Society of Women Engineers

Regional Conference  Katie Allen and Meredith Evers
Howdy! The Region C also known as the Gulf Coast Region of SWE (including Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi) hosted its annual conference here at Texas A&M University (TAMU). The conference took place on March 23rd and 24th and was an overall success with all the fun and enlightening activities and lectures offered.

Katie Allen and Meredith Evers, who were in charge of planning the event, would like to thank all of the awesome volunteers that made this year’s conference possible! Without all of your help, TAMU never would have been able to put such a large scale event together!

The Friday night Howdy Dinner, sponsored by Chevron, was a big hit with the attendees. We had some very spirited responses to the school spirit night, especially with Lamar University. And, as always, the Aggies showed their amazing spirit and school pride. Saturday, the workshops and career fair were very successful, and the Sharing Ideas Dinner that evening was a great opportunity for the attendees to not ... [continued P4]

FLAME  Deena Akinrinsola and Katey Hight
Imagine having the chance to interact with female engineers in the “real world”, to enjoy a nice lunch, and to get all your burning engineering questions answered - well, we’ve got the answer for you! The award-winning FLAME program is still rolling, and we’ve had tons of fun! Females Leading Aggies as Mentors in Engineering, or FLAME, is a mentoring program in which several ... [continued P3]
Intramurals

Cindy McBryde and Kristen Burns

The SWE intramural teams this semester were amazing! During the Spring of 2007, SWE participated in basketball and 4-on-4 flag football. For basketball, even though some of our games left the players a little tired, we tried hard, had fun, and learned a lot about the game. We also had an amazing amount of people show up for one game that gave us the advantage of substitutes! Not to mention our unprecedented knowledge of physics that enabled us to shoot the ball into the basket! We also participated in football, which was interesting enough: it was a nice change to go from an indoor sport to an outdoor sport with the Spring season in the air. Both of these sports were great for exercise and also for relief from studying! The great thing about SWE intramurals is that it accommodates to every skill level, from one who has never played sports to one who has played all through high school. Additionally, SWE hosted a 5K Fun Run at the end of Engineering Week which brought a lot of people together. Thank you to all the volunteers for your help! For the Fall, we will most likely be participating in indoor soccer and volleyball. We are expecting a lot of participants, as in the past, which will help you make more friends in SWE!

Letter from the President

SWE has had an amazing semester! Our F.L.A.M.E. mentoring program has been very successful. There is still one more luncheon remaining this year. Our 31st Annual High School Conference went very well and we are all looking forward to seeing some of our attendees as freshman engineers at A&M. We hosted a 5k run this semester for Engineers’ Week and participated in several intramural’s games. In addition, we’ve held several outreach, social, and company events. Planning for the SWE Summer Camp for 7th and 8th graders is underway. Also, the gulf coast regional conference was held this past March in College Station for the first time in over 10 years!

Each year, members of SWE from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas come together for the Region C Conference. It is an excellent way for members and young officers to learn more about the internal workings of SWE. This year’s regional conference was hosted by the Fightn’ Texas Aggie SWE chapter. The conference was very successful and it has laid the groundwork for future Region C Conferences at A&M. Normally we can only bring a limited number of students to each conference. It was wonderful to be able to bring the conference and the opportunities associated with it straight to our members. I would like to extend a special thanks to Meredith Evers, Katie Allen, and the students on the regional conference committee, Katey Hight, Alexandra Iacob, Maria Villa, and Jackie Cordova for all their planning and hard work. I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our sponsors that made this event possible.

We have 1 more meeting remaining this semester on April 18th, in Richardson 106. Be sure and come for dinner and a special presentation by Lockheed Martin. Come say farewell to old SWE officers and meet the new officers for next year! If you would still like to apply for a co-chair position there is still time! Applications are due April 5th (tomorrow!) to the SWE office by 5:00 PM. To all our dedicated members and officers: Thank you! Your hard work is an integral part in the development and success of this organization!

Julie Pelletier
President 2006-2007
FLAME (continued)

small groups of students are matched each with a female engineer working in the industry who serves as a mentor for the semester. The groups are generally matched by major and interests, and they exchange emails bi-weekly: asking for and giving advice, sharing experiences, and telling the occasional joke. The groups also have the opportunity to meet their mentors over lunch.

