



Upcoming Events

Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Date: Thursday, July 8, 2010
Time: 11:30am
Location: Chabuca's
316 W. Nasa Parkway
Webster, TX 77598

Interviewing Workshop

Date: Monday, July 19, 2010
Time: 11:00am – 12:00pm
Location: Aerospace Transition Center
16921 El Camino Real
Houston, TX 77058

Monthly Happy Hour

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2010
Time: 5:30pm
Location: Chelsea
4106 Nasa Parkway
El Lago, TX 77586

2010-2011 Kick-off Picnic

Date: Saturday, July 24, 2010
Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm
Location: Lake Nassau Park

Job Search Using Internet Workshop

Date: Thursday, July 28, 2010
Time: 11:00am – 11:45am
Location: Aerospace Transition Center
16921 El Camino Real
Houston, TX 77058

More events are listed [online](#).

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Presidential Address

Dear SWE-Texas Space Center Members:

As we begin our new fiscal year, we are faced with many challenges. These challenges present our section with great opportunities to contribute to the membership and greater community. Your 2010-2011 Executive Council has already been meeting and organizing events for the first quarter of this new fiscal year. The Council is full of great ideas and enthusiasm. I am honored to be able to preside as President at this time with this team.

However, we cannot run the section alone. It will take the complete talents and effort of the Executive Council and the membership to guide us through this coming year. It is a trying time in much of our community as the situation at Johnson Space Center is in flux. Many of us are uncertain of where we will be in the coming months. I ask that each of you be open and supportive of each other as we navigate this trying time.

It is the intention of our Executive Council that we provide the opportunities for the membership to network, grow, and sharpen our skill sets. We plan to kick the year off with a membership picnic in July. This will be an opportunity to mingle with other members in a relaxed informal setting. In late August or early September, we plan to have a résumé building, interviewing, and job-hunting workshop. This, we hope, will be a great segue to the career fair which SWE-Houston Area (SWE-HA) is planning later in the fall.

That is just a taste of what we have planned for the next year. As has been our tradition, we will continue to have our monthly luncheons on the second Thursday of each month save December. The recently added happy-hour social has been a wonderful success. Thus, we plan to continue this event on the fourth Thursday of each month, again, save December.

As part of our effort to bring value to our membership, we have begun to interact more closely with SWE-HA. Together, we feel that we can leverage the experience and depth of SWE-HA to enhance the efforts of SWE-TSC. Already, our Vice-President, Tess Caswell, has been attending SWE-HA Executive Council meetings. A SWE-HA officer will be attending our Executive Council meetings in kind.

We will not limit our collaboration merely to other SWE sections, however. We see a value and benefit to reaching out to other organizations such as Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES), Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and others. These are relationships we will explore in the months to come.

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Presidential Address

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Outreach and education is another area in which we look to expand in the coming year. I am happy to announce Sarah Hargrove as the Chair of our Outreach and Education Committee. Sarah brings to the table valuable experience, enthusiasm, and vision. Already, outreach to Texas A&M-Galveston's collegiate section is underway. We look to establish the ties with the Texas A&M University-Galveston (TAMU-G) section, which will allow us to mentor and encourage those students at the university and other colleges and universities in our area. Of course, we will continue our outreach to middle school, junior high, and high school students.

Earlier in June, I sent out a challenge to the membership to engage summer interns. I am pleased to report that we had five young women engineer interns join us at our monthly luncheon. I was also pleased, and surprised, to find that SWE-HA included my challenge in their last monthly newsletter. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to reach out and undertake the SWE mission. I hope those of you who have the opportunity do engage your summer interns fully. We have much to share with them, and you will be pleasantly surprised at how much they have to share with us.

On that note, I will close for this month. I am excited about the year to come, and I hope you are as well. Your Executive Council is here for you. Please, feel free to contact us with your ideas or concerns. I also wish to challenge each of you to get more involved with the section. You need not be a committee chair, nor a committee member. All that is needed is an engaged membership. The more involved we all are the better we can shape the section to serve our purpose and mission of SWE. Of course, if you wish to serve as a committee chair or committee member, do let us know. We welcome you and your talents.

We look to do everything we can to make you feel this is your section, and that it provides value for you.



