

Spaghetti Bridge Report

The first organized team meeting was scheduled Sunday, September 7th, at 2:00. This first meeting gave each member of the team an opportunity to express themselves, and in turn, show where their personal attributes will be most effective in working as a cohesive unit. The group members consist of Giovanni Dinnitto, Kristin Scheel, Justin Mariniak, and William Chapman. To become better acquainted with one another a few minutes were spent talking while watching the Jaguars game over a few drinks. Once we felt more comfortable with each other, work was started on the assigned work.

One focus of this initial meeting was to begin building team rapport, but the main goal was to set basic ground rules for team operations. Discussions began, ideas were beginning to unfold, and one team member took the initiative to make note of each persons input. Once each member expectation of one another was presented and recorded, the groundwork of the *Code of Conduct* had been laid. The group revisited each of the recorded ideas, and then agreed on the ones which we felt necessary for our success. This list of agreements provides a steadfast outline of behavioral conduct in which each member will be held responsible for upholding. Individual behavior during scheduled meetings, notice of scheduled travel plans, and maintaining professional attitudes were the main points covered in this document.

The secondary objective of this meeting was to begin a design project in which the team could work together on a small scale project. This project was very trivial in nature, but very important in the aspect of identifying the roles of each member of the group. People are evaluated rather well from observing how they handle a trivial task, and in turn this project gave the team the opportunity to evaluate each others strengths and weaknesses.

The project our team was set out to complete was a spaghetti bridge, but the specifications for construction were left rather vague. The only requirements that were given are as follows; the bridge was to be two feet in length and to be constructed from spaghetti. A majority of the members had completed a project similar in nature, and therefore ideas were overflowing. The initial design was to be a simple truss constructed of triangular pieces to carry the loading. The main supports were completed and the truss was under construction when the group realized the bridge was taking longer than expected. At this point we had a group discussion regarding alternative solutions to making a stronger bridge and also making the construction time considerably less. This is when we decided that using the spaghetti as a form of “rebar” and polyurethane as “concrete”. This proposed design provided a stronger bridge with a shorter construction time.

We concluded our meeting with discussions regarding the upcoming meeting (Monday, September 8, 2008) with our sponsor Jesper Neilsen at Danfoss Turbocor. We discussed questions that could be presented to him, and also made agreements on the dress code for this meeting would be. Overall this meeting was very promising. Our group has many different

personalities, and as a result, we should have very creative discussions during our design meetings. As a team we have scheduled one weekly meeting each Tuesday, and plan to schedule other meetings on that day.