 51.99%
 - Growth: 50.75%

Let's stay focused on our collegiate sections!

Every professional section should have at least one meeting or activity with their local collegiate sections this year. Start planning now!