

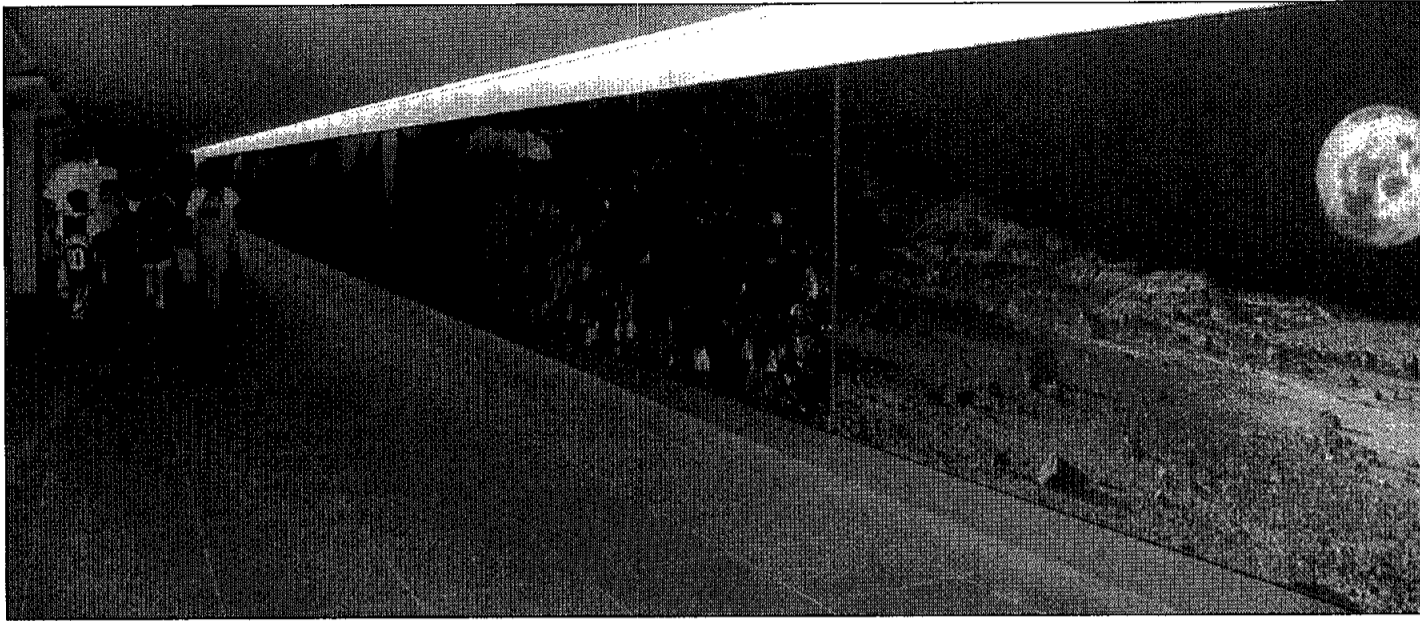


Space News Roundup

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No. 19



PANORAMIC SPACE—Artist Dennis Ivy unveils his 6- by-160-foot mural in Houston's downtown underground tunnel near Houston Light and Power at 1111 Louisiana. The mural is composed of 21 Apollo-era images interlaced with six west Texas desert views. Each panel weighs 400 pounds and was constructed in Ivy's studio. Ivy worked with JSC in selecting the photos he used.

Endeavour to launch Sunday

By James Hartsfield

Launch preparations of *Endeavour* for STS-77 are on schedule for a liftoff at 5:30 a.m. CDT Sunday to begin a 10-day flight devoted to helping open the commercial space frontier.

The countdown was to begin early Thursday and the STS-77 astronauts—Commander John Casper, Pilot Curt Brown and Mission Specialists Andy Thomas, Dan Bursch, Mario Runco and Marc Garneau—were to arrive at KSC later that day.

Endeavour's 11th mission will feature more rendezvous and station-keeping activities than ever before accomplished on a single shuttle flight. The first rendezvous activities will highlight investigations of an inflatable space antenna carried on the Spartan-207 satellite. Ensuing rendezvous activities will investigate new methods of maintaining a stable orientation in space by the Satellite Target Unit, part of the Passive Aerodynamically Stabilized Magnetically Damped Satellite, or PAMS, experiment.

