Engineering Students Ready for Concrete Canoe Competition

An interdisciplinary team of twelve undergraduates from the Civil, Industrial and Mechanical Engineering departments at The University of Texas at El Paso will compete in the Texas-Mexico Student Conference Concrete Canoe Competition on April 20-21, 2012 in San Antonio, Texas. The competition is sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers to prepare student for professional practice.

The annual competition challenges students to race in concrete canoes they have designed and built. Participating teams are judged in four categories: Design Paper, Technical Presentation, Final Product and Racing Results.

The competition gives students a practical application of the engineering principles learned in the classroom along with important team, leadership and project management skills. Students use their technical knowledge and creativity to create a water worthy craft. For their entrant canoe, students test and select materials, build the mold and then fabricate the competition canoe. In addition to building the canoe, students must navigate three races that test skill and stamina.

“This opportunity has allowed me to learn about the responsibility, hard work and dedication it takes to be co-captain in a regional competition” said Barbara Aguilera, undergraduate in Civil Engineering “It has definitely helped me in developing my leadership skills,” she added.

Shane Walker, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering is the faculty advisor for the team.

The University of Texas at San Antonio will host this year’s race at Boerne Lake. Winning teams from eighteen regional competitions qualify for the National Concrete Canoe Competition hosted by the University of Nevada – Reno June 14-16.
For access to the schedule of events please click on:
http://texasce.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=53