Yours in SWE,
Kellie E. Anton, PhD
President, SWE-Texas Space Center

President's Biography

I have been a part of the Johnson Space Center community since the Fall of 2007. I am currently a Systems Engineer/Risk Analyst with ARES Corporation working on the ISS Program and Integration Contract. Prior to coming to ARES Corporation, I worked for Futron Corporation as sub-contractor to SAIC on the Shuttle and Constellation Programs. In both positions, I have worked as a PRA Analyst. Prior to coming to Texas, I lived in Florida where I worked for Siemens Corporation and was a faculty member at the University of Florida.

My involvement with SWE has been almost entirely contained to the last couple of years here at Texas Space Center. As an undergraduate, I attended but one SWE event. Rather, my student activity involvement was highly concentrated in Collegiate 4-H. However, thanks to Lora Lechago, I was reintroduced to SWE, and I have been honored to serve as the Vice-President for this section over the past year.

As an undergraduate at The Ohio State University, I was very involved in Collegiate 4-H where I served as a committee chair or officer each quarter I was in school except for my final quarter. I also spent one year as the Business Manager for the North

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President's Biography

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Central Region of Collegiate 4-H. In addition to Collegiate 4-H, I was a member of the glee club and served as business manager for two years.

I moved on to graduate school at Auburn University where I studied Agricultural Economics. While there, I served as our department's senator to the Graduate Student Senate. I continued my education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where I studied Agricultural Finance specializing in Risk. While at UIUC, I served as the President of the Graduate Student Organization. I then had the honor of serving as the first President of the Graduate Student Section of the American Agricultural Economics Association. Through these leadership activities, I was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student award for our department in 1999.

I have two children, Connor age 9, and Erica age 8. They are quite a joy in my life, and a great source of inspiration.

I am a certified Les Mills BodyPump and BodyCombat instructor. I teach classes at the Gilruth here at NASA as well as at Dynamic Fitness in Pearland. I am an aspiring photographer.

I am honored to serve as the President of SWE-TSC for the coming fiscal year. It is my hope that my past experience and the experience of our entire officer team will guide the section in the direction of greater value and service.

Vice President's Statement

Hello from the Vice President!

Welcome to the 2010/2011 fiscal year. It promises to be an exciting one!

As your SWE-TSC Vice President my goal this year is growth through outreach. By providing interesting and fun events open to both members and the public, I hope to grow our section in numbers while providing tangible benefits to our members. Kellie and I have already tagged up on this and our officer team has many fun events on the calendar, starting with our Summer Kickoff Picnic in July!

My hope is that providing interesting, educational, fun, and rewarding events to our members will encourage you and your friends to participate in SWE events. To most effectively meet your expectations, I invite you to e-mail me your suggestions for speakers and events. What sort of activities would you like to see SWE undertake? We are here to make SWE the best organization for YOU, our members. So speak up and wield your power!

Keep an eye on our events each month. We'll post them in monthly editions of this newsletter as well as on our website. I hope to see you soon!

Tess Caswell

Vice President, SWE-Texas Space Center





Vice President's BiograSWE

I joined SWE in 2004 as a collegiate member at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). The UAF Section (now called Farthest North) was small at the time – less than 10 active members. The Section hosted monthly meetings, as well as an annual Halloween party. I began helping organize these events, and by the end of my sophomore year I was President of Farthest North SWE.

My vision for the Farthest North Section was very similar to the one I have now for SWE-TSC. By inviting speakers to our monthly lunch meetings, expanding the section's annual events to include a fall kickoff dinner and finals study sessions, and inviting our members to a host of fun outreach activities, I did my best to provide a fun and educational environment for our members. It helped that I had an excellent officer team like the one we have here at SWE-TSC!

Throughout my undergraduate degree, I participated in numerous space-related projects and internships. I worked for Boeing here in Houston on Space Shuttle Life Support and Thermal Systems, then attended the NASA Academy at Goddard Space Flight Center. I interned again in Houston with the Environmental and Thermal Operating Systems (ETHOS) group in 2008. While at school I participated in the Alaska Student Rocket Project and the Alaska Microgravity Team, flying aboard the "Weightless Wonder" twice with student teams.