More than 90 percent of the payloads aboard *Endeavour* are joint ventures with industry, sponsored by the NASA Headquarters Office of Space Access and Technology through its Commercial Space Centers and industrial affiliates. Among the experiments are one and a half tons of equipment aboard the fourth Spacehab shuttle flight.

Fueling of *Endeavour's* external tank is planned to begin at about 8:40 p.m. CDT Saturday, and an on-time launch Sunday would lead to a planned landing of STS-77 at 6:07 a.m. CDT May 29.

Elsewhere, work is continuing to proceed smoothly on *Columbia*, in KSC's Bay 2 processing hangar being readied for a mid-June launch on STS-78.



Space station air system passes test

The system that will purify the air aboard the International Space Station recently passed a major test at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

The month-long test evaluated the system's ability to control carbon dioxide, oxygen and air pressure inside the station's living and laboratory quarters. Simulating the breathing activity of a crew of four, engineers injected carbon dioxide and water vapor, and removed oxygen from the school bus-sized, 6,200-cubic-foot test module throughout the 30-day test to evaluate an air purification system.

"The test provided an excellent demonstration of the capability for maintaining cabin air composition using control procedures to be used onboard the space station," said Jay Perry, test principal investi-

gator and life support engineer of Marshall's Thermal and Life Support Division. "Throughout the test, the system operated in a fully automated fashion and its components responded very well to the simulated human breathing," Perry explained. The test was the fifth in a series begun in 1987.

The test also featured operation of the carbon dioxide removal system at reduced levels to save power. The test system operated at full power levels during the 53-minute daytime portion of the orbit and at lower levels during the 37-minute nighttime orbit, just as planned for space station. The nitrogen and oxygen composition of the atmosphere was controlled by signals from an air composition monitor, and special computer software very similar to that

planned for use on the space station was developed for automated control during the test.

The Atmosphere Revitalization Subsystem demonstrated the capability of providing a healthy working environment for the crew and achieved a power savings of up to 200 watts over previous operating modes. These savings are significant and represent additional electrical power available for science experiments onboard the space station, Perry said.

Additional testing is planned to determine the capability of the various subsystems to remove other trace contaminants. The hardware is scheduled to be launched in 1998. Marshall is conducting a variety of air purification tests in support of the Space Station Program Office.

Lucid begins Earth observations while JSC team monitors

Mir crewmates Onufrienko, Usachev get word stay will be longer to accommodate Russian flight schedule

Mir 21 Cosmonaut Research Shannon Lucid began Earth observations this week on board the Russian Mir Space Station.

Lucid, along with Commander Yuri Onufrienko and Flight Engineer Yuri Usachev, began work this week in the newest science workshop—the Priroda module—to observe Earth from space and conducted other scientific examinations.

Lucid observed the Altai Mountains, North Caspian Sea, Danube River Delta, Gulf of Venezuela, Southern Luzon, Voronezh and the Great Salt Lake. Some sites have been passed over due to weather conditions, but most observations have been successful.

Priroda is equipped with instruments to monitor ecological situations in large industrial areas, clouds and the ozone, study the ocean surface and its interaction with the atmo-

sphere, plot geological maps to refine mineral and water reserves and study the Earth to help define economic and ecological theories of natural resource utilization.

All of the work conducted by the Mir 21 crew is being monitored by a team of scientists at the Russian Mission Control Center in Kaliningrad and here at JSC. NASA Mir Mission Scientist John Uri heads up the team here in Houston.

"We're very excited by Shannon's progress," Uri said. "I think the research program is going extremely well. We're pretty much where we thought we would be. We've actually completed two of the experiments already, one in fundamental biology looking at egg development, and another in

materials processing. Those were completed pretty much on schedule. All of her other activities are proceeding nominally."

The Priroda has facilities—microgravity glovebox, microgravity isolation mount and remote sensing equipment—that will be used throughout the Phase 1 program Uri said.

In order to prepare for science work on Priroda, Lucid reviewed experiment procedures and her pre-mission training using the Crew On-Orbit Support System—an audio-video system. This is the first flight of the new system, which may be used on the International Space Station.

Radiation measurements are being taken by the crew routinely throughout the mission.

The dosimeters are mounted throughout the station to gather radiation data at various locations. Radiation data stored electronically on the Tissue Equivalent Proportional Counter was called down by the crew.

