



Pittsburg State University • Fall 2003 Edition

## TeamUSA Wins "Automotive Service" Silver Medal in World Skills Competition

Rusty Brown, an Automotive Technology senior at Pittsburg State University won the silver medal at the World Skills Competition held last June in St. Gallen, Switzerland. Rusty was one of eight TeamUSA members who competed in this biennial competition. Ireland won the Gold Medal and Italy won the Bronze. TeamUSA also won the bronze medal in welding. Twenty-two countries competed in the 2003 automotive competition.

Rusty's silver medal also earned him the Gold Medal for his "Best in Nation" performance. This was a follow-up to TeamUSA winning the automotive silver medal in Seoul, Korea, in 2001. Second place in 2001 was the first medal ever won in world automotive service competition by the United States. The win in 2003 made the United States the first country to win consecutive medals in the automotive service competition.

The contest was held June 19-22. Team USA arrived in Switzerland on June 15<sup>th</sup> and departed on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

In a recent interview Rusty stated: "The contest was four days long consisting of seven work stations which were each three and a half hours long. We completed two work stations a day with one on the final day." The seven stations were:

- Mercedes C230 Kompressor (brakes)
- Ford IB5 (manual transmission)
- Toyota Yaris (engine performance)
- Peugeot 307SW (diesel engine performance)
- Hyundai Getz (steering, suspension, alignment)
- Opel Signum (engine mechanical)

Rusty stated that the World Skills Competition was by far the hardest contest in which he had ever participated. He acknowledged that was as it should have been since he was facing the world's best.

Growing up as a young man in Texas, Rusty had a high interest in cars. He also knew he had a mechanical aptitude and was good with his hands. He capitalized on this as an automotive student by being a member of SkillsUSA-VICA at Lamar High School, in Paris, Texas. In 2000 he won the Texas competition and moved on to the national SkillsUSA-VICA Championships in Kansas City. He won the Gold Medal there! He complemented this honor with another national gold medal (2001), and a silver national medal (2002), in the post-secondary competition as a Toyota T-TEN student at Pittsburg State University.

"My experience in Switzerland was great for the most part. We did run into some resistance from other countries, but that was expected." (One of his teammates was a student from France.) Rusty added: "I enjoyed it very much, especially the pride I felt when all the other competitors referred to me as '**The American**' at the contest site."

Mentor/coach Ron Downing stated: "I was probably most surprised at the level of competition. These guys are the best in their country; they're so talented for being so young (23 is the maximum age at the time of the contest). It's amazing, really!"

Rusty earned an Associate of Applied Science degree from Pittsburg State University in 2002. He and his wife, Sarah (his high school sweetheart), are both presently working on bachelor degrees at the University. They are the proud parents of two little girls.

Rusty will graduate in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in Technology. Rusty's career goal is to get an automotive technical or service engineering position with a large automotive corporation when he graduates. He probably won't have any trouble in achieving this goal.



Rusty Brown, TeamUSA member and a senior automotive student at Pittsburg State University is shown with his "Silver Medal" on the awards stand in St. Gallen, Switzerland

## **SAE Mini Baja News**

The PSU Mini Baja program is in full swing again this year. There are approximately 15 students who wish to participate in the building adventure. They are currently in the fundraising mode, which will determine the direction they will go. The group would like to raise approximately \$15,000. This would allow them to complete last year's vehicle and build an additional one. It is hoped that successful fundraising will make it possible to participate in both the West event in Oregon (April), and the Midwest event (June) in Wisconsin.

Team enthusiasm is high. Several new freshman are interested in getting their hands dirty and learning all about playing in the dirt with the small racing vehicles.

Pitt State faculty and students are also planning on working with another team from our Korean sister school again this year. The Korean Mini Baja program at PSU has been a great success the past two years. It has been a neat experience for students from both countries.

The SAE Baja team will be depending on help from our alumni to achieve the goals for 2004. We appreciate all alumni, friends and industry support. We are committed to make PSU friends and Gorilla alumni proud of our success at these events.

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## **Biennial Detroit industry/museum tour just completed**

On Saturday, October 25, Dr. Roger E. Adams and diesel instructor Robert Schroer, plus 26 students, boarded a charter bus for the biennial trip to Detroit. Activities on Sunday included the Henry Ford Estate, the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. On Monday the students enjoyed Ford Motor Company tours arranged by Ford manager and Pitt State graduate Rob Kobel (80), Jamie Powell (01) and other members of his "Technical Hotline" staff. The tours included a tour through the various departments in the "hotline" facility, product development areas and other points of interest. Tuesday was spent at Detroit Diesel with a presentation on business operation, failure analysis and a tour of the manufacturing facilities. Scott Synoground (96) arranged the activities at Detroit Diesel.

