

Thesis Project Portfolio

The S.P.E.C.I.A.L. Project

(Technical Report)

The Public Perception of Aspartame

(STS Research Paper)

An Undergraduate Thesis

Presented to the Faculty of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

University of Virginia • Charlottesville, Virginia

In Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree

Bachelor of Science, School of Engineering

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Sociotechnical Synthesis

For my technical topic, I helped to design a solar powered fan. The goal of this project was to provide low income area with cheap cooling options that can be implemented without any connection to a power grid. The project features an implementation which allows for simultaneous charging and cooling capabilities which should allow for continuous cooling coverage.

For my STS topic, I have researched various claims about aspartame made by various internet articles, fact checked them, and analyzed the effect articles of this nature have on the public perception of aspartame. The goal of this project is to raise awareness of misinformation circulating through the internet particularly concerning health issues.