



FRC TEAM 1189

EST. 2002

# gearheads gazette

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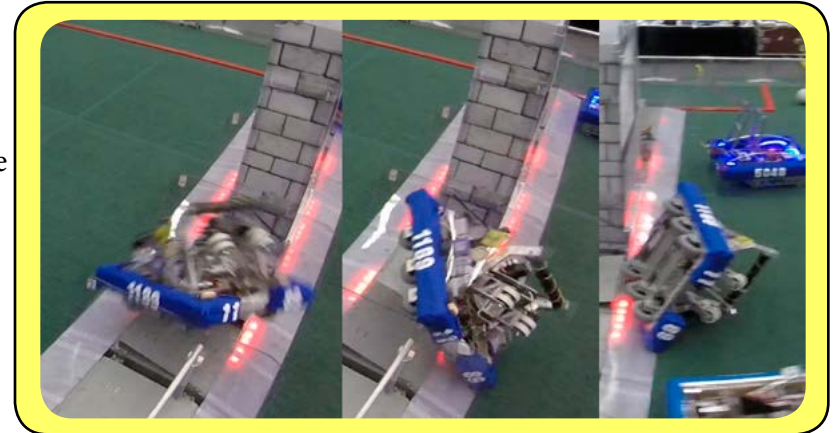
## Storming STRONGHOLD

by Griffin Clements

I enjoyed going to the Waterford Regional Qualifier Competition on March 4th and 5th, this was my first ever robotics competition. The Gearheads were well represented; a veritable sea of Black and Safety Yellow, medieval helms and shields. There were more than 50 student members, alumni, parents, and mentors filling the stands Friday and Saturday. Even though our team didn't do as well as we had hoped, there was still tons of support from the team.

Much to our dismay "Mayhem Nightfury" dramatically wiped out during one of our qualification matches, flipping over mid round, unfortunately we had not planned for such a catastrophe and had no way to flip it back over without manually picking it up. Our alliance members made as if they might try to flip Mayhem over for us, but the drive team wisely stopped them from potentially damaging our robots or theirs while trying to right Mayhem. That, however, didn't stop the support coming from the stands as our team continued to cheer on the remaining alliance members of the match.

Flipping over was by far the most dramatic issue that we ran into that day, but we also overcame a number of other technical issues. The night before competition, on the practice field, our drive team noticed two critical problems. The first was adjusting the visibility of the camera, without the changes that the team made we would have been blind in the competition. The second major issue we ran into on thursday was that the supports on the shooter and intake system were bending under load, to prevent further damage our build and fabri-



cation sub-teams worked to make and install reinforcements and resolved the potentially fatal problem.

While our robot only had one major operational issue during the competition, in two other matches our alliance partners experienced equally crippling problems. In the stands we didn't have complete information on what exactly happened to these fellow robots, but in each case our alliance was made up of only 2 robots during these matches. With a record of four wins and eight losses we fell in overall rankings to finish qualifiers 34th of 40 teams.

The highlight of the night was inarguably when our team was chosen to participate in the quarterfinals, which gave us additional chances to compete in the quarterfinals. This came as a wonderful surprise because almost everyone assumed that the night was over. We were very grateful to Team 2075 Enigma Robotics and Team 308 The Monsters for choosing us as their alliance partners.



# We're All Gearheads!!!!

## TRINITY

Fabrication  
South 2019



*What are you most looking forward to at competition?*

**"Just being at competitions and seeing what's it like."**

*What has been the hardest part so far for this season?*

**"Probably just the stress of build season."**

*What is your favorite aspect of the robot?*

**"My favorite part of the robot is the boulder mechanism \*swings arms, down and up in with hatchet-like motion\* "**

## GRIFFIN

Controls  
South 2018



*What are you most looking forward to this competition?*

**"Just being surrounded by other Gearheads and seeing all the robots because i'm not on drive team."**

*What is your favorite aspect of the robot?*

**"That we have the ability to shoot and i thinks that's pretty cool."**

*What has been the hardest part of the season?*

**"I had to learn a program and that was hard."**

## CLAUDIA

Build  
North 2017



*What are you most looking forward to this competition?*

**"I'm looking forward to the competition because bumpers are back and it's going to be more intense and reunite with people from other teams."**

