

The Space RAIDers Newsletter

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Special Interest Articles:

- FRC 2537 has banner year!
- Team Rebranding is a big hit.
- Reflections of a 2014 Graduate

Inside this Edition :

- New Branding ,
New Team 2
- Mission and Vision
Statements 2
- Reflections of a 2014
Graduate Senior 3
- We Love our Sponsors 4

FRC Team 2537 Completes Best Season Ever!



*Team 2537 after receiving their runner-up award
at the 2014 Greater Washington DC Regional competition*

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team 2537 from Atholton High School, Columbia Maryland, completed its best season ever in 2014. In addition to finishing as part of the runner-up alliance at the Greater Washington DC Regional Competition, the newly branded Space RAIDers won the Entrepreneurship Award, recognizing its rebranding and business planning activities. The following week, at the

2014 Chesapeake Competition, our Integration Captain, junior Tom B., was recognized as one of two Dean's List finalists! These three awards in one season were testament to our strong student leadership, the dedication and quality of our team members and the outstanding mentors and faculty advisor. And of course, we could not have done it without our parent volunteers and most of all, our sponsors!

Our success continued in the fall off-season, where we were the Alliance Captain for the Winning Alliance at the Battle O'Baltimore on Sept 20. This was the first time we have ever won a competition so was very exciting. We followed that victory by captaining the runner-up alliance at the ILITE Robotics Off-season Competition, on 27 Sept in Haymarket Virginia. We look forward to an even more successful 2015.

See our highlights video from the Greater Washington DC Regional Competition:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXKgWkaPxGM>



Above: Our new logo, honoring Atholton High School, and perfectly supporting our New Motto:

*"Bright Stars.
Bright Innovators.
Bright Futures."*

Living By Our Mission and Vision Statements

A key component of our team rebranding activity was defining new mission and vision statements. We wanted these to reflect the values of the team we have become.

Our new Vision Statement: **Expanding the culture of engineering, leadership, and teamwork throughout the "space" of our community** drove many of our activities throughout the year. For example, we participated in the Howard County and the Gorman Crossing STEM Fairs, demonstrating our robot to adults and children. We also ran two successful fund raisers to contribute to the Wounded

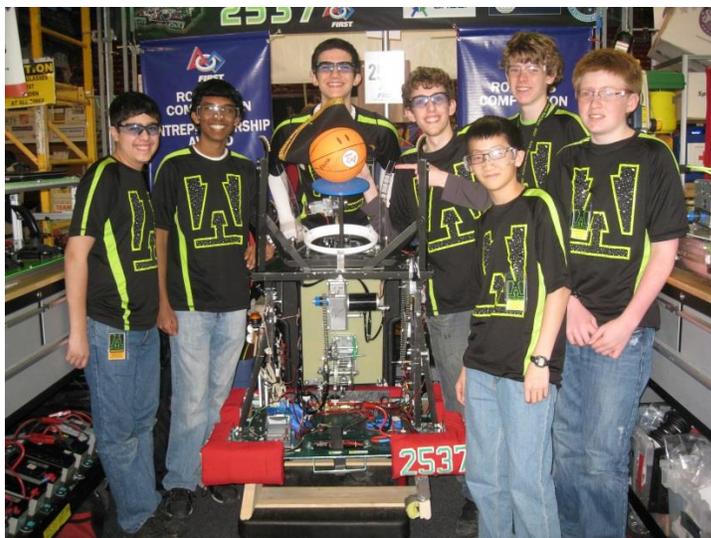
This year, our business and outreach team led one of the biggest changes to Team 2537 since it began in 2007. We completely redesigned our team from head to toe. At the beginning of the season, senior Chloe B, the Business, Outreach and Promotion Team Captain, led a group of about five students to come up with a new way to represent the team. Hours of planning, reviewing the different target audiences, the

Warrior Foundation and built Lego field parts for FIRST Lego League competitions.

