A new semester brings with it a few changes to the leadership of Team PrISUm. Co-ops by Danny Goldman and Nathan Coonrod left openings at the positions of Mechanical Director and Assistant Electrical Director, respectively. Ben Pieper, a Junior in Computer Engineering, has been named the new Assistant Electrical Director while Jeremy Rurup, the previous Assistant Mechanical Director, has been promoted to Mechanical Director. Sean Collins, a Sophomore in Aerospace Engineering, was named the new Assistant Mechanical Director. The team has also appointed a permanent Business Director, Ryan Perera. Ryan in a Sophomore in Aerospace Engineering.

Jeremy Rurup  Ben Pieper  Sean Collins  Ryan Perera
Outreach

The office, shop, and car have been busy this month with a plethora of people touring our facilities. Tour groups included participants in the First Lego League Championship, Senior Vice President & Provost Jonathan Wikert, and students from Club Fest. The team also traveled to the Quad Cities to participate in Bald Eagle Days. Members of the First Lego League Championship had a blast playing with samples of carbon fiber sandwich board, and one young boy even attempted cracking the board over his head. Our R&D team was glad to hear the sandwich board survived the destructive analysis! Parents touring with their children showed great interest in the project and expressed desire in having the team visit their schools and places of business.

In an exciting turn of events, the team will be conducting SunRun 2016! Usually a biennial event (occurring on odd numbered years), the SunRun is a 1000+ mile tour across the state of Iowa in which we drive the solar car to schools, sponsors, and other interested parties to perform community outreach and education. It’s a great opportunity to learn about the team, sustainability, sponsorship opportunities, and inspire young minds. If you are interested in participating in SunRun 2016, please send an email to Vanessa Wolf at vjwolf@iastate.edu.
American Solar Challenge 2016

The 2016 American Solar Challenge race route has been announced! The National Park Service will be celebrating its centennial by hosting a race from Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Brecksville, Ohio to Wind Cave National Park in Hot Springs, South Dakota. In total, 9 national parks will serve as stage stops or checkpoints for the 1800+ mile race that traverses 7 different states.

As is customary, the Formula Sun Grand Prix will serve as a qualifying track race prior to ASC. Pittsburgh International Race Complex will play host to the event that Team PrISUm won in 2015.

More details regarding the races can be found on American Solar Challenge’s website.

Be sure to mark it on your calendar and check us out at ASC 2016!

Mitsuba Motor

Last month, PrISUm closed a deal with Mitsuba Motors (headquartered in Hirosawa-cho, Japan) and purchased a new motor! The team decided to purchase a Mitsuba M2096-III, which is the same motor used by Nuon’s Nuna8, Kogakuin’s Owl, and Tokai’s Challenger, among others. Team member Yosuke Yajima, an international student from Japan, was able to communicate with Mitsuba and ensure that this motor is best suited for our application. The team plans to race this motor in the 2016 American Solar Challenge this summer and then use it in P14 and many years thereafter.

Naming P14

The team has begun taking suggestions for name of P14, which is the cruiser class vehicle we intend to race in the 2017 World Solar Challenge. If you would like to suggest a name, please submit your response through the form found in the announcement section of our website.
Preparing for WSC17

One of the major goals of the team is to participate in the 2017 World Solar Challenge. The event, which is held in Australia, presents a number of new logistical challenges for the team. Australia’s import/export laws place special restrictions on the shipment of a car, batteries, and other team equipment into and out of the country.

Over winter break, the team paid a trip to St. Paul, Minnesota to talk with the University of Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project. They have experience competing in the World Solar Challenge and were able to offer advice specific to handling logistics such as food, lodging, and travel while in Australia.

On January 22, 2016, Ewan Shortess and Matt Goode traveled to Vermeer corporate headquarters in Pella, Iowa to discuss the logistical challenge of shipping a vehicle halfway around the world. For more than six decades, Vermeer has been making an impact by providing agricultural and industrial equipment that is built tough, built to perform, built for value, and shipped throughout the world. Vermeer has dealer locations throughout the world, with 4 of these dealers located in the Australian cities of Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane. Adelaide, as you may recall, is the finish line for the World Solar Challenge! With this in mind, Ewan, Matt, and the Vermeer team discussed how to best ship a race crew and car to Australia. After an hour and a half, a huge amount of knowledge was transferred.

The insight from Vermeer and UMNSVP has allowed the team to create a packing list and begin filling out the necessary paperwork to arrive and compete in Australia in the most cost efficient way possible. We would like to thank the Vermeer employees and UMNSVP members for their time and look forward to the future partnership between our organizations.
Thanks to our Sponsors!

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