

Southwest Texas News

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWEST SECTION OF THE
SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS

NOVEMBER 2007



“The society of Women Engineers stimulates women to achieve full potential as engineers and leaders, expands the image of the engineering progression as a positive force in improving the quality of life, and demonstrates value of diversity.”

~ [SWT Website](#) ~

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President's Letter

Dear SWE Members,

I am very thrilled to be the president of SWE Southwest Section for 2007-2008 year. We have an exciting year filled with opportunities for networking, interactive speaker meetings and charity events. Our energetic team of officers and committee chairs are looking forward to making this year one of the best in SWE history. We cannot do this without you! Your involvement and participation means a lot to SWE so I encourage each of you to get engaged in the many activities we have planned. We are looking for volunteers to fill our Girl Scout Chair and Fund Development Chair positions.

If you have ever thought of getting actively involved in SWE, this is the time! In this year's speaker meetings our focus areas are leadership, financial awareness and healthy life. We have great social events lined up this year, one in December and one in May giving ample opportunity for networking. In spring we will have events that inspire youth to pursue careers in Science and Math, these include Austin Science Fair, Girl day @ UT and Swing into Spring, Girl Scout Workshops.

Last year, we held a joint meeting with National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). This year, we are going a step further and planning on holding a joint meeting between NSBE, SHPE (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers) and SWE.

We would not have been where we are without active participation of all the SWE members. Please continue to provide feedback and we would love to hear from you all. At the end of each event, we are handing out a Feedback form to all attendees; please take few minutes to let us know about your overall experience of the event.

On behalf of my SWE team, I invite you to all these events and looking forward to meeting with you at an upcoming SWE Event!

Please feel free to send your comments, questions or concerns to me at SWESWT.President@swe.org.

Regards,
Khona Mohiuddin

2007 Officers and Committee Chairs

Khona Mohiuddin	President	SWESWT.President@swe.org
Sharda Parthasarathy	Vice-President	SWESWT.VicePresident@swe.org
Katie Kizziar	Secretary	SWESWT.Secretary@swe.org
Loulwa Salem	Treasurer	SWESWT.Treasurer@swe.org
Katie Todd	Section Representative	SWESWT.SectionRepresentative@swe.org
Socorro Miller	Section Representative	SWESWT.SectionRepresentative@swe.org
Dina Eldin	Alt. Section Representative	SWESWT.SectionRepresentative@swe.org
Wunmi Akinsanmi	Award Committee Chair	
Penny Parang	Career Guidance: Girl Scouts	
Ty Parcher	Career Guidance: Science Fair	
Anna Salguero	Career Guidance: Science Fair	
Monica Wedo	Fund Development	
Amy Story	Mom's Network	
Michelle Schneider	Mom's Network	
Shelley Stracener	Newsletter Editor	
Pooja Bhatia	Program Chair	
Tricia Berry	Student Liason	
Lisa Filemyr	UT Counselor	
Socorro Miller	Webmaster	

Fall Kickoff Brunch Review

~Dina Eldin

The Southwest Texas section kicked off the 2007-2008 year on Saturday, September 15th with a brunch at Marie Callender's. This informal networking event has become a tradition for our section. Approximately twenty-five members and guests enjoyed a delicious brunch and took the opportunity to catch up with old friends as well as meet new ones. We had a new type of icebreaker where a topic was selected for the group and the attendees were able to discuss the topic. This was a great hit, and we will plan on using this type of icebreaker in the future. The new officers updated attendees on upcoming events and advertised open section leadership positions. We look forward to seeing everyone again at the remaining events this year!



SWE @ the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Austin

~Sharda Parthasarathy

The tenth annual Susan G Komen Race for the Cure was held in Austin on Sunday, November 4th 2007. This year the women of SWESWT participated in a joint team effort with SWE-UT, the UT Austin Women in Engineering Program (WEP) and CDM- a Cambridge, MA based engineering and consulting firm. We had the largest team representing SWE this year with thirty team members. The team set itself a target of raising \$1000 for the Komen foundation and we exceeded our goal- so hurray for all of us! Thanks to everyone who participated in the Race and showed up (or slept in!!) to support a noble cause.



SWE National Conference Review

~Shelley Stracener

This year's Society of Women Engineers National Conference was held in Nashville, TN from October 24-27. The theme for this year's conference was "WE 2007," highlighting the sense of community within SWE. The conference had three very full days of professional development sessions, society business meetings, local area tours, and a few evening celebration events.

The conference was kicked off at a keynote breakfast presented by Adriane M. Brown, President and CEO of Honeywell Transportation Systems, who spoke about her journey from the factory floor to the boardroom and the important people who had an influence in her career. The conference continued with motivational speeches and informative sessions over the next three days. The evenings held a variety of networking events including an ice-cream social, company hospitality suites, and tours of Nashville. The Achievement Awards banquet on Friday night and the Celebrate SWE banquet on Saturday were uplifting events where SWE members were awarded for their hard work throughout the year.

