University School’s new Robotics Team, comprised of Upper School students with a passion for building, designing, and programming robots, were recently awarded “Best Build Design” for their very first entry into the VEX Robotics Competition. Overall, the team placed fifth in a field of 25 teams.

Team members meet weekly in an Upper School laboratory to divide and conquer both programming and building specifications. The team’s first competitive entry was a robot that measured a compacted 18” x 18,” with the capacity to unfold moving parts that enabled it to complete an obstacle course complicated by the competitive positioning of other robots.

Team participants enjoy the challenges at hand, plus the opportunity to work with Eric S. Ackerman, Ph.D., assistant dean, Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences at Nova Southeastern University, engineers from the US Navy, and their coach Erik Weidenboerner, Upper School faculty. In addition, the robotics field offers thousands of dollars in scholarships and recognition from NASA and other corporations.