## **AOD (Automotive Orientation Day) scheduled for Thursday, March 11**

About 80 automotive business and industry professionals will be invited to visit with over 200 Automotive Technology students during our annual "Automotive Orientation Day" on March 11.

## **Diesel & Heavy Equipment (DHE) News**

The diesel and heavy equipment emphasis is continuing to grow. We are in the third year of the new DHE emphasis. Last semester Adjunct Professor Bob Schroer was busy teaching students the latest technology in diesel engines. Instructor Schroer has an excellent background of experience as a heavy truck technician.

Students had the opportunity to be challenged to diagnose and repair bugged engines, utilizing OEM service tools and DVOMs. Students also gained hands on experience in diesel engine repair while disassembling and assembling the engines. Bob is presently teaching an "On Highway" truck class. Students are also getting hands-on experience in the "Off Highway" laboratory.

The DHE program is looking to the future. We are investigating the possibilities of relocating the DHE laboratory to a new and larger facility. Our high-level national affiliations with several heavy equipment companies make this an exciting time! Stay tuned for more news in the future.

## **Instructor & seven students attend John Deere dealership management conference**

Professor Tim Dell, Graduate Assistant Chauncey Pennington and six PSU students will have the opportunity to attend the annual John Deere Dealership Management Conference. This year's conference will be held in Lincoln, NE, on December 3-5. Guest speakers will present information relating to Managing John Deere dealerships. Students will have the opportunity to attend classes in Milford, NE, taught by John Deere Pro-Tech instructors. Students will also visit John Deere dealerships and the nationally recognized Nebraska Ag Tractor Test Center.

Students attending will be: Justin Allman (hometown Bedford, IA), Ethan Forsberg (Valley Falls), Andy Grove (Hiawatha), Colin Holthaus (Topeka), Kelly Jones (Seneca), Chris Matheis (Dubois, IN), Chauncey Pennington (Louisburg).

### **TeamUSA Mentor Wins Back-to-Back World Medals**

Ron Downing, TeamUSA mentor in the 2003 World Skills Competition, has coached consecutive contestants to silver medal finishes in automotive service competition. It is believed to be the first time a country has earned two consecutive medals in this competition.

Professor Downing was first involved with the World Skills Competition when he was selected by SkillsUSA-VICA in 2001 to mentor the TeamUSA automotive service contestant for competition in Seoul, Korea. He and TeamUSA colleagues were in Seoul during the very difficult time of the 9-11 disaster.

Professor Downing and national SkillsUSA-VICA winner Josh Boschee trained together prior to the competition in September 2001. Josh had previously won the national competition while a student at North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, North Dakota. They traveled throughout the country receiving training support from numerous automotive companies in the U.S. In 2003, Downing repeated the arduous schedule, training the 2003 World Skills Competition contestant, Rusty Brown. (See related article.)

Ron Downing is currently an instructor in the AAS Automotive Service program at Pittsburg State University. During the past 30 years he has enjoyed mentoring an almost unbelievable number of state and national winners.

Ron started his automotive service training career at Lamar High School in southwest Missouri in 1972. Three years later he mentored his first student to a state title in SkillsUSA-VICA competition. From 75 to 1996, his students won 20 state championships, and 9 national medals. In the fall of 1996, Downing accepted a teaching position at Pittsburg State University. At Pitt State Downing mentored students to 6 state championships, and 6 national medals in post-secondary competition: Three gold and three silver. A summary of Downing's international automotive skill competition success includes:

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Brian Henegar—4th Place, 1991, Amsterdam, Holland, High School Mentor  
Kevin Heneger— 5th Place, 1995, Lyon, France, High School Mentor  
Tim Dearing—6th Place, 1999, Montreal, Canada, College Mentor  
Joshua Boschee-Silver Medal, 2001, Seoul, Korea, Team USA Mentor  
Rusty Brown-Silver Medal, 2003, St. Gallen, Switzerland, College and TeamUSA Mentor

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Mr. Downing has also mentored students to great success in Chrysler and Ford/AAA sponsored competition. His students won 10 straight titles and 2 national championships in that competition.

In late 2002 Downing, and his colleagues at Pittsburg State, decided that the University would cease competing in the Kansas Skill Championship competition. Ron made the very difficult decision to devote his skill to working to maintain excellence in the state and national contests. In addition he agreed to mentor students in the World Skills Competition. He is looking forward to the 2005 competition in Helsinki, Finland.

Three world medals in a row would be great. Good luck Ron! U.S.A. Automotive Service Training professionals - industry, business, and education- are wishing you and your protege well. Thanks for serving!

