The solar industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the world, experiencing more than 50 percent growth each year, according to Jim Cushing, senior director of product management at Applied Materials Inc.

Cushing was the speaker at a symposium on the solar industry and the current state of solar technology on Thursday, the semester’s last installment of the College of Engineering’s Silicon Valley Leader Symposium series.

Applied Materials is currently the leading supplier of equipment to the solar industry, and industry which is projected to grow at an increasing rate over the next 10 years or more, Cushing said.

According to the Department of Energy there will be a 5.5 percent increase in the world’s total energy consumption over the next 20 years. He said that new energy demand coupled with concern about the environment and global climate change, opens a window for renewable energy sources such as solar to make an impact.

“This opportunity is not only beneficial to Applied Materials, Cushing said, but to current students looking to enter the solar industry.

“This is a great time because the growth of the industry is significant and is underpinning the available human resources that actually know anything about solar,” he said. “The students have the opportunity to get educated about solar and come out and create a career around solar and renewable energy, something that didn’t exist a few years ago.”

Cushing spent the majority of his time discussing the economic side of the solar industry with the “by to 40” students in attendance, talking about what it will take to make the solar industry more attractive to customers and investors and how current cost of the materials and technologies involved in the production of solar panels affects the competitiveness of solar technology.

Cushing emphasized the importance of one specific variable: the cost per watt. This is the amount of money that goes into producing each individual watt of energy, something which Cushing said Applied Materials and the rest of the solar industry is striving to reduce.

Because of the solar industry’s current high cost per-watt, he said it is still not able to compete directly with traditional sources of energy.

Solar currently provides 0.5 percent of the world’s power, and Cushing said that half percent is partly because of government incentives and programs.

However, with the advent of more efficient technologies, cheaper methods of manufacturing and an increase in government incentives, he said this

Speaker predicts sunny skies for solar power

Eric Austin
Staff Writer

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Gourmet trucks serve savory ‘Eats’ in San Pedro Square

Matthew Gerrig
Staff Writer

San Jose residents get the chance to sample a wide variety of diverse international cuisine on Saturday, all of it served from inside a dozen or so food trucks for the annual SJ Eats festival held in downtown San Jose.

Amendious had Vietnamese, Phillipino, Korean, Indian, Thai, Mexican and American food to choose from, among other items, along with ice cream and cupcakes for desert and live bands to keep patrons entertained.

Event organizer Bryan Sebastian, owner of Treatbot, an ice cream and karaoke truck, said about 400 people attended Saturday, down from 1,000 at the first SJ Eats event on April 4.

“We had a little parking lot with 10 trucks, and 10,000 people showed up. It was completely insane — it was almost pandemonium,” he said.

Food trucks aren’t a new phenomenon, but Sebastian said the customers have changed due to the economy.

RABIL, Afghanistan- Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his allies in Washington are hoping that Osama bin Laden’s death will prod the Taliban into joining negotiations.

It came as the aftermath of the raid in Pakistan that killed the al-Qaeda leader could just as easily embolden the Afghan insurgent group in its long campaign against the West.

The dramatic US strike against bin Laden may provide the Taliban with greater incentives to talk rather than fight, just the least of the fear that its own senior leadership could suffer the fate as the non-starch of its long ally.

Afghan Taliban chieftain Mullah Mohammad Omar also thought to be sheltering the al-Qaeda leader was silent — a rare occurrence for a movement that normally unleashes a flood of Isquasionary commentary on any development concerning the conflict.

On Friday, after al-Qaeda confirmed his death, did the Taliban issue a somewhat perfunctory statement praising bin Laden "as a great warrior" and said it was "deeply concerned" to continue the fight against Western "invasors." The statement was notably tepid; rather than in response to the killing has grown rare to speculate that the group may be "pressing itself to severe ties with al-Qaeda, which with it has long had differences any way.

"You can make the choice to abandon al-Qaeda and participate in a peaceful political process."

Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State

The Taliban sheltered al-Qaeda before and after the Sept. 11 attacks, but their agendas have diverged in recent years and the alliance had been held together in part by Omar’s personal friendship with bin Laden.

