CEAS e-news 05.19.2009

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First Geek Gamez event attracts a wide variety of “engineers”

At the CEAS’s first Geek Gamez, “engineers” of all ages tested their skills at launching water balloons, building spaghetti and marshmallow bridges, playing unique video games, and a variety of other challenges. They also consumed more than 500 hotdogs and networked with area employers.

Joe Mydosh, the Geek Gamez student coordinator and a senior manufacturing technology major, coordinated the event, which was held in conjunction with the Spring 2009 Co-op Cookout.

This is the third year for the cookout event, a three-hour opportunity for students to explore displays of co-op, internship, and career opportunities.

In addition to building spaghetti bridges, an activity prepared by the American Society of Civil Engineers, teams were offered a variety other challenges. Engineers Without Borders challenged teams to use a variety of items to maneuver a soccer ball through a number of buckets in a marked zone.

The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) prepared a CO2-powered car race, and Epsilon Mu Eta challenged competitors to construct a weight-bearing chair made of cardboard and duct tape.

The balloon launcher appealed to students of all ages. Challenges were also offered by the Society of Women Engineers, Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Tau Beta Pi, Society of Plastics Engineers, and Red Button Games.

The goal for next year is to get corporate participation from the Business Technology Research Park. “We’d like to have a block party atmosphere in the future,” said Fred Sitkins, the CEAS director of co-operative education who initiated the co-op cookouts three years ago. “This event just keeps getting better.”