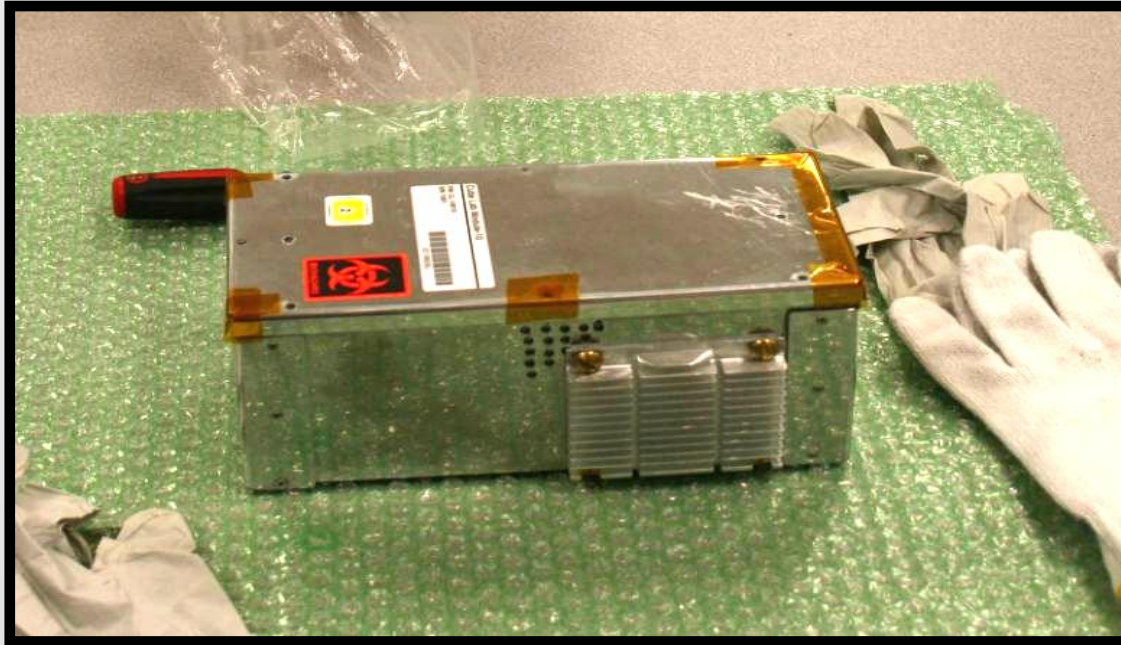




# "The Sky is No Longer the Limit"



A Presentation on our 2U CubeLab™ by  
Valley Christian High School Students

# Student Presenters



**Veronica Lane**

- **12<sup>th</sup> Grade-Project Leader**
- Robotics Team Leader
- Cross Country & Track
- Pursuing Career in Engineering
- Accepted at MIT, CIT, Cal & Stanford



**Ross Martinez**

- **12<sup>th</sup> Grade-Payload Design**
- Cross Country & Track
- Accepted at University of Santa Clara



**William Kohlmoos**

- **12<sup>th</sup> Grade-Design Engineering**
- Involved in leadership, community outreach, marching band, and swimming and diving
- Pursuing a career in business



**Mason Ivy**

- **10<sup>th</sup> Grade-Engineering Mgmt & Design**
- Competes in wrestling
- Silicon Valley Science and Technology Championship Winner
- Awarded for his efforts which resulted in February 28 being designated as "Rare Disease Day" in California
- Pursuing Career in Engineering
- Plans to attend Cal Poly



**Michael Lee**

- **10<sup>th</sup> Grade-Mechanical Design**
- Fixes computers for fun and profit
- Pursuing a career in Computer Hardware Engineering
- Wants to attend CIT or MIT



**Tanya D'Silva**

- **10<sup>th</sup> Grade Mechanical Design**
- Won numerous piano competitions
- Pursuing a career in Astrophysics
- Wants to attend Cornell or Princeton

# Mission Objective

- Provide an exciting Space Project where students can apply their *Math, Science, and Engineering Skills*.
- Develop and document a process to launch a *low cost* student payloads into space *within the school year*.
- Research, design and fabricate experiments conducted in a microgravity environment
- *Learn* new technical and management skills.
- *Help* other high schools get into space.

# What is a CubeLab™ ?

- ▶ Dimensions of 1U unit
  - *10cm x 10cm x 10cm*
  - (expanded dimensions possible next year)
- ▶ Weight of *1kg* maximum
- ▶ Power provided via a USB connector
  - *5 Volts @ 400ma*
- ▶ Astronaut uplinks commands and downloads data via the *USB interface*
- ▶ CubeLabs™ can be installed in every *ISS resupply* mission
- ▶ Cubelab™ locker provides *air cooling*
- ▶ NanoRacks has space for *32 Cubelabs™* at one time onboard the ISS

# Why CubeLab™?

- ▶ ***Firm launch*** dates from scheduled ISS Resupply Vehicles
- ▶ Low Launch cost of ***\$25k*** for ***10cm x 11.7cm x 15cm***, CubeLab™ (For All Future Launches)
- ▶ ***Benign Environment*** inside Launch Vehicle & ISS
  - Low level launch vibrations
    - Packaged in Bubble Wrap
  - Shirt sleeve temperature
  - Earth like atmosphere
- ▶ NanoRacks provides electrical power and near real time commanding and data via astronaut laptop
- ▶ Optional ***Return*** via Soyuz or SpaceX

