



Society of Women Engineers

Texas Space Center

Newsletter March 4, 2004

- 1. February Luncheon – 3/11 at the Hilton***
- 2. Planning Meeting – 3/4 at Courtney Pankop's.***

Interested in helping to plan more SWE activities? We will be holding a planning meeting on Thursday, 4 March, from 5 – 6:30 pm. Contact Courtney Pankop (courtney.a.pankop@boeing.com) or Kim Curry (kim.s.curry@boeing.com) for details.

3. Community Service Opportunities

a. JSC Mars Settlement Design Competition – 5-7 March, 2004

The JSC Mars Settlement Design Competition is a weekend residential event at JSC that has been done for the last 5 years. They have grown to 2 sessions this year - the weekend of Feb. 20 - 22 and the weekend of March 5 - 7, 2004. Each session hosts about 150 high school students from the Houston/southeast Texas area for the weekend. They divide into four competing teams and participate in an industry simulation game, in which each team has to prepare a proposal and operating plan for a large human base on Mars set in an imaginary scenario 50 or 60 years in the future. Each team is provided with a set of professional volunteers who act as CEO's to help the team with planning and process activities (not technical content). Volunteers are also needed to give the students some technical background training in several areas (structural concepts; life support and human support systems concepts; computer systems, automation systems, and robotics systems concepts; and communications and operations systems concepts). And we are looking for people who would volunteer as an event judge. A significant percentage of the student participants are females, and they are very anxious to have them be in contact with professional role models during the competition.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO VOLUNTEER! Each of these activities requires a different level of involvement. Contact Norman Chaffee (norman.h.chaffee1@jsc.nasa.gov) or at 281-483-3777 for more information.

b. GRADE Camps – June 2004

GRADE is a one-week camp, put on over four weeks in June by the University of Houston Cullen School of Engineering. It is designed to encourage high school girls to pursue a career in engineering. Girls get to interact with female engineers, faculty, and university students.

As part of the GRADE Camp curriculum, female engineers are invited to attend one of our question and answer lunch sessions. They are just beginning to contact volunteers for the 2004 Camps, and would love it if any female engineers would come to UH for a free lunch and a chance to share their experiences with campers.

For more information, contact the GRADE Camp Director, Jenny Ruchhoeft, at 713-743-5939 or jennyr@uh.edu. If Jenny is unavailable, our Texas Space Center SWE point of contact is Karen Thacker (karen.e.thacker@boeing.com).