



Jeep Grand Cherokee SRT8 Vapor, left, and Jeep Grand Cherokee Alpine

Jeep Brand Repeats Win for Winter Driving Capability

It was a “three-peat” for the Jeep Grand Cherokee at the New England Motor Press Association’s (NEMPA) annual industry dinner, when the vehicle was named “Official Winter Vehicle of New England” for an unprecedented third consecutive year.

The Grand Cherokee snapped up two separate awards, and brand leader Mike Manley was also singled out for honors. In addition, the Ram 1500 4x4 went home with an award of its own.

Vehicles are chosen based on how they meet the specific needs of New England drivers, who face some of the harshest winter driving conditions in the nation.

With the “Winter Vehicle” award, the Jeep brand earned a

total of three significant honors at the recent event:

- Manley, president and CEO, Jeep Brand, received the 2013 NEMPA Executive of the Year Award.
- The 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee earned the Wheels TV “Previously Owned Vehicle of the Year” award.
- And the Chrysler team had even more to smile about before the evening was over – NEMPA named the 2013 Ram 1500 4x4 the “Best All-Weather Pickup Truck.”

NEMPA President Keith Griffin presented the 2013 Executive Award to Manley, citing what he

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OU Students Learn Efficient Work Habits At Chrysler’s Manufacturing Academy

by Irena Granaas

“Okay, Tom, it’s time to suit up!”

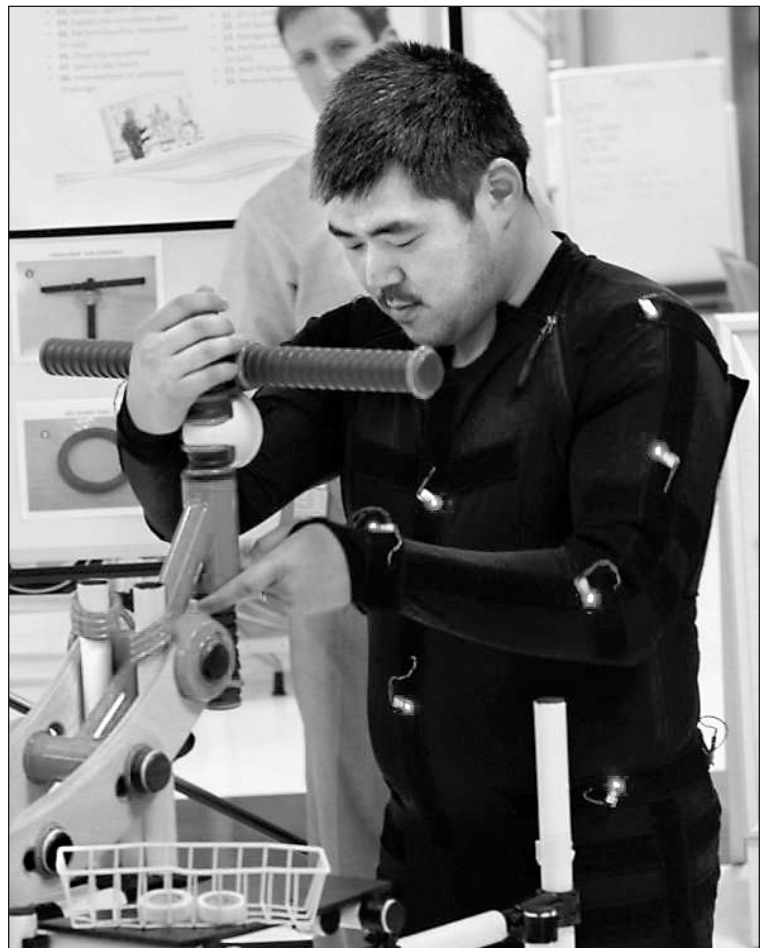
That was the word from Jeff Dobski of the Chrysler World Class Manufacturing Academy on a recent Tuesday night in April.

Tom Duchaine was one of about a dozen students from Bill Edwards’ Human Factors Engineering & Ergonomics class, an elective for Industrial and Systems Engineering students in Oakland University’s School of Engineering and Computer Science.

The students get an opportunity for hands-on learning at Chrysler’s WCM Academy in Warren.

