

# SWE C Signal

Society of Women Engineers

## Region C Conference at South Padre Island, Texas

The Region C conference hosted by the University of Texas at Pan Am at South Padre Island was a huge success. It was a fun and well-attended event with about 175 total attendees, mostly students from all over the region. The conference was very well organized, the picturesque surroundings only enhanced the excitement of the event. Schools from Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi were represented. On Friday, SWE members arriving early enjoyed tours at Lockheed Martin and the adjacent Schlitterbahn. The welcome dinner was held at Louie's Backyard where we also had a tongue twister contest. Winners enjoyed a free drink or dessert. On Saturday, there

were workshops including several section vitality modules, joint and separate student and member region meetings, and a dinner and dance with SWE FY04 National President Alma Martinez Fallon as the keynote speaker.

At the Region Meetings, Melissa Tata and Ebalina Roitberg officially declared their candidacy for the new position of Region Governor.

I reported that the Region C website now contains both student and member section links to facilitate communication. Please check out the new Region C website:

<http://www.societyofwomenengineers.org/SWE/RegionC/RegionC.html> The 2003-2004 website webmasters is Charmaine Cuyos. Way to go Charmaine!

University of Houston, Texas A&M, Prairie View A&M University and Louisiana State University have expressed an interest in hosting the FY 05 Region C conference. UH and Prairie View may submit a joint bid for the event. Thyme title could be ... UH "Shifting Face of Engineering", Texas A&M "Swinging by the Station", LSU "Engineering Carnival", and Prairie View A&M "Women in Engineering". They will

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## First Annual SWE-Girl Scout Workshop

The Society of Women Engineers and the Girl Scouts of the USA have a partnership that SWE at Louisiana Tech has embraced full force. Following the SWE regional conference in 2003, a workshop went into planning; and on March 20,



2004, The Society of Women Engineers' first annual Girl Scout workshop was a success! Over 50 girl scouts ages 8-11 earned the Science Sleuth badge and a SWE-Girl Scout event patch. To earn

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Spring 2004

Volume 2, Issue 2



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# Welcome! 2004-2005 Region C Officers

You have four Region C Officers at your disposal to help you out and to give you ideas! Region C is a unique region in that it has four regional student officer positions - most regions have only 2. For information on the officer positions, check out the region website on the last page of this newsletter. We have just recently elected four new officers for our region. All of them can be contacted at the following e-mails addresses starting this summer. Feel free to e-mail them with any questions. Join me in congratulating our new Region C Officers!

## Region Student Representative:

Karen Teeuwen  
The University of Texas at Austin  
regc-studentrep@swe.org

## · Newsletter Editor:

Rebecca Thomason  
Texas Tech University  
regc-newsletter@swe.org

## Activities Chair:

Angie Caninenberg  
Lamar University  
regc-activities@swe.org

## · Communications Chair:

Julia Mai  
The University of Texas at Austin  
regc-communications@swe.org

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Following Members are all being recognized for their hard work and contributions to their SWE Section!

### Nekisha Harris

2003-2004 President - Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge

Graduating Senior in Environmental Engineering. Great leader, very active, and helpful in organizing events and getting sponsors for help with putting together bid for next regional conference.

### Charmaine Cuyos

2003-2004 President  
Lamar University  
Graduating Senior



### Nilou Ebrahami

University of Houston

For coordinating EST Day!! She was a great influence and creative individual!

## Synopsis of Spring 2004

### Lamar University

Hosted the College of Engineering Banquet for all engineering students in February.

Hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual College of Engineering Volleyball Tournament & Crawfish Boil on April 4 2004 for all engineering students, FREE of charge.

### Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge

Community Service: Tutoring at Scottlandville Middle School in Math and Science classes for students having problems, and also to explain what SWE is.

### Mississippi State University

Several SWE members volunteered their time to judge the Mississippi Science and Engineering Fair (grades 7-12). It was an interesting and rewarding experience to see children involved with engineering projects.

