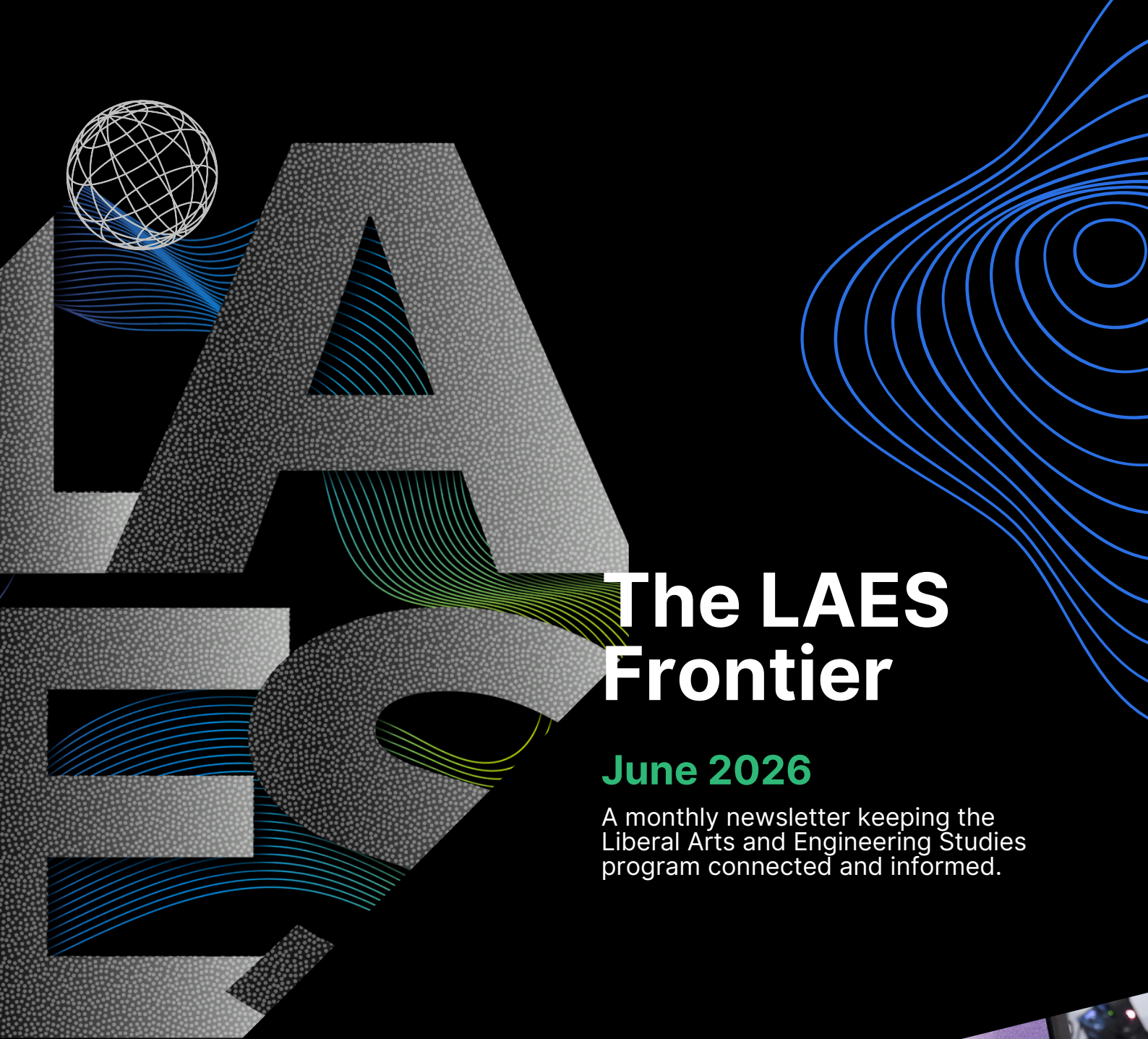




# The LAES Frontier

**June 2026**

A monthly newsletter keeping the Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies program connected and informed.

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# In Case You Missed It

## LAES at the College of Engineering Project Showcase

LAES had a booth at the recent CENG Project Showcase event in the ATL on the afternoon of Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. The student team for the Aerospace Museum of California VR Experience showcased their work to visiting professionals, faculty, and students, answered questions, and allowed attendees to try out the experience for themselves. Check out their poster below. Also, keep an eye out for other LAES projects showing at this expo in future semesters!



