

*Fifty-one teams competed at the 17th Annual SBPLI Long Island Regional FIRST® Robotics Competition.*

## 17TH ANNUAL SBPLI LONG ISLAND REGIONAL **FIRST®** ROBOTICS COMPETITION BEING HAILED AS ONE OF BEST TO DATE

Thousands of contestants, mentors, sponsors and fans converged on Hofstra University’s David S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Complex on April 1 and 2 for the 17th annual SBPLI (School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc.) Long Island Regional **FIRST®** (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition (FRC). Students from 51 high schools from Long Island, greater New York City and Brazil participated in this year’s game, “**FIRST STRONGHOLD™**,” which some are touting as one of the best competitions yet. The event culminated with awards and honors for areas such as design excellence, competitive play, sportsmanship and high-impact partnerships among schools, businesses and communities.

Three Long Island teams earned one of five eligible positions at the FRC Championship, held at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 27-30. The advancing teams included Team #263 “Sachem Aftershock” from Sachem High School; Team #287 “Floyd” from William Floyd High School; and Team #870 “TEAM R.I.C.E.” from Southold High School. Team #1796, the “RoboTigers” from Queens Vocational & Technical High School in Long Island City, took home the coveted Chairman’s Award, which is the most prestigious award of the event and recognizes the team that embodies the goals and purpose of **FIRST** and best represents a model for other teams to emulate. Team #1156 “Under Control” from Marista Pio XII High School in Novo Hamburgo, Brazil secured the final of the five advancement positions.

*Continued on page 2*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

17TH ANNUAL LONG ISLAND REGIONAL . . . . .	1 & 2
FIRST LEGO LEAGUE (FLL) CHAMPIONSHIP . . . . .	2 & 3
NEW BOARD MEMBERS . . . . .	3
LONG ISLAND TEAMS COMPETE IN FIRST TECH CHALLENGE QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS . . . . .	3
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR . . . . .	4
BERTRAM DITTMAR APPOINTED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR . . . . .	4
SBPLI HONORED WITH INNOVATION AWARD AT IMAGINE AWARDS CEREMONY . . . . .	4
2016 FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION LONG ISLAND REGIONAL KICK-OFF . . . . .	4
2015 SBPLI FRED BREITHUT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER . . . . .	5
FLL JR. WORLD FESTIVAL EXPO NEWS . . . . .	5

FIRST ROBOTICS MUSICAL THEME CONTEST WINNER . . . . .	5
SIXTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING HONORS MARY ANNE SADOWSKI . . . . .	5
FOURTH ANNUAL HALF HOLLOW HILLS INVITATIONAL . . . . .	6
SBPLI PRESENTED WITH LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS’ CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AWARD . . . . .	6
SBPLI ALUMNUS JUSTIN GREENE HONORED AS ONE OF LONG ISLAND’S “30 UNDER 30” . . . . .	6
SEAFORD FLL TEAM #92 ORGANIZED FRANCIS T. PURCELL PRESERVE CLEANUP . . . . .	6
HAPPY RETIREMENT WISHES AND HEARTFELT THANKS TO DR. DAVID VANDERGROOT . . . . .	7
NORTHROP GRUMMAN’S DAN FRIEDEL PRESENTED AT SBPLI’S 2016 LONG ISLAND REGIONAL . . . . .	7
GERSHOW RECYCLING DONATES ALUMINUM SCRAP TO SEVERAL LONG ISLAND ROBOTICS TEAMS . . . . .	7
SMITHTOWN HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM DEVELOPS LEGO SET . . . . .	7
A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 SPONSORS . . . . .	7

*Continued from page 1*

With the hope of winning one of several coveted awards (noted on the right), high school students worked with professional mentors to design, program and build a robot over a six-week timeframe using a “kit of parts,” which consists of some materials that can be used in whichever way teams would like and a standard set of rules that helps teams manage quantity, type and the price of their materials. The students gathered to compete with their robots in *FIRST STRONGHOLD*, in which two Alliances of three teams each attempted to score as many points as possible by breaching the opponents’ defenses and shooting boulders through goals in the opposing tower. During the last 20 seconds of the Quest, robots could attempt to surround the castle and scale the opposing tower to capture it and gain additional points.

