Speaker 1: It's such a fabulous event and a part of our history and such important work and they didn't disappoint it today. The presentations are fabulous, reminding us of all the history that we don't hear enough about. I'm so happy I'm here.

Speaker 2: Welcome to The Magic Mountie podcast. This is a podcast that's dedicated to helping faculty and other college employees as they try and navigate the challenging fabric of serving students, especially at Mt. San Antonio College. But everyone's welcome.

Sun Ezzell: Hi, this is Sun Ezzell with The Magic Mountie podcast. This month marks the 50th anniversary of the first time humans walked on the moon and the Mt. SAC Randall Planetarium celebrated Apollo 11 with planetarium shows and paper rocket launches and the dedication of an 80% scale model of the lunar lander built by Mt. SAC Professor Jim Uranga and his students in the Mountie Makerspace. And if you missed the event, we wanted to give you a snapshot of the experience from a few of the attendees and participants who helped make it happen.

Gary Chow: I am trustee Gary Chow. Today is the college celebrating the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11. I remember that day, when I was a very young man. It took us many years of experimenting on rocket launching to get it right, and I'm really impressed that we're able to, nearly every time, able to propel a rocket up successfully without it coming down unexpectedly. It's really an engineering feat. I am just impressed by the engineers who can see this in their minds.

Heather: I'm the planetary manager. The planetarium is a little over 50 years old, and it's been around here since about 1968. It was built as a learning space for students. When you're learning about astronomy, most of those classes take place indoors or during the day, and it's hard to learn about the stars and everything when you're not looking at them. Especially since it's a unique kind of 3D environment, you need to be looking north, south, east, west, all around, and it's very difficult to learn when you're stuck looking inside a box.

Heather: So we're celebrating 50 years since men first walked on the moon, which is such a big historical event. Almost, I hesitate to say this, but I think there's an argument for it. Probably one of the biggest historical events in human history to have men walk on the moon. I just get goosebumps when I think about it, so we wanted to do something big to celebrate that. We've got free planetarium shows all day. We've got rocket launching and building. We've got an ask an astronomer station. We've got face painting, a VR experience of a spacewalk and just kind of a lot of fun activities. I hope students stop by in between classes, try and see a show, do some other activities.

John P.: Hey, it's my pleasure, on behalf of the natural sciences division to welcome all of you here today, to this celebration of the 50 year anniversary of Apollo 11 mission, as well as the ribbon cutting ceremony that we're going to have later on.

John P.: Now, some of you know that I like some space puns. I really was going to prepare one for you today but I just needed a little more time to plan it. I "Apollo-gize" for that. Now, one of Mt. SAC's core values is community building, which includes cooperation and a collaborative spirit. This is why I am so excited to introduce you to professor Jim Uranga. Professor Uranga is an electronics professor here on campus, and he is the person who has been the lead of this lunar module. The team has spent over 500 hours creating what you saw outside and so I just can't wait to hear about how they did it. So it is with great honor that we welcome Professor Jim Uranga.

Jim Uranga: Thank you for everyone coming here today and sharing my dream. People walking by or people who see this stop and ask me, Is that the space shuttle?" Or they would say "Is that a Mars Rover?" I explain to them "No, it's an Apollo lunar module. It's a replica of the vehicle that landed on the moon 50 years ago." But when folks ask me questions like that, that is part of the answer of another question I was asked is "Why are you doing this? Why are you building it?"

Jim Uranga: And I think part of it is probably in my DNA and my genes because I was actually born on October 4th, 1957, when the Russians put Sputnik in orbit. That was the day I was born. So me and Sputnik are kind of like brothers. The other reason that I wanted to build it is because I remember Apollo missions and I remember that feeling that I had of an inspiration of the Apollo astronauts, and I wanted other people to remember those times. Now, the lunar module outside is structurally complete, but one of the things I haven't done yet is on the leg where the ladder is, there's supposed to be a plaque. When the Apollo 11 astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, were leaving the moon, they unveiled a plaque, on live TV, they told the world "We came here in peace for all mankind." I'm sorry to get so emotional. How nice that would be if we could rekindle that sentiment.

Professor Hood: So the first moon landings a really big deal, both for human exploration, for the technological advances required to get to the moon and get people back. When I think of the people landing on the moon, I always think more about sort of the risks they took of how big a step this is and how big a risk that is to get yourself there and get yourself back.

Professor Hood: There were a lot of things that had to go right and a lot of things that need to turnout almost perfect for this to work well and I think that's a big testament to the people who worked on this. All the engineers, some of them spoke today, of how many people had to do everything to get them here, of what it took to get people to the moon and get them back and how sort of the large group of people, large group of all sorts of positions required to get that up and running. Whether it's communications or building or design or construction or just cleaning the fuel lines and every little piece needs to go right. That's a huge, big achievement to be able to get people that far away.

Heather: There's been a lot of rich history and man space flights and I'm just really excited and looking forward to the return to man's space flight. They said in the presentation, it'll be probably about two years and Space X will be able to start sending astronauts up into space again and looking forward to the future to going beyond the moon. Go to Mars. I want that to happen in my lifetime. And hey, if anybody's asking for volunteers, I'll go to Mars.

Speaker 2: Hey, thanks so much for joining us for the Magic Mountie podcast. We love your likes, we love your shares, and we love your comments. So please engage with our community, download from wherever you love to get your podcasts, iTunes, Google rate, my professor. We're there, and we want you to be back with us next week. Remember, any opinions that are expressed in this podcast do not necessarily represent Mt. San Antonio College or any of its agents. We'll see you next time.