



For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology

annual report



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*P02: FIRST* Robotics Competition *P04: FIRST* LEGO<sup>®</sup> League *P06: FIRST* Vex<sup>®</sup> Challenge *P08: Sponsors P20: Financials P21: Leadership*



Dean Kamen, *FIRST* Founder President, DEKA Research & Development Corporation John Abele, *FIRST* Chairman Founder Chairman, Retired, Boston Scientific Corporation

People are beginning to take the science problem personally.

This shift is a strong signal for renewed commitment to the *FIRST* vision. In the 17 years since *FIRST* was founded, nothing has been more essential to our success than personal connection. The clearest example is the personal commitment of you, our teams, mentors, teachers, parents, sponsors, and volunteers. For you, this has been personal all along. As more people make a personal connection, we will gain more energy, create more impact, and deliver more success in changing the way our culture views science and technology.

This year's Annual Report echoes the idea of personal connections and personal commitment. In the pages that follow are stories of people whose lives are deeply connected to *FIRST* and the celebration of science and technology. The limited space here allows for only a few stories, but they represent the strength of the thousands who make *FIRST* happen.

Thank you for your very personal, very powerful commitment.

Dean Kamen Founder John Abele Chairman

Recently, we've noticed a shift in the national conversation about our society's lack of support for science and technology. Part of the shift is in the amount of discussion — there is certainly an increase in media coverage. There has also been a shift in the intensity of the conversation — there is clearly a heightened sense of urgency in the calls for solutions. Both these are positive developments. More awareness and urgency around the "science problem" are central to the *FIRST* vision, after all. However, we believe there is another shift happening and it has enormous potential for *FIRST*.

If you listen closely, you can hear a shift in the nature of the conversation. People are not just talking about a science problem and how it affects someone else; they are talking about a science problem that affects them. People are beginning to realize the high price of over-valuing athletics and entertainment and under-valuing science and technology. They're beginning to see the very real connection to their own lives, to their standard of living, and to the quality of life they will leave their children. They're beginning to see that the "science problem" is not one that just impacts intellectual elites at prestigious, albeit obscure laboratories, but one that touches us all, in very direct and meaningful ways.



US Secretary of Commerce, Carlos M. Gutierrez; Wyoming US Senator Mike Enzi; and Sergey Brin, Co-Founder of Google, addressed participants at the *FIRST* Championship.

The 2006 *FIRST* Championship held at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta was host to 476 teams and close to 20,000 participants and fans.

As I complete my first year as President of *FIRST*, I want to thank the thousands of people who are working together to "change the culture" and impact the lives of so many young people by helping them discover the excitement and possibilities of education and careers in science and technology. We succeed in our mission because of the volunteers who serve as team mentors, fundraisers, board members, judges, event organizers, and in many other roles. You are powerful role models for the students, and your impact is clearly seen in their commitment to serving their communities. It's a spirit that will last a lifetime. Looking ahead, I'm excited about bringing the *FIRST* opportunity to a growing number of students, schools, and communities. We're adding several new cities to our *FIRST* Robotics Competition regional event roster; we're signing up a record number of teams for this year's *FIRST* LEGO<sup>®</sup> League; and we're expanding our pilot programs for the *FIRST* Vex<sup>®</sup> Challenge and the Junior *FIRST* LEGO League. I am grateful for the dedication of the *FIRST* staff and the continued support of our sponsors, and I am pleased to welcome the new teams, corporate partners, and foundations that have joined the *FIRST* community. I promise it will be the "hardest fun" and most rewarding experience you'll ever have!



Paul R. Gudonis, FIRST President

Paul R. Gudonis, President

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) for high-school-aged students grew almost 15 percent in the 2005/06 season to 1,133 teams. That growth included 229 rookie teams, helping *FIRST* to continue to reach more young people with the fun, excitement, and learning of a *FIRST* experience. This season, FRC introduced three new regional competitions in Boston, Milwaukee, and Israel, bringing the season's total to 33 regional competitions.

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## Personal Profile:

## Gary Israel, Mentor, Team 395, 2Train Robotics



Meet Gary Israel anywhere, anytime and he will quickly and happily share with you his enthusiasm for the latest success of the FIRST team on which he

proudly serves as mentor. Listen closely, and you realize his enthusiasm is actually restrained compared to the team's extraordinary accomplishments.

