

Week 2 saw all of us becoming more involved in our labs and truly beginning to hash out our projects for the summer. We had our first full week in the lab, had some fun adventures on the weekend, and continued to bond.

### **Monday (6/22/2015)**

On Monday, SLSTP students were busy with lab work, as most had finished their SATERN safety trainings and were now actually allowed to begin lab work. With the July 1st deadline for abstracts approaching, everyone was anxious to draft their proposals. Some people went to Avengers 2; some people went to Mad Max. Mad Max lived up to the hype; it was super entertaining and fun to watch. Furiosa is an inspiration. Avengers 2 was also a good movie. It was also fun to watch, and everyone agreed that Captain America is totally hot. Iron Man is also very cool.

### **Tuesday (6/23/2015)**

On Tuesday at the Summer Series Colloquium, Jose Funes, the director of the observatory at the Vatican gave a talk on the interplay of science and religion. He spoke about the implications of finding life elsewhere in the universe. In the afternoon, Jeff Smith called an “All Hands Meeting” to review the current status of the Space Biology program at Ames. PIs, administrators, and interns were all present, as Jeff gave insight into the goals and challenges of department.

After work, the team planned an ultimate frisbee rematch. Saumalu’s team was unstoppable, and scored relentlessly until injuries crippled their offense. The opposing team with Joe, Victoria, Max, Victor, and Anna was definitely the better team. They played their hearts out to the very end.

Jonathan also found some entertaining outdoor momentum models:



### Wednesday (6/24/2015)

Wednesday marked HUMP DAY!! Students attended a brown bag lunch with Melissa Kirven-Brooks. She talked about astrobiology and told us about lots of cool astrobiology programs and funding opportunities. She also gave us a free poster and the 5th edition of the astrobiology graphic novel. We also met with Homer Fogle to learn about data management for our GeneLab team project. He told us about some data we have to include; no one understood. Luckily Max took notes. We also worked our abstract as a group at night. It wasn't the most exciting part of our week, but we all enjoyed getting to know each other better.

People took the purity test. Results were interesting. Omics analysis and metadata repository analysis needs to be conducted. We all know who the winner was.



### **Thursday (6/25/2015)**

Thursday featured a lunchtime seminar on the technical challenges of the Orion spacecraft heat shield. After a successful test flight, they decided to change the design of the heat shield, and the new design brought a whole host of new problems. The speaker gave interesting insight into the design process while also considering time, cost, and reliability constraints.

Students were quite busy getting into their research projects. Max worked on dissecting fruit fly brains, while Victor injected flies and monitored them for a full day from 6 AM until 9 PM. An afternoon student mixer at the golf course gave SLSTPers a chance to meet and hang out with the Space Academy and MARTI interns. After everyone returned to the lodge, Chris made some excellent chocolate chip and blueberry pancakes.

### **Friday (6/26/2015)**

Finally, Friday, the end of week 2, saw the students finishing up abstracts and working hard in their respective labs. Joseph and Jonathan were hard at work in the lab, testing and putting together components for a cabin air revitalization system.

### **Saturday (6/27/2015)**

The SLSTPers headed to Santa Cruz on Saturday. After a boardwalk lunch, the group joined a beach volleyball game. The locals were very friendly, even coining nicknames such as “Handsome” (Basem) and “Justin Timberlake” (Joe) for the visiting students. After several games, the interns headed out to UC Santa Cruz to hike. After many confusing texts, Groupme messages, and phone calls, the two vans of interns were finally able to meet up on the trail. A short hike through the Redwood forest led to a deep watering hole where the interns each took a turn jumping from the rocks into the frigid water. The day finished with dinner at a Hawaiian barbecue restaurant, where everyone met Desi and her awesome following of children, Lexi and Skyler.







### **Sunday (6/28/2015)**

On Sunday, the students took BART to a packed San Francisco Pride parade. Max took part in the march, as NASA Ames had a group participating. There were awesome floats and costumes, including a NASA spacesuit, Netflix float, and cheerleaders performing stunts. The city was packed with onlookers. The energy in the air was contagious, as everyone celebrated the recent approval of same sex marriage by the Supreme Court.



