



Dear Prof. Jones,

I arrived in Torino roughly two weeks ago (Alison, Darcy, and Elizabeth about three weeks ago), and since then we have made a lot of progress. In the first week, we familiarized ourselves with Italian culture and the city of Torino. I was immediately assigned to the team developing the chassis and working toward the drive tests, along with Darcy. Alison and Elizabeth have had the dual task of designing the interior and working to develop the Smith team and design clinic next year. There are several students that organize and lead successful Formula 1 competition teams at their schools who have agreed to help Alison and Elizabeth improve and plan for a strong Smith team next year. Elizabeth is also working on the website, and has created a logo for the Smith team.

The first week we spent a lot of time researching and sourcing a complete materials/tooling list for the prototype. I worked on the list for the chassis and suspension, while Darcy, Elizabeth, and Alison worked on that for the interior. Already we have greatly improved our knowledge of all components of the car as this is common language among the students here.

After sourcing and determining materials and tooling, we are finalizing designs in SolidWorks. Alison and Elizabeth spent a 24 hour CAD session their second day here working to compile an assembly of the model to be presented at the initial conferences with companies, which provided an excellent learning opportunity. Darcy and I are also using SolidWorks to model and have had mini-lessons with some of the students here with extensive SolidWorks background.

We took a field trip to the "Speed" exhibit at the Museo Dell'Automobile, which showcased record-breaking vehicles. This exhibit is the second part of the "Trilogy of the Automobile" which is an event to celebrate Torino as the World Design Capital and to honor the history of the car (<http://www.torinoworlddesigncapital.it/portale/en/>). The third installment of the trilogy is the Dream Expo to showcase the past sixty years of car design and to highlight the best designed vehicles from major manufacturers. Vehicle Design Summit is the only student-led group to participant in the exposition this September, where we will showcase our prototype and a scale model of the car. Therefore, in addition to designing and building the rolling prototype, we are also working on planning, designing, and implementing a showcase for the Dream Expo. Unfortunately, we will be in school at that time and will miss the big exhibit.

Outside of work, we have explored Torino a little. We visited the Bascilia, which is set on the mountainside and provides a gorgeous view of the city. This weekend, we are traveling to Cinque Terra to enjoy the sun (hopefully) on the beach.

We hope to set up the website soon to post more photos, but these coming weeks are critical for design decisions, so please be patient with us.

Thank you and hope all is well,  
Sari (and team)