Poly students collaborate with NASA on project

Tristan Aird
MUSTANG DAILY

A project that began more than a year ago culminated over winter break when NASA launched a rocket into space carrying equipment built by four Cal Poly aerospace engineering students.

Roland Coelho, Lori Brooks, Jonathan Brown and Wenshel Lan helped design the P-Pod CubeSat orbital delivery system, which was launched on a U.S. Air Force Minotaur rocket from Wallops Mid-Atlantic Flight Facility near Chincoteague, Va., on Dec. 16. The rocket will help researchers better understand the impact of space flight on microscopic life and biological mechanisms.

"It gave us a good taste of what the industry is like," Brown said. "NASA built the satellite and we developed the deployer. We kind of acted as an interface between the launch vehicle and the satellite."

Coelho, Brooks, Brown and Lan teamed with NASA Ames Research Center, the Center for Robotic Exploration and Space Technologies and students from both Stanford and Santa Clara universities on GeneSat-1, a 10-pound satellite which Coelho said carried E. coli for researchers to study.

According to the project's latest Mission Status Report on Jan. 3, the temperature of the bacteria is 77 degrees and has a humidity of 92.063 percent.

"It was a complete success," Coelho said of the launch. "Everything went according to plan. Once GeneSat-1 was ejected from the P-Pod, we were able to talk to the satellite and NASA was able to run experiments on the bacteria and they got useful data."

Although the experiment stage of the project is over, the satellite itself can continue to function for roughly three months.

"Our integrated communication allows the entire campus to communicate with prospective students, said James Marragiglia, assistant vice president for admission recruitment and financial aid.

"Our goal here is to build relationships with our different constituencies by linking the campus community to them long before they begin an application process," Marragiglia said. "I think part of it is our ability to build relationships with students later on in the ninth or 10th grade. Here, our dean and our department chairs send our prospective students e-mail messages."

CSU, Cal Poly online applications shatter previous records

Brittany Ridley
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly received a record 34,173 applications for the 2007-08 school year, an 11 percent increase from 2006. This is the 13th year in a row that Cal Poly has had a record number of applicants.

Since 1993, Cal Poly's application pool has tripled, and has increased 60 percent since 2000.

Much of this increase is due to the faculty's commitment of building relationships with prospective students, said James Marragiglia, assistant vice president for admission recruitment and financial aid.

"Our goal here is to build relationships with our different constituencies by linking the campus community to them long before they begin an application process," Marragiglia said. "I think part of it is our ability to build relationships with students later on in the ninth or 10th grade. Here, our dean and our department chairs send our prospective students e-mail messages."

"Our integrated communication allows the entire campus to communicate with prospective students," Marragiglia said. "We typically have almost a 50 percent response rate."

States step up to fund Amtrak service, but want federal match

Saras Karush
EQUIDISTRIBUTED NEWS

The Pacific Surf Line, running from San Luis Obispo, Calif., down the coast to San Diego, is Amtrak's second-most popular route, with nearly 2.7 million passengers last year.

But one thing sets it apart from most other trains run by the federally funded passenger railroad: It's paid for by the state of California.

California is among 14 states that fund corridor service that Amtrak wouldn't otherwise provide. On Tuesday, Sens. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., and Trent Lott, R-Miss., are expected to announce the introduction of legislation that would, among other things, encourage more state investment in Amtrak by making federal matching funds available.

The sweeping bill — similar to one that passed in the Senate 93 to 6 last year but was never voted on in the House — calls for $12 billion in federal funding for the next six years. Many Amtrak supporters believe it has a better chance this year with Democrats in control of Congress.
Local briefs

SAN LUIS OBISPO — A 36-year-old resident of Oceano­dale, Calif., was assaulted on Garden Street after getting kicked out of a bar just after midnight on Monday, police reported.

Authorities said the man, Joseph Kenney, was escorted out of a bar by bouncers after creating a disturbance and was confronted by a college-aged, white male not too long after. Kenney was reported­edly hit in the face and fell to the ground, hitting the back of his head on the pavement. The San Luis Obispo Police Department is currently looking for the suspect, described to be tall with shoulder­length dark hair.

Where SLOPD officers found Kenney, he was barely able to speak and taken by ambulance to the Sierra Vista Hospital, where he was treated in the Intensive Care Unit for a concussion and possible skull fracture, authorities said.

CAL POLY, SAN LUIS OBISPO — "Invisible Children," a documentary about the youth of Africa, will make an appearance at Cal Poly and San Luis Obispo.

Made by three young men from Southern California in 2003, "Invisible Children" is described on its Web site, www.invisiblechildren.com, as "funny, and heart-breaking, quick, and informative — all in the very same breath."

