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The Technology and Engineering department has recently built a home that is easy and economical to build. Homes like these will possibly be built in World countries to help families in need. The program has been using cutting edge technology to help build the homes.

Building Hope

Construction Management team helps make difference

By BAILEY BOWTHORPE

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Matt Edwards, the Construction Management department's professional in residence, is leading the way in research and development in a world changing new home for Third World countries.

He said this process started in an attempt to keep students on the cutting edge.

"As professors, it is our job to study up on the latest innovations to keep our students updated on the latest technology," he said.

Last summer, when investors showed up at SUU interested in an affordable energy efficient home for Third World countries, Edwards said he came up with a design.

"At first, it was designed specifically for Third World countries," Edwards said. "But when (the investors) saw the results of it, they thought it could be seen in U.S. markets as well."

He said that although the investors showed interest, they wanted restricted, exclusive rights to the design.

"Due to the investor's financial interests, and our interest to change the world for the better, we have parted ways," Edwards said. "They wanted to move at the level of speed that is beyond what I felt is reasonable for

research."

Edwards said funding is now coming from the University, as well as several government grants for developmental research, and the industry.

Edwards said he is currently completing work on a grant which, if he receives it, would send him to India as a part of his doctoral studies to work with a village testing visual literacy.

"Essentially, I am testing the idea of the ability of illiterate countries to create industry," Edwards said. "If we can create a way for someone with a low skill level to raise their standard of living, that can benefit the entire society."

The home, which is primarily made out of concrete, has three rooms and two bathrooms. Edwards said It is also fireproof, hurricane proof, extremely energy efficient, and the system of construction is completely "out of the box."

Richard Cozzens, the CAD/CAM Engineering and Technology professional in residence, has helped in the development of the new world home.

He said the 3-D solid modeling and analysis is what excites him most about his role in the project.

"It is a new application of what I do,"

Cozzens said. "There is a lot to be learned and documented in this process."

Cozzens said the home is a mix between a normal rectangular house and a dome house.

"We built the house and did the measurements digitally before any actual building began to solve some of the geometrical problems that could arise with a half-dome, half-rectangular structure," Cozzens said.

As far as students getting involved in this project, Edwards said he envisions so many aspects of the new world homes going campus-wide.

"I work heavily with other departments. The CAD/CAM program have assisted with design, CIS students are working to design solar panels for lighting for the home," Edwards said.

As more students get involved, Edwards sees this structure becoming much more than just a home.

"As we get the education department involved, now it isn't just a home — it's a school, or an internet café for a village," said Edwards. "The possibilities are endless."