



Society of Women Engineers

Texas Space Center

Newsletter March 2005

1. Community Service Opportunities

a. Community College Aerospace Scholars

In less than 8 weeks, students from across Texas will arrive for **Community College Aerospace Scholars** and your help is needed! This year we will have four events each beginning Thursday at 4:30 p.m. and concluding at 2 p.m. on Saturday so you'll really only have to be out of the office for one day. We don't work straight through...there's time for sleep.

March 31 - April 2

April 7 - 9

April 14 - 16

April 21 - 23

Individuals such as yourself are needed to be CEOs for each of the 8 fictional companies each session. Just think...you'll have the opportunity to run your own company! You'll have a president (who is a co-op) so if you have to slip out for a meeting on Friday, the company will be in good hands.

Please consider this opportunity to encourage and make a difference in Texas community college students' lives. Thus far 360 applications, representing 33 districts, have been received and more are coming.

Mentor training will be Tuesday February 15, 9 - 10 a.m., and February 17, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., on-site. Sign up now at

<http://aerospacescholars.jsc.nasa.gov/CAS/Mentors.cfm>.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 281.483.7086 or linda.k.smith1@jsc.nasa.gov.

b. College of the Mainland Career Exploration Fair – Thurs. April 28

College of the Mainland

2005 Career Exploration Fair

It's time, once again, for College of the Mainland's 7th Annual Career Exploration Fair! We are anticipating an extremely successful event this year because our Career Fair will be held on the day of COM's 2005 campus-wide Open House. The Career Exploration Fair was created to help young people form a better idea about a future career.

We are looking for exceptional businesses to participate as exhibitors and help students learn more about careers. You will also be able to interview students for summer jobs or internships available in your industry!

The Career Exploration Fair will be held from 9 am-2 pm, Thursday, April 28 in the COM gymnasium. Many other events are planned for that day— more than 2,000 students and community residents are expected on campus! (Last year, more than 700 students, grades 8-12, attended the Career Fair alone!) It should be a fun and educational day.

Please help students as an exhibitor at the Fair. There is no cost for exhibit tables or electricity. Your investment of donation time and effort to help students learn more about opportunities will pay lasting dividends.

To reserve a table, please contact Lori Zagorski at 409-938-1211, ext. 121, or complete the form and fax it back. We look forward to seeing you on April 28! Also, please consider contributing to door prizes for attendees. All sponsors will be recognized.

2. Letter to Senators: National Discussion on Women in Science & Engineering

Sign a Letter to Senators re: Women in Science, Engineering and Math by March 1

To: SWE Members

From: Betty Shanahan, Executive Director

Libby Allman, Director, Public Policy & Advocacy

Bernice Brody, Government Relations & Public Policy Committee Chair

Date: February 22, 2005

Respond to National Discussions through U.S. Senators

Dear SWE members and partners:

On behalf of a group motivated to take action in the last few weeks in response to national discussions about women in science, we are writing to let you know of a letter immediately available for signing which is intended to provide encouragement and reinforcement to the Congress of the United States to take action on this agenda. We are trying to collect as many signatures as possible by March 1, to forward this letter to the Senators in time for International Women's Day on March 8.

If you are:

interested in advancing women's participation in science, engineering, and mathematics fields,

a scientist, engineer, mathematician, or a professor or student in one of these fields, or

are linked to colleagues, members, and constituents who are scientists, engineers, mathematicians, or professors or students in these fields,

and are interested in encouraging the U.S. Congress to take action to address women's under-representation in these fields,

please consider adding your name, and/or encouraging others to add their names, to the letter now available at:

<http://www.MentorNet.net/wyden-allen>

Efforts are underway to obtain hundreds of individual signatures on this letter, which will be sent to U.S. Senators Ron Wyden (chair of the Senate's Science, Technology and Space Subcommittee) and George Allen (ranking Republican of the subcommittee) requesting greater Congressional (U.S. national policy) attention to the current under-representation of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

Editor's Note: They will continue to collect signatures after the dates listed.

3. March Luncheon – 3/10 at the Nassau Bay Hilton

The Hilton is on NASA Rd 1 next to the Space Center Blvd. Intersection. We meet at 11:30. Cost is \$8 for soup & salad buffet, or \$12 for soup, salad, and entrée. Prices include tax and tip. Luncheons are open to anyone interested in meeting women engineers; you do not have to be a SWE member to attend.

4. Events In Work

- a. March Joint Speaker event with Society of Logistics Engineers

The Society of Logistics Engineers will host a joint luncheon with the Society of Women Engineers and other engineering groups on Thursday, March 17, at the Hilton on NASA Rd. 1, 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend! Alyssa Hollenbeck, vice president of Product Support for Boeing, will speak on Boeing's future in logistics. Lunch will be available for \$14. To RSVP or for more information, contact Jesse Astorga (281) 226-4054, by March 15.

SWE Point of Contact: Laura Allen, 281-244-4182.

5. *SWE Region C Spring Conference, April 1-3, 2005*

Region C Spring Conference

Louisiana State University is excited to announce that they will be hosting the 2005 SWE Region C Conference in Baton Rouge, LA. The SWE fun will be the weekend of April 1-3, 2005. Check out the Region C website for more details.

