

he Battalion I 4.29.14

Student baristas around town whip up caffeinated creations with a little flair, perfect for a study break pick-me-up

Coffee art, or latte art, usually involves pouring the last portion of steamed milk into a mug as a way to create a design in the foam of a latte or shot of espresso. It sprouted up in Seattle in the 1980s and 1990s, but has since become widespread across the country and overseas. Some local cafes offer their customers these foamy designs intricately designed by baristas.

1541 Pastries









VIEWS

New York to Chicago on 3 gallons of gas

Gas engines can beat electric — if it is researched

Srinivas Harshal SciTech writer

ver the past 200 years scientists and engineers have worked tirelessly to fect the heart of any vehicle the engine. However, with the increased pressure to go "green," many automakers have turned their attention to electric vehicles at the cost of research into more groundbreaking technologies such as one I came across in a graduate seminar.

The StarRotor engine developed by A&M professor Mark Holtzapple is as green as it gets. It eliminates the emissions problem by dramatically improving efficiency and most importantly, it makes no compromise on performance like EVs do.

EVs and hybrids, although impressive, don't compel most users to pay extra money for a car that might otherwise cost thousands less and not make car maintenance a lifelong science project. The StarRotor engine, in contrast, uses the same old combustion principles except it powers a vehicle twice as efficiently as a piston engine and with minimal pollutants. In theory at least it reduces the need to go electric.

The internal combustion engine, ICE, is inherently dirty. It does three major functions in the same volume - compression, combustion and expansion — and it doesn't do any of them particularly well. Also, about one-third of the energy is sucked out of the walls through the radiator. Holtzapple's StarRotor engine separates the compression, combustion and expansion processes to achieve high efficiency for each functionality and the fuel doesn't even have to be gasoline. It

can run on vegetable oil too.

Traditional gasoline engines are restricted to efficiencies around 20 to 25 percent. The StarRotor engine however may achieve up to 60 percent efficiency and produces fewer pollutants. A striking feature of its design is that it has no

Theoretically, a Volkswagen L1 concept car can run up to 274 miles a gallon with the StarRotor Engine - just under three gallons of fuel to travel from New York to Chicago. However, Holtzapple's ultimate quest of commercializing the StarRotor engine for domestic transportation has not been without considerable

"Despite the obvious benefits of our engine the automakers are unwilling to make design shifts or alter production processes that have been established over a long period of time. It's a mature technology and has worked now for 200 years," Holtzapple said.

He argued that auto-manufacturers would rather invest in a technology such as the fuel cell vehicle or EV's than explore alternatives to the conventional

Hearing Mark Holtzapple so passionately describe the StarRotor engine - the result of 20 years of research — convinced me that automakers ought to at least fund a prototype. It also made me wonder how many such groundbreaking technologies must exist out there that don't see the light of day because they challenge the tried and tested.

> Srinivas Harshal is an electrical engineering graduate student and SciTech writer for The Battalion.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Kelly says farewell as he passes the SBP torch

By Wade Feielin

With his term officially over after the 2015 Muster, Kyle Kelly has had a week to reflect on his time as Texas A&M's student body president as the position passes to Joseph Benigno, 2015-2016 SBP.

Kelly, a fifth-year industrial distribution senior, is a member of the Corps of Cadets and served as executive vice president the year before taking office. Emphasizing the education Aggies receive both in and out of the classroom, Kelly said he ran on the idea of the Aggie experience. In practice, this was represented by what Kelly calls his "way of working," rather than by specific promises or platforms.

"The way of working was to represent students — that is, of course, a given - to have a good relationship in student government and then to have a rapport with the administration," Kelly said.

Rusty Thompson, department head of student activities in the Division of Student Affairs, said he interacted with Kelly several times per week and that Kelly did an excellent job of handling day-to-day needs of his office while remaining focused on big picture objectives.

Kelly said Student Government Association made tremendous strides this year in terms of communication between its branches. He said he developed a strong working relationship with the speaker of Student Senate Hannah Weger, which translated to a smoother, more efficient SGA.

"We have worked well together, sat on a variety of different meetings and task force together and it has been very helpful to not only be friends but to be people who don't always agree," Kelly said.

Weger said Kelly is a driven individual who made it a point to quickly tackle whatever issue was presented to them.

"I think Kyle set several goals at the beginning of the year and worked to make sure those were accomplished," Weger said. "One was just



Kyle Kelly finished his tenure as the 71st Texas A&M Student Body President at Campus Muster on April 21.

making sure that we all work with the core values - integrity, excellence, working toward selfless service — and I think he did a great job of carrying that through to the end."

One controversial issue addressed during Kelly's tenure that highlighted the need for a cohesive SGA was the concealed carry bill presented in Student Senate. Kelly said this was the toughest decision he made because it affected the rights and public safety of many

different groups of people. "I didn't just think about masses of classrooms, I thought about individual people," Kelly said. "I thought about my two younger sisters, Lorelyn and Delaney, who are in classrooms and I tried to make a decision with our Student Senate that was again representative of the student body but that was a decision that was best for A&M, and that was very dif-

ficult. He said the statement SGA released in light of the bill was extremely important because the issue is one that is not

widely understood. "[Concealed carry] is one that people approach with a lot of emotion and not a lot of fact," Kelly said.

In what Kelly called the pinnacle of his calling to serve as student body president, he gave a speech at the 2015 Campus Muster on April 21. He said while it is a ceremony, it is also a way of life for Ag-

"It's something we are about year round - remembering, taking care of our own, honoring those who have gone before us but then also using them as inspiration to continue what they were about," Kelly

Kelly said his love for Texas A&M will allow him to continue to give back even after leaving the office of SBP and graduating, which applies to all

"We bring solutions to the problems in our world and benefit society," Kelly said. 'Aggies go on to lead and serve so I see it as very humanitarian in a way. It's a ministry, it's a calling, it's something I love, and I believe so wholeheartedly in Texas A&M."

A prototype of the StarRotor's compressor, which is projected to be up to 60 percent efficient, as opposed to a current engine's 25 percent

efficiency.