

November 2022 Newsletter

November was an extremely eventful month for the Monta Vista Robotics Team! From rookie trainings to awards ceremonies, we were presented with opportunities to explore ourselves as a team and showcase everything we have achieved over the years.

In rookie trainings, our returning members, also known as veterans, helped the new members, or rookies, understand crucial concepts of mechanical, electrical, and software divisions and various fundamental functions of our operational divisions: finance, marketing, and outreach.



Lilja Kiiski, a veteran, believes that “Rookie trainings went rather well this year.” She further says, “I think overall the rookies participated and learned a lot from each division. I'm hopeful that they take what they learned during these past weeks and can utilize it during the upcoming build season.”

One of our rookies, Pranav Gupta, states that “Rookie trainings were genuinely interesting as an experience and a way to learn about MVRT and its processes. From learning about division-specific topics from the team's veterans to creating, developing, and presenting hands-on projects, rookie trainings were a great few weeks to expand new members' knowledge and build a sense of community for the future.”

In addition to Rookie Trainings, another very important event, the SiSTEM day, took place where all the female and non-binary rookies, also known as the little sisters, were paired up with big siblings, or the veterans of the team, to help them feel comfortable in the team and become a part of a family. Big siblings and little sisters made friendship bands and used this as a way to secure the new bonds they formed.





Amrita Arun, one of the SiSTEM leads, says, “I felt like SiSTEM day went so much better that I could have ever hoped for! It means so much to me that incoming female and non-binary rookies have an opportunity to make long-lasting connections, and feel both comfortable and confident to try new things and reach out for help if they need it.”

When asked about the future of SiSTEM, Arun stated, “My hope is of course to see that we have our female and non-binary rookies stay throughout the year, which I know historically has not happened. Of equal importance though, is that the rookies get a chance to form friendships and truly feel like robotics is their family, and that they are an irreplaceable part of the team.”



During November, we had the privilege of attending the SIA (Semiconductor Industry Awards) Ceremony, where we were able to demonstrate our robot and talk about our team along with other FRC teams, namely 846, 971, and 649. We were also able to communicate and network with representatives of many companies such as Cadence, Dassault Systems, Silicon Labs, National Instruments, and Nvidia.

“It was amazing to see top CEOs in engineering fields and talk to them about our team. Many of them were genuinely interested in what we do as MVRT and willing to help out our team, which is an incredible opportunity for our future members,” said Nithya Appannagaari when asked about her experience at the SIA awards dinner.

Overall, November was a month to remember for all of us. We are extremely thankful to everyone who has supported us throughout our MVRT journey, especially our mentors, and countless alumni who come back and guide us through various challenges we might face. We cannot wait to see what the future has in store for our team!