

IT'S A DIRTY JOB, AND THEY WANT TO DO IT



It may be fun, too, but RIT's Robbie Bach, 22, of Canastota, left, and Joe Fedethall, 21, of Scranton, Pa., test some real-world engineering at a Baja race in Palmyra.
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KATHARINE
SIDELNIK staff
photographer



KATHARINE SIDELNIK staff photographer

RIT students Mike "L.P." Hargrave, left, 19, of Rathbone, Steuben County, and Joe Fedethall, 21, of Scranton, Pa., adjust their all-terrain vehicle while Robbie Bach, 22, of Canastota, Madison County, waits in the driver's seat.

Test drive the real world

■ RIT students enter projects in international engineer race.

DEBORAH ALEXANDER
STAFF WRITER

When Julie Marinello graduates from the Rochester Institute of Technology next May, she would like to get a job at Toyota Corp.



Marinello



KATHARINE SIDELNIK staff photographer

Robbie Bach takes the RIT team's car for a spin at the 2007 Baja SAE Rochester World Challenge on Saturday.

designing factory systems for assembling cars and material handling. So what was Marinello, a

23-year-old industrial engineer major at RIT, doing Saturday morning driving an all-terrain vehicle as fast

If you go

What: 2007 Baja SAE Rochester World Challenge.
When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today.
Where: Hogback Hill Motocross Track, Palmyra.
Information: www.rit.edu.
Admission: Free.

as she could on a track at the Hogback Hill Motocross in Palmyra, Wayne County?

Taking what she has learned as an engineering student at RIT and applying it in the real world.

Race

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"I have an interest in mechanical components," she said. "I love off-track racing. The best part, it's fun to drive."

Marinello is a member of the RIT Baja, one of the more than 140 teams of engineering and engineering technology students from colleges and universities from around the world who are participating in the 2007 Baja SAE Rochester World Challenge.

She drove one of two vehicles the 25-member RIT team has en-

tered. On Saturday, the student vehicles were tested in a series of events for acceleration, traction, maneuverability and hill climbing.

Today, the teams are back at the motocross for the ultimate test as the vehicles are raced over a four-hour stretch through rugged terrain. The race is free and open to the public.

SAE International, the former Society of Automotive Engineers, organizes the event, billed as the largest student design competition of the year.

RIT is hosting the event, which began on Thursday at the school's Gordon Field House and Activities Center with judg-

ing and vehicle inspection.

Marty Gordon, RIT professor of mechanical engineering technology and the organizer of the event, said it is an opportunity for his students to put their knowledge into action.

The student teams began their work in September.

Richard O. Schaum, the 2007 president of SAE International, said the challenge is important for students because it mimics the design, development, testing and production and marketing of vehicles in the real world.

"It's more about the journey than about who wins," Schaum said. □

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