



## Chairman's Award Presentation Speech 2012

### Topic 1:

Hello! We're Spectrum, FIRST Team 3847 from Houston, Texas. We're comprised of students from Strake Jesuit College Preparatory, a school for young men, and St. Agnes Academy, a school for young women. I'm Michael (*others introduce themselves*). About a year and a half ago, while competing against each other at the regional BEST Robotics Competition, we noticed that the two schools' engineering teams had complementary qualities, so we began thinking about merging. After three years of competing as rivals in BEST, we felt that FIRST offered us a new, more complex challenge to tackle, so the other SJ captains and I got together with captains from St. Agnes and discussed the merger. We had many meetings with our teachers and administrations, and ultimately FIRST Team 3847 was born, originally called the Roaring Crusaders.

Last year (our rookie year) we had competed with only a kitbot. We did remarkably well, winning Rookie Inspiration and Highest Rookie Seed because of the inspirational way our two teams managed to merge together, and Michael's superb defensive driving. And so, when we met at the beginning of off season, we began to rethink our name. We thought that "Roaring Crusaders" was not a name which embodied the vision of what we wanted our team to present. So, after 3 hours of debate, we changed our name to Spectrum, and with the change, our robot quality has changed with it. We have upgraded from a defensive kitbot to an offensive robot complete with sensors, machined parts, and advanced programming. Since the robot itself was difficult to build, we have grown together as a team with the late nights and bonding experiences.

Such bonding experiences are essential to our teams as we try to promote a strong unification amongst our members. To encourage a more amalgamated team, and to allow for each student the opportunity to experience engineering and FIRST to the fullest, we held Enlightenment Workshops. During these workshops, we gave presentations, which covered the different aspects of engineering ranging from safety to pneumatics. This provided our students with a deeper understanding of the subjects presented, and allowed them to choose how they wished to participate in the team.

## **Topic 2:**

Having been a rookie team just last year, we know how difficult it can be when you're first starting out in FIRST. We remember going to a rookie build shop last year hosted by FIRST teams 57 and 3103, having absolutely no idea where to begin with our robot for Logomotion. This year, we went back to the same rookie build shop, this time as a mentor team. We helped rookie teams like 4155 and 4328 to get started with their robots for Rebound Rumble. We also co-hosted with FIRST team 2587 a week-six scrimmage at Rice University, helping teams put the finishing touches on their robots and get a feel for Rebound Rumble. We hope that we were able to help teams as much as they helped us.

When communicating with others, we figured that there were three different ways we could manage to do this. For one, we made the ambassador group to make sure we would have people that specialized in discussing the various needs of different teams, and who handled all planning for various group projects that we would undertake, such as volunteering, FIRST events, and rookie builds (can I say that?). From there, if we couldn't visit a team or attend a build, we gave out our contact information to the teams, and have shared emails, skype calls, phone calls, and even invited them to our lab for a shop tour. To those teams of which there would be no efficient way to visit them, we created Illuminations, an instruction book, to give out.

In continuing with the promotion of engineering and the goodwill of man, we volunteered at various robotics competitions. Such competitions included; Space City BEST, the Houston VEX Tournament, FIRST Lego League, and most recently the FRC Alamo Regional.

## **Topic 3:**

In community volunteering, we participated in various events, such as Habitat for Humanity, in which we built houses, worked in the Houston Food Bank to package food boxes, and donated our extra team shirts to the Saint Vincent dePaul Orphanage in San Salvador, El Salvador.

We continued our participation in the community by branching out our influence and spreading the FIRST message. We began by giving presentations, which encompassed various aspects of engineering, math, and science at middle schools and for Boy Scout troops. We also gave these kids a firsthand look into what we do by hosting lab tours. Our team then participated in the Sally Rides Festival at Rice University where we exposed over six hundred young women to engineering to encourage participation in the field. Within our own school communities, we have held lunch expos in order to raise awareness about engineering, our team, and FIRST. At such expositions, we would demo our robot and explained the basic principles of our team and engineering. We have also had multiple articles about our team published in school and community newspapers in order to encourage cognizance.

#### Topic 4:

Our team is diverse in nature, as we are divided practically down the line in the way on gender. We strongly support the equality amongst the sexes and promote women in engineering. In the way of class, we are heavy on juniors this year and pretty equally divided amongst the rest. Every year we try to bring in and inspire new freshman to join the team because they are the future of it.

Good organization and communication are vital for the success of any FIRST Robotics Team, especially one with as small a mentor base as we have. So, this year we divided our team into seven subgroups--Safety, Mechanical, CAD, Controls, Media, Ambassadors, and Development--to tackle the tasks that FIRST placed before us. These subgroups were fluid and cooperative, working together in full team meetings. The full team communicated through Facebook, email, Google docs, a website, and a daily build blog.

We would like to thank you for listening to our Chairman's Presentation, and invite any questions you might have at this time.