

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

# OFF-ROAD ILLINI

FALL 2023



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## COMPETITION REFLECTION

We had a great 2022-2023 season! We participated in three competitions from May - September: Baja SAE Oshkosh, Oregon, and Ohio. Our car, Redd, has now settled nicely into its four-wheel drive design with a bigger frame to fit a new engine from Kohler.

The rear driveshafts were changed from a loaded U-joint driveshaft to a CV axle for improved reliability. More tuning and testing was also completed to further improve our custom CVT. Redd performed exceptionally, but had a few weaknesses like tie rods being bent by the driveshafts in Ohio. In Oregon, we put on a mesh CVT case to remedy an improperly cooling CVT, but it was then jammed by mud. We also had some impromptu fixes, such as turning on 4WD to pass brake check and bolting on a malfunctioning floor pan in Oshkosh. Nonetheless, Redd did great this past year, and we hope to continue our streak of success!

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **Business Events:**

- 4th - Design
- 5th - Sales Presentation
- 11th - Cost Event

### **Baja Oshkosh 2023:**

- 13th/78 - Overall
- 7th - Sled Pull
- 19th - Endurance

### **Baja Oregon 2023:**

- 17th/86 - Overall
- 8th - Rock Crawl
- 12th - Maneuverability

### **Baja Ohio 2023:**

- 23rd/79 - Overall
- 16th - Acceleration



## NEW LEADERSHIP

### Team Captains



Chief Engineer:  
Greta Heinz ('24)



Captain:  
Mike Ciss ('24)



President:  
Josh West ('24)

### Subteam Leads



Chassis:  
Kaitlyn Uhlman ('25)



Suspension:  
Madison Garcia ('25)



Drivetrain:  
Tej Parmar ('25)



Electronics/Testing:  
Rahul Pillai ('25)

## Manufacturing



Waterjet Lead: Juan  
Reynoso ('24):



Machining Lead:  
Nikhil Gorur ('25):

## Designers



Senior Designer:  
Rajan Nandan ('24):



Vehicle Dynamics Lead:  
Adam Zuiker ('24):

## Public Relations



Treasurer:  
Meg Otto ('25)



Outreach Director:  
Ryan Kuczynski ('26)



Business:  
Anthony Smykalov ('26)

## 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 2022-2023 school year:

- Kamden Damrow
- Madison Yang
- Max Johnson
- Alex Uken
- Lexi Larson
- Matthew Lim
- Jensen Blum
- Joanna Silva
- Dylan Stow



## LOOKING FORWARD

In the next few months, our team is getting ready to start building our new car, Lainey! Named after Lanesville Road, where our trailer broke down, and Lainey Wilson, we hope to accomplish many goals through her including raising our ground clearance by 2". We are also looking to maximize team efficiency and teach the next generations of Bajooligans this year. We have many fun things to look forward to this semester, 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!