A break with al-Qaeda, long demanded by the West and Karzai’s government, would be central to any political settlement, and the Obama administration has lately backed off on a demand that...
6 p.m. - midnight, Fourth Street Summit Center
Theta Chi chapter
A Wish Come True Gala by Delta Sigma Pi - Saturday, May 14
7 p.m., University Theatre
114th Kaucher Mitchell Event for Friday, May 13
1 p.m., University Theatre
drew Altschul
Martha Heasley Cox Annual Lecture: E.L. 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Career Center
Drop-in hours for part-time/seasonal job counseling
Tuesday, May 10
Drop-in hours for part-time/seasonal job counseling
1 p.m., Career Center
Martin Heasley Cox Annual Lecture: E.L. Doctorow
3 p.m., University Theatre
Wednesday, May 11
E.L. Doctorow in conversation with Andrew Altschul 1 p.m., University Theatre
Friday, May 13
114th Kaucher Mitchell Event for Excellence in Oral Interpretation and Storytelling 7 p.m., University Theatre
Saturday, May 14
A Wish Come True Gala by Delta Sigma Pi - Theta Chi chapter 6 p.m. - midnight, Fourth Street Summit Center
Contact: Arleen Cox @ 650-354-9865

FOOD
From Page 1
“I think where in the past you would have not blinked at spending $50 to eat, maybe seven dollars is probably more realism, “said Altschul. “If you can go to Tostitos, go to a spot where people are hanging out, pay $6-7 dollars for a good meal and still have that communal feeling, I think people will take it.”

People who said they would never eat from the type of food truck sometimes called a “roach coach” were lining up to try things like chicken tacos, Carnitas burritos and Korean barbecue tacos with kumquat.

“Sometimes the gourmet food trucks are more appealing to me — I’m probably more apt to try a mash coach now, and actually I have, “said attendee Nicole Anyanwu. “It was only when it became more of a trend that I was even into getting food from a truck.”

Anyone said the trend of gourmet food trucks has picked up recently, and people with existing businesses in food service are getting in on the action.

The Wow Sisig truck started selling Filipino food on wheels four months ago after co-owner Ronnie Hernandez was approached by restaurant owner Tim Layn. “We started selling this type of food out of my parent’s grocery store,” Hernandez said. “Six months to eight months later, Tim approached us saying he really liked the idea, and said let’s throw it on a truck.”

Some of the food trucks are side projects of existing restaurants or catering businesses, and even use the same employees.

SOLAR
From Page 1
percentage is projected to increase.

Arash Motamedi, a graduate student in software engineering and computer engineering undergraduate student, said the emphasis on the monetary side of the solar industry made perfect sense.

“A lot of focus was on the cost because they want to make it compete with the conventional systems we have in place,” said Altschul. “The cheaper it gets the more feasible it is for people to implement, and computer engineering undergraduate student, said the emphasis on the monetary side of the solar industry made perfect sense.

While Cushing mentioned the environmental issues, it was only one of the factors that were discussed. Discussion on the environmental impact of solar technology was kept to a minimum.

“It gives them exposure. For people planning on going into this industry it is very helpful for them to learn all of this.”

At least one student in attendance questioned this, and left the symposium wondering what the true cost of producing solar panels is.

“What is the real impact of this new practice on the environment?” Motamedi asked. “Are we just shifting our focus from one thing, say nuclear radiation or pollution from coal power plants, to something else that we do not want anyone to know about?”

“Is it a clean production and manufacturing process?” Prabhakar Ravi, a graduate student in software engineering, said he was glad to have made it to this symposium even though it was outside his primary field of study.

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Foam warfare kills zero, wounds multiple egos

Wesley Dugle
Staff Writer

During the Civil War, William Tecumseh Sherman once said “War is hell!”

Well, if you were in Hoover Hall on Thursday for Campus Village’s first Nerf Gun War, you would probably call it heaven.

Residents of SJU’s Campus Village community gathered for an afternoon of fun, shooting rubber balls with Nerf guns in the hallways of the residence buildings.

“It was really fun,” said undeclared freshman Brenda Jung. “When you go into the competitive spirit you just go all out.”

“It was pretty fun, like all the teamwork that was involved. I’m proud of my team. They were mighty good soldiers.”

Hector Garcia
Freshman kinesiology major

According to event coordinator Neeng Dakessian, a R.A. of Royce Hall, the students were split into four teams based on their residence building and were split up on the second and third floors of the building.

The objective was to capture the other team’s rubber ball and, of course, not get shot by the other team. “It seemed together,” said Dakessian, a senior aerospace engineering major. “It seemed like people who actually came from space engineering major. “It seemed together,” said Dakessian, a senior aerospace engineering major.

“Everyone was waiting for the gun to go off,” he said. “You are waiting there, just trying to figure out where they are coming from and when you see them you get to take care of them.”

Freshman microbiology major Vincent Lubrano, who played on Garcia’s team, said the event was exciting.

“It was really nerve wracking,” he said. “I was running yelling and everything that comes with it.”

