Petty and Clemson drive safety

RICHARD PETTY DRIVING EXPERIENCE (RPDE), IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Clemson's Automotive Safety Research Institute (ASRI), is launching its new Safe Driving Program.

RPDE and Clemson will develop a unique research-based program, initially designed for high-risk drivers aged 16 to 25. It will teach safe driving skills and safety education to participants through classroom instruction and on-track experiences by placing students in hazardous driving situations in a controlled and safe environment.

Kyle Petty, a longtime advocate of driver safety for young adults, will serve as the spokesman for the initiative. He's an eight-time winner in the NASCAR Cup Series and son of seven-time NASCAR Cup Champion, racing legend Richard Petty, known simply as “The King.”

ASRI, the safety research arm of the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR), will conduct research to validate the new program. Kim Alexander, executive director of ASRI, will head the research team and serve as Clemson's spokesperson. For more information, go to www.clemson.edu/auto/research/ASRI, contact Alexander at kalexnr@clemson.edu or (864) 656-0664, or contact RPDE at 1-800-BE-PETTY.

Debating powerhouse

CLEMSON STUDENTS PLACED THIRD IN the nation during the recent National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl competing with the likes of Indiana University, the University of Miami, University of Washington, the Naval Academy and West Point. They also finished third last year.

Pictured from left are team coach Charles Starkey, philosophy professor and Fellow of the Robert J. Rutland Institute for Ethics; students Ben Denison, Ruben Kemmerlin, Alyssa Mander, Jim Moore, Danielle Tardiff and Dani Scoggins; and institute director Dan Wueste.

The team is sponsored by the Rutland Institute for Ethics and the philosophy and religion department. The Rutland Institute promotes activities to help students, faculty and the community develop skills to deal with ethical issues. For more information, visit the Web at www.clemson.edu/caah/rutland.

Unlocking DNA

SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS FROM ACROSS the state are learning how to conduct genetic analyses at the S.C. DNA Learning Center. Nearly 1,500 students, from more than 24 public and private schools, have visited the center since it opened last year.

Students get hands-on experience extracting their own DNA, performing DNA fingerprinting and much more in the center’s laboratories. More than 52 middle and high school teachers have completed graduate courses in new teaching methods for DNA science, forensics and biotechnology. The center also offers programs for community groups.

The S.C. DNA Learning Center is sponsored by Clemson’s biological sciences and genetics/biochemistry departments, the National Science Foundation, the Dolan DNA Learning Center at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute SC.LIFE project. For more information, go online at www.clemson.edu/scdnlc or contact Bob Ballard, center director, at ballard@clemson.edu or (864) 656-3579.

Biological sciences senior Brian Nyvall helps set up labs at the newly dedicated S.C. DNA Learning Center at Clemson.