In the past, Ties Magazine has covered a variety of activities available to schools through National Engineers Week. In this issue we look at one of the regional competitions leading up to the national finals held February 16-22, 2003.
Franklin Middle School, Wheaton, IL
WINS CHICAGO REGIONAL FUTURE CITY COMPETITION

A city of the future, "Qing Hey", created by students from the Franklin Middle School, Wheaton, Illinois, won the Chicago Regional National Engineers Week Future City Competition. The premise of the winning team’s project was that much of Shanghai had to be relocated to higher ground up the Yangtze River because of rising waters beyond the year 2200. Eighth grade students Nick Bridle, Tim Glemlowski, David Meyer, Graham Farnsworth, Laurie Sullivan and John Rosenwinkel teamed with their teacher, Melissa Chadwick-DeCarlo, and a volunteer mentor, Sam Bridle to design the winning city.

Twenty-two teams from schools throughout northern Illinois participated in the competition, held Saturday, January 25, at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and sponsored locally by the Chicagoland Engineers Week Committee. Second place was awarded to SHARE Home Education of Elmhurst and third place to Central School in Glencoe.

The competition seeks to introduce students to the fields of engineering and technology. Students are asked to create — first on computer and then in large 3-D scale models — their vision of the city of tomorrow. Students work with
engineer mentors who help guide the youngsters through the rigors of building a functioning city. Then the student designers fabricate a future city from the ground up, complete with transportation, housing, recycling, and other key systems. They also learn to address city budgets and issues such as pollution, unemployment, transportation, and safety, solving problems using math, science, and technology along the way. Finally, they present and defend their city to professional engineers who serve as judges for the competition.

**Additional Awards**

Special awards were presented to schools for their individual accomplishments in the competition. Immaculate Conception Grade School received special recognition for incorporating ceramics materials into their model. In a peer review by the competing students, Immanuel Lutheran School was judged to have the best model. Engineers representing the Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association recognized the team from Franklin Middle School as having given the best presentation incorporating management practices in road design. All models were required to have one moving part. The American Society of Civil Engineers Younger Member group presented the students from Chicago State University an award for their model featuring a laser light show—the team projects a light image across three rotating mirrors onto different buildings, serving primarily as an attraction to the citizens. Finally the team from Franklin Middle School was also honored for having written the best essay.

The Franklin Middle School team, along with the winners of 30 other regional competitions across the United States, received a free trip to Washington, D.C., for the national finals during Engineers Week, February 16-22.

The national winning team receives a trip to the U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. The Franklin School, along with the other four Chicago finalists, were also saluted at the Chicagoland Engineers Awards Benefit on Friday evening, February 21, at the Chicago Hyatt Regency Hotel. The banquet
also honored Captain (Ret.) Eugene Cernan, the last astronaut to leave his footprints on the moon.  

This banquet is the culmination of Chicagoland Engineers Week observance, a joint effort of engineering societies, government agencies, and major corporations to "go public" for the purposes of increasing public understanding of the engineering profession, recognizing engineers for professional and community service with special awards, and cultivating interest in engineering, math, and science among our youth.

**Sign-up for next year**

For those schools wishing to compete in next year’s competition, visit the Future City website [http://www.futurecity.org](http://www.futurecity.org) for information beginning about August 2003.