



GEAR UP

WINTER 2009-2010

GAINING
EARLY
AWARENESS AND
READINESS FOR
UNDERGRADUATE
PROGRAMS

FHS Participates in Mock Trial

Recently, fourteen Franklin HS students joined others from around Western NC to participate in the NC Advocates for Justice High School Mock Trial Competition at the Buncombe County Courthouse. The competition is designed to improve students' public speaking, writing, and critical thinking skills. Senior Danielle Corbin was awarded "Best Witness." GEAR UP sponsored both Franklin High School teams at the competition. GEAR UP Coach Camille Tuttrup said, "Congratulations to the students who gave truly excellent performances at the Mock Trial competition. These students represented Franklin High School well."



Back row: Canyon Woodard, Coach John DeVille Clint Strain; 3rd row: Erich Baker, Kyle Gignac, Lilly Knoepp, Bradley Parrish; 2nd row: Danielle Corbin, Damian Pittman, Jordan Waldrop, Laura Freeman; Front row: Oliva Boss, Kathleen Cipolla, Rachelle Simons, Jessica Giaquinto, and Coach Anne Powell.

FIRST LEGO League Competition a Success

The Technology Slayers from Nantahala School claimed the Championship Award during Southwestern Community College GEAR UP's First Lego League Local Competition. Eight teams from GEAR UP counties competed in the challenge, which was called Smart Move and held on SCC's Jackson Campus Nov. 21. Beginning in September the teams designed, constructed and programmed a Mindstorms NXT robot to complete timed missions on a Smart Move field. The teams were given points for each successful mission. "But First Lego League is much more than gaining the most points," said GEAR UP's Sherry Tilson, event coordinator. In addition to these robot runs the teams were judged on the



The Technology Slayers from Nantahala School, from left, Brian Gatti, Dustin Bryant and Tyler Fuller, claimed the Championship Award during Southwestern Community College GEAR UP's First Lego League Local Competition.

design of their robot and the complexity of the programs used to complete their missions, she said. Teams also had to find a creative solution to a transportation problem in their area. They researched, organized and presented their project to a judge who evaluated

the quality of the research and the creativity of the presentation. During another judging session the teams were given five minutes to solve a problem working together as a unit. "Add to this the most important aspect of the competition-gracious professionalism," Tilson said. "This is a term coined by Dean Kamen, creator of the U.S. First organization. It means that teams share what they learn in the course of their challenge with other teams and that they treat all competitors with respect and kindness." In addition to the Technology Slayers, other winners included: **Robot Design Award:** GloboRoboTron -- Swain home-school team

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Jackson County Students Get Ready for College

"Our students are very excited about going to college. Several have already been accepted to Southwestern Community College and Haywood Community College," said Jennie Ashlock, GEAR UP college readiness coach at the School of Alternatives. Her comment follows the participation of students in the NC College Application Week (November 16 -20, 2009). During this time, GEAR UP staff worked with seniors at The School of Alternatives to complete online applica-

tions to Southwestern Community College, Haywood Community College and AB Tech. Program interests included cosmetology, entrepreneurship, psychology and mechanics. Most students will begin their studies in fall, 2010.

During the same week, 108 juniors created or updated CFNC accounts, updated the online high school planner and created or updated their GEAR UP portfolios. This pre-planning process will be very

useful when completing online college applications. The information from students' secure online CFNC portfolios automatically downloads into the applications making the application process easy and uncomplicated. All three very successful events were made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Smoky Mountain High School and Jackson County School of Alternatives teaching faculty, administration, guidance counselors and SCC GEAR UP.

FOR STUDENTS WHO TOOK THE PSAT IN FALL 2009:

My College QuickStart is an online college and career planning kit available for free to all who took the PSAT/NMSQT. It is powered by their responses to the test and provides personalized information that helps students take their next steps toward college. Students will need their **access code**, which is printed on the paper score report, and the tool can be utilized throughout high school. Using My College QuickStart together with your child is a great way to introduce and guide your child through important aspects of the college-going process. Visit www.collegeboard.com/quickstart. Ask GEAR UP personnel for help!

Take charge of your future today!

GEAR UP Sponsors Poetry Out Loud

Recently, Swain County High School students competed in the second annual school-wide Poetry Out Loud Competition, which was sponsored by SCC GEAR UP. The Poetry Out Loud program teaches students public speaking skills, self-confidence, and knowledge of literature through memorizing and reciting poetry, according to its website. Participants, all winners of their Poetry Out Loud classroom competitions, memorized two poems and recited them from memory for a panel of judges: Dr. Catherine Carter, director of the English Education program at Western Carolina University and published poet, Bradford Reisinger, Masters of English student at Western, and Ms. Honor McElroy, SCHS English teacher and Sophomore Team lead teacher. Ms.

Dawn Gilchrist Young, chair of the SCHS English department, was the accuracy judge, and Frazier Woodruff, AP English student and frequent contributor to SCHS's literary magazine *Speechless*, served as prompter.

Senior Flemming Sanders won with her recitations of "Echo" by Daryl Hine and "A Dream Within a Dream" by Edgar Allan Poe. Last year's winner Hayden Lindquist, a junior, was in second place, and the third place winner was junior Cassie Crisp. Other participants included junior Danielle Bryson, freshman Autumn Demonet, and junior Jonah Winchester. All competitors received certificates and a copy of *The Best American*

Poetry 2009, and the winners also received journals, all provided by GEAR UP.

Erin McCully, GEAR UP college readiness coach, said, "This year's competition was even better than last year. The students did a beautiful job memorizing and interpreting the poems and their presentations were nearly perfect. GEAR UP is excited to be a part of this project."

Because Flemming Sanders graduated in December, second-place winner Hayden Lindquist will move to the next level of the competition, which will be held in Raleigh in March. The North Carolina champion will go on to Washington, DC, to compete for a \$20,000 college scholarship in April.

FIRST Lego League, continued from page 1

Robot Performance: Cherokee 8th grade
Project Research Quality: Technology Slayers--Nantahala
Most Creative Presentation: Cherokee 8th grade
Teamwork Award: Technotonics from Swain Middle
Spirit Award: The Terminators from Cherokee
Judges Award: Technology Slayers from Nantahala



The Swain County Technotonics at the Lego Regional Competition: Ryan Bennett; Angie Noland, Coach; Jeremy Dills; John Miller; Jake Pierce; Cyle Reed; Hunter Essary; Mark Barker; and Kim Jamison, Coach.

1st Place Robot Performance/Design:

Globorobotron—Swain County

2nd Place Robot Design: Technotonics—Swain Middle School

1st Place Teamwork: 4-H Rezbots Terminators—Cherokee

Additional Qualifier: 4-H Rezbots A-wo-ha-li—Cherokee

Del Ruff, SCC GEAR UP director, was the teamwork judge with Deborah Appleby and Mike Penninger serving as project judges and Ashraf Patel as robot design judge. The participating teams went on to compete at the regional competition, which was held Jan. 23 at Western Carolina University's Ramsey Center.

The local teams who qualified to move on to the State Tournament to be held on February 20, 2010 at the Greensboro Coliseum in Greensboro, NC include:



The Cherokee 4-H Terminators at the Lego League Local Competition:

Ethan Swearengin, Elijah Arch, Michael George, Dakota Ward, Daniel Griffin, Coach Scott Freeman, Coach Liddell Shannon



The Macon Middle Robot Reapers at the Lego League Local Competition:

Grant Williamson, Duncan Stiles, Scott Walker, Jordan Cabe, Ethan Stiles, Brent Shepherd, and Chris Chastain