



**Professional Development Series:
 “Financial Advice During a Stumbling Market”**

In July, Ken Decker with Skills for Living offered tips regarding managing your investments in these turbulent times. Decker’s suggestion is to create a personal plan to individual financial independence. He argued that with a plan in place, good or bad times can be maneuvered to

keep your family’s financial security in check. Ken Decker is also co-founder, along with his wife, Lorraine, of the Skills for Living organization. The mission of Skills For Living, Inc. (S4L) is to break the cycle of poverty, through positive, practical and extremely effective financial literacy, asset building and career/college planning workshops and mentoring.

S4L focuses on the working poor because these are the most vulnerable families in America. If poor and on public assistance, families often qualify for food stamps, health care, child care, housing, public transportation, clothing and paid utilities. If a person works and earns minimum wage, his or her income is often below \$16,000. Supporting a family of four on this income is impossible.



The founders of S4L, Ken and Lorraine Decker are award winning financial planning educators. They have helped thousands of families attain financial goals and become financially independent. The Deckers thought that with the help of dedicated volunteers, they could educate and mentor goal oriented working poor families and teens. Volunteers could train the families on how to increase their income, build assets, learn computer skills and acquire a working knowledge of practical finance. With these skills and others, families could permanently break the cycle of poverty.

Ken and Lorraine are always looking for dedicated volunteers to keep their program running. They have seen great success for each of their graduating classes. To fully understand the program, please visit the S4L website (www.skills4living.org). SHPE-Houston has brought you S4L speakers before and will continue to update members on their programs progress since this program is very much in-line with our chapters focus on community outreach.

*Isaac Tapia
 2007-2008 SHPE Vice President*



SHPE-Houston Game Night 2008

SHPE members: Jose Garcia, Robert Silvas, Araceli Fernandez, Oscar xxx, Christina Tapia, Isaac Tapia, Rubi Medina, Belen Perez, Jesse Ramos

PREVIOUS EVENTS

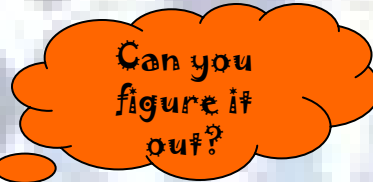
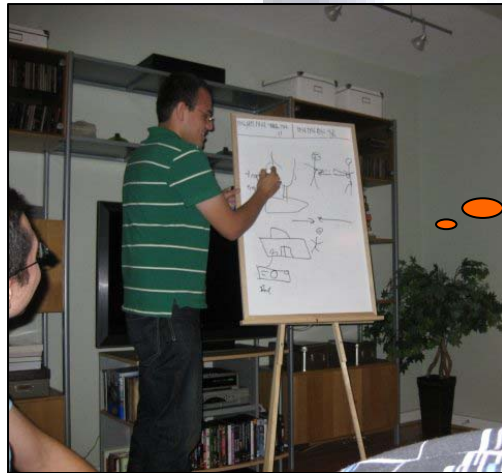
GENERAL MTGs – The last meeting was held at Bechtel, Galleria area. See front article for recap of July mtg.

HP HOLA – A meeting was organized and held at the HP campus in the Northwest part of town. The purpose was to recruit members from the HP campus and meet with HP HOLA leadership. HOLA is an organization with HP targeting minority enrichment.

NILA – This year SHPE-Houston sponsored one member to attend the annual SHPE NILA (National Institute for Leadership Advancement) conference. Vice President, Isaac Tapia, attended and offered a recap of some of the conference to the leadership board. Several SHPE national project initiatives will materialize in SHPE-Houston as a result of our chapters commitment to maintain our progress.



Rubi Medina, Lori Cano, Araceli Fernandez, Belen Perez, Jose Garcia during SHPE-Houston game night!



IDEAS? - Got a good idea for a networking social? If so, please send your idea's to our social coordinator at Social@SHPEHouston.org.

2008-2009 SHPE Houston Leadership Team

Rubi Medina, President
Mechanical Engineer, John Crane Inc.
Isaac Tapia, Vice President
Petroleum Engineer, Hess Corp.
José De La Peña, Treasurer
Civil Engineer, Klotz & Associates
Jennifer Tabullo Valencia, Secretary
Chemical Engineer
Teri Houle, Outreach
Subsea Power Engineer, Chevron
Christina Tapia, Student Affairs
Geophysicist, ExxonMobil
Lori Cano, Social/Nominations
Petroleum Engineer, BP
Ever Hernandez, Editor/Membership
Subsea Engineer, Chevron
Jose Garcia, Promotions
Marketing, Caterpillar
Gabriel Valencia, Webmaster
Electrical Engineer, HP

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The next meeting will be held at Bechtel Tower Conference Room 4B (3000 Post Oak Blvd, 77056). Please check our website for the date of the next meeting and mark your calendars!



Look for regular
chapter
Happy Hours
at the
Flying Saucer
Downtown!

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers

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