Tony Kryl, the Team Mentor for Westhampton Beach High School *FIRST* Robotics Team #3171 the “Hurricanes,” received the Regional Woodie Flowers Award. Winners of the Dean’s List Finalist Award were Carley Rowe of Smithtown High School *FIRST* Robotics Team #810 “The Mechanical Bulls” and Celine Khoo of Ossining High School *FIRST* Robotics Team #4122 “Ossining O-Bots.” The Fred Breithut MVP Award was presented to Nick Liuzzi of Seaford High School *FIRST* Robotics Team #4567 “The Phi-Kings.”

A total of 600 teams competed in the FRC Championships in St. Louis, including the three aforementioned Long Island teams. At the championship, Team #287, “Floyd,” and Team #870, “TEAM R.I.C.E.” each progressed all the way through the Quarterfinals in their division.

Award	Team #	Team Name	School	Hometown
Musical Theme Award	4567	The Phi-Kings	Seaford High School	Seaford, New York
Imagery Award in honor of Jack Kamen	4006	CIBorgs	Central Islip High School	Central Islip, New York
Rockwell Automation Innovation in Control Award	287	Floyd	William Floyd High School	Mastic Beach, New York
Xerox Creativity Award	3171	Hurricanes	Westhampton Beach High School	Westhampton Beach, New York
Delphi Excellence in Engineering Award	810	The Mechanical Bulls	Smithtown High School	Smithtown, New York
Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Entrepreneurship Award	28	Pierson Whalers	Pierson High School	Sag Harbor, New York
Judge’s Award	4122	Ossining O-Bots	Ossining High School	Ossining, New York
General Motors Industrial Design Award	1468	Hicksville J-Birds	Hicksville High School	Hicksville, New York
Motorola Quality Award	1156	Under Control	Marista Pio XII	Novo Hamburgo, Brazil
Johnson & Johnson Gracious Professionalism	329	Mohawks	Patchogue-Medford High School	Medford, New York
Chrysler Team Spirit Award	527	Red Dragons	Plainedge High School	North Massapequa, New York
Underwriters Laboratories Industrial Safety Award	2638	Rebels	Great Neck South High School	Great Neck, New York
Regional Finalist #1	870	TEAM R.I.C.E.	Southold High School	Southold, New York
Regional Finalist #2	329	Mohawks	Patchogue-Medford High School	Medford, New York
Regional Finalist #3	2875	CyberHawks	Cold Spring Harbor High School	Cold Spring Harbor, New York
Regional Winner #1	1156	Under Control	Marista Pio XII	Novo Hamburgo, Brazil
Regional Winner #2	287	Floyd	William Floyd High School	Mastic Beach, New York
Regional Winner #3	263	Sachem Aftershock	Sachem High School	Lake Ronkonkoma, New York
Regional Engineering Inspiration Award	870	TEAM R.I.C.E.	Southold High School	Southold, New York
Regional Chairman’s Award	1796	RoboTigers	Queens Vocational & Technical High School	Long Island City, New York

## JFK TRASH BANDITS OF TERRYVILLE AND GEARHEADZ OF ROCKY POINT ANNOUNCED AS SBPLI *FIRST* LEGO LEAGUE (FLL) CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS



Members of FLL Team #2774 “JFK Trash Bandits” of Terryville accept the Champion’s Award at the SBPLI *FIRST* LEGO League Championship Tournament.

Longwood High School was once again home to the SBPLI *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL) Long Island Championship Tournament, which took place at the school on Sunday, February 28. The event challenged 400 Long Island middle school children to demonstrate their problem-solving skills, creative thinking, teamwork, competitive play, sportsmanship and sense of community.

FLL Team #2774, the “JFK Trash Bandits” of Terryville, took home the First Place Champion’s Award and advanced to the FLL World Festival, which was held at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis on April 27-30. FLL Team #6435, the “GearHeadz” of Rocky Point, secured the Second Place Champion’s Award and continued on to the FLL North American Open Championship held at LEGOLAND in Carlsbad, California on May 20-22.

The Trash Bandits, while not having won an award in St. Louis, achieved the team’s highest robot score ever and submitted a comprehensive document for future consideration as Long Island’s Global Innovation Award winner. The GearHeadz went on to win the Second Place Programming Award and were fifth overall in Robot Performance scores at LEGOLAND.

After eight weeks of research and design, 150 Long Island teams competed in four Qualifiers for an opportunity to be one of 40 teams to participate in the Championship Tournament at Longwood High School. These Qualifiers, which included nearly 1,500 elementary and middle school students from Nassau and Suffolk Counties, were held in January and February at Mineola and Central Islip High Schools, respectively.