Last week, Lucid's crew mates were notified that they will be staying on board Mir a bit longer than originally planned. The Mir 21 mission has been extended until mid-August to accommodate an adjustment to the Russian flight schedule. At that time, a new crew will be launched. Lucid's stay on Mir will not be affected; she still returns to Earth in early August, after Atlantis delivers Astronaut John Blaha to the Mir on the next shuttle docking mission, STS-79.

Today, Onufrienko and Usachev mark their 84th day aboard Mir. Lucid has been on Mir for 56 days.



Teacher workshop offered

By Mae Mangieri

JSC employees' relatives and friends will have the opportunity to attend a week-long workshop at JSC this summer.

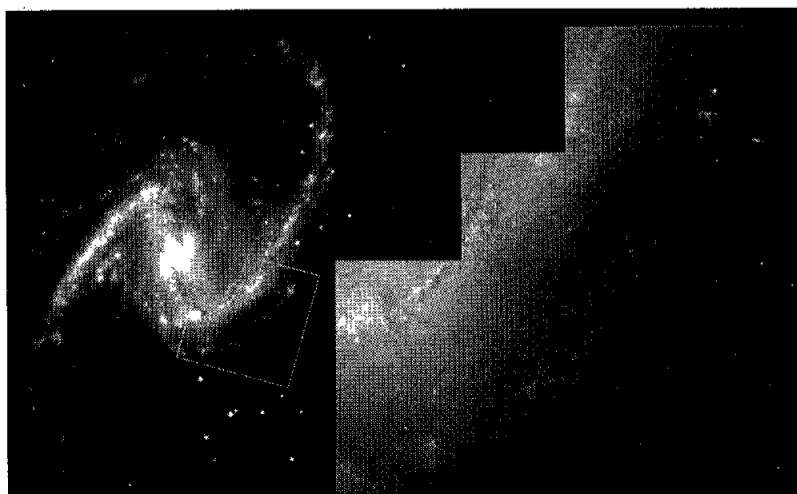
JSC's Education and Information Services Branch will offer an aerospace professional development workshop for 30 elementary and secondary school teachers who are family members or friends of JSC civil service and contractor employees. The workshop will be held at JSC, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. July 29 -August 2.

"There is no cost to attend the week-long workshop and it is an exciting way for teachers who are JSC family members or close friends to connect to the space program,"

said Billie Deason, education team lead. "The workshop is an opportunity to show PAO's gratitude to the many employees who help JSC meet its educational goals throughout the year."

The workshop enables teachers to become aware of how NASA programs incorporate science, mathematics and technology. During the course of the workshop, teachers also gain a historical perspective of NASA.

Highlights of the workshop include a hands-on space suit, rocketry and microgravity activities demonstrated by Gordon Eskridge and Angelo Casaburri, aerospace education specialists from Oklahoma State University. Please see **TEACHERS**, Page 4



This image from the Hubble Space Telescope shows a region in NGC 1365, a barred spiral galaxy located in a cluster of galaxies called Fornax. A barred spiral galaxy is characterized by a "bar" of stars, dust and gas across its center.

Astronomers measure distant stars

Two international teams of astronomers, using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, are reporting progress in measuring the universe's rate of expansion—a value that has been debated for over half a century.

These new results yield ranges for the age of the universe from 9-12 billion years, and 11-14 billion years. The goal is to measure the Hubble Constant to 10 percent accuracy.

"We have five different ways of measuring the Hubble Constant with HST," said Wendy Freedman of Carnegie Observatories. "The results Please see **HUBBLE**, Page 4



Helping Hands

JSC's on-site blood drive reaches for increased participation

By Dan Mangieri

The gift of life is a term that at least one JSC employee knows very well, since the blood given by her fellow employees did indeed save her life.

Heidi Glaisyer, of the Engineering Directorate recently needed a kidney transplant because she is suffering from End Stage Renal Disease, or kidney failure.

During the transplant, she bled severely and required several units of blood. Thanks to co-workers, she was able to have designated blood available. Unfortunately the kidney transplant failed and she is awaiting another. In the meantime, the complications of the illness cause her to be extremely anemic and her body has slowed dramatically in producing red blood cells. She still requires units of blood monthly.