Catch it at the following showings:

- The Nautical Bean, 11560 Los Osos Valley Rd., on Jan. 15 at 6 p.m.
- The Business Silo, Building 2, on Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Jan. 18 at 8 p.m.
- The Palm Theatre, 817 Palm St., on Jan. 20 at 10 a.m.

Compiled by the Mustang Daily staff

Applicants

continued from page 1

80,000 prospective students in our database." The California State University system has also seen a large increase in applications for fall 2007.

This year, the CSU system received approximately 465,742 online applications, which resulted in a record 6 percent increase.

Paul Browning, spokesman for the CSU system, said, "they work to provide additional outreach to inform parents and students about the CSU application process."

"We put together a poster called How to get to col­lege," and we put it all over the place. This poster outlines what you need to do to be eligible for CSU or to go to a CSU campus," Browning said. "We also have an event called Super Star Sunday, where we go to African-American churches and talk about what CSU offers."

Browning recommends prospective students use the online resource, CSUMentor at www.CSUMentor.edu.

"It tells you everything you need to know," Browning said. "It goes beyond the application process and works as a counselor in a way."

The CSU system also works with the Parent Institute for Quality Education to provide parents with classes on college education in California, Browning said.

"We do a lot of things like that to try and get people more interested in going to college," Browning said. "We welcome more students all the time. We want to bring our enrollment up. More money comes to us when we have more students. We always try to increase enrollment at our campuses."

Even with the increase in applications, Marwig said Cal Poly will have the space to accept more students in fall 2007 then they had this year. He said they will continue to accept exceptional students.

"I think students applying to CSU and students applying to Cal Poly are very different," Marwig said. "It is a totally different type of environment then it is to other CSU campuses. It is a totally different type of student applying here. Being admitted to Cal Poly is definitely a privilege."

Amtrak

continued from page 1

But one aspect of the bill is rela­tively uncontroversial. The idea of matching funds for state investment in Amtrak is one that both support­ers and critics of the railroad have embraced. The political climate like California believe is long over­due.

As for Amtrak itself, "states are our future," President Alex Kimmant told The Associated Press last week. He said a matching program for cap­i tal investments, along with making Amtrak "more user-friendly" for states, is essential if Amtrak is to cap­i talize on growing demand for inter­city rail.

Even without such matching funds, states have been stepping up.

The biggest player, California, cur­rently contributes $73 million for the Pacific Surfliner and two other trains it runs jointly with Amtrak.

Illinois last year doubled its annual subsidy to Amtrak to $24 million. The increase followed several years of double-digit growth in the num­ber of riders on routes connecting Chicago with St. Louis, Carbondale, Ill., and Quincy, Ill., and allowed Amtrak to offer much more frequent service.

Other states that subsidize Amtrak service are Maine, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.

Outside of Amtrak's busiest route — the northeast corridor from Boston to Washington — the rail corridors are the biggest success sto­ries. They provide a stark­contrast to Amtrak's long-distance trains to which many critics believe should be eliminated because they are costly and attract comparatively few riders.

State involvement is healthy, "as opposed to having our trains totally planned by a centralized, monopolis­tic, Washington, D.C., organization," said Joseph Vranich, a former Amtrak spokesman who is now one of its most vocal critics.

But states can only do so much without the availability of matching funds for capital improvements, said Jason Tait, director of public and intermodal transportation for the Illinois Department of Transportation.

"Illinois can only do so much without the availability of matching funds for capital improvements," Tait said.

The Legislature-Lott legislation would allow states to fund capital rail projects with up to 80 percent feder­al funds. States would continue to pay operating costs, but their arrangements with Amtrak would become more standardized. Currently, each state operates under separate negotiated agreements.

If the federal government wants to get out of the operating business, it seems to me a reasonable way to do it," Tait said.

Kempston and Tait said any legis­lation that is passed should take into account past investments by states, so that those that did step up to fund Amtrak in the past are not penalized.

They said one way to do that would be to provide them with a more gen­erous match in the beginning.

CubeSat

continued from page 1

months, Coelho said.

"NASA scientists now can go ahead and characterize their satellite­ like and understand it better so they can build another satellite and take care of all the bugs," Coelho said.

Coelho hopes the success of the project will lead to continued col­ laborative efforts between Cal Poly and NASA.

"We definitely want to follow up and work on other projects with NASA and do other missions with them too," he said. "This is not a one-time deal. We seek to actively work with NASA in the future."