*What has been the hardest part so far this season?*

**"Probably having more people on the team and keeping everyone organized and helping everyone out...and dealing with him \*points to Aidan, looks at Aidan\* love you too!"**

## REY

Build  
North 2016



*What are you most looking forward to this competition?*

**"I am looking forward to being in the pits because it's my first year on build so it's going to a super fun experience."**

*What has been the hardest part so far this season?*

**"Putting it [the robot] together correctly, because to be honest ya, sometimes we do it backwards and upside down but it's ok we did correctly now. It's easy now."**

# MEET THE MENTORS:

## ERIC KAM



Mr. Kam is the mentor of the Media Guild, where he happily gets to play on social media and with cameras every meeting and competition. He helps the team with compiling the Gearhead Gazette each month (or so...), and updates to social media and our YouTube Channel.

He has been mentoring for the past two seasons, after first arriving in the lab once to drop Rey (Build, class of 2016) off for a meeting and never leaving. With Clarissa (CAD, class of 2017) now an active member he just might stay around another year.

When not in the media lab, he works for AutoForm-and engineering software company-as a Product Marketing Manager. He travels all over for work most often to Switzerland and Germany. Who let the team style his beard for the picture above (ask him about “facial-hair-funday”).

He enjoys working with the team on creative ventures like the FedEx challenge, YouTube compilation videos, and the “Ask a Robot” advice column.

## SEAN O’GRADY



Mr. Sean O’grady (the one with the safety glasses) contributes a good deal to the team, not only with his occasional snarky comments, but with his background in pneumatics and engineering. He mentors the Design Guild (CAD) who he teaches Solidworks operation, and advises on mechanical design.

When not at the shop or another FIRST Robotics Competition, Mr. O’grady works as a Product Manager for a company called Festo. Festo, a FIRST sponsor makes industrial motion control systems. Festo is well known on the internet for its innovations in Robotic Flight. See a video of the FESTO “SmartBird”. <https://youtu.be/nn-R8fDW3Ilo>

Mr. O’grady has been volunteering with FIRST for a long time then when he moved to michigan he saw the local team and wanted to volunteer. His son (Josh, class of 2018) and daughter (Hannah, class of 2019) are both Gearheads, in the Fabrication Guild. Sean has been mentoring the Gearheads for the past three years, though prior to moving to Grosse Pointe he had been active with FIRST Robotics for a decade. He continues to volunteer at FIRST Robotics Competitions as a FTA (Field Technical Advisor).

Mr. O’grady says “the satisfaction of seeing kids realize that the stuff that they’re learning in school can be used in fun and growing careers”.

# SUPPORTING OUR TEAM

As opening day of the FRC season draws closer, The Gearheads are pressing onward to achieve our regional competition season fundraising goal of \$8,000. The Gearheads have come up with clever ways to raise the needed money. This season, the Gearheads have utilized can-drives, Kroger Plus Points, Which Wich purchases, and T-fund shirts to collect the needed money. So far, the Gearheads to this date have raised \$1,536.86. It will be no minore feat to achieve this goal, but with the help and generosity of our community with some Gearheads motivation, we know we can pull through.

If you're wondering how you can help the Gearheads, here are a few easy and also rewarding ways to donate AND receive benefits:



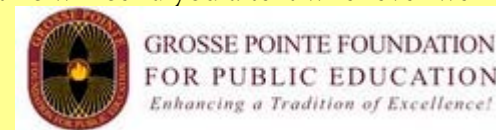
**Kroger Plus Points:** You can sign up at [www.Kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.Kroger.com/communityrewards) and select "Grosse Pointe Robotics Club" (Organization #84873) in the Organization Selection. By doing so whenever a purchase is made at Kroger, in addition to the Kroger Fuel Points and discounts you receive, some of the money you spend goes directly to the Gearheads as a donation.

