Matthew Gerring  
Staff Writer

A team of 12 SJSU mechanical engineering students is requesting $200,000 to develop an automated assembly line process for Boston Scientific, a producer of minimally invasive medical procedures in San Jose.

Team member Andrea Rios said the funding is needed for new equipment to build a working prototype of the new system.

“We have some robots in our labs,” she said. “The ones we currently have don’t speak to each other very well.”

Rios said the project is a unique opportunity because it involves working with an actual industry process, where most senior projects are theoretical or academic.

Neumeier said it’s part of the reason he got involved. “I’m interested in not having a boring senior project,” he said.

Controls team member Alisia Farjado worked with Rios on the project.

Andy Nguyen, a financial analyst for HP (right), talks to senior computer engineering major Apoorva Sharma about career opportunities during the Diversity Job Fair.

Career fair offers students employment opportunities

Nate Morottis  
Staff Writer

A crew of 30 students met Wednesday in the Burnett Ballroom of the Student Union for one reason: to show some of the top companies of Silicon Valley that they desire to work for them.

The annual Diversity Job Fair is held each year to introduce SJSU students to representatives from some of the biggest computer and technology companies in the world, and to let those companies get an up close and personal look at the next generation of potential employees.

“This is the fourth year we’ve presented this event,” said Chantel Young, president of the Black Alliance of Scientists and Engineers, the group that organized the year’s job fair. “This career fair we solicited to companies in Silicon Valley who we’ve built a relationship with over the years. We just asked them to come and celebrate and invite the diverse students of SJSU.”

“We wanted student leaders and organizers to come...”

see FAIR page 2

Group works to empower Latinos in college

Weley Duggle  
Staff Writer

In 1973, a student organization was born on the campus of San Jose State College, as SJSU was known then, out of the Hispanic student walkouts to stand up and celebrate and invite the diverse students of SJSU.

“We wanted student leaders and organizers to come...”

see CHICANO page 8
A visiting author warned a near-capacity crowd Wednesday that there is no quick fix to any of society’s problems, and that those problems cannot be fixed until risks are taken.

“Sustained innovation drives economic growth and quality of life,” said Judy Estrin, author of the book “Closing The Innovation Gap.” “It is the only hope of addressing the major changes that we face.”

Estrin explained to a crowd at Morris Daily Auditorium that innovation is the capacity to change and being able to come up with something new before challenging them to find success through the formation of innovation.

“As I would love to inspire me to think creatively,” said Lily Tran, a junior business entrepreneur major. “I have always wondered if I should start a restaurant business like everyone else or do something more innovative.”

Estrin asked the crowd to break innovation into three categories: coming up with something new, turning a breakthrough into something that works and combining existing innovations for use in a new way.

She explained that the first and third categories are used to create new markets while the second category is used to sustain an already existing market.

“You have to think outside of what the consumer is thinking,” Estrin said. “All (consumers) know is what they want now.”

She said innovation begins with questioning the status quo by incorporating openness, patience, trust and risk into ideas — and combining that with adequate research, development and application.

“How many countries and companies have we seen fail because they stopped questioning the status quo?”

Estrin asked. She added that the key attributes to promote innovation are the ability to adapt, explore, experiment, be patient and frame questions.

“I have always wondered if I should start a restaurant business like everyone else.”

Lily Tran
Junior Business entrepreneur

Melissa Valdez, a senior business administration major, said the presentation was interesting for students since they are potential innovators.

As the recruitment agents began to get up and move around, more students began to wander into the ballroom, looking around at the faces of the people who could one day be their employers.

“I’m hopefully going to try to get an internship here today,” said Asmanic Bonilla, a senior electrical engineering major at SJSU. “I’m just going to go out there today and hope for the best.”

As the mingling continued, the gravity of the situation began to set into the students’ eyes as they realized they were talking to some prominent figures in computer engineering.

With the computer industry growing larger and larger every year, companies such as HP and Yahoo continue to look at the next wave of young people entering the workforce with job fairs such as this one.

