



# DOS PUEBLOS ENGINEERING ACADEMY FOUNDATION

*"Supporting engineering education on the South Coast"*

## DPEAF Highlights Fall 2010

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### MacArthur "Genius Award" goes to Amir Abo-Shaeer

Amir Abo-Shaeer was named a MacArthur Fellow this Fall! In its initial press release, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation cited Mr Shaeer as "a public high school physics teacher instilling passion for the physical sciences in young men and women through an innovative curriculum that integrates applied physics, engineering, and robotics." Fellows receive a "no strings attached" stipend of \$500,000, to use at their discretion over a five year period, to pursue their own creative, intellectual, and professional inclinations. Criteria for selection of Fellows include exceptional creativity, promise for important future advances based on a track record of significant accomplishment, and potential for the fellowship to facilitate subsequent creative work. You can watch a video presentation by Mr Shaeer at <http://www.macfound.org/> and [www.DPEAF.org](http://www.DPEAF.org). The families and students all celebrated Mr Shaeer's success at the party on November 6.



Amir Abo Shaeer announces the news of his MacArthur Fellowship to DPEA Seniors during the Monday evening robotics class, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

### Logo Motion: The 2011 FIRST Robotics Competition is Underway...

The 2011 FIRST Robotics competition "Logo Motion" was announced January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011! If you missed the opening you can view it at: [http://robotics.arc.nasa.gov/events/2011\\_frcwebcasts.php#animation](http://robotics.arc.nasa.gov/events/2011_frcwebcasts.php#animation) FIRST Robotics invited Mr. Shaeer to speak at this kick off event (see it @ ~37 min into this video presentation). The senior class will be working six days a week until the robot ships off on February 22, 2011. Stay tuned for updates! The "Logo Motion" game animation can be viewed at: <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/content.aspx?id=18762>

### \$100,000 Donation Kicks Off DP Engineering Academy's Gearing Up! Campaign

The aim of the new **Gearing Up! Capital Campaign**, initiated in September 2010 is to raise \$655,000 to purchase state-of-the-art machinery and equipment for the new Elings Center. A \$100,000 anonymous donation kicked off this next phase in the Campaign! The Corwin Denny Foundation followed with a \$10,000 donation to the Gearing Up! Capital Campaign. At the September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 DPEA Parent meeting, the DPEAF challenged the families to contribute \$100,000 of the remaining capital needed. To date, the families have contributed just over \$12,000 to this phase of the campaign. We still have a lot of work to do to raise the remaining \$505,000 needed to complete the Gearing Up! Capital Campaign that will pay for the new equipment and furniture for the Elings Center.



Overall, 100% of the senior and junior classes have contributed to the Capital Campaign, along with 75% of the sophomore class and 44% of the freshman class (Thank you!).

### Outreach in 2010-2011

Nine DPEA Seniors are sharing their talents by tutoring 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students at Goleta Valley Junior High and La Colina Junior High, continuing the tradition started by the 2010 DPEA seniors. This program is funded by a grant from the Lounsbery Foundation to the Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy Foundation.

## The Elings Center: Progress on Construction of the New Building

Construction of the Elings Center is progressing well. The Equipment Committee has been hard at work specifying and ordering new equipment and furniture so that everything will be ready for opening in August 2011. The steel framing is now in progress. Over the next month, the horizontal beams will be installed, the slab will be poured and the roof will be put up!



## New Corporate Partners

We welcome three new corporate partners to the Engineering Academy. Each of these companies has pledged support to the operating budget of the DPEA:

- Amgen Foundation
- Montecito Bank & Trust
- Yardi Systems

## Curriculum Development

"The Art of Engineering" curriculum at the DPEA will be supported by the Mosher Foundation in partnership with the Santa Barbara School District, the Santa Barbara County Education Office, and the DPEA Foundation. The new curriculum was approved in October by the University of California Office of the President. It will be phased in during the expansion, starting with the freshman class of 2011. We are looking forward to working with the Mosher Foundation and the Santa Barbara School District on this critical component of the DPEA expansion.

## Innovator of the Year Award

The Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce has presented Amir Abo-Shaeer their Innovator of the Year Award at a luncheon on Friday, January 21st, 2011. This award is traditionally presented to an individual who has made a significant innovative contribution to positively impacting our world.

## Early Reflections from DPEA Class of 2010

"Robotics was not only the best part of high school, but it gave me a real sense of what I want to study in college, and what I am truly interested in doing with my life." -- *Hanna Vincent (MIT)*

"The Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy really prepared me to do well in college. You have to take the commitment upon yourself to work, because how you do is entirely dependent on the time you put into your work." -- *Eric Schuh (Cornell)*

"The Engineering Academy gave me an invaluable experience that confirmed I wanted to study Engineering in college and continue to find new, creative ways to solve problems." --- *Helen Wang (Yale)*

## The Release of The New Cool is March 1<sup>st</sup>

The much anticipated book, **The New Cool: A Visionary Teacher, His First Robotics Team, and the Ultimate Battle of Smarts**, written about the DPEA's 2009 Team 1717 by the celebrated New York Times author, Neal Bascomb, will be released March 1, 2011. <http://www.nealbascomb.com/books/ncool/ncool.html> Read the first chapter. See the book trailer. Scan at the initial reviews. Pre-order the book! **The New Cool** has also been optioned for a film.

