Fresno State Students work with NASA

Fresno State students working with NASA. Students conducted experiments at zero gravity. Chemistry student Riann Egusquiza and other students conducts experiments in NASA’s “Weightless Wonder” aircraft.

By Ezra Romero
The Collegian

In July, a team of eight Fresno State students went to NASA to conduct an experiment in its Grant Us Space Program.

“We were the only team there doing work at zero gravity,” said Majhid Umar, a mechanical engineering major at Fresno State said.

The team tested the formation of a substance called calcium oxalate in order to see how it reacts in a microgravity environment on NASA’s “Weightless Wonder” aircraft. Calcium oxalate is salt crystals found in plants and is also the major component of kidney stones.

The Reduced Gravity Education Flight Program gives undergraduate students the chance to offer ideas to NASA. The teams also build and fly in a reduced gravity experiment.

The team was chosen from more than 20 groups nationwide after they reapplied. NASA rejected their first proposal but after hours of researching, building the experiment and then reapplying they were selected.

“Being a NASA employee for two weeks, you know, that just hits home. It’s just pretty cool,” said Jordan Fontanel, chemistry major at Fresno State.

The craft produced weightlessness for 18 to 20 seconds at a time in a series of 30 parabolas, Umar said.

“The best part of the trip was being weightless. It is indescribable and such a natural feeling,” said Jordan Fontanel, chemistry major at Fresno State. “It was the best decision I have ever made.”

The trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the students and they are still deciding if they will apply for next year’s simulation, Joy Goto said.

“It was the best part of the trip, being weightless. It is indescribable and such a natural feeling.”

Gonzalo Leyva, Team Fresno State

Students look to revitalize neighborhoods

Crime in neighborhoods around campus has sparked the development of a coalition to clean up and improve neighborhoods in the vicinity.

Revitalization efforts have risen before, but this year Fresno State students, Fresno City Council member Larry Westerland, and both Fresno and University Police have joined the cause.

Student participation began through Facebook. The social media site has become the meeting place for students who wish to improve El Dorado Park, Sierra Madre and other neighborhoods near campus.

The Facebook account that has ignited this collaboration is “Revitalize the Fresno State Community,” which has currently accumulated more than 1,000 members.

The decision to revitalize the community was brought forth due to the high demand from students who contacted Associated Students, Inc. to voice their concerns.

“Our goal is to have a coalition that is composed of a coalition that is composed of students, staff, faculty, neighbors and community members,” Fernesi said.

By Ana Mendez-Santiago
The Collegian

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“Our goal is to have a coalition that is composed of students, staff, faculty, neighbors and community members,” said ASI President Selena Farnesi.

ASI is expecting a large number of students to participate in the revitalization efforts.

Several events have been planned to help students get informed, participate and get involved in the improvement of neighborhoods such as El Dorado located west of campus and Sierra Madre area located block south of campus.

An event is almost complete for students to attend, and ASI has hired a full-time employee, Lauren Smoot, to help lead revitalization efforts. Smoot is a former Fresno State student and ASI member.

“Community involvement is huge and essential,” Smoot said.

The university has actively been pursuing work with the community,” director of student involvement at Fresno State Sally Ramage said. Students have now joined the movement.

“We have noticed and students have noticed that there is an issue in the community that needs to be addressed, that’s the issue of revitalize the area around Fresno,” Farnesi said.

The revitalization of these neighborhoods has not been novel news to University Police. This is not new, “in police work, this is called community base policing,” University Police Department Lieutenant Jim Watson said.

While Fresno Police and University Police have considered on patrolling the neighborhoods, reaching out to Fresno State and citizens to improve neighboring communities, this new effort will focus primarily on student-community involvement.

“In talking with administrators we have heard that this is an issue that gets brought up and then dropped,” said Farnesi.

“Fresno State “has all kinds of standing committees that look at all kinds of issues and make decisions for the campus,” Farnesi added.

To address inconsistency, ASI is hoping Fresno State will adopt a new committee int he regular cycle of standing committees” that will guar
Do something ridiculous

By Paul Jury

The day I threw my graduation cap into the air—and hoped it wouldn’t stick to the eye on the way down—I was filled with mixed emotion.