“We’ve been going to a lot more of these recently,” Lin said. “It helps us recruit for our specific needs.”

As HP and Yahoo continue to look at the next wave of young people entering the workforce with job fairs such as this one.
WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama had lunch Wednesday with a bipartisan group of Republican leaders of the House of Representatives, and the federal budget was first on the menu.

Obama and the top Republicans said they agreed in general on the need to cut federal spending and the budget deficit, as well as to improve free trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama.

But they didn't talk specifics.

The White House refused to share budget details with Congress because the president wants to be sure the legislation is as strong as possible before sending it to Congress.

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Melissa Sabile
Sports Editor

Walking into the Spartan Complex Gym during gymnastics practice can always guarantee one thing: loud team cheering and lots of flipping and twisting from junior Katie Valleau. Valleau is in her third year of competing gymnastics for the Spartans and, as of Monday, is nationally ranked.

“Katie, right now, is 16th in the nation on floor as an individual, which is really impressive,” said head coach Wayne Weigh. “We’ve never had that situation before on that event — for that matter, on any event.”

Weigh said becoming nationally ranked that high is a commendable accomplishment.

“There are over 657 athletes that compete on that event,” he said. “Anywhere that (SJSU) can get anyone in the top 20 or 25 is significant.”

Junior Casey McCord said her teammate has scored at least a 9.800 at every meet the team has competed in this season and that Valleau usually competes last on floor for SJSU.

“Going last on floor is pretty much the anchor spot,” McCord said. “The top six girls go that last spot is really significant to show the judges what we’re made of. Katie goes last because she’s consistent.”

Weigh said the weekly rankings come out for team and individual events and record nationally, regionally, and in conference. “It’s based on an average and right now she has a 9.962 average on the floor exercise,” he said. “I think that’s why it has helped her to move up in the rankings. She’s been very consistent and this was her second-

As far as judging and point values go, Wright said Valleau’s routine is worth a 10,000, the highest possible score, and the national collegiate Association Gymnast can receive on any event.

“Her start value is a 10,” McCord said. “So once she’s getting a 10 or a higher, she’s obviously doing it well.”

Weigh said her level of performance and energy during competitions to floor.

“If I didn’t have them cheering, I don’t know that I would be able to make it through a floor routine,” she said. “It’s so much encouragement. If you’re struggling at the end of a routine just to get your breath or something, that little bit of encouragement pushes you through.”

Mc Cord said she has a good friendship with Valleau both in and out of the gym, but as a team co-captain, Valleau un-
derstands the importance of helping out her teammates.

“Teammates first, friends second,” McCord said. “We always help each other, and keep each other motivated.”

Valleau said gymnastics is such a tough sport that each of her teammates help get through it each day.

Freshman Julia Greer said she enjoys cheering and watching Valleau compete on floor.

“Cheering helps everyone,” Greer said. “We always cheer extra loud. For her, it’s so exciting when she goes last because you know she’s going to make it.”

Greer said her and Valleau have been teammates since they were young girls at the YMCA and Valleau continued her love to compete for the Spartans.

“We’re both very good friends,” Greer said. “She kind of inspired me to come here and I think it was a great decision. Being one of the top 10 in the nation, don’t let it go to your head, she talks to me before my floor routines. She’s really good at motivating people.”

Her teammates, Wright said, also help contribute to Valleau’s national ranking.

”We’ve all very happy for Katie for being 16th, and she’s 16th because of her motivation,” he said. “These kids who compete before her, if they do well, it helps her score high too. It’s a room where we all do well, we all do well.”

Valleau said confidence is the key to her consistency and high scores on floor.

“This year, I’m a team captain, which has boosted my confidence a lot,” she said. “I’m an upperclassman, I’ve been doing it for two years now, I’ve some high-ups. I’ve gotten these high scores in previous years but not quite as consistently.”

Over the summer, Valleau was able to learn a new floor routine, and said she thinks that has also helped her in becoming nationally ranked.

