



Mor Power
Mor Teamwork
Mor Ingenuity

Team 1515
Beverly Hills
High School

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October 30th, 2011 --All Team Workshop

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2011 TEAM



Please join us in congratulating TEAM 1515 - MORTORQ THE BEVERLY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM on the awards won at the 2011 Los Angeles Regional and the 2011 Denver Regional FIRST Robotics Competitions:

2011 Los Angeles Regional
INNOVATION IN CONTROL AWARD
INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AWARD
REGIONAL FINALIST AWARD

2011 Denver Regional
INNOVATION IN CONTROL

AWARD
SAFETY RECOGNITION AWARD

Thank you to Carter Paysinger, Jen Tedford and all the staff, family relatives, friends, and parents that came to see our wonderful team in action!

Impression: 2011 Los Angeles Regional

By: Chloe Revery

LA regionals: competitive, exhausting, intense, and completely amazing. As a first-time witness to a FIRST robotics competition, I wasn't sure what to expect. I envisioned a gathering of nerds, somewhat akin to a Star Wars convention. In my mind's eye I pictured robots battling it out in the practice field Mortal Kombat style, with herds of lab coat-muffled adolescents pouncing on any sign of a malfunction in a nebulous cloud of tool



belts and electrical tape. I was right about the tool belts. But my expectations were largely defied by almost every encounter of the competition. The stadium, field, matches, robots, and teams all made indelible (and mostly good) impressions on my open mind. Forget the other teams-my toughest competition was the morning bus ride. Though the turbulent drive left me dizzy and fuzzy-headed, after a few minutes in the briskly cold morning air I was able to make out the outline of a large building in the distance. Inside, the Long Beach Convention Center was much larger than I had anticipated and about a thousand times roomier than our woodshop, though not as clean. After setup and a day of practice matches, the real competition began. The change in ambiance was perceptible. I mean really perceptible-the snack lines grew by miles as spectators began to arrive by what seemed like the trainful. Suddenly the atmosphere was charged with the excitement of dozens of student-built robots competing on the floor. The possibilities-breakdowns, penalties, high scores-hung dizzily over the crowd. The matches began, and it wasn't long before I spotted our fearless robot marching into battle next to a trembling group of very nervous human drivers. Many good team members lost their voices, sacrificing the power of clear speech for the thrill of shouting at the top of their lungs, and by Saturday morning I too felt the desperate need to always be within reaching distance of a throat lozenge. As I climbed into my own, blessed bed on Saturday night, dripping with exhilaration and exhaustion, I reflected on the competition and thought, I think I'd like to do this again next year.

Impression: 2011 Denver Regional



By: Madison Kern

On April 5th a select number of robotics team members traveled to Denver, Colorado, for the Colorado Regional. Those members - the "travel team" - and our mentors departed from LAX. All were clad in robotics jackets and carrying large, puffy jackets that ended up being totally unnecessary.

As it was my first time on the travel team, I had no idea what to expect. Would the 5 day trip be worth the pounds of make-up work that was dutifully waiting for me upon

my return? The obvious answer: YES! After hearing about all the adventures from previous trips, I wondered how this away regional would compare. According to Alex Kern ('12) "It was fantastic! One of the best regionals I have ever been

to."

But why, you readers might ask, was this regional so spectacular. To begin with, our robot did awesome. Each day we beat the high score (which happened to be set by ourselves). Granted, we also received three red cards in a row. We made it to the elimination rounds because of our own robot, and becoming the fourth alliance was amazing. It was so much more gratifying than being chosen by another team.

Additionally, the overall atmosphere of the Colorado Regional was much more enjoyable than the LA Regional. Similarly to the LA Regional, teams from other countries traveled to Denver to compete. Two teams from Mexico were in attendance, and they brought a lot of spirit with them. With constant dances with words that I still cannot understand, they cheered for nearly 3 days straight. I don't even recall them ever sitting down. Plus, - though nobody beat Ronit's orange hair - we were not the only team to dye our hair. Team 624 used hairspray to create spikes in their hair! These were the most awesome spikes I have ever seen. Some spikes were close to two feet long, and painted bright neon green! It was incredible.

One of the best things about this regional was meeting so many new people. Teams from all over Colorado, as well as Missouri and Texas, came to this regional. All were surprisingly very nice. Perhaps it has to do with something in their smog-free air, but people from Colorado were not only genuinely kind, but also great competitors. There was gracious professionalism overflowing at this regional!

Though we did not win the regional, the road to the semifinals was filled with so much fun, that it didn't completely matter. Plus, winning the award for Innovation in Control again was pretty nice (as well as winning a safety pin). All members of the team had a fantastic time, and it was a great way to end the robotics season!

"I finally crossed that line!"

By: Natasha Natarajan

High school is filled with a multitude of classes, extracurriculars, and sports to choose from. So now I ask myself, how did I find my way into Robotics? If I can't even hammer a nail into a board, how did I expect myself to join a club where students use highly specialized tools to make fully functioning robots? Realizing this, I swore to myself during freshman year that I would never join robotics. That said, I spent half of my high school career waiting outside the door to the Robotics room while my friends were inside participating in meetings and having fun. Finally, at the beginning of junior year, I learned that Robotics has so much more to offer than just building and using tools. Not only is there a building component, but there is also programming, animation, and business -the part of Robotics I would be participating in. After two years of avoiding Robotics, I had finally found a reason to join it. Instead of just waiting outside the door to the Robotics room, I was entering it. And through it I experienced the rarest sense of family. The Robotics room at Beverly is literally a home with Eileen Kahn sitting in as the wise yet lovable mother guiding her seventy children. After a tiring day of tests and classes, I enter the Robotics room and face a scene of numerous kids, some sitting around with Eileen and talking about competition and school, some grouped around an iPad playing games, some playing with the robot in the hallway, and some just socializing and eating their lunches. It is entering a scene like this that I realize how lucky I am to be part of such a family and doubt how I could have ever wanted to avoid the Robotics club. Now I find myself everyday looking forward to spending time with my new brothers and sisters.

