

# First Private Female Space Explorer Visits NASA Ames

By Pantea Izadi  
Staff Writer

Anousheh Ansari, an Iranian-American businesswoman and astronaut who spent 10 days in space as a crewmember on the International Space Shuttle last fall, was a guest speaker at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View April 13.

Ansari appeared at the research facility as part of the center's commemoration of the April 12, 1961 flight of Russian Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first human to travel into space. During her appearance earlier this month, she spoke about her space adventure and her goal to become an international Space Ambassador.

Ansari spent about \$20 million to pursue her lifelong dream to be a space traveler. She said her time in orbit high above the planet was a humbling experience that put life on this planet into perspective for her.

"When you see the earth for what it is, you couldn't see any borders," she said. "You couldn't see any sign of wars. It was just pure peace and beauty. You wonder how people could ever do things to harm it."

Ansari, a co-founder and chairman of Prodea System, was born Sep. 12, 1966 in Mashhad, a city in northern Iran. After the Iranian revolution, Ansari and her family immigrated to United States when she was sixteen years old.

When she arrived, she knew no English, but she caught up quickly and earned her master's degree from George Washington University at the age of twenty three.

After obtaining her degree, she went to work for the telecommunications company, MCI, where she met and fell in love with Hamid Ansari. They were married in 1991.

In 1993, Ansari convinced her husband to open their own company. She, her husband and her brother-in-law, Amir Ansari, co-founded Telecom Technologies, Inc. The company was remarkably successful: in just seven years, the Ansari's sold the company for \$750 million dollars.

The sale made Ansari one of the most successful and richest business women in the world, and Anousheh used her money to pursue her childhood dream of space travel.

"Ever since, I was a kid," she said, "I've always dreamt of traveling to space. I would just gaze at the stars for hours and hours and wonder if there are other people like us out there."

On Sep. 18, 2006, that dream came true. After paying her way into NASA's private astronaut program, she trained and traveled to Russia, where she took off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan as part of a crew-exchange flight to the International Space Station.

Ansari traveled to space in a tiny capsule. She lived 220 miles above earth for 10 days. Her dream had come true: she had become the world's first private female space explorer.

Ansari said many aspects of her 10-day space adventure brought her pleasure. Among other things, she said she enjoyed being weightless.

"Flying and floating around can be really addicting," she said.

She said she also enjoyed the peacefulness of space, the spectacle of seeing sunrise and sunset every 90 minutes as the space station orbited, and the magnificent view of a million beautiful and shiny stars from space.

While she said she was excited about her memorable journey into space, she has a desire to act "as a Space Ambassador, to create public awareness and stimulate grassroots

enthusiasm about the virtues of space exploration, to be an inspiration for youth around the world to pursue their dreams, especially to inspire girls everywhere.

"And, as the first Space Ambassador, promote peace and understanding amongst nations," she said.

Ansari said she is also proud to be an Iranian-American.

"I was born in Iran and lived there until the age of 16 and then moved to the United States, so I have a lot of roots in Iran and feel very close to the Iranian people and the culture of the country," she said.

On her spacesuit, she wore badges bearing both the Iranian and American flags.

"By wearing the two badges I can demonstrate that both countries had something to do with making me the person who I am today," she said.

Ansari is a member of the X Prize Foundation's Vision Circle. She has received many awards over the past years, including the 2000 National Entrepreneurial Excellence Award. Her picture has appeared on the cover of Working Woman Magazine, and she has also appeared in many newspapers, magazines and TV, including "the Oprah Winfrey Show."

Her accomplishments have won

her praise from fellow Iranian-Americans and have made her an important role model.

"Ansari has opened the door of hope and opportunities for many women to follow their dreams and achieve their goals," said Morvaried Ahmadi, an architect. "I truly admire her effort"

Claudia Kimia, a biomedical engineer, also expressed admiration for Ansari's achievements.

"I am so proud of Anousheh Ansari," Kimia said. "She followed her dream and never gave up. She has self-confidence, strong beliefs, courage and most importantly she has perseverance. She is a good example of an educated, courageous, persistent woman. Not everybody can go through six months of long and intensive training to fulfill her/his goals."

As Masumeh Kashani Hatami, a writer, put it: "We, the Iranian-American women, have tried relentlessly to change and to modify our traditional roles in the society. We always wanted to prove to the society, and especially to the Western society, that we are more than capable to work beside men outside the home; as well as being great mothers and wives at home. Certainly, Anousheh broke many barriers for all of us."

# V-Tech Deaths Cause Plan Reviews

By Paul Walker  
Staff Writer

After the tragic shootings at Virginia Polytechnic Institute April 16 that left 33 dead, including 23-year old gunman Cho Sueng-Hui, school officials around the Bay Area are preparing to avoid similar incidents.

Colleges and universities such as UC Berkeley, De Anza and Cal State East Bay are trying to decide how to prevent violence on their campuses by targeting the reasons why students commit such random acts.

CSUEB's Police Chief Janeith Glenn-Davis said, "Only positive things can come out of these tragic things that have happened since last week's incident. We are still going to continue to maintain our high level of preparedness."

During a memorial for the Virginia Tech victims, CSUEB students gathered together in the cafeteria of the old student union building for a remembrance of those lost during the shootings.

