

August-September 2014

Robodox

Every year the Robotics team is faced with a problem all other high-school teams are faced with: getting the new members ready to replace the ones that have left. As the team proudly proclaims that it looks for no prior experience, each person is treated as having none and most of the time, they don't.

After several years of trial and error—years of not-so-perfect attempts—the team seems to have managed to finally get it right. The idea is amazing in its simplicity: teach by doing, not by saying. For the total of 11 days, the new members—the “rookies”—rotated through four different groups where the veteran members worked tirelessly to show the amazing aspect of their system, whether it was software, Computer Assisted Design (CAD),

Robotics (FRC), or VEX Robotics. The final goal is for the rookies to design, CAD, build, and program their own robot. This will (hopefully) prepare them for the hard work in the final third of this semester as well as next semester.

While teaching the rookies the technical skills is important, this new program teaches them another important, if not more important, aspect of Robotics: teamwork. As 11 days is not enough time to teach everything nor is it enough to fully understand everything being said, some of the group will be more adept in one than another; as such, while creating their robot, they'll all be forced to cooperate and the synergy will bring them closer together.

The only drawback that this program has had is the style of teaching, where each student is assigned to a teacher rather than previous years' ideal of creating an environment where initiative is encouraged and teaching is done when a member asks for help from another person. But the way this is going, the success of the program couldn't be clearer as all the benefits outweigh any shortcomings and help the new student become a full member of the team.



Rookies (Tanvi, Grace) being taught by the veterans (Travis, Cesar, Melita, Freddie). (all from left to right)



The Anesthesiologist was back! It was reminiscent of last semester; teams were packed into too little a space, the sound was deafening, and excitement filled the air.

But of course, it wasn't an official FRC event. No, this was the Fall Classic and it gave the Robodox a chance to compete once again with their award-winning robot. Moreover, it also gave the new members a glimpse into the FRC season.

The two-day event started off well. Just like in any FRC competition, problems arose with the robot but just as the team's name implies, it met every mishap with alacrity; and just like in any FRC competition, other teams found themselves with a frustratingly, not-working robot and came to the Robodox without hesitation knowing its reputation and its willingness to help.



The Drive Team and Human Player
Jake, Abhe, Hosna, and Kim
(from left to right)



Van works with veterans and rookies to prepare the Anesthesiologist for a match

As the veteran members worked hard in the pit between matches to ensure functionality of the robot, the rookies worked hard in the stands scouting, a process of quantitatively ranking robots. Although they did not work directly with the robot, this was an important experience for everyone to understand that winning the competition is more than just about having a good robot, it's also about working together to become the best team possible.

In that same regard, while the Robodox only "won" on Saturday, they stood out as a winner on both days. Selfless and willing to assist with the both the running of the competition as well as other teams, the Robodox continued their legacy of gracious professionalism.



A group of Robodox members has been visiting Castlebay Lane Elementary to help the school start up a FIRST Lego League Program by providing mentorship and advice. Despite some delays caused by flooding and tiling, post-summer vacation, the Robodox finally returned to the class on September 12th to resume lessons and introduce the new FLL World Class Challenge. The team of 3rd graders have become more familiar with the parts, sensors, and programming throughout the sessions. They have not only been learning about the mechanical portion, such as gear ratios, but also about the team values outlined in the FLL handbook, such as teamwork. The children still have a long way to go as they gradually prepare for their game but they are definitely getting closer everyday



Next Saturday, the Robodox will be going to Viewpoint HS for a VEX competition. We would love to see you there and cheer our team on with us.

The competition will take place at: 23620 Mulholland Hwy
Calabasas, CA 91302
and will go from approximately 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.

On November 8th, there will be another competition that the team will go to.

The competition will take place at: 18230 Kittridge St
Los Angeles, CA, United States

If there are any questions, feel free to contact us:

For questions about these events: events.robodox@gmail.com

For more general questions: robodox@gmail.com