

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS®

## Herff College of Engineering

Recently, Susan Armacost, Director of Development for the Herff College of Engineering, sat down with this year's Baja car driver, Zain Noordin - a 4<sup>th</sup> year Mechanical Engineering student, and asked him about his experiences on the U of M Baja team.

**Susan: When did you get involved with the UM Baja team?**

Zain: Fall semester of my Freshman year (2009)

**Susan: What is the best part about being on this team?**

Zain: The satisfaction that comes from taking knowledge gained in and out of class, applying it to an engineering challenge and building a car that we can race.

**Susan: What do you find most challenging about the competition?**

Zain: Taking designs and models that were made on a computer and transforming them into physical parts. This is also a great learning experience because it highlights issues with the design that make manufacturing difficult.

**Susan: What is your most memorable experience from past competitions?**

Zain: Being in the paddock at competition with over a 100 teams from around the world that share the same passion.

**Susan: How do you think your participation on this team has impacted your educational experience?**

Zain: Participation in the Baja SAE program has taken my education to the next level by requiring me to research and find knowledge outside of the classroom and apply it to solve specific problems associated with the project.

**Susan: What would you say to other students who are considering joining the baja team?**

Zain: It will require a lot of hard work and dedication but in the end it will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your educational career.

**Susan: What do you think you've learned by being a part of this team that you might not otherwise have learned through your traditional course work?**

Zain: I have learned many aspects of what goes into manufacturing which allows me to become a better engineer. Communicating with team members, professors, sponsors, and machinists has helped me develop a broad range of communication skills. Due to the magnitude and time constraints of this project I have also learned valuable time and project management skills. Most importantly I have developed a passion and respect for engineering which is hard to develop through traditional course work.