Our first luncheon of this semester was held on March 3rd at the Cheesecake Factory in Houston (See pictures below). The Cheesecake Factory is always a popular and exciting venue. We had great conversation, fancy entrées, and yummy cheesecake to top it off! The second luncheon is scheduled for April 28th in College Station. This will be an excellent way to wrap up the semester and take a study break before final exams come crashing in 😊!

We’d like to send out a thank you to all of our participating students and industry mentors for their continuing interest in the program. Without you, the program would not be possible. Thank you so much for all you do!

Summer Camp

Each year SWE hosts a week-long summer camp for seventh and eighth grade girls. This year’s SWE summer camp will be held from May 27-June 2. Fifty girls will arrive from all over the state to learn about Texas A&M and engineering. They will work in groups on a week-long project, as well as do several smaller activities throughout the week. The camp will tour several facilities on campus, including the Turbomachinery Lab and the Nuclear Science Center. In addition, professors from different departments will speak to the girls. On Thursday, we will travel to Houston for a daylong trip to Johnson Space Center. The campers get to spend time with other girls who are interested in math and science, which is something that not all of them can experience during middle school. SWE summer camp is a good opportunity to get girls thinking about a future career in engineering. Counselor applications are still being accepted.

Socials

Sara Guest and Nyria Guevara

The socials committee is off to a fabulous start this semester. We enjoyed coming up with new ideas for your culinary pleasure and hope that you look forward to the food served each week. The first and upcoming social event is the Navy Social on April 9th at 7 pm in Zachary; come and learn about the fun and exciting opportunities that the Navy has to offer women in engineering. The second social and the most important event this semester is the Annual Society of Women Engineers Banquet. Make sure to mark your calendars for May 1st so that you will not miss the awesome food and your chance to say goodbye to your favorite graduating members. The socials committee is here help you relax and have fun: do not miss our great events this semester. If you have any questions or suggestion, we are always open to new ideas. Have a fun and safe semester from the social’s co-chairs!
Regional Conference (continued)

only get to know each other, but to also talk about their sections and ask questions to others.

All in all, it was an awesome event. We were able to raise over $20,000 in sponsorship for the conference, part of which will be given back to the region to help fund scholarships for less fortunate sections to attend both the regional and national conferences.

Thanks again to everyone that helped out! We’re looking forward to Nashville this fall!

High School Conference “To Infinity and Beyond”

Joseph Reza, Moriah Thompson, and Katy Westhoff

The Society of Women Engineers held its 31st annual High School Conference on February 23rd and 24th, 2007. The co-chairs had been preparing for the event for more than 7 months. Over 150 high school students and their parents/sponsors from around the state of Texas attended the conference. Students were allowed to visit classes and attend a number of case studies offered by National Instruments, Frito Lay, HP, and more. Parents and students were each given the opportunity to attend panel sessions in which they asked questions of A&M professors, faculty members, and current students. The highlight of the conference was Friday night’s banquet. The Aggie Wranglers provided entertainment during the banquet, and the Yell Leaders led an impromptu yell after dinner. Five scholarships were also awarded to deserving high school students during the banquet. On Saturday, students participated in a design competition in which they built towers out of everyday items such as straws, paperclips, and gummy bears. The groups with the tallest tower and the most cost effective tower received TI-89s and 2G Flash Drives. Overall, these future Aggies were given a glimpse of engineering and college life at Texas A&M.
Relay for Life
This semester our main event for the Outreach Chair was Relay for Life. Relay for Life is a program that collects monetary donations in order to find a cure for cancer. Spring 2006 was the first time Texas A&M had participated in it. On our very first year we raised $100,000 dollars more than any university in United States history had ever risen. This year our big fundraiser was to sell raffle tickets for certain big restaurants. That was a huge hit! Our members also individually sold luminaries to family members and friends; some people even put cans outside their door and got change. This year Relay for Life was a wonderful event, and we represented our wonderful club well. Thank you SWE, I can’t wait for next year!

Phoebe’s Home
Phoebe’s home, the community shelter for abused women, is in dire need of safer and sturdier beds. The SWE Outreach committee stepped in this semester to help out. President Pelletier designed the construction plans for the bunk beds. On an upcoming Saturday, SWE volunteers will be carpenters for a day by cutting, nailing, and finishing the wood for the bunk beds. It will be a great reward to see the finished product and to anticipate the joy the women at the shelter will have. Keep checking for more details!
**Spring 2007 Officers**

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<td>Katey Hight</td>
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