

Girl Powered

Last school year, my friend Kailyn asked me to apply with her to the Miraleste robotics team. I was pleasantly surprised when I made the team. Now Alicia and I are part of team 7035M with 3 other boys. It's our first year in robotics and I am hyped to compete with my team. Alicia is our project manager. She has strengths such as coding, managing, and driving the robot. My strengths are building and writing in the engineering notebook. Ethan Becker is our team leader and his strengths are building, managing, and designing. Ryder Baze is our computer and electrical engineer. Ted Chang's strengths are building and wiring. We have learned that each of us are good at certain tasks. Some of us work together well but some of us don't. Even if we don't, we still give it our best.



Sarah and Alicia Working

We have taken the initiative to create a more inclusive environment. Last year, Miraleste had four teams. Three teams had all boys and one team had all girls. This year, we have four teams but each team has a mix of girls and boys. We hope this attracts a diverse group of students in the future,

By having diversity of perspective, it changes the robot design, our ability to succeed, and team chemistry. Our robot design will be diverse and that may determine the difference of our team winning a match or not. If our entire team can embrace diversity our team chemistry will be great. It also helps all of us to learn how to work with the opposite sex. Since this is what we'll have to do once we are in our careers, now is a great time to learn how to work together.



Our Team

(Top right Ethan, Top Left Ryder, Bottom Left Sarah, Bottom Middle Ted, and Bottom Right Alicia)

My STEM role model is Hedy Lamarr. She was an amazing actress that acted in the 1940s and was considered the most beautiful woman on film. But behind her beauty, she was also incredibly smart. Composer George Antheil and Hedy invented "frequency-hopping communications technology". The technology allowed messages to be sent across multiple frequencies. Unless the interceptor knew the exact sequence of frequency hops, the message could not be intercepted. Therefore, it enabled messages to be sent securely. They successfully patented the idea, but it was ignored at the time. In 1964 it played an important role in securing military communications. Recently, it was used in safe cellular phone communication. She received praise and respect for her work long after her patent had expired. In 1997 Hedy was the first woman to be honored by the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and received the Pioneer Award. A movie called 'Bombshell' came out on Nov 24, 2017 which is a documentary about her life. Hedy will continue to be an inspiration for myself and many other young girls dreaming of a career in science and math.

Hedy Lamarr was discriminated against because she was a woman, so her ideas were never taken seriously. But later we found out the amazing potential of Hedy's work. We can't ignore ideas from women because it can be as good as anybody else's. So, our team is trying to create an environment that people can feel comfortable sharing their ideas.



Hedy Lamarr

To me, Girl Powered means that girls are involved in the key activities in building, testing and driving our robots. For example, Alicia is our lead driver for our base. I contribute to building the robot and keeping engineering note book up to date. A girl powered team means there really isn't a difference between what the boys and girls on a team are contributing. In conclusion, it doesn't matter what gender, ethnicity, or background you are, robotics is about having fun!

Citations (MLA Format)

Un known Author. "Hedy Lamarr." *The Official Website of Hedy Lamarr*, Unknown Publishing Date. www.hedylamarr.com/.

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MICHELLE LEGRO. "How the 'Most Beautiful Woman in the World' Invented a System for Remote-Controlling Torpedoes." *Brain Pickings*, 8 Nov. 2016, www.brainpickings.org/2011/12/08/hedys-folly/.

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Credits

Entrants: Alicia Jeong and Sarah Worst

Team Number: 7035, "M" team

Title: Girl Powered