- by Ken Gordon, Automotive Technology Coordinator



Rusty Brown, left, is shown with his silver medal at ceremonies in St. Gallen, Switzerland. At the right is his Mentor Ron Downing, holding the "Best in Nation" Award indicating Rusty's silver medal being the highest award by a TeamUSA member.

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## Scott Ferguson, Cummins, Inc., leads automotive technology advisory committee—meets November 18

A special “thanks” is expressed to Scott Ferguson (98), Cummins, Inc., who is serving as chair of the Automotive Technology Advisory Committee during 2003. Scott is a 1998 graduate of the Automotive Technology program. He has been an especially ardent supporter of the program since then in regard to numerous donations, training aid construction, and placement of students.

Joe Fangman, Conklin Cars, will be the chair of the Committee in 2004. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 18**. This meeting is part of a “College of Technology Centennial Celebration” during the week of November 16-20.

## Four State Regional Conference automotive program set

Automotive instructor Ron Downing and Snap-on technical representative Bill Bowen have teamed up to offer a special automotive program for area automotive instructors. The program will be held in conjunction with the Four State Regional Technology Conference.

**Title of Presentation:** Diagnostic Roadmap

**Description:** Drivability diagnostic procedures on OBD II vehicles. Proper use of equipment for drivability diagnostics.

**Date and Time:** Friday, November 21, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

**Place:** Kansas Technology Center, Room N109

**Reservations:** None needed, just show up! Refreshments served!

## Pitt State AT graduates are members of recruiting teams

Several Automotive Technology graduates joined forces with their corporate colleagues during fall recruitment visits. It was especially good to have them back on campus is

this capacity. A listing of the graduates and recruiting companies include:

Jamie Bacon (02)	Cummins
Dustin Gilges (03)	Caterpillar
Gary Heine (82)	Toyota
Stephen Heinz (76)	John Deere
Jay Hunt (02)	Caterpillar
Scott Morris (94)	Kiewit
Chris Tenebehn (99)	Toyota
Tim Vitt (00)	Cummins

## New model 2004 Toyota Prius driven into KTC auditorium

John Waring, College Relations Manager, recently drove the new model 2004 Toyota Prius hybrid car into the KTC main auditorium. The occasion was an information session about professional opportunities with Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

Many readers are aware the main auditorium was designed with overhead doors large enough to bring equipment and vehicles as large as semi tractors into the presentation area.

## Automotive scholarships available

High school and college freshman automotive students in need of financial assistance for college automotive study should visit the following web site:

[www.automotivescholarships.com](http://www.automotivescholarships.com)

Numerous scholarships are available!

## On-campus interviews

The following automotive/heavy equipment companies conducted on-campus interviews during the fall semester:

Caterpillar, Inc.  
Conklin Cars Automotive Group  
Cummins, Inc.  
John Deere Company  
Kiewit Construction, Inc.  
MHC (Kenworth), Inc.  
Sherwin-Williams Automotive Finishes  
TAC Automotive  
Toyota Motor Sales, USA

## About twenty-five Automotive Technology students will earn their BST degrees on December 19<sup>th</sup>

About twenty-five Automotive Technology students are expected to graduate on December 19th. Most of the students have received placement offers and several others are eagerly waiting to hear about results of their placement interviews.

Prospective graduates with hometown listing includes: Ryan Ashmore, Girard; Michael Baker, Joplin; Luke Carrender, Overland Park; Jess Cheney, McCune; Matthew Dugan, Wichita; Brett Dyke, Wichita; Sam Gabbert, Lawrence; Kendall Graber, Moundridge; Craig Horstick, Richmond; Brant Jones, Independence; Ryan McClister, Houston, TX; Christopher McElroy, Wichita; Ryan Miller, Coffeyville; Jorge Monges, Alto Parana, Paraguay; Jeremiah Morgan, Arkansas City; Matt Mullins, New Harmony, IN; Brian Rose, Salina; Jeremiah Shinliver, Medicine Lodge; Justin South, Overland Park; Jeff Suderman, Hillsboro; Terry Traxson, Coffeyville; Rustin Weston, Joplin; Rachel Whittington, Lebo; and Mark Wuenstel, Topeka.

## Professor Frisbee and Senior Kenny Wiechman attend NASCAR events courtesy Sherwin-Williams

SherwinWilliams Automotive Finishes awarded a free trip to the Bass Pro Shops 500 race in Atlanta on Oct 26th. Kenny Wiechman (Scott City) got to spend a day at Joe Gibbs Racing in Huntersville, NC, and then spent two days in the Joe Gibbs pit area with the #18 Interstate Batteries car for the Winston Cup race. David Ellis and Bobby Moody of SherwinWilliams Automotive Finishes coordinated the award for the student. Professor Bob Frisbee assisted in initiating the award. He accompanied Kenny on the NASCAR trip.

