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Cal Poly Human Powered Vehicle Club takes First Place in Female Sprint Competition, Second Overall at ASME Human Powered Vehicle Challenge

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Cal Poly Human Powered Vehicle Club won first place in the Female Sprint Competition and second place overall at the 2007 American Society of Mechanical Engineers Human Powered Vehicle Competition, held at the NASA Ames Research Center in San Jose.

Mechanical Engineering senior Karin Hanzi piloted a streamlined bicycle constructed with full carbon fiber fairing integrated with a carbon fiber frame to blast the competition. She maintained the top speed in both runs, clocking in at nearly 35 mph.

In addition to Hanzi’s victory, the HPV Club also took first place in men’s and women’s mixed sprints, third place in design, and second place overall. The Cal Poly team has historically faired very well at the ASME-sponsored event. In 2005 they took first in the overall competition and rebounded strongly this year from fifth place in 2006.

Kim Shollenberger, associate professor of mechanical engineering and HPV faculty advisor, was pleased with her team’s performance. “This year, our bike was judged to have the best aesthetics and had the highest safety score,” she said.

Cal Poly placed second overall behind University of Missouri-Rolla. Although Cal Poly and UMR have gone head-to-head for the last five years, the teams have developed a sense of camaraderie. “We shared the celebration with them after the race and duct tape with them during the race,” said George Leone, technical advisor for Cal Poly HPV. “It’s great to have teams help each other, even in the heat of competition.”

The Cal Poly HPV student winners include: Joseph Levyssohn, President, Matthew Scott, Vice President, Matthew Boyd, Robert Ehrmann, Daryll Fletcher, Stephen Franco, Katherine Gage, Kevin Gibbs, Gregory Hamm, Karin Hanzi, Nicolas Hellewell, Ryan Helmuth, Neil Jansen, Thomas Kuhn, Nicholas Pullano, Andrew Ouellet, John Petersen, Steven Ricchiazzi, Matthew Vaillancourt, and Aaron Williams.

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