National Aeronautics and Space Administration

John C. Stennis Space Center

LAGNIAPPE

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Members of the NASA Advisory Council met at Stennis March 19 - 20. Attendees toured Stennis Space Center and witnessed the shake, rattle and roar of a Space Shuttle Main Engine Test. At right are astronaut and U.S. Sen. John Glenn, astronaut Shannon Lucid and NASA's Director of SSC's Propulsion Test Directorate, Robert Lightfoot.

NASA Advisory Council holds meeting at Stennis

The NASA Advisory Council (NAC) met at Stennis Space Center March 19 and 20. The council, chartered in 1977, is charged with providing the NASA administrator with counsel and advice on NASA programs and issues. More than 30 aeronautics, space technology and space science professionals and experts from across the country attended the regularly scheduled quarterly meeting and toured the space center.

"NASA has long recognized the value in seeking the advice and council of accomplished citizens on major programs and issues facing the agency," said Stennis Space Center Director Bill Parsons. "We have a great respect for the perspective the council brings to us. It has been a pleasure and an honor to have council members, Administrator O'Keefe and Deputy Administrator Fred Gregory bring their deliberations to Stennis."

The council, composed of eight standing com-

See NAC, Page 6

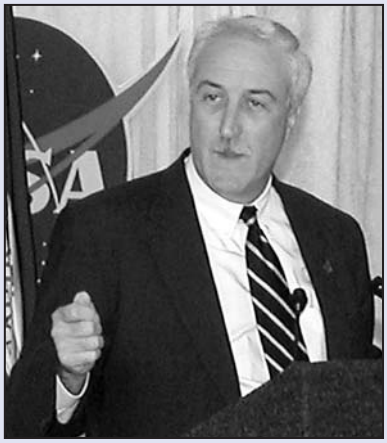
Space Shuttle Service Life Extension Program panel meets at Michoud

NASA's Space Shuttle Program held the first of what will be an annual Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) Summit March 19 and 20 at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility near New Orleans.

SLEP, initiated in January by retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael Kostelnik, deputy associate administrator for the International Space Station and Space Shuttle programs, was implemented through the Integrated Space Transportation Plan to ensure the viability of the Space Shuttle Program.

Composed of eight panels — safety, sustainability/maintainability, infrastructure, resources, industry, performance, operations and integration — SLEP works to assure that all critical assets are in place to fly the Space Shuttle safely and effectively into the next decade.

The annual summit provided the program's first forum in which to shape the long-range strategy, prioritization and process for selection, and recommendation for sustaining the shuttle system.



Right: Michael Kostelnik, NASA deputy associate administrator for International Space Station and Space Shuttle programs, presented his vision of SLEP activities in a presentation at the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility.

Left: NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe addresses the Space Shuttle Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) Summit.

Stennis readies for IFMP kickoff; training scheduled through June

Launch date for the Integrated Financial Management Program (IFMP) is June 23. According to NASA's Dr. Mike Thomas, program specialist and IFMP change manager, the Stennis IFMP team is getting the program off the ground.

"Important dates reflected in the latest IFM poster remind us that as 'Go Live' approaches, we will all experience a transition from the legacy systems to the new core financial module. It will look a lot like year-end close out," said Thomas.

Thomas said that financial systems now in use will wind down in May, and the new system will be brought on line in June. "To get ready for that, we are asking people to get procurements and travel authorizations in early," he said. "Also, people should remember that this change really impacts the financial community here. It is important to take the inevitable delays and missteps as good-naturedly as possible."

Thomas stressed that for the next three months, training for IFMP users is of paramount importance.

Stennis Space Center Director Bill Parsons, left, and Dr. Mike Thomas, IFMP change manager, unveil a poster aimed at increasing awareness of the upcoming IFMP kickoff date.

"Approximately 240 people must be trained in the operation of the new system before June 23," he said. "Training will have Web-based and instructor-led courses. Access to the IFMP system cannot be granted to users who have not completed training."

IFMP on the right track with One NASA

Editors note: This is the second in a series of articles that feature an employee from each NASA center who has a One NASA story to share.

There's a picture of "Wisdom" on Thom Holden's office wall at Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala. The picture is of an elderly bespectacled man in deep thought, and it serves as a salve for any frustration that creeps into Holden's soul.

"Every time I look at it I realize there is more knowledge to be gained — more I can do to benefit all of NASA," Holden said. He uses the same analogy when talking about the agency's One NASA concept — something that Holden readily agrees with and supports.

