

Connections

Newsletter For Columbia Area Career Center Parents and Friends

Spring 2011

The Army Ants are on the March

What could possibly be the catalyst for over 40 high school students, teachers, mentors and parents to flock to Columbia Area Career Center after school and on the week-ends? It's a unique opportunity called the FIRST Robotics Competition! The FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) pairs high school students with adult mentors (primarily engineers and teachers) to design and build robots that compete against one another in this high energy "Varsity sport for the mind." Each year a challenging game is introduced which combines the practical application of science and technology with the fun, intense energy and excitement of a team championship sporting event.

In 2011, FRC will reach nearly 55,000 high school students representing approximately 2,200 teams. FRC teams come from every state in the United States, as well as from Bosnia, Brazil, Canada, United Kingdom, Mexico, Chile, Germany, Israel, Turkey, Australia and The Netherlands. FRC teams will participate in 50+ Regional Competitions and approximately 340 deserving teams will qualify to go to the FIRST Championship at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, MO.

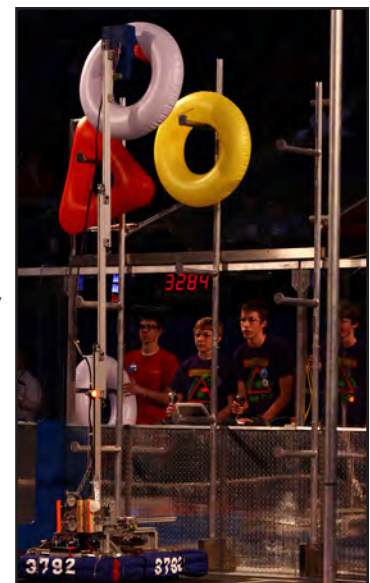
The Columbia team, named the Army Ants, had a very short window of time to plan, build, and troubleshoot a robot which met exacting specifications. In the course of six weeks, students gained real-world engineering experience, technological literacy, teamwork skills and marketing and communications savvy! Sponsored by a generous \$6,500 grant from JCPenney, this is the first time students from Boone County have had the opportunity to participate in this microcosm of the real engineering experience.

Twenty-four students, two mentors and five advisors traveled to the Chaefitz Arena in St. Louis for the Regional FIRST Robotics Competition March 17-19. Twenty-eight teams from Missouri, Ohio and Kentucky were locked in fierce competition. This year's game, LOGO MOTION™, is played by two competing alliances on a flat 27' x 54' field. Each alliance consists of three robots. They compete to hang as many inflated plastic shapes (triangles, circles, and squares) that make up the first logo on their grids as they can during a 2 minute and 15 second match. The higher the teams hang their game pieces on their scoring grid, the more points their alliance receives.



Siyuan Gao and Daniel Brennan hold the team trophies.

The match begins with one 15-second Autonomous Period in which robots operate independently of driver inputs and must hang Ubertubes to score extra points. For the rest of the match, drivers control robots and try to maximize their alliance score by hanging as many as possible. Any piece hung on the same peg as an Ubertube receives double points. If teams assemble the logo pieces on their scoring grids to form the FIRST® logo, the points for the entire row are doubled.



Story continued on pg. 2

Army Ants

The match ends with robots deploying mini-bots, small electro-mechanical assemblies that are independent of the host robot, onto vertical poles. The mini-bots race to the top of the pole to trigger a sensor and earn additional bonus points. Competitive teams mini-bots race up the 10 foot pole in about 1 ½ seconds!

Three days of intense competition resulted in the Army Ants being the only rookie team to be in the top seed for the semi-finals. Team Captain **Ethan Winberg** invited two teams to join our alliance for the battle to advance to the finals. Although the team's efforts did not result in a berth in the finals, the Awards Ceremony produced trophies for earning the Rookie All-Star Award and Highest Rookie Seed Award. Rookie teams that achieve Rookie All-Star status qualify for the International Championship. Additionally, the team received a trophy



Ransom Stamps helps reassemble the robot's crate which is stored in a St. Louis warehouse until the Championship Competition.

in honor of the Most Inspiring Rookie Team and a safety award. FRC offers over \$14 million in scholarships and two Army Ants members, Ethan Winberg and John Schreiner, have received \$2,000 awards.