Mustandaily.net

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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.
THE BIZARRE

Man receives postcard from 1949 in mail

CHARLESTON, S.C. — A retired police chief who made a career out of solving crimes is puzzled by his latest case. The bizarre recent show up in his mailbox.

Postcard of an old water wheel from white envelope containing a faded ziled by his latest case, a postcard career out of solving crimes is puz­

retired police chief who made a everyone. Margie.

decided to investigate.

is very hot up here. I thought this picture would cool you off by look­

28, 1949.

The card arrived in an envelope that was postmarked in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Dec. 9. The return address is an e-mail account held by some­

Hethington, who spent more than 30 years in law enforcement, said. "I' d like to know who it was and where it' s been all this time." Hethington said.

Hethington said a plain envelope containing a faded picture would cool you off by look­

in it to me, but why didn't they put a destination. But all of the information he dis­

ended up at his home in West Asheville, several miles from its original destination.

The card arrived in an envelope that was postmarked in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Dec. 9. The return address is an e-mail account held by some­

Hethington has e-mailed the account several times but hasn't received a reply. "Someone paid 39 cents to send it to me, but why didn't they put a note in there?" Hethington said. "I'd just love to know who it was and where it's been all this time!"

Got something to say?

Send a letter to the editor!

www.mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

State

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Three nights of freezing temperatures have destroyed up to three-quarters of California's $1 billion citrus crop, according to an estimate issued Monday as forecasters warned the weather could continue. Other crops, including avo­

cados and strawberries, also have suffered damage in the cold snap, agricultural officials said.

BEVERLY HILLS (AP) — Former "American Idol" finalist Jennifer Hudson won the supporting-actress Golden Globe on Monday for her movie debut as a powerhouse

DREAMGIRLS," boosting her chances for the same prize at the Academy Awards.

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www.calpolycorporation.org/express
Heavy metal rocks the ‘Citay’ of SLO

Sunday night marked the second local show I’ve been to this year, and already the bar has been set very high. The F—ing Champs and Citay played along with Freedom at the Steynberg Gallery. Just like Indian Jewelry, the concert drew a good turnout, as well as increased focus on drums. Citay followed and pretty much stole the show, not that the Champs weren’t also rather amazing. For the record, Citay acts primarily as the project of Bay Area musician Ezra Feinberg. However, in concert, the eight-piece band explores the territory Feinberg records on albums. Two guitarists, a bassist, a drummer, two xylophone players, and a flutist back Feinberg with an assortment of keyboards and tambourines thrown in as well.

Seeing large bands work so well impresses me to no end. The closest feeling I can put it too is when I saw the New Pornographers in concert.

A fourth wall can the room slightly sealing in even more sound for the front two rows and pushing strands of load melody even farther into your ears. Three-piece metal band the Champs followed. While the Champs didn’t exceed expectations as much as Citay, they still fully delivered. We definitely got some loud wonderful metal pounded into our ears inside of a small venue that left my hearing at a loss. Let’s face it, when it’s good, you can definitely do without the earplugs. Of course, with the Champs audience being primarily college rock kiddies and musical elitists, it didn’t feel like a metal show nor did the band look like a metal band. But, they did their best to remind us by engaging in metal shenanigans like touching instruments over their drummer in a way that seemed wholehearted.

As I said, it’s the second show of the year, and they have already been topping what I saw last year. So, my first show this year that I booked is within a month’s time and I’m honestly hoping that They Shoot Horses, Don’t They? can keep up the rhythm and momentum that has been set up in San Luis Obispo. Show tip: Port O’Brien will be playing with the Finches at the Steynberg Gallery Jan. 20 at 8 p.m. If you missed my Port O’Brien review last quarter, let me pass this on to you: Port O’Brien is one of the most promising bands the area has to offer. I’m sure if anyone is going to make it, it’s them. The song “I Woke Up Today” delineates with folk, chant-along glory and it is seriously worth showing up for alone.

As an additional reminder, KCPR is still accepting applications for new DJs. An informational meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Graphic Arts building, room 201. Applications are due on Friday.
Timberlake movie a ‘Dog’

Cassie Gaeto
MUSTANG DAILY

Five men in wifebeaters sit around a comfortable, smoke-filled living room passing a bong, watching three girls in jean skirts dance to rap, and dropping hard-litting lines like “I’m so high, I can’t even see right now.” That basically sums up the extent of street behavior captured in director Nick Cassavetes latest movie “Alpha Dog.” More effort was placed into creating seemingly casual environments for Justin Timberlake to appear shrewder than into any of the dialogue or character relationships.

The story is based on the real-life crimes of Jesse James Hollywood, played by Emile Hirsch under the name Johnny Truelove, who currently awaits trial for the alleged kidnap and murder of Nicholas Markowitz. After a series of delayed release dates and controversy over legal situations, the film opened Friday.