*Continued on page 3*

# STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY VICE PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DR. YACOV SHAMASH APPOINTED AS NEW CHAIRMAN OF SBPLI

*The Organization Also Welcomes Two New Board Members, Including George Duffy, Executive Director/CEO of SCOPE*



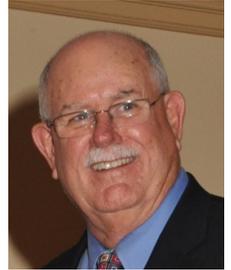
Dr. Yacov Shamash, Stony Brook University's Vice President for Economic Development, was recently appointed as Chairman of the Board of SBPLI. Dr. Shamash replaces Hans Zobel, who has stepped down from the post but will remain with the organization as a member of the board. George L. Duffy III and Bertram Dittmar have also joined the organization's esteemed Board of Directors. Each of the newest members brings with them a unique skillset that will benefit SBPLI in its mission to provide substantial hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) learning opportunities for Long Island students.

In his role at Stony Brook University, Dr. Shamash supervises the University's four incubators, three New York State Centers for Advanced Technology (Medical Biotechnology, Sensor Systems and Integrated Electric Energy Systems); two New York State Centers of Excellence (Wireless and Information Technology [CEWIT], and the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center [AERTC]); the Small Business Development Center; and the workforce development programs of the Center for Emerging Technologies.

Dr. Shamash also led the collaboration among the engineering programs at the University Centers of the State University of New York (SUNY) to create the very successful statewide Strategic Partnership for Industrial Resurgence (SPIR) program. He also previously served as Stony Brook University's Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and as Director of the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Washington State University and held faculty positions at Florida Atlantic University, the University of Pennsylvania and Tel Aviv University. A graduate of London's Imperial College of

Science and Technology, Dr. Shamash is the author of more than 130 publications and a Fellow for IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers).

George Duffy has also joined the Board this year. Presently the Executive Director and CEO of SCOPE Education Services, Mr. Duffy previously served as the organization's Deputy Director for Student Services for 10 years, coordinating the core program of the not-for-profit educational organization that serves all Long Island school districts. He represents Long Island as a member of the New York State Study Council and is Immediate Past President of the National School Development Council. His past position as Superintendent of both the Riverhead Central School District and Seafood Union Free School District has given him the comprehensive understanding of the needs of Long Island students and the opportunities for growth within their school districts.



Dr. Shamash and Mr. Duffy are also joined by Bertram Dittmar, who was recently appointed as SBPLI's Executive Director.

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 4 FOR FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING MR. DITTMAR.**

## FIRST LEGO LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

*Continued from page 2*

The theme of this year's competition was TRASH TREK™, which tasked the more than 230,000 students from nearly 80 countries around the world with discovering the hidden (or not-so-hidden) world of trash. Teams had to program their LEGO MINDSTORMS® robots to solve a number of missions on an obstacle course set on a thematic playing surface. Game missions include demolishing a building and salvaging valuable materials from the debris, converting organic material into fertilizer and reusing methane produced in a landfill to power a truck and/or factory.

Listed below are the awards that were presented during the SBPLI FLL Championships on February 28:

## LONG ISLAND TEAMS COMPETE IN FIRST TECH CHALLENGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

New York City *FIRST*, along with SBPLI, presented the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Qualifying Tournaments on January 31 at Syosset High School and February 7 at Lynbrook High School. Forty-nine teams from Long Island, the metropolitan New York area and the island country of Jamaica took part in the day-long competitions.

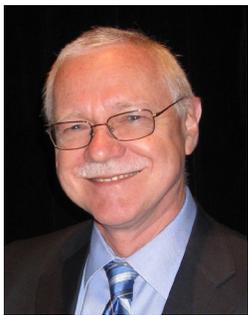
The FTC tournament requires students in grades seven through twelve to design, build, and program a robot to compete with in an alliance format against other teams. Each year, a different themed challenge is presented to those who participate in the tournament. The challenge was "*FIRST* RES-Q<sup>SM</sup>," in which Alliances of two teams programmed their robots to collect debris and place them in goals located on certain sections of the playing area and along a mountain. The number of points for each piece of debris scored was based on which goal was used.

