

Read the details about our victory at URC in June, a thank you to our sponsors and supporters, and other updates about our team.

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## A Summer to Celebrate

The Mars Rover Design Team has had plenty to celebrate this summer! Winning the 2017 University Rover Challenge is a landmark achievement for the team. After five years of learning tough but valuable lessons from near-impossible challenges, it is a great feeling to finally be able to say, "We are the best in the world!" This marks an important milestone, but there is so much more yet to come.



## World Champions

Following the reveal of our 2017 rover, Gryphon, MRDT began a rigorous training and testing schedule, in anticipation of what was sure to be the most

difficult Rover Challenge yet. The team set forth, designing, refining and debugging, to ensure Gryphon would be a robust and reliable machine. After months of painstaking preparation, MRDT was finally ready for the task ahead of them: the 2017 University Rover Challenge.

Teams arrived in Hanksville, a small town of 200, several days early to get themselves and their rovers acclimated to the harsh desert climate. Operating out of hotels, trailers, and tents, 35 teams from 7 countries dotted the desert landscape; the curious juxtaposition of high-tech rovers and their teams outnumbered the population of Hanksville.

The Mars Rover Design Team, scheduled as the first team to compete, set the bar high by receiving a perfect score on the Extreme Retrieval task. In the three tasks to follow -- Equipment Servicing, Autonomous Traversal, and Science Cache -- MRDT continued to shine "in a display of exceptional engineering and execution".

Receiving perfect marks in both of URC's new events, Autonomous Traversal and Extreme Retrieval, MRDT outscored their nearest competitors by 70 points. The Missouri S&T Mars Rover Design Team became world champions, a hard-earned title 5 years in the making.



## A Message From the CEO

Hello, my name is Cameron Shilko, MRDT's newest Chief Executive Officer. First, I would like to say how honored I am to get to work alongside this extremely talented group of Martians. The upcoming year will be filled with many new faces, and many new opportunities for growth as a team. In the wake of our win we have seen many ways to improve our competition performance but there is so much more to our team than that; we have the ability to continue to expand, to bring more people into MRDT and to spread our vision of Today. Tomorrow. Forever.

The team has already begun next year's adventure. Members have traveled to Canada to participate in the Canadian International Rover Challenge, hoping to expand our reaches. Meanwhile, we are planning next year's rover development schedule, to ensure a successful season. The team has taken advantage of every second of their summer break, there is no off-season, this is how we #RoveSoHard

## Outreach Spotlight: Maker Faire



During the weekend of June 24th and 25th, some of our members traveled to the Union Station in Kansas City for [Maker Faire](#). Maker Faire is "a gathering of fascinating, curious people who enjoy learning and who love sharing what they can do." Attendees ranged from high school robotics teams to local artists and craftsmen. There were makers and innovators from every field and around the country.

Pictured above, one of our members, Brendan Fennell, shows off this year's rover (and URC champion), Gryphon, to a curious attendee. MRDT loves attending outreach events such as this one so we can connect with and inspire the next generation, as well as meet people who share our passion for invention and innovation.

Missouri S&T was one of the event's sponsors (and even advertised our team on a billboard in the area!). We want to thank Missouri S&T, the organizers of Maker Faire, and all who made this great event possible. We look forward to attending in years to come -- meeting makers from all around the United States was truly a great experience!



## Thank You to Our Sponsors and Supporters

We want to thank all of our sponsors and supporters, past and present, for helping us get to where we are today. Your support directly contributes to the development of students' practical skills through hands-on, extracurricular learning. We truly believe that this world, and the next, will be a better place when the people leading and working on it are more diverse in their skills and backgrounds, yet still appreciate their shared humanity. Mars Rover Design Team hopes to do its part in educating and inspiring some of those people, wherever in the universe they choose to go. With your continued support, we can't wait to show the world what we come up with next.

## Follow Us



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## Support Our Team

MRDT could not continue to innovate without the support and contributions of our sponsors, family, and friends. If you would like to make a donation, please click the link below, and under **Designations** select **Mars Rover (507700)**.

Thank you for your support, as we continue to [#RoveSoHard](#) !

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