**Can-Drives:** On specified dates, certain areas in the Grosse Pointe area are selected to participate in a can drive, where participants simply leave out their cans and bottles and the Gearheads pick up

the cans and use the collected money to fund our team. If you know anyone who would like to help coordinate more can-drives, please contact us at [team1189gearheads@gmail.com](mailto:team1189gearheads@gmail.com).



**Which Wich nights:** On March 10th, April 21st, and May 26th, you can head over to the Which Wich on Kercheval Avenue and purchase a sandwich, where a percent of your purchases go to the Gearheads. Keep updated about these Which-Wich dates with Gearheads reminders by checking our twitter (@frc1189) or subscribing to the Gearheads Remind101 by texting @gh1189 to 81010; this will send you a text whenever we have a new update.



**The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education,** also provides a gateway to funnel donations to The Gearheads. You can make a tax deductible donation to the team through the Foundation at any time. Visit their website <http://www.gpfpe.org/Donate> and let them know that you are donating for the Gearheads.

We also welcome corporate and foundation sponsors like those listed to the right. Donations of funding or equipment are welcome. WE ARE ALL GEARHEADS!

-Abby Ferry



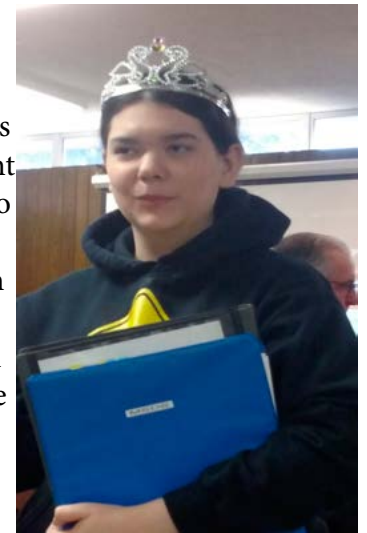


hoped someone else would step up, when it dawned on me that that person had to be me. I felt it my duty to do a good job but when the judges came I could not find the safety binder!

As the judges came, I fought to keep myself calm as I watched them approach. Dr. Santrock explained to the judges that I was the apprentice and had not been expecting to give the presentation. They understood, but with Kim's absence asked me to do my best and

make my presentation anyway.

I was amazed when all the lessons that Kim had taught me actually came to me even though I was nervous. Much of my short time with Kim had been spent reviewing the safety binder and digitizing the copy she had created.



When they had asked for the binder I showed them several Google Docs on my phone and did my best to explain the idea of digitalization. I guess the judges seemed quite pleased with idea of putting the document on the "cloud". Even more impressed than I knew at the time, as we were awarded the UL Industrial Safety Award for the first time in team history.

Gearhead Alum Kara Bakowski was a big part of getting Gearhead safety in order and Kim has been keeping it alive ever since.

I am proud that the team put their trust in me and I have grown so much from this experience. Talking to other team's safety captains and interviewing them helped me gain a greater appreciation of the effort it takes to foster a culture of safety in the team. While we the Gearheads have a lot of room for improvement it is also true that when talking to other teams it becomes clear that safety, at least the idea of it, plays a big role in the daily interactions of the Gearheads.

Hello, my name is Ponette. I joined Gearheads midway through the 2016 build season. At the time Kim, our longtime Safety Captain, was looking for an apprentice to take over for her after she graduates. At first, I had not expected to be so well accepted by the team since I had joined so late. Not only was I accepted, but offered an integral role. Kim is really nice and because I promised my mom I would be safe at robotics, I thought apprenticing in safety would be a great idea.

Kim taught me so much about safety through her good example and thorough explanations. I learned so much from observing the way Kim was fully committed to Safety, despite my being the not the greatest student ever. It has been inspiring to see someone who is as passionate about safety as Kim.

During the week one competition held in Waterford, I tagged along with Kim when I noticed she began to look pretty sick. Kim had to go home sick before the judges came to interview us. I was not very comfortable with the idea and



@kabakowski Look at this, we got the industrial safety award. We've come a long way. Quite a legacy. Thanks! !



Kara Bakowski @kabakowski · Mar 5  
@FRC1189 OH MY GOD. Years. We have been trying for that for years. 9 years at least. I'm proud.