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# Encounter with Engineering

On Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, The University of Texas at Austin's SWE chapter hosted Encounter with Engineering (EWE), a free engineering-focused outreach program for high school students. The event was mainly organized and planned by Judith Chen, UT SWE's Community Affairs Director. Most of the girls attending were from Austin area high schools, but there were a few who made it into a weekend trip. At the safari themed event, the girls were divided into groups and led by "tour guides" from activity to activity. Each "tour", or hands-on activity, represented a differ-

ent area of engineering. Everyone was able to build a tower out of popsicle sticks and test its strength, reverse engineer a water gun, and make nylon. The girls were also provided the opportunity to consult "tribal leaders" in a panel about the engineering discipline and what it can lead to. The day ended with a speech by Dean Streetman about engineering at UT. Hopefully, we will be seeing some of the attendees here at the college of engineering in the next few years!

**The University of Texas at Austin**  
**By: Allison Nitsch**



UT-SWE's Jeanie Chung works with Texas high school girls to make nylon at EWE

## Relay for Life

Our new motto for SWE Outreach is "Engineering a Difference." Our main project this semester was Relay for Life, which we participated in for the first time! Relay for Life is a fundraiser organized by the American Cancer Society to help raise money for cancer research. We had a large team from SWE participate in this year's relay. During the relay, each team was responsible for having at least one member walking the track at all times during the 12 hour event. This symbolizes that cancer never sleeps. While team members were not walking, they

enjoyed a carnival type atmosphere with games, entertainment, and plenty of food. To distinguish ourselves, we created SWE outreach baseball tees in maroon and white.

Our main fundraising was from donations and luminary sales. Luminaries are white bags with candles inside that either honor cancer survivors or remember cancer victims. On the night of the relay, these bags lined the track and served as a powerful reminder of how many people are affected by cancer. This year's relay

was held at the A&M Consolidated High School track. It started at 7pm on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and finished at 7am on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>. Relay for Life is a wonderful way to make a difference in the Bryan/College Station community, and we were so excited that SWE was able to take part in it this year!

**Texas A&M University**  
**By: Jaclyn Miles, President**

## Texas Tech University

### Catch the Engineering Bug

We invited local middle school girls with an interest in math and science for a day to Texas Tech. We introduced the girls to the different engineering disciplines by demonstrating through hands on activities. The girls competed and prizes were given to winners.

### The Rec-All Nighter

We rented our recreational facility for a night where we invited current SWE members and encouraged them to invite a prospective SWE member. The night was fun-filled with activities, food, and a scavenger hunt with prizes.

### Casino Night

We rented our Science Spectrum and hosted a night of "gambling." Blackjack, Roulette, and Craps tables were set up while the science exhibits were also available. Door prizes were given throughout the night, and raffles, based on the number of tokens, were conducted at the end of the night.

# Prairie View A&M University

Greetings All! Well, the year is finally coming to an end, but that's not the end of SWE for us — just a break until the fall semester begins. At any rate, we finished the year out with a couple of events. SWE and a couple of other engineering societies went together on a Chicken and Kickin' Picnic. Basically, we came together for just a few hours to chill out and relax for a while. We ate chicken and there was a mini game of Kickball played. It was great and we look forward to hosting another picnic, maybe this time to bring in the new semester.

We also held SWE RAP Ses-

sions once a month with the freshmen on campus. Talking about technical issues to personal issues it's an event to motivate students about SWE by allowing them to talk with someone.

Congratulations to the new officers of our section as well. Nominations and elections were held this month and we are looking forward to great ideas and many new implementations within our section. We'll be doing big things next year. You wait and see!

Overall, our year was a great one and we look forward to another great year real soon. In the meanwhile

good luck to everyone on your finals and have a great summer. We'll be **SWEing** you soon. Toodles for now!

**Prairie View A&M University**

**By: Sherronda K. Martin, President**

## National Engineers Week

How low can you go? How low can you go? This was the main topic of conversation as SWE hosted L'Hospitals Limbo with a Hawaiian twist at Engineering Week's Friday in the Park. Contestants received a tropical colored Hawaiian lay to wear on his or her neck to distinguish them from other engineers at the park. Almost 30 girls and guys from different engineering majors competed to see if they could be the one to go the lowest.

Surprisingly, many tall engineers made it all the way to the last round, but as the limbos stick got lower, more and more people started to fall and hit the dirt. It is no fun to fall right on your butt in front of your peers, but it was all in good fun and everyone had a good laugh. While taking a break from studying to spend a nice Friday afternoon on Simkins lawn, we ate free hamburgers and hot dogs thanks to ASME.