“My music is Bonny Wright – ‘Pray for me,’” she said. “I think I dance better in this routine. Plus I got a new floor tumbling line, which is not necessary worth more, but I’m a lot more confident in doing it.”

Valleau said with all the flipping and twisting she does in her routine, what she sees during her tumbling passes is just a blur.

“When I’m performing, I usually just try to stay with the music and show it off, smile at the judges as much as possible and squeeze everything.”

Katie Valleau
Junior Floor & Vault Specialist

In terms of her skill level and what she does on floor, Wright said Valleau is at a pretty high level.

“Katie does an E skill,” he said. “Which in gymnastics, where we go A, B, C and D and E — being the hardest, A being the easiest — it’s difficult to do. She also does two D skills. But I think it’s the dance, her presentation, her confidence when she gets out onto the floor, it shows through.”

“Teammates first, friends second,” McCord said. “Those of the captains, she always come here and I think it was a great decision.”

Valleau said her teammates also help contribute to her high scores.

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Katie Valleau performs a front double during her floor routine against Stanford University on Saturday.
"The Dresser," directed by Rick Lombardo and written by Ronald Harwood, left me deeply unsettled. The theme of the play, first performed in Manchester, England, in 1980, is one of struggle and survival — the struggle of England against Germany in World War II, the struggle of the theater company depicted in the play to put on a good performance and the struggle of the players against their internal conflicts with one another.

The play, set in England during the bombing campaigns of 1942, follows a run-down theater company driven by one man, known in the play as Sir, who is reaching the end of his life but struggling to keep his career going. His dresser Norman, played by James Carpenter, is Sir’s closest confidant. His job is to prepare Sir for the production, which entails wardrobe and makeup, but also negotiating the onset of Sir’s dementia, making sure Sir knows which play is being performed that night and that he remembers the lines.

Norman must also attend to Sir’s ego, which is enormous yet charming. He acts as an intermediary between Sir and the rest of the company, achieving a delicate balance that nearly falls apart throughout the production.

The precariousness of Sir’s condition creates a background of anxiety compounded by the setting, which kept me on edge and engrossed for the length of the play.

We know that Sir is not hanging on to life by a thread for the audience — “swine,” he calls them, over and over again. The Nazis, too, are swine, for bombing the first theater in which Sir performed. The critics are not swine according to Sir, only because he has nothing but compassion for the mentally deficient.

Sir has no love for any of these people, nor the theater at all. He questions repeatedly what he is doing, and claims he is “driven,” “being put through” the roles as if it is some kind of torture — as if he would just as soon lay down and die if not for whatever force is moving him to continue.

Indeed, nobody in the production appears to love acting at all — they either fear it or are made weary by it, cursing their fate as members of a traveling theater company. On the other hand, as the story unrolls toward the end, nobody seems sure of what they would do without the theater.

The play succeeds because of its light touch. Its fast-moving and witty dialogue kept me engaged, but through a subtle use of repetition, the big questions are kept at the forefront throughout.

There is little to criticize about the production, which included three SJSU theater students — it was technically flawless and extremely well acted.

Ken Ruta in the part of Sir was especially moving. His performance hit home for me, as someone who’s seen a relative face dementia in old age. The quirks of a failing memory — tragic yet humorous — were expertly portrayed.

James Carpenter moves fluidly between his role as Sir’s assistant and confidant, richly portraying the private world the two share, and his role as enforcer of Sir’s delicate needs and particulars — at times with a deliciously sarcastic venom.

Supporting actress Blythe Foster, playing the part of the company’s newest member Irene, could have been silent throughout and still played her role in the story beautifully with her eyes and her posture alone.

The most telling line comes in the middle of the play when Sir asks the company stage manager Madge, played by Lynne Soffer, if she is happy and “if it’s been worth it.” She answers “no” and “yes,” but gives no clues as to why.

What is unsettling is that the question of what exactly the struggle is for it never answered. The play ends abruptly in a dark place, leaving the audience with an open wound to heal themselves.

