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## Calling All Engineers: USD Announces Walk-on-Water Design Contest

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University of San Diego

Office of Public Relations

News Bureau

**CALLING ALL ENGINEERS: USD ANNOUNCES WALK-ON-WATER DESIGN CONTEST**

Engineers and engineering students from throughout Southern California are invited to test their design skills in a "Walk On Water" competition sponsored by the University of San Diego's Department of Electrical Engineering.

Contestants must design human-powered buoyancy shoes and use them to traverse the surface of the Olympic-sized swimming pool at the USD Sports Center. The competition, scheduled for Saturday, February 22, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., will be held to help promote National Engineering Week (February 16-22).

Engineering teams from professional firms, colleges and universities, and high schools are encouraged to sign up. Each entry must consist of two separate buoyancy shoes operated by one person, or "shoe pilot," who must remain vertical without support while walking a straight line from one end of the pool to the other.

Expenditures for each team are limited to \$100. The team with the fastest overall crossing time will win a grand prize. Other prizes will be awarded for the most interesting and the most controllable buoyancy shoes.

"This contest will demonstrate how basic engineering principles can be applied to resolve a very difficult design problem," said event organizer Michael Morse, a USD Assistant

Professor of Engineering who participated in a similar event while a student at Tulane University.

"The event also proves that engineering can be a lot of fun," said Dr. Morse. "When most people hear the word 'engineer,' they think of someone who walks around with a pocket protector and a calculator. We want to dispel that notion. We want to show that engineering is a dynamic, energetic profession."

USD's Department of Electrical Engineering is a relatively young professional program; it started up in September 1986 and its first graduates received their degrees in May 1991. Over the past few years, the department has installed several state-of-the-art computer-based electronics laboratories. In June 1992, the department will move into a brand-new facility inside Loma Hall, which is still under construction.

Dr. Thomas Kanneman, Director of Engineering, emphasized that USD's engineering students earn a combined Bachelor of Sciences/Bachelor of Arts degree "because we want to produce a total professional person -- an engineer who combines scientific expertise with effective communications skills and strong values."

For further information about the Walk-On-Water contest, contact Morse at 260-6823 or Kate Callen at 260-4682.