



WHEN I FIRST STARTED WRITING for *Ties* fourteen years ago, my wife joked that everything we saw could be the basis for an article. She was right! So much of our world is designed and made. In those fourteen short years, entirely new technologies have either been created or morphed into other technologies – digital formats for audio and video begat digital photography, digital video recorders, and cell phones with digital cameras (although how many of us remember our cell phone’s capabilities when we see something that makes us wish we had a camera with us?). Apple introduced the well-designed iTunes and iPod combination. In less than one and a half years, podcasts are part of our language and Apple has sold over 100 million units. Podcasts are being used as a tool to recruit teachers into school districts. To see how that looks, check out the Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant web site.

All three articles in this issue made me reflect on the technological innovations I’ve seen since I’ve been with *Ties*. Celeste Baine, a frequent contributor to the magazine, looks at music as a hook for interesting students in engineering. Joel Cassola, a first-time contributor, shows us an outstanding student project done with CNC software and routers and milling machines. In the final article, I share what I’ve learned from Stevens Institute of Technology, The Museum of Science, Boston, and the Society of Automotive Engineers about pre-engineering curricula K-12.

Have a relaxing summer and write an article for our fall issue while you are on vacation.

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