



Thousands of spectators were watching in March as 41 teams of high school students battled for technological supremacy at the Long Island FIRST Regional Robotics competition, presented by the School Business Partnerships of Long Island at Hofstra University in Hempstead. The teams competed for a spot in the FIRST USA Championship, held in April at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

Twenty teams earned honors and recognition for design, competitive play, sportsmanship and high-impact partnerships between schools, businesses and communities.

"All teams demonstrated tremendous teamwork, professionalism and strategic thinking, but these winners went above and beyond to overcome the challenges of the competition," SBPLI Founder and Chairman Fred Breithut said. "The fun and excitement of the competition was evident as many students, professional mentors, school groups and community members caught the spirit and came to cheer on their favorite teams as engineering and technology at work surpassed the excitement of a championship athletic event."

The students worked with professional

mentors to design and build robots that solve a problem using a kit of parts and a standard set of rules. This year the students used their robots to compete in the game, "Rack n' Roll," which pitted two alliances (the blue and the red) of three teams each in 2-minute, 15-second matches. The alliances used the robots to place inflated tubes on a rack in various combinations and configurations. Additional points were earned for moving the robots onto a platform at the end of the match.



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A League Of Their Own

Eight weeks of research and design culminated on January 21 at the SBPLI-LI FIRST Lego League Tournament where teams of children and mentors demonstrated their problem-solving skills, creative thinking, teamwork, competitive play, sportsmanship and sense of community. Among the participants were 9 to 14 year old boys and girls from 35 elementary and middle schools on Long Island.

This year's challenge called for teams to research and present their own creative applications of nanotechnology to improve people's lives. The competition was judged in four areas: project presentation; robot performance; technical design and programming of the robot; and teamwork.

The highest honor, the Champion's Award, went to "The Nerds," from Windham, N.H., the team that best exemplified the spirit and values of the Lego League program. Each participant received a medallion to commemorate his/her experience and dedication to the eight-week process.

Founded by inventor Dean Kamen, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was created to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. FLL is an international program created in a partnership between FIRST and the Lego Group in 1998 based on their common belief that fun and learning go hand-in-hand, and that an

inspired mind can accomplish anything. Each September, FIRST announces the annual Challenge to teams, engaging them in authentic scientific research and hands-on robotics design. Using Lego Mindstorms bricks, motors, gears and software, children work alongside adult mentors to design, build, and program robots to solve realworld challenges. This year, teams had the option to use LEGO Mindstorms NXT, the next generation robotics toolset launched in August.

Younger students explore robot design and research

FIRST collaborated with the University of Notre Dame's Center for Nano Science & Technology and the Cornell University Nanobiotechnology Center to help shape a theme and challenge missions that reflect the amazing solutions this newest frontier of science and technology can make possible. They include manipulation of individual atoms, clothes that never get dirty, an elevator to outer space, and cures for disease. "Every FIRST LEGO League challenge helps students discover how imagination and creativity combined with science and technology can solve real-world problems," Dean Kamen said. "This year's focus on nanotechnology introduces them to a new frontier of science and technology."

Janet Anderson, director of the Long Island FIRST program, said: "We are pleased to coordinate the Long Island FIRST LEGO League Tournament. It is an extension of the FIRST Robotics Competition. Together these programs are opening a world of technology, science, and engineering to so many Long Island students, helping to build our high tech workforce of the future."

"It is fitting that Brookhaven Lab and Battelle are sponsoring this tournament, which focuses on nanotechnology. Brookhaven's Center for Functional Nanomaterials will provide scientists with state-of-the-art facilities to study materials at nanoscale dimensions," said Emilio Mendez, director of the Center for Functional Nanomaterials at Brookhaven Lab. "We encourage young people to explore nanotechnology, which offers exciting opportunities for solving some of the problems in the 21st Century — from finding alternatives for fossil fuels to diagnosing and curing diseases with atom-sized probes that would be able to travel throughout the human body."

FIRST has had a positive impact on students and academic communities.

Currently in its ninth year, the FIRST LEGO League anticipates its largest season ever with almost 10,000 teams from around the world competing in qualifying events and tournaments.

Champion's Award: "The NERDS," New Hampshire Robotics Institute, Windham, N.H.