"My friends here at JSC have always seen that blood is put in my name when I let them know I need it," Glaisyer said. "I feel lucky to have help from my friends—their simple 30 minute contribution literally has saved my life."

Knowing that blood was available for her use gives Glaisyer a sense of peace about her illness, she said, and JSC employees now have the opportunity to give to other fellow workers.

Just last week another JSC employee, Dave Saucier of the Space Station Program Office, was hospitalized with Lymphoma—cancer of the lymph nodes. As a result, he was in critical need of blood. JSC employees responded generously last Friday and Monday when St. Luke's brought the donor coach out for a special two-day platelet and plasma drive to acquire replacement units for Saucier.

Platelets are cells in the blood and plasma is the liquid portion of the blood. In order to give Saucier these critical components, employees donated two and a half hours of

their time to give platelets and about 40 minutes to an hour for plasma. Normal blood donations take 30 minutes.

The JSC on-site Blood Drive program will be kicking into high gear Thursday with increased efforts to reach out to those employees who have not participated in past blood drives. Those wishing to donate blood

blood assurance coverage for all JSC personnel and their immediate families. The coverage includes all fees associated with blood products for blood transfused in any Houston area hospital. An immediate family is considered the spouse of an employee, any dependent children and the parents of the employee and spouse. An employee

donor. If donors have any questions about how a medical condition may affect their ability to give blood they should call St. Luke's Blood Donor Center at 791-4483.

The simple process is started by taking a blood sample with a single prick to a finger. Afterwards, one pint of blood is drawn. Many employees do not realize that center policy allows employees to use up to four hours, if needed, to give blood at the on-site blood drive. Much less time is usually necessary. The actual collection of blood usually takes seven to 10 minutes, with the whole process taking approximately 30 minutes. The blood undergoes several tests, including the tests for hepatitis and HIV. If there are reactive test results, donors are notified by mail. All results are kept confidential. Donors are encouraged to eat a low-fat meal before and drink lots of fluids after giving blood. Usually there are no negative reactions to giving blood, but trained personnel are available in case a donor becomes light-headed. It is recommended that donors curtail heavy exercise for a period of 24 hours after donating.

For more information about the process, call Marty Demaret at x36007 or Dan Mangieri at x33003. □



'I feel lucky to have help from my friends—their simple 30 minute contribution literally has saved my life.'

—Heidi Glaisyer
Engineering Directorate

can visit the Teague Auditorium anytime between 7:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m., including lunch time. Employees are encouraged to "bring a buddy" to the event if possible.

In addition to the regular benefits related to giving blood JSC's partner for sponsoring blood drives, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, will provide free T-shirts for all those who donate blood at the upcoming drive. Other changes to the program, like moving the drive's location from the Gilruth to the Teague Auditorium, will make it convenient and accessible to more employees despite busy schedules and routines.

The benefits of being a Blood Donor—besides the good feeling of knowing that you are helping others in need—are many. Under the agreement with St. Luke's, NASA and NASA contractors, the hospital provides

who is a single parent receives coverage for all tax dependent children and the employee's parents. Single employees who are unmarried and without children receive coverage for themselves, their parents and any tax-dependent siblings of their parents.

As an additional benefit to donors, approximately three to four weeks after each donation, St. Luke's will send them a card with information about their blood group and type, and cholesterol level.

What is involved in donating blood? Donors can give blood every eight weeks. Plasma can be donated up to twice a week and platelets twice a month. In some cases a donor may be deferred if, for example, their blood is low in iron or they've been on certain medications. However, taking blood pressure medicine will not disqualify a