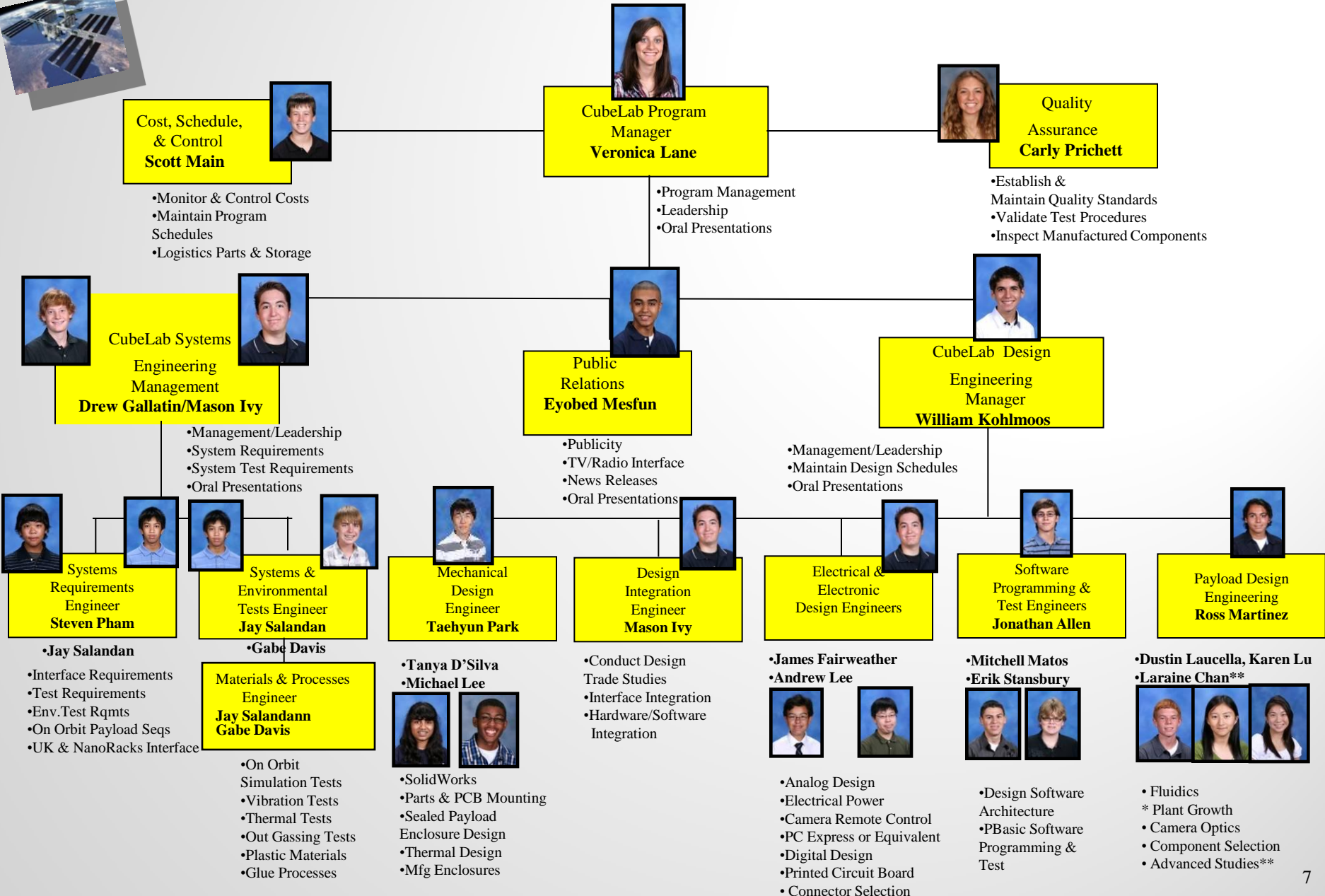


# Project Start July 12, 2010

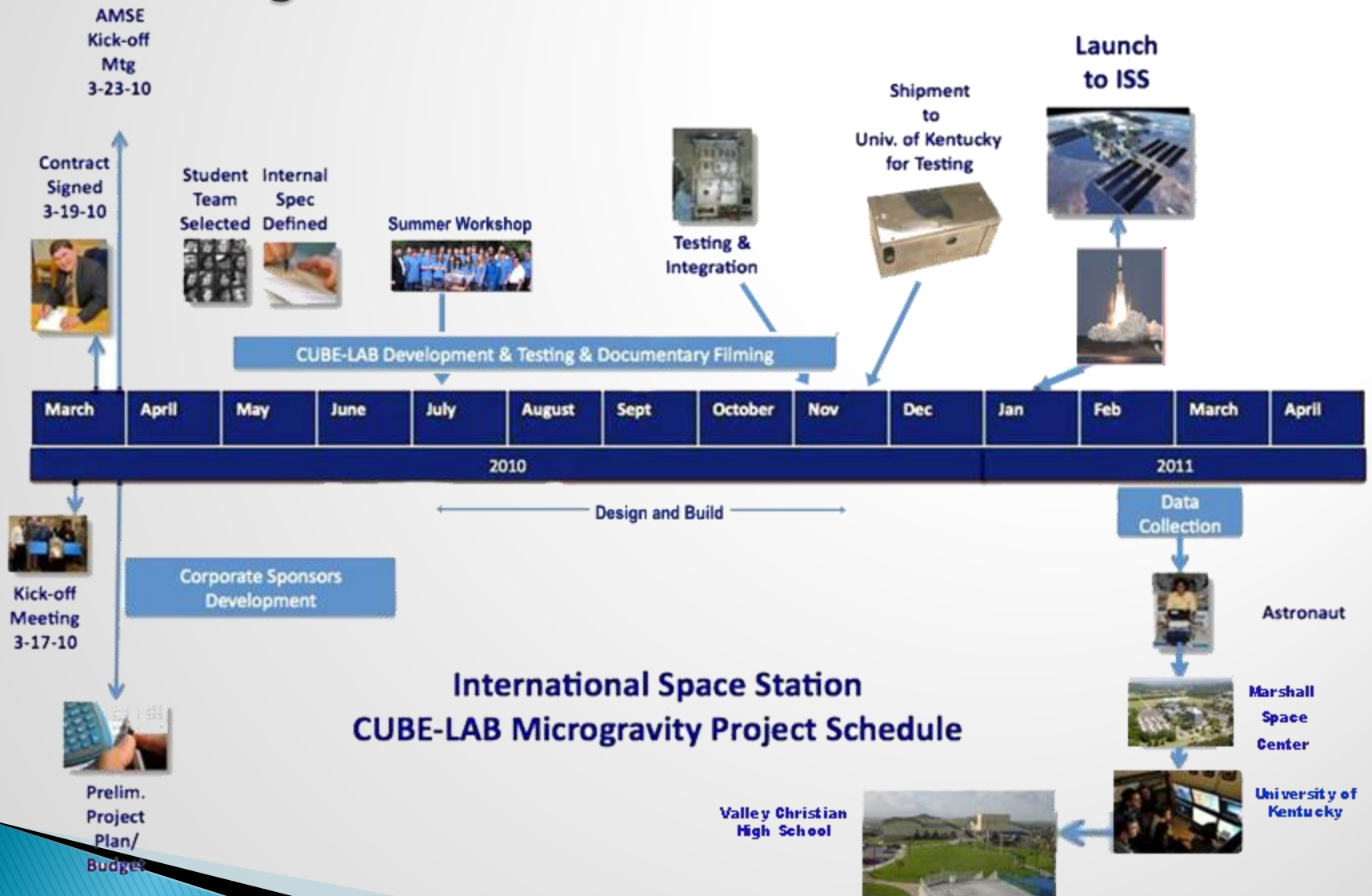


**Valley Christian High School ISS Project Team**

# ISS Project Students



# ISS Project Timeline





# Summer Workshop (July 12, 2010)



# Design Plan at end of Workshop

VCHS - ISS Project

