

College of Engineering Alums Get Private Look at Predator

Last March, 120 alumni from the College of Engineering enjoyed a special treat: a reception and private tour of General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc.'s Predator facility in Rancho Bernardo, Calif.

"We had attendees from as far away as Ventura and everyone was enthusiastic," said Conrad Young (ME '66), one of the principal organizers of the event. "We not only got a firsthand look at some amazing aircraft, but we also had the opportunity to see a very sophisticated and totally integrated engineering production system that uses a whole spectrum of disciplines. General Atomics was very gracious – you could tell the pride they have in their work."

General Atomics, which hosted the event, designs and produces unmanned aircraft systems, including the successful Predator, currently providing tactical and strategic intelligence to operational commanders worldwide. Among the company's newest projects are the larger Predator B and the high-altitude Altair aircraft.



The Predator aircraft

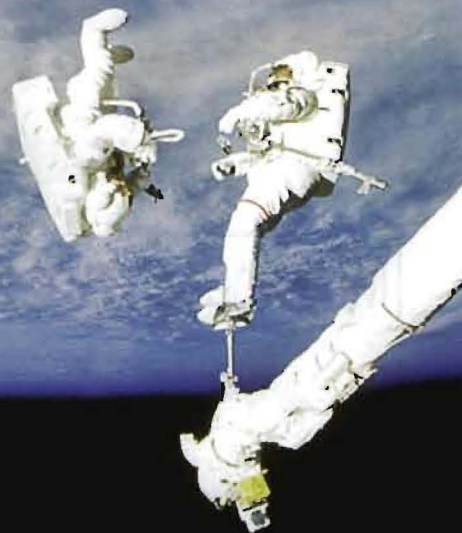
Photo courtesy General Atomics

"We enjoyed sharing the practical application of the field with the Cal Poly group," said Dave Alexander, the company's vice president for engineering. "And as a highly tech-driven enterprise, we like to keep in touch with hands-on schools. In fact, we always try to hire out of Cal Poly. In addition to the half dozen grads already working here, we just picked

up another six at the most recent Career Day."

Along with his corps of Cal Poly employees, Alexander also has a personal connection to the university: his son, Darren, is a third-year electrical engineering student and his daughter, Michelle, is an incoming freshman in materials engineering.

WE SEEM TO HAVE LOST TOUCH with some of our alumni, so we've launched a campaign to find them. As time passes and alumni move, get married, and change names or jobs, we sometimes lose track of them. We want to reel them back in, and we need your help. A complete list of lost alumni, arranged chronologically, then alphabetically by major, appears on our Web page. Please log on to <http://lostalumni.calpoly.edu> and take a moment to look over the list. If you see a name you recognize, and you know how we can get back in touch with that person, please fill out and submit the online Lost Alumni Information form, or ask the alum to do so. We'd search the universe to find all our alumni, but we hope, with your help, that won't be necessary. Thanks for helping us stay connected.



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