Brandeis Printathon!
Anne Rookey posted on Mar 09, 2015

Brandeis hosted Printathon 2015 March 7-8, 2015 with five teams competing: two from Brandeis, one from Columbia, one from UConn, and one from Waltham High School. Check out Ian Roy’s Facebook post about the event, the article in the Justice, and the article in Brandeis Now. There’s also some behind the scenes video of the late night action at the Printathon.

The runner up team was Waltham High, who under the leadership of local maker guru Gabe Selzer, created an ingenious (highschooler inspired and designed) way to turn any discarded motor into a water wheel that generates electricity. They demonstrated a functional prototype that generated energy! The won 5 spools of deltamaker filament valued at $200. The 2nd place team was Columbia University, with a design for a braille phone case that allowed for bluetooth text input. They demonstrated a functional prototype bluetooth arduino braille keyboard that they build for under $50, but didn’t have quite enough time to assemble it into a solid phone case. Team Leader Jason Powell commented that they could have a completed prototype if they had until the end of the day. They planned to release the designs publicly on a site like thingiverse.com for those who could benefit from it.

1st place went to UConn’s 3D Printing Club, who absolutely blew us away with a design for a prosthetic leg that attached to a bicycle peddle, allowing a person missing a leg to have greater control over their daily mobility. The design was incredible, and although not fitted to an individual, the concept was sound and functional.

Special shout out to Brandeis student Jacob Regenstein who happened upon us in the library at 3pm on Saturday, and was inspired by a 3d printed quad copter to design his own wingfoil triplane. With no prior knowledge of 3d printing he signed a waver and joined the competition, and then designed and created a functional fixed wing model sale aircraft out of the motors and flight controller from a $50 toy quad copter by 4pm Sunday.