



Farewell and thank you!
... until the next time ...

ROBOLANCERS' ROUNDTABLE

Volume IX – June 2014

This newsletter is dedicated to providing updates of what's going on to the sponsors of Central High School's robotics team, the RoboLancers [FRC Team #321; FTC Team #5320 and Team #6676].



June 2014

Dear Sponsors, Donors, Family, Friends and Supporters:

One of our resounding themes from year to year is: “We’re not just a team. We’re a family.” That has never been more true than this year. We took 140 students, whittled away a bit at their psyche, stamina and skills, and turned them into a close-knit team – actually, more family than team – who learned the tasks to be undertaken by the robots they built and the strategy which permitted them to excel at competition, and also put tools in their hands so they could build and bring to “life” functioning robots. We also got them ready to move into higher education, with a strong STEM foundation and lots of other things thrown in, too.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all of you for your generosity, enthusiasm and heartfelt support of the RoboLancers in all we accomplished this year. Your unwavering commitment to help us to spread the importance of STEM in education and also to provide a safe and fun environment for all of our members has made our team a success. Those who donated time, funds and supplies definitely made a big difference in the lives of the many young people who make up the RoboLancers.

We also would like to take the time to thank our seniors, who represented the team so well throughout the year and showed such excellent leadership and mentoring skills to this year’s new members. To those graduates, we extend our hearty congratulations and sincere good luck in your future endeavors. Please do stay in touch with the team. Remember: You might graduate, but you still are part of the RoboLancers’ family.

Last, but definitely not least, the RoboLancers want to extend their overwhelming thanks to Dan Ueda, who will be moving on to a new position at the University of Pennsylvania. Football coach Vince Lombardi’s words come to mind when we think of Mr. Ueda’s years with the RoboLancers and his now diverse path from the team: “A man can be as great as he wants to be. If you believe in yourself and have the courage, the determination, the dedication, the competitive drive and if you are willing to sacrifice the little things in life and pay the price for the things that are worthwhile, it can be done.” Over the years, you have been a great robotics coach, and the following pages of this edition of the *Roundtable* will testify so. You have worked tirelessly, touching so many lives – both in your position as a coach and as a Central High School teacher. You have been a great friend to former RoboLancers, so much so they return time and time again to help, mentor and support the team. You have left a great legacy in STEM education, fulfilling the highest goals of the RoboLancers. We will miss you and extend our best wishes to you, and we sincerely hope you will not forget your RoboLancers family as you begin your new career.

To all of you, please enjoy this edition, have a great summer and look for the next edition of *RoboLancers’ Roundtable* in the fall.

Sincerely,

THE ROBOLANCERS

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A TRIBUTE TO DAN UEDA FROM THE ROBOLANCERS' PRESIDENTS

Alexandra Thompkins-Johns, 270, President: 2009-2011

As we come to the end of an era, I would like to tell you how it began. It was my sophomore year, I knew we were getting a new assistant coach but, when Ms. Norris first pointed him out, he looked no older than any of our students. Initially, Ueda was a very quiet and observant individual, but by the end of that year, we had seen every aspect of his quirky personality.



Together, he and I spent that year preparing to transition into the most rewarding positions of our lives. When Ms. Norris left, we were completely on our own for the first time. We had a successful year but we were both using that time to get acclimated to our newfound positions of leadership. By the time my senior year came around, Ueda and I had a good handle on all of our responsibilities especially the intricacies of student politics. That year was the first of many record-breaking years for the Central High School RoboLancers. As a student leader, he and I have had our differences but we always worked through it because the team was and still is the priority. The achievements which have been made over the years were accomplished by the team, but they could not have been done without the hard work and dedication of our leader. This dedication was not only for the team in its current standing but with a vision toward the future -- a vision of a place where anyone could walk in and be welcomed, a vision where students are free to learn without hindrances, a place where people with any and all different types of skills could come together to create something amazing. Creating this type of environment where people are free to be themselves led us to be more than a team -- we became a family. Having been a leader of this organization, it gives me such joy to knowing my team is doing better than ever. I know with the departure of our great leader,

the team will continue to prosper and the vision will be passed on for generations to come. So to good ol' Cran-Dan, as you leave this place, I know you are taking the memories and wisdom you have gained, and I hope you will use these tools to once again change the lives of those around you for the better.