JSC's Blood Donor Drive

7:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

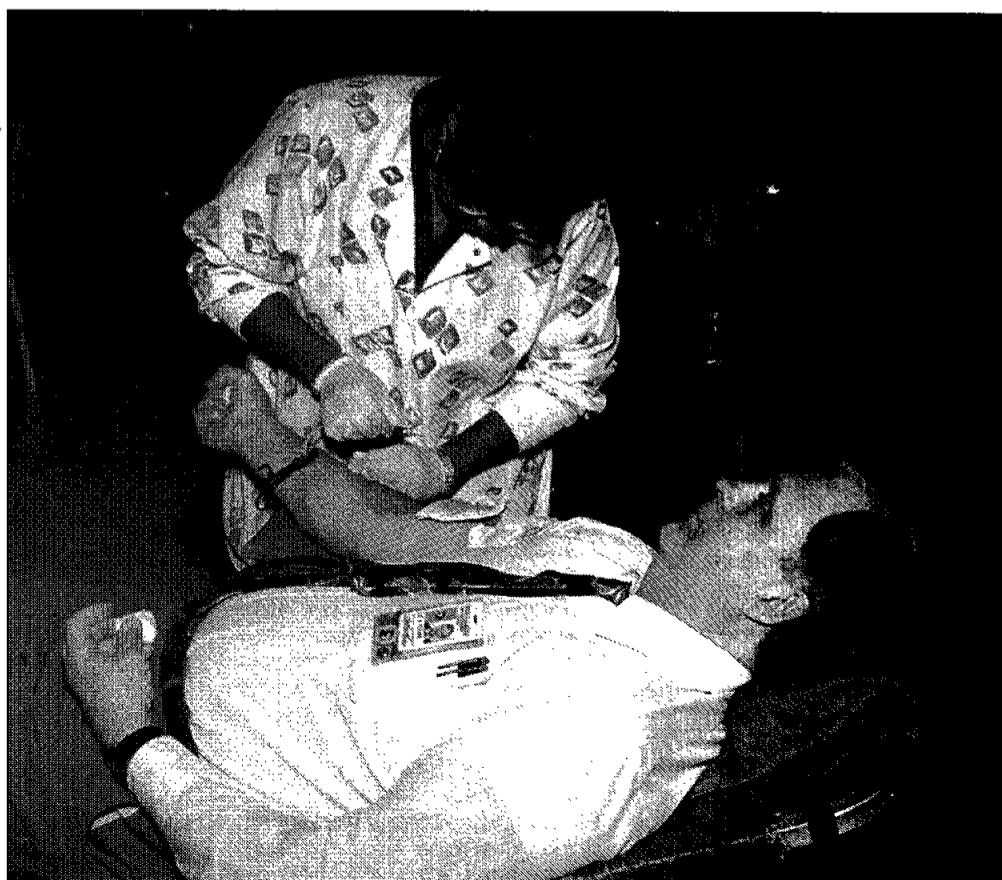
Thursday

Teague Auditorium

Bring a buddy



Above: From left, Assistant Director Brian Duffy receives a blood donor T-shirt from blood recipient Heidi Glaisyer and one of JSC's most frequent blood donor, Dave DeAtkine of the Customer and Flight Integration Office presents a T-shirt to JSC Deputy Director Jim Wetherbee. The T-shirt will be given to all donors during next



week's blood drive. Those wishing to donate blood can visit the Teague Auditorium anytime between 7:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Thursday. Left: Safety Reliability and Quality Assurance Director Charlie Harlan relaxes after giving blood. Right: Former JSC employee Ray Hischke helps a St. Luke's nurse prepare to give blood.

Secretaries earn top honors

Two secretaries recently earned the Marilyn J. Bocking award for secretarial excellence.

Dorothy Childress, secretary to the special assistant for Engineering, Operations and Safety in the Office of the Director, was cited for her outstanding support within the office and the community. Childress also

takes on additional duties, such as representing the office on committees and serving as coordinator for the Savings Bond and Combined Federal Campaigns, that make her a valuable asset to the office.

Patricia Collier of the Payload Operations Branch received top honors for her expertise in interpretation and implementation of a myriad of office procedures and protocols. Collier also was cited for her exceptional support of payload operations during missions and her ability to build bridges between people and organizations.

NEBA rep honored

Carl Arnold the NASA Employees Benefit Association representative was recently honored with a flag flown on a recent shuttle mission. Arnold has served the NASA community for more than 34 years in support of the JSC NEBA chapter.

Arnold has been an agent of Phoenix Home Life Insurance, the company that administers NEBA, for more than 45 years. He has served thousands of JSC employees and military detailees, their families and beneficiaries.

JSC employees dies

Al Lunde of the Mission Operations Directorate's Flight Design and Dynamics Division died May 9, apparently of complications from heart disease.

