A MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

Dear Reader,

Penn State Racing has successfully competed in the Formula SAE Michigan event, concluding the 2018 race season. We placed 26th overall, our best result since the 2009 competition. More specifically, we placed 21st in Cost, 57th in Business, 48th in Design, 18th in Acceleration, 21st in Skid Pad, 23rd in Autocross, and 27th in Endurance. Despite inclement weather conditions, the car we worked so hard to develop all year performed admirably.

These results are especially impressive considering our car underwent a complete redesign. This redesign included the development of our first ever carbon-fiber monocoque chassis, which helped to reduce the weight of our car while increasing torsional rigidity. Our performances in the dynamic events have confirmed that the new chassis contributed to a more competitive vehicle. This year’s car may act as a platform upon which the 2019 team may improve. Since the monocoque’s molds may be reused, the time for chassis fabrication should decrease and allow more time for testing and validation.

This year’s competition was successful because of the extreme dedication of our members and the continued support of our generous sponsors. Firstly, this team began developing the 2018 vehicle only two weeks after the 2017 competition. We knew that the redesign would demand constant communication and many hours of 3D modeling, so we met weekly over the summer to discuss our progress. When the Fall semester arrived, we were ready to begin fabrication.

Throughout the manufacturing process, our corporate sponsors, university support, and alumni network contributed materials, resources, and expertise to aid the development of the vehicle. We want to thank all of you for your dedication to Penn State Racing. You are the reason we are able to participate in such an incredible design series that encourages teamwork and provides valuable design, manufacturing, and business experience. We have strived to represent you well throughout the year and are proud of the team members who may now join the professional workforce. We hope you continue to be a part of our team.

In this newsletter, we say goodbye to some of the members who will be graduating this semester. Also included are pictures from the 2018 FSAE Michigan event.

Thank You!
These members are receiving their hard-earned degrees from Penn State, also concluding their time as members or leaders of Penn State Racing. We wish them luck in their pursuits, and hope that the lessons that they’ve learned and the relationships they’ve created with Penn State Racing will last a lifetime.

Thank you, seniors!

Dylan Combs
Position(s): Team Captain, Chassis Lead
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Dylan contributed two years of hard work to Penn State Racing. His determination earned him the role of Team Captain, which he fulfilled with great leadership abilities. We wish Dylan all the best at Cummins Inc. where he will soon be working!

Jason Cornell
Position(s): Design Lead
Major: Mechanical Engineering

This year, Jason completely redesigned and fabricated our pedal tray. As Design Lead, he was also constantly updating and maintaining a full 3D model of our car. Besides that, Jason is a fun person to have around, and we wish him and his fiancé a happy wedding!
David Farish  
Position(s): Aerodynamics & Composites Lead  
Major: Aerospace Engineering  

David, a four year member of Penn State Racing, has made a positive impact on our team. He has helped to develop aerodynamic packages across several model years for our vehicle, and will surely be a valuable employee wherever he ends up. Until then, David will be pursuing a Master’s degree here at Penn State.

John Ominski  
Position(s): Manufacturing Lead  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  

In John’s second year on Penn State Racing, he has proven his worth as an engineer and as a leader. John’s work ethic and sense of humor were welcome additions to our team, and they will be sorely missed as John is now graduating. We wish him only the best in his future endeavors.

Ryan Henderson  
Position(s): Manufacturing/Suspension Lead  
Major: Industrial Engineering  

After holding two leadership positions, driving our vehicle, and attending four competitions, Ryan can be sure that his contributions to Penn State Racing will not soon be forgotten. Next year, Ryan will continue to grow his 3D printing business while pursuing a Master’s degree here at Penn State. Thank you for helping us to succeed.
THANK YOU!

In addition to our sponsors, we are thankful for the unending support of the following individuals:

Dr. Thomas Juska  
Applied Research Lab

Dr. Karen Thole  
Department Head, Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering

Admiral Paul Sullivan  
Executive Director, Applied Research Lab

Dr. Matthew Parkinson  
Learning Factory Director

Dr. Todd Palmer  
Applied Research Lab

Cindy Winkelblech  
Program Administrator

Becky Benson  
Administrative Support Assistant

Bill Genet  
Learning Factory Supervisor

Dr. Gary Gray  
FSAE Faculty Advisor

Rob McAllister  
Learning Factory Supervisor

We also thank all of the Penn State Formula SAE alumni that continue to provide us with invaluable guidance and assistance every year!

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Penn State Formula SAE would like to express our most sincere gratitude for the generous university and corporate partners who made our project possible—it would be impossible without your continued support. Thank you for your support!

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