



NE *FIRST* University Day at Connecticut 2015

Saturday, September 12, 2015

Schedule

8 a.m. - Sign-In/Coffee/continental breakfast (Alumni Hall, Student Center)

8:30 a.m. - Opening remarks (Alumni Hall, Student Center)

9 a.m. - Morning workshops (Copernicus Hall)

12 p.m. – Lunch (Memorial Hall)

1 p.m. - Afternoon workshops (Copernicus Hall)

4 p.m. - Departure

CT FIRST UNIVERSITY DAY - SEPTEMBER 12, 2015

Thank you to our sponsors: Central Connecticut State University, Eversource and NE *FIRST*/ingenuityNE*

8:00 to 8:30	<p>Registration/Continental Breakfast/Networking for all Teams</p> <p><i>Alumni Hall, Student Center</i></p>
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8:30 to 9:00	<p align="center">Welcome</p> <p align="center"><i>Alumni Hall, Student Center</i></p> <p align="center"><i>CT FIRST Staff and Sponsors*</i></p>
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FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL®)

9:15	<div> <div>TRASK TREKSM</div> <div> Season Overview Mission Details Tournament Judging </div> </div>	9:15
to		to
Noon		Noon

Noon to 1:00	<p>Lunch and Networking</p> <p>Memorial Hall</p>	Noon to 1:00
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1:15 to 2:00	Teamwork and Teambuilding <i>M. Gentry</i>	Project Research and Presentation <i>S. Winsor</i>	NXT-G Programming <i>P. Dowling</i>	1:15 to 3:00
2:15 to 3:00	Teamwork and Teambuilding <i>M. Gentry</i>	Project Research and Presentation <i>S. Winsor</i>		

3:15 to 4:00	New Team Information	Networking/Sharing	3:15 to 4:00
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8:30 to 9:00	Welcome <i>Alumni Hall, Student Center</i> <i>CT FIRST Staff and Sponsors*</i>
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FIRST® Robotics Competition (FRC®)

9:15 to 10:00	Ask a Mentor Q&A Session <i>Panel</i>	Intro to Scouting <i>3525 Students</i>	LabVIEW Beginner/Advanced (Session I) <i>G. Burroughs, R. Vallieres</i>	9:15 to Noon
10:15 to 11:00	Student Recruitment <i>D. Henry</i>	Online Resources for FRC Teams <i>J. Niezrecki</i>		
11:15 to Noon	Community Outreach for FRC Teams <i>S. Gray, A. Powers</i>	Project Portfolio Management (PPM) for FRC Teams <i>V. Moorthy</i>		

Noon to 1:00	Lunch and Networking Memorial Hall	Noon to 1:00
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1:15 to 2:00	Volunteer Roles & Responsibilities <i>S. Lipscomb</i>	Recycle, Reuse & Repurpose <i>F. D'Anna</i>	From Lawnmowers to Helicopters <i>D. Henry</i>	LabVIEW Beginner/Advanced (Session II) <i>G. Burroughs, R.Vallieres</i>	1:15 to 4:00
2:15 to 3:00	Social Media for Your FRC Team <i>D. Givens</i>	FIRST and Beyond: How Your FIRST Experience Benefits Your Future <i>L. Jefferson, A. Bessette</i>			
3:15 to 4:00	Innovative Robot Design <i>S. Slezycki</i>	Corporate Sponsorship for FIRST Teams <i>L. Jefferson</i>			

FRC Workshop Descriptions

Ask a Mentor Q&A

Come ask questions and hear the varied perspectives of some of our Connecticut FRC mentors! Questions can be sent ahead of time to ljefferson@usfirst.org.

Panelists:

- Tim Barron (178)
- Michael Todd (1071)
- Diane van der Grinten (2067)
- Stephenie Thibeault (3461)
- Stephanie Slezycki

Moderated by David Givens

Community Outreach for FRC Teams

Why Community Outreach is important for *FIRST* teams. Discussion will focus on how to pinpoint needs in your community, develop a strategy and the impact it will have on your team.