MorTorq brings Orange Fever to the 2011 Aids Walk!

By: Leah Stromberg

Ever been to the Aids Walk? Ever walked? Or noticed the people cheering on the sides? How about the people handing out snacks? Maybe the person writing you a receipt for that donation and handing you the certificate of completion?

As volunteers (with a long-term relationship with APLA -Aids Project Los Angeles-) that's exactly what MorTorq did. During the Aids Walk, we took on a job that we'd like to think we're experts on -cheering! We simultaneously shelled light-up buttons to attach to walk-completion certificates, handed out the certificates to those who finished the walk, and cheered for walkers at the top of our lungs. With the Aids Walk's general done-good feeling and a DJ that blasted great



music, it wasn't hard for MorTorqians to have a good time.

When Jeffery Toobi gave about his thoughts on the Aids Walk (it was his first time!), he simply said "It was crazy!" Continuing in conversation, he brought something up that really stood out to me: "It just felt right being there -cheering on the people who finished the walk. They didn't really need us, but they also really did. You know?" As

a member of the small army of helpers both this year and last year -I felt compelled to inform him just how important volunteers are. Everything that goes on behind the scenes -from cheering to check counting- is done by volunteers. Without support-staff, the event would be unable to run as smoothly as it does. Truly, as volunteers, we complete the circle of the Aids Walk.

MorTorq Gives a Helping Hand

By:Madison Kern

MorTorq not only builds a robot in just 6 weeks, but we are also constantly volunteering with local organizations in our community. MorTorq loves to connect with other teams -in fact, while we mentor our FLL Team, RoboSpies, we also video chat with our Chilean friends on Team 2576. The team volunteers constantly and walks in local "walk-a-thons", including AIDS Walk Los Angeles, LA Marathon, and MDA Walk. Additionally, MorTorqians write winter holiday greetings and Valentine's Day cards for sick children at Cedar-Sinai and to students at our sister school in Darfur. In addition to all that, twice a year, we cook "Happy Meals" at our local Ronald McDonald house, feeding the families of those afflicted with cancer.

Doing good makes us feel good too!



1, 2, 3, 4: The Multi-Member Spotlight

By: Chloe Revery

New participants and veterans tell their stories in this multi-member spotlight feature!

Bob Katz

Age: 14

Grade: 10

1st year on the team

I was born in Los Angeles, California, to a mother and a father. Why did I join Robotics? Because I wanted to make a robot! My role on the team is in the programming division. I'm pursuing programming because I want to produce

programs like independent video games when I graduate school. The Robotics program has extremely interesting people, and I'm learning more programming every day. I expect that I'll be able to program very well by the time I'm a senior. What I love about Robotics is how fun it is to just hang out and talk with everyone. They all have something to say. Fun fact: my mom grows oranges.

Katie Lu

Age: 17

Grade: 12

2nd year on the team

I was born in St. Louis, Missouri, but I've been at Beverly for all four years of high school. My hobbies are singing and eating (especially mac and cheese). I sing in Madrigals and do TAW after school. Two years ago, Panchapol, the head of the animation team, recruited me to join the animation division. My first impressions of the team were good-I liked the people and the team. In the past two years, I've become better with computers and better able to work in a group setting. I participate all the time now. Fun fact: I'm a Libra!

Manas Malik

Age: 15

Grade: 11

3rd year on the team

My parents are immigrants from India but I was born and raised here. We're very close, and we travel all the time. We've been to India, Europe -I've been to over thirty countries in total. I originally joined Robotics because I was interested in engineering. I want to go into finance when I graduate college, and it's pretty common now for people who are going into finance to have an undergrad in engineering. Actually, last summer, I interned at Pacific Income Advisors, where I served as a market analyst in a mutual fund. The work experience was fantastic-I had to interact with adults who questioned me constantly. Just like in Robotics, I needed to be able to justify everything I said, and be on top of every detail (if a mentor asked me what was happening, I had to be in the loop). Fun fact: I loved watching Tom & Jerry as a kid.

George Qiao-Guan

Age: 17

Grade: 12

4th year on the team

I was born at UCLA and raised in China until I was 5. My parents, my sister, and I moved to Beverly Hills straight from China, and I started attending local schools. I went to Horace Mann for elementary and middle school, and my freshman year of high school I joined Robotics because Alex Kern, our current president, told me to. In my spare time, I enjoy reading tech magazines, playing drums, and drawing. I also play in the band and participate in Academic Decathlon. Outside of school, I'm an intern at Osbourne Head and Neck Institute. Fun fact: I love Beijing Yogurt.

Visit our website for more information!

Team 1515 Appreciates All the Support!

Team 1515 is grateful to be supported by so many wonderful people. Our program would not exist without the generosity of our community and our corporate sponsors -all are vital to our program.

We also wish thanks to the people that give us support financially. Thank you to our major donors who are listed on our website!

Newsletter Edited by Leah Stromberg

Visit our website for more information!

BHHS robotics is funded solely by donations, corporate sponsorships and fundraising. All business aspects of the program are run by the Beverly Hills High School ROP Entrepreneurship classes taught by Eileen Kahn. If you are interested in supporting our team either as a mentor or as a financial contributor, please contact Eileen Kahn at eileenkahn@gmail.com.

Sincerely, TEAM 1515, BHHS ROBOTICS

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