



DRIVE ON

A conversation about our cars and trucks



Jul 24, 2011

Auto restoration students find spinoff businesses



McPherson College junior Casey Maxon started his own business -- Cacklesfest Photography.

McPherson College

Some of the students at [McPherson College](#) in Kansas came to major in automotive restoration -- but they are getting an education in entrepreneurship as well.

The McPherson, Kan., college, which bills itself as the only college in the country offering a BA in restoring classic cars, is finding that its students can use their new-found skills in school-funded entrepreneurial ventures. It offers them grants to get their businesses started:

- Want high-quality artistic photographs of your favorite car? Just talk to McPherson junior Casey Maxon who started [Cacklefest Photography](#), specializing in car photos. That's him, above.
- The next time you're searching for the perfect gift, look no further than recent graduate Dale Schwartz, who makes lamps out of car parts.
- Senior Kalila Haddad makes custom guitar bags and is using her grant money to hone her knowledge of pinstriping.

"The restorer is an artist one minute and a bean-counter the next, since all of our magic must take place within the confines of a real-life budget," says Ed Barr, assistant professor of technology at McPherson. "The skills required of the restorer, therefore, naturally overlap with those of the entrepreneur."

Just goes to show that despite sounding like a wacky major, you can apply automotive restoration to everyday life.

-- Olivia Ouyang/Drive On