Astronaut rides into GBPAC

BY EMILY SZELESZICZI
NI News Writer

Astronaut Sally Ride gave UNI students and community members an out-of-this-world experience Thursday evening.

Ride, the first woman to travel with NASA, gave her lecture to a near-full house in the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Art Center's Great Hall.

She shared stories about how she got involved with NASA, her experiences traveling in space, and her latest adventure: planning programs to get girls and young women involved with math and science.

Ride joined NASA after completing her doctorate in physics at Stanford University. Becoming an astronaut was never at the forefront of her mind until she spotted a classified ad in the lower right-hand side of the newspaper. She was a college junior at the time.

She graduated from Stanford in 1973 and later received her master's degree in astrophysics from the University of California, Berkeley. She completed her Ph.D. in physics from the University of Colorado.

Ride was the first American woman to travel in space.

By Leah Helgerson
NI Assoc. News Editor

Traveling to a foreign country can be a fun and educational experience. For four Russian students, the opportunity to come to UNI was a chance of a lifetime.

Maria Shunayeva and Elena Molokanova, along with their advisor Boris Ivanovich Shevchenko are from Moscow State Linguistics University. They arrived at UNI last week to take part in a seminar in which they present reports on internships.

Russian economic students visit UNI

BY AIME STEFFEN
NI News Writer

Equity, freedom, unity, dignity, justice, and humanity—these six principles embody the spirit of the recently completed Center for Multicultural Education.

The center was dedicated Friday to a standing-room-only crowd in the upper level of Maucker Union. UNI President Koob unveiled the opening banner, which read, "EMCEC founded 1971—CME dedicated 2004."

"EMCEC" refers to the original facility, the Ethnic Minorities Cultural and Educational Center, which was housed on College Street in former UNI Vice President Lang's home upon his retirement.

With regard to its old home, Koob stressed the importance of the building's new location.

"We wanted to make certain that it [the CME] wasn't separated; rather, that it was a part of the core [campus community]," Koob said.

The idea of a separate facility first came about in 1970 and was proposed to the Board of Regents, who at the time neglected to take any action.

Frustrated by this, many students staged a sit-in at the home of then President James Maucker demanding their own facility. After seven students were suspended, protests erupted, and those involved with math and science.

By Leah Helgerson
NI Assoc. News Editor

The largest travel related event for NCAA is the men's and women's basketball tournaments, which account for approximately ten million dollars annually. Along with such large monetary sums at stake is the added pressure of being able to get teams where they need to go exactly when they need to be there.

Despite the pressure, Short's Travel Agency was awarded a contract from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to spearhead all of the travel arrangements related to any NCAA championship event, as well as various NCAA conventions or meetings.

The contract is structured to run for a three-year period with the possibility of two additional years.

BY TIM McCUE
NI News Writer

On selection Sunday of the men's basketball tournament, while two area home teams waited impatiently for the news of who they would play, a local travel agency also waited for the results.

Sitting across town in Waterloo's Short's Travel Agency, employees waited not only for the Panthers' seed arrangements, but for all 199 men's and women's bracket selections to be made.

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Ride's ambitions cut short due to Challenger tragedy

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on page three of her campus newspaper.

The ad was calling all per­son's interested in joining NASA to apply, especially women.

This was a part of the national event for two reasons: NASA hadn’t been accepting applica­tions for nearly ten years, and this was the first time females were being admitted into the program.

"One message I can give to the audience is that it pays to read your student newspaper," Ride said. "I ripped the application form out of the paper, filled it out and stuck it in the first mailbox I saw walking back to the physics building."

The rest is history.

Ride made her first space flight in 1983 aboard the shut­tles Challenger. She also made a second flight in 1984. Her goal was to go into orbit a third time before retiring, but her hopes were dashed by the 1986 Challenger accident.

In the short time that they have been here, the students have noticed many differ­ences between Russian and American schools. The most obvious differences include the process of being accepted to college and examination styles.

While Russian students must take entrance exams similar to the ACTs, the pro­cess can be much more dif­ficult and complicated.

High school students plan­ning to go to college must take specialized supplementary classes that focus on the area of study the student wishes to pursue. These classes are required in order to pass the entrance exams.

"It is really very difficult," Molokanova said.

Once students are accept­ed to a college they must be prepared for rigorous examinations. Contrary to the United States, Russian schools do not give many written or multiple choice tests, rather most are oral exams.

"For example, if you are taking an exam in foreign languages it is common to have oral exams. This way the professor can hear if you really know how to speak it," Molokanova said. "History exams are the same. You don't have multiple choice tests where you can just choose the answer, you have to know the answer and be able to communicate it."

The students have learned a lot since they have been in the United States, they have improved their English skills and gained a better understand­ing of American culture.

In the short time that they have been here, the students have come to study for fun, but to learn as well," Molokanova said.

The students not only came to enjoy the new expe­riences and have fun, but to also come away with a better understand­ing of America and its culture.

"I decided to come not only for fun, but to learn as well," Elena Molokanova said. "I think we should use all the opportunities we can to expe­rience new things."

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The students have come to this university for an experience. At the urging of one of their instructors the four students decided to come to UNI.

"Our university and UNI have had a long relationship with each other and lots of students have come to study here. One of our professors actually suggested that we come to this university for an economics seminar," Maria Shunayeva said.

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