



SDSU Aerospace Engineering

Volume 1 Issue 1 November 2019

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER!

This is the very first newsletter the Department of Aerospace Engineering has ever published. In its own right, this inaugural issue is a historical milestone. The Aerospace Engineering program at San Diego State started in 1968. Over the half century, many students received a solid education and went on to have productive and fulfilling professional careers. Together with the College of Engineering, the Department has been going through major changes in the last several years. Half the faculty in the Department, myself included, were hired within the last 5 years. Today the Aerospace Engineering program is the 3rd largest degree program in the College of Engineering at SDSU. We are in the midst of a significant curriculum renovation. The faculty and students in the Department are conducting cutting-edge research funded by NASA, DoD, NSF, and the industry. With this newsletter and future issues, we hope to establish a regular channel to engage you, our alumni and supporters, in this ongoing transformation of the Department. We invite you to visit the Department and the campus when an opportunity arises. As always, your loyalty and support to the Department are greatly cherished.

–Dr. Ping Lu

Excellence in Teaching Award

Congratulations to **Dr. Satchi Venkataraman** on earning the “Excellence in Teaching Award” from Northrup Grumman for 2018-19. Pictured here with Dean Eugene Olevsky.



Dr. Gustaaf Jacobs was the recipient of the **2019 Distinguished Faculty Awards for SDSU**. Click the image above for the video of the presentation that was provided during the awards ceremony.



President de la Torre visited the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA with our Department Chair **Dr. Ping Lu** and 10 of our Aerospace Engineering students both Undergraduate and Graduate. The group met with alumni from SDSU at the lab, including **Jordan Evans** who hosted the group, and viewed the Mission Control Room for the Mars 2020 project.



Dr. Allen Plotkin received the AIAA Lifetime Achievement Award. He received this award at the AIAA San Diego Annual Awards Banquet held on May 9, 2019.



Welcome our New Faculty Member

Dr. Pavel Popov is our newest faculty member with Fall 2019 being his first semester with the program. Dr. Popov research interests include combustion instability in aerospace engines, stochastic modelling of turbulent combustion, and more. You can find more information on his background, education and publications on our department website:

<https://aerospace.sdsu.edu/faculty/pavelpopov>

Your generous giving can make a tremendous difference for our students today who will become the future aerospace engineers of tomorrow. Please consider making a gift to support the Department of Aerospace Engineering and student success <http://campaign.sdsu.edu/Aerospace> To learn more about giving to the Department, please contact our Senior Director of Development, **Kate Carinder**, at kcarinder@sdsu.edu | 619-594-8264

Guest Lecturer for AE123

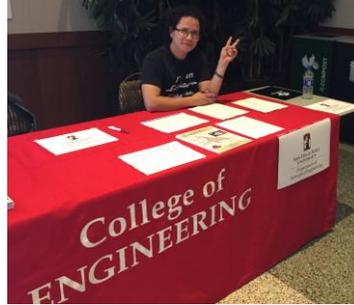


On Sept 18, **Brigadier General Robert Cardenas** visited San Diego State University as a guest lecturer in AE123 “The Aerospace Engineer,” a course taught by Adjunct Faculty member **Dr. Gary Fogel**. Gen. Cardenas attended San Diego State University in 1937-1939 with a major in engineering before enlisting in the California Air National Guard. During World War II, Cardenas helped establish a glider-training program and flew bombers in the European Theater. After the war, he became a test pilot and flew many of America’s first jet aircraft. He was the commanding pilot of the B-29 that dropped Chuck Yeager in the Bell X-1 for the first flight to break the speed of sound in 1947. Cardenas also was a test pilot for the unusual YB-49 flying wing bomber, a predecessor to the B-2 stealth bomber. A veteran pilot of three wars, he is an honored member of the National Aviation Hall of Fame and the International Aerospace Hall of Fame. AE123 students were inspired by his return visit to campus.

Notable Grants

- **Dr. Ping Lu** received two grants from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): one for “Advanced Aeroassist and Powered Guidance Technology for Human Planetary Missions” in the amount of \$35,000 and another \$58,072 for “Integrated Advanced Entry and Powered Descent Guidance for Human Mars Missions.”
- **Dr. Xiaofeng Liu** also received a grant from NASA for his graduate student **Bradley Zelenka** conducting research on Prandtl-D Aerodynamic Load and Induced Thrust Validation using PIV Measurements
- **Dr. Gustaaf Jacobs** received a grant from the AFOSR for \$318,482 for “Learning in Multi-Scale Models with Stochastic Source Coupling.”
- **Dr. Ahmad Bani Younes** won a grant in Summer 2019 from the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The grant develops fast, accurate and parallel (GPU) orbit propagation through a high-fidelity gravity field 200x200 spherical harmonic and a finite element approximation of the gravity model.

All-Campus Academic A-Fair



The annual All-Campus Academic A-Fair took place on September 19 in Montezuma Hall. Assistant Deans and Student Life & Leadership host this event in order to help prepare students to be academically successful. Our Aerospace Engineering department (AE student **Oliver Bojorquez** pictured above) was there to hand out Curriculum Guides, Master Plans and provide information on our Academic Advisers. If you would like to know who your adviser is for the program and what their office hours/location are so you may stop by and talk with them please visit our department website:

https://aerospace.sdsu.edu/academics/undergraduate_program/student_advising



This event also featured academic related student organizations such as our Rocket Project Club. Outreach manager **Luke Hedberg**, Treasurer **Marcus Reed**, President **Paul Fuerte** and Structures Manager **Jarod Heise** pictured above. You can visit the website for the Rocket Project: <https://www.sdsurocketproject.org/>



Alumni of the Month *ELLEN OCHOA*

As part of the President’s Lecture Series, SDSU alumna and veteran NASA astronaut delivered an address to a free and open event to the public on October 2, 2019. During the ceremony, Ms. Ochoa was presented with an honorary degree in recognition of her extraordinary role in space exploration and her commitment to education. She also established an endowment for the College of Engineering, to the SDSU Femineer Program, a gift of \$100,000 to support our engineering students.



You can find the SDSU NewsCenter story here: https://newscenter.sdsu.edu/sdsu_newscenter/news_story.aspx?sid=77781

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