Campus News

The Navy’s Graduate Education Quota Conference convened on March 8 to formulate the FY2008 Graduate Education Quota Plan. By March 28, N12 will forward quota conference results to PERS-440 (detailers) and Major Area Sponsors for comments.

Leonard Ferrari gave the keynote speech at the Higher Education and Research Leadership Summit on March 29. The summit was attended by high level administrators from UC Santa Cruz, CSUMB, MIIS, and many others. Dr. Ferrari’s speech proposed a broad initiative in homeland security and research which could be a collaborative effort from all institutions.

MOVES faculty, students and staff demonstrated the latest developments in advanced visualization technology during the March 1 open house. The showcase included 20 thesis projects of use to the warfighter, including a tactile vibrator vest for pilots to counter optical and motion illusions, a helicopter cockpit simulator with surround-screen projection and 3D visual simulations of terrorist attack scenarios on Pearl Harbor. Several of the products developed at NPS are now being used in the fleet and field.

Faculty News

Distinguished Professor Brij Agrawal of the Department of Mechanical and Astronautical Engineering has won the prestigious 2007 Naval Postgraduate School Richard W. Hamming Faculty Award for Achievement in Interdisciplinary Activities. The founder and director of the world class NPS Spacecraft Research and Design Center received the honor at the NPS Quarterly Awards Ceremony on March 13.

Distinguished Professor Ed Thornton of the Oceanography Department received a Sanctuary Reflection Award March 2 from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Association of Monterey Bay Governments. Professor Thornton has conducted extensive field research of nearshore hydrodynamics and sediment transport. His studies in Monterey Bay have been widely acclaimed for their value to both the Navy and to environmentalists.

Lecturer and retired Air Force Col Rene Rendon of the Graduate School of Business and Public Policy is principal co-author of the only book on best practices and lessons learned in U.S. military program management, U.S. Military Program Management: Lessons Learned and Best Practices. More than half of the chapters are written by GSBPP faculty members, who are experienced military acquisition and contract management practitioners.

Professor of Mechanical and Astronautical Engineering Michael Ross and his NPS Guidance, Navigation and Control Laboratory team have won two National Reconnaissance Office Director’s Innovation Initiative Awards, which includes $700,000 that will allow them to test applications of Ross’ revolutionary theory that, to be effective, space robots must be smart and free.

Associate Research Professor of Information Sciences Shelley Gallup, Jr. received the DON Information Management/Information Technology Excellence Award for 2006 on behalf of NPS’s FORCEnet Innovation and Research Enterprise (FIRE) team. A groundbreaking collaborative web portal, FIRE supports knowledge management and decision-making for real-time planning, execution, analysis and reporting of large-scale Navy and DoD experiments.

For photos and complete reports of these Faculty Highlight items, please view the link located at: http://www.nps.edu/PAO/PhotoGallery/index.asp
Spotlight on…
Dudley Knox Library

2006 proved to be an exciting and eventful year for the Library.

A new web presence was launched by the Dudley Knox Library (DKL) in September [http://www.nps.edu/library], culminating a successful year-long collaboration between DKL and ITACS to implement a web content management system as a pilot project for the entire NPS campus. Under the new web content management system, librarians and library staff are able to utilize software tools to organize, manage, update, and publish content directly to the web.

This past year, the Library unveiled several new web services that improve the discovery of and access to information licensed for NPS use by the Library. These services include: A-Z browsing of e-journals; links to full-text articles directly from database searches; and patron-initiated interlibrary loan/document delivery services. A printer management system was implemented to more effectively distribute print jobs across Library printers and to report usage patterns. Reference librarians continued to build a cadre of services to reach out to patrons. “Ask a Librarian” and virtual reference services were popular with distance learners as well as with students and faculty on campus. New library instruction courses were offered and classes quickly filled to capacity. Many have been turned into online tutorial and demos to provide information in different formats for various learning styles.

The Library continued to provide 24/7 access to information from the patron’s desktop—wherever that may be in the world — and supported a programmatic shift from print to online access to journals, books, and databases. As such, DKL revised its strategy for licensing e-content to assure that campus needs for instructional and distance education uses of materials were a consideration in licensing. Librarians also worked with faculty and students to select appropriate resources for the collection. Donors and Departments provided gifts and additional funds to extend the Library’s budget for collection development. DKL also began an intensive project to provide better metadata for improved access to unique NPS publications such as student theses and NPS reports, additionally providing access to full-text wherever possible.

Patron uses of all library services continue to climb at a rate that is higher than national averages for other academic libraries.