Spring Engineering Expo

VFTH

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The campus may be quiet now, but engineering students wrapped up the semester on a loud note.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham shows us some of the high flying projects from the Engineering Expo.

From rockets and helicopters to robots and wobblers, WKU Engineering students had plenty of projects to show how hard they’ve worked this past semester.

Supers:

Julie Ellis \ Engineering Dept. Head

Will Johnson \2013 Gatton Academy Graduate

Joel Lenoir \ Professor, Mechanical Engineering

Timothy Bucklew \ WKU Senior

From first year class projects….

 “These are basically little miniature steam engines.”

…to fourth year projects for actual industries…..

“This is a precision testing bed for Remington R & D located in Elizabethtown Kentucky.”

…..there is plenty of hands on experience being gained at WKU Engineering.

 “Actually designing things, building it, saying oh it doesn’t really work or this can’t be built or we broke it and still making it work in time for this or deadline, that’s what makes them great engineers.”

Three Academy students spent the past year building this four rotored radio control helicopter for photography.

 “The data wasn’t useful at all because we couldn’t get it while we were flying but Matt joined the team and we were able to get wireless connection to get useful data.”

 “It’s amazing what those Gatton kids can do if you give them a budget, you give them some lab space, you give them some freedom. Amazing things can happen.”

This water-tight I-Robot that can reach up to six feet high and go under vehicles will soon be used by the area’s first responders.

 “This robot allows them to operate in areas that might be unsafe for them to go into to assess situations and come up with game plans on how to attack various scenerios.”

And this generator? It’s running off fumes from heated scrap wood in this wood gasification project.

 “All of these projects, every single one of them, is about helping students learn to be really competent practitioners of engineering.”

As part of the Spring Engineering Expo, the Department celebrated 10 years of graduates from WKU’s civil, mechanical and electrical engineering programs.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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