



# GEARHEADS GAZETTE

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## Featuring: The Women in Gearheads!

By Emily Murray

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of female members on the Gearheads team from last year, and these young women are infiltrating all aspects of the team. This year, out of the 49 members on the team, 13 of them are girls. These girls are scattered across the different jobs that are available on the team including safety, build, drive, and social media. The addition of these young women makes the team more diverse. One of these outstanding young women is the safety captain for the team this year, Kim McBryan. She makes sure everyone has the necessary safety materials, and also that proper safety precautions are being followed in the shop. This includes sending out the 2014 FRC safety manual and making sure everyone entering the shop has on their safety glass-

es. Without her, there would probably be many more accidents happening each meeting, so the team is thankful to have her on board. When asked about girls on the team, Kim said, "It's quite nice to have more girls on the team because they are more likely to listen to safety rules and its encouraging young women that they can go into any field." When asked about the increase in females on the team, member Alanna Sparks said "I think it's a good thing, it makes it more gender balanced so the girls aren't outnumbered by guys." Team member Anna Karcher said, "I like how there are more girls on the team because I feel more comfortable when there are more girls," Another team member, Jamie Lackner, said, "It's nice to know that smart girls are not an endangered species. I'm glad there's

so much female involvement this year." Hopefully one day the Gearheads will have equal representation of the genders, but for now we celebrate the small steps that will get the team there. New team member Audrey Kam was asked to weigh in and she articulated, "I wasn't here last year so I didn't really know there was an increase, but I was afraid I was going to be alone and I'm glad I'm not. It's refreshing to see girls working with machines." Mother of team members Pearce and Aiden Reickert, Dr. Eileen Reickert, who has been with the team for four years, expressed her joy over the new female team members, "I think it's marvelous, we want to see more young women entering science and technology. It's a great experience and I think they bring a balance to the team that its been lacking, so it's wonderful."

Special  
points of  
interest:

- Interviews with women in Gearheads!



## Interviews:

### Audrey Kam, Sophomore

**Why did you join Gearheads?**

"I heard it was going to be a bunch of cool cats hanging around and I had a vague interest in building robots."

**What did you expect in joining Gearheads?**

"I expected it to be a bunch of geeks sitting around and talking about metal like all day. I expected to not fit in at all."

**What have you gotten from Gearheads?**

"I have gotten three awesome

meals so far, a couple dozen new friends that I love completely already, and a new understanding of stress, but it's been wonderful."

**What other things do you do outside of Gearheads?**

"I'm part of the musical, cross-country, track, drama club, choir, orchestra, and North Pointe, just to name a few."

**What is your job on the team?**

"I am part of the newsletter staff, and I also failed at driving the robot one time..."

**How long have you been a member of the Gearheads team?**

"Not even a year yet."



### Elizabeth Bejin, Senior

**Why did you join Gearheads?**

"Because people kept nagging me to join, mostly my friends from other schools and Easton."

**What did you expect in joining Gearheads?**

"Robots, nerds, people who can't talk to other people, basically the 1990s geek stereotype."

**What have you gotten from Gearheads?**

"I actually made a lot of friends, these people aren't

actually as nerdy as I thought."

**What other things do you do outside of Gearheads?**

"I read, I draw, I sew, I blog, I'm in National Art Honors Society, and I'm taking ceramics this year."

**What is your job on the team?**

"I help a little bit with the newsletter, a little bit with the website, and did the T-shirt design."

**How long have you been a member of the Gearheads team?**

"Since the beginning of the school year."





## Katherine Kalina, Junior

### Why did you join Gearheads?

"I have friends in Gearheads and they really seemed to like it."

### What did you expect in joining Gearheads?

"A lot of hours in the shop but still having fun with the team."

### What have you gotten from Gearheads?

"I've learned a lot about what it takes to run a robotics team beside just building the robot."

### What other things do you do outside of Gearheads?

"I stage manage the North musical and work in the PAC. I'm also in RATz and WILLOW."

### What is your job on the team?

"At first I was learning how to build the robot, but then I moved to social media."

### How long have you been a member of the Gearheads team?

"This is my first year."



## Olivia Benton, Junior

### Why did you join Gearheads?

"Originally it was because of my best friends being in here, but then I realized that I can do a lot in here, like I did a lot in graphic design and CAD design, which will help my future."

### What did you expect in joining Gearheads?

"I originally expected it to be full of people that I couldn't relate to and I wouldn't fit in with, but then after I got to know everyone I realized that I fit in great and made a lot of new friends."

