



Learning Is For Everyone, INC



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Incredible FIRST World Championship Experience!



No trophies this time around, but we've got a ton of great lessons learned to apply towards our 2010-11 FIRST World Championship bid next April, in St. Louis, and some remarkable memories and experiences to hold us a lifetime.

The FIRST World Championship was an incredible experience, start to finish! The competition was fierce among the top 100 FIRST Tech Challenge teams in the world, but Florida took top honors, when FTC team Smoke & Mirrors, also of Odessa/Lakeland, captained the Winning Alliance team in the final elimination match.

Team Duct Tape made the most of

our Atlanta adventure, including tours of Georgia Tech's robotics labs and a great campus tour (at least a little portion of it) with former FIRST student and current GT junior, Kevin Coleman, son of FTC Affiliate Partner, Michael Coleman. The campus is beautiful, especially when decked out in springtime finery.



TDT members put in some serious hiking, from hotel to MARTA to the Georgia World Congress Center and the Georgia Dome and every place in between. They cut a professional look on the streets, on the competition field and in their pit, and became an instant sensation everywhere they went. Duct tape flowers, book marks and even one of our hats, were in demand by everyone from FLL students to judges and volunteers.

We proudly identified our sponsors and supporters on team literature, on our robot, shirts and on a team banner, and you all definitely were a huge part of what kept us going. So it was especially uplifting when we got a visit from Mr.

Dan Kinzer, of Raytheon, who always brightens a day with his bear hugs and encouraging words.





The team did a great job on their judged interview, and had a terrific pit presence. They held their own in their first four matches, but the intensity of the game at the World Championship level took its toll in the last three. Because four matches were running concurrently, teams mostly had to stay in their queue after each match, and the days were long for both students and robots. In the end, we ranked 22nd in our division of 50 teams.



We can't say it's not disappointing to come home without a trophy, but Mr. Don Patz, chair of the Florida Suncoast Chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, helped articulate the perspective we've come to embrace:

...Although this was not a trophy year for the group in Atlanta, I believe that being good enough at anything to compete in a "world championship" is its own reward - something few people have the opportunity to do in a lifetime. The comment that the group "represented FIRST admirably" comes as no surprise. The apparent effort that has gone into creating and operating Team Duct Tape is exemplary and SME Chapter 159 is proud to be associated with this very talented group of young people.



When all was said and done, team members were still smiling (the picture at left, like the group shot at the top, was taken at the end of the event!), grateful to have had the opportunity to compete at such a high level with such remarkable teams and to hear such science and technology luminaries as Dean Kamen and Dr. Woody Flowers speak.

And we continue to proudly represent all our sponsors and supporters as we head into our third season, confident that we can be stronger and better than ever! We made it to the State Championship in our rookie year last season, and all the way to the World Championship in our second season. We're confident we can leverage our growing knowledge base for another great season and a World Championship bid in 2011,

and hope you'll continue to travel with us in our FIRST robotics journey.

We'll be active throughout the spring and summer conducting camps, presentations and outreach events, starting with this week's [IEEE-RAS meeting presentation](#). And look for us at the [Tampa Bay Technology Forum's coolTECH](#) event at MOSI and at the [PTC/USER World Event](#) in Orlando in June.

Thank you again for all your help in getting to the World Championship! We deeply value your continued support and encouragement, and look forward to another exciting year of learning, with your guidance and support. We'll stay in touch and hope you will, too. If you'd like Team Duct Tape to visit your organization or business, please let us know. And please know that our door is always open to you!

Warm regards,
Terri Willingham and Team Duct Tape
www.TeamDuctTape.com

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