

Robotics Wires Up for the Ultimate Ascent

For the second consecutive year, and with the support of the Hatboro-Horsham Educational Foundation, Hatboro-Horsham Senior High School hosted a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology) Robotics Competition in the main and auxiliary gyms on March 1-3, 2013. Over Saturday and Sunday more than 2,000 people packed the Hatboro-Horsham High School gymnasium to cheer on their team, or experience this unique type of competition.

"This year's competition, 'Ultimate Ascent,' was an exceptionally difficult one. The tasks outlined



Junior Ryan McCawley holds the Gracious Professionalism award.

by the FIRST game design committee is a modified version of Ultimate Frisbee," said Eric Zygmont, Hatboro-Horsham High School's robotics adviser.

This year saw 37 robotics teams from the geographic region known as Mid-Atlantic

Robotics. The purpose of FIRST and Mid-Atlantic Robotics is to inspire students to pursue studies and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Each year between 20 and 30 Hatboro-Horsham High School students participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition, as Team 708 - Hardwired Fusion.

Each year the game changes, but the skills required to build an effective robot do not change. Students on the team work year round, starting in May each year when students begin learning some of the core functions of the team. The average student invests more than 300 hours of their time during the summer and fall months. With regular Saturday meetings, and meetings one weeknight every other week, students find the team to be a welcome distraction to their summer. Throughout last summer, the team designed and built a t-shirt cannon, which can be seen at events in the Hatboro-Horsham community and football games this fall.



Team 708: Hardwired Fusion is Hatboro-Horsham High School's award-winning robotics team.

For the past five years the Hatboro-Horsham Educational Foundation, through the Innovative Learning Grants program, has supported the Hatboro-Horsham Robotics Team, helping them to purchase equipment, supplies, raw materials and cover registration costs.

"The HHEF has been an invaluable asset to our program. The Hands-On Math and Science grant program has certainly expanded the capabilities of our team, and our ability to compete with more advanced engineering and fabrication methods," said Zygmont.

FIRST was founded by inventor Dean Kamen and Dr. Woodie Flowers in 1989 to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders.

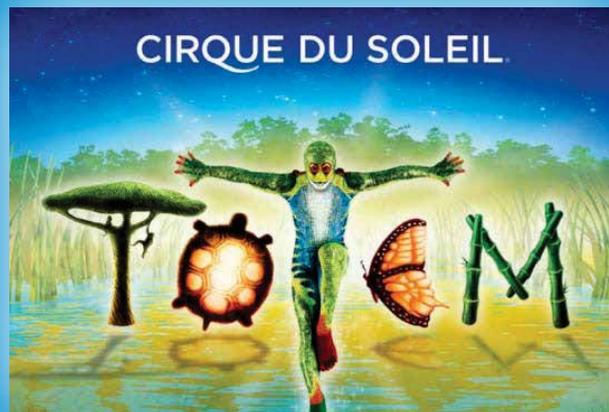
Part of the ethos of FIRST is Gracious Professionalism, which asserts that fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions. Gracious Professionalism means competing for the greater good, and enabling other teams to compete as fiercely as your own.

The importance of Gracious Professionalism is demonstrated each year, as five teams from regional high schools host events for their peers to compete. This year, Team 708 was awarded the Gracious Professional Award for their commitment to providing an excellent experience for involved teams, and ensuring that the competition ran as smoothly as possible.

Team 708 – Hardwired Fusion is currently planning next year's competition and expects to invite 40 teams to compete during the first weekend in March 2014.



A sky view of the competition as teams prepare to start a match. The FIRST Robotics Competition is played on a 27' x 54' competition field. This year's task was to score Frisbees in the goals, and climb the pyramids in the center.



Congratulations to our winner!

(name withheld)

The HHEF held a raffle at Horsham Day on June 1, 2013 offering two tickets to this exciting show.

Cirque du Soleil's "Totem" is performing through June 30, 2013

Visit www.cirquedusoleil.com for information or tickets.