

New Sciencenter exhibit features bones on a bike



SIMON WHEELER / STAFF PHOTO

Patricia Jennings, of Lansing, tests the Sciencenter's newest exhibit. Visitors can peddle a bicycle that is connected to a second bicycle ridden by a skeleton.

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Exhibit fabricator Larry George has designed and built a skeleton riding a bicycle supported in space at the Sciencenter in Ithaca.

The center's newest exhibit is powered by visitors riding an identical bike that is connected to the one ridden by the skeleton, referred to as Mr. Bones.

George, of Lansing, worked for two months

brainstorming ideas and prototypes to show how our hips and knees move as we peddle a bike. The visitor's bike is on the second level of the center, and the skeleton's bike is cantilevered out over the double height space next to the visitor's bike.

George, a retired industrial arts teacher, most recently at Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services, had to rebuild the plastic skeletons' hips and knees so they could withstand the repetitive motion.

"I can immediately see how it's being used, and so it's really satisfying and fulfilling to build something, put it on the floor and watch the kids use it," George said.

The exhibit was still being fine-tuned Wednesday, but some visitors were able to try it.

"Hopefully, it will show the kids and teach them a little bit about the body and exercise, and the importance of exercising," George said.

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The Sciencenter's newest exhibit features a skeleton riding a bicycle powered by visitors riding a connected adjacent bike.

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