"I think it's a great idea — long overdue," Holden said. "For NASA to fulfill its missions, all of the centers really do need to operate as one entity. We need to pull together on projects and goals that reach across the agency, and I believe we are on the right track toward achieving that."

Holden, 45, leads the Implementation Support Team at Marshall. He's responsible for providing change management support to

NASA's Thom Holden, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala.

the Integrated Financial Management module projects at the center. These module projects are part of the Integrated Financial Management Program (IFMP), which is a NASA-wide effort to modernize its financial and administrative systems and processes. The IFM project exemplifies the One NASA approach to business. The program is implementing a series of new enterprise software systems and business processes through module projects.

"We've got 10 IFMP module projects," Holden said. "NASA has implemented three of those module projects to-date; resume management, position description and travel manager."

Resume management, also known as

See **ONE NASA,** Page 7

NEWSCLIPS

CHIPS begins interstellar search for birthplace of solar systems: The Cosmic Hot Interstellar Plasma Spectrometer (CHIPS) satellite, launched Jan. 12, is living up to the adage "good things come in small packages." The suitcase-sized spacecraft is entering its second month of providing data to scientists about the birthplace of solar systems. CHIPS is exploring the very hot, very low-density gas in the vast spaces between the stars, known as the interstellar medium, which contains the seeds of future stars. The project is managed at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va., and Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.

A cocoon found inside the Black Widow's web: NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory image of the mysterious "Black Widow" pulsar reveals the first direct evidence of an elongated cocoon of high-energy particles. (A pulsar is a rotating neutron star producing powerful beams of radiation that sweep like a searchlight.) This discovery shows the billion-year-old rejuvenated pulsar is an extremely efficient generator of a high-speed flow of matter and antimatter particles. Known officially as pulsar B1957+20, the Black Widow received its nickname because it is emitting intense high-energy radiation that is destroying its companion through evaporation. This secondary shock wave created from pressure that sweeps wind back from the pulsar to form the cocoon of high-energy particles, is visible for the first time in the Chandra data. NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala., manages the Chandra program.

NASA engineers test Wright stuff: An authentic, airworthy reproduction of the Wright brothers' first successful powered flying machine is undergoing aerodynamic testing at the Langley Full Scale Wind Tunnel. The tunnel, built in 1930, is owned by NASA's Langley Research Center, Hampton, Va., and operated by Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. During this experiment engineers will take measurements to determine how the 1903 Wright Flyer replica can be safely flown and controlled. They'll use the information to not only document the 40.5-foot-wingspan aircraft's flying characteristics but also to create the first accurate flight simulator to teach pilots how to fly the primitive aircraft. For more information about the Centennial of Flight commemoration of the Wright brothers' flight, go to: *www.centennialofflight.gov.*

International Space Station Status Report

Expedition 6 crewmembers on the International Space Station (ISS) this week continued science investigations and made repairs and upgrades to their orbital home. They also studied plans for the second spacewalk of their mission.

Last week, Cmdr. Ken Bowersox and NASA ISS Science Officer Don Pettit installed a new Pump Package Assembly (PPA) in the Moderate Temperature Control Loop (MTL) of the Destiny Laboratory's Thermal Control System (TCS), which provides cooling for the station's avionics control boxes.

Also, the crew and flight control team worked to reseat the check valve, get the PPA running and verify the MTL for operation. Cooling for the lab's systems was provided through the TCS's Low Temperature Loop during the interim.

While the Americans were installing the new pump, Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin upgraded the Russian computer system's control software. The crew helped ground controllers respond to a computer-commanded power down of many station systems and science equipment.

The astronauts also started reviewing a timeline for the second spacewalk of their tour of duty, now scheduled for April 8. Bowersox and Pettit, who conducted the first spacewalk of the mission on Jan. 15, are preparing for another excursion to several sites along the station's Integrated Truss Structure, where they'll reconfigure power connections, release a light stanchion on one of the Crew Equipment Translation Aid carts, provide a second power source for one of the station's control moment gyroscopes and secure thermal covers on quick-disconnect fittings for the station's thermal control system. This will be the 51st spacewalk in support of station assembly, the 26th to originate from the station itself.