Over the weekend, Taliban gunmen and bombers smashed more of the fun part.”

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MOVIE REVIEW

Rolling thunder: ‘Thor’ hits theaters with a bang

Wesley Dugle
Staff Writer

August he praised “That” as a mighty fine film. The hammer-wielding God of Thunder has finally arrived at theaters to kick off this summer’s action-packed movie season and it definitely lives up the hype.

Based on the popular Marvel comic book, the film is the story of Thor, an arrogant, immortal warrior of the mystical realms who shares a battle with a villainous conqueror who wants to take over Asgard.

In the opening battle, Thor is defeated and thrown to Earth where he is forced to adapt to the ways of humans and learn how to live among them.

Thor is portrayed as a god on Earth and he quickly learns to control his powers. He is a powerful, God-like being with a mischievous side that adds a lot of humor to the film.

When I originally heard that Hemsworth would be taking on the role of Thor, I was a little skeptical. But to my pleasant surprise, Hemsworth, exceeded my expectations by far.

He plays a very believable Thor, full of pride, arrogance and a warrior’s heart, showing to the audience how deserving he is of the role.

He does a good job of not only bringing out the godlike energy and power of the character, but also humility and understanding of his human side.

For all of the film’s strong points however, it wasn’t without flaws.

One of the things I learned from watching the comic book film “Battlefield Earth” so long ago is that multiple titles never make a good movie. This film made a movie look better or more comic-book like.

Director Kenneth Branagh seemed to be obsessed with this at times during “Thor.”

Early on in the movie a lot of establishing shots started with a tilted camera angle and it was really annoying for me to have to take my eye off of it during the entire film.

Some of the characters felt a little underdeveloped as well.

Natalie Portman’s talents, for instance, are greatly wasted here.

Her character, Jane, was nothing more than the generic love interest archetype for Thor and finally, any actress could have played that role for the movie and it would not have made any difference.

Another disappointing performance was the ever so popular villain, Loki.

If you know anything about the comic, Loki is a very animated character and always puts on a show for the readers.

Hiddleston, though, is hardly a cinematic villain. He’s not true... wrong... but to my surprise, Hiddleston started to get better to watch towards the end of the movie and I have a feeling he will develop more in the other sequels that will come in the next year or two.

All in all, “Thor” is an exciting and fun movie that kicks off the summer movie season right with a healthy dose of action, some clever, witty humor and a memorable performance by Chris Hemsworth as the God of Thunder.

Chris Hemsworth wields his hammer, Mjollner, as the evil God of Thunder in Thor, released Friday.

Natalie Portman and Kat Dennings star as Thor’s human companions.
Bin Laden’s death: The Pakistani perspective

Every since the news of bin Laden’s death was announced, I’ve been repeatedly faced with questions such as, “You know where he was right?” “You could probably tell us about this.” While I don’t know where he was, my best guess is that he was in a sinister and genuine place. I’m not sure if I’m myself strangely revisiting it a little bit as an afterthought.

Sure, I’ve made my am-bivalence for Pakistan abun-dant on these pages. It’s my- self for its rul-ing class, its ob-stantially pow-erful to the cam-pus eliteness and obsession with religion. But people seem to as-sume that simply because I’m Pakistani I’m a’spok-em for the country.

It’s like I get intel-ligence briefings about what the Pakistani military, the government or the intelli-gence agencies did or did not know.

My question is why isn’t the American intelligence agencies — with operating budgets of about $53 billion a year, which is enough to fund one, but two, mis-sionaries of the CIA — used to find a six-foot-four-inch Arab secretly on dialysis.

Let’s not forget that the monster the US just de-strayed was the monster it created back in the ‘90s. The CIA funded a for-eign policy was obsessed with the commu-nSIZE

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Monday, May 9, 2011
OPINION
Spartan Daily

Wesley Young's "You Will Die" story

Coming to grips with death and moving past it

A couple of months back I was walking to the Spartan Daily newsroom on a Sunday and I pulled out my phone to call for someone to let me into the building. I was dialing my former roommate across a name I hadn’t seen in a long time. Alexx.

Alexx was a club kid, a way to like a weird friend of mine, an Indian immigrant from Milan who lived in Dallas, Texas. She came from her country a long time ago to get treated for cancer.

She died three years ago during surgery. I met her on this side, and realized that she had been keeping her number in my phone for the last seven years, a reminder of the friendship we once had.

Then I realized how silly it was that I still had her num-ber in my phone after all this time. I closed the phone, her death a long time ago, but seeing this number finally made me realize that I had no idea.

