



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Newton Robotics' first FLL Qualifiers Event!
- Semi-finals at Brunswick Eruption
- NJAC for STEAM Programs Advocacy Conference
- Aperture attends Newton Pride 5K
- Sussex Co. Distinguished Citizens Award Dinner
- Thank you, from Team #4103!

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FIRST Lego League Qualifiers

by Katie Nelson, Administrative and Logistics Leader

"A HUGE SUCCESS!" one might say about Aperture's very first FLL qualifier event. Hosted at Sparta Middle School on November 19, Team Aperture fully staffed and organized the event. As teams rapidly progressed through the matches and various judging rooms, each demonstrated great competition and Gracious Professionalism. Additionally, a sub-competition was proposed in an effort to collect nonperishable food items for a local food bank. Team #4103 "Fierce Felines" won this competition by donating a 676 food items out of the total 1,583. There were several awards distrib-

uted at the event. The Project Award was awarded to Team #4103 "Fierce Felines" from Newton, Robot Design Award to Team #16610 "Nanogurus" from Morris Plains, Robot Performance Award and the Champion's Award to Team #25320 "3ngineers" from Livingston, and the Core Values Award to Team #13788 "Tech Fire" from Andover. The 3ngineers scored across the board with over 121 points, and will advance to the States Competition in Mount Olive along with Team



#26308 "Nano-Gurus 4.0" from Rockaway and Team #28805 "GHS Robotics" from Green Township. The advancing teams will compete against 54 other New Jersey teams at Mount Olive High School on December 10.

Aperture makes semi-finals at Brunswick Eruption

by Josh Virtell, Electrical Leader



On November 12th, the Newton Robotics team competed in the annual off-season event,

"Brunswick Eruption." Hosted by Team 25, Raider Robotix, the purpose of this event is to keep FRC teams active during the off-season after April. This event is also solely based on robot performance. Various awards that are offered at regular season events are not offered off-season. The game was a continuation of the 2016 FRC "Stronghold" Competition. Teams competed with their robots from that season. Aperture attends this event, so members that wish to drive the robot gain experience. We also used it as a way for new members to feel the atmosphere of the competition, and to attain a feeling of how the Drive Team

operates on the field. Overall, Aperture had a successful experience. They were chosen for the eighth seed alliance with Team #1257 "Parallel Universe" and Team #1676 "The Pascack Pioneers." The alliance won and moved onto the semi-finals. The problems with our robot were fixed and we participated in the semi-finals. Aperture was "glad with the results," but mainly wanted the day to be a learning experience for the new Drive Team members.

S.T.E.A.M. Advocacy Conference

By Derek Ravshanov, Fundraising and Public Relations



The first annual NJAC Steam Advocacy for Mentor Based STEAM Programs, an “event to be spoken of in the future years of robotics,” was hosted by *FIRST* Robotics Team 1676 “The Pascack Pioneers” of Bergen County on October 22. Nine teams, all under *FIRST* Robotics, attended the event. Team 1676, the Pascack Pioneers, gave an informational presentation about underserved schools and mentors for STEAM Programs. At the conference, issues ranging from the searching of volunteers willing to invest time in this program, solutions for

those still in need of participants, and finding funding for schools and teams in need were discussed. The primary objective at the event was “to implement mentor-based STEAM programs in underserved schools throughout the state of New Jersey,” according to the Pascack high-school team. There were several speakers at the conference, some were via a video recording, including Kevin Killian, head coach of FRC Team 1676; Erik Gunderson, the Pascack Valley Regional school superintendent; New Jersey Assemblyman Robert Auth; and Norah Peck, Superinten-

dent of Bergen County. Team Aperture has already started assisting with the advocacy project by building a relationship with their local legislators. In August, the team was able to meet Assemblyman Parker Space and kept in contact with Assemblywoman Gale Phoebus at the New Jersey State Fair. The team also met with Senator Steven Oroho to discuss an ongoing project of granting a varsity status to all academic high school teams in the state.