Stacey Gray and Axel Powers

Corporate Sponsorship for *FIRST* Teams

Corporate sponsors are a key part of fundraising for *FIRST* teams! This session will cover budgeting, approaching corporate sponsors and creating a sponsorship packet.

Lauren Jefferson

From Helicopters to Lawnmowers: Imparting the *FIRST* Philosophy to Parents

Does your team have parents who hover over every decision or who want to remove all obstacles that might impede their child's success? Your "helicopter" and "lawnmower" parents' behavior at events might not match what your team embraces. We'll discuss strategies for communicating the *FIRST* Philosophy, Gracious Professionalism and Coopertition.

Dana Henry

FIRST and Beyond: How Your *FIRST* Experience Benefits Your Future

Being a participant of *FIRST* is more than just joining club or after-school activity. Learn how to promote your experience for college applications, scholarships and the workforce.

Amanda Bessette and Lauren Jefferson

Innovative Robot Design: Developing Creative Solutions Using Idea Generation Tools

This interactive session will provide a selection of brainstorming tools to aid in the progression from game reveal to robot design. Learn how to define the highest purpose of what the team is trying to accomplish and then develop a solution-neutral robot design approach. The idea generation tools highlighted will include identifying and adapting existing (but unrelated) products or processes, imitating solutions found in nature, generating and actually applying wild and wacky ideas, optimizing team resources, and concept mapping to visually organize information.

Stephanie Slezycki

Intro to Scouting

LabVIEW Beginners/Advanced

Introduction to the National Instruments LabVIEW programming environment, dataflow programming, and common LabVIEW development techniques in a hands-on format. (Session is presented twice; each session is limited to 24 attendees)

Greg Burroughs and Ryan Vallieres

Online Resources for FRC Teams

This session will provide various different sources for FRC Teams to learn more about design, strategic, technical, and several other concepts. Most of the information in this session was provided by other FRC Teams and will point students and mentors in the right direction to learn more in areas where they may be a bit weaker.

Justin Niezrecki

PPM for Successful *FIRST* Teams

Highlights best practices of Project Portfolio Management (PPM) and challenges as applicable to *FIRST* Teams.

Venkat Moorthy

Recycle, Reuse & Repurpose

Presentation & discussion on using repurposed or recycled material on your robot.

Frank D'Anna

Social Media for Your FRC Team

Learn all about running an FRC Team's social media accounts, including content creating, reputation management, boosting your visibility, and how to organize your team members to handle these tasks.

David Givens

Student Recruitment

Need students? All teams need kids to be a team, what type of students makes the best *FIRST* kid? How many students does a team need? Let's talk about it.

Dana Henry

Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities

Love attending New England District events, even when your team isn't competing? Want to meet a huge network of other *FIRST* team members, mentors and alumni? Volunteer with NEFIRST! Learn about the different volunteer roles available at the many local district events, the District Championship, and even in St. Louis at the World Championship. Learn about volunteering for the first time or taking the next steps to become Lead in the future!

Sam Lipscomb

FRC Presenter Bios

Axel Powers

2015 Graduate of GUS Robotics Team 228, Dean's List Finalist 2014! I've been in Robotics pretty much my whole life, for 5 years I was the Award writer and Public relation director for GUS robotics Team 228. Along with going around with my father to other teams around Connecticut for the past 4 years helping on Robotics building, Marketing, Public Relations, Award writing, Etc.

Workshop: Community Outreach for FRC Teams

Amanda Bessette

Amanda is an Alumni of FRC839 and has been involved with *FIRST* since 2004. She volunteers in a multitude of roles from field reset, judge, and training events. Amanda earned her MS in Mechanical Engineering in 2015 from Florida Institute of Technology. During the summer of 2014 Amanda was selected to work on Mars2020, the next rover to explore Mars. While in Florida she was involved in FLL (training to hosting states at FIT) and started the Panther Prowl FRC off season event on campus.