Meghan Ho, 271, President: 2011-2012

I wouldn't be the person I am today without the RoboLancers. Over my four years on the team, my teammates became like family to me. I became incredibly close to my teammates, mentors, and coaches. Ueda and I have been together from the beginning. Although he always argues with me about when I joined the team (he thinks I came sophomore or junior year, but I actually signed up during freshman orientation); his first year on the team was also mine. I couldn't ask for anyone better to lead the team to various awards, as well as national and world championships.



However, success shouldn't be measured on how many trophies someone collects but rather the experiences and growth one gains and provides for others. Ueda has gone above and beyond to be there for the team, putting his own interests by the wayside in the process. I know he's always there to listen, no matter how hard the topic is to talk about. Working closely with him for years over coordinating the expo, discussing the future of the team, or just working through build season, I've been able to look past the time he made us take our exam on the plane to nationals because I've been able to see that he cares about making a difference in each student he meets by showing them

that anything is possible with passion and a little elbow grease.

I guess you couldn't last long without your favorite class, but know that Temple's not too far from Central or your new home, UPenn. I'll always be around to visit; just make sure to control your excitement and not show up too early!

**Ben Ehrlich, 272,
President: 2012-2013**

Mr. Ueda, Dan, Dad, and even Cran-Dan are names that Daniel Ueda took on during his career as the Coach of the RoboLancers, and he fit every one. From leading a team beside our other coach, Mrs. Conrad, to listening to me spill out my feelings from my home life, he had a huge impact in my life and the team. The day



before we had to pack away our robot he asked me, "Can you help me look over everything?" meaning the entire robot, of which I only had so much part in making. I negatively answered, "How can I help?" to which he answered, "I need you for this one." Throughout our relationship, he helped me grow from an under-confident child, to a confident, leader/young adult. I can only imagine what he did for others.

For the team, he was everything. He didn't build or program the robot, but he was the coach to bring the RoboLancers kicking and screaming into the future. Under his leadership, we grabbed hold of an extremely tough worldwide competition, and flourished. We became an alliance leader (one of the top 8 teams at regionals), we went down on the field to accept one of the highest awards 4 times at our district events, and even landed ourselves a spot at World Championships in St. Louis, MO, in 2013.

During our journey together, Daniel Ueda grew from a coach to a teacher, then to a co-worker, and I hope now, a friend. For everything he is to me, I hope he can really contribute as he really wants to the world. The team will miss you.

We will be one Ueda short, but I believe the team still has huge amounts of momentum (little physics pun.) We have achieved amazing things, but the best is yet to come. Alumni involvement is at its highest and our leadership, although not Mr. Ueda, will be a refreshing new beginning. For the team does not represent a person, but an idea. An idea that students of any background can get inspired to do great things. Our team will live on and thrive as it never has before, and

I'm sure I can speak for all students of the team that we are thankful to Mr. Ueda for bringing us to where we are.

Take care, Mr. Ueda, and good luck changing the world. Hope you remember that we helped you grow as much as you helped us.

**Etienne Jacquot, 273,
President: 2013-2014**

I think the most lasting impact Mr. Ueda will have is his devotion to making a difference in students on the team.

At the end of build season this year when it was crunch time to get the robot finished and everyone was stressed out, I asked Mr. Ueda what it means to be a coach. For a while, I just kind of assumed that a coach is there because they enjoy working with students and care about the sport/club. His answer surprised me though, and ever since I have recognized just how much he cares about the students of the team.



He said that being a coach enables you to really teach students, and gives you the opportunity to be part of process of students becoming confident young adults. He told me that he cares about robotics because it is a different learning experience than any classroom setting can provide, and after school every day he gets to do what he loves in coaching the team. He went on to say how being the coach of so many different 13-18 year old high school students is a tremendous amount to deal with, but part of the challenge is finding how, as a mentor and role model, he can make a difference in each student.

Many current students on the team have been members for two years or less (myself included) and I think this generation of RoboLancers does not fully appreciate all that Mr. Ueda has done not only for the team, but for the students. I speak for everyone on the team when I say thank you, Mr. Ueda, for caring so much about us, about our well-being and our development. I am sure that the future RoboLancers will carry on your geeky passion for robotics and overall dedication to your students.

FOND FAREWELLS AND ACCOLADES



Mr. Ueda, you have been with the team for both years that I have been on the team, and I want to say thank you for everything you have done for this team. For the past couple of years, you've led us to success in the world of robotics, and with the knowledge you've given us all, I am not worried for the seasons to come, because you have prepared us so well. I wish you the best of luck for your new job!