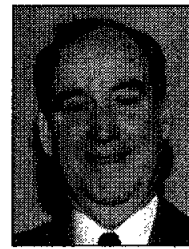
Lunde, who came to the U.S. from Norway in 1957, joined NASA in 1966 in the



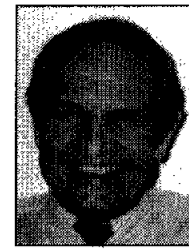
Childress



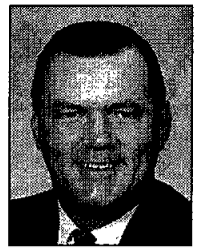
Collier



Arnold



Lunde



James

Mission Planning and Analysis Branch. He worked on all of the human space flight programs from Gemini through the International Space Station, developing mission support requirements and development. His most recent work was in mitigating the effects of orbital debris.

He earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work calculating visible star fields for the Apollo 13 astronauts to use in navigating their safe return home along with many other awards during his 30 years at JSC. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Anne.

Local services were Monday; interment will be in Norway. A memorial has been

established in his name with the American Heart Association.

Former JSC employee dies

Bennett James, former chief of the Public Services Branch in the Office of Public Affairs, died recently.

James joined NASA in 1962 after serving in the U. S. Air Corps during World War II and the U.S. Air Force. He was a JSC team member for 18 years and earned the NASA Exceptional Service Medal for his participation in the Apollo Soyuz Test Project. At the time of his death, James lived in Kerrville, Texas, and was active within the chamber of commerce and the Air Force Association.

AIAA hosts technical symposium

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics will host its 21st annual Technical Symposium from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday at the Center for Advanced Space Studies, 3600 Bay Area Blvd.

The theme of this year's symposium is "New Frontiers through New Technologies, Processes and Paradigms."

"We encourage everyone to participate and derive benefits from this annual event at Houston, said Jayant Ramakrishnan, chairman of the Guidance, Navigation and Control Technical Committee. "It provides a unique opportunity for participants to have a glimpse into the latest developments in the aerospace arena."

The seminar will feature keynote speakers John Muratore, associate director of JSC's Engineering Directorate, and Robert Sackheim, manager of propulsion and combustion center for TRW's Space and Electronics Group.

At 9:15 a.m. sessions on Shuttle-Mir Missions and Robotics; Remote Manipulator Systems; and International Space Station will be offered.

An afternoon session that begins at 1:45 p.m. will include International Space Station: New Results from the Earth Observations and Image Analysis Projects; Advanced Space Systems; Management and Contracting Practices; and Applications of Advanced Analytical Capabilities.

The seminar cost is \$5 for members and \$6 for non-members and includes lunch. AIAA Houston will provide free transportation from Bldg. 1 to the Center for Advanced Space Studies. For more information call Charles Teixeira, x34647, or e-mail cteixeiragp903.jsc.nasa.gov.

MCC open for STS-77 viewing

The Mission Control Center viewing room will be open to JSC and contractor badged employees and their families during portions of the STS-77 mission.

Employees will be allowed to visit the MCC from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Wednesday and 1-5 p.m. May 25.

Employees must wear their badges and escort family members through the lobby of Bldg. 30 South. Children under five will not be permitted. No flash photography or loud talking will be permitted at any time. Because of the dynamic nature of shuttle mission, viewing hours may be changed or canceled without notice.

For the latest information on the schedule, call the Employee Information Service at x36765.



ASCAN GRADUATION—After more than a year of extensive training, the 1995 Astronaut candidates are now ready for their first assignment. Graduates from left are Ed Lu, Dom Gorie, Rick Sturckow, Kay Hire, Dave Williams, Mike Anderson, Robert Curbeam, Steve Lindsey, Jim Reilly, Susan Still, Rick Husband, Carlos Noriega, Scott Altman, Pam Melroy, Steve Robinson, Kalpana Chawla, Jeff Ashby, Janet Kavandi, Joe Edwards, Takao Doi, Jean-Loup Chretien, Mike Bloomfield and Michel Tognini.

JSC Photo by Mark Sowa

Teachers to interact with scientists

(Continued from Page 1)

University. Eskridge and Casaburri also will demonstrate how to access NASA materials via the Internet and provide a certification session for those wishing to borrow lunar samples for the classroom. Teachers will have the opportunity to interact with scientists and engineers who will give briefings on various space-related subjects and tours of JSC sites including mission control, International Space Station

and space shuttle mock-ups, and KC-135 and T-38 aircraft. Teachers also will receive free NASA educational curriculum materials, classroom activities, posters, publications, and videos.

