

Senior Send-Off

By Madi L.

This year, Team 6324 said farewell to six outstanding seniors. No matter how long each student was on the team, the impact they made was deeply felt by everyone.

Cameron M. - Strategy lead and Manufacturing member. His favorite memory on the team was winning DCMP. He is now pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering and Technology

Logan B. - Manufacturing and Business member. His favorite memory on the team was seeing the score when we won districts. He is now pursuing the field of construction.

Natalie D.- Manufacturing Lead of two years. Her favorite memory was making it to Einstein at the World Championship. She is now pursuing a degree in Manufacturing Engineering.

Julia L. - Impact subteam member. Her favorite memory was winning the Johnson Division at the World Championship. She is now pursuing a degree in Biomedical Engineering.

Mya M. - Impact subteam member. Her favorite memory was getting to drive the robot at offseason events. She is now pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice with a specialty in Investigation.

Megan S. - Impact subteam member. Her favorite memories were all the times she got to hang out with the team. She is now pursuing a degree in Biotechnology.

Saying goodbye was not easy, but we're excited for the paths they are about to take. We wish them all nothing but the best.



THE BLUE DEVILS 6324

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SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

Inspiring FUTURES

By Sean M.

This month's sponsor is... Inspiring Futures! Inspiring Futures is a non-profit organization founded in 2022 in NYC. The goal of this organization is to help any students who have had experience with the child welfare system, homelessness, and the juvenile justice system. Their values include cultural inclusivity, integrity, respect, advocacy, and to be youth centered. This amazing organization has sponsored our team for three seasons. We are extremely grateful for their contributions, and we sincerely hope that we can continue to work with them in the future.

"Our mission is to improve high school and college educational outcomes for youth with current or past involvement in the child welfare, homeless, and juvenile justice systems through comprehensive and flexible mental health and academic support."

https://www.inspiringfutures.us/

Who Are Our Mentors?

By Gail B.

This month's mentor is... Cam! Cam is an electrical engineer who works for ImageXpert, and they have just finished their fourth year mentoring our team. Though not a FIRST Alumni, they have been heavily involved with the community since the 2019 DEEP SPACE Season. Before joining our team, they volunteered in a variety of roles, including Field Setup, Field Reset, Judging, Queuing, and as both a CSA (Control System Advisor) and FTAA (FIRST Technical Advisor Assistant). Their broad range of experience gives our team valuable insight both on and off the field.

Cam primarily works with our manufacturing, impact, and business subteams, helping students grow both technically and professionally. Whether they're troubleshooting wiring, offering feedback on award submissions, or helping organize team initiatives, they're always willing to share their knowledge and support those around them.

Outside of robotics, Cam enjoys spending their free time gardening, trying new food recipes, and playing board games with friends and family. If you ask them their favorite day of the week, they'll answer Tuesday because everyone has settled into the swing of the week by then.

Thank you, Cam, for the countless hours you've dedicated towards our team. Your patience, encouragement, and commitment to helping students succeed and feel included has made a lasting impact on Team 6324.



AutoStore Demo

By Maggie D.

Team 6324 had the opportunity to participate in a unique two-way demonstration experience during a visit to AutoStore's Salem location in Tuscan Village. AutoStore is a company that focuses on designing automated grid systems for warehouses and fulfillment centers, primarily done so with their radio-controlled robots. The visit provided our team with an inside look at the engineering, logistics, and automation systems that power modern storage technology, while also giving us the chance to showcase our own work.

The tour began with an introduction to AutoStore's company history, mission and the technology behind their storage systems. Throughout the visit, employees guided us through several demonstrations designed to show how their grid systems operate. We were also introduced to maintenance systems and repair processes used by employees to service the grid robots. Seeing these systems in person was especially impactful, as it can be difficult to visualize robots retrieving storage bins from depths exceeding 30 feet without witnessing the product firsthand.

One of the highlights of the visit was observing live demonstrations of several highly efficient robot cycles operating within a sample grid system. Watching the robots move rapidly and precisely throughout the grid gave our team a much greater understanding for the engineering and optimization behind large-scale automation systems, much larger than that of our own robot. We also observed robotic arms responsible for transferring products between bins to balance weight distribution and improve long-term system durability.

As we progressed through the tour, employees explained the complex design considerations behind grid layouts, charging infrastructure, storage ports, and overall system architecture. What initially appeared to be a simple storage system quickly became an intricate combination of engineering, optimization, and creative problem solving.

Following the tour, and after graciously receiving some AutoStore swag bags, we concluded the visit with a demonstration with our own robot. We showcased the robot's game functionality, demonstrating its ability to intake and launch game pieces just as it would during competition. Team members then invited AutoStore employees to drive the robots themselves, creating an exciting opportunity for both groups to learn from one another. Seeing the excitement and curiosity from employees as they interacted with a robot unlike anything they had worked with before made us incredibly proud of the work our team has accomplished.

Team 6324 would like to extend a sincere thank you to AutoStore for hosting us, sharing their expertise, and creating such an engaging educational experience.



