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Gordon and Jill Bourns
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

CBU Racing Initiative aims to give engineering students a “competitive edge”

Riverside, Calif. – The Gordon and Jill Bourns College of Engineering at California Baptist University has launched the “Auto Racing Initiative,” a strategic plan that aims to use racing experiences to create unique learning opportunities for its students.

The Initiative’s start, referred to as “LAP #1,” came this past April, as CBU entered into a partnership with KVSH Racing for the 2016 Verizon IndyCar season.

The partnership allowed engineering students a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to collaborate with the KVSH Engineering team throughout the season. For instance, 20 students were granted access to the KVSH Racing engineering staff, the driver and mechanics. Additionally, students observed and learned the intricacies of engineering high-performance IndyCars at the Long Beach Grand Prix. Furthermore, during the month of May, selected students were embedded with the team for both the Angie’s List 500 the 100th Running of the Indianapolis 500. They gained hands-on experience as they cataloged the aerodynamic differences between the KVSH Racing #11 car’s performance and IndyCars from other competing teams and worked closely with the crew to problem solve.

“It was great how quickly the mechanics and engineers accepted me as part of the team. They even trusted me in helping the crew with the car,” said John Free, a mechanical engineering senior, who worked with the race crew at the Indianapolis 500. “It’s hard to imagine what it’s like

to be 10 yards away from a car going over 200 mph. The roar of the engines shook me to my core.”

Dr. Anthony Donaldson, dean of CBU’s College of Engineering, said he is excited to see what these experiences inspire students to do.

“We want to create enhanced learning experiences both within and outside the CBU campus,” Donaldson said. “We want our students to develop and have a competitive edge and become tomorrow’s future leaders.”

For William Rosentrater, a mechanical engineering senior, the Long Beach race left an impression on his future career pursuits.

“This experience definitely had an impact on what I want to do later on in my life,” Rosentrater said. “Every person we met was no doubt a master of their specific trade. I would be very excited to be a part of a team like KVSH.”

Future plans for the Initiative include an IndyCar Race Exhibition at CBU (Lap #2), which brings the KVSH Racing IndyCar to campus on September 20, 2016, where spectators get a close-up view of the race car, learn more about CBU’s engineering program, and participate in STEM education exhibits. Additionally, a team of students will collaborate to create a Formula SAE Vehicle (Lap #3) that will be entered in a national SAE competition that will be held in the summer of 2017. This new endeavor will give students the opportunity to build, design, test and race their own vehicle.

Several organizations/individuals have already signed on to be supporters with CBU’s Auto Racing Initiative. They include: Gordon and Jill Bourns; Dr. Robert Trout and Dr. Barbara Phillips; [Brenner Fiedler & Associates](#); [Accent Computer Solutions](#); [Bud’s Tire Pros](#); [Couts Heating and Cooling](#); [Windermere Tower Properties](#); [Peabody Engineering](#); [Lundstrom and Associates Architects](#); [UTC Aerostructures](#) and [Engineering Systems](#).

For more information on the partnership or to become a donor, please visit <https://calbaptist.edu/college-of-engineering/auto-racing-initiative.php>

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