

Subscribe to the paper

Site Web search powered by YAHOO! GO

Browse Archives Shop Images

Your community news

You are not signed in Sign In | Sign Up

JOB'S HOMES AUTOS FOR SALE

View only Daily Herald Jobs Post Resume & search with YAHOO! hotjobs Employers Post Jobs Today

NEWS OPINION BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT LIFESTYLE CUSTOMER SERVICE

MARKETPLACE

EXTRAS X



See who's the BEST!



Fittest Loser coverage



Schaumburg Magazine :: Summer Issue



Mental Health Month



Resources on the Web



Mission | Current Events StudentSpeak



Progressive Latinos ... Reflecting Excellence

# South Middle School aces national robotics competition

By Christopher Placek | Daily Herald Staff

Contact writer



From left, Jacki Rohde,14, and Madeline Hume,14, with Rebekah Kiner,12, and teacher Andy Anderson control the robot on the obstacle course.

MARK WELSH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

3 of 3

Browse All Image Galleries

PRINT MAIL STORY

Published: 5/20/2009 12:01 AM

(1) | read | post

Months of designing and building a model robot paid off for two Arlington Heights students.

The mechanical creation of eighth-graders Madeline Hume and Jacki Rohde from South Middle School took first place in a timed obstacle course event at the National Science Olympiad competition last weekend in Augusta, Ga. The two students spent Friday nights and Sunday afternoons over the course of seven months practicing in Hume's basement for competitions at the regional, state and national levels.

By use of controllers, Hume and Rohde directed their robot "Mo" in the "Robo Cross" event at last Saturday's competition at Augusta State University. Using the robot to pick up objects like batteries, golf balls, Legos and coins and placing them in goals, the students scored a match-perfect 412 points in 1 minute 50 seconds. The next closest team finished 25 seconds later.

"We just wanted to do the best we could and our best luckily worked out," Hume said.

The robot course was one of 23 events in the competition. South Middle School placed 17th overall out of 60 teams from across the country in the Olympiad.

"These students are very bright and gifted," said Katie Kaufman, the team's head coach and a seventh-grade science teacher at South. "They are able to absorb things quickly and they like to be challenged intellectually."

Kaufman, who has been involved in Science Olympiad at South since 1990, leads a group of 21 other volunteer coaches, who are teachers, parents and community volunteers.

One of those assistants, Andy Anderson, assisted Hume and Rohde with their robot, which he called a "motorized dustpan." He said the girls' handmade invention of assorted materials was more reliable and less expensive than other teams' models made from robotic kits.

## TODAY'S TOP JOBS

Medical office assistant FT/PT clinical exp needed. Spanish... MORE

Banquet Hall - Experienced Event Coordinator FT, near the N... MORE

Dental Office Receptionist Arlington Heights dental ofc seek... MORE

Generate interactive creative advertising solutions which e... MORE

FT. recep465@yahoo.com , posted 05/26/2009 ... MORE

View All Top Jobs | Post A Job

## special REPORTS



ELECTION '09 Complete coverage of local races



ALL-AREA TEAMS Herald experts pick top basketball players



LEADERSHIP TEAMS Daily Herald honors outstanding teens



OBAMA ERA BEGINS Complete coverage of the inauguration



PAY TO PLAY? Complete coverage of Blagojevich case



RETURN TO NIU Struggles and triumphs after Cole Hall shootings



2008 ELECTION Complete local, national coverage



HOUSE ADVANTAGE State casinos tighten slot machines



LAST LETTERS HOME Final thoughts from local soldiers



ACADEMIC TEAMS Honoring our best students

"It was crude, but effective," Anderson said. "We don't care what it looks like so long as it works."

[Sign in](#) | [Sign up to comment](#)

1. Comments are not edited and don't represent the views of the Daily Herald.
2. To understand what is and isn't allowed please read our [comments policy](#).
3. To report an inappropriate post click the icon beneath the comment.

**SORT BY:** OLDEST **NEWEST**

1-1 OF 1

posted by **AHresident** on Wed May 20, 2009 10:00 AM

Great job girls! Congratulations.



[Report Abuse](#)

**SORT BY:** OLDEST **NEWEST**

1-1 OF 1

You must [Sign in](#) | [Sign up](#) to post a comment to this story.

**Search the South Chicago MLS**

Search the actual MLS real estate listings for South Chicago at [multiplelisting.com](http://multiplelisting.com)

**Fuji Robotics - Industrial Robots**

We palletize everything - bags, boxes, pails, drums, and more. [www.fujiyusoki.com](http://www.fujiyusoki.com)

**Used Used Fanuc Robots**

Robotic Concepts Incorporated is a specialist in used robots and robotic systems. We have over [roboticconcepts.com](http://roboticconcepts.com)

Ads by Yahoo!



**PETS IN PERIL**  
Saving animals from high-kill shelters



**HORROR HITS HOME**  
Full coverage of the NIU shootings



**A HEAVY TOLL**  
Flaws in the state's Open Road system

**CALENDAR TIME OUT**

Search and find Chicagoland events

All categories

From: 5/27/2009 to:

5/27/2009

[Advanced Events Search](#)

[Search](#)

- » School's out for summer -- now what?
- » Regulars still flock to York Tavern
- » Asner 'Up' for another role as lovable grump
- » Douglas Street Sports Bar scores
- » 'Slumdog' filmmakers meet with kid stars

**Daily Herald**

[SEARCH](#)

<b>News</b> Cook County DuPage County Kane County Lake County McHenry County Illinois Nation & World Obituaries Opinion Politics Special Reports	<b>Business</b> Stocks/market info Property Transfers Foreclosures	<b>Sports</b> Prep College Bears Blackhawks Bulls Cubs Fire Sky White Sox Photo reprints	<b>Entertainment</b> Movies Movie times Puzzles TV listings	<b>Lifestyle</b> Weddings Engagements Anniversaries Births Birthdays Graduations Occasions Achievements Food Health & Fitness Home & Garden Travel	<b>Real Estate</b> Search for homes Real estate articles	<b>Marketplace</b> Place an ad Autos Homes Jobs Announcements Legals Notices Service directory Merchandise Garage sales Photo reprints
---	---	--	---	--	--	--

[Customer Services](#) | [Jobs at Daily Herald](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Feedback](#)

Copyright © 2009 Daily Herald Inc. All rights reserved. | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)

Visit other Daily Herald sites: [Select Site](#)