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## *The University of Dayton*

## *News Release*

### **UD STUDENTS DESIGN THE PERFECT MEATBALL AND TOSS CALCULATORS—ALL IN SPIRIT OF ENGINEERS WEEK**

DAYTON, Ohio, February 17, 1989--Smashing calculators against a stone wall and tossing eggs from a five-story building hardly sound like normal homework for college students, yet that is exactly what University of Dayton engineering students will be assigned during Engineers Week Feb. 27-March 4.

It has become an annual ritual at UD for engineering students to stage humorous contests to showcase their creativity and design skills and display more serious engineering projects at an Open House for prospective students.

"Engineers Week has two thrusts. We celebrate what engineering faculty and staff are doing, and we celebrate what the students are doing," explained Carroll Schleppe, an assistant professor of engineering technology who organized Engineers Week activities. Those activities include:

**The Rube Goldberg Contest--Monday, February 27, Noon, Lobby of Kettering Laboratories.** Based on the cartoon of the same name, the contest's aim is to have students design extravagant devices for accomplishing simple tasks, like pouring a beer, answering a telephone or fashioning a meatball. Points will be awarded on creativity, use of engineering knowledge and humor. As the rules state, the more frivolous, humorous and extravagant the device, the better. The top three winners will be awarded prizes of \$50, \$20 and \$10.

**School of Engineering Coffee--Tuesday, February 28, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Kettering Labs 224.** The event, hosted by the National Society of Black Engineers, is open to all engineering faculty, staff and students at UD.

**Egg Drop Contest--Wednesday, March 1, 3:30 p.m., Lobby of Kettering**

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**Laboratories.** Contestants will be asked to design a contraption that will protect an uncooked egg during multiple drops from the fifth floor of Kettering Laboratories. Design and accuracy, as well as preservation of the egg shell, will be considered. Top prizes are \$50, \$20 and \$10.

**Calculator Toss--Thursday, March 2, Noon, Tennis Practice Wall Outside Kennedy Union.** Participants will throw Texas Instrument reject calculators against the stone wall. The contestants will be judged on accuracy, creativity of throw and amount of destruction. Winners will be awarded Domino's Pizza certificates.

**Social for School of Engineering--Friday, March 3, 3-5 p.m., Virginia W. Kettering Multi-Purpose Room.** This event is open to UD engineering faculty, staff and students.

**Open House for Prospective Students--Saturday, March 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Kettering Laboratories.** Gordon Sargent, dean of the School of Engineering, and James McGraw, associate dean of Engineering Technology, will host presentations at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. about the engineering program. Representatives from Admission, Financial Aid, Cooperative Education, ROTC, Minority Affairs and the Honors Program also will be present. Tours of the campus and the School of Engineering labs will depart from Kettering Laboratories at 10:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 2:15 p.m.

Judging of projects prepared by engineering and engineering technology students begins at 10 a.m. The out-of-class projects, including a display of a programmable pill dispenser for the elderly and an anti-lock brake simulation, will be judged on originality, accuracy, presentation and quality. Plaques and awards of \$200, \$100 and \$50 will be presented to the top finishers.

"Some of these projects attempt to solve real-life problems," Schleppe said. "Teaching students how to do that is what we're all about."

For more information, contact Carroll Schleppe at 229-2964.