Following the tournaments, an awards ceremony was presented by the *FIRST* judges. Teams won trophies for various categories that represented a range of qualities, such as teamwork, creativity and inspiration. Nearly two dozen Long Island teams advanced from the Qualifying Tournaments to the New York City-Long Island Championships.

Teams from Long Island that took home awards at the February 28 Championships included Team #4137 the "IslandBots" from Setauket, Team #7164 the "Falcon Bots" from Locust Valley, Team #3540 the "RoboBoogie" from Hewlett, Team # 10696 the "Dream Team" of Syosset, Team #123 the "Vanguard" of Syosset, Team #8325 the "Oyster Bot" from Oyster Bay, Team #4017 the "roboPandas" of Floral Park, Team #10419 the "Syosset Elite" of Syosset, Team #6657 the "GSNC LEGOTronettes" of Garden City and Team #10532 the "Shrikes" of Stony Brook. Team #3540 and Team #6657 both advanced to the next round of the tournament.

Award	Team #	Team Name	Town
Champion's Award	First Place: 2774	JFK Trash Bandits	Terryville
	Second Place: 6435	GearHeadz	Rocky Point
Robot Performance	First Place: 15067	RoboFalcons	Wantagh
	Second Place: 92	Sea Lions	Seaford
Research	4454	Berner Bison Bots	Massapequa
Innovative Solution	8770	Motors Squared	Mineola
Presentation	15755	At Your Disposal	Harborfields Library
Mechanical Design	15794	Cyber Dogs	Roslyn
Programming	8621	LEGO Chicks	Garden City
Strategy & Innovation	16282	Party Bots 2.0	Floral Park
Inspiration	684	STOBOR	Syosset
Teamwork	1200	Unlimited Thinkers	New Hyde Park
Gracious Professionalism	92	Sea Lions	Seaford

## BERTRAM DITTMAR APPOINTED AS SBPLI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Bertram Dittmar was recently appointed as Executive Director of SBPLI. The former President and CEO of Schenck Corporation, the U.S. arm of Schenck RoTec, which has offices in Deer Park, New York and Southfield, Michigan, Mr. Dittmar retired this past September after a collective 40 years with the company. He is also credited as a publication sponsor on four studies related to engine balancing.

Mr. Dittmar, whose career with Schenck RoTec began as an Application Engineer at Schenck's German Headquarters, will call on his years of engineering knowledge and leadership experience to help grow SBPLI. In addition to his new role, Mr. Dittmar continues to serve as a Management Consultant for Schenck Corporation. He is also an active member of the German Economic Round Table steering committee, the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE International), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

*Continued on page 6*

## JOHN LOONAM NAMED AS SBPLI'S VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



*Pictured (left to right): Deb Winter, David Johnson, Joani Madarash and John Loonam.*

Currently a member of the SBPLI Executive Management Team, John Loonam was chosen as SBPLI's 2016 Volunteer of the Year for his steadfast commitment to the organization. A New York native, John worked for Northrop Grumman for nearly 40 years before retiring as the company's Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Engineering and Technology. During his career, John created and managed several school-focused programs through the company. He joined SBPLI in 2005, shortly before his retirement from Northrop Grumman, which is also a major SBPLI sponsor.

Over the past decade, John has taken on many roles in the organization, including as Co-President after the untimely passing of our founder, Fred Breithut. He continues to be an active team player and volunteer and aims to do anything and everything to help the organization and its students – including the very daunting task of managing the massive FRC Checklist. He is a supportive and collaborative man of true honor and character and is especially deserving of this title – if not “Volunteer of the Decade.”

## SBPLI HONORED WITH INNOVATION AWARD AT IMAGINE AWARDS CEREMONY

SBPLI was among those honored at the Fourth Annual Imagine Awards, founded and presented by Cerini & Associates and presented to the region's top non-profits, on May 3 at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury. SBPLI was the winner of the Empire National Bank Innovation Award for the organization's innovative approaches to meet its mission and dedication to offering hands-on opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to Long Island youth.

Over 135 non-profits submitted applications to the Fourth Annual Imagine Awards. Applicants hoped to win a \$5,000 grant in one of five categories: Innovation, Leadership Excellence, Rising Star, Social Entrepreneurism and Social Impact. Of the many exceptional applicants, only 20 non-profits were selected as finalists and one in each category was ultimately awarded the grant. A sixth organization was provided a Fan Favorite Award through an open online vote.

