



# SCEC Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2005

**TAMUT  
Student Council for  
Exceptional  
Children (SCEC)  
Chapter #0133**

## Members Attend CEC National Conference in Baltimore



Six members of SCEC and two advisors will attend the 2005 Council for Exceptional Children Conference in April. CEC is the largest national conference addressing the needs of individuals with exceptionalities. It hosts over 700 presentations throughout five days. Presenters will address technology, classroom materials, teaching strategies, behavior management, educational assessments, and much more. It provides the most current information about NCLB Act and IDEA 2004. These laws will shape the future of our classrooms and special education. SCEC chapters from across the nation will be there and we look forward to the Student Forum to connect to other university students interested in special education as a career. TAMUT SCEC members who attend will bring back their learning experiences to share at the SCEC April meeting.

### Inside this issue:

CEC Baltimore	1
Our Favorite Lady	1
TAFE Camp	2
Special Olympics	2
Best of New Orleans	2
Spotlight on TAMUT	3
Interviewing Advice	3
SCEC Successes	4

As a club, we set this as a goal and started planning and working toward this accomplishment in spring 2004. Every member has contributed by participating in numerous fundraisers across this school year while balancing home, work, and studies! We did not do this on our own. The TAMUT students and the Arklatex community supported our many fundraisers. Just at the point we needed encouragement the most, an anonymous "Friend of the University" sent us a generous donation. Sonya Jewell, Student Services Specialist, has been instrumental in helping SCEC plan for this trip. Drs. Beason and Harris advised our efforts. Other faculty have encouraged us to attend and learn more about our profession! The TAMUT Student Affairs Council provided additional support that made this trip possible! Thanks to all for helping us:

*Achieve Excellence and Fulfill Our Dreams!*

**SCEC  
Motto:  
Striving to  
Be  
Exceptional  
Teachers!**

## Our Favorite Lady!

Rose Whisenhunt is loved and admired by her six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. But SCEC is her greatest fan club! She is a unique woman with a passion for antiques and cooking... not just for her family, but for the whole community! Every month Rose hosts a fundraiser in Ashdown, Arkansas. She fixes her famous "comfort cookies", pots of chicken spaghetti, and other down-home specialties and then serves lunch to 100 people. Ashdown residents know where the best lunch in town is! These lunches have assisted Ashdown's college scholarship fund, Ashdown's plans to build a historical museum, and TAMUT's SCEC. Okay, one of her grandkids is a TAMUT student and SCEC officer (April Huddleston)...but her generosity and single-handed hard work definitely makes Rose Whisenhunt SCEC's Favorite Lady!

## TAFE Camp

Remember the fun of summer camp? Remember the excitement of learning? Are you interested in exploring special education teaching as your career? Then this camp is for you! For the past three years, TAMUT has hosted a summer camp for people interested in becoming special education teachers. If your not sure, this camp will help answer your questions and you'll have fun!

TAMUT's TAFE (Texas Association of Future Educators) Camp is planned by TAMUT students in both education and special education and then these

students serve as the camp counselors. Meals, lodging, and transportation are provided to the campers along with the fun. Speakers include TAMUT professors and graduates who are currently teaching in our region. TAFE Camp 2004 visited the Running J Ranch. This unique facility provides therapeutic activities while children ride horses! Some TAFE campers loved this experience so much that they have become volunteers.

So now it is time to plan Summer TAFE Camp 2005. Lisa Baxter, Karen Casteel, Amanda Lowery, Monica No-

vosad, and Nancy Williams are planning the fun! All you need to do is contact Toney Favors if you are want to be a happy TAFE 2005 Camper!



## Special Olympics Times Two

The Special Olympics only comes once a year. It gives the children, adolescents and adults with exceptionalities the opportunity to participate in different athletic events, which they would not have the chance to do, like other children.

Volunteers serve as greeters, huggers, cheerers and while some will be in assigned an Olympian. This means

the volunteer helps the Olympian gets to right events and stays with his/her group.

Members from Student Council for Exceptional Children and SPED 410 both Texarkana and NTCC campuses will be the volunteer Special Olympics at the following schools: Mt. Pleasant High School March 24, 2005 and DeKalb High School April 7, 2005.

Check in your community to see where and when they have Special Olympics and go join the fun!

**"Let me win. But if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt."**  
Athlete Oath,  
Special Olympics

## Best of New Orleans

They came in planes, trains, and automobiles. Teachers from all over the world attended the 2004 International Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo in New Orleans, Louisiana. In attendance were 2004 Texas A&M University-Texarkana-

Student Council for Exceptional Children faculty advisors, Dr. Elaine Beason and Dr. Marty Harris, and members Brenda Britt, Karen Casteel,



Heather Crompton, Jacqueline Falls, April Huddleston, Monica Novosad, Dawn Serigne, and Nancy Williams. While learning about the latest trends in special education,

## Best of New Orleans (cont.)

SCEC members explored the sights, sounds, and, let's face it, tastes of New Orleans. From the French Quarter to the River Front it was outstanding! The trip was both an educational and cultural experience. The exhibitors hall hosted hundreds of vendors with materials for the classroom. Many were giving items away which we gladly

stuffed into our big yellow tote bags. "We have to go back next year," exclaimed April Huddleston, referring to the 2005 CEC Convention and Expo. So the action began with us bringing bag more big yellow tote bags to sell at the Eagle's Nest. Members were in agreement: Baltimore CEC Expo here we come!