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Newton Pride Halloween 5K

By Cameron Osborn, CADD Design Leader



On October 29, the Newton Robotics Team attended the Newton Pride Foundation’s Halloween 5K Walk/Run. The event was a sight to see, as many participants competed in their unique Halloween costumes. Thorlabs, one of Aperture’s biggest fans and spon-

sors, donated \$500 to the Newton Robotics Team for their participation. A total of nine people attended representing the team. This past summer, Thorlabs also generously paid for half of the team’s STEM Barn at the Sussex County Fair-

grounds. Newton Robotics would like to “extend a huge thank you on their behalf to Thorlabs for their generous contribution and continued support.”

Sussex Co.'s Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner

By Liam Oakes, Fundraising and Public Relations Leader

It was an honor to have been invited to attend the 35th annual Sussex County Distinguished Citizens Award Dinner. The event was hosted at Perona Farms in Andover, and Katie Nelson and I were able to meet and greet with many of the guests that attended. We got the chance to meet this year's recipients, Bruce and Beverly Gordon, and might I say, they were absolutely lovely to meet and converse with. I find their story incredibly remarkable and inspiring; they dedicate themselves to the community,

and commit to helping others without fearing the challenges that were encountered. They have spent a handful of years attending to those in need, and not once have they expected anything in return. Katie and I were able to learn a lot about the diverse networking of businesses from all around the community. It was interesting to see how this dinner was conducted, and it is absolutely nothing like the cafeteria at school-- everybody at the event held a nice chat with others, conducted excellent behavior,

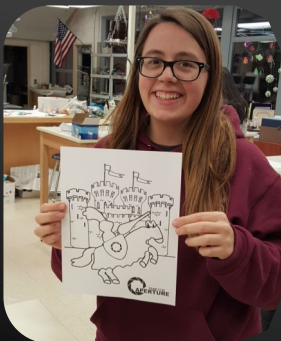
and shared many laughs. The dinner, prepared by Perona Farms, was one of the best meals that I have ever had, and it seemed that they were not going to stop feeding us! Attending this dinner gave me and Katie an exposure to adulthood and business networking, and it is the first of (hopefully) many other formal dinners that we will attend later in our lifetime!



"Commitment is what transforms a promise into a reality."

~Abraham Lincoln

Student Testimonial: Caitlin Bailey



Being a part of this team for the past five years has been truly life-changing. I have made so many friends, including

ones that are on our team and friends that are on robotics teams all over the world. No matter how hard and overwhelming the work

may seem, I always know that is totally worth it. I am looking forward to this upcoming season and all that our team will accomplish!

Thank you for a wonderful FLL Season!

By Newton Robotics Team's **FIRST** Lego League #4103 "Fierce Felines"

We had a great year and gave it our all in the competition. We wouldn't have had a great year without the help from the following: ThorLabs for sponsoring, Mira Plastics for sponsoring, Tina Miragliotta for volunteering, Team #3142 Aperture for helping run and referee the competition, Picatinny Stem for sponsoring, Andover Animal Hospi-

tal for letting us gather data and research for our project and presentation, Father John's Animal hospital for being another source of research and data gathering, Sparta Middle School for letting us use their facility for the competition, the Sparta VEX Robotics team for providing refreshments, Mark Meola for helping us establish a

venue, and Dezine Line for helping to create our team t-shirts. Thank you all for your support!



Photos from recent events
October-November 2016



Constructing the FLL Game Tables for the Qualifiers Event



The awards table at the FLL Qualifiers Event



Students working with "Frank the Tank" at Brunswick Eruption



Newton Robotics Team
FIRST Robotics Competition/FIRST
Lego League

**"Make it
happen!"**

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Since 2009, the mission of the Newton Robotics Team has been to pave the way for its members to become leaders in science and technology, working cooperatively with one another, fellow teams, and technology professionals to promote STEM, provide education and opportunities for our nation's youth, and carry out the mission of FIRST. The unique talents and skills we acquire are for the advancement of our members, other teams, and the community. By enacting our mission, we will accomplish our vision of spreading the importance of STEM across the globe.

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