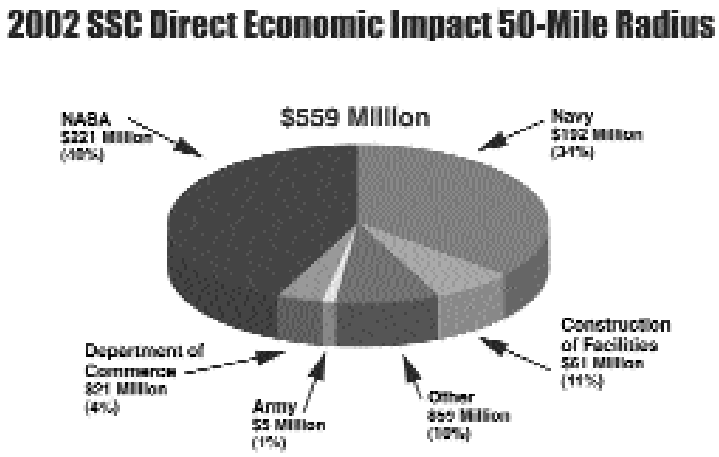
After weeks of careful troubleshooting for the cause of a power failure in the Microgravity Science Glovebox, an inquiry board from the European Space Agency has approved a return to normal operation for the experiment facility in the Destiny Laboratory.

Associate Administrator for Education addresses employees

NASA's Dr. Adena Williams Loston, associate administrator for education at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., speaks with Dr. Dewey Herring, Stennis Space Center education officer, and Eric Ross, SSC aerospace technologist, March 20. Lawson, a Vicksburg native, addressed NASA employees at Stennis to explain NASA's education enterprise. The newly formed enterprise seeks to inspire and motivate students to pursue careers in science, mathematics, engineering and technology. Loston's presentation at Stennis focused on the Educator Astronaut Program, which will select teachers to become astronauts with the purpose of inspiring and motivating students.

Stennis' economic impact increases in 2002

Figures indicating significant increases in Stennis Space Center's economic impact on surrounding communities in FY 2002 were released March 26 at a Regional Coffee Call hosted by Partners for Stennis and area chambers of commerce at the Bay Tower Hotel and Convention Center in Bay St. Louis.



In 2002, Stennis Space Center had a direct global economic impact of $817 million. The economic impact on areas within a 50-mile radius totaled $559 million.

The annual report, prepared by Dr. Charles Campbell, professor of economics, Mississippi State University, estimated that area employment would have been reduced by 32,990 jobs if Stennis had not been in operation during the last fiscal year. The estimate takes into account the direct and indirect effects within a 50-mile radius of the space center.

The report also showed that had Stennis not been in operation in fiscal year 2002, personal income would have been reduced by more than $1.072 billion. Retail sales would have been reduced by more than $429 million. The estimated tax revenue impact from the center on the local government income is $116 million.

Guest speakers were Stennis Space Center Director Bill Parsons, who commented on the future of Stennis; Rear Adm. Thomas Q. Donaldson V, commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, who discussed Navy activity at Stennis; and Dr. Charles Campbell, who revealed the new economic impact data.

The residential distribution of the center's 4,626 employees for fiscal year 2002 is as follows: 1,264 lived in Pearl River County, Miss.; 1,015 lived in Hancock County, Miss.; 990 lived in St. Tammany Parish, La.; 866 lived in Harrison County, Miss.; 232 lived elsewhere in Louisiana; 194 lived elsewhere in Mississippi; and 65 lived in states other than Mississippi or Louisiana.

NASA gathers its yearly economic impact information and compiles it with economic information from the more than 30 other resident agencies and seven major contractors at Stennis.

SSC's Earth Science Applications help in Columbia recovery

NASA's Randy Holland, left, on detail to Earth Science Applications Directorate in support of Space Shuttle Columbia debris recovery efforts, meets with NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe on March 24 during a visit by the Administrator to Lufkin, Texas.

NASA's Earth Science Applications (ESA) Directorate at Stennis Space Center is supporting the efforts of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Space Shuttle Columbia's Mishap Investigation Team at the debris field in Texas and Louisiana. Using Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) assets, ESA has coordinated remote sensing of the debris fields and created map products derived from remote sensing imagery.

"ESA has been on the scene day and night since the Feb. 1 accident," said NASA's Dr. David Powe, ESA director at Stennis. "We had personnel in the field and assets on the scene within hours. This has been a total team effort, exemplary of the One NASA concept. We immediately stepped from being a purely research-and-development organization to a fully operational team."