"We honor the families and friends of those who were lost during that day and as a community of learners and educators, we can feel for each other," said university President Mo Qayoumi.

At UC Berkeley, a recent study showed that because depression is a major problem among college students, counselors and university employees have stepped up to help when they see signs of mental illness.

School officials said statistics on depression, mental illness and suicide are on the rise on college campuses all across the country.

Campus security personnel try to intervene in these cases where it is possible.

UC Berkeley Police Lieutenant Douglas Wing said, "Mostly, we are fortunate to get to them before anything bad happens and occasionally we get to them after something bad happens."

Six years ago, before Hui's deadly rampage, a DeAnza student, Al DeGuzman was arrested and eventually convicted of plotting a similar siege at the De Anza campus in Cupertino.

Security measures have been upgraded at De Anza since then. DeGuzman was sentenced to 80 years in prison after his conviction, but committed suicide at Folsom in 2004.

Foothill-De Anza Community College District Chancellor Martha Kanter said during a news interview that it's troubling that educational institutions have to train and handle these types of situations. He said that is why colleges like DeAnza have counseling and psychology programs on campus.

With all universities and colleges around the country staying on high alert, security measures are being reexamined to help campuses be safe, secure and responsive to all emergencies.

**BEST DISCOUNT CENTER!**  
**DURANT MARKETPLACE**

CLOTHING • SHOES • JEWELRY

• HOME FURNISHING • GIFTS

• PHONICS • BEAUTY SUPPLIES • PERFUME


• ELECTRONICS • CD'S & TAPES

Open 10am - 7pm.Open Sundays 11am - 6pm.  
Closed Tuesdays

10970 International Blvd. & Durant Ave  
Oakland, CA

**TCLASS**  
COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**JEWISH CULTURE**  
and  
**HISTORY**  
Series



Photograph taken in the Lodz Ghetto. From the archives of the Holocaust Center of Northern California, San Francisco.

**THE SHOAH:**  
A SURVIVOR'S TESTIMONY

FREE

**Wednesday, May 2, 2007; 2:40-4:30 p.m.**  
Studio Theatre – 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward, Reception following

Hear Holocaust survivor Helen Farkas recount a story of deportation to Auschwitz in 1944 and a three-month death march before the American liberation.  
The program will open with a slideshow overview of Hitler's rise and fall from power, 1933-1945.

*Presented by the Holocaust Center of Northern California's Survivors Speakers Bureau (HCNC).*

[http://class.csueastbay.edu/Jewish\\_Culture\\_Series.php](http://class.csueastbay.edu/Jewish_Culture_Series.php)

**TCLASS**  
COLLEGE OF LETTER, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

and the DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE Present

**CHARLOTTE'S WEB**



**Friday, May 4**  
**8 p.m.**  
**Saturday, May 5**  
**2 & 8 p.m.**  
**University Theatre**  
25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward

*Directed by A. Fajilan*  
*Adapted by Joseph Robinette*  
*Based on the story by E.B. White*

**\$ 1 Off Coupon**  
**Bring this ad to the box office.**  
One discount per coupon

\$7-5 adults, \$3 children, \$14 family  
**[www.csueastbay.edu/theatre](http://www.csueastbay.edu/theatre) • 510.885.3118**

April 2007

Volume 1 Issue 2

**BREAKING NEWS!**  
Deadlines for Study Abroad

\*South Africa\*Korea\*Australia\*New Zealand\* and More\*

Do not delay: Start your dream of studying abroad today! The following destinations are still accepting applications for Fall 2007

**Application Deadline May 1, 2007**


- CSU International Programs:** Gain credit while studying a wide variety of fields in beautiful **Australia, New Zealand, or South Africa.**
  - Fall in love with Asan, Korea at **Soonchunhyang University.** Participating in their Cultural Internship Program provides financial and educational rewards.
- Learn to speak Korean in Seoul at **Chung Ang University** while learning the culture. Scholarships available for native English speakers.
- International Student Exchange Program** ([www.isep.org](http://www.isep.org)) and **National Student Exchange** ([www.nse.org](http://www.nse.org)) are still accepting applications for many institutions (rolling admissions on a space-available basis).

***Hurry- time is running out!***



**For applications and more information:**  
**The Center for International Education**  
**Student Services Hub 1325**  
**510-885-2880 @Cal State East Bay**

**"Which Fork Do I Use?"**



**Business Dining Etiquette Workshop & Dinner**

**A three-part, hands-on workshop presented by National Trainer, Ms. Pat Mayfield**

**Friday, May 11th, 2007, 5:00-9:00 pm**  
**California State University, East Bay**  
**New University Union Multipurpose Room**  
**Sponsored by SIFE, Red Carpet Club, Golden Key, and CDC**

Pre-Registration Meal Ticket & Book available at the  
CSUEB Career Development Center  
Warren Hall 509

Cost: \*Students \$20, Staff/Faculty/Emeriti Faculty/Administrators \$25, Guests \$50  
Cash/Check payments accepted at CDC  
Make checks payable to: Cal State East Bay  
\*Limited Scholarships Available

**For more information and request for special accommodations and auxiliary aids or services, please contact: 510-885-3621 no later than 2 weeks prior to the event**