



# Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers

## Houston Professional Chapter Newsletter

### Region V

March 2009

Volume III Issue 1

Dear Members,

During the first quarter of 2009, our chapter continued to grow as the center for the Houston Hispanic professional engineers to network and become role models for the Houston Hispanic Community. Our commitment to promoting educational excellence, economic opportunity, and social equity among our community is evident by our active involvement in the professional development of our members, continued presence in supporting the growth of the future wave of Hispanic leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields, and our willingness to network with each other and future members.

Please take the time to review our accomplishments for the beginning of 2009. Thank you for continuing to support SHPE's mission!

Congratulations to Isaac Tapia for being selected by our chapter as a recipient of the "E-Week Young Engineer of the Year Award" for his continued commitment and hard work towards SHPE's mission. Every year, Houston Engineers Week hosts an annual banquet to recognize exceptional engineers within engineering organizations. This award recognizes engineers who have made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, public welfare, and the community. Isaac is one of 16 awardees! SHPE Houston is committed to recognizing those members who demonstrate outstanding leadership and service to our organization, providing visibility within the community.



#### PROFESIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Our career development workshop series continue to take place during our monthly general meetings. Below are some highlights from the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2009 meetings:

*January* - Sonia Maldonado of Houston's Small Business Administration office gave a presentation on "Keys to Starting Your Own Business". The speaker was very knowledgeable and provided great tips on how to apply for small business loans.

*February* - Peter Veruki, Director of Corporate Relations at Vanderbilt, gave a talk to SHPE Houston members on "Getting your MBA". The speaker shared helpful tips about what to look for in an MBA program and what benefits Vanderbilt offers.

*March* - We met at Champps Americana Restaurant in the Galleria area. Jason Wall, Program Development Manager at John Crane, talked about the "Do's and Don'ts of Afterhours Networking". Jason advised members to be themselves and not to overindulge the audience with business talk at afterhours settings. He also reminded us the customer (or higher rank individual) by default sets the tone for the evening.



## PREVIOUS EVENTS

### OUTREACH

*January* – SHPE members had a chance to be role models and mentors to elementary and high school students while judging science fair projects at the HISD Contemporary Learning Center and the KIPP Charter High School. These two schools cater primarily to underserved communities for success in college and in life. Our presence in their life through these events is important to their success in life. Let's keep it up!

*February* – SHPE Houston and TBAC chapters teamed up to host a booth at the Houston Hispanic Forum where Hispanic parents and their children come from all over Houston hungry for knowledge on how to get ahead in life. We had a wide array of engineering fields represented among all of the volunteers: petroleum, mechanical, electrical, chemical, civil, etc. We explained the differences between all engineering fields, how to obtain scholarships, and what support SHPE provides for college students. We also took the opportunity to hand out flyers promoting our scholarship.

*March* – Several members mentored and interacted with elementary school students at the Harvard Elementary School Science Night where kids were encouraged to use engineering skills to construct and fly paper airplanes, and solve math and word puzzles. Also in March, SHPE Houston awarded two \$50 gift certificates to two HISD students selected by a group of SHPE volunteers after judging their projects for creativity, engineering solution, presentation, and innovation at the Houston Citywide Science Fair.

### SOCIAL NETWORKING

*January* – A few members met at the Flying Saucer to wind down from the week and mingle.

*February* – A Superbowl party was held at Rubi's house! We enjoyed delicious Mexican food while we watched the Steelers and the Cardinals go at it. Unfortunately for the Cardinals, the Steelers racked another title to their collection. Also in February, several members were taken over by the spirit of Valentine's Day and showed off their Salsa moves at the "Love Bites" event at the Houston Museum of Science.

*March* - Movie night at Movie Grill Studio! Members watched a movie while having dinner, drinks, and spending quality time with each other. Also in March, a few professional members joined the Region 5 student chapters at the Student Regional Outing event at Rice University to give them an opportunity to network with professional engineers and to encourage them to apply for our 2009 scholarships.

### NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Check our website to find out the time and place of our next general meeting!



*On the left side, Ever Hernandez and Lori Cano at the HISD CLC science fair.*

#### 2008-2009

#### SHPE Houston Leadership Team

**Rubi Medina, President**  
*Mechanical Engineer, John Crane Inc.*

**Isaac Tapia, Vice President**  
*Petroleum Engineer, Hess*

**José De La Peña, Treasurer**  
*Civil Engineer, Klotz & Associates*

**Robert Silva, Secretary**  
*Mechanical Engineer, Bechtel*

**Christina Tapia, Student Affairs**  
*Geophysicist, ExxonMobil*

**Teri Houle, Community Outreach**  
*Subsea Specialist, Chevron Corporation*

**Christine Cano, Social/Nominations**  
*Petroleum Engineer, BP*

**Ever Hernandez, Membership**  
*Subsea Specialist, Chevron Corporation*

**Gabriel Valencia, Webmaster**  
*Electrical Engineer, HP*



*SHPE members networking at the "Love Bites" held at Houston Museum of Science.*

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