

Robotics team qualifies for international event

Clatsop the only college team from Oregon

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College's underwater robotics team, the only collegiate qualifier in Oregon for the finals of an global competition, needs help getting to Long Beach, California.

Lazarus Industries, the eight-member team of students competing in Marine Advanced Technology Education's remotely operated vehicle competition, recently qualified for the international finals at Long Beach City College in late June.

Their self-built robot, Lazarus, is tasked with mock missions helping the Port of Long Beach install a hyperloop for transporting cargo; repair a fountain in a water and light show; assess and cap contaminated sediment; and identify and map cargo that fell off of a cargo ship into the harbor.

Last year, the team was the only collegiate Oregon qualifier for the finals at NASA's Johnson Space Center. The team performed well last year with its submersible, Magnificus "Maggie" Praesegmen, but stumbled in marketing and product demonstrations, placing last among 31 competitors from North America, Europe and Asia.

This year, the team expanded to include CEO Haley Werst, Chief of Business Operations Jennifer Jordan, Head of Research and Development Georges Oates Larsen, Chief of Manufacturing Sam Daire and multiple engineers in hopes of a more rounded performance. The team is advised by college physics instructor Pat Keefe.

Lazarus

"This robot was built from the ashes of Maggie," Oates Larsen, a team member since 2013, said of the new robot. "Lazarus is meant to have everything we thought other teams did well" last year.



Submitted Photo

Lazarus Industries includes, from left, Head of Research and Development Georges Oates Larsen, CEO Haley Werst, Chief of Business Operations Jennifer Jordan, Chief of Manufacturing Sam Daire and team adviser Pat Keefe, a physics instructor at Clatsop Community College.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Jennifer Jordan holds a tether while the team practices with its submersible, Lazarus, at the Astoria Aquatic Center.

Named after the biblical narrative of the raising Lazarus from the dead, the robot is built around an octagonal metal frame with six thrusters to completely control navigation underwater, cameras facing every direction, buoyancy chambers on top and a fiber-optic tether running to the controls on land.

The college's upstart team operates each year on a shoestring budget compared to its opponents, cannibalizing last year's robot for the next generation. Jordan, a physics student

in her first year with the team, said it receives only \$500 in dedicated funding through the college, with the rest coming from fundraising.

The team needs to raise money for housing, transportation, motor upgrades and a manipulator to grab objects in the competition, and has formed a GoFundMe page at <http://tinyurl.com/mzoky55>. From 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, the team will hold "The Art of Robotics," a demonstration and fundraiser at the Barbey Maritime Center.

Washington state man gets 30 days for fleeing police

Original charges included claim of kidnapping

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A Washington state man who led police on a 20-minute car chase from Seaside to Astoria in April was sentenced to 30 days in jail Thursday after reaching a plea deal.

Christopher Rogich, 24, of Roy, Washington, was arrested originally on multiple charges — including kidnapping — after driving away from a traffic stop with his girlfriend and 4-year-old daughter in the car. As part of the deal reached with the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office earlier this month, Rogich pleaded no contest to coercion, attempting to elude a police officer and two counts of recklessly endangering another person.

Seaside Police responded to a disturbance call at a residence on the 1300 block of Second Avenue just after 8 p.m. on April 19. Rogich's car was spotted driving away from the area when police arrived.

When police stopped the vehicle, Rogich did not comply with officers' requests first to lower the driver's side window and then exit the car. He instructed his girlfriend to do the same. He drove away from the scene moments later.

His girlfriend allegedly called 911 and asked him to pull over during the pursuit, which led to the original kidnapping charge, Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham said. The chase ended on the Youngs Bay Bridge, where Rogich was taken into custody.

His sentence includes credit for time served in jail since the arrest and three years of probation that includes a no-contact

order with his girlfriend and daughter. Any supervised visitation must be approved by a probation officer.

Rogich repeatedly referred to his religious beliefs and thanked public officials in an apology to the court.

"I hope that I am reconciled before the court and before him," he said. "I accept this rebuke."

Rogich, who originally faced up to 22 years in prison, previously had no criminal convictions. James von Boeckmann, Rogich's court-appointed lawyer, said it is difficult to understand how a young man with no criminal history would make such a decision.

"He has very strong ideas about what is right and wrong," von Boeckmann said. "If he had followed instructions and lowered his window, we wouldn't be here today."



Christopher Rogich



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