### What have you gotten from Gearheads?

"New friends, a lot of practice in computer graphics, and the understanding of true teamwork."

### What other things do you do outside of Gearheads?

"I do venture crew, which is like girl scouts for girls and boys, and I draw and hang out with my friends constantly."

### What is your job on the team?

"I have a lot of little jobs. At first it was doing an animation, but then it turned into doing

little things like organizing all the money for the sweatshirts and t-shirts and now I'm helping redesign the whole Gearheads handbook."

### How long have you been a member of the Gearheads team?

"Since August, 2013."





### Kara Campbell, Sophomore

**Why did you join Gearheads?**

"It just seemed like fun."

**What did you expect in joining Gearheads?**

"I expected to be on the build team, but Connor Beckett asked for help with inventory, and I said yes."

**What have you gotten from Gearheads?**

"Friends!"

**What other things do you do outside of Gearheads?**

"I take ballet and play with my

dog."

**What is your job on the team?**

"Inventory and cataloging prices."

**How long have you been a member of the Gearheads team?**

"I was here a half a year last year and the whole time so far this year."



*Kara has declined to have her picture taken for the Gazette.*

### Gabi Feeny, Junior

**Why did you join Gearheads?**

"I had a friend on the Gearheads and he encouraged me to join."

**What did you expect in joining Gearheads?**

"I expected to learn a lot, and I have."

**What have you gotten from Gearheads?**

"I've gained experience working with electrical equipment."

**What other things do you do outside of Gearheads?**

"I'm the president of the radio

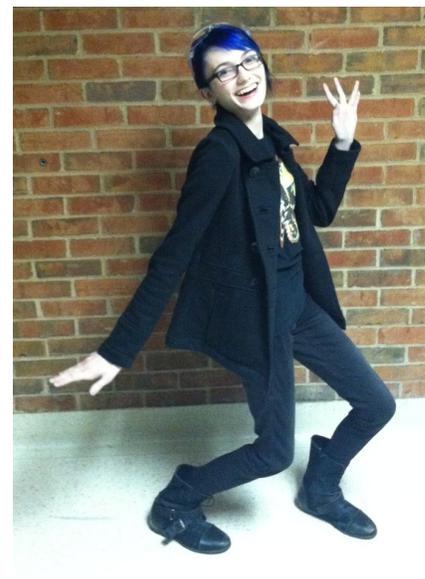
astronomy club."

**What is your job on the team?**

"I'm on controls, so I help wire the robot."

**How long have you been a member of the Gearheads team?**

"This is my second year."





### Jaime Lackner, Junior

**Why did you join Gearheads?**

"I joined because of Mike and Dan, Dan drove me here on Valentine's Day and I wanted to come back the next year."

**What did you expect in joining Gearheads?**

"I expected to find something to do with my life. I mostly joined for the people, and I wanted something to do with my life, now look, it's taken over my life."

**What have you gotten from Gearheads?**

"A boyfriend, and more than that: family, an experience I'm not going to get anywhere else, and skills I need for the adult world."

**What other things do you do outside of Gearheads?**

"Talk to people that are in Gearheads. I like music, I can draw, but mostly talk to people in Gearheads."

**What is your job on the team?**

"What don't I do, I can't use any of the mill stuff. I've done just about everything else. Mostly safety and pneumatics

though."

**How long have you been a member of the Gearheads team?**

"A year."



### Kim McBryan, Sophomore

**Why did you join Gearheads?**

"It being high school I wanted to try something new, I never was an outgoing person or athletic so during registration I looked around at the clubs and this is one of the clubs i wanted to try, I went and i had some fun. but probably the main reason was because i knew one person really well that was also joining that was probably my main reason for staying."

**What did you expect in joining Gearheads?**

"To be perfectly honest I had

no clue what I was getting into. I just thought 'Okay, I'll build a robot, how hard could it be?' And I was horribly wrong."

**What have you gotten from Gearheads?**

"I have made friends, gained confidence, a lot of knowledge, an inspiration for what i want to do with my future, and some fun things to say."

**What other things do you do outside of Gearheads?**

"I knit, I like reading and gaming, I don't really have any other clubs besides this, and I hang out with friends."

**What is your job on the team?**

"My job on the team is currently safety and build."

**How long have you been a member of the Gearheads team?**

"This is my second year."





## Anna Karcher, Junior

### Why did you join Gearheads?

"Because my sister and her friends were all in it so I joined."

### What did you expect in joining Gearheads?

"Working with heavy machinery and a lot of electrical stuff."

### What have you gotten from Gearheads?

"I've gotten friendship, important wiring techniques, and leadership."

