

THE HURON VALLEY COMET P.1

Spring 2024 Vol.8



'99 HOT Team Schedule

EEAS	Apr-98
Hamvention	May-98
Kokomo	May-98
Disaster Drill	Jun-98
Zeeland	Jun-98
Ethanol	Jun-98
Road Clean-up	Jun-98
4th of July Parade	Jul-98
River Clean-up	Aug-98
River Raft Race	Aug-98
ESPN Party	Aug-98
Milford Memories	Aug-98
Wedding	Sep-98
Milford Auto Show	Sep-98
Road Clean-up	Sep-98
State Capitol	Sep-98
Halloween Party	Oct-98
Cub Scouts	Oct-98
HOT Shots	Nov-98
Candy Sales	Nov-98
Christmas Parade	Nov-98
Assemblies	Nov-98
Chief Delphi	Nov-98
Lego Chicago	Nov-98
TJ's going away Party	Nov-98
Board Presentation	Nov-98
Craft Show	Nov-98
HOT Spot	11/98-12/98
Valentines Dance	Feb-99
Chicago	Feb-99
Philadelphia	Mar-99
Ypsilanti	Mar-99
Disney World	Apr-99
Banquet	May-99
Recruiting	year long
Team Building	year long
Pontiac Silverdome	year long

'99 HOT TEAM REUNITES FOR 25th REUNION

"Who's HOT? We're HOT!" chanted the 1999 HOT team members, at their 25th Reunion last night. The festivities were held at a local Country Club. Members started arriving around 6:00pm for cocktails, followed by dinner promptly at 7:30pm. Many fond memories of the years past were re-visited, while everyone relaxed to a live band. Following dinner the Alumni engaged in a few games. In one they were given a box of parts, and they had 30 minutes to build a miniature robot. Thus, they could rival in a little friendly competition to re-cap the old atmosphere. Before the evening was over the team members had a surprise visit from Dean Kamen the founder of FIRST. Dean spoke of the many achievements of the Huron Valley Schools FIRST team, and honored a few of the Alumni. Some of the members gave speeches on what FIRST meant to them. One of which really hit home was from Aaron Gofton, "FIRST helped me to stay on task and be a good worker, which helped me to later achieve my goal of owning my own engineering firm". Later in the evening Rudy Cender commented on the fact that "FIRST is still impacting the community, and bringing awareness to the up and coming generations".

Then came the moment they had all been waiting for. For the first time in 25 years the "HOT" time capsule would be unveiled. Momentos of the 98/99 season were removed, which brought about tears of joy and a sense of accomplishment to the faces of the Alumni members. In the end the Alumni of "Heroes of Tomorrow" were brought together with the "Heroes of Today" to capture the essence of FIRST, for the many generations to come.

Captain Cummings Returns from Mission

Many of the Huron Valley FIRST team members returned to Milford this week for the 1998-99 HOT Team 25th reunion. Among them was Capt. Kathleen Cummings, who attributes much of her success to her experiences on the FIRST Team. "HOT taught me how to work with others as a single unit striving towards a common goal. It showed me the importance of good communication in a team. It taught me to put petty differences aside. I wouldn't be the person I am today had I not been a part of that team.

And what a loss that would be. Capt. Cummings received her bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Michigan and went on to serve as one of the first women fighter pilots in the US Air Force. NASA recruited Capt. Cummings to fly space shuttle missions in 2014 and her flight team soon became the most effective and efficient in the program. "We have had our differences," Cummings says, "But we communicate well. We do what needs to be done for the good of the team. I learned that lesson long ago." Capt. Cummings has just finished her ninth flight mission. "My mom can't wait until I get a nice quiet job on the ground. I hope she doesn't hold her breath."

Cummings is currently living in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina with husband Justin Timberlake, former member of the musical group 'Nsync, and their two children. She says she is extremely excited to see old friends and teachers. "We try to stay in contact, but we're all very busy people. It'll be nice to sit and chat. We have a lot of catching up to do. It's hard to believe that only 25 years ago we were just kids. I think FIRST really helped prepare us for the world. It showed us we could accomplish anything we set our minds to. It showed us that life has no limits."

