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**BOBCAT ROBOTICS WINS NEWTON DIVISION, SEMIFINALISTS ON EINSTEIN**

SOUTH WINDSOR, CT—The South Windsor High School robotics team, Bobcat Robotics, won the Newton division and was a semifinalist on the Einstein field at the 2009 FIRST Robotics International Championship in Atlanta, GA Saturday.

For six weeks starting January 3 after the 2009 challenge was announced, the Bobcats labored over building a machine that fit all the requirements of this year's game, *Lunacy*, but also conformed to the rules specified by the FIRST organization.

In March, teams travel to regional competitions, vying for a spot at the international competition in Atlanta each April. This was the Bobcat's fourth divisional win in a row, and in 2007 the Bobcats were crowned not only divisional champions, but international champions.

Katherine Desy, sophomore, says that our unique design helped lead us to victory this year. "The robot was such a solid build. The best feature of our 2009 'bot is the Archimedes screw on the back that powers the balls down to the bottom of the roller system, which can either dump the balls into an opposing trailer or store them to bring to the human player."

Desy is on the mechanical team and works closely with the other subteams to perfect a competitive robot. "I help build the entire robot. This year, I was in charge of mainly the drive train and other various pieces that needed to be machined. I also worked on the pit crew at all of our competitions."

In addition to science and technology skills that students gain from being on a FIRST team, other important skills are cultured. Students face budgetary and time constraints and other situations that simulate how a business organization in the real world operates.

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