PJ Lorenc, 275



RoboLancers: Mr. Ueda's second year at Central

Good luck on your future career at UPenn and thank you for providing the team with insight, wisdom, and humor throughout the robotics team's year. It has been my first year having you as a coach, but it has been an eventful time and it was great fun!

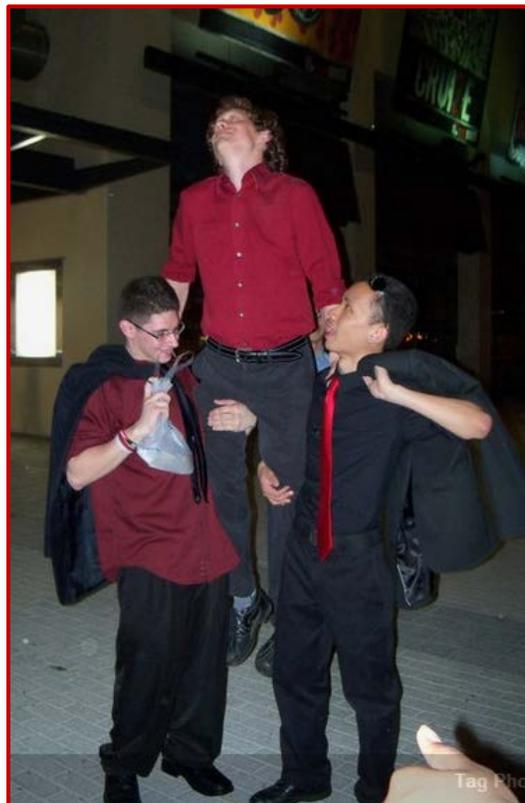
Justin Luu, 276



Eva Zhou, 271, as RoboLancers' Mascot, 2010

I have always held onto the image that many years from now, after I had graduated from Central, after I had graduated from college, Central could drastically change but at least Mr. Ueda would still be coaching the robotics team. Just imagining an old Mr. Ueda mentoring kids from the classes of the 280's or 290's would make me chuckle. That was what I thought. I expected Mr. Ueda to mentor the RoboLancers and teach at Central for a long period of time so when he announced his acceptance of a new job at UPenn, I was shocked. This sudden new change among many other changes at Central, however, makes a person see the whole picture. Mr. Ueda will be greatly missed among his RoboLancers, students, colleagues, and Central community but he will have the opportunity to directly influence the outcome of the budget crisis afflicting Philadelphia schools. He will be able to change the lives of not just Central students but the lives of students from every school, from every grade, across the city for many years to come. Talk about a legacy. There are many people right now working to make sure that Philadelphia schools provide the best resources for its students, for a better future, for a better future for future generations of students. Knowing that Mr. Ueda will be one of those people puts a lot of us at ease. To Mr. Ueda, the quirky yet lovable coach of this Robotics team, coming from a RoboLancer, your team, and the entire Central community, we wish you the best of luck in your new position and your future.

*Brian Cheng, 274,
Marketing Lead 2014-2015*



*Anthony Garibaldi, 271, and Kevin Mai, 270,
lifting Dan Ueda,
BEST World Championship, Disney World,
Orlando, FL, 2011*

My first impression when I met this man was not that he was head robotics coach who would continue on for another four years of his life to lead the team. It was actually along the lines of, "Wow, for a student he seems pretty old...." But what I think of Daniel Ueda now is that he is one of the most dedicated, perseverant and silliest people I have ever met. He taught me a lot throughout high school and I will always respect him for that. To keep this on a more positive note, we know now that he has taken a much more significant role in the city by working for the University of Pennsylvania, and he will become an ever-present force in the continuation of robotics programs in Philadelphia. It was an honor to have worked with you, Daniel Ueda.

*Steven Choe, 273,
Electrical Lead 2013-2014*



FRC Team #321 after off-season event, Ramp Riot

Mr. Ueda, it has been an emotional time knowing that you will be leaving Central and the team. My first year with the RoboLancers was delightful because of you. It was your knowledge and insight that helped the team become successful. It has been a lot of fun having you as our coach. I wish you luck and I know that you will have a fantastic time with your new job at UPenn!

Ashley Padolina, 276



[left to right] Craig Talis, 271; Mary Conrad, 270; Bianca Rivera, 270; Dan Ueda; Kevin Mai, 270; Alexandra Thompkins-Johns, 270, MATE World Championship, Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX, June 2011

Mr. Ueda, in my opinion, was not the heart of the RoboLancers; he was its soul. We were a student-run team, but Ueda was always there to keep us going in the right direction. He was always there if we had problems. Halfway through the year when I wasn't able to come to meetings as much, Ueda came out to me to ask how things were going and if I needed help with anything. And I've heard of a lot of other people having similar experiences. It was an honor to work with Ueda in the RoboLancers, and it's a sad thing to see him go.

