Pirate Ship Ride
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Section 022
December 4, 2015
When I was picking my idea for my personal project I knew I wanted to do something that I found interesting while providing me with a challenge. I decided to pick the pirate ship ride as my Solidworks personal project because I enjoy going on roller coasters and all sorts of carnival type rides. The pirate ship ride also reminds me of the beach because there is a pirate ship ride on the boardwalk. I also chose this project because I thought it would be thought-provoking but fun at the same time.

When making this project I used many different features. In order to make the legs of the ride I used the lofting tool. In order to make the bars that connect the boat to the top bar I used the revolve feature. When making the boat I used the loft feature to make the body of the boat and the fillet tool to make the boat rounded around the bottom. I then used the extruded cut tool to cut out where I wanted the benches to be. I then sketched a rectangle where I had made the extruded cut and then used the boss extrude to make the bench then used the cut extrude tool again to make the seat. Once I made the bench I used the linear pattern feature to make multiple benches all in line with one another. I used the revolve tool to also make the top bar which connects the bars and the legs. In order to make the plates that connect the legs to the ground I used the extrude boss tool.

I found that the hardest part of making my project was the assembly. In order to assemble the parts together I had to use many different mates and I learned that in order to mate something circular you have to mate the planes and not the faces. In my assembly I also had to use many different mates that I was unfamiliar with, i.e. the width mate. I often found myself lost and not knowing what to do next in the assembly. A new feature that I learned was the linear pattern tool. I also learned how to use a width mate.

I learned from the solidworks portion of this class that there are many types of programs on the computer that I have access to that I am unaware of. Before solidworks I never would have known that it was possible for me to build something like this on the computer. Solidworks also helped me understand the graphics section of class.
Doing graphics and solidworks at the same time is definitely beneficial because you can see what you are drawing on paper come to life on the computer. I was also unaware of the opportunities that having a solid background in solidworks can provide, i.e. job opportunities. Overall, Solidworks has taught me a lot about computers in general.