The team will be traveling to the Edward Jones Dome for competition April 27-30.

CACC Students are Breaking Traditions

This year, two Columbia Area Career Center (CACC) students were nominated by their instructors for the 2011 Missouri Breaking Tradition Awards. **Courtney Johnson**, a senior at Rock Bridge High School, was nominated by her instructor, Larry Henneke, and CACC counselor Amelia Fagiolo, and is currently a student in the Wildlife Conservation/Forestry program. Courtney will be honored as the Secondary School Female Region IV winner for the state of Missouri. **Carrie Levy**, a senior from Rock Bridge High School, was nominated by her instructor, Brad Mann, and CACC counselor Ellen Buechler, and is enrolled in the Civil Engineering/Architecture program. Carrie will receive the Region IV Honorable Mention award.

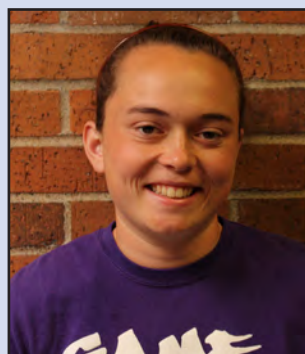
All State and Spirit winners will be honored on April 20, 2011, during a ceremony at the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City. Regional winners and honorable mention students will be recognized with plaques and certificates at their home schools.

The Missouri Breaking Traditions contest recognizes outstanding students in nontraditional career and technical education programs. Nontraditional means occupations or fields of work in which individuals from one gender comprise less than 25 percent of the individuals employed in that occupation or field. For 18 years, Breaking Traditions has honored outstanding students who have chosen specific career

and technical programs based on their interests and abilities and who have not let their gender influence their career decisions.

State and Spirit winners will receive scholarship offers from every Missouri Community College and from Linn State Technical College. Scholarship amounts and guidelines vary and are set by each school. In addition, State, Spirit, and Regional winners who continue their education in the fall will receive a \$100 scholarship from the Friends of the Missouri Women's Council.

The award is sponsored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Missouri Center for Career Education and the Career Education Coordinators.



Carrie Levy



Courtney Johnson

Missouri Tech Prep Student of the Year

Sara Sabulsky was one of eight students honored at the Northeast Missouri Tech Prep Consortium Student of the Year Ceremony at Moberly Area Community College on Wednesday, February 16, 2011. Sara received 1st runner-up following a lengthy nomination process that included a multi-page application, teacher and administrator recommendations and an interview



with the regional Tech Prep coordinator, Mark Chambers, from Moberly Area Community College.

Criteria for the award included a commitment to a CTE Program, participation in school

and community activities, participation in CT Student Organizations, honors, awards, and recognitions, CT and academic coursework, and job shadowing, internships, COE, apprenticeship, or employment related to a career field.

Sara was nominated by Jeaniene Thompson, digital media instructor. After graduation, Sara plans on majoring in strategic communications (advertising) and marketing and pursuing a career in advertising.

Sara is currently enrolled in Sports & Entertainment Marketing and Advanced Graphic Design and has previously taken Advertising & Promotion, Graphic Design & Desktop Publishing, Intro to Digital Media and Marketing 1. She is also a member of DECA and FBLA.

Dual Credit: 252 Students get a Head Start on College

Students can get a head start on the future by earning both college credit and high school credit for classes they take through the career center. Through the Dual Credit program, 252 high school students will earn a total of 903 semester hours of college credit for completing career center courses this year.

Dual credit enrollment increased by nearly 30% this year compared to last and is up more than 640% over the 2003-2004 academic year, when the program began just seven years ago.

College credit earned through the Dual Credit program is possible when the curriculum covered and the competencies mastered in a career center class are equivalent to those required in a particular college-level class as identified by the college or university. When this has been established, the class earns dual credit designation and eligible students may receive both high school credit and college credit upon successful course completion.

