



The purpose of this memo is to discuss recent work on the freshmen project by Group 1A. This is submitted per your request (memo dated December 12, 2008). We have recently been assigned two short-term tasks: complete the balsa wood truss, and decide upon our Freshman Design Project goals and objectives. I will discuss the status of these two tasks.

Regarding the status of our Freshmen Design Project, for this year's project, students are to design a device to move mousetraps (without tripping them) from one area of a competition board to various scoring zones on the board. More points are awarded for traps placed in zones that are apparently more difficult to reach.

Our primary goal for the project is to design and build a device that can move at least one mousetrap to the highest scoring zone in 10 seconds. We believe this will provide us a unique challenge, one that will be interesting to pursue.

One of the necessary skills for completing the freshmen project is being able to construct a device using balsa wood and cardboard. In order to develop skills for building small-scale devices using balsa wood, we were assigned the task of building a small truss structure. We have completed constructing the truss and we will have its strength tested in about one week. It is likely that the skills we developed for this assignment will be useful when the time comes for us to construct our competition device.

We are satisfied with what we have accomplished so far. By next week we hope to have developed three or four design concepts for the project. We will keep you informed of our progress. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address, email at lulay@up.edu, or phone (503) 943-7432.