

SOLAR SUCCESS STORIES



L to R: Supervisor Molina, Alice Huang, ROP Auto Repair instructor Armando Hernandez, Paul Davis, Technology instructor Bob Franz, Brian Yu, Stanley Chu, Mike Chang, Supervisor Knabe, Hacienda La Puente School Board member Kathy Venturoso, Erica Woo, Mike Merchant, ROP School to Work Facilitator/Public Relations Mary Ann King.

The ROP Manufacturing Technology class was recognized by Los Angeles County Supervisors Don Knabe and Gloria Molina on Tuesday, August 19. Instructor Bob Franz was presented with a scroll commending the Solar Team for their many accomplishments. The presen-

tation was made at the monthly Los Angeles County Supervisor's meeting in downtown Los Angeles.

STUDENTS LAND TOP JOBS

Erica Woo was a member of the ROP Solar Team that went to Australia for the World Solar Challenge in October of 1996. In the process of building the car, the students contacted businesses in the area for donations of products to complete the car. Most of the students, including Erica, learned to talk with business people and company CEO's. When it came time for a summer job Erica thought of the companies she had contacted for the Solar Shadow car and called Mr. Harry Yates, Supervisor of Engineering and Manufacturing for TRW. TRW is a satellite company located in Redondo Beach and well known for manufacturing solar arrays. Mr. Yates had a place for her in the engineering division of the company and also for fellow student, John Emblar.

"Working on the solar car at Los Altos High School gave me the experience to get a job in the workplace," said Erica. It was not just a 'busy work' job of filing and answering telephones. They made sure I had all of my questions answered and that I learned everything I could about the manufacturing of solar arrays. I am now at Cal Poly and beginning my studies toward an Electrical Engineering degree. It was a great summer."

ROP SOLAR TEAM GRAND MARSHAL AT HACIENDA HEIGHTS FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

The ROP Solar Team was chosen as the Grand Marshal for the Hacienda Heights Fourth of July Parade. The team flanked the Solar Shadow vehicle as it made its way down Stimson Avenue during the parade on July 4th. The team, ROP Superintendent Patricia Frank, and instructor Bob Franz were honored during post parade ceremonies at Steinmetz Park. The students received individual plaques from the Hacienda Kiwanis Club and were presented a scholarship of \$500.00 from the parade committee. The Solar Team was chosen as the parade Grand Marshal for their participation in the World Solar Challenge in Australia in the fall of 1996. Superintendent Frank was also featured in the parade as was the ROP Electric Car with instructor Armondo Hernandez.



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Oscar Juarez enrolled in the ROP Auto Brakes/Front End and Tune Up class as an underclassman at Los Altos High School in 1994. Randy Fears was the instructor. Oscar was on the first solar team making their race debut in Dallas in August of 1995. When ROP teacher Randy Fears died suddenly of a heart attack in the summer of 1995, Armando Hernandez came on board to teach the automotive ROP class and Oscar continued his work in the class, this time concentrating on the electric vehicle. He was on the team in 1996 when they took their electric car to race in Arizona.

After graduation Oscar continued as a student in the after school ROP automotive class. Although he was hired at Chief Auto Parts, Oscar wanted to be more involved in the electric car venture. Mr. Hernandez took him to Cerritos College to inquire about getting into one of the apprenticeship programs with Chrysler or Chevrolet. When Oscar told of his ROP classroom and race experience he was offered a job as Assistant Crew Chief and Team Leader of the Electric Vehicle Program. Through a state grant Cerritos has a five year budget to develop and build an electric dragster. Oscar will be working approximately 40 hours a week, but plans to keep his job at Chief Auto Parts.

"We're hoping to build a partnership with Cerritos," said Hernandez. "It's exciting when the ROP classroom and experience opens the door to an exciting job for Oscar. ROP makes a difference when it comes to opportunities for qualified students."

The ROP Solar Vehicle Team participated in the Girl Scouts' 85th Anniversary observance at the Pomona Fairplex on May 24 and 25. This was the biggest gathering of Girl Scouts that has ever taken place. It featured a collection of exhibitors and displays that were of interest to girls between the ages of 7 and 17. The Solar Vehicle attracted a lot of interest, attention, and excitement during the two day celebration.

THE SOLAR SHADOW WINS NATIONAL TITLE



L to R: Brett Gaviglio, Bob Franz, Armando Hernandez, Mike Merchant, Bryce Camarillo, Peter Hough, Paul Davis, Darris Sefton, Winona Gaviglio, Mike Chang, Brian Biang, Brian Yu, Stanley Chu, Andy Lee, John Embler, Erica Woo and Alice Huang.

In the summer of 1995 the Solar Team headed for Dallas, Texas to compete in their first national solar race. They raced, they conquered, they came home the national champions of solar car racing. This past July, the summer of 1997 again found the team members heading to Texas, to defend their national title in the 350 mile Winston Solar Challenge from Dallas to San Antonio.

Congratulations Bob Franz and the ROP Solar Team. Fifteen students made the trip to Dallas as members of the solar team.

