

# ROBINSON REVIEW

February 2015 Vol. 4, Issue 2

## Celebrating



## Years In The Community

# CONTENT

3 | Lego Robotics Staff Spotlight

4 | RCLC 14th Anniversary Party



5 | Ice Skating Party



6 | Blackhawks Game

7 | Monologue Competition



8 | Program Updates

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## Editor's Note:

A lot has happened here at the Robinson Community Learning Center since our last issue of the Robinson Review. We attended a Chicago Blackhawks game in Chicago, the Robinson Shakespeare Company hosted a Monologue Competition, we had a Holiday Auction, an Ice Skating Party, the Lego Robotics team went to the State Competition, and we celebrated the 14th Anniversary of the RCLC. We were very busy, but our student writers of the Robinson Review have been there to capture every minute!

This issue of the Robinson Review will attempt to give you a small snapshot of all those events through words and pictures from the perspective of our student writers. We hope this issue keeps you informed on all the exciting events taking place at the RCLC!

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Photos by RCLC Staff

# LEGO ROBOTICS



What is Lego Robotics you may ask? Lego Robotics introduces students to engineering principles by building Lego-based robots to complete missions on a thematic playing surface. It exposes students to STEM. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math education, which is becoming a very important part of curriculum in schools.

Being a part of Lego Robotics, a team of the Robinson Community Learning Center, has been a great experience for me. As we are a part of the First Lego League, we follow the eight core values. The eight core values teach participants about friendly competition and that helping others is

the foundation of teamwork. Not only was I part of a team, but I was part of a family. Our coach Dr. Moss encouraged us to stay on task by giving out push-ups. Do you think that sounds harsh? If we did not have a coach that cared so much, our team would not have made it to State competition this year!

The State competition was held in Fort Wayne, Indiana this past season. Walking in the room, it was a whole different atmosphere. It was filled with team spirit and excitement. Every team was friendly and came around to team's tables to encourage them. Teams handed out candy and pins to every team. At the competition we had to do presentations and we ran the robot for 3 rounds. At the end we were presented with medals. Our team won first place for engineering out of 52 teams present at the competition! Although we did not win and continue on to nationals, our team agreed to have no regrets. "What we learn is more important than what we win." To me, my team will always be number one. | Breyona Gray



## Staff Spotlight



**Andy Kostielney**  
RCLC Assistant Manager

- ▷ Favorite color? Orange
- ▷ Favorite movie? Field of Dreams
- ▷ Favorite television show? Modern Family
- ▷ Favorite band? Rush

**Robinson Review:** What is your birthday?

**Andy Kostielney:** January 14th

**RR:** What are some of your hobbies?

**AK:** Watching sports, comic books, watching movies and TV shows

**RR:** Where are you from?

**AK:** South Bend, Indiana

**RR:** Where did you go to school?

**AK:** Christ the King Elementary School, Saint Joseph High School, Holy Cross Junior College and the University of Notre Dame

**RR:** How long have you been at the RCLC?

**AK:** 11 1/2 years

**RR:** What is your role at the RCLC?

**AK:** Assistant Manager

**RR:** What is your favorite thing at the RCLC?

**AK:** "Used to be making fun of Mrs. Marguerite but now it is getting to watch people arrive"

**RR:** How and why did you become County Commissioner?

**AK:** "I was specially elected and wanted to continue to serve our community and make it a better place"

**RR:** What are your aspirations in life?

**AK:** "To serve the community and make it a better place for my kids and grandkids"

**RR:** What are you planning on doing once you retire?

**AK:** "Volunteering at the RCLC, travel a little, go see all 50 states"

# RCLC 14th Anniversary Celebration

On February 20th we celebrated the 14th anniversary of the Robinson Community Learning Center. Even though the weather was bad, there were about 160 people that attended from all over the community.

To kick off the event, we had a performance from Paul Ferguson, a student in the Shakespeare program at the Robinson Center. Mayor Pete Buttigieg gave a speech about his love for the RCLC and how he is proud of what is happening here. Meredith Perks presented a letter that was written by US Senator, Joe Donnelly, expressing regrets that he was unable to come to the anniversary celebration.

