

## Extra Credit

### CAL POLY

• According to U.S. Department of Education data, **Cal Poly is among the "Top 100"** colleges and universities cited in *Black Issues in Higher Education* that conferred the most bachelor's degrees on minority students in 2001-2002. In rankings for awarding bachelor's degrees in specific disciplines, Cal Poly was sixth in engineering.

• The **Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation** awarded the **Cal Poly Foundation** and Kinesiology Professor **Kevin Taylor** a **\$10,780 Quality of Life Grant** to develop a "solo quad-conversion" project. As part of Cal Poly's Adapted Paddling Program, Taylor and Mechanical Engineering Professor **Frank Owen** and their students will modify a canoe and kayak for individuals with quadriplegia to use "sip and puff" controls.

• At the inaugural Cal Poly Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards ceremony, Congresswoman Lois Capps presented a **Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition** to the **Orfalea College of Business** for its "outstanding and invaluable service to the community" in creating the awards. Students in a "Profiles in Entrepreneurship" course taught by Business Professor William Pendergast researched local companies and organized the awards for 12 Central Coast entrepreneurs.

• A **Cal Poly elementary schools art education outreach** program has received national recognition and will become a partner in a three-year program to assess the influence of the arts on the academic achievement of 818 students from third through fifth grade.

## Alumnus "Hoot" Gibson Named to Astronaut Hall of Fame

Cal Poly alum Robert "Hoot" Gibson (AERO '69) was recently named to the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame and U.S. Space Camp Training Center is operated by the Mercury Seven Foundation and the U.S. Space Camp Foundation. It opened in 1990, and features personal mementos and equipment donated by the Mercury and Gemini astronauts. The Astronaut Hall of Fame showcases each of the seven Mercury astronauts and 13 Gemini astronauts, features an honor roll of all astronauts who have flown missions, and devotes a section to flights that followed the Mercury and Gemini missions.

Gibson was named to the Hall of Fame in a June 21 ceremony along with Daniel Brandenstein, Story Musgrave and Sally Ride (the first American woman in space).

Earlier this year, Gibson delivered the keynote address at the annual CSU Alumni Legislative Day

in Sacramento. He was selected to speak in recognition of his distinguished career, national service and commitment to higher education.

His aerospace engineering education at Cal Poly enabled him to later design and build a new airplane which set a world altitude record. During the Vietnam conflict he flew Navy fighter jets and provided air cover for the evacuation of Saigon.

His first NASA flight was in 1984 on the 10th space shuttle launch. His final mission came in 1995, when he served as commander at the first docking with the Russian space station Mir.

"There I was, a former American fighter pilot, opening the hatch and offering my hand to a former Russian MiG pilot," said Gibson. "It has been suggested that this gesture of cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union marked the end of the Cold War.

"So," he smiled, "I tell people that it was my Cal Poly education that prepared me to go out and help end the Cold War."



Gibson (far left) and crew

Photo courtesy NASA