All the best, Mr. U!

Ben Folk, 275



*Craig Talis, 271, and Dan Ueda
Kemah Boardwalk, Galveston Bay, TX, June 2011*

I'm proud to have been a part of the team during Mr. "Cranberry Man" Ueda's reign as coach. Mr. Ueda has helped change our team drastically from a team that just builds robots to an organized team that participates in outreach events and continually advocates for STEM education in Philadelphia. Mr. "Cran Dan" Ueda came to Central in 2008 as a physics teacher. He joined the team as an Assistant Coach until the previous coach, Ms. Norris, departed Central High School. During his time as head coach, our team has gone to the BEST World Championships, MATE World Championships, and the FIRST World Championships. We also created our largest outreach event PRX (Philly Robotics Expo) in 2010. Under Ueda, the team grew from around 40 students to 140 students at the beginning of the 2013-2014 season.

Mr. Ueda has been a very professional coach and it's bittersweet to know that he's leaving this year. It's been a pleasure working with him and the executive committee to make sure the team continued to improve. I'm sure our paths will cross again because he will be moving on to a job at UPenn as the head of FLL in Philadelphia. It won't be the same anymore if I can't see the GOTY 2013's, AKA Cran Dan's, bright smile every morning. I'm sure we will continue to improve as a team with the help of our new coach but I'm sad to see the "The Big Cran" himself leave. I'm excited to be a part of a new chapter in RoboLancers history.

*Thomas Davidenko, 275,
Marketing Lead 2013-2014,
Vice President-Elect 2014-2015*



Nadia Tran, 274, disguised as Dan Ueda

My only regret is that I have only been able to have one year with Mr. Ueda. Older members always tell me that they feel sorry for me as they recount memories of past years with him. From what I've heard and seen, he's an amazing teacher, and I never got the chance to have him as a teacher. While I did have one year with Mr. Ueda as the head coach, I still wish I had more.

Mr. Ueda is definitely the most hard-working, determined, and organized person I know. Somehow he managed to balance teaching Physics, Pre-Calculus, and IB Design Technology with being the coach of a robotics team of about 100 kids. Only a crazy person would do that and he definitely has the talents and qualities of doing something even more. That's why he absolutely deserves the new job opportunity. While I know it pains the team and it must pain him to leave us, this is a great opportunity for him to further his career and his knowledge and I know he will have a great success.

Not only is he professional and hard-working, but he connects with the students and has fun too. My first impression of him was that he was a dorky teenager stuck in an adult's body. I don't know any other teacher who the students have actually connected with and can have fun with. Ask anyone on the team and they can easily share a few good memories they've had with him over the years.

So to wrap it up, I wish him the best of luck with the new job opportunity. He deserves it and I know he'll do great. I'm sad that I only got to spend one year with him, but hey, it's better than none.

"We hope you flourish,
And get a life you cherish.
May success and prosperity come your way,
And life take lovely turns as you say.
Good Luck to you in every endeavor,
May you see the best ever!"

Sabrina Dormer, 276



My past couple years on the team have really been some of the best years of my life. It's here that I learned to program and I've had a really great time. However, none of that would have been possible without Mr. Ueda. He has put many hours of his own time to coach this team despite other responsibilities as a teacher. With his help, this team made it all the way to Worlds in the 2013 season of FRC which was an amazing experience for everyone who went. He pushed for PRX which was another absolutely marvelous experience. It was a chance to spread what we had learned so that others could also be left fascinated by STEM fields. And even during build season when we were in the thick of things, he made sure we got everything we needed so that we could finish the six weeks with a robot that worked the way we had intended it to. He's been a tremendous coach, helping us build a robot from just parts and our own desire to create something. Although he had valid points about what works and what doesn't, or what might not be practical, he left the building up to us. He gave us advice about what might be wrong when things did go wrong which was tremendously helpful. He gave us mentorship and guidance which has proven to be invaluable. I will miss all the time spent in room 95 with Mr. Ueda talking about robots and other STEM topics.

Brian Mata, 275



Carded for not having ID when trying to purchase Super-Glue, St. Louis, MO, April 2013

He's the geek of the year
 The nerd we all know
 The nerd that is always in our family
 Through tough times
 Through times of joy
 We're there together
 He's there continuously leading us on
 It's Ueda-man
 May he keep geekin' on wherever he goes.