## Spotlight on TAMUT

"Alone we can do so little' together we can do so much."  
Hellen Keller

In the field of Special Education, the annual Council for Exceptional Children's Conference is considered to be the premier conference. CEC membership includes 51,000 parents and professionals and the Baltimore 2005

conference expects 7,500 attendees. The five days includes workshops and 700 presentations addressing the current issues, law, and best practice in special education.

Drs. Harris and Beason are presenting "Using the Power of Cyberspace to Support SCEC and Enhance Recruitment." This presentation will highlight the use of technology at TAMUT

to encourage students to become special educators. The development of the TAMUT SCEC website will be explained so that other SCECs across the country will be able to develop their own websites. Secondly, the new TAMUT recruitment CD will be presented. It focuses on "Why teach? Why not learn to teach all students?" and spotlights our SCEC members and TAMUT graduates.

## Successful Interviewing Advice from Dr. Teri Fowler

SCEC started the new year with the expert advice of Dr. Teri Fowler. An experienced teacher, principal, and special education school administrator, Dr. Fowler began by stating that she is deeply committed to quality education for students with exceptionalities.

Focusing on "what district is looking for when they interview special educators", Dr. Fowler had several tips for future teachers.

Principals are looking for candidates that:

1. Know how to maintain confidentiality
2. Understand Texas behavioral support initiative
3. Understand Applied Behavior Analysis
4. Know basics of manifestation determinations

5. Know basics of Texas ARD decision making guidelines

Each point was highlighted and practical examples were presented in such a way that SCEC members went away with new understanding of "what a principal is looking for in a new teacher" as well as ideas for handling the interview questions. SCEC sincerely thanks Dr. Teri Fowler for sharing her expertise!

**TAMUT  
Student**

**Striving to Be  
Exceptional Teachers!**

**Advisors:  
Dr. Marty Harris  
Dr. Elaine Beason**

[www.tamut.edu/clubs/scec](http://www.tamut.edu/clubs/scec)  
SCEC student organization

**TAMUT SCEC** is Chapter #0133 of the national professional organization: The Council for Exceptional Children. Our mission is to advance the education of individuals with exceptionalities and to promote the expertise and confidence of teachers.

We believe that professionals should work towards...

- Envisioning Great Expectations
- Enhancing Positive Contributions
- Building on Strengths
- Acting on Choices
- Expanding Relationships
- Ensuring Full Citizenship

...for individuals with exceptionalities.\*

\*Based on Turnbull, Turnbull, Shank, & Leal's  
"Values to Guide Teaching" 2002

## SCEC Successes

The SCEC 2004-2005 year started with excitement and ends with even more excitement! With the election of new officers coupled with the enthusiasm from attending the CEC New Orleans Conference, SCEC set their sites on Baltimore. Determined to attend the 2005 CEC conference members swung into fundraising action.

To kick off our success, SCEC sold tote bags that were donated by vendors at the New Orleans' conference. Next, the Eagle's Nest was host to our pizza, hot dog, and bake sales. SCEC counted on the generosity of TAMUT hungry students and we weren't disappointed.

The Texarkana community has supported SCEC throughout the year. Area restaurants hosted SCEC nights and supplied gift certificates for our "Dine-Out Raffle". Family members

and neighbors helped SCEC by buying Avon, BeautiControl, and Home Interior products.

Rose Whisenhunt, April Huddleston's grandmother, went beyond the call of duty by hosting two community dinners in Ashdown. Her fabulous cooking is only succeeded by her generosity!

Members ran recruitment booths at TAMUT's Fall and Spring Student Organization Days. December's Mingle Jingle's international theme resulted in SCEC Vanuatu table. SCE learned about this South Pacific island nation through Dr. Harris her daughter, Jennifer Harris, who is a Vanuatu Peace Corps volunteer. SCEC successfully gathered sign language books and a personal audio amplifier to send to Vanuatu for children with hearing disabilities. At home,

SCEC members raised money for Kidtopia and volunteered as workers during its construction.. Another ongoing service project is our recycle ink cartridges. Finally, this spring SCEC supported volunteerism at the Special Olympics in our region which include one event in Texas and one in Arkansas. As we say in Texarkana, it's twice as nice!

SCEC officers and members set their sites high this year and have succeeded in making it a memorable year. Additionally, this group has worked towards improving the overall student organization with an eye on the next year. The Texarkana members have worked to include at NTCC. Looking forward to the future successes, SCEC developed a mission and belief statement and a motto and established a website.