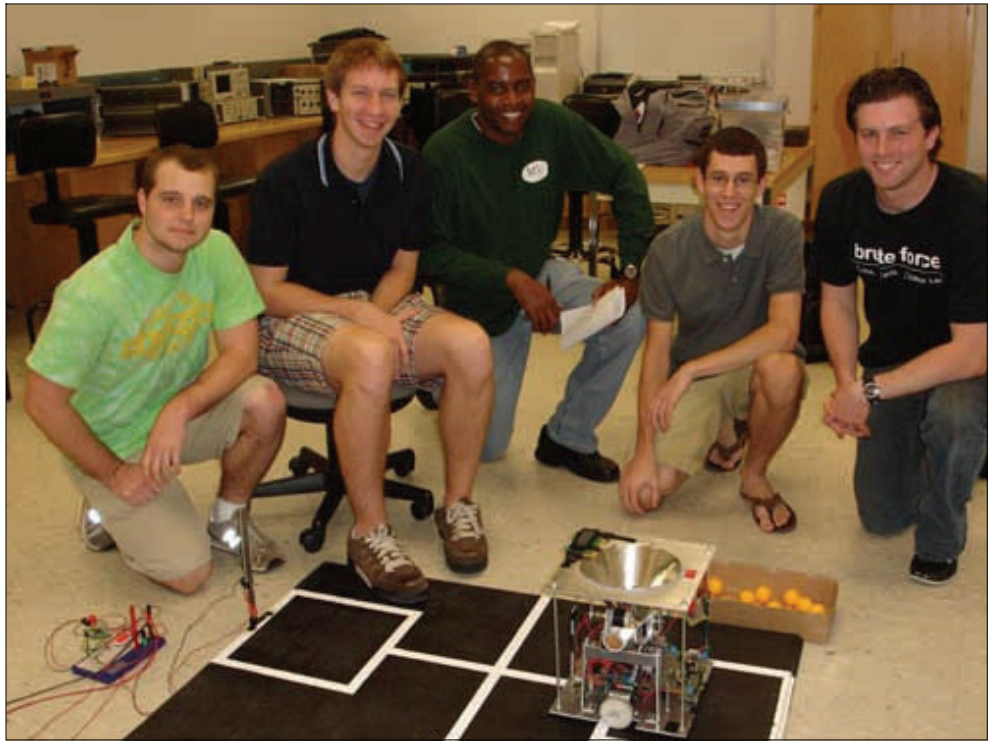


**2007 IEEE SoutheastCon Conference  
Richmond, Virginia  
March 23-25, 2007  
IEEE Robot Design Contest**



## *Mercer Engineering Students Place 4th in IEEE Robot Design Contest*



Pictured left to right: Curtis Doolittle, David Milligan, Dr. Donald Ekong, Assistant Professor, Blake Franklin, and John Harris

Mercer engineering students traveled to Richmond, Virginia on March 22, 2007 to participate in the IEEE SoutheastCon Conference, Robot Design Contest.

The team consisted of electrical specialization students Blake Franklin, John Harris, Curtis Doolittle, and computer specialization student, David Milligan. They were accompanied by faculty member, Donald U. Ekong, Ph.D., P.Eng., Assistant Professor of Computer Engineering. The IEEE Client and Technical Advisor for the project was Clayton R. Paul, B.S., M.S., Ph.D., Professor, Sam Nunn Eminent Chair in Aerospace Engineering, of the Electrical & Computing Engineering department.

There were 41 southeastern Electrical Engineering departments entered in the hardware competition. Thirty-four of the entries qualified to compete. The competition was double elimination. The Mercer robot won its first two head-to-head competitions, then lost in the third round to Clemson University, who placed third in the competition. They then won several competitions, and made their way into the Final Four. The team lost to Mississippi State University, who later won the competition.

The team was successful in that they only missed 5 shots throughout the competition. They correctly displayed all transmitted codes, and had one of the highest average scores per round.

