

# THE HOT REPORT



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**MORE INSIDE!**

## The Legacy Continues to Grow.

The 2004 season opens with a bang as the up and coming robotics competition season begins. In their eighth year, the Heroes Of Tomorrow are 62 members strong, with room to grow. New additions this year include a new mascot, the formation of the unprecedented HOT Alumni Association, and the team taking mentoring to a new level as it helps the Mumford Mustangs build their own robot.



HOT has been doing a lot since the last publication. Want to check it out? Come on inside!

## HOT Team "Mentors" Mumford High

During the 2004 build season the HOT Team received a phone call from Antoinette of Team 406 requesting help to build their robot. Unfortunately for 406, their sponsor was unable to assist them with the construction of their robot. Very disappointed by previous letdowns from other teams, Team 406 planned to bring nothing more than a human player to the regional competitions. The HOT Team stepped up to the challenge and adopted Team 406, helping them to build a competitive robot that they could be proud of. Since the HOT Team had no designers to spare, HOT's Alumni Association was asked to mentor and save the day.



## Past Becomes Present as Alumni Association is Formed

What happens to HOT Team members after graduation? Well, unlike most teams, past HOT participants not only enter into the next chapter of their lives, but become members of the HOT Alumni Association as well. This year, after many requests from former HOT Team members, the HOT Team formed the HOT Alumni Association. The purpose of the association is to maintain contact with former members and keep them up to date with the team's progress each year.

When the Mumford Mustangs entered the life of the HOT Team, the Alumni Association was asked to help and became the Mumford engineering mentors. The HOT alumni have helped Mumford to turn its dream of an incredible robot into see-able, touchable reality.



**Team 67**



## TRAVEL

### HOT Bot Makes Plans to Tour Europe



Does a robot need a passport? The HOT Bot may soon be finding out. Plans are currently being put into place to ship a past HOT Bot to US military bases in Italy, Germany and England. This Bot was designed to play a game involving soccer balls, therefore, the team intends to send soccer balls with the Bot. On the journey the balls will gather signatures from each destination creating a unique memory book. The HOT team wants to let American military kids in countries around the world experience the wonderful world of FIRST.

### HOT Bot travels to House and Senate to spread message of FIRST

June 5, 2003 was an exciting day for the HOT Team. Long time HOT Team supporter State Senator Nancy Cassis invited the team to address a session of the Senate Sub-Committee on Education. The HOT Team was asked to share their experiences with the Senators about FIRST and what it meant to them. The Senators listened intently and asked many great questions. For some of the Senators this was their initial contact with FIRST even though there were several FIRST teams in their district. Senator Cassis has asked the team back to address the House Education Sub-committee members about the same topic. This visit will take place this spring.



Member of the HOT Team and Huskies with Ian McEwan, Senator Cassis, and Al Canton.

### HOT Bot Receives A+ for Inspiration at Local Schools



As the school bell rings, students enter their classrooms for another day of reading, writing, math, and robotics? Yes it's true, for the past few years the HOT team has traveled to local area schools showing off the HOT Bot and getting the younger generation involved in the future of FIRST. Team 67 feels that the kids are our future and they need to be aware of all their options. When traveling to the high schools, the HOT Bot is an active participant in the pep assemblies as it gives a demonstration of each year's game to the student bodies at both Lakeland and Milford High Schools. When touring the elementary schools the kids are given an opportunity to see the Bot and learn how it runs and what it does. Each trip is always a success, and its impact is more than we could ever hope for. The kids are the true Heroes Of Tomorrow and the future of FIRST.

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be!

## WEATHER

### FLL Takes Michigan By Storm

In the second year of the HOT Team, the HOT SHOTS program, a game for elementary and middle school students, was created. Later that year, when FIRST asked the HOT Team to hold a FIRST LEGO League pilot, HOT responded with 54 teams.

Dean Kamen, Andrew Allen, and Anna Maenhout flew in from FIRST to watch, and were amazed. Since then, Michigan has grown to 348 teams statewide (more than any other state) with 16 regional tournaments, one regional and the state tournament (co) hosted by the HOT Team. The HOT Team and GM believe that the ideals of FIRST need to be introduced to students at an earlier age than the ninth grade, which FLL lets happen. This is why the HOT Team is so involved with FLL, setting a goal of 425+ teams in 2004. The team is very selective regarding their FLL judge choices, and tries to introduce FIRST to community leaders. This year, three state representatives, one school superintendent, the president of the state board of education, and several teachers participated as judges.



Michigan map indicating counties with FLL Teams



Huron Valley  
Schools, An  
Excellent  
Education and  
An Excellent  
HOT Team  
sponsor!

Team 67

# COMMUNITY

## Extra! Extra!

This year the HOT Team started a new program Team 67's students doing volunteer work and leaving a pink slip telling the action's recipient that the work was done by the HOT Team.

Each fall and spring, the team embarks on a 2 mile long trip down Commerce Road, garbage bags in hand, collecting debris left on the roadside. The team also participates in the Huron River Cleanup picking trash out of the river to help beautify the river shoreline.

