

Greetings from Crimson Racing,



We are proud to say that the Formula SAE Michigan competition was a success! The competition was held at Michigan International Speedway and lasted from May 14<sup>th</sup> until May 17<sup>th</sup>. The drive to Michigan was long (14 hours) and the weather was not the hot Tuscaloosa day we are accustomed to, but it was an enjoyable experience for the entire team. We battled the cold and rain and were able to drive in some of the events.



The competition is divided into two categories, static and dynamic events. The static events are geared towards having students justify their decisions and try to sell the car to a team of judges; the dynamic events are where the car is actually driven and the driving times are compared to other teams. The static events include a cost analysis, business presentation, and engineering design. The dynamic events

include acceleration, skid pad, maneuvering, and endurance. In order to compete in the dynamic events, teams must pass a rigorous technical inspection.

Last year, we were unable to make it through the first stage of technical inspection due to a few sizing issues with the frame. This year, after some minor adjustments, we were able to make it through the first stage of technical inspection, but as we were filling up our gas tank to prepare for the next stage of technical inspection, we noticed a small leak in our fuel tank. We were able to repair the leak while at competition and once we did we were able to complete the technical inspection. Unfortunately, by the time we made it through, the acceleration and skid pad events were already closed, so we were unable to compete in those two events. Despite the setback, we were able to drive in the autocross and endurance events. Both drivers were able to drive in the autocross event and put together times that lay a good foundation to build on this upcoming year. Our first driver completed all ten of his laps in the endurance event, but the car had issues starting back up for our second driver.



We ended up finishing the competition in 93<sup>rd</sup> place out of 120 teams. It was a 5 team



increase over the previous year; we are happy that we improved, but we were obviously hoping for more success. We laid goals down for next year and believe that if we achieve those hard, but realistic goals, we can propel ourselves into the top 60%. The best part about this year's competition was the experience that the members of the team were able to gain. Since this year was most of the team's first years, the competition allowed us to learn what is expected from the top teams. We believe that since

all the members on the team are returning, we can build on this year and advance as a team.

We were also able to improve in other ways besides the car. The team now has a running website which we hope to continually improve. We are also going to start giving updates of progress and announcements on the website; keep an eye on that if you would like to follow the team. The team was also able to get an email address through the school which gives us a more professional appearance compared to the previous gmail account. We will continue to monitor the gmail account as we transition to the new account.

We greatly appreciate your support for our program. We would not be where we are today if it were not for your help. We hope that you are excited about our recent successes and also about what the future holds. If you have any questions or would like to know more about a certain area of this newsletter, please send us an email.

Sincerely,

Crimson Racing Team

[uafsae@eng.ua.edu](mailto:uafsae@eng.ua.edu)

<http://fsae.eng.ua.edu/>