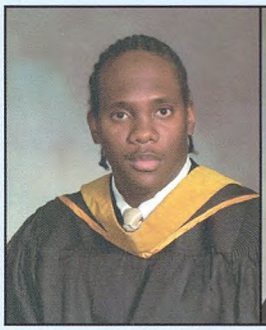
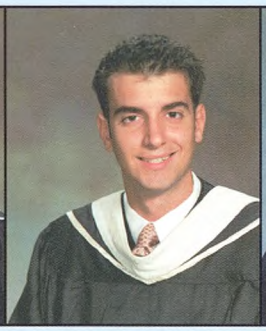


Kegan Thomas
Information Technology

Geysha Thomas-Davis
Management

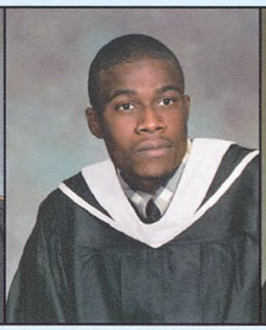
Katherine Torres
Psychology



Alexis Trigo
Political Science

Meisha Trim
Communications

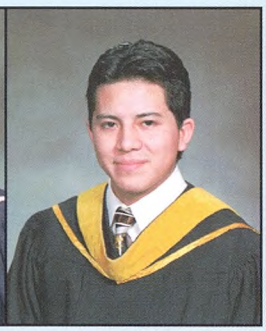
Michelle Tusa
Criminal Justice



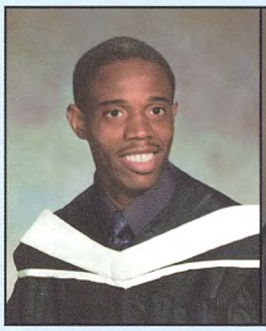
Douglas Ugwy
Economics

Anna Urbanovich
Psychology

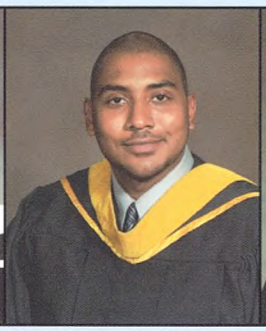
David Verdieu
Special Studies



Fredy Vinansaca
Aviation Administration



Damier Walker
Economics



Christopher Ward
Biology

Kimberly Weir
Management

Robert Wiatre
Business Management

Amanda Williams
Film & Broadcasting

Mersena Williams
Biology

Michelle Williams
Information Technology &
Business Management

Samantha Yasin
Criminal Justice

Fernande Zamor
Economics

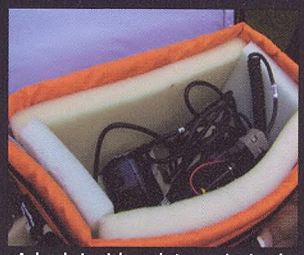
ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE
THE SMALL COLLEGE OF BIG DREAMS

NASA @ SFC

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is one of the most prestigious and most recognized programs from the United States government. All our lives, we have grown up hearing and studying there accomplishments here on earth and in space. NASA funds thousands of different projects each year, some of which are for trained and specially hired scientists and others for students of all educational levels around the country. This past summer, Saint Francis College students were lucky enough to be involved in one such program.

Saint Francis College students joined forces with students from Medgar Evers College (MEC), The City University of New York (CUNY), to form a team to conduct high altitude balloon projects. The project, MECSAT, is funded by NASA under the Minority University Space Interdisciplinary Network (MUSPIN) at the Goddard Space Center. The basis of MUSPIN is essentially "to broaden NASA-related science and technology base among CUNY partner colleges and NYC public K-12 schools." This project was conducted through the Network Resource Training Site (NRTS) based at Medgar Evers College under the direction of Dr. Shermane Austin (MEC). Professor Gregory Vaughn (SFC), our mentor on this project, is an adjunct professor at MEC, as well as here at SFC, and is responsible for getting Saint Francis College students involved. Through the guidance of Prof. Vaughn and Dr. Allen Burdowski (SFC Biology / Information Technology Chairperson) we were able to become contributing members to this project.

The goal of this project was to send specially rigged balloons into the upper atmosphere to conduct different scientific observations and tests. The balloon was sent up with varying payloads depending on the purpose of the mission. Generally two payloads would accompany a flight, the primary payload generally consisting of a radio transmitter and GPS location subsystem and the secondary payload containing any scientific sensors or additional observational equipment required.



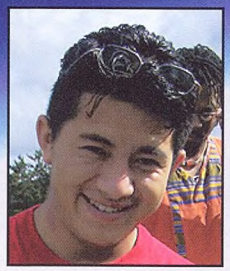
A look inside a later mission's primary payload.

The Radio \ GPS Transmitter onboard an earlier payload.

The primary payload for the earlier missions.

Diana Martucci '05
Major:
Information Technology
Team:
Payload & Integration

Adam Valentin '05
Major:
Information Technology
Team:
Com. & Track



Freddy F. Vinansaca '05
Major:
Aviation Administration
Team:
Flight \
Payload & Integration

David Corbino '07
Major:
Information Technology & Math
Team:
Student Proj. Mnger. \
Com. & Track