This year's other winners included Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island, Best Buddies New York, the COPE Foundation, Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth (LIGALY), Family and Children's Association and SBPLI.



*Pictured left to right are Steve Schwimmer, Sheila Silberglied, Troy Douglas, Dr. Michael Canders, Stephanie Stern, Joani Madarash, Bertram Dittmar, Chris Early, Jeff Stern, Karen Perry-Weinstat and Carl Mesenburg.*

## 2016 FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION “FIRST STRONGHOLD” UNVEILED DURING SBPLI'S LONG ISLAND REGIONAL KICK-OFF



*SBPLI FIRST Long Island students, educators and parents converged on the Jacob Javits Lecture Center at Stony Brook University for the 2016 FIRST Robotics Competition Kick-Off and Game Reveal.*

The Stony Brook University Jacob Javits Lecture Center was abuzz with anticipation on January 9 as students, educators and families from across Long Island joined together for the unveiling of the 2016 FRC theme, “FIRST STRONGHOLD.” Based on popular medieval castle-conquering and battle-strategy games, “FIRST STRONGHOLD” involves two Alliances of three robots each on a quest to breach opponents' defenses, calculate their movements and ultimately overtake their tower.

Presented by SBPLI, this annual event served as the official Kick-Off of the 2016 FIRST Long Island season and included a live broadcast of the game reveal direct to the Javits Center. Hundreds of eager Long Island FIRST students and their parents and coaches listened with rapt attention as FIRST Founder Dean Kamen, FIRST Executive Advisory Board Co-Chair Woodie Flowers and FIRST President Donald Bossi discussed the program as well as the 2016 theme and objective.

“One of the amazing things about FIRST is that everyone involved gets more out of it than they put into it,” said Mr. Kamen, who is also president of DEKA Research & Development. “The kids get opportunities they'd never get elsewhere; it might give them career options they'd never thought about. The teachers see kids who become passionate about learning and the relevance of technology and math [...] We get to be part of a group that is creating the future of the world.”

The rules of this year's game were simple: robots gain points by incapacitating defenses and scoring boulders through goals in the opposition's tower. During the final twenty seconds of the game, robots may surround and scale the tower of the opposing team in an effort to capture it to earn another 15 points each.

## FLL JUNIOR TEAM #4137 FROM GREAT NECK EARN CHANCE TO COMPETE IN WORLD FESTIVAL EXPO



For two days, hundreds of students, parents and volunteers convened for learning, technology and fun at this year's FLL Junior Expos on February 27 at Mineola High School and February 28 at Longwood High School.

During the two Expo days, children ages six to nine from 65 teams across Long Island presented their projects for this year's challenge, WASTE WISE<sup>SM</sup>, in which children discovered what making trash really means. While exploring this theme, teams studied simple machines as they built a LEGO model that represented their ideas about how to deal with trash. They also learned to present information through a Show-Me Poster. Throughout their experience, teams operated under the signature set of *FIRST* Core Values.

Team #4137, the "LEGO Crystals" of Great Neck, took home of the Complexity and Decoration Award at the FLL Jr. Expo at Mineola High School and were invited to participate in the FLL World Festival Expo, which was held on April 28-30 in St. Louis. There, the team was presented with the Amazing Movement Award.

## ANDREW OPACKE NAMED 2015 RECIPIENT OF THE SBPLI FRED BREITHUTH SCHOLARSHIP

SBPLI proudly recognized former Team #358 member Andrew Opacke as the 2015 winner of SBPLI's Fred Breithuth Scholarship. Awarded annually to a recent high school graduate and SBPLI *FIRST* team member entering Farmingdale State College, the SBPLI Fred Breithuth Scholarship is provided for a maximum of four years, in the amount of \$1,000 per semester.



Mr. Opacke joined the *FIRST* Robotics team during his freshman year of Hauppauge High School. Although he joined the team to have fun, the work he did with the team gave him experience in the engineering field and has influenced his future career aspirations. He just completed his first year of studying mechanical engineering at SUNY Farmingdale and hopes to return to his high school as a *FIRST* robotics team mentor.

After accepting the award, Mr. Opacke also discovered his family's personal connection to the scholarship — Mr. Breithuth was his grandparents' social studies teacher in junior high and high school in Franklin Square. Mr. Breithuth, who taught history and held administrative posts with numerous high school districts on Long Island, operated SBPLI for 25 years as its President and Founder.

