

FIRST DEAN'S LIST

Katherine Fitzpatrick

Katherine (dubbed “Kitty” by her teammates) was a sophomore when she joined the Killer Bees; her parents thought that she wouldn’t last a month in the program. She’d never been interested in engineering, and most of her friends scoffed at the idea of her joining a robotics team, but the thing with Katherine is that she puts her heart into whatever she does, and her attitude is contagious. Now her parents, who were so wary at first, are some of the biggest fans that our team has ever had, coming to every event to cheer on their daughter (a second year driver) and the entire team. This is just one example of why Katherine Fitzpatrick deserves to win the Dean’s List Award. Her passion and dedication to team 33 and FIRST is a solid example for every member of this program, students and mentors alike.

Saturday mornings, the first job for the entire team is to clean our shop. Some kids slowly head to work. Others hide out until the fun starts, but Kitty is always there, already cleaning the shop, because she simply knows it needs to be done. Whether sweeping up shavings, making a motor mount or pitching a new \$5000 sponsor, Kitty always steps up. She works in a way that makes all of the other students follow her lead. Without doubt, Kitty is liked and appreciated by every single member of our team.

As a senior and third-year member of the Killer Bees, Kitty has accomplished many things for our team, including being a key-component to reestablishing our team’s financial security when we lost major funding from a main sponsor this past summer. All of our students were worried that we wouldn’t have enough money to compete in the 2011 season, but Kitty’s attitude of, “We will succeed, no matter what,” boosted morale and rallied the team together. Along with two other students, Kitty created a new business plan and sales-pitch to present to potential sponsors. After giving demonstrations to CEOs of several large companies, their effort paid off, and our team surpassed our budget expectations by over \$5,000, ensuring sustainability for the Killer Bees. Kitty was a major part of that success.

Kitty is involved in robotics year-round. Although she had no prior experience with FLL, she helps our team plan and run a three-day FLL summer camp. She travelled to four off-season competitions as our operator. And this past fall she was the co-lead for our team’s OCCRA robotics program, a local competition that encourages students to participate in FIRST. The OCCRA club spreads the robotics word, often leading to new FIRST team members. As a student run organization, it is

essential to have passionate student leadership, and Kitty has provided that.

From talking sponsorship opportunities to CEOs of large companies like Takata, to hot gluing puff-balls on top of pipe-cleaners to create our team's signature antennae, no job is too large or small for Katherine. She talks about FIRST with her friends, recruiting new students for our team. She takes the lead on our Woodie Flowers award submissions. She welcomes all new mentors with a respect that all students follow. She collects and recycles the pop and water bottles from our meetings, returning the deposit money to the team. She participates in all of our team community service projects like volunteering for the 12-hour Movie Marathon to raise money for the Children's Leukemia Foundation and collecting money for and walking in the Walk for Hunger. Every job that she does is completed with a smile and contagious laughter, embodying the spirit of Gracious Professionalism.

Kitty will be attending the University of Michigan next year. Though the Killer Bees will miss her, we know that Kitty will be a positive influence and welcome addition to her new environment. The contagious enthusiasm and willingness to contribute that she exhibits will be welcomed as she continues to grow.

It is our pleasure to recommend Katherine Fitzpatrick for the 2011 Dean's List Award.