

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

OFF-ROAD ILLINI

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WINTER MANUFACTURING

This January, 20 team members traveled to Urbana-Champaign two weeks before school started to push forward the manufacturing of this year's car, Dallas. Every winter, the leadership team as well as some of our most dedicated general members work on the car before spring semester, and these weeks of work are referred to as "Winter Manufacturing."

Over the course of Winter Manufacturing, the team completed most of the frame, profiled numerous parts, and weld-prepped many tubes. We also tackled a significant portion of the machining and water-jetting required. The work was split into two teams, ensuring steady progress on critical components.



WINTER MANUFACTURING



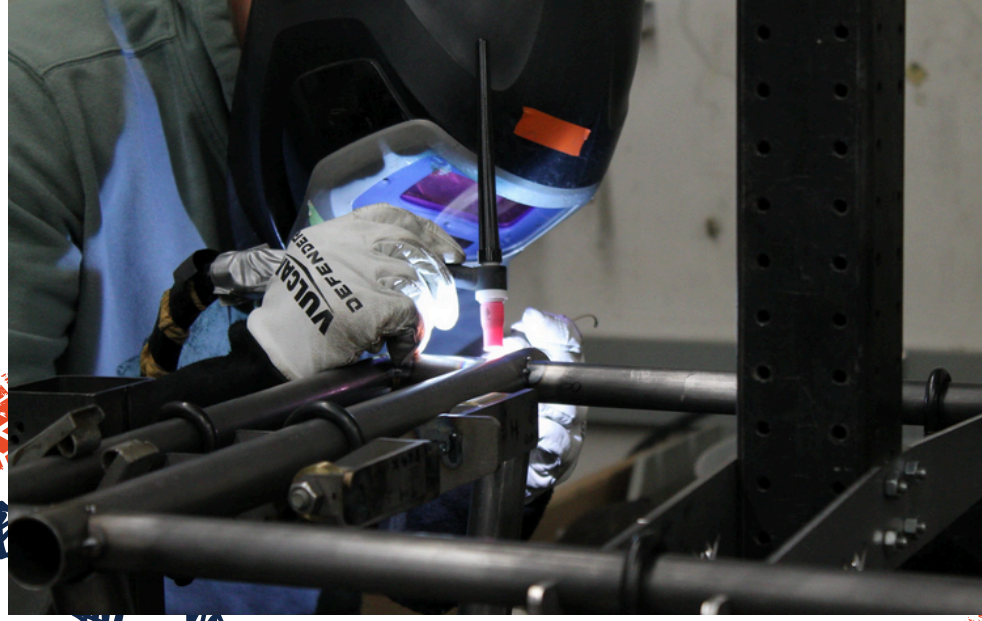
Key accomplishments included setting up and assembling the firewall jig, followed by welding and normalizing the firewall components. The team also dedicated time to setting up the full frame and tab jig, a process that took about two days and required extensive welding of jig components, frame sections, and tabs. Additional work focused on welding STAs, tie rods, and toe links, along with machining bungs and profiling engine mounting.

During the second week, efforts continued with a strong focus on frame welding, machining, and profiling engine mounts, tabs, and other structural components. By the end of winter break, the majority of the frame and tabs were completed, including mounts for the differential, engine, and gearbox.

Thanks to the progress made during Winter Manufacturing,

Dallas is well on schedule for completion!

PICTURES!



SPRING UPDATES

Thanks to Meg's dedication and hard work in welding, most of our frame is now complete! Recently, we reached a major milestone by meeting our rolling car deadline for Dallas. While not visible in this image, our steering is roughly set up, and we are currently working on attaching the toe links and finalizing the steering system. With additional manufacturing parts expected soon, we're excited to get Dallas up and driving in the near future!



NEW LEADERSHIP

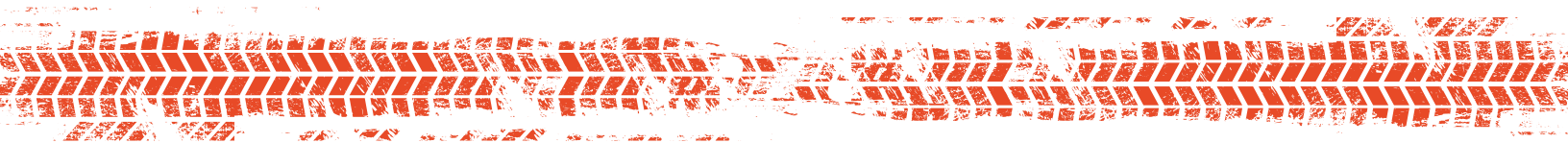
Three members of our leadership team embarked on exciting opportunities, including co-ops and study abroad programs. Their positions were filled for this semester by the wonderful team members pictured below!



Emily "Joey" Shunk | Business Lead



Matthew Wojcik and Andrew Wong | Co-Outreach Directors



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

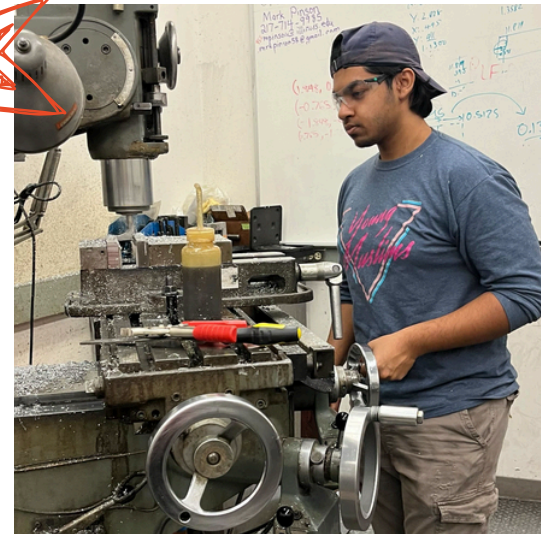
Meet Afzal “Mo” Khan

Originally from Peoria, IL, Mo is a freshman majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Pre-Med. He is actively involved in Suspension, CVT Testing, and Suspension Tuning in Baja. Mo was a star participant in our winter manufacturing, pictured on the right. He first became interested in engineering after joining the FTC Robotics Team (FIRST Tech Challenge), and was a founding member of team 14469 at his high school, which has won numerous awards and honors since then.



Why Baja?

Mo says, “I absolutely love the people here. It feels like I can go to whomever and they're almost always willing to talk. They're always available and eager to teach you if you don't know something. One of my favorite memories is drive day from last semester. I loved getting to drive the car, camp with my friends, and explore the track at night.”



Future Aspirations

He is interested in bioengineering and medical research for a future career, and is exploring the intersection of engineering and medicine. For now, as a freshman, he emphasizes that he is following what makes him happy, and put his whole heart to it. He is also currently a part of the Mobility and Fall Prevention Research Lab on campus.