The competitions went on throughout the week, as SWE members tried to take time out of their day in the midst of tests and homework to come and have fun with: jalepardny, egg toss, calculator baseball, bowling, billards, and many other events. The scavenger hunt was also a fun adventure for many SWE members this year. We ran around town collecting any

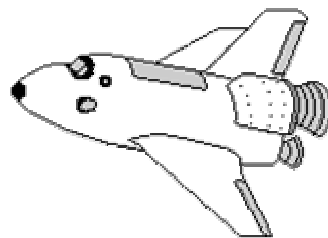
See E-WEEK, Page 6

## UNO SWE at NASA

On April 24th 2004, the SWE chapter of the University of New Orleans had a field trip at the NASA Stennis Space Center (SSC), Mississippi. We first had a guided bus tour of the facility's main points and then visited the museum, which retraces the history of the SSC since the early 1960's when the Hancock County inhabitants had to give their lands for the construction of the space Center. Nowadays, all the engines that go to

the moon as well as rocket engines for spacecraft of the future are tested at SSC.

After our visit, we had a workshop with Melba Harris, member of the Greater New Orleans professional chapter. Mrs. Harris is also the GNO scholarship chair and a leadership coach. She presented us a module on the benefits of SWE. We enjoyed



her presentation very much and we hope that her helpful hints will help us increase our rate of attendance next fall.

**University of New Orleans**

**By: Corinne Sanon**

# South Padre

Continued from Page 1.

prepare bids by April 10 with each section getting one vote by the end of April. A conference committee was also formed.

Sarah Nuttall also presented an overview of the Section Vitality Task Force and the vitality scoresheet results for the region. She also launched promotion for the upcoming Section Vitality Retreat in Lake Conroe to be held on July 24-25, 2004. Current and future SWE leaders from all sections in the region are encouraged to attend. This will be an excellent opportunity for incoming

SWE officers to develop their leadership skills and enhance the vitality of their respective sections. Please check out the new Region C website for program details and registration information that will be coming soon at <http://www.societyofwomenengineers.org/SWE/RegionC/RegionC.html> There was also a student transition team presentation.

Also there are currently nineteen candidates for the Region Membership Coordinator. The Deputy Region C Director Melissa Tata is in charge of making the final selection. Application forms will be required

from the candidates.

Alma Martinez Fallon informed us the COR will be presented with a plan to have dual membership for SWE and ASME.

The conference enjoyed excellent attendance and all agreed that the location was lovely. Even the timing was good at the end of spring break - there were still some celebrations taking place, but was very peaceful, relaxing, and productive.

**April Lauper**  
**2003-2004 Region C**  
**Governor**



## Careers in Engineering for Women

The Careers in Engineering for Women (CEW) program is a week-long summer camp designed to get middle school girls from around Texas excited about engineering. With gracious funding from our sponsors, CEW is provided at no cost to participants. CEW 2004 will be held June 13 to June 19, 2004. Campers will be living in comfy dormitory near UT campus.

We have had a phenomenal response from young women around Texas who want to explore engineering. We received over 500 applications for only forty spots and are excited that so many girls are actively pursuing their interests in engineering!

With the gracious help of over fifty volunteers, we were able to select forty outstanding girls to attend CEW.

A ton of exciting activities are in store for CEW campers including tours and presentations by nearby companies and student organizations, a scavenger hunt around campus, a star gazing party, and hands-on challenges to build a structure that will withstand "hurricane force" winds and to formulate the bounciest slime. In addition, during the week, participants will work in teams on a design challenge to create a device that will entertain a kitty for five to seven seconds. We are

looking forward to meeting forty amazing young women this summer and hope they leave with lots of new friends, confidence, and enthusiasm about engineering!