ISS BIOS flow charts

ky Saturday, August 21, 2010

## ► **Payload** Determined – Plant Growth Experiment

- Type of Plants
- Plant Requirements

## ► **Electrical Design** Requirements

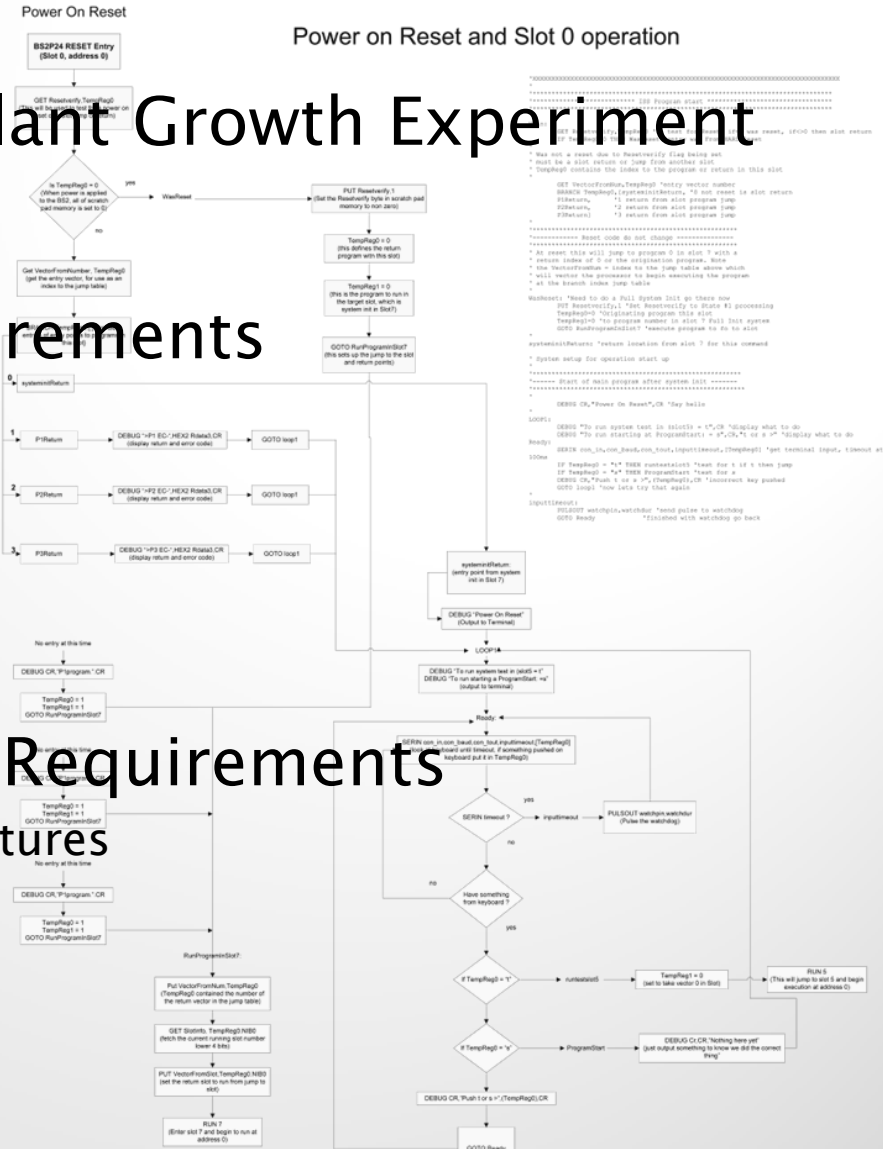
- Microcontroller and I/O
- Electrical controlled devices
- Camera Selection

