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Shelton High Robotics Team Finishes in Top 6% at World Championship Turnaround from Near Last in 2016 to Loss in Quarterfinals to Eventual Runner-Up

Houston, Texas April 24, 2017---Competing as 4-H FRC Team 5295 "Aldernating Current", the Shelton High Robotics Team partnered with teams from China, Israel, Turkey and USA during the Newton Division qualification rounds and finished ranked 16th of 67 teams at the Houston FIRST Robotics World Championship April 20-22. This placed them in the top 5.6% of the 3400 teams competing in 2017. In 2016 the Shelton team finished near last at competitions. Watch matches at <https://www.thebluealliance.com/team/5295>. The team lost in the Newton quarterfinals to the #1 playoff alliance led by local NASA Team 118 "Robonauts", which finished 2nd overall in the 400 team competition.

On April 23rd the Shelton High Robotics Team visited the robot pit of NASA Team 118 "Robonauts" which is used by NASA employees during the day and the robotics team in the evening. Shelton High Robotics Team members shook hands with a robonaut, a multi-million dollar joint NASA and General Motors effort to design a human-sized robot assistant for astronauts in space. Robonaut Program Manager Julia Badger said "Things break all the time." The team toured Space Center Houston and learned of NASA's plans to send humans to Mars on the Orion spaceship. A Tumwater High School classmate of KMAS' Jeff Slakey, Nujoud Merancy, shared samples of the materials NASA will use to build the Orion spaceship and the food the first humans to Mars will eat enroute.

Team Captain junior Jaeden H, seniors Jacob H. and Kiery E., and sophomores Abbie A.,Carolynn C., Dylan R., Kirstin G., Robert G-A., and Tristin N. were guided by Coach J.Wright, R.Clarey, K.Hansen, A.Hospador, F.Newby, and A.Walker.

The Shelton High Robotics Team raised \$20,000 in cash and pledges of the \$28,000 needed. Students will run concessions on 4/26 at the Highclimber stadium softball game. Planned fundraisers are 5/19 "Change the World" and 6/03 "Hood to Coast". Dates for car washes are pending. Donate at <http://frcteam5295aldernatingcurrent.blogspot.com/search/label/Donate> or contact Andy Hospador 360-426-0741; AndyH3626@gmail.com or AlanWalker@earthlink.net 253-852-4002.

Team representatives will visit the Shelton Kiwanis May 9th and the "Olympia Robotics Federation" Annual Sponsor Appreciation Event May 12th. You can meet the full team on May 20th at the Lacey STEM Fair or

June 3rd at the Forest Festival Paul Bunyan Parade. See the team schedule and watch interviews at <https://www.facebook.com/AldernatingCurrent5295>.

Radical Media won the Will.I.Am “Make It Loud” Award for [“This Isn’t A Robot”, a two minute YouTube video](#). “But this isn’t a robot. It’s a machine to build the people who will change the world”.

The all west winning alliance include Ballard Washington Team 2928 “Viking Robotics”, Tucson Arizona Team 1011 “Crush”, Atascadero California Team 973 “Greybots”, and Berkeley California Team 5499 “Bay Orangutans”.

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