Final grades for dual credit courses are reflected on both the student's high school and official college transcripts. College credit is transcribed for the student by the university whether or not the student attends that institution after high school graduation. The transcribed credit is transferable to other colleges and universities in Missouri and throughout the nation, if the student so chooses.

The Dual Credit program provides high school students with challenging, high-quality, college-level course work.

Courses enrich and extend the high school curriculum and help students accelerate their progress toward and reduce the cost of earning college degrees. As an added bonus, college tuition for dual credit courses is less than half the cost of attending the course on the university campus because costs are shared by the career center and the participating universities.

There are currently 32 career center courses approved for dual college credit by our six partnering colleges and universities which include Central Methodist University, Linn State Technical College, Missouri State University, Moberly Area Community College, University of Central Missouri and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Courses follow college-level syllabi, use college-level texts and are approved by Division Chairs at each university. Career center instructors must meet the same qualifications required of adjunct faculty on campus.

Students who have demonstrated ability to succeed in rigorous academic work are eligible to enroll, which in most cases is determined by grade point average. Generally juniors and seniors may apply to the program, but sophomores may also qualify when they meet eligibility requirements.

For more information on the Dual Credit program available to students at the career center, visit our website at www.career-center.org or contact Sharon Nelson, Counselor and Dual Credit Coordinator, at 214-3800, extension 29451.

Summer Opportunities

for youth at the Columbia Area Career Center

Columbia Summer SUNsation

The Columbia Area Career Center has an exciting new offering this summer for current CPS middle school students who will be entering 8th grade in the fall! Students will have the opportunity to enroll in "A Taste of the Career Center," a course designed to provide students with exposure to several career center program areas coupled with guided career exploration and planning activities. Hands-on activities, top-of-the-line technology and passionate instructors will provide a unique experience for students. Digital media, agriculture, geospatial technology, marketing, and computer programming are just a few of the potential "tastes" a student might receive. Students will see how career center courses can benefit ALL career paths or occupations. "A Taste of the Career Center" will be offered at no cost. Contact your student's guidance counselor or visit www.columbia.k12.mo.us/summer/11SUN68.php for more information and to enroll!

Superstar Summer Youth Camps

The Columbia Area Career Center offers summer camps for youth! These camps give 10-15 year-old youth fun, hands-on experiences in several different areas. From video game design and magazine editing to robot programming and crime scene investigation, we have a camp for everyone!

Camps are week-long, half-day sessions taught by experienced teachers and local artisans. Camps are offered in morning sessions (8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.) and afternoon sessions (1:00-4:30 p.m.). We even have a room reserved for campers who bring their lunches. Prices range from \$129 to \$159 per camp. Learn more about our camps and sign up today at career-center.org/summer/. Spots are limited so register soon!



Workforce Development

Workforce Development is an important issue in today's economy. Having marketable skills is a necessary component in achieving success whether a high school graduate elects to continue their education or immediately enter the workforce.

One measure we use to gauge our effectiveness at the Career Center is 180-Day-Graduate Follow-up. All the 2010 graduates who earned one or more credits in our classes were contacted this winter to find out if they were working, going to school or both. We also ask what type of work they are doing and their college major, when applicable. This information helps us determine the impact of the classes offered at the CACC.

Nearly 700 graduates from the class of 2010 earned one or more credits in career center classes. Of the students we followed:

- Over 97% are either working or continuing their education at more than 100 different colleges and universities such as the University of Missouri, University of Central Missouri, Baylor, or K-State.
- About 20% went directly into the workforce. Of those students, 80% are working in fields directly related to their classes here at the career center.
- Nearly 77% chose to continue their education. Of those students, over 76% have majors directly related to their course work in career center classes. Of the students that continue their education, about a third chose a two-year technical or community college. This is a rising trend as much of the current and near future employment will be in technical areas requiring specialized skills. Energy and Information Technology are two fields that are gearing up for a shortage of entry level skilled workers.

