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UNC PHYSICS



Don't Believe It?
Ask David Harris.

For most people, sitting and watching a spinning top is boring.

For David Harris, a University of North Carolina senior physics major, there's wonder, understanding and technological application.

"A spinning top — when you do the math, you can take a gyroscope and see all the different motions that the math predicted," Harris said. "That particular system is used to model satellites and it is used in airplane stabilization systems."

Harris said he is leaning toward pursuing a graduate degree in material science and engineering.

"I would not be able to problem-solve as well if I had pursued engineering from the beginning," Harris explained. "I also think I learn quicker and better because of the problems solving I learned from physics."

So where will the problem solving lead him? Possibly to pursue a master's in materials science.

"I want to be able to look at a product and say I helped make that or helped make it cheaper, faster or better," Harris said. That's what I really want to do."

If you want to read more about physics and gyroscopes, leave it to a toy company to explain it well.

Check this out at:

<http://aetoy.com/science-of-gyroscope.html>

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