### What other things do you do outside of Gearheads?

"I do orchestra and school. I

also do a church group."

### What is your job on the team?

"I help with controls and building the bumpers."

### How long have you been a member of the Gearheads team?

"This is my third year as a member."



## Rachael Lentine, Junior

### Why did you join Gearheads?

"I joined to learn more about engineering and to meet the team."

### What did you expect in joining Gearheads?

"I expected a challenge in learning how to work with tools and engineering."

### What have you gotten from Gearheads?

"I am in the process of learning technical skills with tools, wiring, etc.."

### What other things do you do outside of Gearheads?

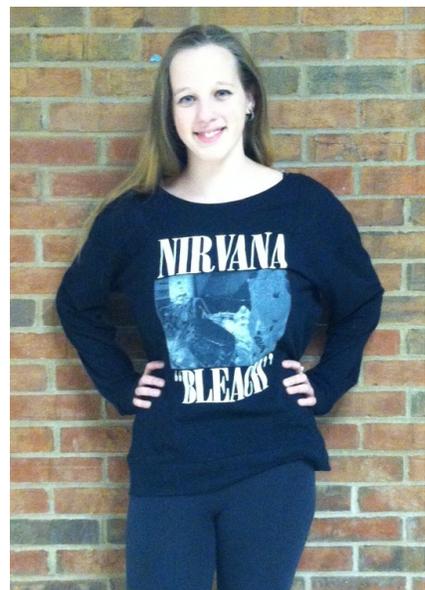
"Outside of robotics I am involved in my church a lot and spend most of my time with friends and family."

### What is your job on the team?

"I work in the build section."

### How long have you been a member of the Gearheads team?

"I joined this year."





## Alanna Sparks, Junior

### Why did you join Gearheads?

"Because my best friend was in it. Also I thought it would be cool."

### What did you expect in joining Gearheads?

"Big machines and robots and fun stuff."

### What have you gotten from Gearheads?

"More experience in everything, I worked on the machines a little bit and then switched to photography. My people skills grew as well."

### What other things do you do outside of Gearheads?

"Choir, yearbook and photography, a whole bunch of church stuff, and I try to survive junior year. I also injure myself on a daily basis."

### What is your job on the team?

"Everything photography and some actual writing here or there."

### How long have you been a member of the Gearheads team?

"This is my second year."

## Emily Murray, Senior

### Why did you join Gearheads?

"I joined Gearheads because most of my friends were already on the team and they kept pestering me and telling me to join. But really it's because [Mrs.] Dr. Reickert told me I should join."

### What did you expect in joining Gearheads?

"I expected to not fit in. Usually I join different clubs and I end up sitting alone in a corner, but that didn't happen with Gearheads."

### What have you gotten from Gearheads?

"I have learned more about what it takes to build a robot, and I also have developed more as a writer and have improved my social skills a bit."

### What other things do you do outside of Gearheads?

"Outside of Gearheads I am in choir, I do art, I watch a lot of tv and movies, and I play video games."

### What is your job on the team?

"I am on the newsletter team, so I write articles for the newsletter and I do a lot of interviews."

## Dasha Veryovkina, Foreign Exchange Student!

### Why did you join Gearheads?

"I joined because Mr. O'Grady is a mentor and I am a foreign exchange student staying with him and his family."

### What did you expect in joining Gearheads?

"I was nervous about joining the team because I was sure that I wouldn't have a lot of

friends because I wouldn't know how to properly communicate with them."

### What have you gotten from Gearheads?

"Friends and an experience."

### What other things do you do outside of Gearheads?

"I dance and I cook."

### What is your job on the

### team?

"I entertain the team!"

### How long have you been a member of the Gearheads team?

"Three weeks."



*Alanna Sparks*

*Emily Murray*

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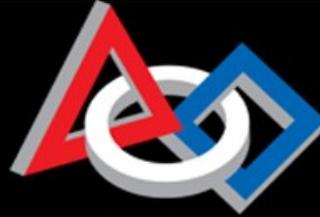
[Gearheads](#)



*Dasha Veryovkina*

*Unfortunately, Senior  
Lauren-Elise Brush was  
absent at the time of the  
interviews.*

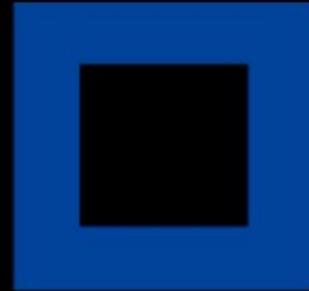
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