

#### Letter from the Officers:

Dear Parents, Members, and Alumni,

The 2015 FRC Challenge, Recycle Rush, was broadcast on Saturday, January 3rd, for robotics teams all around the world. MVRT hosted its very own season kickoff on Saturday to initiate the 6 weeks of hard work before bagging and tagging the final product off to competitions.

At kickoff, the game video was played to an audience including MVRT members, alumni, mentors, parents, and even other FRC teams in the Bay Area. Then, guest speakers and alumni Ashwin Mathur, Anant Singhania, and Karen Feng elaborated on the game rules, provided the audience with a few tips on how to approach the build season, and discussed time management. After team member pictures in the photography room, it was time to start brainstorming! MVRT members headed over to the drafting room to start discussing strategy and design in small groups. Over the past few days, members have continued to design and prototype. The team is well on its way to having a masterpiece at the end of build season!

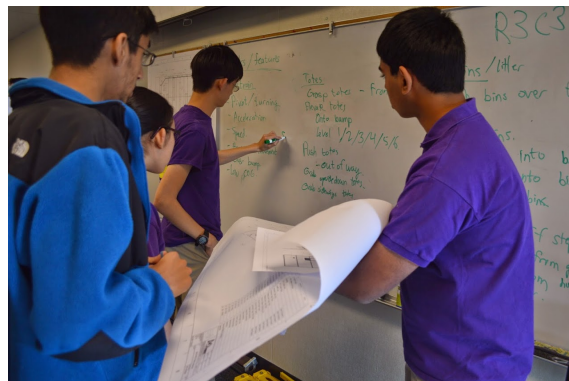
To watch the 2015 FRC Challenge, Recycle Rush, game video, click on this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTyCIYZQ\\_1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTyCIYZQ_1s)

Also, we encourage parents to continue to donate and contribute to the team as we progress through the season. Feel free to drop by for design reviews as we will be encouraging feedback from parents and mentors about robot design and strategy.

Thank you, and we look forward to an exciting season.

#### The MVRT officers

Archana Kikla (President), Andrew He (Vice President of Engineering), Lee Mracek (Director of Electrical), Chirag Toprani (Director of Mechanical), RJ Cunningham (Director of Engineering Data), Divek Toprani (Vice President of Operations), Praxis Bays (Director of Outreach), Michelle Danese (Director of Public Relations), Jeremy Chen (Director of Finance), Sophia Cao (Director of Media), Sydney Howard (Director of Documentation), Shovik Guha (Webmaster)



**MVRT officers and build leads brainstorm robot designs**

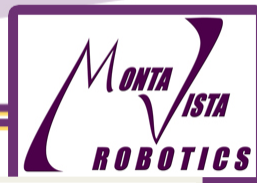
#### PLANNED COMPETITIONS

March 12 – 14, 2015	Utah Regional Salt Lake City, Utah
April 2 – 4, 2015	Silicon Valley Regional San Jose State University
April 22 – 25, 2015	Championships St. Louis, Missouri

#### ThinkFIRST (continuing)

01/11/15 (4:30 - 6:00 PM): Design Review -- Parents are invited to check on the students' progress, and give input on strategy, design, etc.; Monta Vista Campus, Room F108

01/10/15 (1:00 - 5:00 PM): Chairman's Auditions -- Students try out to be on the Chairman's Award team; Monta Vista Campus, Portable 5



**Division Updates:**

**Mechanical:** Mechanical is working hard on prototypes in order to get a better sense of our final design concept. In addition, we have finished the basic chassis model and are moving forward with creating it. If you plan to work in mechanical, please email [mechanical@mVRT.com](mailto:mechanical@mVRT.com)

**Electrical:** Electrical has been working on developing sub-modules for aspects such as vision, which are independent of any design. This week, we began the "install party," during which we update all of our computers to the latest versions of the development tools. Soon we'll be working to wire prototypes for initial testing. If you plan to work in Electrical, please email [electrical@mVRT.com](mailto:electrical@mVRT.com)

**Engineering Documentation:** Engineering Documentation has been helping document the design and strategy process by organizing the Engineering Notebook in order to better record the team's progress. In addition, the division is helping plan for our upcoming design review. If you would like to help please email [engineeringdata@mVRT.com](mailto:engineeringdata@mVRT.com)

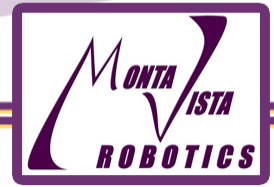
**Public Relations/Outreach:** As build begins, we are shifting our focus to awards for competition such as the prestigious Chairman's Award. Chairman's tryouts will be held this Saturday. The Outreach division is starting another set of ThinkFIRST lessons with Portal and Lincoln Elementary School due to its huge success. If you plan to work in Public Relations or Outreach, please email [publicrelations@mVRT.com](mailto:publicrelations@mVRT.com) or [outreach@mVRT.com](mailto:outreach@mVRT.com)