It is not too late to get in on the fun! If you have never attended a SWE conference and don't want to wait until next year's National Conference, consider attending one of our local SWE meetings or joining us for our upcoming Region C conference in San Antonio, March 28-30, 2008. Next year's National Conference will be held in Baltimore, MD November 6-8, 2008.

SWT Professional Members Participate in National SWE Conference

~Suzanne White

The SWT section was well-covered by SWT members, who were involved with several different levels of this year's conference.

Awards received:

- **Melissa Tata:** Serving as Speaker of the Council of Representatives on Board of Directors FY07
- **Penny Parang and Judy Chavis:** CPC Recognition to thank and recognize each CPC member for their commitment to SWE and diversity
- **SWT Professional Section:** Won the **Large Section** award for the Professional Development Meeting Series **"Networking in the Digital Age"**
- **Shelley Stracener, Editor:** Best Professional Online Newsletter, SWT Professional Section



Presentations given:

- **Suzanne White, Shelli Mount** co-presented with Intel on "Leveraging SWE Membership" (Leadership Coaching track) on the collaborative team efforts in the last 1.5 years within Dell
 - We have been asked to present same subject next year with an update on our own progress.
 - We have also been asked to present an additional lecture for the Academics Career track (our idea for topic: "A Handshake Can Make or Break Getting That Job").
- **Lisa Hornsby** spoke at Plenary Session: "Engineer of 2020"
- **Melissa Tata and Linette Patterson** facilitated the tour of Dell's East Coast Fulfillment Center for approximately 30 attendees
- **Penny Parang and Suzanne White** co-presented at the Invitation-Only Career Guidance Expo to showcase the "Engineering in Concert" Girl Scout event held in April 2007. Only those who were nominated for the Career Guidance Award were invited to exhibit their project
- **Helene Armitage** spoke at the "Women Developing Women" Diversity Track session.
- **Tricia Berry** is on the SWE-AWE Advisory Council and spoke at the following sessions:
 - "Recruit, Teach and Excite Future Engineers Through Nontraditional Academic Careers" Academic Careers Track session
 - "Shaping Your Career Through SWE Experiences" Leadership Coaching Track session

Meetings attended by SWT members:

- **Judy Chavis:** Dell-SWE Executive Champion, attended CPC meetings, introduced key partners at Microsoft/Intel/Dell aligned Invitation-Only event (following Career Fair to make acquaintance with best applicants)
- **Karen Gleasman:** Attended Executive Summit
- **Penny Parang:** Attended all CPC meetings as key contributor and representative
- **Linette Patterson:** Presented and participated in Board Of Director meeting, two committee meetings, and treasurer workshop. Presented financial motion to Council of Representatives that led to approval and will ultimately provide about \$200K annually to SWE programs and services.
- **Melissa Tata:** Two days of Board of Director meetings; leadership of 4-hour Council of Representatives business meeting, and facilitator for 5 hours of mega issue discussions on the organization design
 - At the Council Of Representatives business meeting that **Melissa Tata** led, they voted to have a collegiate and professional joint membership with NSBE, SHPE and AISES
- **Katie Todd:** As the voting delegate from the Southwest Texas Section, Katie participated in the national Council of Representatives and helped to shape SWE by providing input & voting on key initiatives. Katie is also a member of the SWE Government Relations committee and participated in a strategy session. She also attended the Region C meeting.
- **Anna Salguero:** Attended National Nominating Committee, Past Presidents, Fellows & Region C meetings
- **Ebalina Roitberg** attended the Region C meeting as Lt. Governor for the region and presented on the upcoming 2008 Region C conference. Brochures and company sponsorship letters were handed out to professional members.
- **Dina Eldin and Isabel Van Horn** attended the Region C meeting.
- **Other Attendees:** Wunmi Akinsanmi, Lynne Bauch, , Liza Mandeville, Jamie Melanson, Khona Mohiuddin, Reena Singhal, Bianca Tudosa

Reception following the Career Fair, co-sponsored by Microsoft, Intel, and Dell:

- By Invitation Only event
- Largest presence was at this event, with approximately 150 in attendance
- Catered to the "cream of the crop" resume submitters

What a blast -- we worked just as hard (if not harder) as we played and look forward to collaborating on creating the next steps for upcoming events and activities that will be "a driving force that establishes engineering and technology as a highly desirable career aspiration for women". Thanks to all -- I look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

November Speaker Meeting: “How to deal with difficult people”

~Katie Kizziar

Most people face difficult coworkers at some point in their career if they do not already have to deal with them now. In this presentation, W.D. Smith will talk about these coworkers, a stepped process to deal with the perpetrator and how to better use language that will make you less likely to set someone off.

