

January-February 2015

Robodox

Build Season Has Come and Gone!

Written By: Juyeong Lee

In December, a teaser was revealed for the new game. "Change is coming" the man in the teaser said, while throwing away the previous game rules. When he threw that away, the team threw away any expectation they had for the game, bewildered by what it could possibly mean.

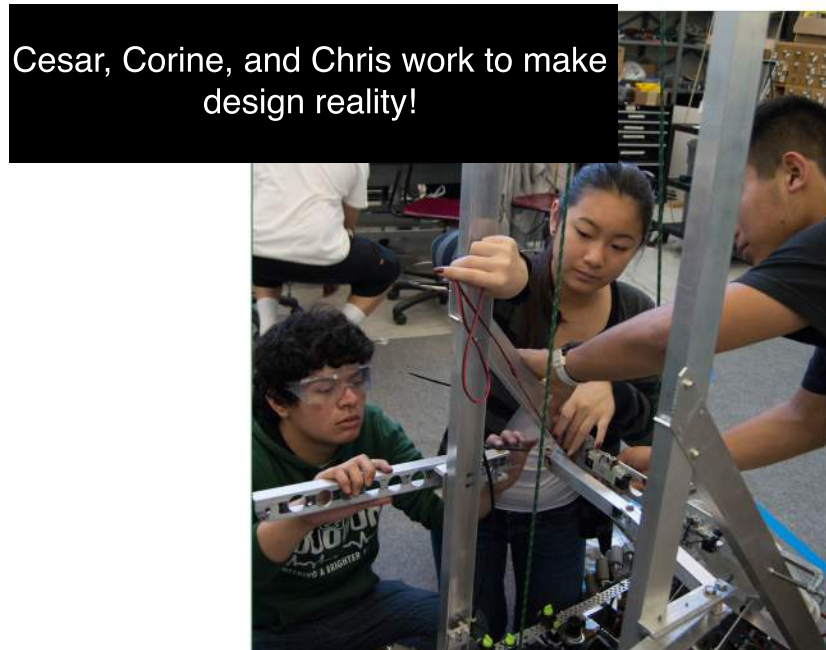
On January 3rd, the Robotics members came to school a week early and waited in anticipation for the new FRC game to be released. The game proved to be both simple and complex. The robots had to stack boxes--called totes--and top it off with a cylindrical bin. Without the latter, the totes mean nothing. With it, the number of stacked totes affects the points that are awarded. The game emphasizes cooperation and separates the two alliances across an expanse of totes.

After the game reveal, the team began to design a strategy to optimally play the game. Several designs were thrown out, such as hooks, but ultimately we chose the forklift design. The robot would use a piston to wrap arms around the tote, moving it up to be held by another pair of arms which would hold any additional tote or bin.

The team began CADing the robot and experimenting with a new chassis. The builders went to work to make design reality. The programmers dived in. Six weeks later, it all paid off. And as the zip-tie made that satisfying sound on bag day, everyone breathed a sigh of relief but anticipate the future competitions.



Jake, Mr. Siegert, Mr. Van, and Cesar strategize the best plan possible



Cesar, Corine, and Chris work to make design reality!

VEX Competitions



Dylan, Jeffrey, and Carmina accept their Excellence Award!

Written By: Hyunkyu Lee

These past couple months were exciting times for the VEX teams. At the end of January, the Robodex teams went to compete at Crespi Carmelite High School's 2nd annual VEX tournament. After a shakey start, 599A made it to the quarterfinals. 599B did even better and made it as far as the semifinals. However, it isn't simply their performance on the field that made them stand out. 599A was awarded the prestigious excellence award, celebrating their great, unique, and particularly efficient design. Not only is this an amazing accomplishment but it also qualified the team to the State Championship with 599D.

When they arrived at the Pasadena, CA for the State Competition, the two teams, 599A and 599D, worked hard to win.

In the end, 599A stood victorious and became the Souther California State Programming Champions by scoring the most points autonomously--completely pre-written commands, no driver control--in one minute. This qualified them for another championship, the World Championship at Louisville, Kentucky. While the team was eager to go, unfortunately financial issues have made it impossible for them to travel so far. But the teams are looking forward to next year to go even further!



Sabir and Chris prepare their robot for the upcoming competition



Celebrating Mr. Van

Written by: Hyunkyu Lee

Soon after build season started, we celebrated Mr. Vanderway's birthday. Through several weeks of planning, headed by our two Presidents, we presented him with a card and two others gifts.

Jake Mattinson and Jeffrey Lee wanted to outdo all the previous presidents and give their esteemed coach a birthday to remember. As every president had done before, the presidents prepared a card for Mr. Van except with a flair added in. To include more people in this annual tradition, the presidents commissioned two rookies, Jasmine Delgado and Juyeong Lee, to design and photoshop the dramatic picture of Mr. Vanderway saving Dr. Petrick.

But they also wanted to add a personal touch. In 2012, on their way to the Anaheim Convention center to compete at the VEX World Championship, Mr. Vanderway suddenly came to a stop leaving the team confused. As if reading everyone's thoughts, he pointed to the sign in front of him: "VAN STOP." In order to commemorate and remember that day, the presidents custom made a replica of that same sign but adding in a "Robodox 599"

It was a day to remember!



Mr. Van holding his "Van Stop" sign

There is a competition coming! Come join the Robodox and cheer them on in their first FRC competition this year. It is at the **Long Beach Convention Center** on the days **March 12 to March 14**.

If there are any questions, please contact us at:

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