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New Team Members

Each year, UF SAE team members show off their engineering talents by designing and building a formula or mini-baja race car for an international competition. But this year's Gator Engineers are making an extra effort to be recognized. The team has enlisted the help of students from other colleges around campus to improve its static events presentations.

New members Katie Caraway, Kaitlyn Baldwin, Vivianne Cedeno, Jessica Lokaj and Crystal Henry from the College of Journalism & Communications will be designing fliers and other advertising materials for the competition, as well as organizing community events and coaching the team members on making a professional presentation. Luis Rodriguez from Warrington College of Business and Jennifer Vail from the College of Engineering will be working on the technical part of the presentation and the cost report.



Reaching Out

This year's SAE team has established an outreach committee in its constitution to try and build a stable foundation for its community and university relations. Few K-12 students realize the practical application of their math and science classes. This year's team is reaching out to local schools with the help of a program called A World In Motion.

AWIM is a program run by SAE International, and has provided this year's team with materials to help students learn about practical applications of their math and science classes.

Students from Westwood Middle School will tour the shop on Jan. 27 and test their math and science skills when they build a jet toy provided by AWIM. They will test different chassis, designs and nozzle sizes to determine the effects on the toy's performance.



Formula Update

The Formula Team members worked diligently over the winter break and are proud to report that the 2006 entry is now running. The rolling chassis was completed by Thanksgiving, allowing the team to put on the finishing touches and drive the car for the first time on Dec. 31.

The new dry sump system is complete and functioning properly. The new system features a billet oil pan, which should help to prevent problems like last year's leak. Also added is a third pressure stage allowing the team to bypass the stock pump, another problem area in the past. These changes allowed the engine to be lowered in order to lower the car's overall center of gravity. The higher quality pump components could also lead to more power.

A new cooling system has been designed from the ground up. This is based around one of two radiators that Visteon is custom building for the team, which should arrive this month. Last year's radiator is being used for testing until the new parts arrive.