The “suit” in question was a black motion capture body suit equipped with tiny lights. Duchaine donned the special suit as he prepared to attempt the partial assembly of a toy bike. As he moved, Duchaine’s every motion was monitored throughout the cycle time in a simulated work station.

“The 3D equipment captured the movement of Duchaine’s body and of every joint with a fine degree of precision,” Edwards said. “Even the pulse of his



Tom Duchaine wears a “motion capture” suit while assembling a bike.

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Flint’s Kettering University Team Earns FEV Award for Powertrain Solutions

Three collegiate teams have earned the FEV Powertrain Development Award.

The teams designed, developed and demonstrated exemplary powertrain solutions in the 2013 Formula SAE (FSAE) competition May 8-11 at the Michigan International Speedway (MIS) near Brooklyn, Mich.

The awards were presented May 11 during a ceremony at the conclusion of the competition.

FEV, Inc., is an Auburn Hills-based advanced powertrain and vehicle systems engineering company.

The winners were:

- Kettering University, Flint (1st place), receiving 668.7 of a possible 900 points;
- Graz University of Technology, Graz, Australia (2nd place), earning 482.8 points;
- Ecole De Technologie Supérieure, Montreal, Quebec, Canada (3rd place), with 437 points.

Other Michigan schools who fared well in the competition included Michigan State University, which finished in ninth place; Saginaw Valley State University, finishing 14th, and the University of Michigan, which finished in 16th place.

“The technologies on display here in the FSAE competition at MIS parrot what is going on in the automotive industry at the moment,” said Robert J. Last, vice president of Communications, Purchasing and Human Resources for FEV, and chairman of the SAE Foundation’s PR and Outreach Committee, the body that oversees the FSAE.

“Whether it’s a four-cylinder, a two-cylinder v-twin, or a one-cylinder engine – whether it’s

naturally aspirated or turbocharged, there is a clear movement toward downsizing, boosting and lightweighting in the powertrain arena.

“Like the rest of the industry, these teams understand that, in today’s world, both high performance and optimal fuel economy are necessary.

“The FEV Powertrain Development Award seeks to reward this enviable achievement and it does so with an objective, equation-based approach that can be optimized by the FSAE team.

“FEV congratulates the winners and recognizes their efforts to meet this demand.”

To compete, student teams are required to adhere to the rules specified by the SAE, which can be found on its website, www.sae.org.

According to Last, while developing engineering solutions for their vehicles, students will have learned and mastered critical elements of strategy planning, project management, contingency planning and logistics management.

It Takes a Village for Successful Car Design These Days

by Jim Stickford

No one can go it alone.

That was the message at the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn May 14.

Automobile design and manufacturing have always been a complicated job, but in today’s world – when vehicle models are refreshed or redesigned in just two years instead of the former six – it has become impossible for companies to “do the designs

in their own four walls.”

At least, that’s what Stan Przybylinski, vice president of Research for CIMdata, said at a special media day sponsored by Dassault Systemes.

Przybylinski was one of several speakers who talked about issues of production and where the auto industry is going in terms of manufacturing processes and what types of materials will be used to make the cars of the future.

in numerous markets globally, including the United States and Canada. The Nissan NV200, a compact commercial vehicle, is a previous winner of the International Van of the Year Award.

According to a joint news release, cost of ownership for the vehicle is among the lowest in the class due to low running costs, the efficiency of the en-

gines and drivetrains, and a safety structure that helps to minimize crash damage.

It was first launched in Japan as the Nissan NV200 Vanette in May of 2009, and in Europe in autumn 2009. It is a front-engine, front-wheel-drive van built on Nissan’s B platform.

The price of the Chevrolet City Express will be announced later.



The 2015 Chevrolet City Express will be built by Nissan in Mexico.

Przybylinski said that determining the Product Life Management (PLM) of a car is more difficult these days because cars are so much more complicated. OEMs rely more than ever on the work of their suppliers.

“It’s become very complicated,” Przybylinski said. “Automakers must design for everything and that means global designs and global competition. Automakers are seeing competition coming from places they never

would have imagined only a few years ago.”

He cited Korea as a great example. A decade ago, Hyundai was a much smaller company, but it’s growth on the world stage has been impressive, he said.

Przybylinski said he expects China to become a bigger player in the years to come. He went on to point out that one of the difficulties in being a global player is

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