“Alpha Dog” tracks a three-day period in which Truelove and his loyal gang, including Timberlake, who plays Frankie Ballenbacher, kidnap the younger brother of a drug-user financially indebted to Truelove. (But Timberlake could have avoided the situation altogether had he simply stayed put in the Mickey Mouse Club.)

Hiding out in Palm Springs, the 15-year-old hostage isn’t subjected to the usual captive restraints as he drinks, parties and loses his virginity in a threesome, all under the supervision of his abductors. The desert retreat becomes increasingly chaotic without consequences. In fear of serving 25 years to life for their roles in the abduction, all rationale goes out the window as they consider how to get rid of the evidence. Perhaps it is exactly this type of rowdy behavior that led to the split of Timberlake and girlfriend Cameron Diaz?

After making some tough decisions, Truelove abandons his gang with the mess and leaves the country. A fugitive in South America, the real-life Hollywood made history by becoming the youngest person to ever appear on the FBI’s most wanted list at age 19. Hollywood’s lawyer successfully postponed the movie release date from spring 2006 because of how the movie negatively depicts his recently apprehended client.

The cast is a mix of veterans, like Bruce Willis and Sharon Stone, non-actors like Timberlake, and total unknowns. The movie also generated additional hype as everyone wanted to see how pop star Timberlake will perform in the film, and to be honest I think we all knew how this one would turn out after one glimpse at a preview. Call me crazy, but I’m not sure how “NSYNC translates to street credibility. Nothing turns a boy band member hardcore quite like years of ripping off Janet Jackson’s clothes and dancing in computerized boxes to “Rock Your Body.”

All in all, Timberlake’s acting is believable about 45, maybe 50 percent of the time but there are definitively moments, especially in a pool scene, when I was sure his magic marker tattoos were going to wash off and “SexyBack” was going to start playing in the background.

If all you are looking for is some serious entertainment accomplishments done by Timberlake, jump on your computer and view his latest Saturday Night Live skit “Dick in a Box” on Youtube.com.

Unfortunately, the hodgepodge continues throughout the movie as scenes jump from overdone, “hardcore” parties with literally no significance to the dark, twisted ending.

To those thinking of seeing it, there are far better ways to pass the time. The only compelling aspect of the film is the true story it depicts, which can be read about online for free.

Bad boy Frankie Ballenbacher (Justin Timberlake) and fellow gang member Elvis Schmidt (Shawn Hatosy) discuss what they should do with their underage hostage in the new crime thriller “Alpha Dog.” The movie is based on the controversial life of Jesse James Hollywood.
HUMOR COLUMN

How to start calling shotgun like a pro

Well, everyone has their way to do it. Some people are closer to shotguns like others, so in the end really, only some people prevail. Or course, I’m talking about the shotgun. Now, held on college boy and college girl, because I’m not talking about shortening a beer, but rather the ever so important “shotgun” will get to the rights person to front passenger seat in the car. The rules of shotgun are always debated though, so if someone grew up with their own rules on how this process of car seating arrangements must take place. So, as I do every week, I am going to guide your life in the right direction with proper shotgun rules. So before we get into the rules, let’s first get some sort of history about this rule. As you, my loyal reader, know, my research is extensive for these articles. Basically, Wikipedia? Said the word “shotgun.” In the article, it said that, “Shotguns are normally used to hunt wildlife in the thick brush and brine of the South-Eastern and upper Midwest United States, where, due to the dense cover, ranges tend to be very close — 25 meters or less.” This, of course, has nothing to do with life, yet, it was said that since you go to my guides to life each week for education, putting in this useful bit of knowledge will only help your understanding of the world. Well, since Wikipedia didn’t directly have the answer of the history of the shotguns, I’ll use my extensive knowledge to tell you what it means.

1. Types: By “extensive,” I meant “little to none.”
2. If you can “Goolge” something you should be able to “Wikipedia” something as well.
3. Read Note No. 1.
4. Wow, was that politically incorrect?

Sorry, I’ll use the term “little people” instead of “midget.”

Once upon a time, there was a guy by the name of Brian Eller. He was a huge guy, weighing in at 240 lbs. He didn’t have any criminal record, but he was the son to be shot gun as he possessed the car. Brian and his friend, Kevin Bascom, had this idea to help the homeless for his sake and not theirs. The second rule is that the car must be in attendance. This is one form of a time frame rule than anything else. With this rule, that one jerk of a friend who always call shotgun the instant the group is ready to go can’t do this anymore. With this rule, of course tell people have the advantage of this. This is a fine as is to see as much and as many as possible, because there are many people are of a certain age, who don’t have the time to get ready most likely have others that need as much time as possible to make themselves look as good as possible. Now, if none of these categories, then it is okay. Anyway, this would crush their already depressing life and has been continuing the spiral of failures in their life. Hard! Maybe, but sometimes the truth hurts.

