

The Founder's Prize for
Opening New Frontiers in 2013
awarded to

Jay Hannah
David Knaack

For Innovation Excellence
as
Cofounders of OMG!Code

From the rice fields of rural Japan...



Konnichiwa!

(Not the actual award)

This year marks the third year of Omaha Maker Group's existence. Huzzah! Many changes have occurred this year: the group has continued to grow, we've moved to what I understand is a bigger, better makerspace (I am envious), participated in the Kansas City Maker Faire, achieved glory in the Power Racing series, and completed various innovative projects. Since this time last year, I've seen people upgrade the 3d printer, work on alternate sources of energy, soup up scooters to insane speeds, innovate battery saving technology, construct intelligent ping pong paddles, make quadcoptors out of every material known to man, melt things, forge things, weld, knit, solder...you get the idea.

Additionally, the three year mark means that we've been around long enough that we have members in absentia, of which I am one. Allow me to digress for a moment and say that I miss all of you. If there's one thing that rural Japan does not have (and I can wholeheartedly confirm this) it is a team of innovators such as yourselves. However, I must say that I continue to enjoy speculating online with all of you and that even seeing things from the outside in, it's a club worth being part of. I'm sure Patrick agrees. Patrick? He's out there somewhere nodding his head.

Isn't this supposed to be an award? Yes! Yes it is. To the point, this is an award for the most innovative project or development that has happened at OMG this year. So, here it is. There have been many great innovations this year, but I think it would be most appropriate to recognize one of the more recent developments that has happened to our community. Jay and Dave have done something for OMG that I believe has the potential to make it much stronger and more diverse: they've brought in the computer nerds. ☺

OMG!Code represents a sea change. In the beginning, OMG was an idea for a space where anyone could explore technology, science, and art. As we've grown, I've seen the group grow in this ideal toward a very hands on modality, and its been fun to be a part of it. However, we'd always hoped

to have people who could feel comfortable expressing themselves in our space through programming, CAD, knitting, traditional art, or what have you. OMG!Code represents a long hoped for fusion of the creative process across multiple disciplines, and that is a worthy innovation indeed.

OMG exists as a hub for all who pursue creative hobbies. I hope you'll join me in applauding the creators of OMG!Code for having the vision to join the spheres of computer programming with the physical making environment. The potential for what can happen here is profound, and I look forward to seeing it. Thanks to you both for bringing more of Omaha's finest minds together to do good (or possibly destructive) things.

One request: When you make a robot that has welding torches for arms, can you mount a telepresence webcam on top?

Congratulations Jay and Dave!