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Success Stories...

Josh Goodrum

Hello, my name is Josh Goodrum. I am 43 years old and I am happily married with three kids, living in Milford, Michigan. I went to 3 different colleges (Art institute of Pittsburgh, MIT, and Kettering) to come to where I am today. I am the founder and owner of Goodrum Animations LTD. We, as a company, are the largest Animation Company in the world. We produce movies, cartoons, commercials, and are now doing virtual holograms with the latest technology. I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't been part of the Huron Valley Schools FIRST Robotics team, in high school. That experience has allowed me to open up my possibilities and talents to the outside world. Through FIRST, I learned to become a team member and the rewards of good communication and organization. We set the example, and we conquered. I thank the people of FIRST and the Huron Valley Schools HOT team for changing my life!

Aaron Gofton

In the last 25 years Aaron Gofton has gotten married, had three children, and recently found the resources to open his own engineering firm. Aaron opened his firm after graduating at the top of his class from Kettering University. In the year 2004 Aaron went to work at a Paris manufacturer.

Now that he has his own company he remembers one of the things that helped get him into engineering, FIRST. Aaron feels that recruiting is also a large part getting people involved in learning. He now sponsors a team and does all he can to help out.

Josh Beach

After 15 years of great marriage and two kids, I look back to my high school years and FIRST. FIRST is still part of my life. I work with the ever growing Lego League, which my two kids are part of. Next week we are going to Germany for the Lego League international competition. FIRST helped me shape my goals for college. Consequently, I got a B.S. in computer science and quantum physics from MIT. Finally, I got my P.H.D. in quantum physics. Since my development of a quantum computer, I started Beachcom. We have become a full founding sponsor of a FIRST. All in all I view my time in FIRST as the best times of my life.

Eric Simmons

Hi, my name is Eric Simmons; I have 2 kids, twins, whom I had with my wife of 10 years. I founded a company throughout the world known as the Ultimate Foundation of Science and Technology, where a lot of new sciences and technologies are researched. I personally made my first technological breakthrough when I built my first artificially intelligent computer with a personality, during my first year at ITT Tech. This was after my time with the FIRST foundation in high school. I have since then accomplished many goals that I never even knew I had, such as better teamworking skills, and a greater knowledge of science as well as technology, without even knowing I was learning it. As of now the FIRST foundation has given me my job giving me that one step up on my understanding of both sciences and technologies. The FIRST foundation is a true TEAM commitment, but I was happy I had taken the commitment, because look at where I am now!

Pamela Hayton

My name is still Pamela Hayton; I am not married and I don't have any kids. I currently teach biology at Milford High School. I have attended Eastern Michigan University and achieved countless goals. The FIRST team helped me stay in a science field, where I had the most fun as a child. Now, to me, the FIRST team means experience and a chance for a better life.

Matt Brown

FIRST was the beginning of everything for me. My name is Matthew Brown and during the years of 1997-2000 I was part of the Huron Valley Schools HOT Team. Through my work as an animator and a captain for the HOT Team, I was motivated to become what I am now, the producer of full-featured computer animated movie segments. After I left high school I went to the University Of Michigan, where I studied computer animation. Shortly after I was hired by a small animation company called Pixar where I quickly climbed the ladder to my current position of producer. We've worked on all the latest movies and I'm very proud of the level I reached. My family and I live a good life, with all the luxuries that I've ever wanted to give them. FIRST was the beginning of everything. It was the reason that I choose my career and it gave me the skills to get me where I am today. I'm proud to have been part of the HOT Team.

Movie-Makers

The Blockbuster directing team of Slogo & Cloan Productions are back in the Huron Valley area. Highland-raised Ellen Cogo and Megan Sloan have decided to set part of their next film in Milford. This film is a science-fiction adventure written by Ms. Cogo.