The winners of the competition were: (1) Mississippi State University, (2) Auburn University, (3) Clemson University, and (4) Mercer University.

# About the Project

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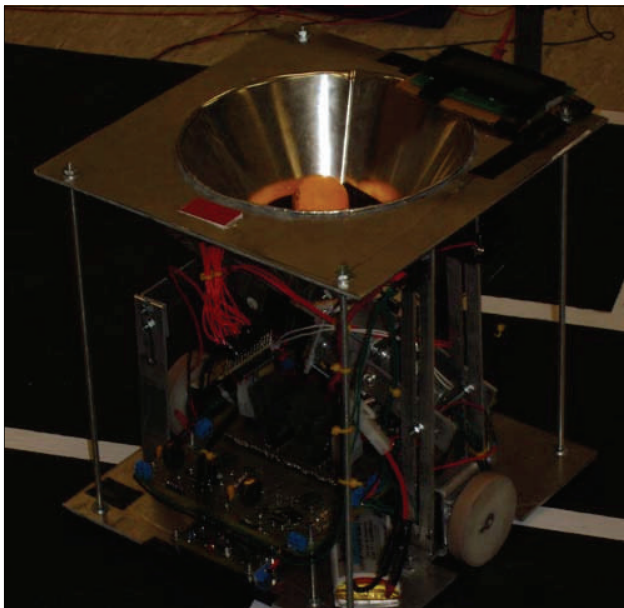
Senior Design Projects allow students to test their engineering knowledge in a real-world setting prior to graduation. On each project, three to four students collaborate to design, build, and test a realistic engineering system under faculty supervision. Each project is completed for a real-world client in industry, thereby giving students an opportunity to experience engineering challenges paralleling those found in the real-world. While working on the projects, students must consider safety, economic, environmental, and ethical concerns.

This team of students built their project for Dr. Clayton Paul, the client. The specifications for the robot were:

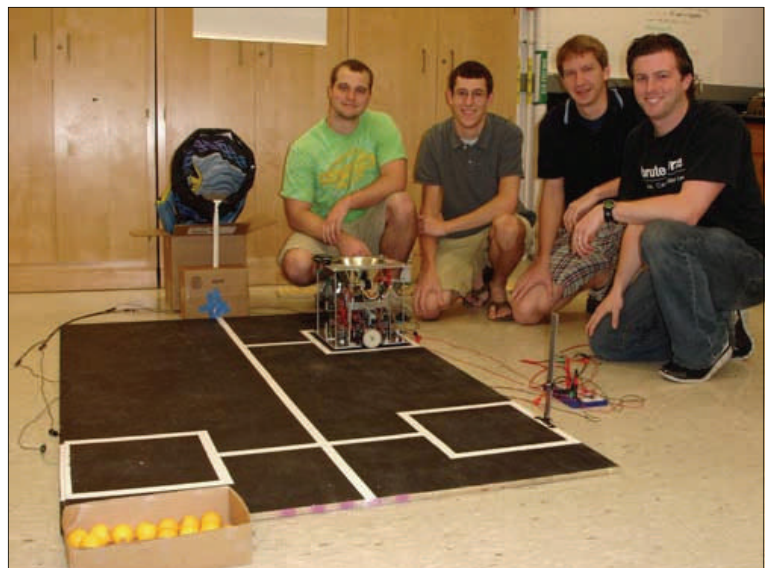
1. It must have line-following technology.
2. It must have the capability to launch a ping pong ball into a 10-inch diameter hoop.
3. It must be able to receive and display an infrared code.
4. It must be autonomous throughout the competition.

Each round consisted of 27 ping pong balls, and lasted only 5 minutes, and was a head-to-head competition where each team competed for control of the ping pong balls. After receiving a payload of 3 ping pong balls, the teams would launch the ball at the hoop. Each basket made was worth 10 points, while launching a ball over the wall next to the hoop was worth 1 point. The winner was determined by the highest number of points.

***CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT JOB!***



Mercer Robot



Team with Mercer Robot, and Track