I moved to Houston in June 2009 and became an active member of SWE-TSC soon after. Last year I served as the section's Education and Outreach Committee Chair, organizing presentations at local schools to encourage students to enter STEM fields. I also organized a SWE-TSC booth at the World Space Party's "Space Day" at Discovery Green, where our members built and launched water rockets with countless local children. This year I have handed the Education and Outreach responsibility over to Sarah Hargrove, though I'm sure we'll be working together extensively to bring you more great opportunities.

I'm excited to be a member of SWE-TSC at a time when we have the opportunity for tremendous growth and change. I hope you will join us in promoting women in engineering!

Section Representative's Statement and Biography

Having served as your section representative through the last two years – time flies! – it amazes me that so little has changed in my professional life. I am still pursuing a Master of Science in Physics at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, with graduation now in sight in May 2011. I still support NASA's Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle as a systems engineer within Lockheed Martin. Until this spring, I led a small team of engineers working the interfaces between the Orion crew capsule and its launch vehicle, Ares I, and the lunar lander, Altair. I still support the launch vehicle interface, providing continuity while a new lead steps in as I transition into flight operations, which is a moving target at present. Will we carry four people to the ISS? Will we launch unmanned and serve as a lifeboat, or a nominal return vehicle for NASA Astronauts? Will we carry a crew of two to four to an asteroid on the Variable Path plan? Only time will tell.

What time has already told for me is that SWE remains, and I return to serve when other factors in my life are stable. (Yes, even in the current turmoil within NASA, this feels more stable than other places I've been!) I served as president of the UH student section (before the transition to the term 'collegiate') during my third and fifth years as an undergraduate student... what is that, Junior Year and Second Senior Year? It was my first experience as a SWE member; a study-partner-turned-friend from Physics class started bringing me to SWE events, and talked me into being her VP in the coming year since she was the current VP and President-presumptive. (UH at that time had a simple



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Section Representative's Statement and Biography

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progression: VP became the next year's president and the following year's section rep.) After the election, in which we were the only ones running for those two positions, she became ill and had to leave school to return to her family home and recuperate, which left me to take on the role of President. I loved it! I enjoyed it so much, I did it a second time after serving as section rep, completely breaking the cycle. (UH SWE survived just fine and is still a thriving section!) After college, I lost touch with SWE while in the Navy – the Low Country of South Carolina only this past year formed a section where I was stationed – but returned to this area in time to be a charter member of the Texas Space Center section, meeting the founding women's networking lunch group in one of the early days at the Hilton.

Let me assure you of this: through every phase of your life as an engineer, SWE will be here for you, woman or man, single or partnered or parental, employed or unemployed. Budgets swell and diminish, member services change, but the core of SWE, the people who have the will to support each other and create the vast network that is the society, remains. Join us, participate as you can, partake of what you find helpful, and be confident that no matter how long you might have to be gone – through transfers, relationships, professional upheavals, and family changes – your energy and your needs will be welcomed.

-- Lora Dudley Lechago
Section Representative, SWE-Texas Space Center
Staff Systems Engineer, Lockheed Martin
Lieutenant, Navy IRR

Treasurer's Biography

Angelic Covarrubia is employed with United Space Alliance in the robotics analysis group for the Shuttle and the International Space Station. She is currently cross-training to be an instructor for the space station's robotic arm. She has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from New Mexico State University.

Angelic was previously a member of SHPE, where she served as their Community Outreach Representative. She mentored the St. Thomas Episcopal School robotics team in the First Lego League (FLL) robotics competition. In 2008, the team won the Lonestar Regional Championship and had the privilege to compete in the FLL World Festival held in Atlanta, GA.



Secretary's Biography

Irene Chan is currently pursuing a Master of Aeronautical Science at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Worldwide Houston Campus with 3 specializations: Education/Training, Human Factors, and Space Operations Management. She telecommuting webmaster for the CLIVAR and Carbon Hydrographic Data Office at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, located in La Jolla, CA (which is across the street from where she received her BS in Aerospace Engineering at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD)). Irene is also working towards a professional certificate through the Eastern New Mexico University Small Museum Pro! program to whet her intellectual appetite for crafting educational experiences and enthusiasm for STEM topics.