Brookhaven National Laboratory Technology Transfer Award: L.I. Robotics Club, Plainview, N.Y.*

Judges' Award: "Tiny Tech," Longwood Junior High School, Middle Island, N.Y.

Rising Star Award:

"The Spartans," Longwood Junior High School, Middle Island, N.Y.

Robot Design Award

1st "The Robo Phantoms," J.W. Young Middle School, Bayport, N.Y.

2nd "The MS Colts," Mount Sinai Middle School, Mount Sinai, N.Y.

Teamwork Award

1st "The Procrastinators," Plainview, N.Y.*

2nd "Chiron," Riverhead, N.Y.*

Research Project Award

1st "The Congobots," Port Washington, N.Y.*

2nd "The Quogue Riptides," Quogue, N.Y.*

Robot Performance Award

1st "The NERDS," New Hampshire Robotics Institute, Windham, N.H.

2nd "The BrookerBots," The Stony Brook (N.Y.) School

Outstanding Volunteer Award

Debbie Lang, technology teacher, Longwood Central School District

*parent-led team



Participating Schools

Suffolk County

Bay Shore Port Jefferson Comsewogue Sachem Smithtown Southold Hauppauge Lindenhurst Walt Whitman West Babylon Longwood Miller Place West Islip Pat-Medford William Floyd

Nassau County

Baldwin Carle Place Oceanside Plainedge W.T. Clarke Division Ave. Plainview-Freeport Old Bethpage Glen Cove Roosevelt Hicksville Schreiber Island Trees Westbury MacArthur Uniondale

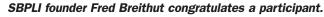
Teams From Other Regions

Perry Meridian, Indianapolis Salmon River, Potsdam, N.Y. Somerville, Somerville, N.J. Aviation, Long Island City, N.Y. Chapin, New York, N.Y. Curtis, Staten Island, N.Y. Port Richmond, Staten Island, N.Y.

Major Sponsors

BAE Corporation **Battelle Foundation BDS Solutions** Bethpage Federal Credit Union Frank Darconte DeVry University **EDO** Corporation Eureka/InfoHighway Farmingdale State University **FESTO Corporation** Hofstra University Ingermann Smith LLP JP Morgan Chase Leard Environmental Services Long Island Fiber Exchange Moore Stephens Municipal Testing Labs Nassau Educators Federal Credit Union North Atlantic Industries Knight Frank Newmark Northrop Grumman Senator Owen Johnson South Oaks Hospital SUNY Stony Brook Suffolk County National Bank Suffolk Co. Legislator Steve Stern **School Construction Consultants** Teachers Federal Credit Union







William Floyd students and supporters cheer their team.



Patchogue-Medford fans get caught up in the action.

School

Pierson

Somerville

Perry Meridian

Massena/Salmon River



SBPLI judges greet competitors after the matches.

Winners of Individual School Fred Breithut Awards

In addition to awards distributed by FIRST. SPBLI also recognized Morgan Poulus-Keating of the Patchogue-Medford team, 'The Raiders, as the recipient of the overall Fred Breithut Regional Most Valuable Participant Award









Name
Akeem Walden
John Durland
Kurt Rooks
Brian Cl <mark>e</mark> gg
Jessie <mark>S</mark> egal
Mike Langa
Anthony Farino
Lisa lopalucci
Morgan Poulus-Keat
Cliff Rosa
Brian Shapp
Chris Citro
Mubeen Khan
Matt Connolly
Teddy Olsen Tank
Anthony Deniello
Bill Charlock
Donald Lasala
Danny Brooks
Joe Veccione
lan Goldin
Matt Quigley
Evan Ackroyd
Alex Symington
Travis Debidat
Mark Gernavage
Kelly Zorn
Richard Bartlett
Tshekedi Noel
Jacy Bulaon
Joshua Schwartz
Kristin Kagetsu
Ben Samra
Marcus Maldonado
Katherine Picado
Bogdan Rajacic
Mike Delph
Emma Pugliesi
Michael Fernandes
Christian Jimenez
Brian Cairl

