



Ohlone instructor worked on Saturn project

Continued from Page 1

ache for future satellite or astronaut missions to Mars according to Wegryn. The Pathfinder also took standard measurements of temperature, and wind speed and chemical composition of Martian rocks taken by Pathfinder's solar powered Rover. Later missions called Spirit and Opportunity took rock samples that conclusively proved for the first time that rocks on Mars were formed in the presence of water, this according to the Mars Exploration Rover Mission website. Finishing his graduate work, Wegryn received a PHD from the University of Arizona in 2000.

After receiving his doctorates, Wegryn moved to the Bay Area for his love of its beauty and diverse population. Here, Wegryn was offered a job to work for the SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence)

Institute in Mountain View, which in turn contracted him out to

NASA's Ames Research Center, to work on the very project he helped build while working on his doctorates in Arizona; the Cassini-Huygens program. SETI is a non-profit organization dedicated to finding extra-terrestrial life in outer space. Although the Institute has looked for other intelligent life forms by scanning the sky for advanced civilization's radio signals, Wegryn is limited to looking for simple life form research as a Research Associate for the Cassini VIMS (Visual Infrared Mapping Spectrometer Instrument) Team. "That's the funny point. I am not looking for little green men," but "organic molecules or compounds that could be the starting point for life," said Wegryn.

Wegryn followed the Cassini satellite move towards Saturn from NASA's Bay Area location. On January 14, Wegryn watched the Huygens probe drop through the atmosphere of Saturn's moon Ti-

tan. To his and other NASA scientists' surprise, the probe, which was not designed to survive the landing, landed safely and took a picture with the very camera Wegryn helped build. DISR scientist Charles See said, "I think the biggest surprise is that we survived the landing..." The probe's mission was to only take chemical samples and pictures of Titan's atmosphere, as it floated down, and to self-destruct upon the impact of its crash landing. "The consistency of the surface was similar to 'wet-sand,' which ensured the probes survival," said Wegryn. In addition to taking a snap shot from the surface, the probe also picked up chemical readings of methane, ethane, propane, and butane from Titan's atmosphere, which are the first steps in "finding the building blocks," of life.

Today, Wegryn continues to follow the Cassini Satellite, continually gather more valuable information as it passes by Saturn's other

moons. Updates of this information is constantly updated on the

Exploratorium's website. The Cassini satellite will heat up "as it descends into Saturn's atmosphere, and eventually melt and even vaporize; as did the Galileo probe and orbiter on Jupiter." It's final demise will gather atmospheric readings before vaporizing into destruction.

After four years of studying engineering, and seven additional years of his PHD research, Wegryn hopes to do more than just apply his knowledge to the field he is working in. "I made a conscious choice in my career not to go into strict research science 100 percent, and not to go into teaching 100 percent, but to try to balance the two," said Wegryn. Although this has proved challenging, Wegryn has reached a balance and hopes to pass on his knowledge to other students and teachers of As-

tronomy in an effort to achieve something greater than himself. "I learned in graduate school, that there wasn't any point in learning, unless I passed it on at some point. That's why I find teaching so rewarding, to help other people enlarge their understanding of their place in the universe, just like I've learned along the way." At the Exploratorium Museum, Wegryn involves himself with their Teacher Institute Program, which trains high school and middle school teachers from around California and the rest of country, to become better scientist. He also acts as the Museum's Public Broadcaster to update listeners of the Cassini-Huygens mission and other planetary exploration shows. In 2004, Scientific American awarded the museum for having the year's the Best Science Web-Cast display. For more information on the Cassini-Huygens program, or to contact Dr. Wegryn, go to www.exploratorium.edu.

100 People/ 100 Days program continues

By SEAN G. CRAWFORD
Editor-in-Chief

Ohlone College's 100 People/ 100 Days event is beginning again this spring semester to further ensure the campus remains smoke-free.

The 100 People/ 100 Days event is run in conjunction with STARRS; Students Toward a Rapid Smoke-Free School, where the event draws most of its initial members.

The event is aimed at arming students and faculty with the tools necessary to educate and inform Ohlone's student body about the ongoing smoking policy that was adopted last year. Students that join the program are expected to announce the smoking policy once a week in classes, verbally remind offending students and complete small progress reports bi-weekly.

