BUILDING A CLEANER, MORE FUEL EFFICIENT TOMORROW.

New Leadership

By: Teresa Chen

For the 2010-2011 year, the engineering program has gained valuable new leadership to lead students to fulfill their indomitable goals. Kevin Chang has become design team leader, and the new mechanical team leader is Andy Lopez. The electrical team leader is Frank Martinez, while the previous position and responsibilities of project manager have been absorbed by the public relations team leader, Marena Ray. John Chen has kept his position of information technology team leader, and Danny Shin has also returned as composites team leader. All of the new and returning leaders have ambitious goals and aspirations for both their team and the program.

With the merging of the position of project manager and public relations team leader, Marena Ray is optimistic that engineering can reach even taller heights with the efforts of all the teams. As team leader, Marena plans to edify engineering and make it an enjoyable and safe environment. Meanwhile, Frank Martinez, the electrical team leader, speaks about his ambitious hopes for the projects that engineering is creating. "For Solar Boat," he remarks, "we want to confirm that we know all the schematics, including the handling of the battery management." In the next few months, they aim to understand how HICE is wired and the way the wiring affects how the vehicle runs.

"We intend to have several drafts of the solar car by midway this year," said Kevin

Chang, design team leader. "In addition, our team hopes that by working closely together we can develop a solar boat that will place in a top position. We want to build a better relationship with the other teams in order to work more efficiently." In fact, all of the team leaders remarked that they want to help the new students by teaching them everything necessary to prepare for future years and opportunities. By improving their teams and contributing to each project through different efforts, each of the team leaders hopes that he can further strengthen the program overall.

5th Annual Open

By: Daniel Cheng

On Saturday, May 8th 2010, the Los Altos Academy of Engineering held their fifth annual open house. LAAE was supported by Congresswoman Grace Napolitano in her efforts to "support science education locally and at the federal level" by providing contact information to individuals in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The LAAE is indebted to Congresswoman Napolitano for attending the open house, in addition to her many contributions which help the engineering program grow and improve.

Alumni from the class of 1996, including Jerry Heaps, Ericka Wu, Mike Merchant, and Tim Hardly, were also present at the open house. They were the first class of high school students to compete in the World Solar Challenge with the vehicle Solar Shadow. Their continued support and advice is valuable to the program because of their extensive experience with various vehicles.

The open house showcased LAAE's many legacy vehicles, successes of the past, and motivational material for present projects. Along with Solar Shadow II, the program displayed its many accomplishments throughout the facility such as the electrical vehicle, Speed Racer. LAAE also had two solar boats on display that competed in past Solar Cup competitions hosted by the Metropolitan Water District. In addition, there were demonstrations of various projects such as the autonomous vehicle, Project Zeus, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicle, Infusion. In regard to ongoing projects, project manager John Weng announced the unveiling of HICE, "the first hydrogen internal combustion vehicle built by high school students." The inauguration of HICE was an anticipated highlight of the open house for both the community and students, linking past accomplishments to budding potential for the future.

Presenting HICE

By: Stephanie Sosa

After three years of hard work and determination, the Los Altos Academy of Engineering is proud to present HICE (Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine). On April 17, 2010, students tested the vehicle on the asphalt of Los Altos High School. With Dipak Prasad in the driver's seat and classmates on the ground, HICE started its engine and began its first trek ever around the track. Students cheered and clapped as HICE moved smoothly. HICE was now fully prepared to make its grand debut the following month. On May 8, 2010, spectators from local communities and reporters watched the vehicle make its first public appearance at the fifth annual open house.

This hydrogen internal combustion engine is unlike any other hydrogen car made by high school students. While many hydrogen cars use a fuel cell as the mediator of energy, HICE is special such that it burns straight hydrogen. The Honda GX-35 is a four stroke engine that burns hydrogen as its fuel source to propel the vehicle forward. While fuel cells transform hydrogen into a usable source of energy, HICE burns hydrogen just as it would burn gasoline.

