



Mississippi State University

**X-cited!**

### Special points of interest:

- Read about the great support we receive from our sponsors.
- See what each thrust is doing, article below.
- Our graduating seniors are featured in a special edition of Student in the Spotlight.
- As our spring semester ends, the newsletter will only be published on a monthly basis from May through August.

## Local Sponsors Show Support for Challenge X

You can't make something from nothing. That's why local sponsors are so important to the MSU Challenge X team, who rely on them for more than one kind of support.

Since the MSU team was formed, local sponsors have been stepping up to the plate to show that they are interested in sponsoring something that is not only beneficial for MSU, but also the community and state.

"The local sponsors have demonstrated that they are strong supporters of Mississippi State University's research programs," said Bob Kirkland, one of the staff advisors for the MSU Challenge X team. "More specifically, the support of the local sponsors in Challenge X shows that they are interested in attracting and developing the automotive in-

dustry within the state of Mississippi."

Kirkland said that this support shows that local sponsors are motivated to help the community and MSU to stimulate the economy.

"We appreciate their support of both financial and/or in-kind contributions, which helps the MSU Challenge X Competition Team be as effective and strong as it can," said Kirkland. It is also a great moral booster to the students of this team to know that the local businesses, corporations and community



Robert Elgan from Dynetics, Inc., visits with the Challenge X team.

are supporting them and the university in their challenging endeavor."

This support is indeed very important to the students, who know that the community is backing up their efforts.

"We appreciate our sponsors for providing funding to purchase what we need and for providing

**See Sponsors on page 2**

## Thrust Update Area: What are they working on?

### Vehicle Modeling and Controls

We helped prepare our final design for report 5. Currently working on presentation and posters for the competition.

*Thrust Leader: Kiran Solanki*

### Mechanical

We worked on report 5. We are now preparing for competition. Working on CFD. We are marking our new tool set with a specially designed logo.

*Thrust Leader: Brian Christian*

### Electrical

Helped prepare report 5. Preparing for competition. Taking over for Philip Conley, who is graduated this month is Ron Lewis. Ron is working toward a master's degree in software engineering.

*NEW! Thrust Leader: Ron Lewis*

### Powertrain

We worked on report 5. Summarized our engine and transmission selection process. Identified the possible plans for future improvements.

*Thrust Leader: Christopher Whitt*

### Outreach Program

Gave our last K-12 tour of CAVS.

We have now begun working on our third and final report for the year. This report will be due at our competition in June, so it's going to require a lot of work. We are also working on a presentation that will sum up everything that we have done this year. We'll present this at competition to be eligible for special outreach awards.

Next Tuesday we will be featured on 94.9 radio at 9 a.m. Please tune in as we discuss what's been going on with Challenge X.

*Thrust Leader: Justin Crapps*

### ***Sponsors, continued from page 1***

the support we need to remain motivated and synergized for success,” said Justin Crapps, Business Team Leader for Challenge X.

Local sponsors supporting the MSU Challenge X team are:

**Magneshocks, Inc.**  
**Vector CANtech, Inc.**  
**Amsouth Bank**  
**National Bank of Commerce**  
**Vetronix**  
**Keene Automotive Engineering**  
**96.1 Radio**  
**Ellis Steel**  
**Dynetics, Inc.**  
**Battery Sales and Service**  
**4-County Electric**  
**Millsaps Chevrolet**  
**Trojan Batteries**

## **Atta-Dawgs**

- Special thanks to **Christopher Whitt, David Oglesby, Brian Christian, Kiran Solanki, Terri Christian, David Gao, Philip Conley, Justin Crapps, and Kennabec Walp** for their hard work on Report 5.
- Thanks to **Kevin Sutherland and the aerodynamics group** for their work on the Equinox CFD simulation.

**Allen Edwards Body Shop**  
**Audio Advantage**  
**Northeast Mississippi Coca-Cola**  
**TVA**

If any companies or organizations are interested in becoming a sponsor of the MSU Challenge X Team, please contact Bob Kirkland at 662-325-1454 or by email: [Kirkland@CAVS.msstate.edu](mailto:Kirkland@CAVS.msstate.edu).

### **Upcoming Events**

June 5-9 Year One Competition, Detroit, MI

## **Students in the Spotlight**

*This column gives you a behind-the-scenes look at the students who are working on the Challenge X competition at MSU.*

This week's student in the spotlight section will cover several of those who are graduating and leaving Challenge X. We want to thank all our graduating and leaving members for their contribution to Challenge X. We wish them the best!

#### **Name: Mary-Hall Dale**

Hometown: Columbus, MS  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Experience with Challenge X: Making use of knowledge learned in class in a more practical way.  
Plans for after graduation: Pursue a career in energy efficiency, and maybe study renewable energy in graduate school

#### **Name: Tommy Thompson**

Hometown: Decatur, AL  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Experience with Challenge X: The most



*Tommy Thompson and Philip Conley graduated this May and will be moving for jobs.*

important thing I attained from being on the team was the inter-disciplinary teamwork and also learning the intricate details of hybrid vehicles.

Plans for after graduation: Has accepted a job with Exxon Mobil Offshore Development in Houston, TX.

#### **Name: John Horne**

Hometown: Grenada, MS  
Major: Computer Engineering

Experience with Challenge X: Real-world experience in a new field, and finally being able to understand torque!  
Plans for after graduation: Begins a job with the Department of Defense in July.

#### **Name: Philip Conley**

Hometown: Meadville, MS  
Major: Electrical Engineering  
Experience with Challenge X: Learning about innovative new technologies that are going to revolutionize society. Working in a team environment where different disciplines work together to attain a goal.  
Plans after graduation: Obtain employment in the industry and start a family.

#### **Also graduating are:**

**Alex Howard**  
**Joel Pastorek**  
**Kris King**  
**Justin Robertson**  
**Chris Rodgers**

***For newsletter suggestions or corrections, please contact Amanda McAlpin at [amcalpin@cavs.msstate.edu](mailto:amcalpin@cavs.msstate.edu).***