

Welcome to the Fall 2008 issue of your Cal Poly *Industrial Technology Alumni E-Newsletter*. This issue is being written as we start back to classes for the 2008-2009 academic year. It covers many events that occurred during the Winter-Spring quarters of this year, as well as some interesting developments that have occurred this summer.

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## RECENT FACULTY AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

**From Thesis to New Venture: The Berserker Story.** Many of you who have visited campus recently know Adam Stephens, who got an MS degree in the program a year ago, and is now working as our Lab Coordinator. Some of the rest of his time is devoted to his pet project – *the Berserker* – which is a great illustration of how the skills acquired in IT sometimes lead into novel directions.

Adam has always been interested in off-road cycling. For personal reasons, he developed a passion for designing and fabricating an off-road trike that enables people with minor disabilities to have a somewhat more stable platform to attack mountain trails. During 2006-2007 Adam developed the design, fabricated the trike, field-tested it, and tweaked the design. During the 2007-2008 academic year there were further design modifications, and considerable media attention.



During the winter quarter, while accompanying a field trip by IT graduate students to the Central Coast MIT Forum, which meets in Santa Barbara, Adam struck up a conversation with an entrepreneur-investor about the trike. The upshot is that the two of them shared both a fervent interest in off-road cycling as well as getting Adam's trike into the marketplace. The second round of prototyping and development is currently under way and the initial launch of the first few production units is tentatively scheduled for January 2009. Information regarding the current developments and some video footage can be found at [www.berserkercycle.com](http://www.berserkercycle.com)