"The Dresser" is playing at the San Jose Repertory Theatre until Feb. 20. Tickets are available to students for $10.
Owning bad intentions

There has been a recent outcry from people that WikiLeaks, an online database committed to publishing classified documents and other such materials, should be nominated as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Now I am completely in favor of the freedom of information, but I don’t think WikiLeaks deserves one of the highest honors the international community could bestow upon a person. As its most basic function, WikiLeaks is a website that is committed to whistle-blowing, and Julian Assange himself claims that his website has “changed whole regimes.” This may seem like a powerful tool, and it is, but so was the hydrogen bomb.

Imagine for a minute that there is some country out in the world whose people are on the eve of civil uprising. One day WikiLeaks publishes a series of documents that reveal the officials of that country’s government are participating in activities that are less than ethical. Through conflict has arisen this has already promised for the peaceful and unified Egypt. When people vote for the leaders they want peace to work in full effect.

Though conflict has arisen this has already promised for the peaceful and unified Egypt. When people vote for the leaders they want peace to work in full effect.
NASA's function replaced by hackers and wealthy amateurs

NASA is pretty cool, but did you know there's a space program in San Francisco? The San Francisco Spaceport Authority (SFSA) is a grassroots group of people working to bring spaceflight to the Bay Area. The SFSA is seeking to build a spaceport that will allow_it to launch small satellites and conduct research in space.

The group is working on a plan to build a spaceport on the old Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, which is now being developed as a residential and commercial area. The proposal calls for a small facility that would be able to launch small satellites and conduct research in space.

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Cuba opens blocked websites

Juan O. Tamayo
McClatchy Tribune

MIAMI - Popular Cuban blogger Yoani Sanchez described it Wednesday as the "biggest censorship," — the government's surprise unblochinck of access to her blog, which had been critical of the government.

But Sanchez, who said she was told in a post how she used the Internet to send information, said that authorities had removed the filter blocking sites critical of the government.

"I have come to confirm if the authorities have removed the filter," she wrote. "I click and I see a screen that says, 'We are open to all current and former students and their fields.'"

She added, "I am so surprised I scream, I laugh." She wrote. "I click and I see a second portal was confirmed to fillings during incontrollable laughter."

But Sanchez and her husband, fellow blogger Reinaldo Escobar, were cautious about the timing of the decision to lift the Internet censorship, especially if they come from a minority background," she said. "It embraces our culture.

"We know that access to Voice over Internet Protocol phones and data services is available for those persons to be able to communicate with people."

"It is helped me get a leadership role and get to network with other people outside my comfort zone," she said. "It encompasses everything as well.

"If you are on the island from visiting Cuba, you are blocked easily could be put back in place once they leave Cuba, and it's very easy for those persons to be able to confirm that in Cuba there are blocked websites," Escobar told the Miami Herald by phone from Havana. The blockade easily could be put back in place once they leave Cuba, he added.

"It's helped me deal with different kinds of people," Calzada said. "It's helped me get a leadership role and get to network with other people outside my comfort zone," she added.

"I like that it's an organization with broad majors and you get to meet people from different departments," said Calzada, a senior management major. "The commitment to reach our goals is pretty much for the students by the students."

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"If you are on the island from visiting Cuba, you are blocked easily could be put back in place once they leave Cuba, and it's very easy for those persons to be able to confirm that in Cuba there are blocked websites," Escobar told the Miami Herald by phone from Havana. The blockade easily could be put back in place once they leave Cuba, he added.

"It would not be very elegant for those persons to be able to confirm that in Cuba there are blocked websites," Escobar said. "We are open to all current and former students and their fields.

"There are about 35 members right now," she said. "We are open to all current and former students who are completed their undergraduate or graduate coursework at San Jose State University.

"Ramos, the organization helps Latino students who may feel alone or wash out help at SJU.

"It builds a community and it lets students know that they are not alone, especially if they come from a minority background," she said. "It embraces our culture.

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