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## NPS Treats Monterey High School Students to a Day of Science

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## NPS Treats Monterey High School Students to a Day of Science

Thursday, November 09, 2006

Story by *MCCS (AW/SW) Jacqueline Kiel*

In a return to what used to be a regular event, Naval Postgraduate School hosted approximately 50 high school science students to a day of science and technology.

The students, juniors from Monterey High School (MHS), are in a special academy within the school called the Monterey Academy of Oceanographic Sciences (MAOS). They were treated to several demonstrations that deal with physics, oceanography, meteorology, and robotics and simulation.

After a brief welcome the students were treated to an acoustics demonstration by Andres Larraza and Bruce Denardo and between the noisemakers that showed waves of fire and that made each other sing, students were literally blown away.

While many of the students were familiar with NPS, most of them have not had the opportunity to visit the campus. "I thought it was really interesting," said student Chris. "It's really cool, because we can't usually come here. I thought it was totally worth it."

Michael Hare, MHS history teacher and one of the event organizers said of the day, "We had a wonderful time. It was all excellent." He graded it as an A+.

Cmdr. Rebecca Stone, a permanent military professor for the Oceanography and Meteorology department, was the primary organizer of the event here at NPS.

Stone set up the schedule to include several highly visual and quite fascinating events that were designed to enthrall the visitors. It was Stone's intention to dazzle the students. "I would want them to take away that there is something fun for them to do," she explained. "There is something in math or science that not only will interest them, but they can do and they can do it well, and they can have the same kind of weird enthusiasm that the scientists that they met today have for their subjects."

In some cases, the demonstrations really struck a cord. "The acoustic demonstration was totally awesome," said Chris. "I'm really into music, and it's not just what you hear. It's also waves in the ocean. I had never really thought about it that way."

At the end of the day, Stone was happy in its success. "I think that is was great," she said. "I think that the kids were great. I hope that some of them have some ideas for things they want to do in science. Not just internships, but things that they may want to do in college or in their careers. I'm excited that some of them want to bring the nitrogen canon over to their school."

Student Lexie was also impressed with the presentations. "I thought it was really interesting, because I've been in a Navy family and both my parents have worked here," she explained. "I'm pretty familiar with the school, but I never got to see the research projects that are going on."

Electronics technician Sam Barone and model maker George Jaksha were a great hit during the lunch break when they set off their nitrogen cannon without a warning. Shrieks and shouts came from the students. The cannon, fueled with liquid nitrogen, is quite loud when it is set off in a metal can. They set



off three more blasts using a specially designed plastic cannon, which didn't make as much noise, but it sent water and several tennis balls quite high into the air. It was another display that was a hit with the students. "It's the coolest thing I've ever seen," student Anya exclaimed. "It's loud."

Barone and Jaksha just laugh. They call their cannon not much science, but a lot of fun. All the visitors agreed.

While guests saw many interesting projects, it was the acoustics demonstration that seemed to impress the most. Laughing, Stone said, "I think the acoustics lab won."

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