

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

OFF-ROAD ILLINI

JANUARY 2025



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COMPETITION



COMPETITION



During early September, the Off-Road Illini trekked out to Mt. Holly Ski and Snowboard Resort in Holly, Michigan. Competition was a great payoff for all of our hard work from the last year on Lainey. We saw significant improvements in our acceleration and static event results compared to our previous competition in Pennsylvania. However, we encountered multiple setbacks ranging from issues during hill climb to another car crashing into us in the endurance event. Despite these setbacks, we managed to place 34th overall in the competition out of 85 other teams from various universities. From our design presentations and event results, we walked away from competition with experience on how to improve our next car, Dallas. We plan to adjust the seat design for better comfort and ergonomics during the endurance test, and to align with new requirements. We also plan to increase the size of our rod ends to prevent shearing. We look forward to our next competition in Arizona in May!

TOP RESULTS

BUSINESS - 10TH | COST - 12TH | DESIGN - 11TH

DRIVE DAY



DRIVE DAY



During early October, we took around 60 members to drive our cars for a day and bond together by spending a night camping in the wilderness. The first day, the Off-Road Illini fueled up for the weekend ahead by enjoying pizza as a team together. We then set up camp at South Fork Dirt Riders in Taylorville, Illinois, and had some fun side activities such as a walk through the forest and riding an old army truck! The next morning, we had five Baja vehicles all at once, allowing new and old members to get a chance behind the wheel. Afterwards, we officially gave our 2023 car, Redd, to an alumni. Drive Day is an important tradition for our members to get to know each other outside the classroom and the shop. We'd also like to thank all the alumni who stopped by for making the weekend even more special!

DESIGN



The team recently presented design updates in their yearly Fall Design Review. They received feedback from alumni after a detailed report on changes made for the new vehicle. The report covered every component of the vehicle with thorough justifications of any changes that were made. After the designers from the drivetrain, suspension, and chassis subteams, and the senior designers went through their slides, the team opened the floor to questions from alumni. We are looking forward to incorporating the feedback we received to build a winning car! Thank you to all of the alumni that helped us out!

We would love to answer any other questions and hear from you!

Email: offroadillini@gmail.com

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MARILYN LE

HEY Y'ALL! I'M A SOPHOMORE MAJORING IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, MINORING IN ARCHITECTURE. I'M CURRENTLY ON THE CHASSIS SUBTEAM, SPECIFICALLY WORKING WITH THE BODY PANEL AND FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS (FEA) OF THE CAR. I REALLY ENJOY BAJA AS IT'S A WAY TO GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH LARGELY MECHANICAL PARTS, WHILE ALSO LEARNING ABOUT THE AUTOMOTOIVE INDUSTRY, INCLUDING ITS STANDARDS AND PROCESSES.



WHY BAJA?

WHILE I WAS DECIDING WHICH COLLEGE TO ATTEND, I TOOK A TOUR OF UIUC, IN WHICH I WAS SHOWN THE BAJA CAR IN THE BASEMENT OF THE MECHANICAL ENGINEERING BUILDING, AND I THOUGHT IT WAS SUPER COOL! AFTER THAT, I KNEW THAT IF I WENT HERE, I WOULD DEFINITELY NEED TO JOIN BAJA.



FAVORITE BAJA EVENT SO FAR?

I THINK MY FAVORITE EVENT SO FAR HAS TO BE DRIVE-DAY. YOU REALLY GET TO INTERACT WITH YOUR PEERS AND EXEC IN A NON-PROFESSIONAL SETTING AND CREATE COLLEGE MEMORIES. I MEAN C'MON, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE CAMPING OUT WITH YOUR FRIENDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WOODS WITH DANGEROUS OFF-ROADING VEHICLES AT YOUR DISPOSAL...