Located in Morris High School in the South Bronx, one of the poorest urban school districts in the country, Team 395 faced an extra level of challenge in securing funding, mentors, access to engineering technology, and all the other resources a new *FIRST* team needs. But those challenges

were all more than well met, and today Team 395, 2Train Robotics, is a model FIRST team. They effectively reach out and engage the local community-Columbia University provides mentors while the Port Authority of New York, McGraw Hill, and the New York Yankees provide sponsorship. They operate year-round, help establish FIRST LEGO League teams, and work with rookie FRC teams in nearby high schools. They're consistently recognized by the judges for outstanding performance, including recently winning the New York City Regional Chairman's Award.

It turns out Gary Israel's enthusiasm is not just infectious, it's amazingly effective.





The 2006 FRC game, "Aim High," tested the teams' ability to design and build a robot that could

score points by shooting foam balls through hoops and plowing them into floor goals. Teams also incorporated a vision system to allow their robots to navigate autonomously.



"I didn't think I could do anything like this... I'm **FRC** FIRST Robotics Competition a Hispanic female.

Doing engineering or even going to college was completely out of the question for me. It taught me to believe in being able to achieve anything." FIRST Team Member and Scholarship Recipient

FIRST Annual Report :03

In just its seventh full season, *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL) for middle-school-aged students grew to 7,501 teams, helping over 75,000 young people in 31 countries discover the excitement and rewards of science, engineering, and technology. Thanks to the thousands of volunteers who make the program happen, the season included close to 300 qualifying events, 66 tournaments, and culminated in 81 teams competing at the FLL World Festival held at the *FIRST* Championship at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA.

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FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

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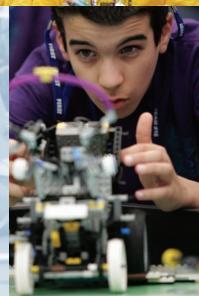
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# Personal Profile: Dave Patterson, FLL Operational Partner Alaska Robotics Educational Assoc.

It's the largest landmass in the United States, but Alaska is still no match for Dave Patterson. From his physical presence, to his energy level, to the size of his heart, there is nothing small about Dave, either. As FLL operational partner for Alaska, he travels to the most remote regions of the state, including villages accessible only by snow machine or boat (depending upon how frozen things are on the river), and with populations as low as 65. Dave brings the excitement and opportunity of FIRST to hundreds of kids throughout the state. In fact, Dave's personal commitment doesn't even stop at Alaska's rugged borders. At this year's FIRST Championship in Atlanta, he was voted FLL's Outstanding Volunteer.



81 FLL teams from around the world were on hand at the FLL World Festival during the FIRST Championship at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

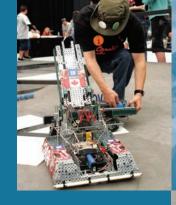
*"FIRST* provides the right environment to nurture FIRST LEGO<sup>®</sup> League a sense of value and self-worth in our youth, to turn them into problem solvers. These qualities will serve them well throughout life ... " Dave Patterson. FLL Operational Partner

In 2005, FLL teams took on the Ocean Odyssey Challenge and explored



ways to ensure the health, diversity, and productivity of the world's oceans for current and future generations.

FIRST Annual Report :05





#### FIRST VEX CHALLENGE

The *FIRST* Vex Challenge (FVC), a mid-level robotics competition primarily for high-school-aged students, completed a successful pilot season in 2005/06 with 137 teams competing in six events in key regions around the country. FVC is designed to reach more students by providing an affordable, accessible opportunity to participate in a *FIRST* robotics experience. FVC also serves as a bridge for students between FLL and FRC.







# Personal Profile: Innovation First, Inc.



When it comes to their company's support for *FIRST*, Tony Norman and

Bob Mimlitch, co-founders of Innovation First, Inc., have demonstrated their company's name is well chosen. The company has consistently been at the forefront of some of the key innovations in the growth of *FIRST*. The most recent example is the leadership role IFI played in the design and development of the new Vex Robotics Design System, as well as the role it played in supporting the launch of the newest *FIRST* program, the *FIRST* Vex Challenge. IFI's support goes back to the very beginnings of *FIRST*, with the development of the original *FIRST* Robotics Competition kit of parts. The company still provides each of the 1,133 teams with the control system used in FRC robots. Innovation First's support has been critical to *FIRST*'s ability to reach more students with the opportunity to learn from and work with the latest technology.