## SEAFORD HIGH SCHOOL WINS SBPLI'S FIRST ROBOTICS MUSICAL THEME CONTEST



Nick Liuzzi (left) accepts a certificate from Will Recce (right)

Seaford High School *FIRST* Robotics Team #4567 "The Phi-Kings" was the winner of this year's musical theme contest, sponsored by WorkLife Resources, Inc. The song was used at SBPLI's 2016 Long Island Regional FRC. The presentation was held at the FRC kickoff event at Stony Brook University's Jacob Javits Lecture Center on January 9. SBPLI Board Member Will Recce, principal of School Construction Consultants, Inc., presented the award to Nick.

"The Phi-Kings" President, Nick Liuzzi, composed the winning theme song. Other teams participating in the contest included Pierson High School, Bay Shore High School, Plainedge High School, Walt Whitman High School and Westhampton Beach High School. Students worked with their robotics team mentors and the faculty members of their high school's music departments to compose their songs. Members of SBPLI's Development Council chose the winning entry. The Seaford High School *FIRST* Robotics team was presented with a \$1,000 check at this year's Long Island Regional FRC.

## SBPLI HITS THE LINKS WITH ITS SIXTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING, IN HONOR OF MARY ANNE SADOWSKI

Members and supporters of SBPLI swung the irons at the Sixth Annual SBPLI Golf Outing, presented by SCOPE Education Services, on June 27. This year's event was held at Nissequogue Golf Club in St. James and honored Mary Anne Sadowski, Esq., Managing Partner of the Hauppauge-based law firm, Ingerman Smith, LLP and longtime supporter of SBPLI.

Ms. Sadowski has been a true friend of SBPLI, not only by providing pro bono legal services and financial assistance to the organization, but also by volunteering her time to support its programs. This year marks her 14th year as a judge for the SBPLI Long Island Regional FRC. She also insists on leading the Chairman's Award Committee each year as she sees it as a privilege to communicate with students, many of whom ultimately decide to enter STEM-related majors in college, and have the opportunity to see how they been impacted by the *FIRST* robotics program. These students (and her fellow judges) are amazed by her ability to remember each participant's name from the previous year, and she especially enjoys seeing how the students' abilities develop each year.

In her role as Managing Partner of Ingerman Smith, Ms. Sadowski represents the Firm's school district clients in all general education, labor and commercial/construction-related legal matters, including policy review; employment issues; student matters; school board grievance and liability; construction bidding, proposals and contracts; and software licensing. She has extensive experience in all facets of fiscal management, commercial and construction issues, and provides assistance to school district clients through all stages of construction projects.



## SBPLI PRESENTED WITH LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS' CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AWARD

The Corporate Citizenship Awards recognize companies, individuals and non-profit organizations who believe that, by being a good corporate citizen, we contribute to the economic and social well-being of our employees, businesses and the community. Honorees consistently prove that true community stewardship evolves through building strong partnerships with the nonprofit organizations that strive to meet the critical needs of our community. During the event, which was held at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury on June 14, SBPLI was presented with the Award for Non-Profit of the Year.

## FOURTH ANNUAL HALF HOLLOW HILLS INVITATIONAL



*A robot from the Plainedge High School FIRST® Robotics Team #527 "Red Dragons" attempts to cap a stack of totes with a recycling container for additional points at the Fourth Annual Half Hollow Hills Invitational.*

Twenty teams took part in the Fourth Annual Half Hollow Hills Invitational at Half Hollow Hills High School West in Dix Hills, on November 14, 2015. The event was presented by the Half Hollow Hills School District on behalf of SBPLI.

The group of high school students who competed, which included two rookie teams, used the robots they built for the 2015 Long Island Regional FIRST Robotics Competition that took place in March 2015. The robots battled on a 27-by-54-foot playing field, scoring points by stacking totes onto scoring platforms, capping those stacks with recycling containers and properly disposing of pool noodles, which represented litter.

The winning alliance was comprised of Plainedge High School FIRST Robotics Team #527 "Red Dragons," and Sachem High School FIRST Robotics Team #263 "Aftershock." The finalists were North Shore High School FIRST Robotics Team #3950 "RoboGym," and Smithtown High School FIRST Robotics Team #810 "Mechanical Bulls."

