

07-10  
Media Contact:  
Sylvia Carson  
(630) 252-5510  
scarson@anl.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Rube Goldberg Machine Contest challenges students to build wackiest, most complicated orange juicer**

ARGONNE, Ill. (March 16, 2007) — Students who participate in Argonne National Laboratory's 12th annual Rube Goldberg Machine Contest on Friday, March 30, will need creativity, concentration and perhaps some vitamin C as they demonstrate the complicated machines they built to juice an orange and pour the juice from a pitcher into a cup in 10 or more steps.

The machines will be put to the test in the contest, which kicks off at 10:30 a.m. at Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier.

-more-



Rube Goldberg – add one

Up to 12 teams can compete. Schools registered for this year's contest are:

- Downers Grove North. H.S., Downers Grove
- William Fremd H.S., Palatine
- Gardner South Wilmington H.S., Wilmington
- Glenbrook South H.S., Glenview
- Maine Township South, Park Ridge (two teams)
- Minooka Comm. H.S., Minooka (two teams)
- Alan B. Shepard H.S., Palos Heights
- Wilmington H.S., Wilmington

The winning team will receive a traveling trophy to display until the 2008 contest and a tour of Argonne, which will include the Advanced Photon Source, and lunch with Argonne scientists. The first-place team also will have the opportunity to demonstrate its winning machine at Argonne on the day of their tour. In addition, each team member and the team's faculty advisor will receive an Argonne National Laboratory Rube Goldberg Machine laptop backpack and an Argonne Rube Goldberg Machine Contest T-shirt.

Second-place team members and their faculty advisor will receive Argonne National Laboratory Rube Goldberg Machine laptop backpacks and Argonne Rube Goldberg Machine Contest T-shirts.

Third-place team members and their faculty advisor will receive Argonne National Laboratory Rube Goldberg Machine Contest T-shirts.

A trophy will be awarded to the team that wins the People's Choice Award, to be chosen by popular vote by people attending the Chicago Children's Museum during the contest.

-more-

Rube Goldberg – add two

The top three teams will have the opportunity to compete in the 2007 Illinois State Championship Rube Goldberg Machine Contest to be held Saturday, April 21, at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. They will compete against the top three teams from the Friday, March 9, high school Rube Goldberg Machine Contest at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign's Engineering Open House.

Rube Goldberg machine contests are inspired by Reuben Lucius Goldberg, whose cartoons combined simple household items into complex devices to perform trivial tasks. The machines combine the principles of physics and engineering, using common objects such as marbles, mousetraps, stuffed animals, electric mixers, vacuum cleaners, rubber tubes, bicycle parts and anything else that happens to be on hand.

But the ultimate goal of the Argonne-sponsored contest is give students hands-on engineering experience and to encourage them to make science and engineering part of their future academic and professional careers.

“Designing and building a Rube Goldberg machine has a lot in common with modern research and development,” says David Baurac, one of the founders of the Argonne competition.

“Specifically, it’s creative problem solving, and it’s a team activity. The teachers I talk to tell me that the contest is not about winning, it’s about the experience of participating.”

Information about the Argonne Rube Goldberg Machine Contest for High Schools is available online at [www.anl.gov/Careers/Education/rube/rubeteams.html](http://www.anl.gov/Careers/Education/rube/rubeteams.html).

Argonne's Division of Educational Programs and Communications and Public Affairs Division sponsor the March event in collaboration with Chicago Children's Museum and the National Rube Goldberg Machine Contest, held annually at Purdue University. The event is licensed by Rube Goldberg, Inc.

Rube Goldberg – add three

"Rube Goldberg" is a registered trademark and copyright of Rube Goldberg, Inc., which can be reached, at (203) 227-0818, by e-mail at [Rube@RubeGoldberg.com](mailto:Rube@RubeGoldberg.com) or via their website at [www.RubeGoldberg.com](http://www.RubeGoldberg.com).

Chicago Children's Museum's mission is to create a community where play and learning connect. For more information about Chicago Children's Museum, call (312) 527-1000 or visit [www.chichildrensmuseum.org](http://www.chichildrensmuseum.org).

The nation's first national laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory conducts basic and applied scientific research across a wide spectrum of disciplines, ranging from high energy physics to climatology and biotechnology. Argonne has worked with numerous federal agencies and other organizations to help advance America's scientific leadership and prepare the nation for the future. Argonne is managed by UChicago Argonne, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science.