

Dummies show their intelligence at OSU

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You can learn a lot from a dummy.

The use of crash test dummies in collision simulations plays a significant role in the design and safety engineering of automobiles. Modern dummies are high-tech sensor systems that allow car makers to accurately predict bodily injuries during a crash.

As part of the 2002 Awesome Design Committee activities, a detailed presentation on crash dummies and other events will be held Friday. This is the 12th year for the activities, hosted by Oklahoma State University's College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology.

Ray Neathery, an engineer who helped pioneer modern dummies, will present "Wrecking Havoc: The Design and Use of Crash Dummies" in the Wes Watkins Center for International Trade Development auditorium at 2:30 p.m.

Neathery is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers' Human Biomechanics and Simulation Standards committee and chairman of its Dummy Definition subcommittee. He has almost 30 years of experience, including a stint as senior research engineer at General Motors. He now primarily works as an engineering consultant.

Another planned event is the Awesome Design Challenge, a competition involving teams of selected students from OSU and area high schools.

According to Awesome Design committee member Adam Huffer, each team will include at least one high school student.

Before and after the lecture, the teams will work to plan and build a solution to a light-hearted, cow-themed design problem.

The students' works may be viewed in the Wes Watkins Center exhibit hall beginning at 4 p.m. prior to the challenge at 8 p.m.

During the challenge, team members will attempt to complete the design challenge by demonstrating their projects and then prizes will be awarded.

Additionally, the OSU Police Department will conduct seat belt safety demonstrations. They will be using a rollover simulator and dummies provided by the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office. Rollover demonstrations will be held immediately following the lecture and again in the evening prior to the design challenge.

All events are free and open to the public. For information, contact Huffer at 744-9080.

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