

Since Joshua Peterson was knee high to his father, he's been in love with the roar of the engine and smell of rubber burning. His first racing experience was at the young age of four. Joshua remembers his dad holding him over his shoulders so he can see over the fence and watch every car go down the drag strip. Around the age of nine, Joshua finally had an opportunity to put this love for racing to use. He had an opportunity to work with a local top fuel funny car team.

As the addiction to racing grew, Joshua began to focus on what it took to make a racecar



Joshua Peterson

Formula SAE® Success Stories – General Motors

General Motors took the plunge in becoming the first corporate host for Formula SAE® in 1991. Part of their strategy was to use the competition as a recruiting tool. It worked! The following individuals are just a sample of many engineering graduates who've landed jobs at GM because of FSAE™.

function. Joshua and his father decided to enter the Midwest Enduro Series with a sit up sprinter go-kart. While working on his own race vehicle through high school, Joshua's interest in engineering grew. In 1994, Joshua enrolled at the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) to obtain his BS in Mechanical Engineering. While studying at MSOE, he played an active role in the SAE chapter. During his freshman and sophomore years, he assisted upper classmen with the Mini Baja® and FSAE™ projects. After this, a group of fellow colleagues developed an interest in building an FSAE™ car for their senior design project. So, during Joshua's senior year, thirteen fellow colleagues designed, built and tested a FSAE™ vehicle. His responsibility for the project was treasurer and chassis designer. In May of 1998, MSOE competed in the FSAE™ competition where they finished 22nd.

Joshua graduated in 1998 and began working at Caterpillar at its proving ground facility. While working at Caterpillar, he had responsibility for all small-articulated truck development. In June of 2000, Joshua began working for GM Racing within the NHRA/Off Road Truck Group. His responsibilities cover chassis, aerodynamic, and suspension development for Top Fuel Funny Cars, Pro Stock Cars and Trucks. Joshua now works with the likes of Don Prudhomme, Jerry Toliver, Warren and Kurt Johnson, Bob Panella and Randy Daniels. He is also program manager for a new small car program. The experience that FSAE™ has given Joshua has allowed him to reach his childhood dream of working on racecars for a living.

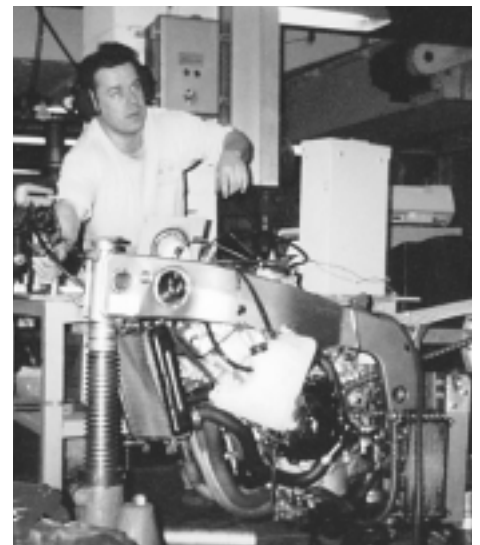
Growing up in Nova Scotia located on the Canadian East Coast, Ondrej Tomek was always very interested in automobiles. When he was 15, Ondrej bought an Austin Mini for \$70 and totally disassembled it to see how it worked. He was most fascinated with the engine and tried to read as much literature as possible on engine design and tuning. Ondrej wanted to optimize engine performance and become a racing engine designer.

He ended up at GMI Engineering & Management Institute in Flint, Michigan now known as Kettering University. During his first term at GMI, Ondrej learned of the FSAE™ event and team. Although GMI did have a team, it basically consisted of 4 or 5 people who would individually work on parts of the project and then get together a short time prior to the competition to piece together a car. This made it difficult for a newcomer to get involved.

Although Ondrej's initial intent in being involved with the FSAE™ team was to be responsible for engine development, his scope greatly expanded. Ondrej's major responsibility as a team leader was to make sure that the car was completed in time for competition, preferably with some time to spare. This included dealing with bureaucratic issues and creating a dedicated team. Trying to motivate a team of volunteers who are paying for a very expensive degree to spend their Friday evening in a lab was very challenging. Through a lot of teamwork and sheer stubbornness, Ondrej was happy that GMI entered the competition each year that he was involved (1995, 1996, and

1997). Each year the team learned more, and each year they did something better. Perhaps more importantly, the FSAE™ team continues at Kettering University and continues to better their results each year.

After graduating from GMI, Ondrej's ultimate goal was still to be involved in the racing industry, but it was very difficult to get "his foot in the door." So Ondrej accepted a position with GM Powertrain. His main responsibilities were engine and valvetrain simulation and camshaft design. In early 2001, Ondrej's dream of being involved in the racing industry became a reality. He joined the GM Racing group and has been mainly supporting the NASCAR teams with engine simulation.



Ondrej Tomek