FVC teams use the Vex Robotics Design

System, a new and innovative robotics kit that gives students everything needed to design and build their own robot creations. FVC makes the opportunity of a *FIRST* experience accessible to more students.



"Teachers are looking for easier, fun ways to deliver practical lessons in math, physics, and computer programming. Vex is a low-cost way for schools to introduce kids to these vocations through hands-on courses in robotics." Joel Carter VP Marketing, Innovation First In addition to the formal sponsors, suppliers, and contributors acknowledged on these pages, *FIRST* extends its sincere appreciation to the tens of thousands of volunteers who generously devote their time and expertise, and the thousands of sponsors of *FIRST* Robotics Competition, *FIRST* Vex Challenge, *FIRST* LEGO League, and Junior *FIRST* LEGO League teams and events. *FIRST* could not achieve the powerful impact it does without this tremendous support.

FIRST thanks all of our supporters and makes every effort to ensure complete and accurate listings. If we've made an error, please accept our sincere apology, and please help us correct it by letting us know at 1-800-871-8326.

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#### Rob Mainieri, Mentor, Team 812, The Midnight Mechanics San Diego, CA

The role of mentor is critical at *FIRST*. The opportunity for students to work alongside professional engineers and teachers in an intense, positive learning environment can change students' perspective on who they are and what they can accomplish.

The Woodie Flowers Award is given each year to the engineer or teacher who best demonstrates excellence in teaching science, math, and creative design. This year's award went to Rob Mainieri of Team 812. For more than five years, Rob's *FIRST* students have thrived under his unique style. His skill in creating a spirit of cooperation, collaboration, and learning amidst the demands of designing, building, and competing is reflected in his team's success in involving a large percentage of the school's students in *FIRST*.

But perhaps the best evidence of Rob's ability to inspire young people and help them discover the excitement of science and engineering is Team 812's perfect record for alumni continuing to pursue education and careers in technology.

FIRST Annual Report :09

# PONSO



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Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen Owner & Deputy Chairman It was a very simple connection that led to The LEGO Group's

long history of leadership and support for FIRST. Less than 10 years ago, Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen and Dean Kamen met and had the opportunity to talk. They shared their personal perspectives on the power of creative thinking, the link between learning and fun, and the need to help more young people discover both. The conversation wasn't long, but it had a lasting effect. It led to the launch of FIRST LEGO League, with The LEGO Group as Founding Partner.

Today, FLL provides over 75,000 middle-school-aged students in 31 countries with an opportunity to apply their creative thinking ability, learn first-hand what it's like to develop solutions to real-world engineering problems, and have more fun doing both than they ever thought possible. The program has also grown to include Junior FIRST LEGO League, which brings the fun and excitement of solving problems with innovative thinking to 6-9year-olds. While The LEGO Group's support of FIRST now involves hundreds of people in both organizations, includes LEGO MINDSTORMS® products, financial support, and thousands of volunteers, it can be traced directly to a very simple, but very powerful connection between two people.

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#### NASA

Exploration, discovery, and understanding are at the core of NASA. They also serve as the foundation for NASA's long-standing support for *FIRST*. As lead *FIRST* Robotics Competition



Sponsor, NASA has been an important partner in *FIRST's* growth. As the major contributor for new regional events, NASA has helped FRC grow to 33 regional events this year. The multi-year NASA grant program for rookie teams has helped hundreds of new teams participate in FRC and been a major factor in reaching a total of 1,133 teams. In addition, NASA provides thousands of hours of volunteer time as well as webcasts of the FRC Kickoff event, regional competitions, and the Championship in Atlanta.

Dave Lavery, Program Executive for Solar System Exploration, has been a key architect of NASA's leadership role over the years. Dave explains NASA's involvement this way: "On a pragmatic, business level, it just makes sense for NASA to cooperate with *FIRST*. We believe we're creating the future talent pool of employees in the robotics field. On an individual, personal level, *FIRST* is having a real impact on the lives of these students, helping them realize what they're capable of. On a national level, we're creating new engineers who will drive the entire future economic engine of the country."