<http://www.swe.org/regionc>. Make plans now to attend, and make sure to encourage your membership to attend. If you have any questions or want to get involved, contact the LSU Conference Chair Nekisha Harris (nharri5@lsu.edu) or the Professional Conference Chair Tammy Cheatham (tcheatham@cecoconcrete.com).

Several Texas Space Center SWE officers are planning to attend. All women engineers are welcome! The prices are a little different for Non-Members or Students, see the webpage for details:

<http://www.societyofwomenengineers.org/regionc/conf/2005/index.htm>

If you're interested in carpooling and/or finding roommates from our section, please contact Kim Curry at 281-226-6256 .

6. *After-Event Reports*

a. Expanding Your Horizons Event at Bechtel

Five volunteers from TSC-SWE participated in Engineering, Science, and Technology Day on February 26. This is an annual event held in conjunction with Engineers Week and 'Introduce a Girl to Engineering' day. Several hosts throughout Houston work with Girl Scouts on Engineering and Science Projects, for which the girls earn badges. This year, Bechtel invited TSC-SWE to help with their event. Laura Allen, Jessie Corbett, and Courtney Pankop created an Aerospace Workshop to teach the girls about the fundamentals of flight and help them build paper airplanes. Karen Thacker assisted Bechtel with the Reverse Engineering workshop, and Lori Davenport helped with the Connectivity workshop.

Working with Bechtel was an excellent activity for TSC-SWE to network with other engineers and practice for hosting a similar event ourselves. It was a

fun learning opportunity for volunteers and participants alike, and TSC-SWE hopes to continue involvement with EST Day in the future.

b. JSC Space Settlement Design Competition

At least one volunteer from TSC-SWE participated in the JSC Space Settlement Design Competition at Johnson Space Center on March 5. The NASA JSC Space Settlement Design Competition is an exciting industry simulation game for high school students (grades 10, 11, and 12), set in the middle of the 21st century. This is the seventh year that JSC has sponsored this competition as part of its educational outreach activities during the National Engineers Week period in February. This was also the second year in which two sessions were offered in order to double the number of participants.

Kim Curry worked with two other volunteers to brief approximately 35-40 students from the "Operations" discipline of their engineering design teams. This discipline covered a variety of topics including transportation logistics to the moon, considerations for transportation within their settlement, power, weather, and farming. Briefing charts and research materials for this discipline were provided.

This was an excellent opportunity to talk with youth about real engineering, and continues to inspire participants and volunteers alike.

7. *SWE Awards*

The race is officially on for the 1st annual Region C Membership Awards!



Region C Membership Awards



6 Awards will be given at the Region Conference this year

- Highest Growth, Professional Section
 - Highest Retention, Professional Section
 - Retention, Mid Student Section*
 - Retention, High Student Section*
 - Growth, Small Student Section*
 - Growth, High Student Section*
- * See list of competing schools



See the details below :

Region C Competing Student Sections

Mid Retention - highest percentage

- University of Houston
- Lamar University
- Southern University
- University of TX Arlington
- Texas Tech University
- Southern Methodist University
- Baylor University
- University of Arkansas

High Retention - highest percentage

- Louisiana State
- Mississippi State
- Rice University
- University of LA, Lafayette
- TX A&M - Kingsville
- TX A&M - College Station
- University of TX Austin

Small Growth - highest percentage

- Devry University
- University of AR Little Rock
- University of TX Pan Am
- Texas A&M - Galveston
- Texas State University
- LeTourneau University
- Louisiana Tech
- Prairie View A&M

High Growth - highest percentage

- Texas Christian University
- University of New Orleans
- MAL
- University of TX San Antonio
- University of Mississippi



8. SWE Membership Notices: For Your Information

Were You Dropped from Membership?

If you did not submit your FY05 renewal payment by December 1, you are now an inactive member of SWE. Contact the Member Service Center at hq@swe.org or 312.596.5223. Someone will be happy to take your renewal over the phone. You may also join SWE or renew your membership online at www.swe.org. SWE membership fees have been reduced for Half-Year dues, so now is a great time to renew or join!

Attention Student Members

Are you a recent graduate? If so, you are eligible to upgrade your membership from student to professional. Now that you have invested in your future by obtaining your engineer degree, support the success of your career by becoming a professional SWE member. If you have graduated within the last 12 months, are not continuing with an advanced degree and have not yet renewed your dues for 2005, visit the Member Service Center to [submit your upgrade request](#) with your dues renewal. If you have already submitted your 2005 dues but didn't indicate on the invoice or online form that you graduated, contact us at hq@swe.org.

SWE Career Center

Did You Know?

There have been more than 1,800 jobs posted from top companies since the new [Career Center](#) launched in September 2003

Searching for jobs and posting your résumé is FREE for SWE members

You can cut and paste your current résumé right into the Career Center database

As a SWE member, you have access to career enhancing articles in the [Resources](#) section of the new Web site

Region C conference:

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