



SCEC Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2005

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

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

Members Attend CEC National Conference in Baltimore



Baltimore...What an exciting city! What a fabulous time! Six SCEC members and two advisors attended the 2005 Council for Exceptional Children Conference in April. Everyone had their own favorites concerning Baltimore. Monica Novosad explained that the culture and charm of the city was part of the experience that she will never forget. She said, "Visits to the Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and the ballpark at Camden Yards made my trip more memorable." Amanda Lowery enthusiastically agreed: "It was a trip of firsts: first plane ride, first train ride, first big league ballgame, and first national conference. My favorite was the NASA teaching strategies and materials for students with disabilities." Monica Novosad added, "I am amazed at how much I learned at the CEC. From the lectures to the expo, there was plenty to take in." Monica noted that the lectures she attended focused on inclusion and that she is already using that information as a new special education teacher this fall. April Huddleston and Nancy Williams said their favorite was the strategies that they learned from a real teacher about students with Autism especially about empowering the student. Mollee Thomason and Brenda Britt summed it up with an enthusiastic: "It was ALL good!"

Twice the Fun!

SCEC is growing by leaps and bounds! This year we will have two active divisions making twice the fun: one at the Texarkana campus (SCEC-T) and one at the Northeast campus (SCEC-N). Each division has newly elected officers. SCEC-N officers are Tricia Thomas, Julie Davidson, Janet Losey, Lindsey Jones, Tammy Bragg, Kristi Berry, & Brandi Pollan. SCEC-T officers are Debbie Schneider, Robin Hutchinson, Karen Maddox, Regan Jones, & Lauren Arnold. Meetings will be held on both campuses every month supported by Dr. Elaine Beason and Dr. Marty Harris as club advisors.

The Kids Are Coming! The Kids On The Block Are Coming!

SCEC is proud to announce that the

Kids On The Block (KOB) are coming to town and they are going to stay! KOB are large and lively puppets that visit with children to help everyone understand what it is like to have a disability.

get around town. These “kids” were frank, humorous, and most importantly modeled positive relationships between people. In other shows, the “kids” talked about bullying and what to do about it. So, we talked to the KOB puppeteers and then we were hooked on to the idea that the “kids” should come to Texarkana.

All we needed to do was take this great idea back to A&M-Texarkana and make it happen.

Why are they coming to A&M-Texarkana? It all started on SCEC’s trip to CEC Conference in Baltimore. We meet Renaldo, Brenda, and Melody. Renaldo was explaining to Brenda how he uses his white cane to



KOB in Our Neighborhood!

When SCEC officers made a commitment to bringing KOB and forming a puppeteer troupe in Texarkana, they knew this was a complicated goal. They needed funding, organization, training, and an enthusiastic membership. It looked like this goal would take a considerable amount of time and money to achieve. But then, wishes do come true! SCEC commitment, determination, and enthusiasm was recognized and funding was made

available for the initial investment. Thanks to Dr. Beason’s suggestion, funding from an A&M Texarkana special education recruitment grant was made available. Puppeteer equipment, props, scripts, and 10 “kids” are here. Both SCEC-T and SCEC-N will have puppeteer troupes. Teams of two or three puppeteers will be trained in the fall and spring so that KOB can start visiting schools and community groups. Come join the fun!



Meet Mark Riley, the First of the Kids On The Block!

Eleven year old **Mark Riley** does not mind talking about what makes him special and different. He knows he tends to stand out with his bright red hair, freckle faced smile and his souped-up cruiser, the wheelchair he uses to get around. Children instantly feel comfortable around him and ask him all kinds of questions about what it is like to have cerebral palsy. Mark has been specifically designed to be used in the art of puppetry to facilitate such positive interaction.



Want to be a SCEC KOB Puppeteer? Join SCEC and find out more!

Becoming an Exceptional Educator (BEE Camp) By Lauren Arnold & Lisa Baxter



Camp Coordinator had no problem explaining the awesome time they experienced this summer at A&M-Texarkana. The goal of BEE camp was to help campers learn about becoming special education teacher. This two day event was filled with activities, guest speakers, and numerous opportunities for the campers to interact with

There were twenty-four campers in attendance. All of the campers are education majors transferring into A&M Texarkana from Texarkana College and Northeast Community College. Camp counselors Monica Novosad, Nancy Williams, Detraell Hill, and Karen Casteel had the students participate in ice breakers as well as activities about special needs. Shelly Walsh presented "Success, Secrets, and Survival for Beginning Teacher" which was a tremendous hit.

When asked to explain what the "BEE Camp" was all about, Lisa Baxter,

education professionals, as well as current A&M Texarkana students.

**Teaching is the MAGIC
behind learning!**



Campers had fabulous lunch at TISD with A&M-Texarkana education faculty and enjoyed Roger Sheppard's "The Magic of Positive." LaToya Whitcher was even seen sprouting coins from her ears! After checking in the Courtyard Marriott campers ate pizza and enjoyed pool time at Minton's Sportsplex. The evening came to an end as BEE Camp counsel-

ors, answered questions from attendees during a panel discussion while campers relaxed after the busy schedule. After a great breakfast at the Marriott, they were back on campus for the speakers. April Huddleston talked about supports from family and friends needed to get through the program. Dr. Marty Harris presented on Emotional Intelligence and Teaching.

More inspiration came from listening to Detraell Hill sing "The Greatest Love of All." The finale fun was playing a special version of Millionaire emceed by Monica Novosad. Although the 24 campers could not agree on what was the most fun; all agreed BEE Camp was EXCEPTIONAL!

Sizzling Summer

This summer temperatures soared in Texarkana, but that didn't slow down SCEC ! We had several officers' meetings addressing the new year's goals and dilemmas. Our goal is to increase membership but the dilemma was the increase in national dues. As a charter member of the Council for Exceptional Children, A&M-Texarkana SCEC is required to pay national dues. This year those costs have gone up to \$62

for student members. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to increase our basic dues from \$15 to \$25. Next the officers proposed and approved a motion that SCEC would raise the remaining membership costs. Once the decisions were made this group of officers swung into action.

During July officers ran the first SCEC SUMMER SNACK CART in the breeze way. Combining the do-

nated snacks and the generosity of A&M-Texarkana students it was highly successful. In July and August, officers have been accepting donations from students to win a chance at a Campus Bookstore Gift Certificate. The lucky winners will receive their gift certificates in time to buy books for the fall semester.

As we wait for the heat to cool off, we continue to sizzle at SCEC!

TAMUT Student Council

Striving to Be
Exceptional Teachers!

Advisors:
Dr. Marty Harris
Dr. Elaine Beason

www.student.tamut.edu/so/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

Fall Fun!! By Lauren Arnold, Lindsey Jones, & Tricia Thomas



Everything is starting to FALL into place! SCEC has completed their first officer and club meetings.

On the Texarkana campus SCEC-T participated in the annual Fall Fest where free pizza and drinks were being served. The SCEC table gave away prizes



with every \$1 donation or with every new club membership. Prizes included tickets to the Bandits, Bandit t-shirts (thanks to our favorite team), or a gift certificates toward SCEC membership. Our new friends from Kids on the Block, Mark Riley and Jennifer Houser encouraged everyone to join SCEC and become a KOB puppeteer.

On the Northeast campus, SCEC-N has been busy making our club well-known for

great bake sales. SCEC-N hosted a terrific recruitment booth at the Extravaganza and participated in the Scare Affair.



Students and families were delighted with their wins at the Duck Pond and Tic Tac Toe and

warmed up with great hot chocolate!