As part of the anniversary, we presented awards to people that have made a difference in the development of the Robinson Center. Take Ten Poster winners from different youth centers and schools were awarded. The James A. Kapsa Award was given to Take Ten sponsor, Matt Eppert. The Renelda Robinson Award was given to Community volunteer, Joan Becker. The Dale O. Grayson Award was given to adult learner, Brenda Scott-Brown. The Fr. Don McNeil, CSC Award was awarded to Ethan Beaudoin. The Arthur Quigley Award was granted to ND faculty, Jessica Brookshire. The James A. Roemer Award was assigned to RCLC youth, Tiana Mudzimurema

To end the wonderful event, we had another Shakespeare monologue presented by Brian LeBron. When the event ended, people were invited to hang around, eat food and watch some entertainment. Acapella groups, Harmonia and Echoes, both from Notre Dame, sang wonderful tunes to the crowd. Everyone also had the chance to watch a film festival video that won an award for the most captivating video about the Shakespeare Company at the RCLC.

Even though it was cold and snowing, we still had a great turn out and the celebration was a huge success! Here's to another 14 years of the Robinson Community Learning Center!! | Valencia Randolph & Breyona Gray



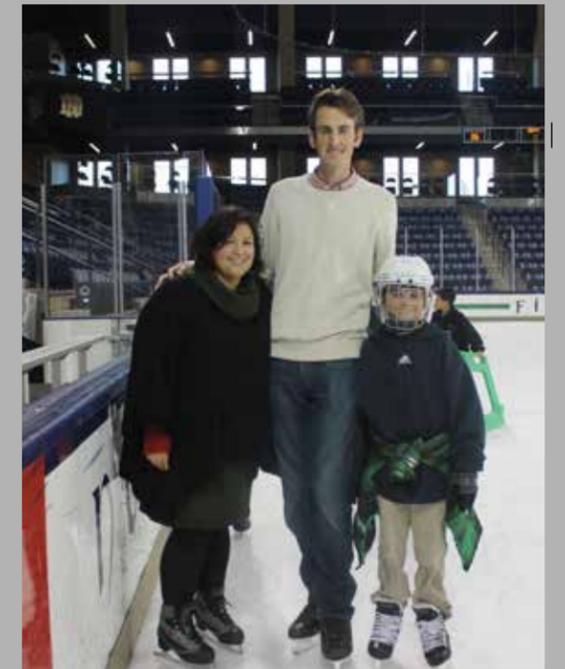
This was such an amazing event that will hopefully happen again next year!

Inspired by the Blackhawks visit to the RCLC, we were able to go to Notre Dame's Compton Family Ice Arena and ice skate with our tutors, parents, and staff. We decided to call the ice skating party the "Tutor Appreciation Party" because of all the help the tutors offered us last semester. The party was very fun because we got to spend time with each other and learn something new and exciting: how to ice skate!

The Compton Family Ice Skating Rink was very cold and slick. It was very easy to fall and hard to get back up, however ice skating is exactly like regular skating except you're on ice. One can walk in their skates on harder surfaces and skate on slick surfaces. You have to be careful when falling on the ice and one has to make sure the bottom of their skates don't poke or stab anyone. The bottom of the skates is very sharp and dangerous. It was very difficult for one to keep their balance, but the green walkers made it easier.

## TUTOR APPRECIATION PARTY

After skating, everyone met upstairs at the café to have a snack of salad, cookies, fruit, chips, juice, cake, and vegetables with dip. It was exciting because there were so many kids having fun with their tutors as well as parents. Gifts were given to the tutors by the students to represent how much they appreciate their help. This was such an amazing event that will hopefully happen again next year! | Caribia Coleman



