Project Director: Zach Noel

This month, Team PrISUm became the first team registered for the 2015 Formula Sun Grand Prix! The race crew is now more or less chosen, and training and driver selection are now in progress. Work continues to prepare Phaeton for the competition, with continuing mechanical improvements and electrical revisions going in mid March. Additionally, the team is now planning a road testing event to help iron out any remaining issues during ISU’s upcoming spring break. While work continues to improve Phaeton, the team is looking towards the future car as well. Elections will be held at our March general meeting, selecting the future leaders that will see the team through much of the impending manufacturing phase. As a senior team member, I remain pleased with the progress that the team has made, and have full confidence that the impressive drive and determination of our new members will continue to grow in the design phase. This month, we've decided to start a section focusing in on some of the newer team members that have contributed spectacularly to the team, so check it out! Keep looking for more info on our social media pages and next month’s Sundial!

Mechanical Director: Matt Goode

Foam is on the way! As the aero team closes in on a finalized design, the materials and manufacturing team preps the shop for mold teardown. Members of the dynamics team have finalized the front suspension and are now working on the rear geometry. Due to P13 being a four wheeled design, new rear suspension geometry and motor attachments have to be designed and tested. Additionally, the dynamics team has been investigating the concept of a 16 inch wheel. Initial benefits of this larger rim will be a wider selection including treaded tires, an option we currently do not have. The addition of a treaded tire in our arsenal enables Team PrISUm to enter the World Solar Challenge, a distant goal the team is striving towards. In conclusion, P13’s design is materializing and within the next month we shall see the first steps of production.

Electrical Director: Joe Ternus

The electrical team has just finished redesigning four different boards to put in Phaeton. These revisions fix the little problems we have been having, and make the boards smaller, cheaper to build, and more robust. We should be ordering and building the new boards over the next month.

Business Director: David Battel

The business team is continuing to work hard in its fundraising efforts. We now have some more members on the business team, so we are very excited to have them! There are a few outreach events coming up that we will be participating in as a team like the State Science + Technology Fair of Iowa here in Ames. Of course, we are very appreciative of everyone who has supported the team already, so I just want to end by saying thank you very much to all of our sponsors!
Team Member Spotlight

Mechanical Member of the Month:
Lionello Bardina
Joined Team: Fall 2014
“I joined the team sometime around September of 2014 as a member of the Aerodynamics group. I came to PrISUm because I was looking for the opportunity to not merely be involved with a cutting edge project, but feel that I was and integral part of one.”
What have you been up to?
“I’ve been put in charge of the aerodynamics group for the design of the upcoming new car.”
What have you learned from the team?
“This position has allowed me to learn concepts about computational fluid dynamics, design, and leadership, among others, which I would otherwise not have discovered for years.”

Electrical Member of the Month:
Nathan Coonrod
Joined Team: Fall 2014
“I joined the team because I was intrigued by the fact that undergraduate students were able to design and build a car that is not only powered by the sun, but is one of the most competitive teams in the U.S.”
What have you been up to?
“I’ve been able to have my hand in a wide range of electrical projects on the team, including the design of electrical systems that will be present in the car on our race this summer and troubleshooting problems in our current electrical system.”
What interests or excites you about the team?
“My favorite part about our team is that we’re extremely open to new ideas. Rather than have a “it works don’t touch it” attitude, our team encourages members to try new ideas and try and improve our systems which opens the door for people to find an area they’re interested in and make sure our car is the very best at it without any red tape.
What have you learned from the team?
I’ve gained countless indispensable skills which in many cases teach me more than what my classes possibly could. I get access to industry standard software and know how to use it efficiently which is provided to our team exclusively through sponsorships.”
Sponsorship Recognition

Platinum: $10,000+
- Autodesk

Gold: $5,000-9,999
- Alcoa
- CIPCO
- Sinned Customs
- Walmart
- Doug and Linda Truckenmiller

Cardinal: $2,500-$4,999
- Alliant Energy
- City of Ames Electric
- Evan Stumpges
- Joe and LuAnn Meyer

Benefactor: $1,000-$2,499
- Altec
- Curt
- Jane and Donald Brownlee

Sustainer: $500-$999
- Advanced Circuits
- SRA
- Evan and Julie Hupp
- Dwelle Family Foundation

Adopter
- Wells Fargo
- Joe Dunn
- Sauer Danfoss
- Dale Reid
- eRubbermaid
- Eric Weflen
Adopt-a-Program

Adopt-a-Cell
By donating $30, you can adopt a solar cell! There will be nearly 400 solar cells on the car, and this is an inexpensive way to become part of our team. When you adopt a cell, we send you a free team shirt and a certificate which includes the identification of your cell or cells.

Adopt-a-Tire
For a $100 donation, you can adopt a tire! Many tires are used over the lifetime of a car. When you adopt a tire, you will receive a certificate and two free team shirts.

Adopt-a-Battery
By contributing $250, you can help us purchase a module in our battery pack. We will have over 200 lithium ion batteries in our car, which are grouped into modules. For adopting a battery, you will receive a certificate and your choice of two free polo shirts or four free team shirts.

Many companies match employee donations to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations like Team PrISUm. Please check with your employer. As a team PrISUm supporter, your name will be listed on our website and in our Sundial!

To join our Adopt-a-Program, please email business@prisum.org with your chosen donation amount and shirt size(s).