

Greetings from Crimson Racing,



July has arrived, bringing with it the high 90's and rough 100 degree days that those of us that live in the south have come to expect from our summers. By now, the University students are about halfway through whatever adventures they have chosen to pursue during their time off – be that spending time with friends and family, gaining work experience (and fetching coffee) at internships, catching up or getting ahead by taking more classes, or, for a select few of us here at Crimson Racing, working to prepare for another season of Formula SAE.

After returning in May, everyone was excited to use the information we learned from our experience at the competition to begin designing an even better car for next year. One of the first things we decided to do this year was have our frame team design and build an ergonomics jig, which will help us create a more comfortable competition vehicle than in years past. Our main goal was to figure out the arrangement of the cockpit; by testing out different setups with a variety of drivers, we were able to figure out the optimal seat angle, wheel placement, and pedal placement in our car. As one of the design review subcategories involves comfortability and ease of using the vehicle, we have chosen to include this step as part of the team's plan to implement many small changes that will drastically impact our overall score.



At the competition, we talked to a Crimson Racing alumni who gave us some advice as well as a contact at APR, a company in Auburn, AL that provides engine tuning services for Volkswagen and Audi dealers worldwide. APR graciously allowed five of our members to tour their facility. We brought our ergonomics jig, and while there, we scanned our final seating position so that we could more accurately build a frame around the ergonomics jig.

The team has spent a lot of time in Auburn this past month, as we also sent two engine team members there to visit our friends and rivals on the Auburn Formula SAE team. In the past few years, our connections at Auburn's team have strengthened; they kindly allowed us to observe their engine tuning process, which will help us in the near future as we begin to re-tune our own. We plan to start tuning our old car on the chassis dyno in the next few days, and with Auburn's insight, we have new methods to test that may help us do so more successfully. We would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to APR and the Auburn Formula SAE team for being such great hosts and allowing us to learn from them. Looking forward, the team is currently focused on creating solutions to our main issues from last year: trying to accomplish too much without a strict schedule, and not having enough funding to support the plans and ideas we envisioned. Thus, we are currently determining our schedule and budget for the upcoming school year. Since timing proved to be an issue for us last year, we have held multiple four-hour meetings in attempt to create a manageable timeline. As our team is entirely funded by our sponsors, it is imperative that we begin reaching out to business and individuals as early as possible, which we have already started doing. If you have any questions about our team or sponsorships, please feel free to contact us at the email below!

Sincerely,
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