

# MOE 365 Chairman's Award Presentation

FIRST Championship – Atlanta - Friday, April 13, 2007

*[ Speaker: Eric, "MOE By the Numbers" Poster ]*

Hi! We're MOE: Team 365! ..... And I'm Eric. Each of us has been on MOE for at least 3 years, and we are very excited to be talking to you about our team today! I go to the Charter School of Wilmington, 1 of 18 high schools represented on our team this year. Because of our multi-school makeup, we have a broad impact in our community in guiding students towards science and technology careers dating back before FIRST to our origins as an engineering explorer post. Since our program was converted to a FIRST team, we have had almost 150 students from 31 schools, including home-schooled, in 4 states. 95% of these students have gone on to college, 81% pursuing a major in science or engineering.

*[ Speaker: Andrea, "History of First State FLL Tournament" Poster ]*

We are promoting FIRST and growing teams in our community through cascading mentorship and being a role model for other teams. One of the ways we do this is our FIRST Lego League tournament. As an eighth grader, my friend Melissa Fox attended MOE's invitational FLL tournament. At the end of that day she told one of the mentors that she wanted to join MOE, go to the University of Delaware, and major in mechanical engineering. Melissa and the MOE tournament have both grown in these last six years. Melissa is now an ME major at UD and our tournament has expanded largest single day FIRST event world wide.

*[ Speaker: Andrea, "MOE Support of FIRST Pilot Programs" Poster ]*

We have been instrumental in helping FIRST implement new programs, having piloted Junior FIRST Lego League for the past three years and FVC for the last two. It is so large that we have supplementary feeder JFLL tournaments and next year there will be feeder FLL next year. Our students mentor many of the teams and we grow the program by providing financial support for any team who asks for it.

*[ Speaker: Andrea, "MORE Literacy Programs" Poster ]*

We are also reaching out to the community with our MORE literacy program. A few years ago a student expressed interest in taking our robot to local libraries and doing read-alouds to kids sometimes even younger than JFLL to get them interested in science and technology. Other team members became involved and it has evolved into our MORE programs. We have written multiple early reading books for the program, one for every level of FIRST, and they are available in four different languages and are on our website for anyone to use. The team has also come up with three colouring books. The first two were authored and illustrated by team members and the third of which was inspired by feedback from kids at the presentations who sent us pictures of robots they designed. This year we held a contest which I helped judge and the winning designs became our third colouring book. At our annual off-season FRC event, Duel on the Delaware, we hold a book drive and donate the books to Success Won't Wait, who provides books to underprivileged children. We've collected over 10,000 lbs of books, that's over 25% of their total collections.

*[ Speaker: Eric ]*

To build a cohesive team and a competitive robot, we created MOE University, a series of weekly sessions that teach the basic concepts before the season starts. Our MOE University sessions are available on our website, and a local college gives our students up to 18 college credits for participating in MOE University.

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*[ Speaker: Eric, "MOEmentum" Binder ]*

Over our years, many teams have asked us how we do what we do, so 3 years ago we compiled what we've learned into an infobase called MOEmentum designed to guide teams through their build season in a week-by-week web site and e-mail format. Since then, teams all over the world have told us that MOEmentum has helped them improve their program.

*[ Speaker: Will, "Ulster Project Delaware – MOE Vex Challenge" Poster ]*

Another one of our international efforts involves the Ulster Project Delaware, which is the program to help bridge the gap between Catholic and Protestant Northern Irish teens. My family hosted two teens in 2006

I decided that I wanted to try to share my love of robots, and so we created the MOE VEX Challenge, modeled on the FIRST rookie mentor day in order to expose them to FIRST and gracious professionalism.

Many of my UPD friends told me it was the best event of the trip, and my friend Peter took a VEX kit home to Northern Ireland. We suggested it to other projects and teams and scheduled it for UPD '07, as well as posting the format for the day on our website

*[ Speaker: Will, "Sustainability of FIRST Programs" Poster ]*

MOE has increased the sustainability and growth of FIRST. All MOE students help with sustainability by volunteering at many events, like the FIRST State LEGO League tournament, annual Duel on the Delaware off-season competition, and our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Robot Run 5K that any team may use for fundraising.

This year, MOE started a \$10,000 endowment fund at the Delaware Community Foundation to give us greater visibility and credibility with potential donors, as well as ensuring future solvency.

MOE gives out our special awards, such as the personal recognition buttons, at every competition to encourage teams to maintain their efforts.

At the conferences in Atlanta, MOE has presented 5 topics, including 2 this year. I am presenting my senior research work on pit design using Autodesk Inventor

*[ Speaker: Will, "Support FIRST in Delaware" Petition ]*

In addition to doing Dean's homework, we circulated this petition to expand FIRST in Delaware and sent copies to our representatives.

All that we have talked about lets us continue to achieve our motto: "making miracles happen one student at a time."

Thank you very much for your time today.