Our Mission Statement: **Raiding "space" for innovative and new technological ideas to develop the future**, was exemplified throughout the year in our build activities. Last summer we built a pneumatically controlled chest for one of our sponsors, which was a huge hit at the North American Discworld Convention. This was also the first year we made extensive use of CAD and 3D printing to design and build our robot-the entire robot was CAD'd prior

message that we wanted to send, and the approach that would best capture what we wanted our team to represent, resulted in a new brand. The new Space RAIDers name captured our goal of innovation and technology advances while paying homage to the RAID of our past. The team create new mission and vision statements, a new motto and a new look that was reflected in everything

from a new logo, a new team shirt, our website, the robot design and our pit. Our rebranding effort told the FIRST community that we have matured from our beginnings and are now ready to be known as an elite FIRST team, not just a robot building club. Other teams and judges alike were wowed by our new look, and the excellence of the rebranding effort was one reason for our Entrepreneurship Award,



Showing off new uniform, robot and pit design at the 2014 Chesapeake Competition

to build, and many of our parts were made on a 3D printer. To see more about this, and our build process in general, be sure to visit our YouTube channel:

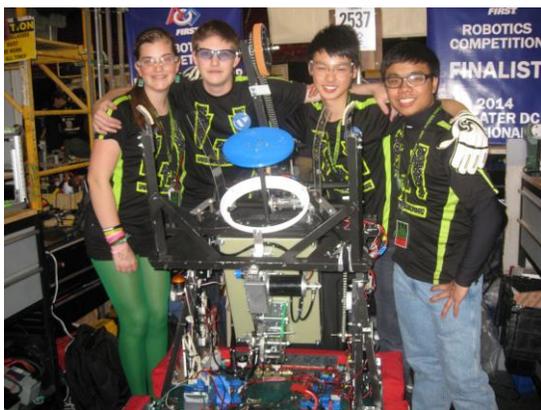
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsbofqUr3BmaE4JjKequzUA>

Reflections from a Graduating Senior

Gabe A, a 2014 graduate of AHS and a leader of Team 2537 for three years now, reflected on his RAID/Space RAIDers experience recently.

“ FIRST (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics, by itself, is already an amazing organization. Its ability to allow students to explore and experiment with technology is truly unparalleled by any other extracurricular activity on the market, and the challenges given each year to students allow them not only to come into contact with real-life engineers and engineering, but also prompt a diverse group of students with various backgrounds and interests to participate in STEM related fields.

However, paired with Space RAIDers (Raider Autonomous Intelligent Devices) 2537, FIRST Robotics becomes an experience that can only be described as life changing.



Gabe A. and the rest of Team 2537's 2014 Drive team.

I found out about FIRST Robotics almost accidentally. One day while at home, my father asked me, "Hey Gabe, do you want to subscribe to Popular Science?" I

answered, "Yeah, sure?" A few months later an issue arrived that carried with it an article titled "Dean Kamen Won't Be Satisfied Until He Reinvents Us All", that told the story of the founder of FIRST Robotics and a high school that participated. I was hooked. So naturally, the first thing I looked for when I joined my high school my sophomore year was their FIRST Robotics team. At the time, I had almost no friends at this new school, and although I knew I loved technology, I couldn't really find a way to channel my enthusiasm for it into anything.

Then I found the Space RAIDers (or RAID, as we were formerly known). Through robotics, I found a group of friends that shared a similar group of interests. Not only that, it helped me open up to people outside of robotics, too, leading to lasting relationships that I still cherish today, both in and outside of robotics. Through Space RAIDers, I found a group of mentors and real-world engineers who were humble (and fun!) enough to teach high schoolers who had nothing but a passion and fire for engineering.

As I rose through the ranks of Space RAIDers, ultimately becoming a captain, I was able to interact with other teams, understand their leadership structures, and how their students related with their mentors. I can say that without a doubt, Space RAIDers is one of the top-notch organizations in all of FIRST. The relationship between mentors and students are second to none. The values of this organization are perfect. The product is not only a championship-caliber robot that competes on the field, but championship-caliber students and engineers that are going into college.

“....paired with Space RAIDers (Raider Autonomous Intelligent Devices) 2537, FIRST Robotics becomes an experience that can only be described as life changing.”

- Gabe A.

We LOVE our Sponsors!



Lauren C, from Maryland Space Business Roundtable, visiting our pit at the 2014 Chesapeake Competition, and getting an overview from James L. 2014 Hardware Captain

Our team sponsors are an essential part of our team's success. The contribution of funding as well as in many cases, mentor time, makes a huge difference in the lives of our students.

Team 2537 alumni can be found at colleges such as University of Maryland (both College Park and Baltimore County), Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, etc.

They can also be found interning and co-oping at companies such as NASA, Microsoft, Google, Amazon, Johns Hopkins APL, etc.

The real life engineering experience they receive as part of Team 2537 prepares them very well for college and the STEM workplace,

Want to learn more about how you can help the Space RAIDers, or other FIRST teams?

In addition to funding, we are always in search of adult volunteers to help mentor, in areas from machining, to software, to CAD, electrical and mechanical engineering. In addition we can use help in web work, videography, business and marketing and many other areas.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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**Visit us on the Web –
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