### AerospaceVR

AEROSPACE MUSEUM  
OF CALIFORNIA

Michael Haungs, Valerie Truong, Stella Daoud, Riona Raheja, Mitchell Heal, Logan Rodriguez, Erik Solis, Bryn Harper, Maddie Morelos, Catherine Zheng

#### Project Overview

*AerospaceVR: An Immersive Space Station Repair Simulation for STEM Engagement.*

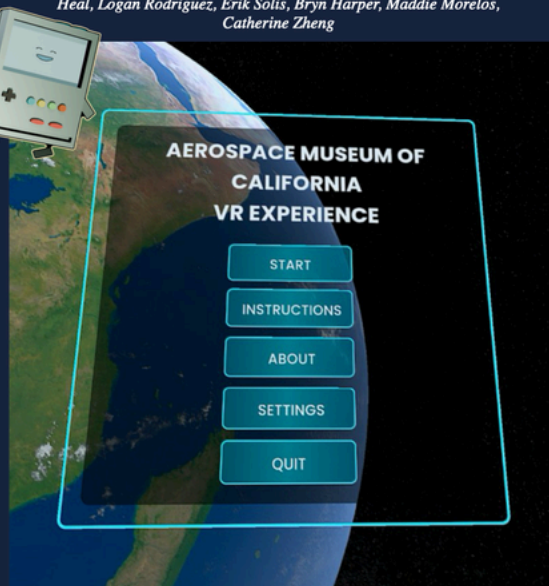
- \* Developed for the Aerospace Museum of California
- \* Designed for museum visitors ages 10–60 & non-gamers
- \* Focused on building an immersive space exploration simulator to boost curiosity and interest in STEM

#### Story

- \* Users take on the role of a newly trained space station technician tasked with repairing damage caused by a solar flare. With the help of Houston, NASA's friendly autonomous AI, users blast off into space, solve interactive puzzles to repair the space shuttle, and safely return home!

#### Features

- \* 3 Puzzles: Wire Puzzle, Authentication Puzzle, and an Epoxy Puzzle
- \* Realistic Space Physics: Users can float and thrust to different areas in the shuttle simulating an immersive zero gravity experience
- \* Accessibility: Right & Left-Handed Gameplay, Toggle-able Subtitle System, and Master Volume Adjustments



#### Playtesting

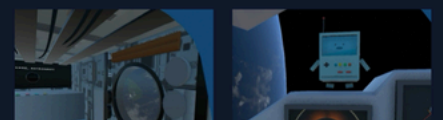


- \* Playtesting conducted with LAES 301/302 faculty and students across the target age range, giving us insight on technical bug fixes, puzzle difficulty, story pacing, etc.