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Top 10

1. 9.1993 Kansas City Chiefs (11-5)
2. 9.1991 Detroit Lions (12-4)
3. 2007 Detroit Lions (12-4)
4. 1983 New England Patriots (14-0)
5. 1989 Buffalo Bills (10-6)
6. 1990 New York Giants (11-5)
7. 1993 Pittsburgh Steelers (13-3)
8. 2002 St. Louis Rams (13-3)
9. 2004 Seattle Seahawks (13-3)
10. 1995 Miami Dolphins (12-4)

went to the Pro Bowl with a 5.6-yards-per-carrier average.

As malign as he was, quarterback

Jay Schroeder had a touch-

down-interception ratio of 19-9 and

guided an offense that had major

big-play capability — the

Raiders led the NFL with an average of 8.9

yards per pass attempt and both

starting wideouts averaged more than

16 yards per carry.

Howie Long was the emotional

core of the league's fourth-ranked

defense, which rolled up 48

sacks.

But Jackson suffered a season-

ing hip injury in the divisional

round, and the Raiders' six-game

winning streak was emphatically

stopped when they ran into a buzz

in the AFC title game. That's when the Bills, using what was then

a revolutionary no-huddle offense,

hammered the Silver and Black

in the most lopsided loss of any

Super Bowl appearance to

9. 1991 Detroit Lions (12-4)

The only legitimate Super Bowl

contender of Barry Sanders' career.

One of six Pro Bowlers, Sanders

zipped and zagged his way to 1,548

yards and 16 touchdow


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Poly swimming teams edge UC Santa Cruz at home

Cal Poly senior swimmer Jeff Torbeck (above) did not place in the 200 freestyle but finished the event in 1 minute, 47.16 seconds. Cal Poly freshman Don Sales won the 200-yard butterfly (2:01.1) and 200-yard backstroke (2:01.2) and 200-yard freestyle relay (1:44.04).

The Mustangs face UC Davis at Pacific at noon Saturday.

Cal Poly concludes its season at the Big West Conference Finals in Long Beach from Feb. 21-24.

Tristan Aird

Hornets buzz into Mott Gym tonight

Cal Poly can get to the .500 mark with a nonconference win over Sacramento State.

Tristan Aird

Don't look now, but if the Cal Poly men's basketball team wins tonight, it will have reached the .500 mark late in the season for the first time since 1999-00.

The Surge is Cal Poly's final tune-up before playing its next four games — three of which it will play on the road, where the Mustangs are 3-6.

"They're talented, they've had a couple good wins," Cal Poly assistant coach Bob Lowe said of Sacramento State. "They're quick, they're athletic. If I were to compare them to somebody in conference, it'll probably be someone like Fullerton or Long Beach State. They try to beat you to the dribble."

Lowe spoke Monday at a weekly press conference in head coach Kevin Bradley's absence.

The Hornets (7-13) were in Big West Conference with Cal Poly at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym. The game is Cal Poly's final tune-up before playing its next four games — three of which it will play on the road, where the Mustangs are 3-6.

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Lowe spoke Monday at a weekly press conference in head coach Kevin Bradley's absence.

The Hornets (7-13, 2-4 Big Sky Conference) picked up perhaps their best win of the season against a Big West team when they edged visiting Pacific 74-72 in overtime Dec. 6.

Sacramento State, which is 2-9 on the season, has been outscored by an average of 4.4 points per game, but plus-5.6 in the turnovers per game column.

As for Cal Poly, the Mustangs will try to improve to 7-1 at home.

"We feel good about where we're at right now," Lowe said. "The thing that we really worked on the last couple weeks has been taking care of the ball offensively and making sure we get good shots. I think we've worked hard on that."

The Mustangs are benefiting from the play of four sophomores in their rotations — starting point guard Jordan Thorn (7.1 points per game, 3.1 assists per game), starting center Timo Staf (7.9 ppg, 5.5 rebounds per game, 1.9 blocks per game), backup point guard Chass Thomas (5.6 ppg) and reserve combo guard Rick Higgins, who is shooting .464 from the 3-point range.

"I think they've done a good job," Lowe said of the youthful players. "All those guys played a lot as freshmen so we were counting on them going into the season. I think they've continued to mature as players and we hope they'll continue to."