April 21, 2014

World record to be set at Teeter-Totter-a-Thon

Sacramento State’s Rotaract, the student service club sponsored by Rotary International, long ago set its sights on the Guinness world record for the longest seesaw.

The club will debut its 82-foot aluminum showpiece at 8 a.m. Wednesday, April 23, on Sac State’s South Green (in front of The WELL), at the start of its two-day Teeter-Totter-a-Thon fundraiser. The beam will eclipse the current record-holder by a whopping 2 feet, 10 inches.

“It'll be the size of a railroad car. I wanted to make sure we didn’t miss the world record by an inch or two,” says Roland Wright, a member of Rotary Club of Foothill-Highlands and vice president of a local aluminum fabricating company. His daughter Deborah is a member of Sac State’s Rotaract.

Wright designed the 800-pound contraption in his shop, and Richard Matta, CEO of Matta Construction, volunteered to deliver and begin assembling the supersize seesaw’s six sections around 7 a.m. Wednesday. When done, it’ll stand 4 feet high at the fulcrum and lift riders 8 feet into the air.

The Teeter-Totter-a-Thon will continue from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday. Club members will accept donations for the nonprofit Alliance for Smiles, which provides free reconstructive surgery for underserved children throughout the world.

“This is the fifth and final year of our event,” says Rotaract President Denise Barajas. “We decided that the proper way to end what’s become a campus tradition was by achieving what we set out to do in the beginning: break the world record. I believe that what we’re trying to do will bring pride to our club and to the campus as a whole.”

Rotaract has increased the length of its teeter-totter every year since the fundraiser began in 2009. Club members will submit documents and verification of their 82-foot seesaw to the Guinness Book of World Records – and, they hope, bring home a world record to Sac State.

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Office of Public Affairs at (916) 278-6156. – Dixie Reid
Sacramento State is making a difference in California’s Capital Region and beyond. We offer a life-changing opportunity for our 28,000 students, preparing them to be leaders in their professions and communities. Our professors are known for their dedication to great teaching. And our location in the capital of the nation’s most populous state allows students to pursue unique internships and research.

###

92-S14-DR