



Summertime!

The 2008-2009 academic year is finished, much to the delight of both students and professors. Thank you for reading our newsletter throughout the year. We will not be sending out the next newsletter until the Fall semester gets underway.

Although things slow down a little during the summer, they do not come to a stop. We do spend time preparing for the Fall semester, as well as other activities. Richard Bennett will be helping with orientation this summer, which goes for the entire month of June. We have a meeting with the parents, a meeting with the students, and then spend an afternoon with each group of students individually helping them select their fall classes. Will Schleter will teach computer applications and introduction to engineering design for the Tennessee Governor's School for Engineering. This is a 6-week summer course for elite high school students. Will is always up for a game of golf, so give him a shout if you are interested in that. Ortal Arazi will be teaching a Logic Design course for the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department.

The uncertain economic climate has also created unpredicted shifts in education. Although the number of admitted freshman to the College of Engineering was up this year, as of now the number of confirmed attendees is down from last year. This could change as the summer progresses and we go through orientation. This appears to be a national trend, although actual data will not be available for several months.

The Wind Thing

The final EF 152 project was again a wind-powered generator. Probably the most unique device was the wind thing. This device used a taugth ribbon, which vibrated as the wind passed by. The ribbon was attached to a lever, which



had a coil attached to it. As the ribbon vibrated, the coil would move back and forth between two magnets and generate electricity. The team learned that the tension in the ribbon is very important to the performance. Congratulations to this team for their creative design.

Rube Goldberg

The final EF 151 project was to build a Rube Goldberg device to honor the famous cartoonist and engineer. One interesting device turned on a toaster using the following steps.

1. A hydraulic ram (syringes connected by tubing) tilted a bottle.
2. The rotated bottle caused baking soda and vinegar to mix.
3. The gas inflated a balloon, which pushed a lever, starting a marble to roll down a track.
4. The marble struck a lever, causing a counterweight to fall, setting off a mousetrap.
5. The mousetrap hit a fulcrum, which when rotated caused the toaster to start.



Congratulations to Dr. Wayne Davis

Dr. Wayne Davis has been named the Dean of the College of Engineering. Dr. Davis has always been a supporter of the Engage program. We congratulate him on his appointment, and look forward to working with him to continually improve our program.