"I started writing the story in high school. The town in it is based on Milford so it seemed only fitting to shoot those scenes here." says Cogo.

The already published novel, *Captive Earth*, on which the film is based has received rave reviews, and has maintained record-breaking sales.

Their last hit was based on a book written by Megan Sloan titled *Genesareg*, which has received similar acclaim.

"We've done one of hers and one of mine now. This ought to keep her quiet for a while." Sloan commented and promptly received a slap upside the head from her partner.

Upon being asked to what they attributed their current fame both replied, 'the district's FIRST Robotics HOT team.'

"It gave us a chance to try our hand at putting a production together." Cogo elaborated.

"It got me behind a camera." Sloan seconded.

Now they sponsor a team of their own. Last year their team, in its third year of existence, placed fourth at national, but came away with a stunning first place victory at the world competition in London.

While the duo is in town they will be among the multitude of influential faces attending the HOT Team twenty-five year reunion.

Teresa Woolworth

I am married, and have three children. I am now a domestic engineer. I was involved in communications directly after college. Through my business contacts that I obtained through FIRST I was able to fulfill my dreams of helping others. I obtained a job at General Motors helping with communications. Eventually, I was able to help solve strikes and keep the business moving smoothly.

When I look back at my experiences in FIRST I can see that it has helped me tremendously! Everything from my college career at Calvin College to my executive days at GM has been affected by my days on the HOT Team. I am now a devoted housewife who is working on the next generation of heroes. My oldest daughter is involved with a FIRST team at her school. She is convinced that she is going to be an engineer. I am 100% behind her. FIRST is a valuable program. I'm thankful that my children can be part of it like I was.

What does FIRST mean to you now?

"The FIRST team means experience and a chance for a better life"

-Pamela Hayton

"Fond memories, good learning experience"

-Jodi Berg

"It gave me the skills I needed to get me a step ahead of everyone else"

-Johanna Stephenson

"It is a memory of when I was first introduced to engineering with professionals"

-Donald Reed

"FIRST was the beginning of everything, for me"

-Matt Brown

"FIRST is still a valuable institution to interest young adults in Science and Technology"

-Erik Sippola

"FIRST is a great opportunity to learn about Science and Technology"

-Ted Kokx

"At this point in my life FIRST is an excellent program. It teaches real life experiences to students that would have not realized it"

-Jenny Brinker

"FIRST brought me, a countless number of good times and hopefully it will bring thousands of other children every year, similar experiences to those of the ones I had"