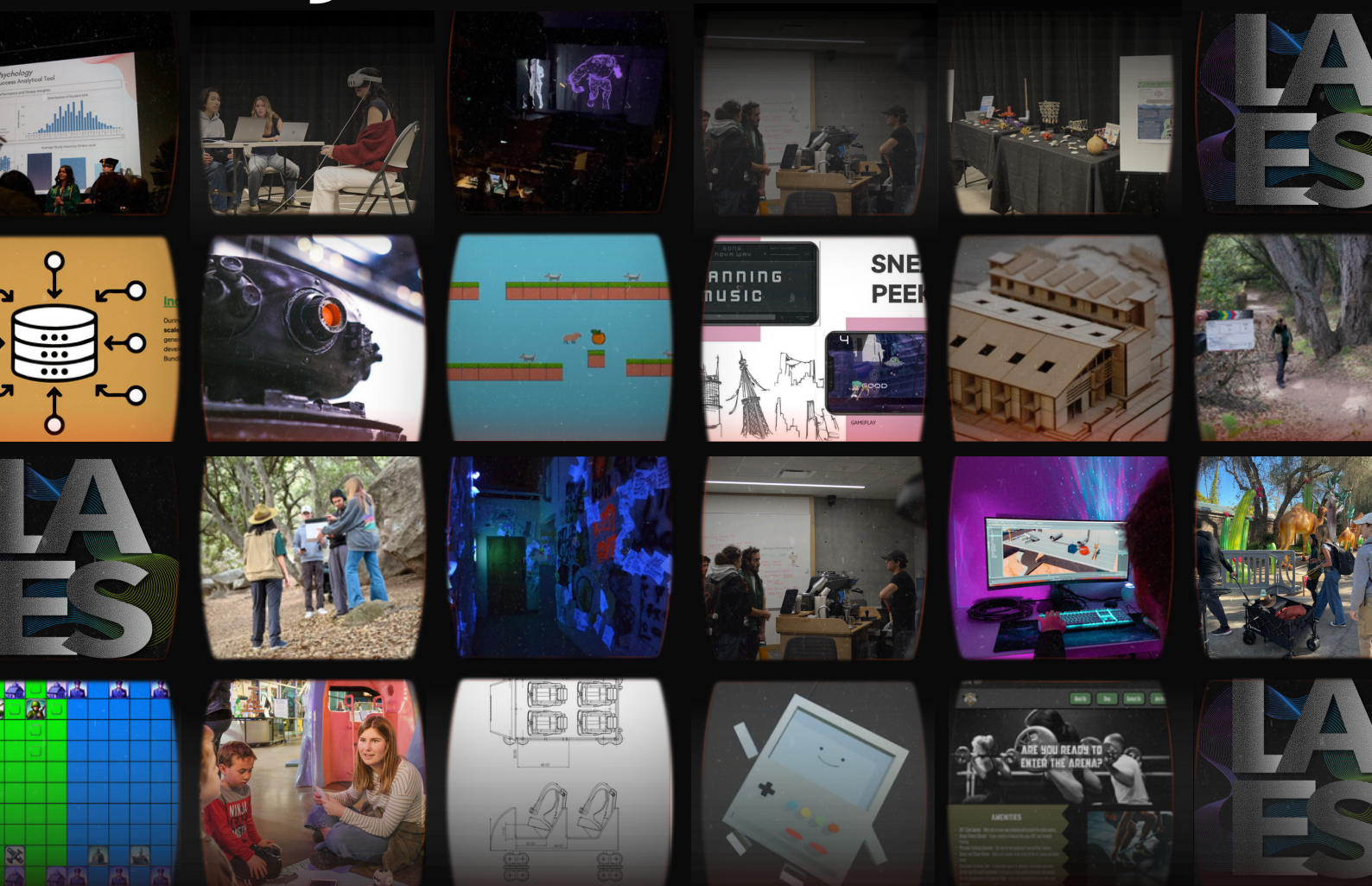
#### Future Plans

In Version 2 we will completely revamp the game with new features to give users a more immersive experience through the implementation of more interactable objects, a mini tutorial scene, and even more puzzles.

We hope that AerospaceVR continues to be an enjoyable experience to all audiences and inspires participants to explore the STEM fields that make space travel possible!











## LAES Visits Aerospace Museum of CA

Over Memorial Day weekend, five members of the Aerospace Museum of California Virtual Reality Experience team, comprised of students from LAES 301, LAES 302, LAES 462, and the Computer Science Senior Project program, traveled to the Sacramento area to test the latest version of their VR mission experience with museum guests.

The immersive experience places participants aboard an orbiting space station in need of critical repairs. During the visit, the team gathered valuable feedback from a diverse group of visitors ranging in age from 7 to 77. This user testing provided important insights into how the experience can best engage and serve the Sacramento community, as well as the museum's visitors from across the nation and around the world.

The feedback collected will help guide future development as the team works toward making the VR experience a permanent exhibit at the Aerospace Museum of California.



LAES Senior Maddie Morelos trying out the museum's flight simulator!



# Upcoming Events



**June 3rd, 6:40pm**

## **LAES/Game Development Club Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Game Night**

- Frost Center Expressive Technology Studios (181-104)
- Join the LAES and Game Development Clubs to play Super Smash Bros Ultimate on the most advanced sound and video system in SLO.
- Please bring any extra switch controllers that you have. Let me know if you have any questions about the event!



**June 13th, 3-5pm**

## **LAES Class of 2026 Commencement Ceremony**

- Frost Center Expressive Technology Studios (181-104)
- Graduates and supporters (that includes any non-graduating LAES students too!), come celebrate all your years of hard work all together in the ETS. Hear from both Co-Directors and FRIDA, snap polaroid pictures, and join the class of 2026 photo!
- Graduation regalia encouraged but not required.

Email Alessandra Gardner at [agardn03@calpoly.edu](mailto:agardn03@calpoly.edu) with any event quesitons.



# Mission Control

*Stand by for final transmission...*



## Commencement Ceremony Survey

*Graduating Seniors - help us celebrate you!*

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### **SEVERAL RESPONSES STILL NEEDED**

Please let us know details for LAES commencement such as number of guests, a photo of you, and information about your senior project via this form: [\*\*LAES Class of 2026 Commencement Ceremony – Fill out form\*\*](#)

## More Alumni Needed for Newsletter Spotlights

*Help us build our LAES community*

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LAES Alumni, we need your help! Please [\*\*Complete this brief form\*\*](#) so we can spotlight you. Thank you for your time and support of the program.

## Portfolio Builder

*On the internship or job hunt?  
Make sure your portfolio is ready!*

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Use [\*\*Site Crafter Studio\*\*](#) for a step for step guide that will help you stand out in the job market! Created by 2023 LAES graduate Nicole Arcolino.

*End of transmission.*