

FORMULA SIUE

Racing



Pictures taken in Detroit, clockwise starting from upper left 1) group picture: from left to right – Dr. Terry Yan (faculty advisor), Ben Schumacher, Dave Trojahn (team leader), Dave Corley, Paul Gibson (driver), Sean Gibney, Julie Bruemmer, Matt Bloemer, Chris Mohn, Rich Yuengel (alternate driver). 2) race car subjected to tilt test (60°), 3) acceleration test, 4) endurance test (22 km), 5) one the way to test track, 6) autocross test.

SIUE Formula SAE Racing Makes First Appearance a Creditable Finish

The inaugural year of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Formula SAE® team endured all the bumps and shocks of a first year team, placing 3rd among the 23 rookie teams. Overall standing in the competition was 93rd (out of 140 universities) in the Formula SAE competitions - the "World Series of Intercollegiate Engineering", in Detroit, May 16-20, 2006.

The Formula SAE® Series competitions, which is sponsored annually by the Society of Automobile Engineers, and the big three auto makers, challenge teams of university undergraduate and graduate students to conceive, design, fabricate and compete with scaled, formula style, autocross racing cars. The competitions give teams the chance to demonstrate and prove both their creation and their engineering skills in comparison to teams from other universities throughout the world. Over the course of three days, the cars are judged in a series of static and dynamic events including: technical inspection, cost, presentation, and engineering design, solo performance trials, and high performance track endurance. These events are scored to determine how well the car performs.

The SIUE Formula SAE team consists of more than 40 undergraduate students across the campus. They had high hopes going into the competition

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with a nicely designed racing car that is the product of thousands of hours of hard work from the team members over the past fourteen months. They did well in the static events. The hope of achieving a highly creditable finish of top 40 was dashed when the car overheated and a thimble of water spilled out during Endurance Race, automatically goose-egging 40% of the available points. The engine team leader mentioned that "eleven more laps and we would have beaten eight of the 2005 top ten teams – that would have been an amazing accomplishment."

Nevertheless, the team came home proud of their accomplishments. Thanks to their effort, and the generous financial support from local industries, department of mechanical engineering, and the office of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs of SIUE, the competition helped put SIUE's name on the map in the motor sports engineering arena among universities worldwide. Now that they have established a nice benchmark, SIUE should have high hopes towards next year's competition in Detroit, May 2007. Go Cougars!

If interested, check out the website at <http://webpages.charter.net/formulasiue/>