Hickman and Rock Bridge DECA Qualify for Nationals

Hickman DECA once again proved its worth at the recent DECA State Career Development Conference, and after a two year absence, Rock Bridge DECA returned to the stage.

Hickman sent 23 students to state and Rock Bridge sent 18 where they competed in the individual and team events over a three day period. DECA State was held Sunday, March 13 through Tuesday, March 15. More than 1,650 of Missouri's best marketing students competed during the event to determine who would represent the state of Missouri at the International Career Development Conference to be held in Orlando, Florida in April.

All students performed at a high level and at the awards session six Rock Bridge students and seven Hickman students qualified for Nationals. Three Hickman students and two Rock Bridge students also medaled.

The Hickman students who qualified for Nationals and those who medaled included:

Individual Series: *Quick Serve Restaurant*: 1st place - **Spencer Clairborne**, Leadership Delegate - **Audrey Schutte**; District Vice President, Voting Delegate - **Michael Richardson**; Team Management Events: Financial Analysis: 2nd place - **Sara Sabulsky** and **Adam Kidwell**; Business Law & Ethics: 4th place - **Paul Speckhals** and **Kaitlyn Boland**.

Individual and Teams not advancing to nationals but medaling in their event: Sports & Entertainment Marketing Individual Event - **Cruz Buchanan**; Sports & Entertainment Team Event - **Pete Stansberry & Tyler Wall**.

The Rock Bridge students who qualified for Nationals and those who medaled included: Principles of Marketing: 4th place - **Shane Kuse**; Individual Series: Business Services Management - 2nd place - **Brianna Phillips**; Hotel & Lodging Management: 2nd place - **Katelyn Tschiggfrie**, 4th place - **Allie Blaylock**. Team Management Events: Marketing Communications - 4th place: **Alexis Granneman** and **Rose McManus**

Teams not advancing to nationals but medaling in their event: Hospitality Services - **Lexi Bumby** and **Ali Reynolds**



DECA members receive their awards.

True/False Filmmakers Visit Classes

Digital Video students enjoyed listening to True/False filmmakers speak to them March 3 at the career center. Producer Tristan Patterson and Director John Baker spoke on the production of "Dragonslayer," which was shown during the 2011 T/F Film Festival. Patterson and Baker share similar backgrounds in the film industry; both started off in screenwriting and have held a variety of jobs, working their way to a position that allowed them to produce and direct a feature length film.

Patterson, a Yale graduate, also currently collaborating with director Tony Scott and actor Ewan McGregor on various projects, detailed the journey of how *Dragonslayer* went from idea to final cut over a period of more than two years. Baker, with years of experience at HBO, including time with Spike Lee on an Emmy winning series, spoke about the camera and software technology

used to shoot and edit the film. Both expressed the importance of the idea that in the film industry you have to start off small and make connections to get your foot in the door. Many students from Jeff Cochran's Digital Video courses regularly attend the yearly T/F Film Festival, enter the T/F "Gimme Truth" contest, and participate in other contests like the Rock Bridge film festival held every spring.



Tristan Patterson and John Baker speak to Digital Video students on the production of "Dragonslayer."



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2010 - 2011 Calendar

April 20 14 wk IPR (2nd Semester)
April 27 FFA Banquet
April 29 – May 4..... International DECA
May 12 Student Recognition Night
May 30 Memorial Day Holiday
June 3 End 2nd Semester
June 20-24..... SkillsUSA National Conference

Update from the Future Educators

- The Future Educators Association received a \$2,500 grant award from Boone County Electric Trust to help fund the trip to the F.E.A. International Conference in Atlanta, GA. Eleven students attended the conference in February where they heard from keynote speakers like Bill Nye, The Science Guy. They also attended great breakout sessions.
- Sami Peterson, RBHS, was chosen as the V.P. of F.E.A. at the state conference in Jefferson City.
- Students spent "A Day in the Life of a Teacher" by job shadowing teachers in local elementary, middle and special education classes.

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