On Feb. 1, an ESA Ground Reference Information Team (GRIT) already in Texas was redirected to the recovery scene. The team went to work immediately determining and recording GPS debris locations. These debris points were later loaded into a GIS database. The team also provided training to many government and local search personnel.

An Airborne Terrestrial Applications Sensor (ATLAS) was prepared and mounted in a NASA Learjet and by Feb. 2 was flying remote sensing missions over the debris field. Since then, there have been as many as four GRITs on site at one time assisting in documenting and georeferencing objects, and the number of Stennis' ESA personnel deployed has varied to meet the needs of the recovery team.

"So far, we have worked with a variety of federal, state and local agencies in the recovery effort," said NASA's Craig Peterson, chief of ESA's application engineering division at Stennis. "For example, FEMA, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Navy and the National Imagery and Mapping Agency are all participating by collecting or interpreting remote sensing data, either on site or at Stennis. Private groups have also helped, including Space Imaging Inc., with its IKONOS imagery of the debris field. At Stennis, we are pulling from the talent pools of contractors like Lockheed and DATASTAR."

NASA is using remote sensing in a variety of ways in the Columbia recovery effort. The commercial satellite IKONOS, launched in September 1999, imaged portions of the Columbia debris field, and that information is being used to create maps of the area.

"The field teams are using these maps, which contain location information to document where objects are found," said NASA's Dr. Richard Miller, ESA chief scientist at Stennis.

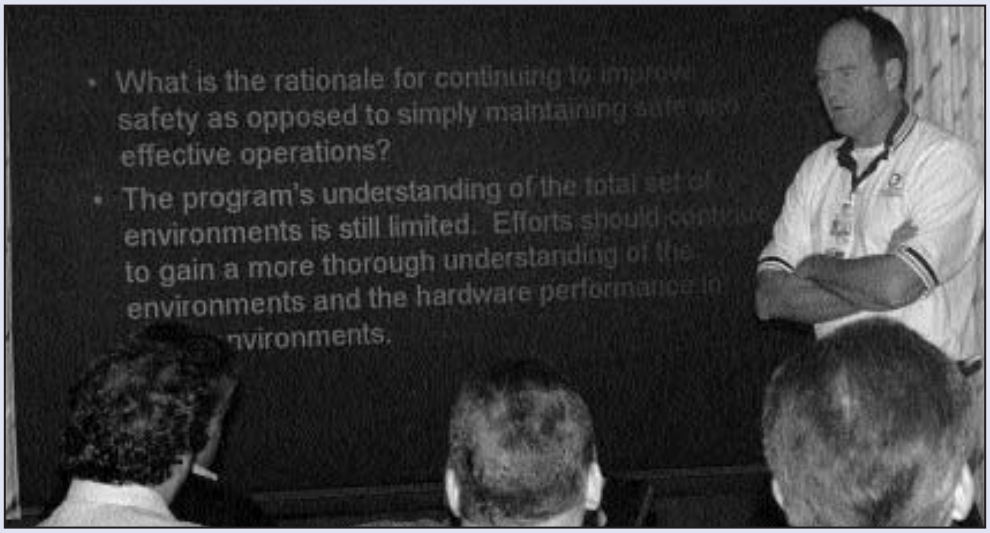
Landsat images and NexRad radar information from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have been used as well. The ATLAS sensor has also created images of the debris field, and ESA is flying a Zeiss 9-inch camera to capture color infrared imagery. "Both systems are creating highly detailed images that are being analyzed to find areas of potential interest for ground search," Miller said. "So far, our analysis has identified more than 100 potential targets. The GPS coordinates for 13 targets have been sent to search teams in the field. Of those 13, only two were verified as not being shuttle debris."

ESA is making all IKONOS,

See **ESA,** Page 7

Rudolphi heads SLEP safety panel

Mike Rudolphi, deputy director of Stennis Space Center and chair of the Space Shuttle Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) Safety Panel, discusses guidelines with panel members, who met at Stennis March 3-4 to review proposals for Space Shuttle upgrades. Safety Panel members are from NASA Headquarters, Kennedy Space Center, Marshall Space Flight Center, Johnson Space Center, Aerojet, ATK Thiokol, Boeing, Hamilton Sundstrand, Honeywell, Pratt and Whitney, and United Space Alliance.



