As finals approach, progress on the car will undoubtedly slow however the Christmas break will be a welcome opportunity to push toward our goal of having a running car by February. Great appreciation goes out to our newest sponsors, Praxair of Austin and Schlumberger. Their contribution and support will definitely help the UT Formula Car team succeed.

Progress

With a completed frame and design work finished on the suspension, we can shift our attention to more of the details of the car. Torsion testing of the frame is currently being performed and we are using the data to maximize and justify our chassis design. Our seat is a one piece carbon fiber design that will be much more comfortable than cars in recent years. Once it is finished we can fabricate, install and plumb our fuel tank, finalize header and exhaust routing and locate the electronics, including ECU, battery, solenoids and DAQ.
We believe we have identified the source of the problem in the drive train of last year’s car that failed during the endurance event at the ’04 competition in Detroit. We believe the problem was a driveshaft that was too short. The simple solution is to get a longer driveshaft, however, in order to save money, we did effectively the same thing but by other means. Rusty was recently taken out and tested without any problems. We can now resume driving so new members can get a taste of what the car can do and so veteran drivers can get more seat time. This experience has also led us to make a few changes in the drive train for this year that will create a more robust and easily maintained system.

Winter Break

As classes end and finals are taken, the garage and machine shop will be busy for the weeks leading up to Christmas. Classes for the spring semester will resume Jan. 18th, leaving us a couple more weeks after the New Year to push towards our goal of a running car by February. Thanks again to all our sponsors and supporters. Happy holidays from UT FSAE!

Special thanks to our current sponsors:

Check out our web page: http://www.me.utexas.edu/~fsae/