



Local Team Wins First Lego League's Florida State Championship

RoboMonkeys to Compete at FIRST LEGO League Nano Quest World Festival in Atlanta, Georgia at the Georgia Dome and Georgia World Congress Center, April 12 - 14, 2007

DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA - January 17, 2007- The RoboMonkeys Robotics Team #1286 from Palm Beach County took first place and won the prestigious Champions Award at First Lego League's Florida State Championship Event held in Melbourne, Florida at Florida Institute of Technology on Sunday, January 14, 2007. The Champions Award is the most prestigious award that any team can win. The award is based on the following categories: technical category (robot design 25%, robot performance 25%) and team presentation category (project presentation 25%, teamwork 25%). The event was sponsored by GE, NASA, and Walt Disney World Design & Engineering.

There were hundreds of youths ages 9 – 14 on 48 teams from across the state that put their knowledge of science, robotics and computer technology to the test using Lego Mindstorm NXT or RCX robots to complete missions. Some robots have components such as a 32 bit microprocessor, a sound sensor that makes your robot react to sound commands, ultrasonic sensor that enables your robot to see, interactive servo motors that allow the robot to walk. The kids must design, build, and program a robot to accomplish the challenge missions on the field.

The three man team, known as the RoboMonkeys

(www.robomonkeysfl.com), with members Anthony Pipitone and Matthew Truong, students at St. Mark Catholic School in Boynton Beach and Robert Kruger, a student at Don Estridge High Tech Middle School in Boca Raton, will now represent the State of Florida at the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Nano Quest World Festival in Atlanta, Georgia at the Georgia Dome and Georgia World Congress Center, April 12 - 14, 2007. Only one team from each state is invited to enter the Festival.

The RoboMonkeys have competed in two other tournaments around the state. They competed against 20 teams on November 18, 2006 at the Treasure Coast FLL Tournament in Stuart, Florida at South Fork High School. The event was hosted by the FIRST Robotics Competition Team #180 S.P.A.M., the Palm Beach Section American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics and Florida Power & Light. The RoboMonkeys received the certificate for having the best research quality and they were awarded a trophy for the best overall Robot Design. RoboMonkeys took second place overall for Outstanding Performance and earned a chance to compete in the State Competition. FLL only awards five teams per regional competition to go on to the State Finals.

The Pneumatic Pink Challenge at McNair Magnet School in Rockledge, Florida on December 2, 2006 was the team's second competition and they won the First Place Champions Award and Highest Table Run Score. The event was sponsored by a school team known as the Nano Pink Team 448 out of Rockledge, Florida. There were 20 teams competing in the event.

This year's theme, Nano Quest, challenged the children to explore a new frontier that impacts every facet of society, from medicine to computers to the environment. The RoboMonkeys team visited a Boynton Beach based company, Quantachrome (www.quantachrome.com), a world leader in the design and manufacture of laboratory instruments for characterizing properties of porous materials and powders. Martin Thomas, Ph.D., the Director of Applied Technology along with the Quantachrome staff gave the team a guided tour of the facility. Dr. Thomas visited the RoboMonkeys team headquarters and spent hours educating and answering the many questions the team had about nano technology. The team credits Quantachrome for their involvement and believes that their assistance with research helped them to earn the Florida State Championship Title.

RoboMonkeys are currently sponsored by East West Karate in Lantana and American Stairs in Palm City. They are now looking for additional sponsorship to travel to Atlanta for the World Festival. The team hopes to be speaking with Florida based companies for Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities. As the only team representing the State of Florida, the team is also looking forward to contacting their town Mayors and State Representatives for photo and interview opportunities to include in their Florida Display Board at the World Festival. One member was quoted as saying, "I am hoping to be able to meet with the new State Governor Charlie Christ before our trip to Atlanta."

If you interested in supporting RoboMonkeys and their quest to become Festival Champions, please contact 561.455.0439 or visit www.robomonkeysfl.com for friends and family to track their adventure. Be sure to check the website for updates on the team. For information on First Lego League visit the website at www.firstlegoleague.org.

What is First Lego League International?

An international program for children ages 9-14 that combines a hands-on, interactive robotics program with a sports-like atmosphere. Teams consist of up to 10 players with the focus on such things as team building, problem solving, creativity, and analytical thinking. Each September, a new Challenge is unveiled to FLL International teams across the world. Over the course of 8 weeks, they strategize, design, build, program, test and refine a fully autonomous robot capable of completing the various

missions of the FLL International “Robot Game”. They also search the web, talk to scientists, visit the library and develop compelling presentations based on the FLL International “Research Assignment”, which relates to a problem or opportunity facing the world today.

FIRST is thrilled to host the *FIRST* LEGO League Nano Quest World Festival in conjunction with the *FIRST* Championship in Atlanta, Georgia at the Georgia Dome and Georgia World Congress Center, April 12 - 14, 2007. FLL will host 104 teams from 38 countries. Teams will participate in a 2½ day tournament celebration of their robotic and challenge project accomplishments.

104 Teams from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Faeroe Islands, France, Germany, Greenland, Hungary, Iceland, India, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa,

South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States are invited, as well as coaches, FLL Operational Partners, parents, corporate and local sponsors, international visitors, volunteers and spectators from the Atlanta area will be in attendance.

RoboMonkeys hope to inspire more people to get involved with *FIRST*. Become a sponsor, become a volunteer, mentor a team or start a team.

“FLL is the result of a partnership between *FIRST* and the LEGO Group. In 1998, *FIRST* Founder Dean Kamen and the LEGO Group’s Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen joined forces to create *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL), a powerful program that engages younger children in playful and meaningful learning while helping them to discover the fun in science and technology. So far, FLL has reached more than 90,000 kids in 45 countries around the globe.” www.usfirst.org.