Team	Tean
Mission Impossible	28
Gearheads	102
Division by Zero	229
Cyber Blue	234
Sachem Aftershock	263
Falcons	270
Mechanical Marauders	271
Floyd	287
Raiders	329
The Green Machine	352
Pobots	353
Robotic Eagles	358
Curtis Cyber Warriors	371
Powerhouse	496
Miller Place Robotics	514
Dragons	527
Baglenators	533
Robodawgs	545
Digital Impact Team	564
Rams	569
Team Phoenix	570
Mechanical Bulls	810
Team RICE	870
Robotechs	871
The Quarks	884
Pandemonium	120
The Generals	135
Hicksville J-Birds	146
Robotic Knights	153
Chaos, Inc.	154
The Knuckleheads	155
Double X	159
Quantum Samurai	160
Division Dragons	160
Rough Riders	160
Stick Shift	168
Warriors	175
Vikings	180
Red Devils	180
Westbury Dragons	202
Robocats	216

Sachem Deer Park Bay Shore William Floyd Patchogue-Medford Carle Place Plainview-Old Bethpage Hauppauge Curtis Port Jefferson Miller Place Plainedge Lindenhurst Island Trees Longwood W.T. Clark Glen Cove Smithtown Southold West Islip Malverne West Babylon MacArthur Hicksville Uniondale Baldwin Oceanside Brearly/Chapin Aviation Division Roosevelt Port Richmond Comsewogue Paul D. Schreiber Freeport Westbury Walt Whitman

Sag Harbor, N.Y. Somerville, N.J. Potsdam, N.Y. Indianapolis, Ind. Farmingville, N.Y. Deer Park, N.Y. Bay Shore, N.Y. Mastic Beach, N.Y. Medford, N.Y. Carle Place, N.Y. Plainview, N.Y. Hauppauge, N.Y. Staten Island, N.Y. Port Jefferson, N.Y. Miller Place, N.Y. North Massepequa, N.Y. Lindenhurst, N.Y. Levittown, N.Y. Middle Island, N.Y. Westbury, N.Y. Glen Cove, N.Y. Smithtown, N.Y. Southold, N.Y. West Islip, N.Y. Malverne, N.Y. West Babylon, N.Y. Levittown, N.Y. Hicksville, N.Y. Uniondale, N.Y. Baldwin, N.Y. Oceanside, N.Y. New York, N.Y. Long Island City, N.Y. Levittown, N.Y. Roosevelt, N.Y. Staten Island, N.Y. Port Jefferson Station, N.Y. Port Washington, N.Y. Freeport, N.Y.

Westbury, N.Y. Huntington Station, N.Y.

School-Business Partnerships Reach New Level

In an effort to facilitate networking opportunities for its alumni, the School -Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc. recently launched a new system on its Web site that allows technology and engineering college graduates who have participated in SBPLI's regional robotics competition to contact sponsor compa-

By submitting contact information at www.sbpli-lifirst.org/alumni, alumni can opt to have their information reviewed by the human resources departments at these companies should internship or full-time positions become available. The Web site also provides company profiles and links to their Web sites. The goal is to encourage and provide direct communication with sponsor compa-

"This really completes SBPLI's program and brings its mission full circle," said Fred Breithut, founder and president of SBPLI. "By connecting graduates with Long Island's technology companies, we can keep our bright engineering and technology students here on Long Island and advance local competition at the same time."

Companies such as JPMorgan Chase, BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, and Stony Brook University have all supported SBPLI's mission and Long Island's FIRST robotics competition, which takes place each March at Hofstra University.

About School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc. (SBPLI)

SBPLI was founded in 1984 by Fred Breithut with the goal of developing partnerships between local high schools and businesses that would provide students with practical experience and curriculum development, while helping the business community develop its future workforce. More than 70 partnerships have been formed. In 1999, Long Island FIRST was formed for the purpose of developing a Long Island Regional First Competition. In 1999, 4 high school teams participated. The Long Island Regional has since grown with 41 teams participating in 2007.

ABOUT U.S. FIRST

Accomplished inventor Dean Kamen founded FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., FIRST designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology and engineering. With the support of many of the

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world's most well known companies, the non-profit organization hosts the FIRST Robotics Competition for high school students and the FIRST LEGO League for children 9 to 14 years old. To learn more about FIRST, go to www.usfirst.org.



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