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Secretary's Biography

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She is active in the Houston section of the AIAA; volunteers at the 1940 Air Terminal; maintains the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement website; and supports many STEM educational outreach endeavors at different capacities (among her favorites are the Sally Ride Science Festivals and the Expanding Your Horizons Conferences).



She looks forward to facilitating communication and updating you on the latest and greatest of SWE-TSC. Take a look on Page 8 of this newsletter to see the many ways you can connect with SWE-TSC today.

2010 SWE-TSC Annual Awards Banquet

On Sunday, May 16, the section held their annual banquet at Landry's at the Kemah boardwalk. While watching boats sail around Kemah from the private third floor of the restaurant, members enjoyed a buffet dinner complete with appetizers and dessert. Led by the upcoming president, Kellie Anton, the evening began by viewing a slideshow compiled by Tess Caswell, commemorating this year's events and SWE history. Guest speaker Alma Stephanie Tapia spoke to the group about her experiences and lessons learned transitioning from school to the workforce as a young professional at NASA. Her discussion of technical problems solved on the job, as well as insight into developing a fulfilling, successful career provided a unique perspective for everyone in the audience. Laura Vincent, the 2010-2011 president, recognized the efforts, support, and dedication to the Texas Space Center section by presenting 2 Special Supporter Recognition Awards, 2 Outstanding Member Awards, 3 Outstanding Service Awards, and 5 Officer Recognition Certificates for years served in their positions.

Award	Presented to	In Recognition for
Special Supporter Recognition Award	Kathy Hughes/Exxon Mobil	Time and donations to the section
Special Supporter Recognition Award	Texas School of Massage	6 years of support during the SWE-TSC Holiday Social
Outstanding Member	Tess Caswell	Assuming the role of education/outreach chair and coordinating contact and activities for the SWE-TSC Holiday Social, Yuri's Night, Spring Banquet, and other activities
Outstanding Member	Lora Lechago	Providing excellent communications between the TSC section and the region and national levels of SWE in the last 2 years and being SWE alternate Senate Representative during the national transition from COR to Senate
Outstanding Service	Julie Carroll	Initiating TSC general membership community on the national SWE website and assisting with the TSC Holiday Social and other events in the year
Outstanding Service	Irene Chan	Assisting with TSC section communications and website and other section/ regional activities/events during the year
Outstanding Service	Jessica Tramaglino	Assisting with the Holiday Social, Spring Banquet, school visits, and other events and activities during the year
Officer Recognition	Laura Vincent	Serving as 2009-2010 President
Officer Recognition	Kellie Anton	Serving as 2009-2010 Vice President
Officer Recognition	Cami Dutton	Serving as 2009-2010 Secretary
Officer Recognition	Yvonne Jaurique	Serving as 2008-2010 Treasurer
Officer Recognition	Lora Lechago	Serving as 2008-2010 Section Representative

The night ended with a raffle, including the grand prize of a vintage space Barbie. The night served as a mark of the progressive year just ended, and the success yet to come for Texas Space Center SWE section.



FY11 National SWE Leadership Election Results

We are pleased to announce the results of the election for our FY11 Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, Senate Leadership, Senators and Region Governors. We would like to thank the Nominating Committee and Chair, Naomi Brill, as well as the Tellers, Shirley Mondy, Nancy Huelsmann, and Jacyn Spear, for their hard work and dedication in developing and submitting an outstanding slate of candidates and overseeing the election process.

President Elect	Melissa M. Tata
Treasurer	Stacey M. DeVecchio
Director of Emerging Initiatives	Semahat S. Demir, Ph.D.
Director of Membership Initiatives	Alyse R. Stofer
Director of Regions	Linda M. S. Thomas
Deputy Director of Regions	Elizabeth Bierman
Trustees	Kathryn Mueller Cunningham and Florence D. Hudson
Deputy Speaker of the Senate	Helen Patricia
Region B Governor	Kerrie L. Greenfelder, P.E.
Region D Governor	Anmarie Connor
Region F Governor	Jeanne Trinko Mechler
Region H Governor	Wendy Schauer Landwehr
Region J Governor	Wendy L. Obenauf

The following individuals will be continuing in their leadership roles based on previous elections:

Secretary	Fran Stuart
Director of Education	Lana Fountain Flakes
Director of Professional Development	Linette Patterson
Speaker of the Senate	Bernice Brody
Trustees	Marjorie Inden, Angela Nickels, Carolyn Phillips, and Michele Fitzpatrick
Region A Governor	Mary Frederick
Region C Governor	Ebalina Roitberg
Region E Governor	Colleen Layman
Region G Governor	Jessica Rannow
Region I Governor	Cindy Hoover

We will be welcoming **Rachael Stedman, the Collegiate Board Representative**, to be a guest of the FY11 President on the Board of Directors for FY11.