## ► **Mechanical Design**

- Size and material

## ► **Data and Operational** Requirements

- Download steps and file structures





# Design -Payload



## ▶ *Growing Plants*

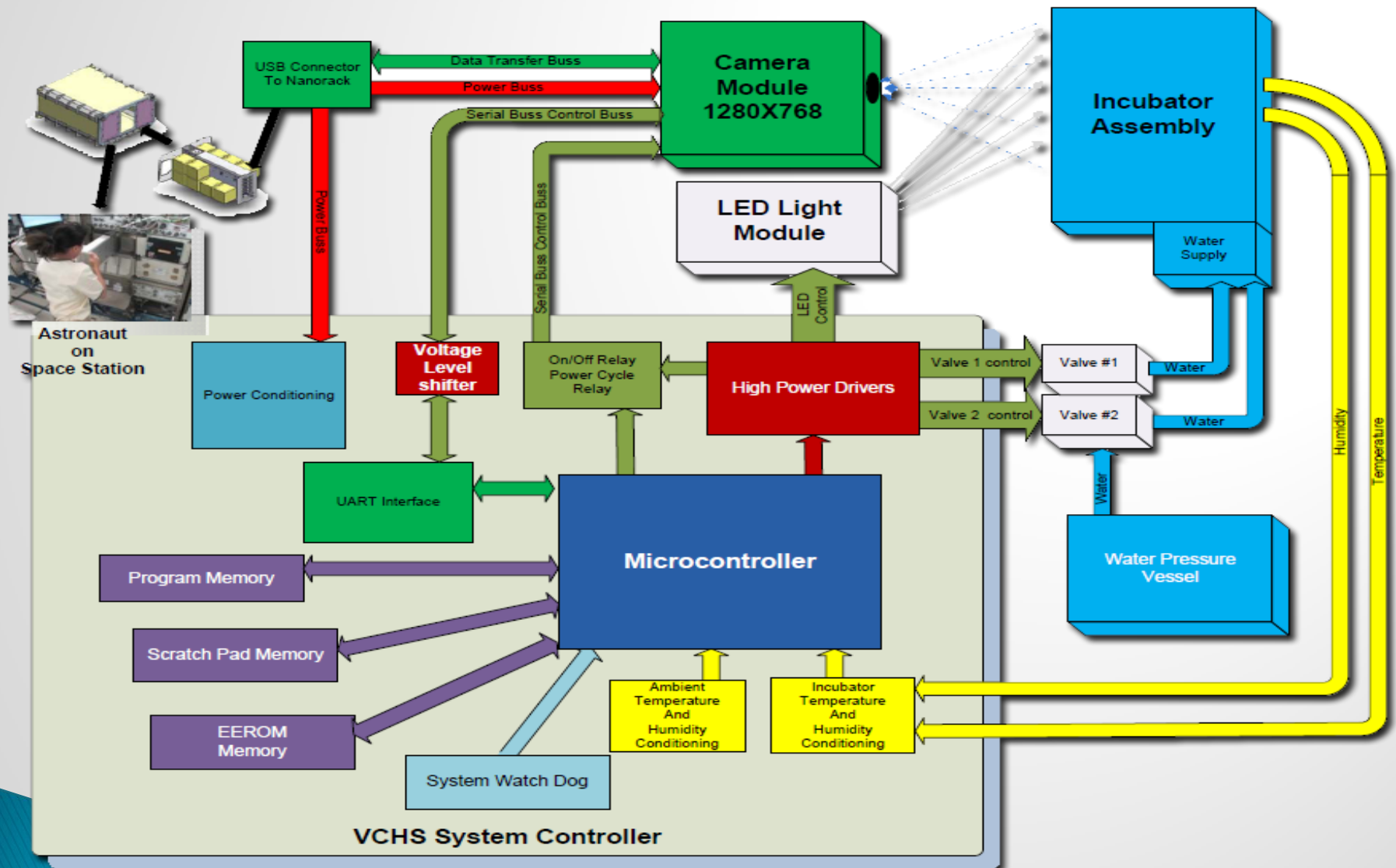
- Research needed for future long space travel
- Cannot bring enough food
- Trip to Mars 3-years (roundtrip)