Workshop: *FIRST* and Beyond: How Your *FIRST* Experience Benefits Your Future

Dana Henry

Dana Henry has worked for United Technologies Aerospace Systems/Space Systems for 33 years, building and inspecting life support systems for NASA and the US Navy, including the EMU (extravehicular mobility unit, the space suit), oxygen generation, life support, cooling and gas management systems for the NASA Space Shuttle, International Space Station and US Navy submarines. In 2002, Henry co-founded (and is Lead Mentor) Rosie Robotics, FRC 839, and in 2005 co-founded FTC 839 with the late John Burns. Since then, Henry has expanded *FIRST* to all schools in all grade levels in Agawam, MA, founded the Agawam Robotics Education Association, Inc. a 501(c) (3) and currently serves as Pres/CEO. He has organized FLL state qualifying tournaments for 6 years and has been a FRC Championship Inspector for 9 years. Henry is a member of the New England District Operations Committee, a FRC CMP Lead Robot Inspector and has also presented various training modules to teams around New England, at Kick Off in Manchester, NH, on rookie FRC/FTC/FLL team start up, mentor training, veteran team sustainability, and how to shape local politics for the support of *FIRST*.

Workshops: Student Recruitment, From Helicopters to Lawnmowers: Imparting the *FIRST* Philosophy to Parents

David Givens

1071 Class of 2013 Alumnus. District Event Planning Committee Member. Marketing College Student & Intern.

Workshops: Ask a Mentor Q&A (Moderator); Social Media for Your FRC Team

Frank D'Anna

Design engineer with Sikorsky Aircraft for 38 years. Holder of 10 patents and recipient of lifetime achievement award.

FIRST Mentor with teams 1071 & 3525 since 2009 (Lunacy).

Workshop: Recycle, Reuse & Repurpose

Greg Burroughs

Earned a B.S. in electrical engineering from RIT in 1992 and has been with Bloomy since 1998. He is an NI Certified LabVIEW Architect, NI Certified TestStand Developer, and NI Certified Professional Instructor.

Workshops: LabVIEW Beginners/Advanced (Sessions I & II)

Justin Niezrecki

I am currently a student at the University of Connecticut pursuing a degree in engineering. I am an alumni of Team 1124 and am involved with helping many teams in providing resources for them to learn about technical and financial skills.

Workshop: Online Resources for FRC Teams

Lauren Jefferson

FIRST VISTA for Connecticut with a degree in management science. Recent MIT graduate and admissions Educational Counselor. Seven years of *FIRST* experience, three as a student and four as a volunteer. Alumna of FRC 1124 & 3125.
Workshops: *FIRST* and Beyond: How Your *FIRST* Experience Benefits Your Future; Corporate Sponsorship for *FIRST* Teams

Ryan Vallieres

Project Engineer with Bloomy Controls. NI Certified LabVIEW Architect. Graduated from UCONN in 2013 with a degree in Biomedical Engineering and a minor in Electronics and Systems.

Workshop: LabVIEW Beginners/Advanced (Sessions I & II)

Sam Lipscomb

Sam is an alum of the Gaelhawks from Shelton, CT, FRC team #230 and has been a volunteer at FRC competitions since 2005. She has been a volunteer coordinator in New England and at the *FIRST* Championship since 2011.

Workshop: Volunteer Roles & Responsibilities

Stacey Gray

FIRST Senior Mentor. Marketing Mentor for FRC Team 1071. Social Media Manager Crowley Auto Group - Marketing Consultant.

Workshop: Community Outreach for FRC Teams

Stephanie Slezycki

Stephanie Slezycki is a mechanical engineer at General Dynamics Electric Boat and is responsible for evaluating design improvements for future submarine classes. A founding student member of Team 236, she co-authored the 2006 and 2007 *FIRST* Robots: Behind the Design books, and a third which highlights robot designs from the 2015 season, to be released in the near future.

Workshops: Ask a Mentor Q&A, Innovative Robot Design: Developing Creative Solutions Using Idea Generation Tools

Venkat Moorthy

Over 15 years in IT systems portfolio, program and project management roles with large insurance companies. Serve as a Mentor, UberBots, Team #1124.

Workshop: Project Portfolio Management (PPM) for FRC Teams