2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
University of Notre Dame released plans to establish a community-learning center.	RCLC opens for the first time and brings community together Feb. 21	Celebrates one year Better World Books started at RCLC	Chicago artist Bernard Williams, and students at the RCLC painted the murals on the building	Football parking starts	Students help the community by raking leaves	5th year celebration	Take Ten writes a comic book	First year of Shakespeare	Senior citizens computer classes start	Jennifer Knapp becomes the new manager of the RCLC	RCLC is awarded a grant for the Americorps program	Candace Lebron-Williams and Charell Lucky are the first graduates from the RCLC	RCLC photoformers document history	Chicago Blackhawks visited the RCLC and students also attended a game in Chicago	14 Years

# Chicago Blackhawks Game



It was a great first time experience going to a hockey game and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves

On September 19th, three hockey players from the Chicago Blackhawks and the owner of the team came to the Robinson Community Learning Center. They came to talk to us about their career and gave us motivational advice. It was an amazing experience to have them at the RCLC and take the time to meet us and answer all of our questions. Not only did they come here, they surprised us by inviting us to Chicago to attend a Blackhawks game at the United Center!

On November 9th, we put on our warm clothes and traveled to Chicago. For most of us it was our first time to go to Chicago and see a real live hockey game. Once we arrived at the United Center, we were greeted by the President of the team, John McDonough. We received a VIP dinner, which included kid friendly food such as chicken tenders, gourmet macaroni and cheese and homemade kettle chips. Every person also was given a Blackhawks hockey puck and team magazine.

At the end of the dinner, John McDonough and his staff talked to us. He said that he had never seen such a mature and well-behaved group of young students like us and that he was amazed. When it came time to ask questions, we had a ton! They stayed the whole time to make sure that every single question was answered. Mr. McDonough and his staff

gave us lots of advice! They told us to never give up on our dreams and to always keep working hard. They also told us about setting goals to get where you need to go and that sometimes it's not easy but keep working at it. When they were done answering questions, Mr. McDonough told us that the Chicago Blackhawks would like to partner with the RCLC!

As soon as we were done with dinner, we went into the arena to watch the game. It was so loud and huge! We were way high up in the stands. It was kind of scary but also really exciting! All we heard as we were finding our seats were lots of screaming and hollering and saw people everywhere mixed with their team rival colors. As soon as we saw the hockey team coming out onto the ice, we screamed and jumped and clapped!

For some of us, we didn't know what was going on, all we knew was that whenever they scored a goal, we were supposed to jump up and clap and dance to the Blackhawks song. It was a great first time experience going to a hockey game and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, and we were overjoyed once the Blackhawks had won! What a great experience it was! Go Hawks! | Tamera Bruce



## GO Blackhawks!



## Robinson Shakespeare Monologue Competition

**"Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears!"**

**Julius Caesar, Act III.2**

The community lent its ears to the performances of the Robinson Shakespeare Company and friends (Notre Dame student volunteers) during Shakespeare at Notre Dame's Monologue Competition held here at the Robinson Community Learning Center the night of December 4th, 2014.

Christy Burgess, director of the Robinson Shakespeare Company said, "I want students to believe in themselves as much as I believe in them," and the success of the competition, as well as the laughter, tears, and applause that met each performance show that her belief in the students is well-deserved. Winners in Division I (grades 3-5) were Lizzie Graff (1st) and Duncan Gathesha (2nd); Division II (grades 6-8) winners were Ellie Graff (1st) and Ophelia Emmons (2nd); Paul Ferguson won 2nd place in Division III (grade 9-12); and Rohit Fonseca (1st) and Lizett Pink (2nd) were the winners in Division IV (collegiate).

Brian LeBron-Williams won 1st place in Division III and went on to represent the Robinson Shakespeare Company at the statewide competition in Indianapolis where he won 2nd runner-up (3rd place)! His performance was humorous and full of heart. | Kiara Williams



# RCLC PROGRAM UPDATES

## Shakespeare

The winter wind blew in the new year and with it snow flurries that have kept us and our programs in fits and starts! Shakespeare will help us survive this wicked weather with the warmth of romance and the heat of rivalry in Romeo and Juliet, our production this term at the RCLC and Dickinson Intermediate Fine Arts Academy. Jefferson Drama Club will transport us to warmer climes as we celebrate Black History Month with a parade of African kings, queens, and leaders during a school program yet this February. And the beaming smiles of our students at Perley, Muessel, the Boys and Girls Club, and the NDCAC can shine through even the darkest of gloomy winter days, especially as we play games, tell stories, and share laughter together throughout each week!

