

Spring 2002

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Smart Inventions:

Mechanical engineering seniors Janine Pierce, top right, and Genevieve Gaspar, bottom, demonstrate their "decapitator," a test tube decapper for use in medical labs, at the Inventors' Open House last December, as mechanical engineering professor Liwei Lin, looks on, left. (Not pictured are team members Mike Miklos and Ed Chan.) The event showcased student projects from Lin's Mechanical Engineering Design course. Student teams created "smart" mechanical engineering products using computer-aided design (CAD) software and embedded microprocessors, in the process becoming familiar with product development, going from paper-and-pencil sketches to final products in one semester. Other inventions included a portable biochemical sensor and vaccine injector, robotic fish for underwater exploration, an autonomous golf trolley, and a mapping robot.

Peg Skorpinski photo

FOREFRONT reports on activities in the College of Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. It features developments of interest to the engineering and scientific communities and to alumni and friends of the College.

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