**Finance:** Finance is currently wrapping up work on grant applications for two of our corporate sponsors, Western Digital, and Applied Materials. As the build season progresses, Finance will be writing a team business plan for FRC's Entrepreneurship Award. If you plan to work in Finance, please email [finance@mVRT.com](mailto:finance@mVRT.com)

**Media:** Media is currently doing a lot of graphics work, starting on button and t-shirt design. Media will also be working with PR, Outreach and Documentation on a recycling/anti-littering campaign for the high school to tie in with game theme "Recycle Rush". There is an upcoming animation competition hosted by Team 116 that Media will also be participating in. If you plan to work in Media, please email [media@mVRT.com](mailto:media@mVRT.com)

**Documentation:** Documentations division is currently in the process of polishing the theme and storyboard for the Chairman's Award video. As usual, we are continuing to take pictures throughout build season and constantly update the MVRT Facebook page. If you plan to work in Documentation, please email [documentation@mVRT.com](mailto:documentation@mVRT.com)

**Website:** The Web Development division is proud to announce that after months of hard work the new website is live. Check it out at [www.mVRT.com](http://www.mVRT.com). If you plan to work on the website, please email [webmaster@mVRT.com](mailto:webmaster@mVRT.com)



Hello From the Mentors,

The mentors have been impressed by the number of team members who have been attending build. Since we have a team of 140 students, we expect a lot of students. We expect a big turnout in the Mechanical side, but it is nice to see how many have been turning out to work in Operations, since there are a lot of projects that need to be completed to have the team run smoothly.

I want to remind parents and students that if a student is ill, they should not show up to build. Mr. Laitinen is a lung transplant recipient and cannot be exposed to excessive germs.

Please bring in snacks; growing teenagers are always hungry.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Mauri Laitinen [mdl@laitinen.com](mailto:mdl@laitinen.com)

Connie Laitinen [cdhl@laitinen.com](mailto:cdhl@laitinen.com)

John Yelinek [johnyelinek@gmail.com](mailto:johnyelinek@gmail.com)

David Greenstein [david\\_greenstein@fuhdsd.org](mailto:david_greenstein@fuhdsd.org)

**Mechanical group building their prototype**

Parents' Booster Club:

Dear Parents,

SNACKS SNACKS SNACKS

MONEY: GRANTS; MATCHING FUNDS

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

HELP OUT THE MENTORS AND TEAM BY DOING THE PARTS BUYING RUNS. YOU WILL BE REIMBURSED.

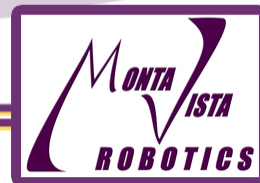
With the large number of students showing up for build, extra parents would be very helpful.

Please contact [publicrelations@mvr.com](mailto:publicrelations@mvr.com) if you are interested in being part of a MVRT parents' club.

Thank you.

Connie Laitinen

**Electrical Rookie of the week Min Hoo Lee**



FIRST Scholarship Opportunities (for juniors and seniors):

Every year, over \$20 million in scholarships are available to robotics team members through FIRST. These are underwritten by universities and businesses. Some scholarships are specific to a college or major; some are general. Not only does it benefit the team members, it also enhances the image of the team to be well represented with FIRST scholarships.

The majority of FIRST Scholarships require that a participant submits an application during his/her senior year of high school. There are, however a few FIRST Scholarship Providers who accept applications during an applicant's junior year, and even more importantly, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute requires that an applicant apply during their junior year.

Please visit the FIRST Scholarship page: <http://www.usfirst.org/scholarshipsearch.aspx>

Deadline 1/15/15

<a href="#">Bucknell University</a>	\$10,000/year for up to four (4) years—any course of study.
<a href="#">Case Western Reserve University</a>	\$10,000/year up to \$40,000—any course of study.
<a href="#">Drexel University</a>	\$10,664 per year up to \$31,992 over 3 years—any course of study—1/13/15
<a href="#">Southern Methodist University</a>	\$1,000 non-renewable—Engineering
<a href="#">Texas A&amp;M University Computer Science</a>	\$1,500 non-renewable —Computer science or computer engineering
<a href="#">University of Cincinnati</a>	\$2,000 non-renewable scholarships—College of Engineering
<a href="#">University of Illinois at Chicago</a>	\$2,000/year for years 1 and 2, then \$3,000/year for years 3 and 4, up to \$10,000—Engineering
<a href="#">Virginia Commonwealth University</a>	In-state tuition & fees (est. at \$12,000/year)—Engineering
<a href="#">Washington University in St. Louis/Boeing</a>	\$5,000/year up to \$20,000--Engineering

To learn about the other benefits, such as internships, that become available once you become a FIRST Alum! <http://www.usfirst.org/alumni>