Jacky Zheng, 276



Building a robot at Mr. Ueda's house in the "early years"



RoboLancers' Team Photo - 2010-2011

Mr. Ueda, is one of the greatest coaches and teachers I know. He is a really dedicated man, who strives to achieve his goals. Mr. Ueda has always brought the tides of laughter and seriousness. Being a member of the RoboLancers, it is really sad to see him leave Central; however, it is also a great moment in RoboLancers' history. He will represent Central High and the RoboLancers in his new position at UPenn. Robotics teams all over Philadelphia should be honored to have him oversee robotics activity throughout Philadelphia.

Albert Tanjaya, 275

Mr. Ueda has done a lot for the team. His commitment in time and effort for the team has a significant impact on the RoboLancers. Great leadership is essential for a team's success. Mr. Ueda's leaving to go to the University of Pennsylvania will benefit the future of FIRST robotics.

Huen Yee (Jade) Tso, 276



In the two years that I have been associated with Mr. Ueda, I have learned to trust him as a good friend, teacher and a mentor. He has always been there for me to get both personal and scholarly help whenever I needed it. It will be a great loss to the team, as Mr. Ueda moves on to a larger scale of robotics in the city. I wish him the best and I hope he will come back to 321 RoboLancers often to help mentor, and say "hello!"

*Armond Smith, 274,
 Programming Lead-Elect, 2014-2015*



First Philly Robotics Expo: 2011

Central High School won't be the same without Mr. Ueda. I'd like to thank him for all of the hard work he has put into the RoboLancers team. It has been an amazing two years working with him. I am lucky to have been around while he was a teacher. He is a true inspiration to so many people. Mr. Ueda, as my Physics teacher, Pre-Calculus teacher, and robotics coach, has taught me many things -- not just school related but also about life in general. I hope he does extremely well at UPenn! They are lucky to have him as a part of their university!

Finnegan Kallmyer, 273



BEST World Championship, Disney World, Orlando, FL, 2011

Thank you for helping the team. Although it's only been my first year as a RoboLancer, I still understand that you've dedicated a lot of your time and effort to robotics. Also, thank you for helping the FTC team. When we asked for something to be purchased, you immediately ordered it for us, and you always tried to help us in every way possible. I appreciate all that you've done for the team and wish you good luck for whatever lies in the future.

Henry Dang, 276



Meghan Ho, 271, Dan Ueda, Dianna Feng, 271, June 2013

There's not much that I can say about Mr. Ueda; from working with him for most of this year, I know that he is a very hard-working man. If he wants something done, he makes sure it gets done right by either choosing the right people for the job or educating students by guiding them through that job.

Having gone through only one year on the RoboLancers and learning some history along the way, I know that Mr. Ueda has made some very large sacrifices for this team. Sadly, I have no personal interactions like this with him, but I can say that this team will be totally different next year.

[continued next column]

I believe the large group of kids that joined the team this year will have to make the biggest adjustment. We learned all of Mr. Ueda's rules and accommodations, and became used to it. I personally was looking forward to spending the next couple years working alongside Mr. Ueda to help further the team and then hearing the news that he'd be leaving is actually heartbreaking. The day that everyone found out the news, I was talking to a friend also on the team and we both had said that we didn't want to continue robotics if Mr. Ueda was not our head coach. Obviously, we knew that we were overreacting but it's still scary to think about. Under new management, having to adapt all over again.

I wish that I could say more about Mr. Ueda but I'm not going to talk about how this could teach a lesson on how to not get attached to things; everyone is dealing with his departure differently and I, for one, will really miss him as the head coach of the RoboLancers.

*Ariana Versace, 276
Secretary-Elect 2014-2015*



Dan Ueda and Alissa Sperling (student teacher/team mentor) playing Dodge Ball, 2013

As a newcomer of the robotics team this year, I've found my experience memorable with the help of not only my team members, but as well as my coach, Mr. Ueda. Of course I'm grateful for the fact that I've attained knowledge on building robots and handling tools, yet I'm more so grateful for the overall life lessons. My coach has taught me that yeah, sure it's nice to be important, but it's even more important to be nice. I've also learned that knowing that you've given your fullest in a competition is what matters most. Losing is just a way of motivating yourself to do better in the future. And as cliché as this sounds, he has also given me the reason to never give up. Never lose hope because when you've found a passion for something, you should never let it go. With everything I've encountered in robotics this year, I have to say I owe it to Mr. Ueda. He is a wonderful coach and I'm sad that he will no longer be guiding us next year. To Mr. Ueda, I'm really thankful for having you as my coach. You are my role model and whoever you'll be educating in the future will be some lucky students.