WHAT: SWE SWT Speaker Meeting: “How to deal with difficult people”

DATE: November 15th, 2007 (Thursday)

TIME: 6:30pm—8:30pm

WHERE: [Jones Energy Ltd.](#)

807 Las Cimas Pkwy, Ste. 350

Austin, TX 78746

COST: Free for SWE members and Jones Energy Ltd Employees, Guests—\$10

DINNER SELECTION: Italian, from Macaroni Grille

RSVP: Katie Kizziar, kkizziar@skillpointalliance.org by Nov. 13

Speaker Bio: W.D. Smith

W.D. Smith, III who is a part of Catalyst Training & Development, L.P., is a teacher and change agent who empowers others to use their communications skills at their most effective performance levels. He enjoys helping others to adapt the one small spark that makes the difference between ordinary and extraordinary! His passion is watching others light up when they accomplish something they thought impossible.

Holiday Social

~Pooja Bhatia

The highly anticipated SWE Southwest Texas annual holiday Social will be held on December 15th from 11:00am—1:00pm at Le Madeline Bakery and Café in the Arboretum. The event will commence with a tasty brunch followed by an opportunity to network with other members and attendees. There will be prizes and fun-filled games and of course the holiday spirit. SWE will also be collecting clothes and other essentials to donate to SafePlace. Please visit the website for updated information. We look forward to seeing you at our holiday social.



January Networking Event

~Sharda Parthasarathy

We all make New Year’s resolutions to be healthier and fitter. On January 26, 2008 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm, SWE SWT is planning a networking event to help everyone kick-start their post-holiday season fitness goals. **Jazzercise** is a fitness program that blends jazz dance elements with aerobic exercise for a fun workout experience. You can find information on the program and even beginner instructions at www.jazzercise.com. If you are interested in attending this event- please send an RSVP to sharda_parthasarathy@dell.com.



Women in Engineering Program

~Tricia Berry



WEP at UT Austin is happy to join forces with SWE again for Race for the Cure and our January “Swing into Spring with SWE & WEP” student-professional networking event. Mark your calendars now for January 17, 2008, 6 – 8 p.m. when we’ll join forces for an interactive evening of dinner, networking, mentoring and more!

WEP is hosting a WECAN career development workshop series based on the book “Stop Sabotaging Your Career: 8 Proven Strategies to Succeed--in Spite of Yourself” by Dr. Lois P. Frankel. The book provides “eight most effective strategies for overcoming career obstacles and becoming an invaluable member of any work environment.” Through the WECAN workshop series, WEP will facilitate open discussions about the “8 Proven Strategies,” helping participants to “identify their dominant professional behaviors and offers proven strategies to maximize their career potential-- in spite of themselves.” Upcoming workshops are November 15 from 6 – 7:30 p.m., January 29 from 12:30 – 2 p.m., and April 23 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Lunch or dinner is provided for free. Learn more or sign up online at www.engr.utexas.edu/wep.

UT Student Section Wins National Awards

~Tricia Berry



The UT Student Section of SWE was recognized repeatedly at the SWE National Conference in Nashville in October. UT’s SWE was awarded the following recognitions:

#1 Large Collegiate Section Outreach Event for Encounter with Engineering, a high school outreach event in February for over 100 high school girls

#1 Large Collegiate Section Membership Retention Program

#1 Collegiate Website – check it out at

www.engr.utexas.edu/swe

Outstanding Collegiate Section Certificate of Merit

#1 Collegiate Newsletter Award – Region C won and UT SWE member Nina Lu was the editor

Graduate Collegiate 1st Place Award in the Collegiate Poster Competition - UT ME Grad Student Anne Raynes was recognized

Congratulations to the UT SWE for their fantastic accomplishments!





Society of Women Engineers

Southwest Texas Section 2007-2008 Calendar

2007							October 2007							November 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
Sept 15 – Kick-off Brunch							Oct 11 – Speaker Meeting Oct 25-27 – SWE National Conference (Nashville City)							Nov 4 – Susan Komen Race for the Cure Nov 15 – Speaker Meeting						
December 2007							January 2008							February 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31																			
Dec 15 – Holiday Social Dec 15 – Charity Event							Jan 17 – Swing into Spring at UT Jan 17 (Tentative Date) – Joint meeting with NSBE Jan 26 (Tentative Date) – Networking Event-Jazzercise							Feb – Volunteer month Feb 20-23 – Austin Science Fair Feb 23 – Girl day @ UT						
March 2008							April 2008							May 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	4
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				26	27	28	29	30	31	
30	31																			
Mar 8 – Speaker Meeting Mar 28-30 – Region C Conference at San Antonio							Apr 5 – Girl Scout Workshop Apr 18 – Speaker Meeting							May 4 – Scholarship and Awards Banquet						