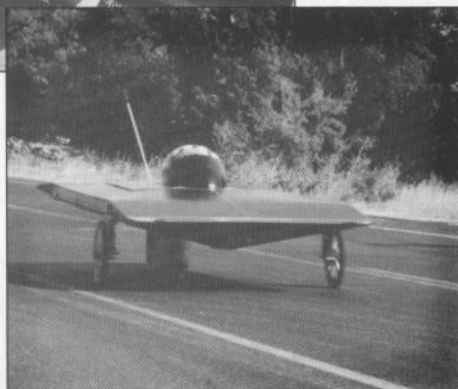
Brett Gaviglio of Trane Corp. and his wife were team chaperons. Winona was on the solar team at Cal Poly Pomona when a student there. Armando Hernandez is the ROP instructor for Auto Repair/Tune Up and Auto Brakes/Front End. He assisted Bob Franz.



Getting ready for the race.

Six schools competed in the 5 day marathon with a winner each day and the top winner crossing the finish line first.

Tony Saldana, National Sales Director for GNB Technologies, arranged through Deborah Wiley of the GNB facility at Farmer's Branch, Texas, to have a van ready and waiting for the team when they arrived. This became the "lead" van carrying the race maps, directions, and support gear.



Solar Shadow cruises Texas highways in Winston Solar Challenge Race

THE ROP MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY CLASS CHANGED HIS LIFE



"After my sophomore year I was going downhill academically. I convinced myself that I didn't need school, it was a waste of time and I wanted to be doing more interesting things. It was then that I enrolled in the ROP Manufacturing Technology class at Los Altos High School and what a revelation. I started using things I had learned in school in this class. I began to realize how important school is," said Mike Merchant. Mike is a 1996 graduate of Los Altos High School now employed in the Electric Transportation Division of Southern California Edison and a student of computer science at Cal Poly Pomona.

"Mike has everything and he's only 19," said his ROP instructor Bob Franz. "He is driving an electric vehicle courtesy of Southern California Edison. They have given him a lap top computer for record keeping and they pay him well. I offered to trade places with him."

Mike worked on the first solar vehicle in the Manufacturing Technology class, Cool Runnings which raced in the Winston Solar Challenge in Dallas in the spring of 1995 and won. During his senior year Mike was named Project Coordinator for the Solar Shadow set to race in the World Solar Challenge in Australia in the fall of 1996. After graduation and before the World Solar Race, Mike needed a summer job and was hired to change oil at Pitt Stop in Hacienda Heights. After the solar race in Australia, Mike enrolled in classes at Cal Poly Pomona and continued to help the solar team

as they prepared for their second competition in the Winston Solar Challenge in Dallas in July of this year. When Mike stopped by the class one day, Mr. Franz was on his way to Southern California Edison to pick up some batteries being tested and Mike asked to go along. "I was in awe when I got there. It's a vehicle testing center and all kinds of neat things were being tested. I asked if they took interns, they said yes, took my name, and said they would call if there was an opening. I went off to Dallas, helped in the race, which we won first place, came back home and started changing oil again at Pitt Stop when I got a call from Mr. Franz. Edison had an opening for an intern. I went for an interview and got the job. My official title is Battery Technician, but that's not all I do. There are many new battery technologies. I am learning a lot and using what I learned in the solar and electric car program. Edison was glad to get someone with knowledge of electric cars. I helped build an electric car in the ROP class," said Mike.

Mike has refocused his career goals. "Because I now work in this industry, I see how nice electric cars are to drive and I know that soon this will be a very big industry. Everyday I read about eight pages of products being researched and developed. I would like to see companies and individuals sponsor high school programs and students in electric vehicle classes. It needs to be a cooperative effort between industry and schools because it has such a large impact on students," said Mike. "In addition to sporting events, electric vehicle races could be promoted. They're fun and students would enjoy cheering for the student racers. They would also be more in tune with our environment while enjoying the fun. I would encourage parents from other high schools to ask their administrators to start programs like the one at Los Altos. I pinch myself everyday, I can't believe this is happening to me, so much is going on, so many opportunities and, it all started the day I enrolled in the ROP class with Mr. Franz.

HEALTH CAREERS/ MEDICAL CORE I/ II

Fourteen years ago Monica Stogsdill enrolled in an ROP Medical Assistant class at Rosemead High School. Today Monica is the teacher for Medical Core I and II for the La Puente Valley ROP at Rowland and Santana High Schools.

After graduation from high school, Monica became a nurse through the LVN (Licensed Vocational Nurse) program offered by the Hacienda La Puente Adult School. She has worked in hospitals and clinics and continues to work in a clinic in addition to her teaching assignment. "I love the nursing profession and I love teaching," said Monica. "Teaching is very rewarding and gives me an opportunity to share my experiences and knowledge with the students. I hope some of them will choose this career because of taking this class."

Students will have an introduction to a variety of medical careers,

ethical/legal responsibilities, infection control, body systems, first aid, CPR, and taking vital signs.



Jody Larkin, Rowland senior (L) takes the blood pressure of Andy Luna, Rowland junior, during classroom training. Jody took the class because she plans to become an X-Ray Technician. Andy plans to continue his medical studies with a goal of becoming a physician assistant. Monica Stogsdill, the teacher (center) monitors the reading.