On the one hand, I was elated to be out of college—my life had thus far been about being gifted kids, and I was terrified of what the heck was I supposed to do now? What the heck was I supposed to wear? I didn’t know yet what my career was going to be, I thought, I should at least do something I’d never be able to afford to do again. Something ridiculous. Something that 60-year-old me could tell my grandkids about, as a partial explanation of why my student loans still weren’t paid off.

I decided that my “something ridiculous” was to borrow my parents’ beat-up blue van and drive to all 48 contiguous United States. In the most recent issue of Elle magazine, I read a brilliantly written article about a dress or a shirt or a shoe isn’t just art in a garment. To fashion insiders, it’s not just a machine, it’s a piece of fine art. It requires skill to create something beautiful that isn’t that what art’s all about? In a dress or a shirt or a shoe isn’t just art in a garment. To fashion insiders, it’s not just a machine, it’s a piece of fine art. It requires skill to create something beautiful.

I didn’t know it yet, but everything my life had thus far been a misadventure-filled, direction-finding errand. I ran into problems, strangers and had ignored (for now) my eighty grand of student debt which I’ll probably never pay back. I was filled with mixed emotion. On the one hand, I was elated to be out of college—my life had thus far been about being gifted kids, and I was terrified of what the heck was I supposed to do now? What the heck was I supposed to wear? I didn’t know yet what my career was going to be, I thought, I should at least do something I’d never be able to afford to do again. Something ridiculous. Something that 60-year-old me could tell my grandkids about, as a partial explanation of why my student loans still weren’t paid off.

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NASA: Fresno State students experience weightlessness

CONTINUED from page 1

The kidney stones can form during or after the flight, and can pose serious consequences if not treated immediately. Mentoring and going with this group of students is something that most professors don’t get to do,” Goto said.

The students that went on the trip are Mujahid Umar, the team leader, mechanical engineering from Mecca, Saudi Arabia; Jose M. Correa Jr., civil engineering from Oxford, Mich.; Datoliban Roland Coulibaly, civil engineering/mathematics from Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire; Riann Eguizquita, chemistry from Sanger; Gonzalez Leyva, electrical engineering from Newark, CA.; Jordan Ringel, chemistry from Temple City; Robert Benjamin Runyon, mechanical engineering from Madera Ranchos; and Craig W. Seber, plant science from Fresno.

The team will evaluate their findings and provide the results to NASA at a meeting in November.

For more information about the Reduced Gravity Education Flight Program visit microgravityuniversity.jsc.nasa.gov.

The Fresno State students sent to NASA described the experience as “once in a lifetime.” Seen here are seven of the eight members.

Revitalization: Students take charge of ongoing effort

CONTINUED from page 1

The Greek community will also be an active participant in the revitalization of neighboring communities.

“We plan to contribute in any way that we can. Hosting fundraisers. Providing volunteer hours is more likely how we will contribute most,” said Pi Kappa Alpha president Michael Eberhard.

Greek organizations are scheduled to clean up surrounding neighborhoods Sept. 11. Other Fresno State Students are asked to participate on Oct. 2.

“Personally, my main goal is to raise awareness and educate students on how to protect themselves and what they can do to help with the revitalization movement,” Eberhard said.
Danger of supplements can go unnoticed

By Dylan Patton
The Collegian

There may come a time when some people want to change their body image. This may include increasing their muscle mass or losing weight, and exercise can help in these changes, but some people want a shortcut; they want results immediately.

In order to achieve this, many people turn to the assistance of supplements.

One of the most popular supplements is whey protein, which is used by those looking to gain and repair muscle.

Augustine, who chose not to give his last name, is a sales associate at Vitamin World. He stated that Precision Engineered is a very popular brand that is exclusive to his company. Augustine also pointed out that low lactose and lactose-free protein are available at most health stores. Whey protein contains protein which is used to rebuild muscle.

Nate, another sales associate who also elected not to give his last name, gave some tips on using whey protein.

"The best time to use whey protein is in the morning," said Nate. He recommends 20 to 30 grams with breakfast.

