

UT's Biosystems Engineers Place 3rd in Fountain Wars at National Convention

UT's Biosystems Engineering Student branch participated in the Fountain Wars design competition held at the society's national convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Fountain Wars is a hands-on, real-time design challenge in which students design and model the performance of their fountain before the competition, but build and test the actual fountain in front of judges and a live audience in a timed event. The student team consisted of Grant Davis, Erick Foster, Chanci King, Mathew Menachery, Alysse Ness, Mathew Sewell, and Joseph Yantis.



The 2011 technical tasks included launching beach balls into a cylindrical container, and maneuvering a toy horse to jump as rapidly as possible in a circular motion: with both events being powered solely by water. The competition also included the submission of a 15 page technical report, and a formal presentation given to the society during the convention. Awards were based on separate scores of the written design, oral presentation, construction, technical tests, and an aesthetic display of the fountain.

This year our students placed third overall, and were first place in both the aesthetic display and the horse jump technical task. The aesthetic display was arguably the best one ever presented throughout the history of the Fountain Wars competition. Our students designed an electronic system to automatically launch solenoid operated jets of water that were synchronized to the song from 2001 A Space Odyssey. Plans are apparently afoot for an even grander scheme next year.

The Fountain Wars contest is part of the Gunlogson Environmental Student Design Competition, supporting engineering excellence in the design of environmental systems. Complete information on the contest is available at <http://www.asabe.org/membership/students/2011FountainWarsRules.pdf>