With relief, I pressed the buttons on my phone and dialed her number.

I realized too that day that I had been keeping a pic-ture of her and my late ex-girlfriend, Yuki, who had passed last year. But seeing this number finally made me realize that I had still not moved on from them.

In the months before I would curse myself if I didn’t take the time to honor their memory at least once by either look- ing at their picture or spending some time to think about them. Silly but more than anything, it’s democratizing and unhealthy to constantly remind myself of death.

That day I realized that I had let go of the memories of their deaths once and for all by removing those pictures and stirring them away.

We have not acknowledged the deaths of a loved one in our lives already, a gut-wrenching experience, one I hope to endure any-time soon.

But we can’t allow ourselves to get caught up in our own grief to the point that we can’t survive without torturing ourselves with the memory of their deaths.

We are not dishonoring them if we choose to let them go — we are, in fact, honoring them.

Our fallen loves wouldn’t want us wasting our time thinking how much we wish they were still with us. They would want us to live on, not for our- selves.

So with the anniversary of my ex’s death coming up, I can either choose to honor her by thinking of the many beauti-ful moments I spent with her or of the day she passed away and how much it hurt me.

I choose to honor her life and the memories I have of her, Yuki and Alexx; I miss you both, but I will not continue to torture myself with the thought of your deaths.

But to remember their lives and not how they came to an end.

I bring this story up because lastly I have found myself venturing back to the memo- ries of their deaths and with the anniversary of my ex’s passing coming up, June 6, it’s hard not to think about it.

What I want people to understand though is life must, and always will, go on.

Most of us have suffered the loss of a loved one in our lives already, a gut-wrenching experience, one I hope to endure any-time soon.

We are not dishonoring them if we choose to let them go — we are, in fact, honoring them.

Our fallen loves wouldn’t want us wasting our time thinking how much we wish they were still with us. They would want us to live on, not for our- selves.

So with the anniversary of my ex’s death coming up, I can either choose to honor her by thinking of the many beauti-ful moments I spent with her or of the day she passed away and how much it hurt me.

I choose to honor her life and the memories I have of her, Yuki and Alexx; I miss you both, but I will not continue to torture myself with the thought of your deaths.

I choose to remember your lives and what they meant to me instead.

The parents of former SJSU softball player Deanna Mauer walk out onto the field during Friday’s series opener against Hawaii at SJSU Field. The Spartans won 6-2 in five innings.

The Wahine opened up a big lead in the fourth and fifth innings, scoring four runs in the fourth with three batters in a home run by Wahine shortstop Jessica Iwata and five in the fifth, three from a home run by Wahine center fielder Kelly Majam.

“When the game’s out of reach early, it’s difficult,” said head coach Pete Turner. “You don’t quit, but it’s hard.”

Hawaii opened up a lead early in the first game of Saturday’s doubleheader. They scored a run in the first inning, held the Spartans to only one hit and no runs in their half, then followed up with a home run by Wahine outfielder Alexandra Aguirre in the second inning.

SJSU didn’t get a run until Spartans junior infielder Alex Stage sent infielder Kaeley Mottt home from second base with a single in the bottom of the third, and didn’t score again for the rest of the game.

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“The second game was both the end of Spartans senior pitcher Elsia Fox’s SJSU career and one of her best games of the season.”

Senior pitcher Elsia Fox

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“This game determined whether we would go to WAC or not, so everyone kind of put it all out there,” Fox said, who struck out eight batters and held the Wahine to six hits in seven innings pitched.

The Wahine scored twice in the first inning, but a string of strikeouts by SJSU infielders and three strikeouts in a row in the fifth inning kept them from scoring again until another home run by Wahine outfielder Jenna Rodriguez in the sixth. Spartans freshman outfielder Brittany Helm scored in the bottom of the sixth on a double by sophomore outfielder Mackenzie Collins.

Junior catcher Brandy Logan was up next, hitting one deep into centerfield, but Aguierre caught the ball in a spectacular play, hitting the fence with her face but catching the ball as it bounced back, throwing it to second, and getting the out.

“Honestly, something like that, you have to applaud that,” Morentin said. “That was the craziest play I’ve ever seen.”

Spartan’s first game started with a memorial service honoring Deanna Mauer, who was killed after being rear-ended during a multi-vehicle crash on Interstate 405, on April 27.

Mauer was 23 years old and a 2010 SJSU graduate.

“That was tough for about seven of us and my staff. I think the university and my SID staff did an awesome job on it,” Turner said. “I just thought it was a great tribute to one of our fallen athletes.”