## ▶ *Plants chosen:*

- Basil
- Marigold
- Wisconsin Fast Plant



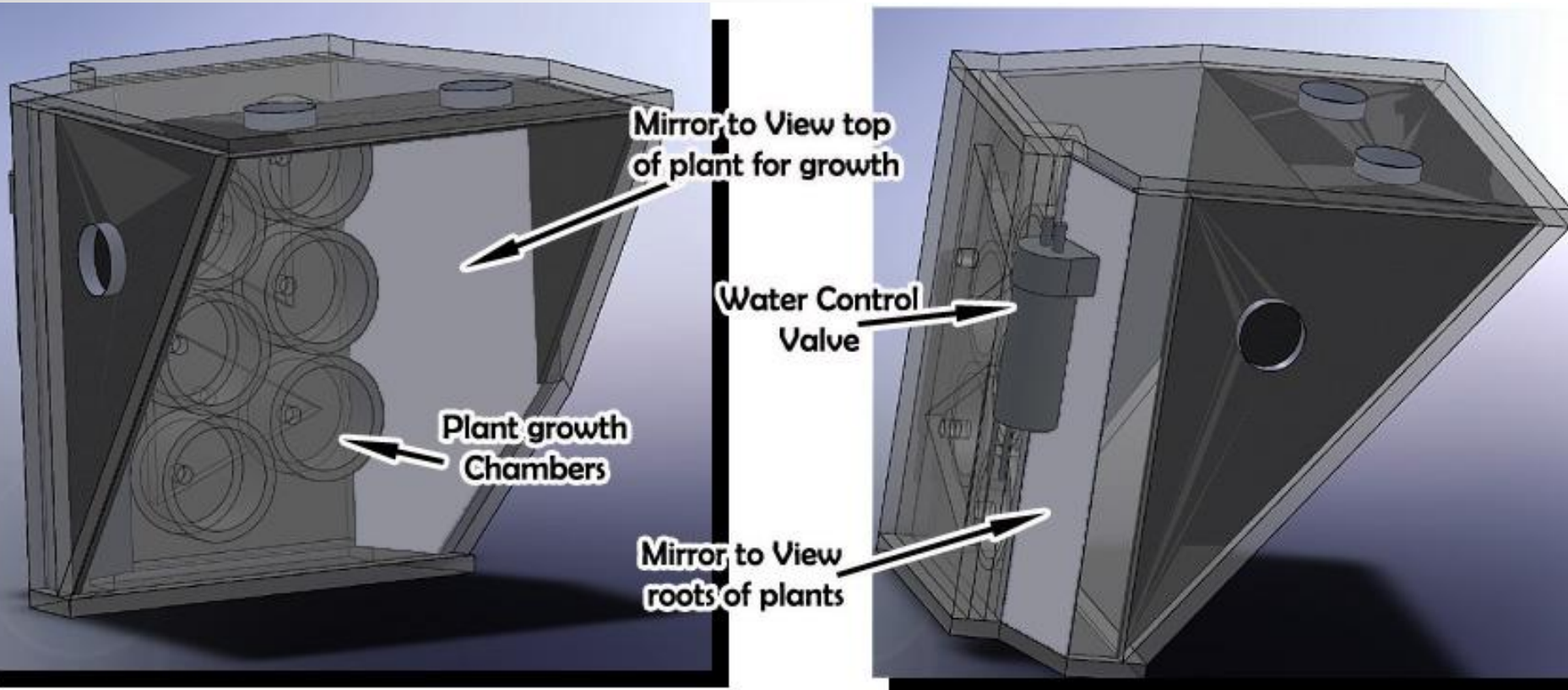
# Design -Block Diagram





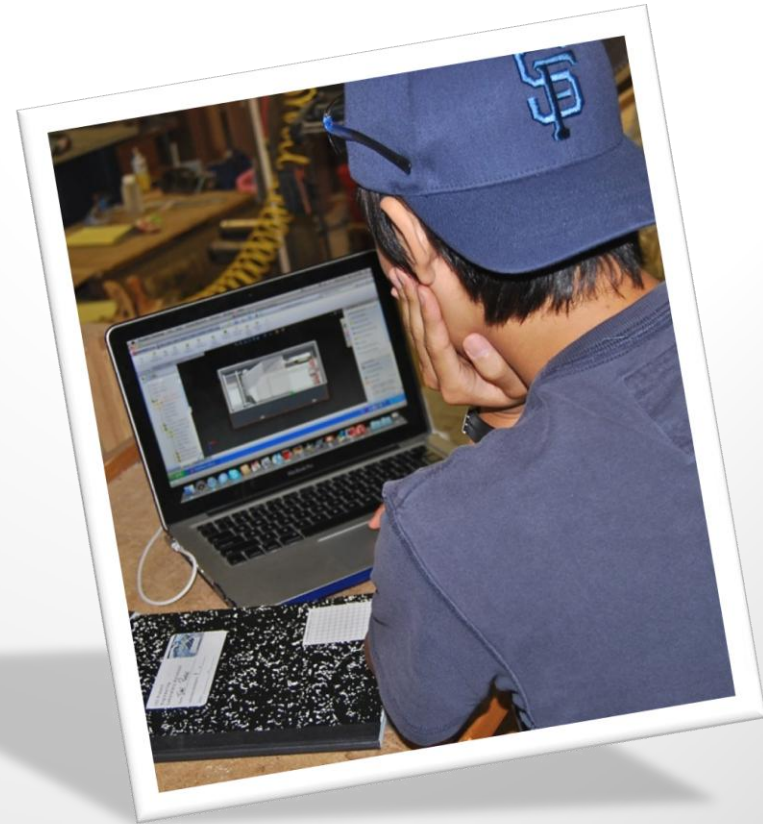
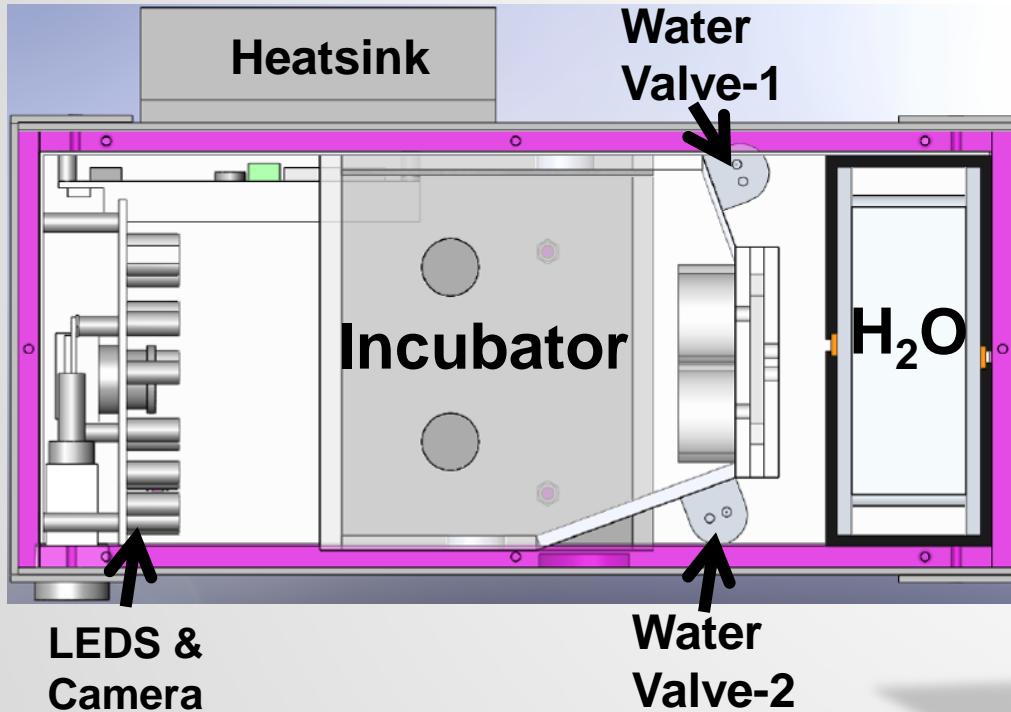


