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CALLING ALL ENGINEERS: USD HOLDS 1994 WALK-ON-WATER CONTEST

Engineers and engineering students from throughout Southern California are invited to test their design skills in the third annual "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 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., will be held to help promote National Engineering Week (February 20 - 26).

"We like to think of this contest as the Mardi Gras of engineering," said John Simbulan, chair of the student organizing committee. "It gives us a chance to show that engineering is a creative science and can even be a lot of fun."

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 the grand prize. Other prizes will be awarded for special design categories.

"This year, the contest theme is creative design," said Ernie

Kim, faculty advisor to the contest. "Entries that have complete engineering design packages will be awarded special prizes."

For the second year in a row, high school students are invited to participate in a category of their own. "Last year, the high school contestants really enhanced the competition, and we're hoping for even greater high school participation this year," said Kim.

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 and has moved into a brand-new facility inside the newly-constructed Loma Hall.

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."

Contest sponsors include the San Diego Engineering Society, which has designated the Walk-on-Water Contest as the finale of its Engineering Week Observance.

For further information about the Walk-On-Water contest, contact Kim at (619) 260-4609 or Kate Callen at (619) 260-4682.