

IUSB Computer Science and Physics Students  
Participate in the  
Rube Goldberg Machine Contest

Russel Mehler (Team Captain), Geoffrey Warner (Alt Captain),  
Dan Wakefield, Jason Barden, Cory Solovey, Brian Godfrey,  
Aaron Mattix, Brad Zima

Coach: Dr. Phuoc Dai Ha, Department of Physics

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Each year, Purdue University's Theta Tau Fraternity sponsors the "Rube Goldberg Machine Contest", where the goal is to build an overly complicated machine for performing a simple task. This year, IUSB ACM sponsored a machine, built by CS and Physics students. The team's captain, Russel Mehler secured a SMART grant to transport the machine and several team members to Purdue. The contest was held on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> in the Lambert Fieldhouse at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN.

The task for this year's contest, in honor of the upcoming Presidential Election, was to **"select, mark, and cast an election ballot in twenty or more steps"**. The IUSB ACM machine featured more than the required minimum number of steps, including an ironic final step in which the completed ballot was ultimately shredded. Eight teams participated, with IUSB ACM the only non-Purdue team competing. All teams had 3 chances to get their machines to run to completion twice and the IUSB ACM machine succeeded twice. Though they did not win, it was a good time and IUSB ACM plans to return next year.