The second class of Senators was also elected during this year. We wish them the best success. (For Professional Senators, the first person listed is serving the 2nd year of a two-year term; the second person listed was just elected to serve a two-year term).

Regional Professional Senator	
Region A	Lindsey Schurig Dorsey and Brittney Elko
Region B	Deb Willems and Penny Wirsing, P.E.
Region C	LeeAnn Bush and Dr. April Lauper, P.E.
Region D	Tracey A. Whaley, P.E. and Yolanda Covington Childs
Region E	Heather Bernardin and Antoinette Whitaker
Region F	Suzanne Woll, Ph.D. and Sarah Jones
Region G	Elizabeth Pozydaev and Miranda Oaks
Region H	Diane LaFortune and Christine Cabrera
Region I	Vicki Johnson, Ph.D. and Christella Chavez
Region J	Barbara Donoghue and Jennifer M. Bly
International Members	Anca Eisele and Katie Herta

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FY11 Leadership Election Results

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Alternate Professional Senator	
Region B	Stacie Suggs
Region C	Gail Bredis
Region E	Rebecca Goldberg
Region H	Betty Leonhard
Region I	Evette Strobel
Region J	Wendy Jenkins

Regional Collegiate Senator	
Region A	Lauren Reinnoldt
Region B	Amanda Romero
Region C	Ankita Kaul
Region D	Haley Carney
Region E	Michelle R Oswald
Region F	Ellen McIsaac
Region G	Karin Bodnar
Region H	Allison Machtemes
Region I	Laura Geiger
Region J	Tam To

Alternate Collegiate Senator	
Region B	Christine Koloveas
Region C	Hyun Jin Kim
Region D	Candace Watson
Region G	Rebecca Murphy
Region H	Kaitlyn Bunker

The [Tellers' Report for the FY11 Society Election](#) is available on the SWE Governance site. You can access the [SWE Governance site](#) to review the report.

Please join us in wishing all of these SWE leaders much success in their new and continuing roles.



Getting a SWE E-mail Alias

Getting a SWE e-mail alias is worthwhile and easy. A single alias (firstname.lastname@swe.org format) will be created and maintained for no charge upon the request of any current SWE member as a member benefit. The SWE e-mail address automatically forwards mail to an e-mail account that you designate. This provides you with a permanent e-mail address that does not have to change regardless of a member's underlying e-mail address changes due to a change in Internet service providers or company e-mail addresses. When you want to change the underlying e-mail address, you just send a request to aliasadmin@swe.org.

Having the SWE e-mail alias is also a great way to show your commitment to the Society of Women Engineers and create awareness for the organization. For more information, visit the [SWE E-mail Alias Information](#) page.

To get your alias, send an e-mail to aliasadmin@swe.org with the subject "SWE Personal Alias Request," your preferred name and last name, and the e-mail address to forward to.



Stay Connected with SWE-TSC



SWE-TSC Website: <http://www.swe.org/swe/regionc/sections/c008/index.html> - committing the shortened link <http://bit.ly/SWE-TSC> to memory is much easier

- News, Event Updates, Newsletters, Contact Information



LinkedIn: *Society of Women Engineers – Texas Space Center*

<http://www.linkedin.com/groupRegistration?gid=2104684>

- Networking, Discussions, and Job Board



Facebook: *Society of Women Engineers – Texas Space Center Section*

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Society-of-Women-Engineers-Texas-Space-Center-Section/120082654674171?ref=mf>

- Networking, Event Updates, Other FYI



SWE Communities: *Texas Space Center – C008*

<http://communities.swe.org/COP/TexasSpaceCenterC008/>

- Networking, Event Updates, Other SWE links