**The University of Texas at Austin**  
**By: Kalpana Manthiram**

## Girl Scouts

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the badge the girl scouts had to complete six activities where they explored oxidation, simple machines, water properties, crystallization, paper making, and TV/DVD connections. They also learned what it means to be an engineer from SWE members of every engineering discipline. The activities were planned by SWE's Girl Scout

committee head Britney English. Following the workshop, the Idea Place and the Planetarium took the girl scouts on more science adventures. At the end of the day each girl took home a bag full of math and science school supplies; their newly made paper, rock candy, and "incredible slurping plant," and a new understanding of engineering. SWE would like to extend a special thanks to CITGO Petroleum Cor-

poration for their donations, Helen Thomas at the Girl Scout Council for all her time and help, and all the SWE volunteers who made this event a success.

**Louisiana Tech University**

# SWE/BMES Quiz Bowl Competition

To celebrate the return of Engineer's Week here at Louisiana Tech University, the Society of Women Engineers and the Biomedical Engineering Society hosted a quiz bowl competition in Keeny Circle. This competition was the first event of the week and the first of its kind here at Louisiana Tech. Two faculty teams and five student teams signed up to compete. The questions asked included fundamental engineering problems

and facts concerning the history of Louisiana Tech. Both faculty and student participants enjoyed the friendly competition and had several laughs. A few of them (yes faculty too) even learned new information. The champion student team Electrical Shock, whose members included: Viet Anh

Nguyen, Jeremy Blair, Daniel Ray and John Arnold, and the champion faculty team, Faculty Team #1 Semi-MEs, whose members were Dr. Stan Napper, Dr. Mark Barker, Dr. William Jordan, and Dr. Jenna Carpenter, were awarded plaques and framed certificates. The framed certificates will be displayed in Bogard Hall to show that these competitors know their stuff, and that they're top dawg!

**Louisiana Tech University**  
**By: Julie Rodgers and**  
**Kristy Freeman, President**



Engineering activities at the mall as part of E-WEEK.

## E-WEEK

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thing from extra large black silk underwear, condoms, pictures of the fountain at the capitol, a red ball from McDonald's play place, and a pint glass from Dave and Busters, as well as all kinds of random and weird stuff that you had to think outside the box to find.

The last major event for SWE was hosting the Talent Show and Open

Mic Night. It was here where you could come and "Be a Star". We had some budding pop stars and actors perform, but we suggested they don't quite their day jobs as engineers for the entertainment business. We had some electrical engineers dress up as the Blue's Brothers, and a man dressed as a woman trying to dance with grace and poise. We also saw a variety of talent with some comedy, music, and taekwondo.

When all was said and done, SWE was honored with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place standing at the E-Week banquet. Everyone had a good time being able to hang out and just have fun Thanks to all those who helped SWE to uphold our position as an E-Week champ.

**The University of Texas at Austin**  
**By: Ashley Alletag**

## Girl Scouts Gold Award Project

SWE is planning on assisting a local high schooler on her Girl Scouts Gold Award Project (equivalent to the Eagle Project for Boy Scouts). The high schooler will be hosting a workshop for Junior High girls. The name of the workshop is "It's not rocket science, it's engineering." There will be tours and workshops lasting 4 hours, Saturday afternoon on March 6, 2004.

We helped set up tours at the

University with professors. The tours included the MAE department wind tunnel, SAE racing team, and CSE department robotics lab. We also reserved rooms for the workshops she held for each tour. MAE workshop showed how wind can be converted into work (like a windmill). This workshop would take forever to explain, but if you want more details let me know. We couldn't figure out a workshop for CSE without the use of computers, so we decided to do a EE

workshop on electricity and magnets. The Civil department did an egg drop workshop demonstrating structures. After the workshops we had women from professional engineering companies come and talk to the girls about engineering.

**University of Texas at Arlington**  
**By: Andrea Wilson**



# Have a great summer!



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## Synopsis

Continued from Page 2.

### **Mississippi State University**

Professional Development Retreat: There were four speakers that came to our retreat and gave presentations on issues such as Business Appearance and creating a powerful presence.

### **The University of Texas at Arlington**

Expanded our SWEet shop. We used to sell just cokes out of a small fridge. Now we sell chips, pudding, cereal bars, candy bars, sodas and have a full size refrigerator.

### **The University of Texas at Austin**

Remodeled our office. Painted the walls yellow and built and painted our own shelves. Now there's actually room for multiple people to stand.

### **Southern University and A&M College**

Girl Scouts, T-shirt sales

### **University of Arkansas – LR**

Revitalizing dormant section.

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