He also advised that those who are using whey protein for the first time should also take multi-vitamins along with the whey protein. Another supplement that was recommended was fish oil.

Mass gainers are another popular supplement. Ashton Augustine, a registered dietician with the Fresno State University Health Center, urges students and others to be careful with these products.

"Do research, talk to a health professional," said Annett. She also stressed that students are welcome to come in to the health center and discuss any health issues or concerns free of charge.

Annett also would like to remind people that most supplements are made to work along with exercise and healthy eating. She also explained that a lot of students self medicate with supplements not realizing future medical problems that can occur.

"Nothing can replace exercise and eating healthy," said Annett.

In 2003, Hydroxycut, a popular weight loss supplement, was found to be responsible for many health risks. Ephedrine, an ingredient in the drug was found to be closely related to methamphetamine, was found to cause heart problems and damage to the nervous system.

A lot of the cases were a result of the users misusing the drug. The Food and Drug Administration found there were 10,000 instances of health issues, including two deaths related to Ephedrine.

In 2003, the FDA announced a ban on Ephedrine, and subsequently any products containing Ephedrine were pulled off store shelves.

Many products found on store shelves can be misunderstood by users and present health risks that can go ignored. It is recommended by physicians to conduct research and become educated on products before consumption.

Fresno State ranked No. 463 in Forbes top undergraduate Institutions

By Tom Pearson
The Collegian

Fresno State was one of 13 California State University campuses named in Forbes’ annual ranking of the top undergraduate institutions in the country.

Fresno State was ranked No. 463 overall which is an improvement from the previous year. The university was ranked No. 496 overall last academic year.

Fresno State has been ranked as high as No. 329, which occurred in the 2008 rankings.

The university finished as the sixth best university in the CSU system. Fresno State was ranked behind Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Cal State Long Beach, Cal Poly Pomona, and Chico State.

The university finished ahead of other institutions such as San Jose State, Cal State Northridge, Sacramento State, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State San Bernardino, San Diego State and San Francisco State.

Forbes ranked each university based off of a list of criteria they assembled. The list used to judge the universities was the quality of teaching, career prospects, graduation rates, low levels of debt for those who graduate, and competitive awards.

The rankings included only 650 universities and as the “Compiling the Forbes/CCAP rankings” methodology packet stated only universities which offered undergraduates degrees or certifications in which students needed four or more years of education to obtain. The packet also stated that only colleges The Carnegie Foundation categorized as Doctorate-granting universities, masters colleges and universities or baccalaureate colleges were included.

Only 610 schools returned from the rankings and this marked the fourth straight year that, Fresno State made Forbes rankings.
MSNBC names Sharpton host of new nightly series

LOS ANGELES _ The Rev. Al Sharpton, the renowned civil rights activist and outspoken protester, has a new role: TV host.

Sharpton has been named as the host of a new nightly MSNBC series, “PoliticsNation,” that will debut Monday. Producers say Sharpton will lead participants in a “lively and informed discussion of the top headlines, bringing viewers his take on events in his signature style.” The hourlong series will air weeknights at 6 p.m. Eastern.

Sharpton has been a consistent presence on the cable network for several years and has frequently worked as a guest host of “MSNBC Live at 6 P.M.” and “The Ed Show.” But the announcement of this new role has led to speculation among some commentators and bloggers that the gig might be a reward for his support of the merger between MSNbc parent company NBC and cable giant Comcast.

Conservative commentator Carl Horowitz of the National Legal and Policy Center said Sharpton’s association with MSNBC “is definitely a conflict of interest.”

That merger was approved by the Federal Communications Commission at the end of January after being opposed by Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., and activists who contended that NBC had a poor record in terms of putting African Americans in front of and behind the camera.

MSNBC President Phil Griffin said Sharpton’s lobbying for the merger was totally unrelated to the hosting job, and any suggestion of a possible conflict of interest was “baseless.”

“The Rev. Sharpton’s success led me to my decision to give him the hour period,” Griffin said. He described Sharpton as “a big personality and a smart guy. His life experience has prepared him for this position. He’s been on our air for 15 years. We have a history of taking guests and developing them as hosts.”