The purpose of this postseason event was to show visiting schools, teachers and administrators how students are garnering an interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields and why robotics programs are vital to their schools' curricula. Some of the school officials even had the opportunity to operate their teams' robots during one of the day's matches.

## BERTRAM DITTMAR APPOINTED AS SBPLI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Continued from page 4*

and the Farmingdale State College's Applied Mathematics and Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering Technology department advisory committees.

The Board is confident that Bertram's experience in leading an internationally operating manufacturing company more than qualifies him for this position. He will receive ongoing support and guidance from the Executive Management Team as he takes on this new initiative. We are all excited that Bertram has agreed to accept this role.

## SBPLI ALUMNUS JUSTIN GREENE HONORED AS ONE OF LONG ISLAND'S "30 UNDER 30"



SBPLI alumnus and former Student Ambassador Justin Greene was recognized in August 2015 as one of Long Island's "30 Under 30" by The Huntington Chamber of Commerce. A previous member of SBPLI's Half Hollow Hills FIRST Robotics Team #3624, the "Thundercolts", Mr. Greene just completed his sophomore year at Ohio State University's Fisher Business School. Recalling his time with SBPLI, he was inspired to increase the robotics initiatives at his college and the neighboring school districts.

Nominated for the award by an SBPLI judge from the FIRST competition, Mr. Greene, who is 19, was the youngest winner in 2015 and the second-youngest person to ever receive this honor. He received the award as a result of his dedication to SBPLI, FIRST, his current and former communities and the Half Hollow Hills School District.

While on the Thundercolts, Mr. Greene attended the FIRST Championship as part of a Rookie All-Star FRC team. He furthered his leadership skills as a student ambassador in the Development Council of SBPLI, where he helped raise funds and designed and ran expansion campaigns across Long Island. Mr. Greene was also asked to speak to 1,000 attendees at SBPLI's FIRST Long Island Regional last year, at which he was honored as a FIRST Dean's List finalist. He then continued on to the FIRST National Competition.

## SEAFORD FLL TEAM #92 ORGANIZED FRANCIS T. PURCELL PRESERVE CLEANUP

Seaford FLL Team #92, the "Sea Lions", hosted an environmental cleanup at the Francis T. Purcell Preserve in Hempstead on August 8, 2015. The primary habitat for many native plants and animals, this Hempstead plains area once occupied more than 40,000 acres in central Nassau County. Recognizing the years of neglect the preserve has endured, the team members felt it was time to restore the park to its original grandeur.

"This event gave team members the opportunity to work together and help impact the environment in a positive manner," Seaford FLL Team #92 Coach Chris Baker said. "After visiting several local areas, we selected the Francis T. Purcell Preserve for its impact on the natural habitat."

## HAPPY RETIREMENT WISHES AND HEARTFELT THANKS TO DR. DAVID VANDERGROOT!

SBPLI Treasurer David Vandergoot, Ph.D., retired two years ago from his roles as President of WorkLife Resources and Center for Essential Management Services and recently stepped down from his post in the organization in an effort to be closer to his wonderful grandchildren in North Carolina. He and his wife, Beverly, also plan to spend their “golden years” traveling to amazing locations.

David joined SBPLI in the mid-80s, after meeting with Fred Breithut, who had just founded the organization. At that time, David was working as a researcher for Human Resources Center, which aimed to help youth with disabilities transition to post-secondary employment. It was this goal that led to an association between Fred and David. At that time, David’s primary role with SBPLI was to apply for and evaluate grants from the Department of Education that would support both organizations. After David left HRC to start his businesses, he continued to assist Fred in SBPLI’s fundraising efforts and financial accountability, which led to his appointment as treasurer.

Among his many significant contributions to SBPLI, David was instrumental in the creation of the Fred Breithut Scholarship at Farmingdale State College, the sponsor of the annual Musical Theme Award for the *FIRST* Robotics Competition and, in 2015, was honored as the recipient of the SBPLI Owen H. Johnson Leadership Award.

When asked about a lasting memory of his years with SBPLI, David said, “Working with Fred was always an inspiration. His enthusiasm never flagged and he was a great example for those who worked alongside him. It has been a great pleasure to have met so many people who have come to follow Fred’s example in making SBPLI a Long Island treasure. The organization has enabled many Long Islanders to discover wonderful careers while simultaneously showing local employers the value of working with schools to educate the area’s youth. It has been a real honor to be associated with all of the people behind SBPLI.”

