

Greetings from Crimson Racing! Between Spring Break, Drive Days, and a push to get everything up to speed for competition in May, we've had quite the eventful month. This month, we've seen a transition away from machining and manufacturing parts to getting the car ready for driving. As always, we'd like to thank our sponsors for their generous support as we draw closer to accomplishing our goals for this year.



Above: Team members work on the car in the pit during our first Drive Day of the semester on March 24.

Below: Team members look on as the car prepares to be driven.



Over the University's Spring Break in mid-March, several team members stayed in Tuscaloosa to work on the car. Between cleaning and organizing the shop, getting the car ready to visit APR, and working to improve various parts, substantial progress was made. Drivetrain and Suspension were able to cut the half shafts to their proper length, while others worked on improving ergonomics, making final revisions to the shifting and electrical system, and refining other subsystems. We were happy to be visited by Aaron Suttle, our former Powertrain Team Lead from last year. Additionally, we'd like to thank APR for their support and allowing us to use their chassis dynamometer.

Overall, despite a few setbacks including an engine failure, Spring Break proved to be a successful and productive week.

Once everyone returned to campus, it was time to prepare for our first Drive Day of the semester. Hosted on March 24, the goal of this Drive Day was to slowly get the CR18 accustomed to being driven and conduct tests of each system along the way. Three autocross runs were completed to assess the car's handling characteristics, along with three acceleration runs to test throttle response and brake performance and bias. While there were some parts that didn't respond as well to some of the tests, the Drive Day was declared an overall success. Following this event, the team aims to spend time putting more sensors on the car and running through several experiments in order to validate both our models and manufacturing. We will continue to host Drive Days over the coming weeks. A special thank you to Sipsey Valley High School for donating their space for the afternoon while we conducted autocross laps with the CR18.

Outside of the shop, we helped facilitate workshops for students in the College of Engineering or those interested in learning about available equipment and software. These workshops envelop a variety of topics, from machining on hand mills to using MATLAB. Each workshop this month was an excellent opportunity to get our fellow students more engaged and learning new skills, and a time for us to share our experiences with our peers.

Finally, the Business Team has been busy editing and rehearsing their presentation for competition in May. These last few weeks of the semester will be full of hard work and focus for everyone involved on our team.

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