

Stony Brook Places Third in Baja SAE International Engineering Competition *Finishes First in Static Design Judging and Second in Overall Design*

STONY BROOK, NY, May 29, 2007- Every year, students from all over the world design and build a race car from the ground up for the world's most prestigious off-road collegiate auto racing competition series. More than 100 teams from countries as globally diverse as the U.S., France, Canada, Mexico, So. Korea and So. Africa competed for engineering honors at The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City, So. Dakota.

For the first time, the Stony Brook Motorsports team finished third overall, second in Overall Design and first in Static Design Judging.

Known as the Baja SAE Challenge, the competition is comprised of three regional events that simulate real-world engineering projects and their related challenges. Engineering students are tasked to design and build an off-road vehicle that will survive the severe punishment of rough terrain.

The object of the competition is to provide SAE, (Society of Automotive Engineers), student members with a challenging project that involves the planning and manufacturing tasks found when introducing a new product to the consumer industrial market. Teams compete against one another to have their design accepted for manufacture. Students must function as a team to not only design, build, test, promote, and race a vehicle in accordance with the rules, but also to generate financial support for their project and manage their educational priorities.

“Without the sponsors and support of our in-house staff, our participation in this event could not be possible,” says Henry Gumbus, Team President of Stony Brook Motorsports. This year the Stony Brook Motorsports team was sponsored by Flagpoles, Inc., Poletech, Grob, Timken, Polaris, Briggs & Stratton and Fox Racing Shox. On-campus sponsors include the College of Engineering & Applied Sciences, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the Undergraduate Student Government, URECA and Dr. Gail Habicht, Vice President of Research.

According to Dr. Yacov Shamash, Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, “This is an excellent achievement for our students and a proud day for Stony Brook University.”

Noah Machtay, Graduate Advisor to the team adds, “Watching the project progress from nothing more than a concept to a formidable off road machine is inspiring! I am very proud of the students.”

About Stony Brook Engineering

“In addition to a comprehensive curriculum and student learning experience, Stony Brook Engineering believes very strongly in “hands-on” experience,” says Dr. Imin Kao, Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. “This allows our students to take what they have learned in the classroom and apply it in a real world setting,” adds Dr. Kao.

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