

Race shows students engineering's practical use

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE Reporter

The engineering festival gave the students at the elementary school a chance to see a practical application as to what engineers

"For the past couple of years we've done a lot of engineering thing with the school so hopefully we'll spark a lot of them to want to

in being a leader in the field of engineering in the nation. "National engineers week is celebrated annually but nothing goes

iversity in the country and we're number two behind Georgia Tech at the Master's degree level...this campus produces the worlds great-

seen on the faces of the youngsters as they anticipated the run of the Baja racer. Chancellor Fort and Dr. Jerry Weast, the

General Greene School of Science and Technology in Greensboro was the site for a celebration of engineering and a Baja race on Wednesday, February 25. A team of eight seniors from the Engineering Department at N.C. A&T State University put their minds and muscle together to build the Baja race car.

The students started on the construction of the car in the fall of 1997. Members of the team included Marc Miller, Maurice Taylor, Frank Williams, Matt Naiva, Chris Bristol, Bill Odom, Zebetta Mudd and Marques McCannon. Bristol, Odom, Mudd and McCannon were absent because they were attending the Society Automotive (SA) Engineering Conference in Detroit, Michigan.

"Every senior class has to have a mechanical engineering design project," said Naiva.

The engineering students are getting the car ready to race other cars in a mini-baja competition being held in Tennessee and Wisconsin.

"We've got much more work to do... we're going to try and reduce a lot of weight and use different materials," said Miller. "What we have accomplished this far has made me extremely proud to be a part of this design competition and A&T's mechanical engineering department."



N.C. A&T Chancellor Edward Fort gets settled and prepares himself to drive.



Ms. Lyles' first grade class of General Greene School of Science and Technology cheers on the various drivers during the Baja race.

do. "Right now at the early age of this group, all they're going to see is that it's real neat, they're going to see a doon-buggy," said Taylor.

come into engineering." The festival also gave A&T Chancellor Dr. Edward Fort the chance to let the students and community know the universities place

as well as that celebration here on this campus," stated Fort. "The engineering college produces more baccalaureate degree holding engineers of color than any other uni-

est engineers." According to Lonnie Sharpe, Dean of Engineering at N.C. A&T this project does several things. "We're building (a) team first of all, the students are all required to work in groups to get the car completed. The other thing is we want to go back and look at how we compare to other universities," said Sharpe.

Later on in the morning excitement filled the air and could be

Superintendent of Guilford County Schools were the featured drivers. After safety instructions were given by the engineering students, several other adults took turns putting on a helmet and taking the car for a spin around the school.

"This is not a toy at all, somebody could get seriously hurt on this if they don't know what they're doing," said Williams. "But it's a whole lot of fun."

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