

Robotics team receives prestigious acclaim, wins Chairman's Award

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Staff Writers

The robotics team Quixilver 604 rocked in this year's "Rack n' Roll" at the Silicon Valley Regional (SVR) San Jose State University.

The students won the Chairman's community outreach and robotics education award. Senior **Gabe Arambula** said, "The Chairman's Award is given at this tournament. Whereas based upon luck or misfortune, the by the judges to the team that is science and technology in the

Winning the Chairman's achievement because, unlike the third highest honor at the SVR), given for a team's long-term science. Considering that the robot was three years ago, winning this award in such a short period of time is a remarkable accomplishment for the team.

This award is the most prestigious award given by For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST), the organization that holds these high school robotics competitions.

The competition's opening ceremony kicked off bright and early at 9 a.m. on March 16 in San Jose State University's Event Center. There were over 48 teams from all over the United States competing in the tournament. Teams from as far as Texas and Massachusetts flew into San Jose for the competition. Team 604 (Leland) was eventually invited to join two other teams for the elimination rounds: Cinco Ranch High School from Texas and Pioneer High School from San Jose.

challenge competition at

Award for excellence in Senior **Gabe Arambula** the most prestigious award the Regional Winner can be Chairman's Award is given recognized for encouraging community."

award is an enormous Regional Winner award (the the Chairman's award is devotion to robotics and botics team was only revived

The alliance was able to advance to the quarterfinal round. In the end, Menlo-Atherton, San Ramon Valley and a team from Worcester, Ma. won the regional. However, thanks to the team's Chairman's award, Quixilver 604 will be competing at the National Tournament in Atlanta, Ga. in two weeks.

The objective of the "Rack n' Roll" challenge was to place pool inner-tubes, called ringers, onto a central rack. The rack consists of a multi-layer octagonal unit with protruding scoring units called legs. "We settled on a six wheel design so that our turning base would be smaller, and we used aluminum tubing for the arm. The arm has only two moving joints for simplicity's sake. The inner-tube gripper itself is also very simple. It is actuated by a pneumatic piston," Senior **Amy Qian**, captain of the team, said. "We did not have the most outstanding robot there, but everyone had a lot of fun."

"This activity breaks the stereotype of boring machinery. Sometimes, the robots are damaged and there is a lot of cheering from the sidelines, which adds to the excitement," Senior **Monica Tie** said.

For the past two years, the only awards displayed in **Helen Arrington's**, Math Dept., room were silver and crystal trophies. Now, the team proudly boasts their first golden Chairman's award, a representation of the team's progress and accomplishment.



Courtesy of Caitlin Reyda



Courtesy of Eugene Fang

Team members from team Quixilver 604 stand proudly in front with their robot. The students won the highest honor at the Silicon Valley Regional Competition held at San Jose State University last month.