



# Girl Powered: Following Our Hearts

By: VanAnh Nguyen and Jessica Duong





## 2496V, featuring...


### **VanAnh Nguyen (left)**

I am currently a freshman new to both Beckman and VEX Robotics. Previously, I attended the STEAM 2 course to learn more about automation and robotics. This year, I have been contributing to our team by designing, logging, building, and driving.

### **Jessica Duong (right)**

I am currently a junior in high school and this is my second year of VEX Robotics. In my first year, I was a driver and builder. This year, I have been focusing more on design, building, and coaching.





# “Girl” Powered: The Real TEAM in STEAM

Our team is not the first “Girl Powered” team that comes to mind. We are comprised of six boys and two girls. Although we may not seem like a girl powered team, the impact that we (in a majority-male team) make truly benefits our overall team. From designing and building to driving and coaching, the “girl power” we bring to the table inspires our team to strive towards success.

Beckman’s robotics program, including team 2496V, began in September 2015, and today, there are two girls (us) on the team: Jessica (a junior), and VanAnh (a freshman). Collectively, one of our team mottos is “Follow Your Heart,” and our hearts tell us to be open to others’ ideas and passions in the field of robotics.



# “Intaking” Mobile Goals, Cones, Ideas, and Others

When we first started the season, we decided that one of the most important things was to make sure that everyone on the team was included and involved. We believe that everyone’s ideas should be heard and that there is always more to learn. Since each team member had varying levels of experience in robotics, we made it a priority to guide and help each other through the entire process. Luckily, even though we (the girls) have the least experience on the team, our other teammates are always willing to take the time to help us.



# After robotics, we come home, and after that..homecoming!

In addition to robotics, we are always trying to find ways to bond and create a more inclusive environment so that everyone feels comfortable with each other. We often take time to go out for lunch during long meetings and even attended Homecoming as a team to support Xuyang, a team member on the Homecoming court. Fortunately for us, as girls, we didn't have to wear the matching blue shirt!

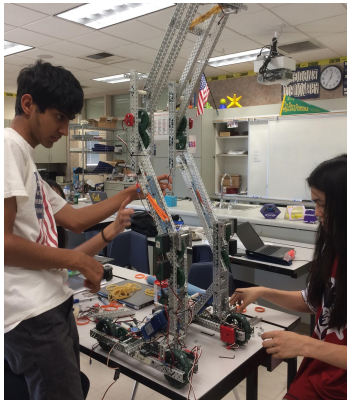






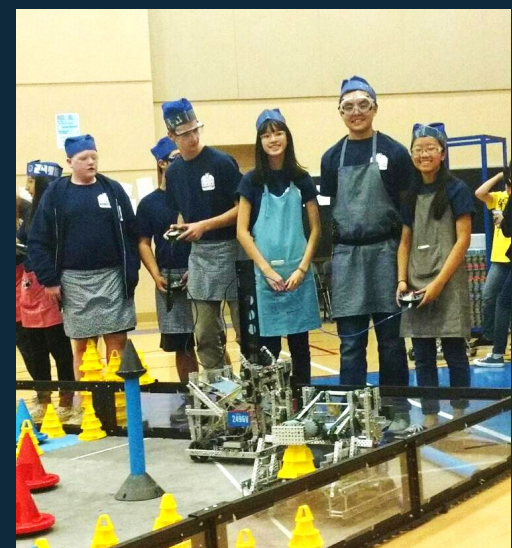
# In the Zone? In the Role!

Our team designates roles not by requirement, but by the passions and strengths of each member on the team. For instance, RJ is the main driver of the team, since he is the most skilled at driving and enjoys it. Xuyang is one of our programmers and design advisors. Devin has an immense dedication for logging, drawing, and CADing our robot. Jessica is the “matriarch” of our team and she serves as a foundation for our “Girl Power” by helping out with designing, building, and coaching. Alan is one of the main builders and prototypers for our 3D design mechanisms. Ashwin is our primary programmer. John is a major builder, programmer, and designer for the team. I (VanAnh) have had a chance to contribute to our team by building, designing, and driving the robot! Every team member not only enjoys their passion, but also contributes toward the team’s overall construction and execution of the robot.





# Driving for the “Nguyen”!



Our secondary drive team is (mostly) Girl Powered. VanAnh is the driver, and Jessica (and Devin) are coaches. In addition, our team encourages others to try new things by having John (a freshman) program for the first time at this competition, as well as having VanAnh (a freshman) drive.



# “Peer”ing through New Safety Goggles

Diversity of perspective on our team truly matters, as every opinion counts and benefits our considerations of a better robot design, game strategy, etc. In this way, we are able to voice our views, especially during team discussions and judges' interviews. This gives us a chance to highlight how well our team is able to work together. As a result of our diversity of perspective, our ability to succeed has been greatly enhanced; we have won 2 Excellence Awards, 1 Amaze Award, and 2 Robot Skills Champion Awards!



our team, and a judge (pictured in center)





# Our Model is a Mystery (Sit)

Mr. Sit (also known as Mystery Sit), our mentor, is our STEM role model. Mr. Sit was a mechanical engineer before becoming a teacher and robotics mentor, and has dedicated countless hours to the robotics program over the years. Thanks to his advice and guidance, we have learned the importance of the design process and working as a team. From design and logging to game strategy and building, Mr. Sit is always there to not only guide us but also challenge us to come up with creative and innovative solutions.



# Solving a Mystery (Sit)...



Most importantly, Mr. Sit is always telling us to be the best team that we can be, and that winning is not the most important part of the experience. He constantly pushes us to try new things with our robot and set high goals for ourselves. In addition, Mr. Sit encourages us to help other teams so that everyone has a chance at being successful. During competitions, we like to visit other teams' stations to see if they need help, advice, or tools.

# (Pre)loading the Future with More Girl Power

Throughout its years of having the Robotics program, Beckman's number of female participants has been increasing each following year. The percentage of girls from last year has almost doubled this season, 2017-2018. Looking forward, we hope to continually increase this number and spread robotics to more students around our school and community!



19%  
2016-2017

vs.

32%  
2017-2018



THE END!

Credits

Google  
Girl⚡Powered

**Entrants:** VanAnh Nguyen and Jessica Duong

**Team Number:** Beckman Robopatties 2496V

**Title:** Girl Powered: Following Our Hearts