Christina Duong, 276



"Senior Sendoff," June 2014

I am grateful that I was able to spend such a wonderful and meaningful freshman year with the robotic team, and none of this would have been possible without Mr. Ueda. I consider it lucky for me to be able to pop into this team and experience such a great time here. Thank you, Mr. Ueda, and DON'T EVER FORGET ABOUT US!

Robin Zhang, 276



Mr. Ueda's birthday cake, January 2014

Although, this was my first year on the team, it's amazing how much of an impact Mr. Ueda has had on me. He's taught me that a coach does not have to be confined to an authoritative position, but that he can be flexible and also serve as a teacher, comedian, and friend. He, along with the rest of the team, has warmly welcomed me and other freshmen to the robotics family. Mr. Ueda truly is a huge part of the RoboLancers, and I can't imagine the team without him. I feel so fortunate to be able to have caught a glimpse of what it is like under his leadership, and this year shall be one that I won't forget. It may be sad that Mr. Ueda has to go, but inside, I am happy for him, and I wish him the best of luck in his future job and other endeavors. Even though he will not be the coach of the team anymore, it's safe to say that he will still definitely be in the hearts and minds of RoboLancers for years to come.

Michael Behanan, 276



Nadia Tran, 274, Thomas Davidenko, 275, Alissa Sperling and Daniel Ueda, at MAR, 2013

Ueda, you've been joyful and sometimes annoying but I still love you. I'm going to miss you allowing our advisory to be the best room in the building. I'm sure you'll enjoy your new job, but it won't be nearly as great as Central just because I won't be there. You're the coolest geek I know and I'll miss you.

Cordell Beatty, 275



Dan Ueda and red Rockem'-Sockeye' mascot at Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser, October 2013

I've never been very good with farewells. In fact, I don't really know if I've ever really "farewelled" anyone in proper fashion, with the crying and the hugging and the stoic expressions. Mr. Ueda won't be sticking around for much longer, so he won't be a possibility of a guide in my academic conquest. I can't throw him some student party with classmates and then sit around, unsure if my farewell would truly be a lasting farewell because teachers usually stay in their classrooms and the hallways sometimes and you'd wave and smile and move on with the rest of your lives. But Mr. Ueda isn't my teacher. He's my team's coach and soon will be the team's former-coach. He'll instead become an advocate for helping Philly robotics teams, you could say. This is new. He'll be around a metaphorical corner instead of a high school's building corridors. I don't know how to say farewell to strangely new experiences and situations. We

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spoke little, communicated on professional levels when we did, and were both parts of a family when he was the distant uncle who relatives spoke of and invited to Christmas parties as his favorite people may surround him, whereas I was likely to be the child of someone's step-sibling and would've mingled with other pseudo relatives in this extended metaphor. We didn't get to know each other really well on levels as mutually respecting human beings, but I still respected him for the impact and influence and inspiration he left among a great lot of us, the team, whether it was directly or indirectly. I'd suppose that this is good enough. To a great dork of a human being, as I would understand in these moments, Mr. Ueda, live long and prosper. [U+1F596]

Mai Nguyen, 275



Building the BEST robot with Malik Blassingale, 271, and Kyle Fragassi, 270, 2010-2011

Hello Ueda, I've known you for four years now. Even though I have disagreements with you (in my mind), I still think you are a wonderful teacher and coach. The robotics team will be losing an amazing coach next season but I'm sure the new coach will be able to take up the job. I wish you luck in your future endeavors and your job at UPenn!

P.S. Since I'll be attending Drexel, I'll be right next to you on campus.

P.P.S. I definitely will not miss grading your papers for you; those things were super complicated and confusing to grade.

Zhenying Wu, 273



Zhen's "Photoshopped" photo of Ueda

Despite all of the ridiculous things that happened over the years, in class and in robotics, you will be missed. You gave us the freedom to grow and helped us surpass what we thought were our full potentials as high school students. From the new members meeting to kick-off to the snowstorm we spent working at your house before Bag Day to PRX and Spring Training, you were, are, and will always be just as much of a RoboLancer as the rest of us.