Sharpton, who was unavailable for comment, said in a statement, “I am very happy and honored to join the MSNBC team as we collectively try to get America to ‘lean forward.’ It is a natural extension of my life and work. We all learn from our pain and stand up from our stumbling and one must either learn to lean forward or fall backwards. I’m glad they have given me the opportunity to continue my forward lean.”

LOS ANGELES _ The number of women working as writers and directors on prime-time broadcast programs took a big tumble in the 2010-11 season, new study reports, part of an overall decline in women’s employment as actresses and in key creative jobs behind the camera.

Women comprised 15 percent of writers on the prime-time dramas, comedies and reality shows on ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and the CW, down from 29 percent in the 2009-10 season, according to the report from the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University. In the directing ranks, it found, 11 percent were women, compared with 16 percent the previous year.

Overall, the center said, women accounted for 41 percent of all on-air characters, down from the record-high 44 percent the year before, and comprised 25 percent of the people working as series creators, producers, executive producers, directors, writers, editors and directors of photography, a decrease of two percentage points.

The study, which the center has been doing since the 1985-86 season, is based on surveying one randomly selected episode from each network series during the season. “Statistically speaking, the randomization of the choice of episodes, across many series, should yield an accurate picture of the season’s network shows because biases or idiosyncrasies are minimized,” said Martha Lauzen, executive director of the center.

The number of female characters varied widely by network, with only the CW, at 52 percent, representing women “in accurate proportion to their representation in the U.S. population,” the report said. ABC was next with a 43 percent showing, followed by CBS at 40 percent, Fox at 39 percent and NBC at 36 percent.

In addition to the drops registered among writers and directors, employment for women was also down among program creators (18 percent) and producers (27 percent). It was unchanged for executive producers (22 percent) and up slightly among editors (20 percent) and directors of photography (4 percent), the report said.

Programs with at least one woman creator or writer featured more female characters than programs with no women creators or writers,” it said.

The number of women working in TV falls

On-air women characters drop from 43 percent to 41 percent

By Greg Braxton
McClatchy Newspapers

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Puzzle by Mike Peluso

Puzzle solution: http://collegian.csufresno.edu

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New season brings about change

By Jerry Huerta
The Collegian

It has been just more than five months since head basketball coach Rodney Terry was hired to resurrect a program that has only been to one postseason tournament in the last five years.

Since day one of inheriting the program there have been major changes to the implemented. The most notable changes have been to the roster where key cogs from last year’s team have departed from the program.

The players that have left the program for their respective reasons are Greg Smith, Tim Steed, Bracken Funk, Givon Crump, Bennie Rhodes and John Ryan. Nedeljko Golubovic was lost due to graduation.

Now, with all of these players moving on from the program, Terry has restocked his team with new names and faces to fill the holes.

“We have a class of three junior college players and one high school kid,” Terry said. “Kevin Foster is a 6-foot-7 kid who has a chance to be a really good player. Also, we have a kid named Larry McGuaghey who is coming in from Lawson State Community College. Another junior college kid who was an All-American has a chance to be a contributor for us as well. Daquan Brown is 6-foot-10 and coming in from Barstow College. We lost a lot of size from last year’s team. So he gives us a little bit of length and hopefully he can bring some things to the table skill wise. Our high school kid Julius Bilbrew from Inglewood High School is a combo guard who we hope can bring a spark in terms of ball handling and other duties out on the perimeter.”

One player who Terry didn’t address is Grant Hefeng. Hefeng is a 6-foot-8 power forward who is the first Chinese player to play college basketball without going to prep school first. Also, he competed on the Chinese National Team and is one of the top players under the age of 20. Hefeng’s addition is significant because at Texas, Terry was the main recruiter known for bringing in some of the top Canadian recruits.

Now, the former Texas assistant may have started an official destination spot for Chinese recruits.

“We’d like to think so,” Terry said. “Grant’s always dreamed of playing college basketball. He’s up through the ranks in terms of the national team over there. He’s had some opportunities to go professional over there but chose to go the college route. The country of China loves basketball so it could be a great niche for us.”