### **Automotive graduate involved in automotive fuel cell development (Article submitted by Jay Brown (00) at the editor's request.)**

After graduating in the spring of 2000 with an emphasis in Service Management, I accepted a position with Toyota Motor Sales, USA Inc., in Torrance, CA. I chose to enter the Corporate Trainee program in the Product Quality and Service Support Department. The program allows trainees to experience different work groups inside of the PQ&SS Department. Trainees rotate to a different work group every six months. I completed five rotations before accepting a permanent assignment as a Product Engineer in the Advanced Vehicles Department.

My rotations included the following groups: Service Technology, Advanced Vehicles, Quality Assurance—Electrical, Technical Training, and Quality Assurance—Powertrain.

Some of my assignments and duties included:

- Validating special service tools and handheld diagnostic tester software
- Assisting with technical investigations and report tracking
- Training of service personnel and regional technical staff
- Assisting with the development of technical publications like TSB's, diagnostic procedures and technical training classes
- Working on the dealer hotline assisting Lexus and Toyota technicians to properly diagnose and repair vehicles

I accepted the position in the Advanced Vehicles Department in February of this year. My main responsibility is technical assistance for all issues related to the RAV4-EV, CNG Camry, and a special project electric vehicle called ecom. I am also a team member for Toyota's launch into the fuel cell vehicle race. There are two other engineers on the team; one is a graduate from Weber State who also came up through the CT program, and the other is a Chemical Engineer from UCLA. We are responsible for all technical issues and service for the fleet of fuel cell vehicles that Toyota has leased to a select number of customers in California.

There will be seven vehicles on the road before the end of the year with more planned in the future. These are considered prototypes and are mostly hand built, but Toyota has been working on fuel cell vehicles since 1992. The current version is the sixth generation, and so far the most suitable to become a full production vehicle. The fuel cell stack used in these vehicles was developed in-house by Toyota. Since these vehicles are being used to evaluate system design, infrastructure, and customer acceptance, they require a lot of data collection and durability testing. I am one of a select few personnel in the world to work on these vehicles. More information about Toyota's fuel cell program can be found at the following website: [http://www.toyota.co.jp/IRweb/corp\\_info/eco/fchv/index.html](http://www.toyota.co.jp/IRweb/corp_info/eco/fchv/index.html). — by Jay Brown, BST, Automotive, 2002



AT 2000 graduate Jay Brown is shown fueling a hydrogen-powered vehicle at Toyota's national headquarters in Torrance, CA.

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### **GIT major wins Centennial Edition Harley-Davidson F150 Ford SuperCrew Truck**

Jennifer Waugh, a junior majoring in Commercial Graphics, was the lucky winner of the 2003 Centennial Edition Ford F150 SuperCrew Truck. Dick Kelly, Chairman of the Midwest Ford Dealers, drew her "ticket" during the Centennial "Pittnic" celebration on September 8<sup>th</sup>. She was one of over 3,000 full time students who registered and were eligible to win. She proudly drove the truck in the homecoming parade on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

The truck was donated to the University celebration by the Midwest Ford Dealers based in Kansas City. Ford employs numerous Automotive Technology graduates. Holt Johnston (92), Ford District Manager, also participated in the Ford truck give-away celebration.



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## Automotive alumni notes

Greg Ebbs (01)—Nissan Parts and Service Representative, Chicago, IL  
Ryan Chop (00)—DaimlerChrysler Customer Relations Specialist, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA  
Eric Falke (99)—DaimlerChrysler Retail Sales and Marketing District Manager, WV  
David Vandelinde (89)—Lexus National Sales Administration Manager, Torrance, CA  
Gary Heine (82)—Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Technical Service Senior Supervisor, Torrance, CA  
Randy Reida (82)—Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. Randy recently completed his MBA at Oakland University in Rochester, MI.

## Calendar-Automotive Technology

- November 18 Tuesday Automotive Technology Advisory Committee  
Rusty Brown/Ron Downing  
Appreciation Luncheon
- December 3-5 John Deere Management Conference
- December 19 Friday Winter/Fall Graduation
- January 15 Wednesday Classes Begin for Spring Semester
- March 11 Thursday Automotive Orientation Day
- March 19 Friday Richard Weathers Automotive Seminar
- April 15 Thursday Kansas Skill Championships, Wichita
- June 24 Thursday SkillsUSA Skill Championships, Kansas City

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### Automotive Technology

Dr. Roger Adams	4386
Professor Clinton Carter	4826
Diesel Coordinator Robert Frisbee	4380
Instructor Tim Dell	4182
Instructor Trent Lindbloom	4198
Instructor Bob Schroer	4104
GA Chauncey Pennington	4104

### Automotive Service Technology

Professor Perry Cummins	4827
Instructor Ron Downing	4825