

Mechanical Engineering Students Compete at UCSB

Santa Barbara, Calif. ? May 22, 2006 ? With faculty and industry leaders as judges, students from senior undergraduate courses in Mechanical Engineering here will compete in teams for top awards in innovation, technical content and marketability among about 20 complex projects. The competition is part of the College of Engineering's capstone courses, geared to challenge the students' ability to apply their knowledge to solve pressing real-world problems.

On June 9, 2006, from 11 am to 2 pm in the Engineering II building courtyard, students will be presenting and discussing their projects for the judges, the campus community, and interested representatives of industry and the media.

Senior Capstone Projects include:

- * An improved cranial closure system for use in neurosurgery.
- * Mechanisms for the deployment of satellite solar panels.
- * A laryngoscope with active suction to allow emergency personnel to place a breathing tube in an emergency situation more quickly and effectively.
- * A platform to be used in NASA sponsored research regarding the creation of the universe.

These projects have been supported by gifts from local industry including ATK Space Systems, Raytheon, Medtronic Neurosurgery, and Implants.

The competition is headed by Stephen Laguette, a lecturer at UCSB, a mechanical engineer and a former executive in the medical device industry. He and his team of faculty advisers have helped guide the students through months of researching, planning, and engineering innovative devices for a wide range of industries.

"What is so exciting about this competition is seeing the results of months and months of hard work by the students," says Laguette. "They are challenged -- and even frustrated at times ? as they develop their projects. The sponsorship and involvement of industry, and the sheer joy of accomplishment, help make the experience extremely realistic."

The press is invited to attend the event and to interview Professor Laguette and the students.

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