The HICE project is going to continue development in the upcoming year. This year's students are determined to create a vehicle that is more efficient and faster than the current model. Goals have been set and plans are beginning to develop.

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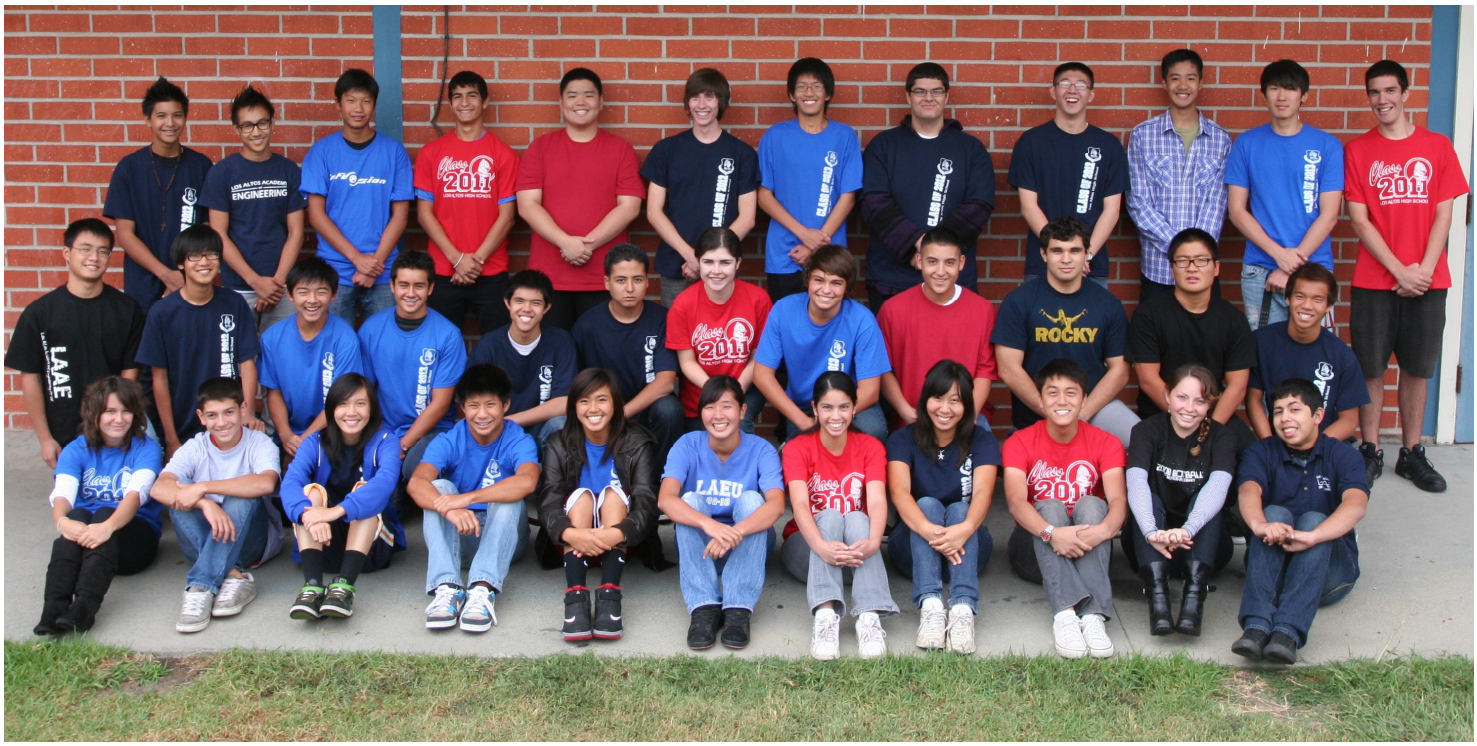

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Thank you to everyone that attended our 5th Annual Open House. We hope to see you at the next Open House in 2011.

Special thanks to Mr. Franz for the valuable information and advice you have given us this year.

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