# Design –Mechanical



## Incubator Assembly Design

# Design - Mechanical





# CubeLab™ Design

Valley Christian High School  
ISS Project Team



Copyright 2010

Outer Containment Assembly  
(Aluminum)



Digital Camera  
Control PCB  
Assembly

LED PCB  
and  
Digital Camera Head  
Assembly

Micro-Controller PCB  
Assembly

Water Storage  
Assembly  
(Medical IV bag with spring loaded pressure plates)

Water Valves  
(not in view)

Incubator Assembly  
(Plant growth area  
for Gea plants)

International Space Station  
CubeLab Engineering Prototype-1  
September 30, 2010



# Testing and Qualification

- ▶ Performed at University of Kentucky
- ▶ Form, Fit, and Function
- ▶ Power Consumption
- ▶ System Error Recovery
- ▶ System Operation and Procedures
- ▶ Weight and Fluid Containment
- ▶ Depressurization test to 4psi



# CubeLab™ Final Ready to Ship (11/26/2010)

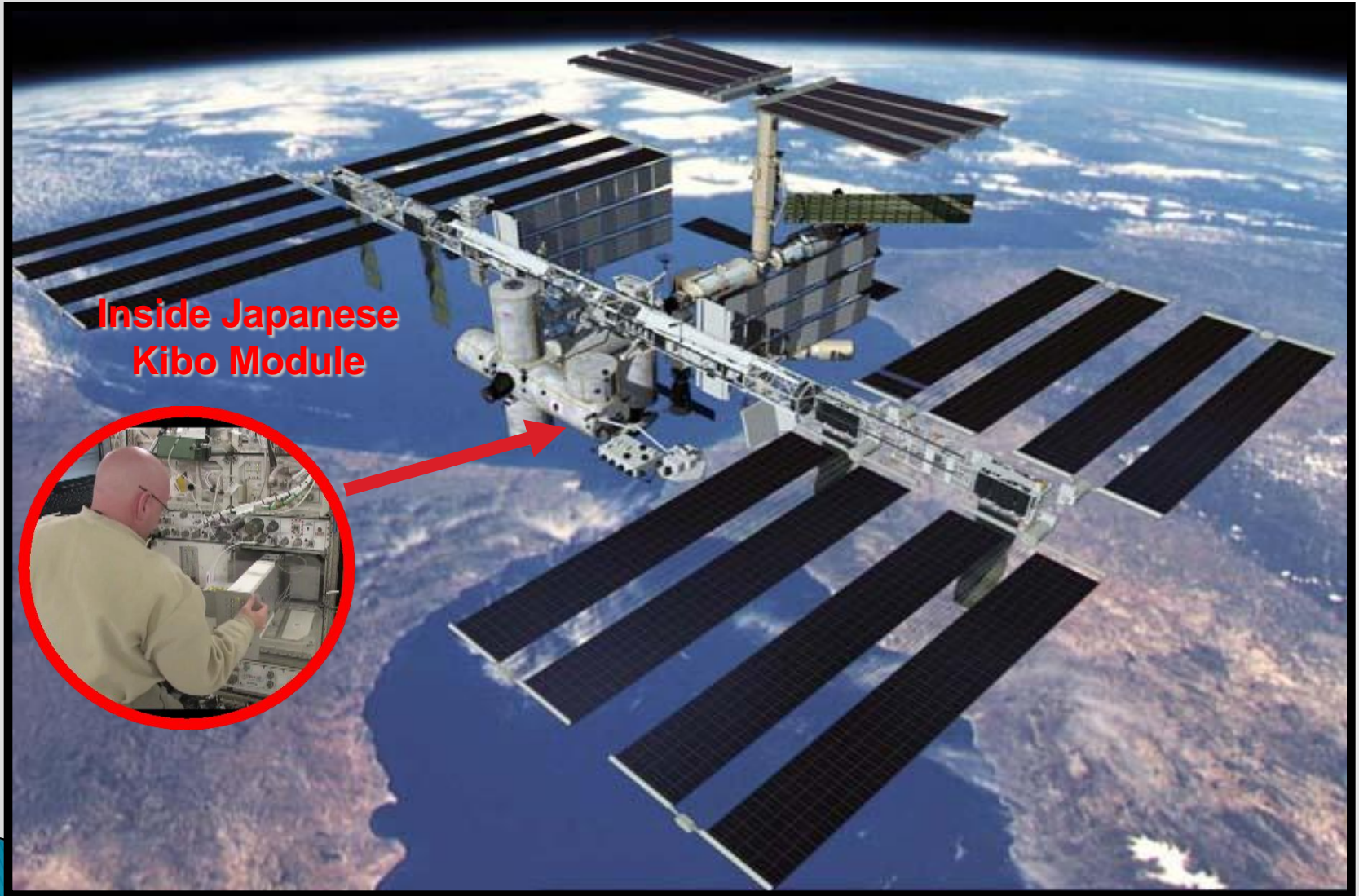


# JAXA HTV2 Launch (01/21/11)





# CubeLab™ Location and Installation





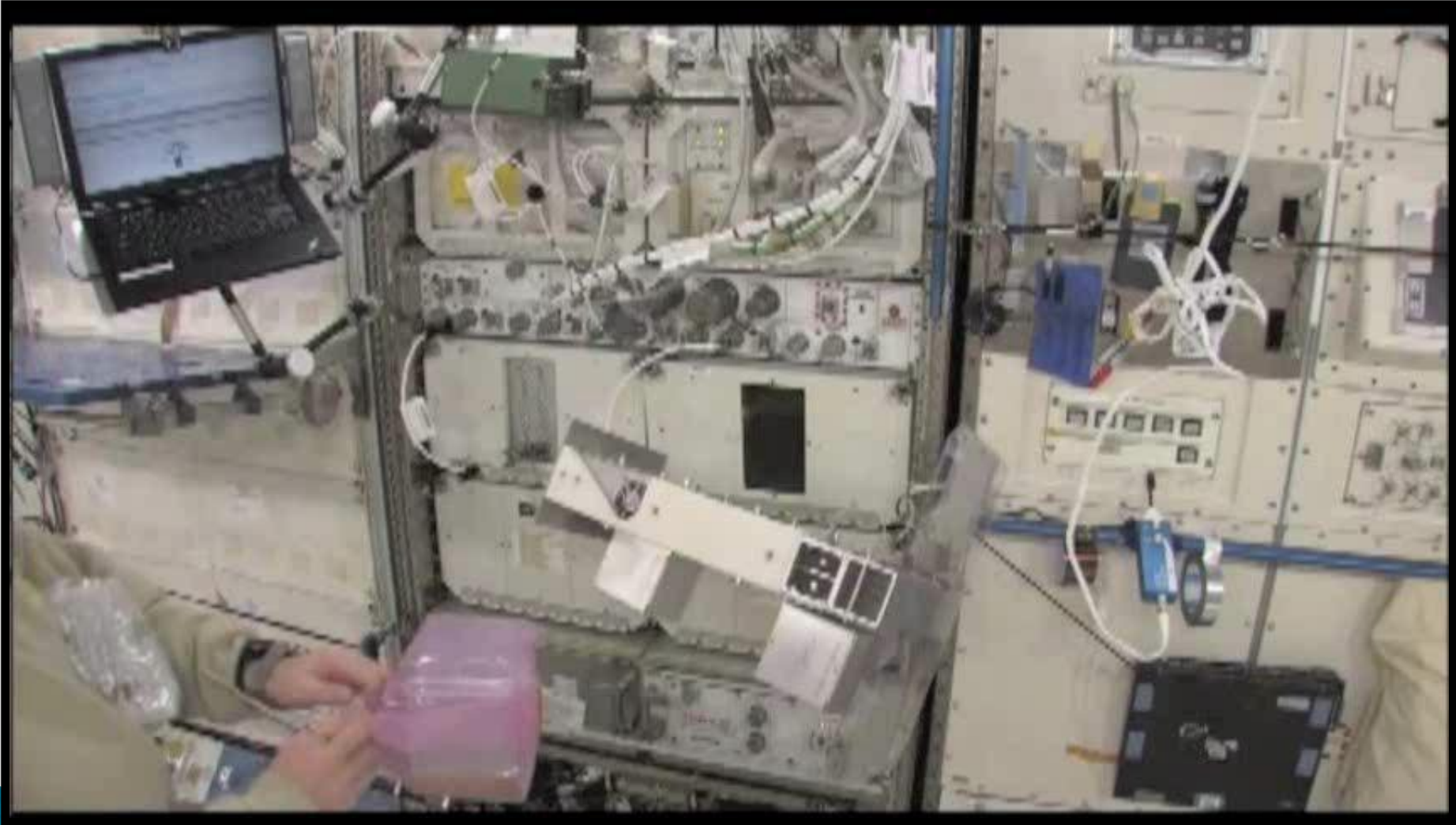
# HTV2 Rendezvous with ISS (1/27/2011)



# Moving Cubelab™ from HTV2 to ISS



# Installation of CubeLab™ (2/3/2011)





# First Photo of **3,005** photos taken and downloaded from the ISS





# 1<sup>st</sup> Data Set from ISS (02/03/2011)

Ambient Temperature/Humidity



Mission Time Clock



Incubator Temperature/Humidity



Status and Error Conditions



# Orbital Operations

- ▶ In orbit *53 days* Power applied *28 days*
- ▶ Downloaded *3005 JPG photos*
- ▶ CubeLab™ *error recovered* after Astronaut laptop malfunction
- ▶ Data *download* every *3 days from ISS* to Marshall Space Center, to University of Kentucky, then to Valley Christian High School

