



Office of Public Affairs
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News Release

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Cal Poly Pomona's Baja SAE Team Places First in International Competition Off-Road Vehicle Outperforms More than 100 Others

POMONA, Calif. — June 9, 2008 — Despite brutally challenging courses and a sheared drive shaft, Cal Poly Pomona's Baja SAE Team raced to a first place finish at the 2008 Baja SAE competition in Edwards, Illinois. About 115 teams from around the world built off-road vehicles for the competition, held May 29-June 1 at Caterpillar's Edwards Demonstration Center.

Formerly called the Mini-Baja, the Baja SAE challenges teams to design and build an off-road vehicle that must survive the severe punishment of rough terrain and sometimes even water.

"There were fallen trees, stumps, huge gullies and ruts, and lots of mud. This was the most challenging course I can remember in my 14 years as SAE faculty advisor, and the toll on the vehicles was brutal," said mechanical engineering professor Clifford Stover.

The Cal Poly Pomona team took the overall win thanks to consistently strong performances throughout the 3-day competition. They earned a second place finish in the all-day endurance race and second place in all combined dynamic events, which includes the Hill Climb, Rock Crawl, Maneuverability and Acceleration. Students were also judged on static events such as engineering design judging, marketing and sales presentation.

On the last day of competition, the Baja SAE team faced a major hurdle during the all-day endurance race. The team was leading the field when a mistake in a rocky section sheared the vehicle's left drive shaft at the weld, and was forced to be towed into the pits. Thanks to a tig welder from LeTourneau

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University in Texas, the Cal Poly Pomona team was back in the race in 15 minutes. By the race's end, Cal Poly Pomona was only 5 seconds from the first place endurance race vehicle.

"We are ecstatic with our performance," said Stover. "Our students' performance and professionalism is being commended not only SAE International, but all the corporate sponsors and competing universities alike. We are proud to be a top notch engineering school with exceptional students with excellent team skills."

The Baja SAE is one of the most exciting and popular events of the SAE Collegiate Design Series. It consists of three regional competitions that simulate real-world engineering design projects and related challenges.

In the coming weeks, the Formula SAE Racing Team will head off to compete in the SAE Formula West competition, June 25-28, at the California Speedway in Fontana. The competition will include events that test for endurance and acceleration, among others.

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ABOUT CAL POLY POMONA — Striking a balance between urban excitement and rural charm, Cal Poly Pomona is nestled in 1,438 rolling acres in the heart of sunny Southern California. With 3,000 faculty and staff to serve 21,500 students, Cal Poly Pomona's mission is to advance knowledge by linking theory and practice while preparing students for leadership and careers in a multicultural world. The university seeks to place learning at the center of every program, course, and activity on campus. Students can apply their knowledge through hands-on projects, collaborate with faculty members on research, and participate in valuable internships and service learning programs. Seven colleges (agriculture; letters, arts and social sciences; business administration; education; engineering; environmental design; and science) and one school (Collins School of Hospitality Management) offer 56 undergraduate and 23 graduate degrees, as well as 8 credential programs.