

You Haven't Seen Anything Yet

Jeff Baxter, student team captain for the Electric Blue-EV1 Racing team in the Engineering Department at BYU, is building world-record-breaking electrically powered cars—and racing them.

“0 to 60 in less than 8 seconds,” brags Baxter. “And the byproduct is we don’t produce any emissions. The only thing that smokes are the tires.”

Baxter plans to pursue a graduate degree in Business with an emphasis in advanced project leadership. So far his team has published a paper for the Society of Automotive Engineers, the largest automotive peer organization in the world. Another paper was published for the Electrical Coil-Winding and Manufacturing Association, and yet another went to an on-line automotive journal.

“That’s really going to help in graduate school,” says Baxter.

Professor Tom Ereksen, head of the Department of Technology at BYU, and his mentoring partner, Perry Carter, Professor of Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, strive to streamline the direction of this project while also allowing the students to sharpen their skills—a double feat not often duplicated because of the time and dedication needed to do both.

Ereksen has worked hard to keep the team afloat by finding support from various generous organizations. General Motors, Maxwell

Technologies of San Diego, Optima Batteries, the Ira Fulton School of Technology, and several charitable individuals have all donated cash, kind, or major product discounts to this team in the past.

The EV1 racing team broke their own world record on June 11th at the Mason Dixon Dragway in Maryland. They reached one quarter mile in 14.08 seconds—a 1.8 second shave from their race two years earlier.

Anyone Can Join!

Baxter’s EV1 Racing team is made up of 22 undergrads whose majors range from Anthropology to Graphic Design. These students dedicate their time to learning how to crunch numbers, implement research, and utilize their hidden talents.



Getting ready to break their own land speed record, the EV1 racing team prepares for a quarter-mile race at the salt flats in 2003.

Rachel Pulluck, from the school of Anthropology, never thought she would be the one to design the strap system used to take the heavy capacitor packs in and out of the vehicles.

Sophomore Taylor Newill, polite and reserved co-captain of the EV1 team, has discovered a talent in leadership. “I’ve seen in working for the team that I have skills in managing, and I don’t think I recognized that at the beginning.”

“We feel like Professor Erekson is a friend more than a professor. Whatever you can do to get a grant, do it. What you’re learning is not just in a book.”

~ Jeff Baxter, team captain

Newill plans to go to law school in the future, but he says for now, “Professor Carter definitely sees me in Manufacturing Engineering,” no bias, of course.

Only recently has ORCA been able to help fund this team, and those funds come directly from eager people in the community—people who see that students’ lives are changing because of them.

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