Hefeng and all the other recruits bring some new faces to the program to go along with a retooled coaching staff. The staff includes Jerry Wainwright, Michael Schwartz and Byron Jones. Terry worked under Wainwright while Wainwright was the head coach at UNC-Wilmington. He also worked with Schwartz at Texas where they were both assistants under current Longhorn head coach Rick Barnes.

Problems that Terry didn’t face at Texas were empty vet- tues night in and night out. At Texas Frank C. Erwin, Jr., Special Events Center, 84 percent of the seats were filled at the home games in the 2010-11 season. At the Save Mart Center, only 47 percent of the seats were filled every home game. The program hasn’t been consistent in the win column and the attendance has taken a hit. Terry talked about what it will take to fill up the Save Mart Center come this season.

“It’s going to be about our brand,” Terry said. “Our team competes and obviously the connection we make with the community, dutifully, they give us support because we need a great home crowd. We need all the support we can get to help make our venue one of the best in the country to play. I think standing behind the goal to help mirror this community as a hard working and hard play- ing team.”

Photos by Dalton Runberg: The Collegian

By John Ryan
The Collegian

A lot has changed since Fresno State was embar- rassed on national television by Northern Illinois in the ultraHumanitarian Bowl in December.

First, the Bulldogs lost four of five starters along the offensive line and three of four starters on the defensive line. They also were forced to replace a two-year starting defensive end. They also were forced to replace a four-year starter at center, only 47 percent of the seats were filled every home game. The program hasn’t been consistent in the win column and the attendance has taken a hit.

But there is also a new change that is leaving the ‘Dogs feeling and looking the part to match their new playing surface. Before the Bulldogs travel to Candlestick Park next Saturday to battle the San Francisco State, the Bulldogs are getting a chance to flaunt their new uniforms through a live streaming video on the athletic website.

The Bulldog are sporting their brand-new uniforms through a live streaming video on the athletic website.

The California Bears, they had the opportunity to flaunt their brand-new uniforms. The new look was unveiled in front of the media on Aug. 15, but the fans could see it through a live streaming video on the athletic website.

Fans caught a glimpse of the new away uniforms, which are white with red letters and white pants, sporting a new number font and player last names on the back. On the sides of the jerseys there are new red stripes. The home jerseys mirror the away look, but are traditional red with white letters and blue stripes on the sides. The pants are also all red. The helmet remained the same, including the “V” logo on the back, with the exception of a blue stripe addition.

Coach Pat Hall talked about a couple new features and ben- efits the uniforms present.

“I thought the design came out really well,” Hill said during the unveiling session. “The No. 1 thing I was concerned about was to get the lighter weight jersey and pants that breathe. If you notice the pants have the hip and knee panels sewn right into them and are still a lighter weight. In the past, we weren’t able to keep up with the new stuff that was coming out. We’ve had a great relationship with our vendor for 15 years and they gave it to us for a price that we were afforded within our budget. It was real- ly good to be able to see the kids get something new.”

The uniforms will also come with matching cleats, socks and gloves. At least one key senior play- er liked the fact that the new uniforms would come with all these matching things.

“Everything communicates everything really well,” line- backer Kyle Knox, who was chosen as one of the players to model their new uniforms, said. “The helmet with the stripe and the V in the back is a nice little touch for the stripes on the sides of the jerseys and the pants. To go along with the cleats, they also complement our socks and our gloves that we’re going to have. It’s just great to have a whole new type of uniform to compete in.”

Knox was one of the four players chosen to model the new uniforms. The other three were new quarterback Derek Carr, defensive tackle Logan Harrell and running back Robbie Rouse.

Sophomore Derron Smith wasn’t one of the players chosen to show off the new uniforms, but he talked about what all these changes could mean going into this year.

“A lot more excitement,” Smith said. “Just getting new things going into a new sea- son. Trying to go from good to great. That’s our saying. That’s what coach Hill has us thinking. It’s just getting our feet in the door and just going into a new season.”

The Bulldog are sporting their brand-new uniforms through a live streaming video on the athletic website.

By Jerry Huerta
The Collegian

The soccer team plays its first home game of the season this Friday at 7 p.m. at Bulldog Stadium.

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