

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

# OFF-ROAD ILLINI

SUMMER 2024



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## COMPETITION REFLECTION

We had a great 2023-2024 season! We participated in two competitions from last September to this May: Baja SAE Ohio and Baja SAE Williamsport, and we will be competing at Baja SAE Michigan this September. Our new car, Lainey, performed well at Williamsport thanks to many new changes including increased ground clearance and optimized rear packaging. Lainey also has a new brake system and master cylinders, along with thinner tie rods and toe links. These improvements have contributed to a better design for manufacturability with better overall clearances. Although the car is very capable, it did encounter some issues at competition.

This included the CVT not engaging properly, which hampered our performance in the acceleration event, along with our front suspension in endurance. We also had to make some on-the-fly changes, such as re-welding the front hitch during tech and hammering back our steering rack after it bent. Nevertheless, Lainey did a great job, and we are ready to compete once again at Michigan!

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Business Events:

- 12th - Business Presentation
- 17th - Design
- 18th - Cost Event

### Baja Ohio 2023:

- 23rd/79 - Overall
- 13th - Pilot Pull
- 16th - Acceleration

### Baja Williamsport 2024:

- 26th/107 - Overall
- 27th - Hill Climb
- 30th - Manueverability



**NEW LEADERSHIP**

Team Captains



Chief Engineer:  
Madison Garcia ('25)



Captain:  
Clayton Kessler ('25)



President:  
Meg Otto ('25)

Subteam Leads



Chassis:  
Helen Chang ('26)



Suspension:  
Ryan Kuczynski ('26)



Drivetrain:  
Rohit Choudhary ('26)



Electronics/Testing:  
Rahul Pillai ('25)

## Manufacturing



Co-Machining Lead:  
Sohum Sapra ('26)



Co-Machining Lead:  
Jessica Mathew ('25)



Waterjet Lead:  
Benjamin Connolly ('26)

## Senior Designers



Senior Designer:  
Kaitlyn Uhlman ('25):



Senior Designer:  
Nikhil Gorur ('25):

## Public Relations



Treasurer:  
Teegan Damrow ('26)



Outreach :  
Patrick Cabrera ('27)



Business:  
Rohit Harish ('27)

## GRADUATED MEMBERS

Congratulations to all of the team's seniors who graduated this past spring. We are sad to see you leave but are so excited for what you will be doing after graduation. Good luck to all of our recent alums on your future endeavors!

Thank you to all of the seniors who served on the leadership team during the 2023-2024 school year:

- Mike Ciss
- Josh West
- Juan Reynoso
- Greta Heinz
- Adam Zuiker
- Rajan Nandan



## LOOKING FORWARD

In the next few months, our team is getting ready to start building our new car Dallas! We hope to accomplish many goals including having an acceleration time of less than 4.3 seconds, staying on track for over 75% of endurance, and keeping our CVT temperature under 200 degrees Fahrenheit. We are also looking to increase our emphasis on testing, validation, and training so everyone can get involved! We have many fun events to look forward to in the fall, including Drive Day, Tech Talks, and Workshops!



# SPECIAL THANK YOU

Our team is incredibly lucky to have so many great sponsors from many different companies and organizations. Everything we do is made possible by them. We appreciate and thank them for their continued support!

## Platinum Partnerships



## Gold Partnerships



## Silver Partnerships



## Bronze Partnerships



## Special Thanks/Alumni Donations

- Danielle Helms
- O'Brien Certified Heat Treating
- Kamden Damrow
- Esmee Vernooij
- Daniel Deimel