Brian Lebron-Williams performed a monologue from Two Gentlemen of Verona and Sonnet 73 at the 2015 ESU Indianapolis Branch Shakespeare Competition at Butler University. He won 2nd runner-up, and we are so proud of him!!! Both he and Paul Ferguson were featured in an award-winning Notre Dame student documentary about the Robinson Shakespeare Company. Thanks to ND students Nicole Sanga and Brian Lach for their wonderful film!

Shakespeare 24 is coming up at the end of March, so mark your calendars for the 21st and 22nd--sponsor us and pay us a visit as we read the works of Shakespeare for twenty-four hours straight! – Maya Hippensteel

## Youth Development

This semester, elementary students and their tutors are enjoying “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” and “The Phantom Tollbooth.” Enrichment topics include Health and Wellness, Take Ten, and Animals Around the World. Crafts are also always a fun activity! Middle and high school students study topics such as Current Events, Goal Setting, College Prep, Be Inspired, and My America. The teens attended a recent retreat about accepting change, and parents will soon attend a retreat about parenting with love and excellence. We look forward to upcoming trips to Ball State University, the Shedd Aquarium, and Memphis, Tennessee! – Meredith Haag

## Talk With Your Baby

Talk With Your Baby is enjoying the beginnings of several classes during the winter period. As usual, one class will be offered at the RCLC; another will be offered at the NDCAC and taught by TWYB’s AmeriCorps member Kim Halstead. Other classes in April/May will soon follow. In addition, several agencies have also offered classes, including the St. Joseph County Health Department’s very first class. In other news, we also hosted our first book club meeting, where we read Dr. John Medina’s influential Brain Rules for Baby.

We plan to continue offering this event and watching our numbers of attendees grow! Finally, we also will be hosting a Lunch & Learn with Notre Dame professor Dr. Darcia Narvaez, who will speak on her research regarding child flourishing. We’re looking forward to the success of all these events and to touching the lives of many parents. – Kimberly Halstead

## Advanced Skills & Entrepreneurship

We started the 2015 Advanced Skills and Entrepreneurship Program with a kickoff party on January 27th. We celebrated all the handwork of the Football Parking and Irish Experience Team from this fall. We also celebrated with all of those who participated in the Idea Pitch Competition. We also kicked off the Business Plan Development Competition and student’s met their MBA Mentors from Notre Dame. – Julie Novak

## Take Ten

The spring semester of Take Ten began with new classes and a new event. Programming resumed at all of our sites from last semester, but two new sites were also added. Additionally, Take Ten hosted the January Soup and Substance event at Notre Dame’s Center for Social Concerns. A few Take Ten volunteers first presented on the topic of the racial achievement gap in the American education system, then opened the discussion to everyone present. The volunteers were great presenters, and many interesting discussions resulted from this presentation.

Take Ten also had the opportunity to attend and exhibit at the 2015 Notre Dame Student Peace Conference at the end of March. The conference provided a great opportunity for Take Ten to share information about our program and talk to students about peacebuilding.

Finally, Take Ten will hold its annual festival for participants in grades 3 through 8 at the end of April. Participants are invited to celebrate the end of the year with games and activities on Notre Dame’s campus. Participants are also encouraged to wear this year’s t-shirt, which was created using the winning design and slogan entries from our annual t-shirt design competition. – Torey Tokarski

## Literacy Corps

Literacy Program tutoring at the Boys and Girls Clubs is back on track and off to a great start for the second semester of tutoring! We are serving every 3rd through 6th grade student at every Boys and Girls Club school location in St. Joseph County. The students are enjoying getting back into the routine of tutoring. They are finishing their books that will be published by the center, and we are already looking ahead to final testing, progress reports, and our Snite Night. This semester is going to fly by! – Molly Gettinger