# PONSO J



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Sandersville Railroad Sandersville Technical College Sandvik, Inc. Sarchione Sales & Service Sartomer Corporation Savannah Technical College Scaled Composites **SCHEV** Schmidt Construction C. G. Schmidt Construction, Inc. R. L. Schmitt Co. Inc. Schneider Charitable Foundation School District of Oconee County School District of Philadelphia School District of the City of York Science & Technology Group Science Applications International Corporation American Systems Engineering Corporation Scotiabank SDSGC Sea Tow International Seagate Corp. Sealed Air Cryovac Search Plus International Seattle Robotics Society Seemann Composites Seneca College Service Electric SES, LLC Steel Engineering Specialists SEW-Eurodrive Shady Side Medical Associates Shaham Altshular SHAN Precision Shell Shell Chemical Company Shiloh Industries Shining Rock LLC ShowBest Fixture Corp. ShowBest Inc. Shuert Industries SI Bank & Trust Foundation Si Se Puede SIAC Siemens Airfield Solutions Siemens Building Technologies Siemens Corporation Siemens Energy & Automation, Inc. Siemens Power Generation Siemens Technologies Siemens VDO Automotive Siemon Company Sierra Nevada Corporation Sifto Sign Depot Sikorsky Aircraft San Jose State University Skill Glass Inc. of Honeoye SLAC

Sliver & Splinter Shop SMART Consortium Smarts SME Richard & Susan Smith Family Foundation Smiths Areospace Smiths Medical Snapple/Lawrence Distributing Company Society of Hispanic Engineers & Science Students (SHESS) Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Socratic Learning Solectron Corporation Solid Edge - UGS Solid State Stamping Solutions for Automation Sonic Tools Sonny's Enterprises Inc., The Car Wash Factory Sony Corporation SoRo Systems, Inc. Soroptomist International of Richmond South Bend Community Development South Carolina State University South Orange Ace Hardware Southern California Gas Company Southold Kiwanis Southold Rotary Southwire Space & Naval Warfare Systems Center, San Diego Spadola, Paul, & Vincent DMD Spartan Light Metal Products Specialty Minerals Specialty's Our Name SPECO Tile & Marble, Inc. Speonk Lumber Springs Industries SRI International SSVEC SSvD ST Realtor St. Anne Parents Club Stafford County Economic Development Authority D.R.M. Stakor & Associates Stanco, Inc. Standard Aero Standridge Color Corp Stanford University The Stanley Works Star Supply State Electric State Farm Insurance State Farm Insurance - Kirk England & Charles England State Street Investments Steel Fab Inc. Steelcase

#### 2006 *FIRST* ROBOTICS COMPETITION TEAM SPONSORS (Cont.)

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Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Time, Inc. Titan Inc. TKC Communications TKC Global Solutions TNT/Holland Motor Freight Tokico USA Tom Dismuke Engineering Tommy Gate Company Tonnard Mfg. Corp. Tornos Technologies Toronto District School Board Torrance Chipotle R. M. Towill Corp. Town & Country Group Tovota Boshoku America Toyota of Nashua Toyota Technical Center TPS Golf - AimPoint Technologies Trans-Matic Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District Travis USD Tri-County Technical College Triangle Ag-Services Tric Tool LTD Trident Technical College Trinity Development Group Trinity Products Trio Hardware Tronitec Trophy Robotics - South Africa Troy Chamber of Commerce TruCut TRW Inc. TRW Automotive **Tubular** Techniques Tuell Tool Company Tui, Inc. Tulane University Turner Broadcasting, Inc. Tweed Financial Services Two Stage Innovations Tyco Electronics Tymetal ÚAV Corporation UGS ULC Robotics Ultrasound Fluid Technologies UMentorFIRST UNI College of Natural Sciences & Iowa Space Grant Consortium Unigraphics Unilever UNITE with Virgil Brackins United Auto Workers United Auto Workers 686 United Defense United Sewer & Drain Cleaning Incorporated

