

# Santa Maria Times 8/16/08

UCSB

Public invited to

astronaut's 'chat'

NASA astronaut Gregory Chamitoff, who is serving a six-month stint on the International Space Station, will participate in a long-distance chat Tuesday with Boy Scouts at UCSB.

The public is invited to attend the question-and-answer session with Boy Scout Troop 105. The conversation will begin at 8:35 a.m. on the observation deck on Broida Hall's roof. To access the deck, take the elevator to the sixth floor and follow the signs that lead to the roof.

The chat will take place with the help of Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club members, who will connect Chamitoff and the scouts. The session will last roughly 15 minutes while the space station remains within range.

"Normally, it's a five-year wait for this kind of event," said Glenn Schiferl, who manages computer systems for the physics department and is Troop 105's scoutmaster. "But one of my assistant scoutmasters was a classmate of Greg at Cal Poly. They kept in touch and anticipated doing this."

Chamitoff arrived at the space station in June.