Callan Powell, 273



The RoboLancers after the 2014 FRC Seneca High School District Tournament

From the relative bottom of my shallow heart, I'd like to thank you, Ueda, for being a great mentor for the 2 years I've been on the team. You were a good leader, albeit the students sometimes didn't like the process you go about engineering. I personally like the simplistic process of reason before action that you brought throughout the year, and hope you go about your business successfully for the years to come.

Jeechieu Ta, 275



Daniel Ueda is a special person. Though he is lacking in swag, Ueda just happens to be so strange that we love him for it. Personally, I would say that Daniel Ueda is a nice, outgoing man who truly cares about robotics, albeit not as cool as say, Royce Rajan. I wish him good luck and hope to see him again in the future. Until then, Daniel Ueda, we shall flag your social networks with memes of your face!

Mibin Anthony, 275



Mr. Ueda and Mibin Anthony, 275

Not Only a Great Coach

I have had the opportunity to spend three years with my coach, Mr. Ueda, and it has been an amazing three years to say the least. I do not see Mr. Ueda as just my coach, but also a role model -- someone who I can look up to. For this article, I am going to tell a story about something I have shared with Mr. Ueda, one for every year I spent with him.

Freshman Year:

My freshman year, when I was a nobody among somebodies, was when I first joined the RoboLancers. This is when I first met my lovely coach. This first story is not about robotics tough. It is one about Ultimate Frisbee and how Mr. Ueda saved me from missing a tournament. The night before the tournament, I was supposed to schedule a ride with one of my teammates, and meet up with them, but I, being the careless freshman I was, fell asleep before doing so. As I woke up early morning on a Saturday, I was scrambling to get myself together and find a ride. For a long time, it was looking like I would be out of luck until Mr. Ueda came to my rescue and got me. The interesting thing about Mr. Ueda coming to my rescue is he didn't have a car at the time, so he had to rent a car just to take me to the tournament. Thank you Mr. U for going out of your way all the time to help me.

Sophomore Year:

I will always remember sophomore year as the year we went to the FIRST World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri. My family doesn't make a lot of money to say the least, so when we qualified to go to championship I was afraid I was not going to be able to attend. Once again, Mr. Ueda came to my rescue, and paid for my meals. If it wasn't for Mr. U, I would have missed the greatest experience of my life. Thank you Mr. U for allowing me to experience the FIRST World Championship.

Junior Year:

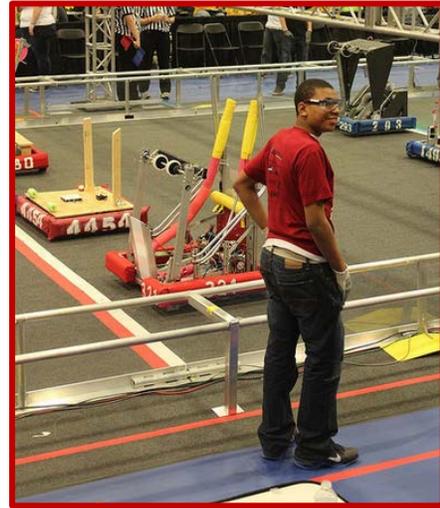
This year marked my first year as Mechanical Lead and Mr. Ueda's last year as coach for this great team. This year, I had a lot of pressure on me to be the best and lead this team to glory. For most of the season, I tried to not let the pressure to get to me, but it wasn't until losing at Chestnut Hill District Event that it got to me. After the competition, everyone on the team was really depressed from not seeding higher and not getting Chairman's Award (most prestigious award in FIRST), but Mr. U came and took on the task of cheering us up. He didn't look at the situation as a loss, but rather as an opportunity to learn from our mistakes. With his guidance, we came up with a better strategy, did a better Chairman's

[continued next column]

presentation, and ultimately did better at our next competition at Lenape. Thank you, Mr. Ueda, for never giving up on us and always inspiring us.

It has been a long three years we have spent together, Mr. Ueda, and I wish you the best at your new job. Thank you for everything you have done for me.

*Kamal Carter, 275,
Mechanical Lead, 2013-2014,
Mechanical Lead-Elect, 2014-2015*



Kamal Carter, 275 and the 2014 FRC robot

There is no question I will miss you, Dan. While we bumped heads a few times this year and in the past, I continued to learn from you – not only about coaching, but about myself. I believe you are a great teacher and coach. I am sure your sage advice will come to mind on many occasions over the time I have left with the RoboLancers. I also know the RoboLancers will miss you tremendously. You have a vitality that I find remarkable. The imprint you have left on these kids' lives is, I am certain, immeasurable. You have an incredible opportunity ahead of you at Penn. I know you will make the most of it – not only for yourself but for all students. My gratitude and best wishes to you always.

