

Gator Motorsports Newsletter



Written By: Victor Martinez, VP of Investor Relations

Unveiling

We are proud to report the UF SAE team made history during the 2006-2007 season! The unveiling of the cars in May had a successful turnout. Our audience was composed of parents, professors, fellow students, and sponsors. In addition, both the baja and formula teams returned with Top 10 international finishes in their respective competitions. This feat has only occurred once before in the history of Gator Motorsports.



Formula Update

This year, the Formula Team triumphantly came home sixth in the world and third in the nation out of 130 international teams. We were one of only two teams to remain in the Top 10 from last year and the only one to advance in the top ten. Highlights from the event were ninth in presentation, ninth in acceleration, seventh in autocross, 14th in design and ninth in endurance. The formula team accomplished this by applying what they learned in classes and outside research to improve vehicle dynamics, structural composites, and the fluid dynamics of the engine components.



Baja Update

The Baja team brought home fifth place in the world and third nationally, out of 140 international teams. Highlights from this competition were fifth place in endurance, 11th in design and 12th in cost. Through proper tuning of our continuously variable transmission (CVT), acceleration and top speed were increased substantially from last year. These improvements propelled the team to a fifth place finish in the four-hour-endurance race. Other improvements to the Baja car were a lighter and more compact chassis, as well as a new suspension layout. These modifications enhanced the car's maneuverability around the courses, and resulted in a better design that was received well by the judges.



Awards

At the Benton Engineering Council's award ceremony this year, the team received Best Technical Society, Most Related to Industry Project and Best Web Site awards. Also faculty advisor, Mike Braddock, unanimously received the first ever Faculty Advisor of the Year award. Also each year, Gator Motorsports participates in the Benton Engineering Council's annual engineer's week. Team members tabled during the engineering fair, were dunked in the dunk tank during Engineering Extravaganza, tested their engineering knowledge in the Engineering Bowl and were mentors for Gator Shadow day. Gator Motorsports along with the Mechanical & Aerospace Department were awarded third place for their booths at the Engineering Fair.

University and Community Outreach

Gator Motorsports is also proud to announce that this year they received the first ever grant from *A World in Motion* for their continuous outreach to children in the community. During the summer, Gator Motorsports worked with Karen Bray and Deborah L. Mayhew to promote Gator Engineering and SAE to students participating in the University's engineering summer camps. The team also presented their program to students participating in the *Engineering Freshman Transition Program*, *Successful Transition through Enhanced Preparation for Undergraduate Programs*, *Intro to Engineering classes (EGN1002)*, and the *Transfer Student Transition Program*, in hopes of recruiting new members. In the past, more than 50 percent of our members have been recruited through presentations at these programs.



Congratulations to All Our Graduates

Cliff Dechman (BSME), Jim Keith (BSME), Christie Archer (BA-MKG), Kevin Higgins (BSISE), Karan Rangi (BSISE), Chris Vinson (BSISE), Stephen Francis (BSISE, BSBA), Glendon Walker (BSISE)

Members of the Month

Congratulations to Lane Gniewek, Victor Martinez, and Glendon Walker II for being selected as Gator Motorsports members of the month for March, April and May.

March



April



May



To Our Sponsors

We also would like to thank our sponsors for being an integral part of our organization. We value each and every one of you as much as we value our fellow team mates. Without you we would never reach these levels of success. Thank you once again for making UFSAE Gator Motorsports what it is today. We also wish to thank Mr. Ron Franklin and Ms. Megan Gales of UF Engineering Publications for publishing this newsletter!

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