-Angela Collins

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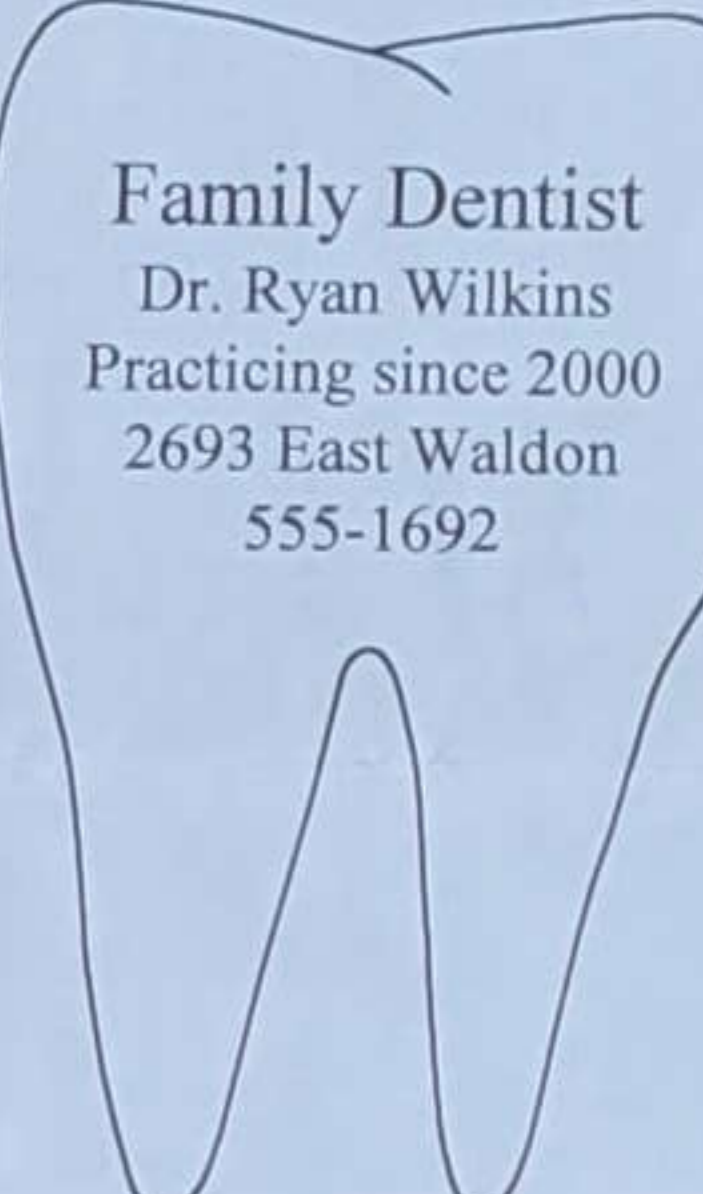
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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Michael Collins. I was in 5th grade when the event took place, I was a member of the 1998 Huron Valley HOT Shots program. This program was formed by my teacher Mr. Stern. From the day Mr. Stern heard of this new program he was thrilled to make us part of it. Then all the High School students started coming into our classes, and they brought the supplies to begin creating. That was when all the fun began, I was thrilled to use all my ideas to see what I could make. Let me assure you there were some great problems, none of us could ever compromise. For a group of 5th graders getting along was quite the problem, but we were able to manage. Then came the day of the competition and let me tell you I was so excited I could hardly contain myself. My group had won the school competition and we were going to be in the big competition. We started out terrible, one of our engines was broken and our robot wouldn't go in any direction. So we were devastated, we had worked so hard and we all felt so hopeless. Our mentor Christina was there at our side trying to help us keep our calm, but we didn't understand at the time that things would be ok. Then we went on to finish the competition and we were not one of the top teams, but we had learned to work together and get along. The year ended and we left Mr. Sterns class and went to Junior High School, but I will never forget all those great memories of my 5th grade robotics group. I would also like to send out a sincere thank you to all the mentors and people who made this event possible. If it hadn't been for you all I would not be the person I am today. I am now 35 years old and have two of my own children and my son is in 5th grade. His class is participating in the HOT Shots program and I would also like to thank you for keeping the program up and running for my kids to take part in.

Thank you and keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Michael Collins