Navy signs agreement to manage Building 1100 exchange operation

The NASA Exchange at Stennis Space Center and the Navy Exchange Command (NEXCOM) recently signed an agreement to allow NEXCOM to take over management of the Bldg. 1100 Ex-change store in April.

In preparation for the management change, the NASA Exchange has reduced the retail price of all merchandise in the Bldg. 1100 store by 50 percent. The merchandise will be on sale through April 3. The store will close April 4-17 for renovation and restocking and will reopen April 21, under NEXCOM management, featuring an expanded product line.

Mary Bley and Dora Manton, Exchange store employees who have worked 13 and seven years, respectively, will retain their positions at the store.

"This is an initial step in NEXCOM's efforts to provide a meaningful level of support to our Stennis community," said Programs Specialist Jon Roth. "In May 2003, NEXCOM plans to open a mini-mart operation on the corner of Trent Lott Boulevard and U Street. The 3,700-square-foot facility will offer a wide variety of convenience store-type merchandise.

"By late summer, we expect to follow this with the relocation of the Bldg. 1100 store from its current 800-square-foot location to a space in the adjacent north-south hallway, thereby tripling the store's area to 2,500 square feet and enabling NEXCOM to greatly enhance its product line at that location," said Roth.

Guidelines offer ways to create safe environment in an emergency

It may be unsafe to go outside after certain kinds of accidents or attacks. Leaving an area may take too long or put people in harm's way. In such a case, it may be safer for people to stay indoors than to go outside. Sheltering-in-place is when people create a safe environment in their existing location. It is a method to make a building as safe as possible until help arrives.

Selecting a shelter-in-place

Choose a room in the house, apartment or office building with as few windows and doors as possible. A large room with a water supply is preferable. At home, a bedroom with a connected bath is desirable. Unlike guidelines in the event of a tornado or other severe weather emergency, where the best place is in the lowest part of a building, sheltering in the event of a chemical emergency requires that the room be as high as possible to avoid vapors (gases) that sink.

Emergency preparedness kits

Hurricane kits can easily be supplemented to support requirements for sheltering-in-place. Be sure kits are stored in the room to be used as the shelter. Kits should include:

- ❑ First aid kit
- ❑ Food and bottled water (*One gallon per person stored in plastic containers*)
- ❑ Ready-to-eat foods
- ❑ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ❑ Battery-powered radio or wind-up radio
- ❑ Duct tape and scissors
- ❑ Towels
- ❑ Plastic sheeting
- ❑ Access to a working telephone

How to know if sheltering-in-place is needed

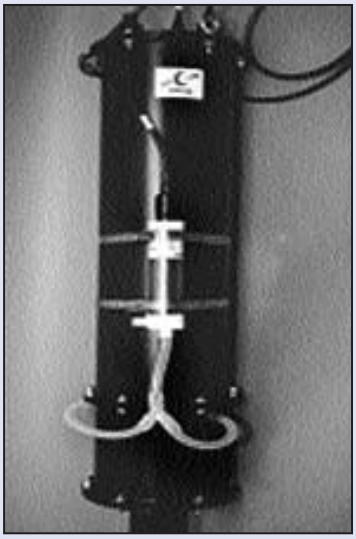
Local police, emergency coordinators and/or government officials will advise via radio or television of an emergency or attack. If the Homeland Security Advisory System is elevated to red or severe terror alert, close attention to media broadcasts is advised. People who are away from a shelter-in-place in the event of a chemical emergency should follow the instructions of emergency coordinators to find the nearest shelter. If children are in school, they will be sheltered there. Unless instructed to do so, parents should not try to get to the school to bring their children home.

See **SHELTERING,** Page 7

Project improves scientists' view of conditions in water production

Biologists and oceanographers may be able to benefit from a new device, developed by Ciencia Inc., of East Hartford, Conn., under a NASA Stennis Space Center Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contract, that provides real-time information about properties essential to understanding water production on a global scale.

The Fluorescence Lifetime Profiler of Photochemical Efficiency in Real time, or FLIPPER, was designed to assist oceanographers in better understanding the events affecting changes in the amount of carbon in the ocean. In addition to meeting NASA's oceanographic needs, the FLIPPER prototype has potential applications in the agricultural, medical, food processing and pharmaceutical industries.



FLIPPER is being used to assist in the understanding of the global processes controlling the time-varying fluxes of carbon and associated elements in the ocean.

Why is FLIPPER important?

