

Mechanical Engineering Team presents Solar – Hydrogen Car at



A team of students from the Mechanical Engineering Department, Columbia represented the University of South Carolina with a first-ever invited display at the Hilton Head Concours d'Elegance Oct. 30, Nov. 1, 2009. Anthony James and Bronsen Harding, shown at left with faculty advisor Ken Reifsnider and SOFC Center Lab Manager Lee Woolley, presented their scooter car that has been converted to run on hydrogen. Their project requires that the hydrogen come from the sun with no help from any infrastructure, to create a "free ride to work every day" using

hydrogen for energy storage, a concept not yet demonstrated by anyone. Solar panels and electrolysis will be used to obtain the hydrogen, which is stored in a tank that is carried in the trunk of the car (left). Over the two days of the exhibit, the team talked with over 400 visitors and counted many times that number taking pictures and commenting. Presentations were also made by members of the team to crowds attending the "Road to the Future" exhibit in which



the USC care was featured (right). The 'future car' is sponsored by the Solid Oxide Fuel Cell (SOFC) Center of Excellence Foundation at USC, and will eventually feature work being done as part of their



Department of Energy Frontiers Research Center. The organizers were very pleased with response to the USC future car, and have indicated that this team will be invited to their event next year. The Concours d'Elegance is the largest and most prestigious Motoring Festival in the United States. Events are held at numerous locations throughout the nation. This is the eighth annual event at Hilton Head.

