

Students celebrate *National Engineers Week*

New Paltz — The *Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering* at the **State University of New York at New Paltz** recently hosted 1,000 students from a four-county region in an all-day event celebrating *National Engineers Week*. The theme of the event, “*New Faces of Engineering*,” is designed to introduce students to the exciting world of engineering.

In conjunction with the theme, this year’s keynote speaker for 9th through 12th grade students was a female engineer from NASA. **Jill Holz** is currently the robotics manager for the Hubble Space Telescope Servicing and De-orbit Mission. With dual masters in Applied Physics and Engineering Management, she has been involved with the HST scientific instrument Wide Field Camera 3 since 1998. She was also responsible for the design, development and qualification of a wide array of unique and specialized tools used by the astro-



A scene from New Paltz

nauts to service the telescope.

Throughout the day, 7th through 12th grade students from 31 schools

in Ulster, Dutchess, Orange and Rockland counties had the opportunity to experience what engineers do

by participating in hands-on projects, including the creation of their own fiber optic circuit system. They visited displays of state-of-the-art products designed by professional engineers from more than 40 high-tech companies, including materials from IBM’s museum collection, NASA, Honda’s ASIMO humanoid robot and LEGO.

New this year, 7th and 8th grade students saw the “*Lisa Lou Anti Gravity Show*,” which included a floating beach ball to explain flight; peacock feathers to explain balance; and a madcap plate spinning routine that explains the center of gravity. **Lisa B. Louis** is a graduate of **Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Clown College** who, over the last 15 years, has presented her circus skills from Nagasaki, Japan to Atlantic City, N.J. Students had the opportunity to learn how to do many of the circus skills shown in this program, including balancing, rope spinning, magic and more.

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