

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Buckeye Bullet Attracts Local Student

by G.L. Rockey

What happens when you combine an outstanding 2003 Brecksville-Broadview Heights graduate with an interest in aeronautical and astronautical engineering?

The answer is that you end up with

Kimberly Stevens on Ohio State's Buckeye Bullet team.

During Stevens's last year of high school, she considered attending Virginia Tech, but Ohio State won her when she entered and won a Maximus Scholarship. Knowing from an early age what she wanted to do, she began her college studies, planning on majoring in aeronautical and astronautical engineering. After earning additional scholarships from the College of Engineering and Women in Engineering, she gravitated to extra curricular activities in aerodynamics, and volunteered to work with the prize-winning Buckeye Bullet Team.

Stevens pointed out that the Buckeye Bullet is Ohio State's experimental battery powered electric car. In aero-speak, "a high-performance hydrogen fuel-cell

powered race car."

She said, "There are two Buckeye Bullets - 1 and 2."

Working with both, she made numerous trips to the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah for tests on the 10-mile run straightaway.

Stevens was the lead aerodynamic designer for the Buckeye Bullet 2, which is taking land speed racing to a new level



Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah was the perfect area for Kimberly Stevens and her crew to work on the Buckeye Bullet.

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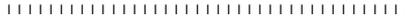
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Kimberly Stevens spent many hours working on the Buckeye Bullet.

with innovations in driver safety, driveline, electronics and packaging.

Buckeye Bullet 2 is expanding the legacy of its predecessor, the Buckeye Bullet 1. Buckeye Bullet 1 currently holds both national and international land speed records at 315 mph and 272 mph respectively, and was the first electric vehicle to break the 300 mph barrier.

Stevens used software at the Ohio Supercomputer Center to design the shape of vehicle. Using the computer, she tweaked “real-world aerodynamics,” which guided the Buckeye Bullet team in building a model for testing.

The Supercomputer Center experience lead Stevens to two jobs - a computational fluid dynamics co-op position with Honda Research and Development and a similar research job for the Department of Aerospace Engineering at Ohio State.”

Anne Jones, one of Stevens’ high school teachers remembers her well.

“Her junior year she was my ceramics student then she took advanced art with me her senior year. An experience I will never forget was working on the (Cleveland Art Museum) Parade the Circle ensemble with Kim. She spent tens of hours with me after school to build our 14-foot Rockadile. She impressed the museum with her aptitude so they asked her to be an intern on the parade crew. It is in Kim’s nature to take on a project and give it everything she has. Kim was an exceptional student here at BBHHS and always dove into her interests with a passion.”

As to the present, Stevens, done with Ohio State final exams, graduates in June

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and will begin a dream-come-true career. Hired by Bavarian Motor Works (BMW) she will be moving to Hinwil, Switzerland, just outside of Zurich where she will work with another class team – the world championship people who design BMW’s Formula One racing car, the Sauber F1.

About the new job, Stevens said, “I was very excited to learn that I could apply rocket science to automobiles, both in passenger cars form at Honda Research and Development (where I’ve worked three years) and to the best, fastest race cars in the world with the Buckeye Bullet

and (now with) the BMW-Sauber F1.”

In referring to Stevens’ new job, Jones said, “It’s a big deal,” adding, “her work on the Buckeye Bullet exemplifies her drive and intelligence. I am not a bit surprised that she has taken her interests to this level of accomplishment. One day she told me she wanted to be an astronaut. I’m looking forward to the day she calls me about that goal.”

Aerospace and Ohio State Buckeye Bullet fans can see and read much more about Stevens and the Buckeye Bullet on the web at BuckeyeBullet.blogspot.com. ∞

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