A critical objective for oceanographers is to understand the total processes that control changes in the amount of carbon and other changes in the life-sustaining elements in the ocean. Currently, the most practical approach for oceanographers is to use satellite imagery of the area to be studied. Since the major causes for varying amounts of carbon in the ocean is due to photosynthesis by phytoplankton, there is considerable interest in the remote sensing of phytoplankton productivity in the oceans through ocean color or chlorophyll fluorescence measurements.

"For NASA, the determination of the amount of phytoplankton from satellite-based observations alone is far from ideal," said NASA's Dr. David Powe, director, Earth Science Applications Directorate at Stennis. "The correlation between what the satellite records and the actual phytoplankton productivity in real-time is not reliable, and previous methods used on location have proven inaccurate and confusing." FLIPPER permits for the first time the direct determination of the amount of chlorophyll fluorescence in the field. "This is an essential factor in the study of ocean and coastal ecosystems," Powe said.

Target markets

FLIPPER will address needs in other applications including monitoring of photosynthetic measurements in marine phytoplankton, oceanographic, estuarine, limnological (the study of freshwater lakes and ponds) and riverine studies; environmental monitoring of phytoplankton populations; ocean optical properties research; and fisheries and ecosystem studies.

"Additionally, the technology created for FLIPPER has broader potential applications in agriculture, clinical diagnostics, and in the food and pharmaceutical industries," said NASA's Robert Bruce of the Technology Development and Transfer Office at Stennis.

Why SBIR?

"This project is exemplary of the goals of the SBIR program," said Dr. Salvador Fernandez, president of Ciencia Inc. "On one hand we have been able to pro-

See **FLIPPER,** Page 7

STARS at Mars

On March 7, a group of 150 second-grade students from the Jones County School District visited StenniSphere, where they toured the Mars habitat and saw what life on the Red Planet might be like. At left, the children, who are members of STAR-REACH, a group for gifted students, don special glasses to help them see a 3-D image of the surface of Mars.

National engineering group visits SSC

The National Association of County Engineers (NACE) included a visit to Stennis Space Center in their activities during their national convention held last week on the Mississippi Coast. The group, which totaled 315, visited Stennis on March 25 and enjoyed a guided tour of the center and listened to presentations in the StenniSphere auditorium by NASA's Doug McNair, aerospace technologist, experimental facilities, who spoke about Stennis and propulsion testing, and Joy Parikh, environmental scientist of Lockheed Martin Space Operations, who gave a presentation about Earth Science Applications. At right, the group takes a close look at a Space Shuttle Main Engine.

Inspiring the next generation

Stennis Space Center Director Bill Parsons explains details of the Space Shuttle orbiter to third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students in the East Hancock Elementary School's gifted program on Feb. 27. Members of the school's gifted program prepared about 30 displays and exhibits on the International Space Station, the Space Shuttle orbiter and the solar system. Working with Parsons, from left, were fourth-grade students Melissa Null and Brett Lawshe. The East Hancock gifted program is under the direction of Joan Breazeale.

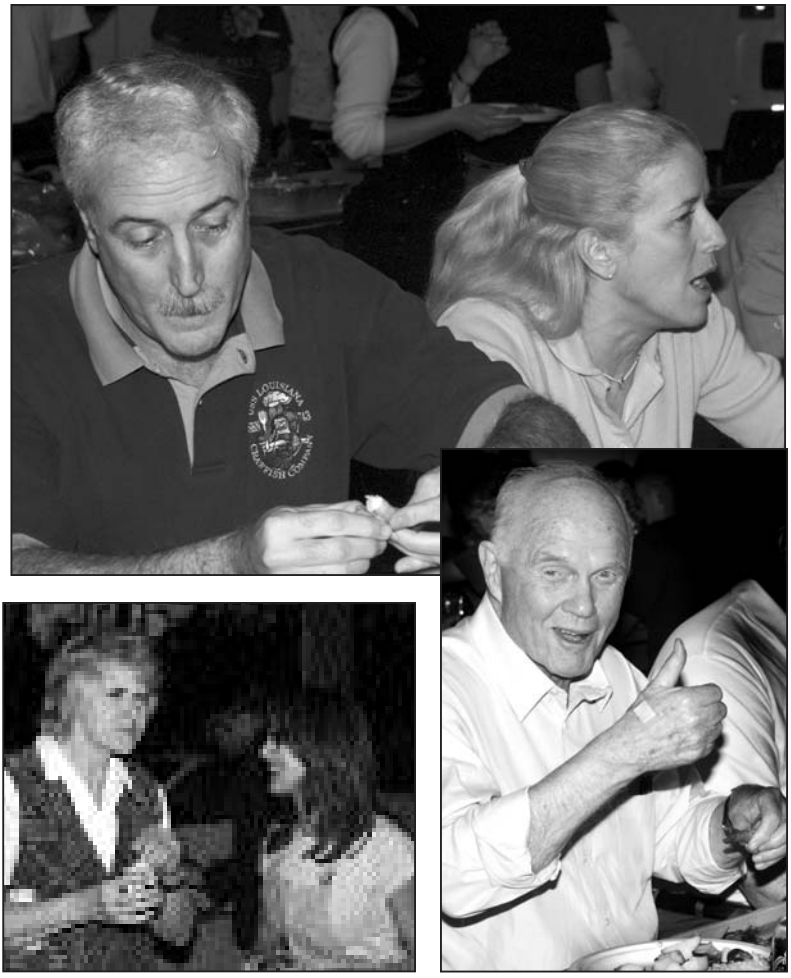
NAC . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