Event Coordinator Sally Bratton said that she felt the program was a complete success last semester and was surprised that there were so few violations since the program's inception.

"100 People/ 100 Days really has been more of a student driven platform," said Bratton. As a student driven platform the event has been able deflect much of the criticism aimed against it, because it wasn't simply a tool of enforcement run by the faculty. Now that the program has successfully established itself as a mainstay on campus, the goals have become much low-key according to Bratton.

Last semester the program exceeded its goal of 100 active participants and set into place a road sign system throughout the campus indicating proper zones to smoke along the parking lots. Recently the sign system was touched up by Ohlone's buildings and grounds department, rectifying some misplaced signs.

The 100 People/ 100 Days event is still accepting new members among faculty and students, those interested can apply at the Student Health Center in the portables below Building 4. Faculty who join the program will gain four FLEX points that will go toward the 30 required.

Deaf instructor may not be deported after all

Continued from Page 1

decision." The bad news is that Dulalia may still be deported if the case is not dropped and goes into a full-blown trial. His case for asylum has merit, but with both his parents dead, the grounds for his petition is shaky at best.

Dulalia's father was a Filipino veteran of WWII, who was granted American citizenship in 1995, and his mother was made a legal resident. Unfortunately, Dulalia was an adult by then, and was not automatically made a citizen along with his family.

Since Dulalia's case is far from clear-cut, and the situation so dire, many public and political supporters have rallied to the cause. Congressman Pete Stark has issued a letter of interest, and local televi-

sion reporters and newspapers have covered the controversy.

Lori Haley, spokeswoman for the U.S. ICE, said, "Obviously, there are very compelling factors which [we] are very carefully considering in deciding what the next steps will be." U.S. ICE has the ultimate discretion in the case.

Dulalia is also deaf. According to the National Association for the Deaf, "Deaf and hard of hearing people deserve to have qualified, skilled interpreters who know what they are doing." Dulalia has been interpreting since he arrived in the United States, in 1987.

Dulalia graduated from Ohlone in 1992 with a degree in Computer Science, and has worked as a staff interpreter for the college since then. Not only does he act as a go-between for students and instructors,

he is also something of a rarity in interpreter circles.

Dulalia is one of only a handful of Northern Californian tactile interpreters, who are capable of hand signing to people who are both deaf and blind. His absence would leave a huge impact in the blind-deaf community.

"My students need me to be here, or they'd be upset and angry," Dulalia said through an interpreter. "If I weren't here, they would have a hard time in the classes."

Many of his students have stated that they learn a lot from him, and that he is a trusted member of the staff. Even the interpreter Stephanie Pintello, who assisted in the interview with Dulalia, said of him, "I've known Gerry for over 10 years, and it's truly an unfair situation. He's such a wonderful per-

son."

"He's made a big impact on students and their success here," said Ann Fuller, supervisor of Interpreting and Support Services. "I'm very concerned about him." Having observed Dulalia for eight years, she said his performance at Ohlone has been "wonderful" and pointed out that his "students love him." It is also very rare to find an interpreter who can translate for blind-deaf students, she noted.

The delay in getting a definite outcome the to case is not necessarily a serious problem. "They're willing to negotiate," Perez said of the government.

While the informal discussions are not yet scheduled, they will definitely be subject to the ever-growing public attention to the case. Even with CNN knocking at her

door, Perez is working with the government to close the case as diplomatically as possible.

Legally, only the government can terminate the deportation proceedings, and Perez hopes they will consider the extenuating circumstances and show some leniency. This the crux of the case, Perez said: "The government doesn't just give these things away."

To send comments or inquiries to Gerry Dulalia, you can contact his attorney at: marciaiperez@cs.com

To express your support or concern for the case, you can reach Congressman Pete Stark's office at: 39300 Civic Center Drive, Suite 220, Fremont, CA, 94538

Call: (510) 272-6973.

Or visit: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

New seats in amphitheater



Photo by Shari Wargo

Anyone who has attended a performance in the outdoor theater at the Smith Center and discovered dampness from the grass soaking through their pants will be interested in the new aluminum seats being installed in the amphitheater. The seating for 650 people will cost an estimated \$20,000. The college got a \$15,000 grant from the Mission San Jose Rotary Club to help pay for the project. The grass will be replanted.