This year a new hands-on science museum was initiated in Milford by the HOT Team. Physics projects done by local students have been collected by the team and put into a museum. Admission to the museum is free and available to the public, allowing everyone in Milford to experience science and technology.

The Mother/Daughter Tea Party was an event put on by Team 67 to promote interest in engineering among little girls and their mothers. Everyone dressed up, as women engineers talked about their profession and its practical applications in life. The party was a great success and profits benefited a scholarship fund for graduates.

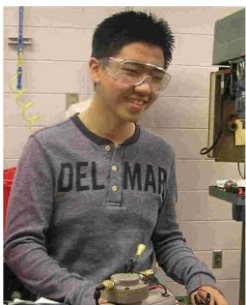


Varsity letters are intended to acknowledge the hard work and dedication devoted by a student to a program. In a concerted effort by the parent boosters in alliance with the school board, HOT Team members were given varsity letters after a season of participation with the team. Other teams around the area have contacted Team 67 in an effort to establish similar recognition for their team members.

All around General Motors Proving Ground, employees are taking notice to a brightly decorated bulletin board with a racing checked background and drapes that tell the success and story of the HOT Team. GM employees can't help but get excited about HOT and all of its events!

When the New Detroit Science Center opened Team 67 was there helping cut the ribbon. The team worked to finalize plans for the opening ceremony of the newly renovated Center, and was a key participant in the very important day. The entire weekend was a success and gave the team a great opportunity to introduce FIRST to more than 30,000 people of Detroit.

The HOT Team has gotten a great deal of exposure to the community through multiple events. The team participates in numerous parades over the course of the year, bringing its robot along for the ride. In 2000, the team also created a ball-drop system similar to that of New York, that brought the entire community together for a huge party ending with the ball dropping at midnight, bringing in the New Year.



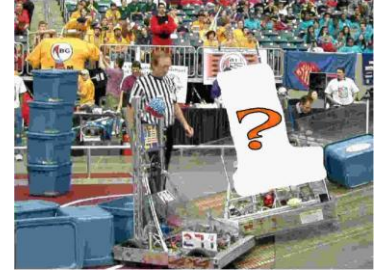
2004 has been a year of expansion for the HOT Team. A young man named Young Kyu Kwon came to Team 67 as a foreign exchange student from South Korea. After expressing an interest in science, he joined the HOT Team and was amazed at the high level of technology. When Young Kyu brought his father to a team meeting, his father commented that in Korea they aren't able to touch technology such as this until university level. The team is proud to give Young Kyu the chance to interact with such advanced technology.

## It's A Wonderful FIRST Life

Many of the HOT Team members enjoy the movie "It's A Wonderful Life" and often think what it might be like if it were called "It's A wonderful FIRST Life" and was about Team 67. They especially enjoy the part where Jimmy Stewart's character is told about life in his town had he never existed. Here are some things that the HOT Team believes might not be happening if they had never come into existence.

- Team 406 would not be in the competition this year
- Teams 64, 68, 217, 503, 1256, and others might not exist.
- Dave Verbrugge might not be emceeing FIRST competitions
- Ian McEwan might not be National Director for FIRST
- General Motors might not be a Foundation Sponsor of FIRST
- Gina Sweet would not be an intern at GM while studying at Kettering to be an Electrical Engineer
- Jennifer Harvey might not be running a great Michigan FIRST Kickoff
- FIRST LEGO League might not have had a great Michigan Pilot
- There might not be 348 FLL teams in Michigan this year – more than any other state in the US and most countries of the world.

*The list goes on and on. Thank goodness the HOT team is part of FIRST!*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Tom Nader of the HOT team introduced me to FIRST about 6 years ago. This is a great program- bringing businesses and schools together. In the thirty-one years that I have worked with education I have never seen anything as good as this."

- Senator Nancy Cassis, District 15

"In many ways, the HOT team is exactly what every FIRST team aspires to be: They have great kids, great engineers, and great teachers. They are tireless in spreading FIRST's message around the county, state and even country at large. And, as if that wasn't enough, year after year, they make killer robots!"

My hat is off to team #67. They are the real deal.

-Dr. Joe Johnson Team #47

"This year was a year of downfalls and disappointments. With no corporate sponsor or engineering help, Team 67 became our Heroes of Today. Team 67 became our angels and motivational leaders for this season. Team 406 would like to thank Team 67 for helping and making us a part of the family. Always remember  $406 + 67 = 6S$ . Because of Team 67, our motto has truly come true, "And We Still Rise". Team 67 are truly Heroes of Today and Tomorrow."

-Javon Rahman Bertrand Team 406 Captain

"My participation on the HOT Team has been a really great experience for me. The relationships that I gained while on the team not only changed my career goals, but my life as well. I'm very proud to be the president of the HOT Alumni association and I am happy with the opportunity that I now have to work with team 406."

-Dane Meyers, HOT Alumni Association President

"Being next to the HOT Team in the pits has led me to create lasting friendships with team members and advisors. The wonderful HOT crew is always willing to lend a tool, extra motor or ride back to the hotel."

- Alex McGee, Team 68 Captain

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Team 67