Dear Editor,

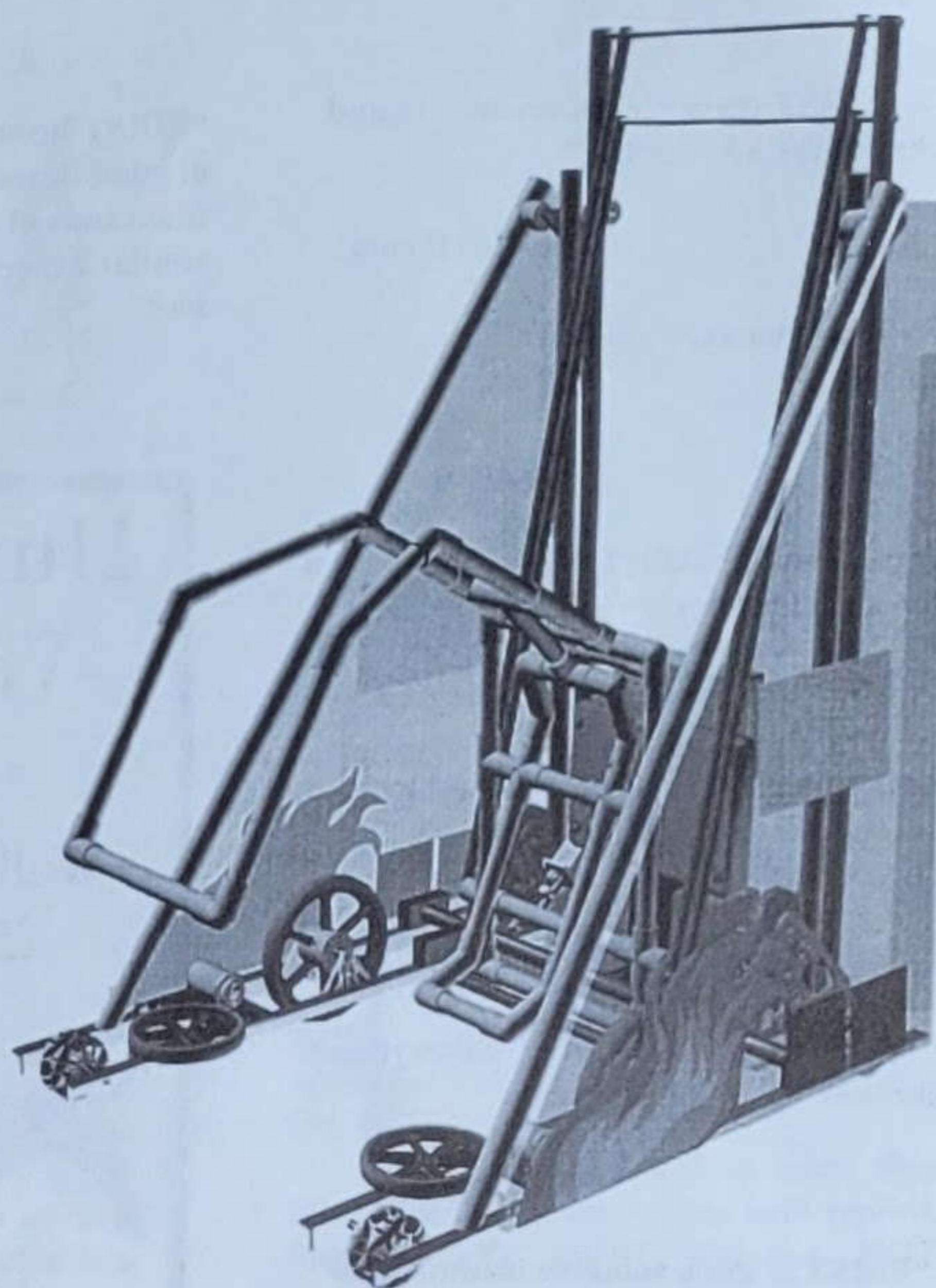
I would like to take a moment to thank all the people that made FIRST possible. Without you guys we would never be where we are today. I feel that throughout the years, FIRST has become an up and rising trend in our local schools. It is keeping children involved in the field of Science and Technology, which nowadays is one of the best things we can do for our future engineers. I would like to send out a special thanks to Dean Kamen for creating FIRST and for the many ideas that he has brought into FIRST to keep it alive, and to all of my school teachers and the employees of General Motors who helped make my FIRST experience incredible. Good luck to those in the future!

Sincerely,

Josh Goodrum

WORD SEARCH

S H B X D Y O Q Q R E U N I O N H K V E V
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| HOT | FLOPPY | DELPHI KNIGHTS | FUN |
| ROBOT | PUCK | DESERT PROVING | CHICAGO |
| TEAM | TRUCK | GROUNDS | PHILADELPHIA |
| REUNION | SKI BRIGADE | CHAIRMAN'S | DISNEY WORLD |
| FIRST | DELPHI | COMPETITION | TEAMWORK |
| | | | ACHIEVEMENTS |