*Katherine M. Conrad,
Assistant Coach*



COACH HAS THE FINAL WORD

By Daniel Ueda

For the past six years, I have been the head coach of Central High School's robotics team, The RoboLancers. During that time, I have traveled to world championships in three different competitions – FIRST, MATE, and BEST – in three different states – Missouri, Texas, and Florida, respectively. I've won awards, made friends, made connections and learned a tremendous amount about my city, robotics, education, and myself.

But the most important thing is that I've been involved with the most amazing young adults anyone could imagine for those six years. So many individuals that I saw develop from quiet, timid, unassuming freshmen to confident, intelligent, and competent seniors. They went off to Temple University, Drexel University, and the University of Pittsburgh. They called me coach, and dad, and friend. We shared late nights and pizza, oil-soaked machined parts, tense situations in the pit, early mornings and pancakes, costumes and signs, and thousands of conversations about robots and life.

These six years have been nothing short of remarkable, both for me and for the students and adults I have worked with. I only hope that I have given as much as I have taken away.

During my time with the team and as a teacher in the school district, I have come to understand a great deal about the inequities inherent in this city and about how support could be provided to undermine those inequities. Recent extreme struggles in the school district have caused desperate situations for administrators, teachers, parents and students alike. Our team foresaw these problems at the beginning of the year and made desperate calls for help that seemed to fall on deaf ears. Despite the difficulties, we had a successful year.

However, there should be a limit in our ability to accept our situation as a matter of fact. In the winter, I decided I wanted to try and support robotics programs from the university level and began reaching out. As of June 25th, I will be taking a position as Associate Director of Education and Outreach at the GRASP Lab of the University of Pennsylvania. My major goal is to increase the influence that the GRASP Lab has on robotics and STEM education in the city and to help support the work that people involved in K-12 robotics do on a daily basis.

This may signify the end of my time at Central and on the RoboLancers team, but both will always be in my heart. Most importantly, the experiences I have had with the mentors, coaches, and students involved with the robotics program will stay with me forever. Thank you to Kathie Conrad, Mary Conrad, Donato Pignetti, Joe Kallas, Alissa Sperling, George Huynh, Meghan Ho, Eric Lam, Steven Duong, Carlton Taylor, Malik Blassingale, Peter Ferguson, John Glowa, Scott Cristella, John McMillian, and Kelly-Jean Norris for all the time you gave to the team. My best wishes to everyone for next year. 3...2...1...Go!



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If you want to sponsor an award-winning Philadelphia public high school robotics team, please consider becoming a sponsor of the RoboLancers.

Your sponsorship provides a connection with students who will be tomorrow's leaders in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields. Would you please help? In addition to financial support, the team always is in need of tools, materials, software, hardware, and services (e.g., printing, copying, t-shirt production, advertising). If you are unable to provide financial support, we always are in need of team mentors. Please contact the RoboLancers for more information about these important aspects of giving. The following levels of sponsorship* currently are available:

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 Attention: Daniel Ueda, Head Coach

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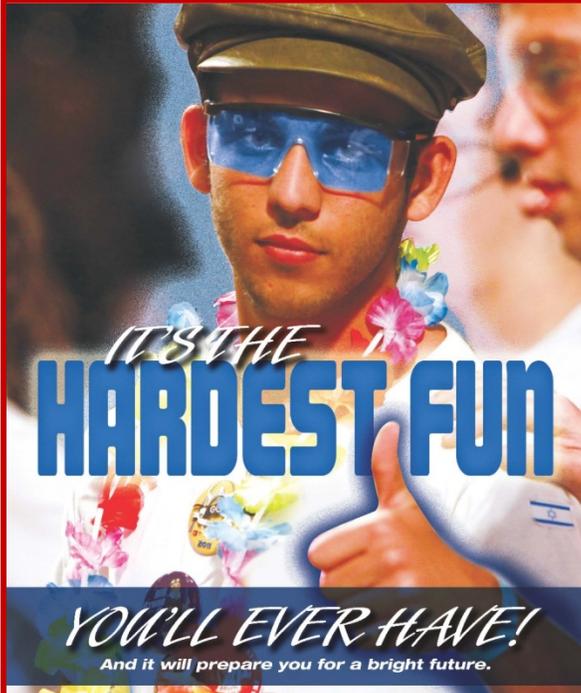
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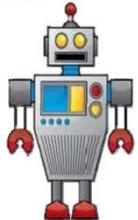
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