mittees, was updated on the investigation of the flight of Columbia, reviewed education initiatives including the status of the Educator Astronaut Program, discussed the development of the Orbital Space Plane and were given an overview of the accomplishments and projects of the Earth Science Program.

Space Flight Awareness shows appreciation

On March 13, Chan Crain, as an agency Space Flight Awareness (SFA) panel member at Stennis, presented Tom Maddox, sheriff of Sabine County, Texas, with a NASA flag flown aboard Space Shuttle Columbia STS-109 in appreciation for the hard work the Sabine County Sheriff's Department has given to the Columbia recovery efforts. NASA's SFA Program has had panel members at the Columbia recovery site continually, rotating staff from all NASA centers, to maintain morale and motivation among community members helping in the recovery effort. SFA panel members have coordinated nightly activities including astronaut appearances and movies to entertain and inform and has distributed NASA pins, mission patches and other mementos to volunteers.



NAC attendees enjoy Stennis hospitality

Clockwise from top: NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, seated next to his sister, Kathleen O'Keefe of Slidell, La., enjoy crawfish and socializing at a crawfish boil given March 19 for NASA employees and attendees of the NAC conference, held March 19-20 at Stennis Space Center.

Astronaut and U.S. Sen. John Glenn, who in 1962 became the first American to orbit the Earth and who flew aboard STS-95 in 1998, shows his approval of the tasty crustaceans.

Astronaut Shannon Lucid, left, talks with NASA's Mary Byrd, aerospace technologist, Experimental Facilities Development. Lucid holds the United States single-mission spaceflight endurance record from her mission to the Russian Space Station Mir in 1996. In completing the mission, Lucid spent 188 days, 4 hours and 14 seconds in space.

SHELTERING . . .

(Continued from Page 5)

What to do

Act quickly and follow the instructions of emergency coordinators. Every situation can be different, so local emergency coordinators may have special instructions to follow. In general, do the following:

- ❑ Go inside as quickly as possible
- ❑ If there is time, shut and lock all outside doors and windows
- ❑ Turn off heater or air conditioner
- ❑ Close the fireplace damper and seal electrical outlets and vents
- ❑ Tape plastic over any windows and doors
- ❑ Place a wet towel in the door crack nearest the floor
- ❑ Turn on radio and keep a phone nearby.

Additional resources

For additional resources contact *http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/index.asp; http://www.whitehouse gov/homeland* or the MSS Industrial Hygiene Organization at ext. 8-3277.

ESA . .

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ATLAS, Landsat and Zeiss remote sensing imagery available to authorized recovery effort personnel in the field through a secure Web portal, enabling ESA staff to create their own map products. Stennis maintains a record of all debris data it generates.

ESA's work in the Columbia recovery effort reflects the missions of homeland security and disaster preparedness, two of the directorate's 12 national applications, and illustrates the importance of the capabilities employed.

The search for debris and ESA's sustained support will continue until NASA's Columbia Accident Investigation Board halts recovery efforts.

FLIPPER . .

(Continued from Page 5)

vide NASA with a unique technology, essential to meeting its Earth Science Enterprise mission, while at the same time creating core technology that has enabled us to develop new products for very different applications, such as drug discovery and process analysis in the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry."