Since the number of participants is limited, teachers are advised to apply as soon as possible. For an application or details concerning the workshop, call Mae Mangieri at x32929. Deadline for receipt of applications is May 31.

JSC employee's children earn college scholarships

The children of three JSC employees have earned JSC Exchange and NASA College Scholarships.

This year's JSC Exchange Scholarship winner is Keith Aaron Hawkins, son of Diane Hawkins from the Human Resources Office. Hawkins will graduate this month from J. Frank Dobie High School. He received credits for premium courses in chemistry, algebra, physics and pre-calculus and has received the Dobie Football Booster Club Scholarship. He was on the Math Relay Team that took first place and he was selected as the Elk's Teen Student of the Month. He plans to attend San Jacinto Junior College this fall to pursue a degree in environmental engineering. He

will receive \$4,000. Selection was based on scholastic achievements, financial need and breadth and substance of school and community activities. This brings the total number of Exchange scholarship awards to date to 77.

Justin M. Lee, son of Raymond James Lee who works in the Business and Information Systems Directorate, and Allison Lanier, daughter of Ronnie Lanier who works in the Mission Operations Directorate, earned NASA College Scholarships.

Lee will graduate this month from Clear Creek High School, ranking first in a class of 482. He will attend the University of Texas this fall to pursue a degree in biochemistry. Lanier will graduate this month

from Dickinson High School, ranking number four in a class of 273. She will attend Southern Methodist this fall to pursue a degree in engineering.

Other winners were Neelaksh Kumar Varshney, son of Marshall Space Flight Center employee Shashi Prabha Varshney; Eric H. C. Liu, son of Goddard Space Flight Center employee Antony Ankuo Liu; and Patricia Augathee Jones, daughter of retired Kennedy Space Center employee Ralph Tompkins. This brings the total number of recipients to date to 68. Twenty-four recipients have graduated since the scholarship fund was established in 1982.

The NASA College Scholarship Fund Inc., board of directors has

determined that five scholarships will be awarded again next year. Each scholarship will be renewable annually for a maximum of \$8,000 over six calendar years.

The Scholarship Fund was established to award scholarships agency-wide to qualified dependents of NASA and former NASA employees. The fund was established as a direct result of a substantial unsolicited gift by noted Pulitzer Prize winning author James A. Michener. Many NASA employees have contributed to the fund directly or through the Combined Federal Campaign. Other major contributors include the Freedom Forum—to honor the Hubble crew members—and the JSC Chapter of the NASA Alumni League.

Hubble telescope on track for measuring universe

(Continued from Page 1)

are coming in between 68 and 78 km/sec/Mpc".

Two months ago, a second team, led by Allan Sandage, also of the Carnegie, reported a slower expansion rate of 57 km/sec/Mpc.

The value of the Hubble Constant allows astronomers to calculate the expansion age of the universe, the time elapsed since the Big Bang. Astronomers have been arguing recently whether the time since the Big Bang is consistent with the ages of the oldest stars.

The ages are calculated from combining the expansion rate with an estimate of how much matter is in space. The younger age values from each team assume the universe is at a critical density where it contains

just enough matter to expand indefinitely. The higher age estimates are calculated based on a low density of matter in space.

"A point of great interest is whether the age of the Universe arrived at is really older than the independently derived ages of the oldest stars," said Abhijit Saha, an investigator on both Hubble teams.

The project team is midway in their three-year program to derive the expansion rate of the universe based on precise distance measurements to galaxies. They have now measured Cepheid distances to a dozen galaxies.

The team also presented an estimate of the distance to the Fornax cluster of galaxies. The Fornax cluster is measured to be about as far

away as the Virgo cluster of galaxies—about 60 million light-years.

The team is measuring Cepheid distances to the Virgo and Fornax clusters of galaxies as a complementary test. The team also is systematically looking into a variety of methods for measuring distances. They are using Cepheids in a large sample to tie into five or six "secondary methods".

In contrast, the Sandage team focused on a single secondary distance indicator, one of the same indicators also used by the other team, the type Ia supernova. Sandage maintains that these stars are "standard bombs" according to theory. He suggests that when they explode they all reach exactly the same intrinsic brightness.

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