# Soyuz Undocked and Landing (3/16/2011)





# CubeLab™ returned from the ISS after 23,000,000 miles traveled

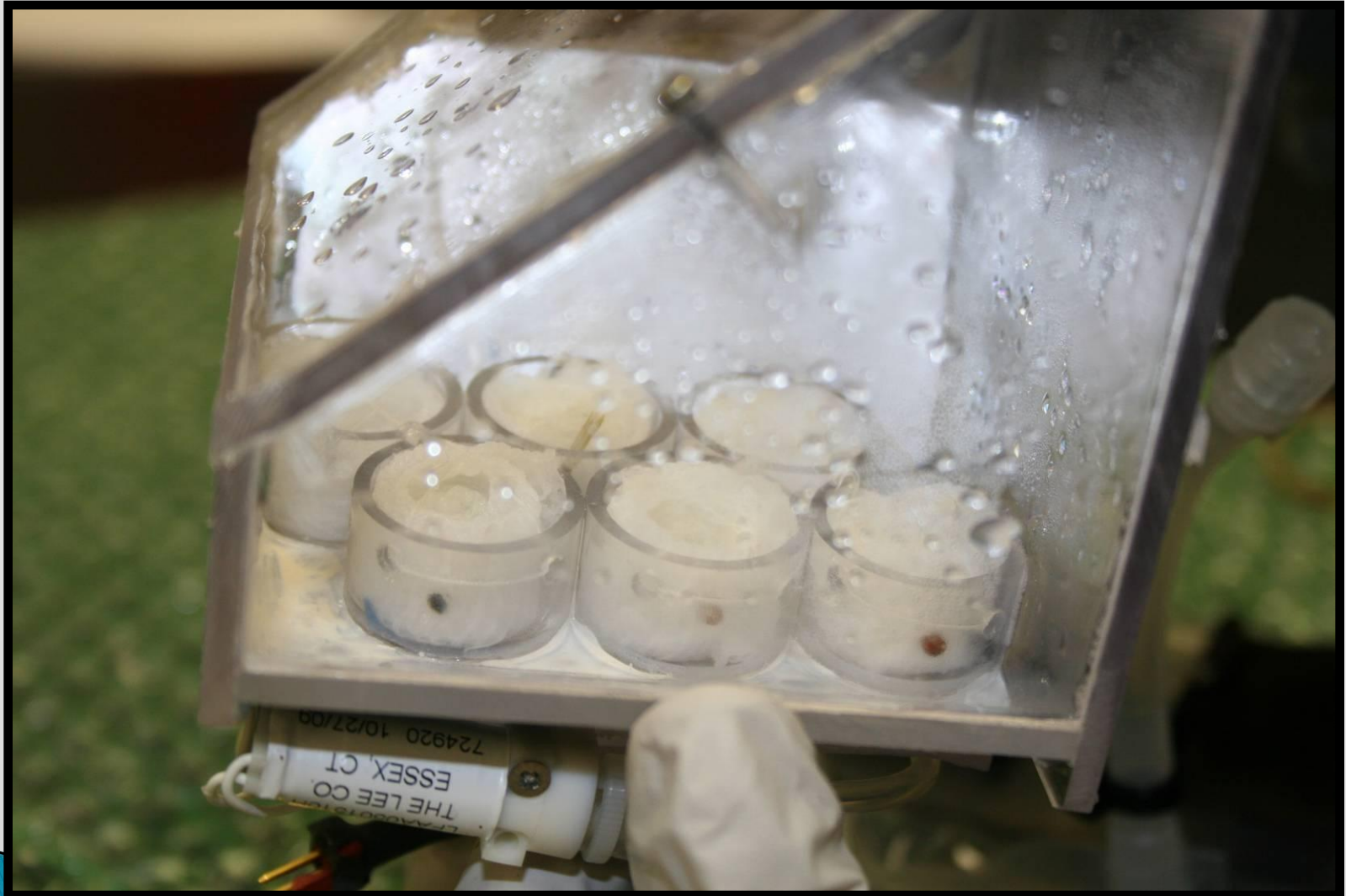


# Removing Incubator after Flight





# Examination of the Incubator after flight





# Flight Results

- ▶ All Systems *performed as designed*
  - Plant Lighting System Simulated sunrise to sunset
  - Automatic Plant Watering System provided amount of water programmed
  - Digital Camera System Stored and Downloaded 3005 plant growth photos
  - Watertight three level containment System remained in tack
- ▶ CubeLab™ *automatically recovered* after Astronaut laptop malfunction.
- ▶ *Extensive ground testing revealed that Silicone sealant stopped the plants from growing after initial seed germination (acetic acid, low ph)*

# Conclusions

- ▶ A Low cost CubeLab™ can be designed, built, qualified, and launched in ***6.5 months***.
- ▶ ***Commercial off self components*** can be used successfully in ***low vibration*** launch and transportation load applications.
- ▶ CubeLabs™ are a Viable Low Cost method to get ***student payloads*** into space in a ***Timely Manner***.
- ▶ ***“The Sky is No Longer the Limit”***

# Future Plans

- ▶ **Contracting with NanoRacks to Launch Two 1U CubeLabs™ on the Ariane ATV-3 Resupply Mission scheduled for February 29, 2012.**
  - Each Cubelab™ to house up to four independent payloads each with its own digital camera and microcontroller.
  - **Three other high schools will be providing their own payloads**
- ▶ **Build a Satellite Tracking and Control Ground Station – 2011**
- ▶ **Planning to launch a CubeSat from the ISS in 2013**





# The Valley Christian High School ISS Project Team

**Thank You** for attending our  
presentation.

# Questions Please!



# Plant Growth Experiment Results and Conclusions

03/02/2011 03:49

- ▶ Note: after 28 days in orbit there was no plant growth.
- ▶ Silicone sealant containing methyltriacetoxysilane, polydimethylsiloxane, and Silicon dioxide was used to seal the incubator.
- ▶ Last 1280x768 photo taken aboard the ISS
- ▶ The *Methyltriacetoxysilane* and *Polydimethylsiloxane* will generate acetic acid when they contact water vapor.
- ▶ The acid lowered the ph of the water, seeds, and growth material to a point that prevented the plants to germinate and grow.