The SBIR Program at Stennis Space Center is managed through the Technology Development and Transfer Office.

For more information regarding the NASA Small Business Innovation Research Program, contact Ray Bryant in the NASA Technology Development and Transfer Office at Stennis Space Center, (228) 688-1929, or visit the Web site at *http://technology.ssc.nasa.gov*.

ONE NASA . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

"NASA Stars," is enabling the agency to have one staffing and recruiting process. Position description management allows supervisors to use a common database for writing job descriptions. Travel manager provides NASA one standard system for processing travel requests.

The Core Financial Project is the fourth in the series of IFMP modules and is considered the backbone of the entire IFM program. It's being rolled out in waves, and implementation at all NASA centers for the Core Financial Project is scheduled to be completed later this fiscal year.

The reason it is considered the foundation is that it will allow NASA staff to provide timely, consistent and reliable information for management decisions and provide an accounting and budgeting structure to enable full-cost management.

"IFMP is ushering in entirely new and different tools for NASA employees to use and enabling the agency to conduct its financial and business affairs in a much more efficient manner," Holden said. "The IFM program will enable One NASA with 10 interdependent centers. And it's doing that.

"As a part of One NASA, integrated financial management is a change of culture, a change of thought, a change in the way we do business," Holden continued.

"There will be rough spots, but if people will stay the course and give One NASA and the IFM program a chance, the American people will benefit as well as the NASA community."

SAFETY CORNER

Prevent slips, trips and falls

Slips, trips and falls are the most common sources of injury in many workplaces, whether it's an office environment or a shop floor. You may be creating an environment for a possible fall without even knowing it.

Have you ever:

- ✔ run down a flight of stairs?
- ✔ walked along a corridor while reading something?
- ✔ worked on a machine with a greasy spill nearby?

Everyone can probably answer "yes" to at least one of the above.

Avoiding a fall is up to you.

- ❑ Check your shoes. What kind are you wearing? Are the soles loose or worn? If so, replace them.
- ❑ Look for tripping hazards. If you see something in an aisle such as an extension cord, move or report it.
- ❑ Clean up spills immediately.
- ❑ Don't carry heavy or bulky loads obstructing your view up or down stairs and ramps.
- ❑ Don't store things on or near stairways. Someone could trip and fall.

If you do fall:

- ❑ Keep your limbs parallel to the ground.
- ❑ Slap the ground with a hand and extended fingers to absorb part of the impact.
- ❑ Bend your arms toward the body.
- ❑ Try to roll onto your thighs or buttocks to prevent bone injuries.
- ❑ Don't move if you think you've hurt yourself. Wait for help.

Stennis is committed to preventing slips and falls on the job, but it takes teamwork. Everyone must work together to make the workplace as safe and incident-free as possible. Develop the skills to recognize, avoid and control potential slipping and falling hazards to prevent injuries both on and off the job.

QUICKLOOK

■ **Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work.** Stennis Space Center will participate in the Ms Foundation for Women's first "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work" program, Thursday, April 24. Daughters and sons will have the opportunity to take part in this educational outreach endeavor that allows them to explore the workplace. For more information, contact Rhonda M. Foley, quality engineer and Federal Women's Program manager, at ext. 8-1081.

■ **It's not too late to volunteer.** Stennis Space Center once again will sponsor the Area III Track and Field competitions March 29. This year's event is coordinated by the Naval Oceanographic Office. Special Olympics is an international organization dedicated to empowering individuals with mental retardation to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition. For more information about this year's Area III event, contact Melanie Gehman at ext. 8-4938.

■ **The Stennis Space Center "Test Your Engines Regularly" program** is off and running or walking, as the case may be. All Stennis employees are encouraged to participate in this activity challenge. Visit the Occupational Health Services Web site at *http://sscportal.ssc.nasa.gov/sscohs/*. Click on the "Test Your Engines" section under events. For additional information, contact the Wellness Center at ext. 8-3950.

Wilbur and Orville Wright made their historic first flight Dec. 17, 1903. In support of NASA Quest's Centennial of Flight Project, the Lagniappe offers trivia questions each issue during the year-long celebration.

Q. **Name the first Russian IGY (International Geophysical Year) satellite, launched on Oct. 4, 1957, and its American counterpart, launched on Jan. 31, 1958.**

A. **Sputnik 1 in 1957 and Explorer 1 in 1958.**

LAGNIAPPE

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