Though his presence will be incredibly missed at SBPLI meetings and events, we extend to David our heartfelt thanks for his commitment to the organization over the last 30 years and wish him much luck and happiness in his “next chapter.”

## GERSHOW RECYCLING DONATES ALUMINUM SCRAP TO SEVERAL LONG ISLAND ROBOTICS TEAMS

For the seventh year in a row, Gershow Recycling opened its Medford facility to local high school robotics teams participating in SBPLI’s 2016 Long Island Regional to receive free aluminum scrap. Representatives from Kings Park High School, Miller Place High School, Townsend Harris High School, Half Hollow Hills High School and Bridgehampton High School visited the facility, where they received 25 pounds of aluminum scrap to help them build a robot.

## NORTHROP GRUMMAN’S DAN FRIEDEL PRESENTED AT SBPLI’S 2016 LONG ISLAND REGIONAL



Dan Friedel at the 2016 Long Island Regional

Northrop Grumman’s Director of Force Protection business, Dan Friedel, was one of the presenters during the 17th Annual Long Island Regional. Northrop Grumman is a longtime supporter of SBPLI and *FIRST*, part of the company’s commitment to STEM. As he took center stage, Dan commended the students for their achievements.

“*FIRST* Robotics truly combines the excitement of sport with the rigor of science, technology and engineering,” he said. “Much like medieval knights jousting, you’ve applied practical knowledge, hands-on skill and preparation to provide a fun, entertaining day for those of us watching from the stands.”

Looking beyond the “great fun science and engineering can be,” Dan reminded the high schoolers the disciplines are also critically important. “The world needs solutions, problem solvers and doers, and you can make a real, meaningful difference.”

## SMITHTOWN HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM DEVELOPS LEGO SET BASED ON 2016 *FIRST* ROBOTICS COMPETITION THEME

FRC Team #810, “The Mechanical Bulls” from Smithtown High School, have created a *FIRST* STRONGHOLD-themed LEGO™ set. Team members Matthew Quigley and Emily McDermott, each from Smithtown, submitted the set to the LEGO company for consideration of turning



it into a commercially available product. The set, which is based on the theme of the 2016 FRC season, comes complete with imperial-era castle defenses and LEGO figures mimicked after *FIRST* Founder Dean Kamen and Executive Director Woodie Flowers. The official name that was submitted is *FIRST* STRONGHOLD: Blue Alliance, an ode to the red and blue alliances that are incorporated in the *FIRST* Robotics Competition.

With a high volume of toy set ideas pitched to the company, LEGO requires more than just a great design. Matthew and Emily’s design must also go through a petitioning process, which requires 10,000 votes. As of print time, the set is currently among the “Popular This Week” sets and already has more than 2,000 votes.

## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 SPONSORS

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## ABOUT SBPLI

School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc. (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. Over 100 partnerships have been formed. In 1999, SBPLI brought the *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition to Long Island, in which eight high school teams participated. Since then, the Long Island Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition has grown to over 50 teams competing each year. SBPLI also hosts Long Island's annual *FIRST* LEGO League Qualifying and Championship Tournaments and the *FIRST* LEGO League Junior Expos, in which almost 2,000 elementary and middle school students from Nassau and Suffolk Counties take part each year. For more information, visit [www.sbpli.org](http://www.sbpli.org).

## 2016-2017 SEASON CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ***FIRST* Info Night**

**July 21, 2016**

Plainview/ Old Bethpage Library

### ***FIRST* Robotics**

#### **Competition 2017 Kick-Off**

**January 7, 2017**

Stony Brook University

### ***FIRST* Tech Challenge Qualifier**

**January 28, 2017**

Syosset High School

### ***FIRST* LEGO League Qualifiers**

**January 21-22, 2017**

Mineola High School

**January 28-29, 2017**

Central Islip High School

### ***FIRST* LEGO League Championship**

**March 5, 2017**

Longwood High School

### ***FIRST* LEGO League Junior Expos**

**February & March 2017**

Longwood High School

### ***FIRST* Tech Challenge Championship**

**March 2017**

TBD

### **18th Annual SBPLI Long Island Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition**

**March 30 to April 1, 2017**

Hofstra University

Please Note: All dates are tentative  
and are subject to change.

PO Box 101, Kings Park, New York 11754 • (631) 627-8400

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.SBPLI.ORG](http://WWW.SBPLI.ORG)**

