Cebrowski Hosts Renowned Computer Science Professor

By MC1 Leonardo Carrillo

The Naval Postgraduate School’s Cebrowski Institute recently hosted guest lecturer Dr. Tim Bell, the founder of Computer Science Unplugged, an interactive educational program designed to teach young people the principles of computer science (CS).

Bell, an Associate Professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, delivered an entertaining presentation to students at Hartnell College, and local middle schools in Salinas. Without the use of a computer, Bell taught binary code and other complex CS concepts through fun and engaging exercises, methods that he has implemented in classrooms worldwide over the past 20 years.

The presentation and concepts introduced are part of a National Science Foundation sponsored research project called “Field Guide for the Science of Computing.”

“What we’re trying to do is rethink the way we present the field of CS,” said Computer Science Chair, and Director of the Cebrowski Institute, Dr. Peter Denning. “We want to spark the interest of students and get them to follow the path to science.”

Statistics reveal a continuing decrease in computer science graduates, despite a notable growth in computing jobs available. The CS Unplugged presentation is one of many learning concepts being explored in the development of a project that Denning adds has a simple but critical goal. “It’s about helping the younger generations get interested,” said Denning. “We want to recover the magic and beauty of computer science.”

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Celebrates Completion of P-197

By MC1 Rob Rubio

A cloudless, sunny afternoon welcomed local Congressman Sam Farr and several officials for the ribbon-cutting ceremony recognizing the completion of Military Construction Project 197, or P-197, a $7.9 million project resulting in a 12,000 sq. ft. facility near Ingersoll Hall that provides high-tech classroom, conference and meeting spaces for NPS.

Capt. Marko Medved, Operations Officer for Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest, noted the focus on environmental sustainability that will eventually award the facility with a prominent achievement in stewardship circles.

He noted, “Two key elements were the audio-visual system and the sustainable design features … the LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] certification that will be attained on this building,” he said. “This building has a few extra trinkets in it that make it more sustainable than your average building. It provides more open space, storm water filtering and management, photovoltaics on it for renewable energy, a high-efficiency HVAC [heating, ventilation and air conditioning] system, [we] diverted 75 percent of the debris away from local landfills by recycling it and 20 percent of the building is made up of some type of recycled content.”

Congressman Sam Farr remarked that he is a strong advocate for investing in military institutions on the Monterey Peninsula, “because I don’t ever want, under my watch, to see us losing more military from this area,” noting the closure of Ft. Ord in 1994.

He closed by complimenting the Naval Postgraduate School community and the institution’s mission within DoD. “I’m very excited about the mission of this institution, excited that Leon [Panetta] is now Secretary of Defense … and I want to continue to build,” he noted. “You are the family of this campus and it is your work every day that makes this a world renowned class act … a diamond jewel in American military installations.”