United Space Alliance United Technologies Corp. (UTC) UTC Carrier UTC Fire & Security UTC Hamilton Sundstrand UTC Hamilton Sundstrand Space, Land & Sea UTC Otis Elevator UTC Otis Elevator - OSC UTC Power UTC/Pratt & Whitney LSP UTC Sikorsky University of California, San Diego University of California, San Diego -Machine Perception Laboratory University of Central Florida University of Connecticut University of Florida, College of Engineering University of Illinois University of Massachusetts, Lowell University of Michigan, Flint University of Michigan, College of Engineering University of Missouri, Rolla University of New Hampshire University of Nevada, Las Vegas University of New Orleans University of North Dakota University of Pennsylvania Engineering School University of Pittsburgh School of Engineering University of Rhode Island University of Richmond Theatre Department University of Southern California University of Southern California - MESA University of South Florida University of Texas, San Antonio, College of Engineering University of Tulsa University of Virginia University of West Florida University of Windsor University of Wisconsin, Platteville Unlimited Technologies Inc. UPS Urschel Laboratories Incorporated US Air Force US Army IEWTD US Army Night Vision Lab US ARMY TARDEC US Naval Academy Useful Software USKH UTEC Val-Tec Hydraulics, Inc Valero Energy Corporation Valley Bank Vanguard ID Systems Vectren Foundation Velocity Micro

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# *FIRST*: Financials

The following abbreviated financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. Ernst and Young LLP (E & Y) audits our organization's financial statements annually; copies of *FIRST*'s audited financial statements and accompanying notes are available via the *FIRST* website at www.usfirst.org under "Who We Are."

For our fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, there were no audit findings or questioned costs and *FIRST* received an unqualified opinion from its auditors. Additionally, the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Circular A-133 audit of the organization's Federal grant awards had no findings or questioned costs. *FIRST* continues to be qualified as a "low-risk" auditee.

#### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL FUSITION		
Assets	June 30, 2006	June 30, 2005
Cash and equivalents	\$6,716,455	\$4,894,462
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$25,000 in 2006 and \$27,000 i		367,213
Federal grants receivable	220,615	655,095
Prepaid expenses and other assets	253,178	158,107
Property, plant and equipment (PP&E):	6,672,790	6,562,731
Less accumulated depreciation	2,537,311	2,175,666
Net PP&E	4,135,479	4,387,065
Total assets	\$12,325,292	\$10,461,942
Liabilities and net assets		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$602,891	\$589,665
Deferred revenue and other credits	41,713	37,400
Refundable advances	2,959,906	2,560,800
Total liabilities	3,604,510	3,187,865
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	7,477,340	5,902,221
Temporarily restricted	1,243,442	1,371,856
Net assets at end of year	8,720,782	7,274,077
Total liabilities and net assets	\$12,325,292	\$10,461,942
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES		
Revenues and other support:	June 30, 2006	June 30, 2005
Program registration fees	\$11,066,236	\$9,837,085
Contributions	7,586,794	5,282,335
Rental income	565,650	558,764
Other income	484,998	415,889
Net assets released from restrictions	999,843	1,602,310
Special sponsorship	100,000	500,000
Total revenues and other support	20,803,521	18,196,383
Operating expenses:		
FIRST Robotics Competition	14,023,526	13,176,451
FIRST LEGO League	1,271,223	1,124,943
FIRST Vex Challenge	634,510	323,257
FIRST Place	77,085	47,264
Management and general	2,676,235	2,411,966
Operation of building	337,218	316,375
Depreciation	361,644	318,570
Total operating expenses	19,381,441	17,718,826
Operating income	1,422,080	477,557
Non-operating gains:		
Refundable advances - amortization	140,200	140,200
Excess of revenues over expenses	1,562,280	617,757
Net assets released from restriction for purchase of property, plant and equipment	12,839	239,698
Increase in unrestricted net assets		
increase in unrestricted net assets	1,575,119	857,455

Certain amounts in 2006 & 2005 have been consolidated for presentation purposes. For an unabbreviated copy of *FIRST*'s audited financials, please visit www.usfirst.org/who/

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*FIRST* gratefully acknowledges the contributions of those Board members whose service has concluded: Dennis Carey, John M. Hennessy, and Raymond Price.

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