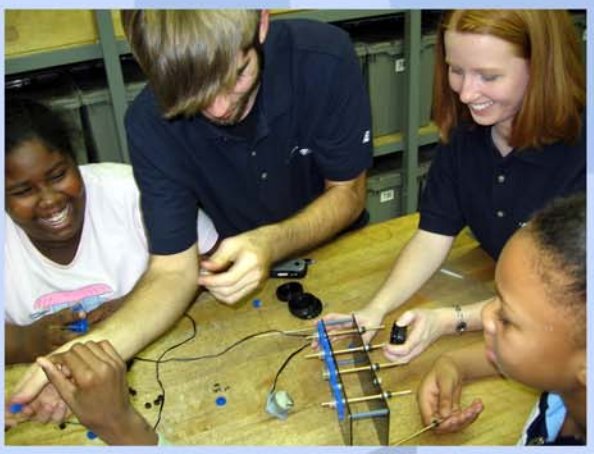
Gator Motorsports Newsletter

Written By: Lori Harrington, Gator Motorsports Secretary

University/Community Outreach Update

On Thursday, January 18th, Gator Motorsport's had its first general body meeting. At this meeting Faculty Advisor Mike Braddock was presented with a framed team picture as a token of appreciation for all of his hard work and dedication to the team. The next day, Teen Zone, a local after school program, enjoyed an afternoon touring the shop facilities, learning about the Baja and Formula projects, and building and racing their own project vehicles as part of SAE's A World In Motion project. This event was recently mentioned in the March SAE Collegiate Design Series newsletter. The next field trip is scheduled for early April.



During the University of Florida's Engineering Week in February, Gator Motorsports participated by tabling at the Extravaganza and putting members in the dunk tank. Also, Gator Motorsports was involved with the Engineering-Fair, where elementary through high school students are invited to see the different types of engineering, as well as the numerous engineering societies that exist on campus. Gator Motorsports, along with the Mechanical and Aerospace Department, received a third-place award for best overall booth. Check out our website, www.gatomotorsports.com, for more information on these events.

Formula Update

The core group of formula members have been in the shop testing, breaking parts, and testing some more. The car has been driving under its own power for several weeks, although tuning the new engine computer has been difficult.
Mike Braddock and former Team Leader Philip Watson came in and saved the day by lending their engine expertise. Over the course of the next few weeks the team will be using an eddy current chassis dynamometer to alter the engine settings until the motor is running optimally. The other arena of vehicle development is in the chassis and suspension. Data

acquisition will monitor everything from tire temperatures to three dimensional accelerations to tune the setup. The body is being constructed with subtle changes to the side pods aimed at enhancing efficiency of the cooling system while maintaining the aesthetics the UF formula car is known for. If the current state of the car is a reflection of how the formula team will finish in this year's competition, things are looking good!

In celebration of the successful testing, the team was taken out to dinner. The dinner and bonding experience is something that all members look forward to at this time of the year. Special thanks to alumni Khalil Mohmed for coming into town and helping to fund the good times.

The Baja Update

The Baja Team has invested considerable resources this semester tuning their CVT (clutch). Thus far, the results are quite favorable, showing an improvement in acceleration of almost 25% as compared to last year's car. Since this year's Baja competition is scheduled to take place on a motocross style track, acceleration will be crucial for maintaining momentum over the large jumps. Also, while the team worked to enhance the performance of the CVT, they gained a vast amount of useful knowledge that they hope to use to design and fabricate their own clutch for the new car.

In addition, the new vehicle's frame is close to completion and the overall packaging is turning out great. They expect to have a running car within three weeks! Also, after extensive review of a transaxle design they have decided to stick with separate gearbox and differential units to save weight, reduce complexity and maintain adjustability. These components will be manufactured over the next two weeks, so swing by the shop if you want to get involved in this fabrication or just watch some computer controlled machining!

Member of the Month

Congratulations to Vivianne Cedeno, January 2007 Member of the Month. Vivianne was the 2006 Public Relations Team Leader, and she received this award for her solid work that has turned this student group into a student organization! Luther Lloyd earned the February Member of the Month award for his hard work creating the formula car assembly in Autodesk Inventor for the competition's preliminary design report.

To Our Sponsors

We would also like to thank our sponsors for being part of our winning team. Each of you is just as important as the members who wrench on the cars. Thank you for being a cornerstone for UFSAE Gator Motorsports. We also wish to thank Mr. Ron Franklin of UF Engineering News and Publications for printing this newsletter!

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