

# Touchdown!



Take it both ways – the Mars Science Laboratory rover, Curiosity, touched down on the surface of Mars early on the morning of Aug. 6 CDT, and the NASA team scored a very big touchdown for space exploration. This image taken by Curiosity shows what lies ahead for the rover – its main science target, Mount Sharp. The rover's shadow can be seen in the foreground, and the dark bands beyond are dunes. Rising up in the distance is Mount

Sharp at a height of about 3.4 miles, taller than Mount Whitney in California. The Curiosity team hopes to drive the rover to the mountain to investigate its lower layers, which scientists think hold clues to past environmental change. This image was captured by a rover camera shortly after it landed. It has been linearized to remove the distorted appearance that results from its fisheye lens. For additional coverage and photos, see pages 4-7.

*“NASA is in a unique position to excite and inspire students about STEM education, and to help grow our technical workforce.”*



From the desk of  
**Katie Wallace**

Director, Office of Education, Stennis Space Center

**T**he Mars Science Laboratory’s successful landing on Mars early Aug. 6 was a huge engineering accomplishment! Years of research, planning, collaboration and dedication came down to seven minutes. Seven minutes determined success or failure. The successful landing and immediate operation of Curiosity compares to earning Olympic gold.

As an engineer and an educator, I was excited to hear a key theme to the Curiosity landing was STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education. Everyone on the Curiosity team discussed the importance of science and technology to our country and the world’s future. Recent studies cite the need for STEM education to be a national priority. Indicators show the United States is losing its technological edge. Indicators include: 1) math and science middle school test scores that rank in the lower half among industrialized countries, 2) declining enrollment in engineering and technical science majors and 3) decreased funding for research in physical sciences (National Academies Press, “Rising Above the Gathering Storm,” 2007).

NASA is in a unique position to excite and inspire students about STEM education and to help grow our technical workforce. The Stennis Office of Education has focused on that goal through specific STEM activities, including teacher professional development and student engagement. Studies show an effective way to reach students is to provide training for teachers who will share knowledge with hundreds of students per year. At Stennis, we provide free, credit-bearing workshops to teachers across Mississippi and Louisiana. We are collaborating with Louisiana to provide STEM instruction for their Math Science Partnership. Over the past three summers, just in the months of June and July, we have reached 848 pre-service and in-service teachers. This fiscal year, we have reached 706 teachers

and over 8,000 students and parents. Our workshops have a satisfaction rating of 99 percent.

In addition, we focus on student activities that enrich the school curriculum. We completed 24 years of Astro Camp this summer and changed the curriculum to include a science lab and other larger-scale activities. This year, 476 students, ages 7-15, participated in weeklong sessions. We included military families by hosting a camp at Keesler Air Force Base in Gulfport.

We also reached students through the Summer of Innovation initiative requested by NASA Administrator Charles Bolden to offer summer enrichment activities to underserved and underrepresented students. Stennis partnered with the 4-H Club, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and robotics teams to offer STEM camps. Programs were held in 28 Mississippi counties, reaching 650 students. There also were special programs at Columbus and Keesler Air Force bases. Summer activities ended with a surprise visit from former astronaut and NASA Associate Administrator for Education Leland Melvin, who spoke to 4-H campers about living and working in space.

It has been a busy and successful summer for the Stennis Office of Education. As we continue to inspire the next generation, we hope one of those students may be the next engineer or Mars rover designer. Without everyone’s support and engagement, the office could not be successful. To those who volunteer, thank you very much. To those who want to volunteer but have not, call anyone on the education team. To those interested in learning more about Stennis and NASA education, visit: <http://education.ssc.nasa.gov>.

*Katie*

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**FULFILLING NASA'S EXPLORATION MISSION**

## NASA setting records with J-2X powerpack tests

As Olympic athletes converged on London with dreams of winning gold in the 2012 Summer Olympic Games, NASA was setting records while testing the J-2X powerpack at Stennis Space Center. The first came on June 8, when engineers went the distance and set the A Test Complex record with a 1,150-second firing of the developmental powerpack assembly. On July 24 (above photo), engineers surpassed that record with a 1,350-second test of the engine component on the A-1 Test Stand. The powerpack is a system of components on the top portion of the J-2X engine. On the complete J-2X engine, the powerpack feeds the thrust chamber, which produces the engine fire and thrust. The advantage of testing the powerpack without the thrust chamber is to operate over a wide range of conditions to understand safe limits. The July 24 test specifically gathered data on

performance of the liquid oxygen and fuel pumps during extreme conditions. The test data provides critical information for continued development of the turbopump for use on the J-2X engine, the first human-rated liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen rocket engine to be developed in four decades. The J-2X is being built by Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. The J-2X engine will power the upper-stage of a planned two-stage Space Launch System (SLS). The SLS will launch NASA's Orion spacecraft and other payloads, and provide a new capability for human exploration beyond low-Earth orbit. Designed to be safe, affordable and flexible for crew and cargo missions, the SLS will continue America's journey of discovery and exploration to destinations including nearby asteroids, Lagrange points, the moon and, ultimately, Mars.

## 'An amazing achievement' – NASA lands car-sized rover beside Martian mountain

NASA's most advanced Mars rover, Curiosity, landed on the Red Planet early on the morning of Aug. 6 CDT. The one-ton rover, hanging by ropes from a rocket backpack, touched down onto Mars to end a 36-week flight and begin a two-year investigation.

The Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) spacecraft that carried Curiosity succeeded in every step of the most complex landing ever attempted on Mars, including the final severing of the bridle cords and flyaway maneuver of the rocket backpack.

"Today, the wheels of Curiosity have begun to blaze the trail for human footprints on Mars," NASA Administrator Charles Bolden said. "Curiosity, the most sophisticated rover ever built, is now on the surface of the Red Planet, where it will seek to answer age-old questions about whether life ever existed on Mars – or if the planet can sustain life in the future. This is an amazing achievement, made possible by a team of scientists and engineers from around the world and led by the extraordinary men and women of NASA and our Jet Propulsion Laboratory. President Obama has laid out a bold vision for sending humans to Mars in the mid-2030s, and (Curiosity's) landing marks a significant step toward achieving this goal."

Curiosity landed at 12:32 a.m. CDT Aug. 6 near the foot of a mountain three miles tall and 96 miles in diameter inside Gale Crater. During a nearly two-year prime mission in the vicinity of Mount Sharp, the rover will investigate whether the region ever offered conditions favorable for microbial life.

"The seven minutes of terror has turned into the seven minutes of triumph," NASA Associate Administrator for Science John Grunsfeld said, referring to the length of time it took the rover to land after entering the Martian atmosphere. "My immense joy in the success of this mission is matched only by overwhelming pride I feel for the women and men of the mission's team."

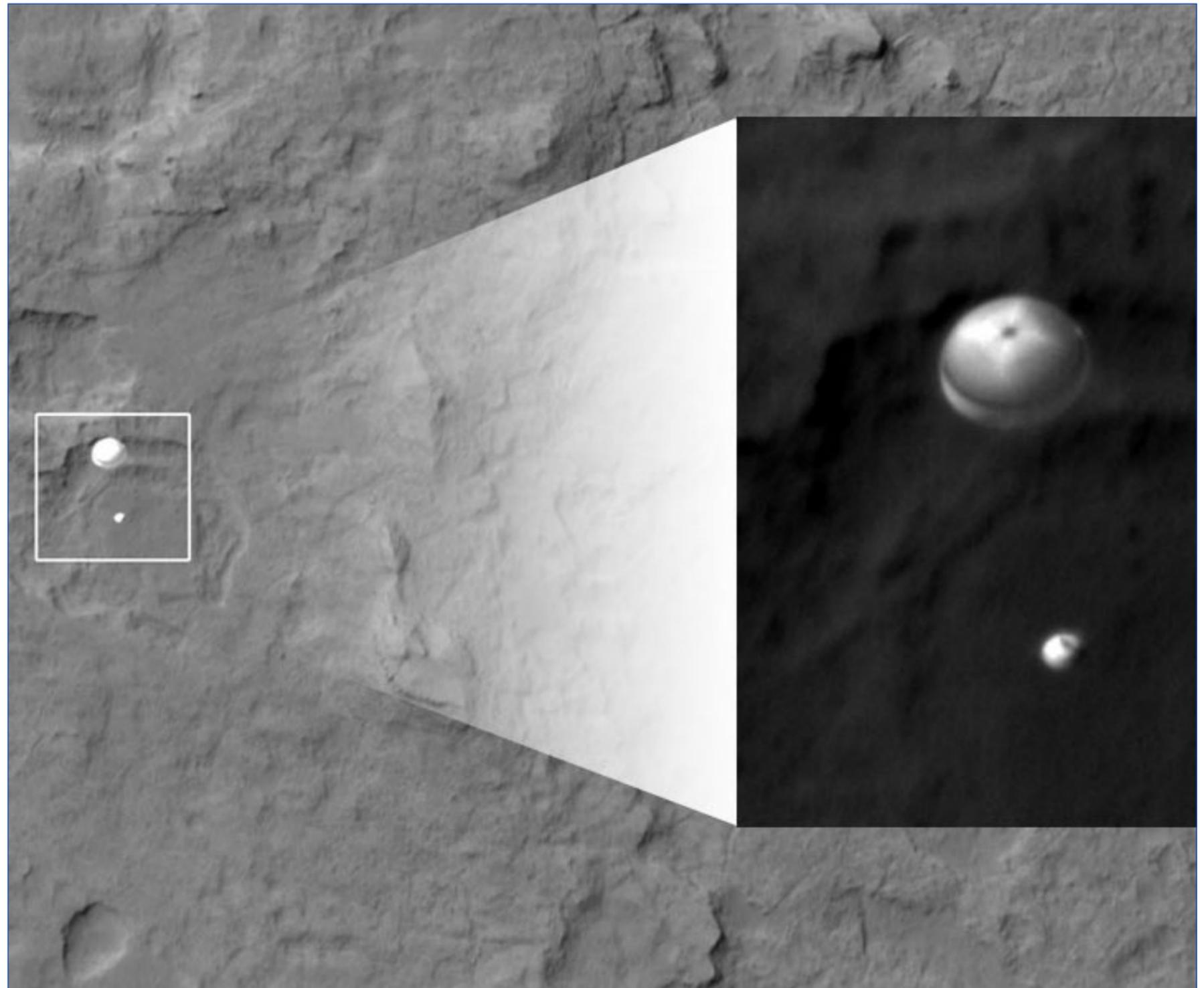
Curiosity returned early views of Mars, a wide-angle scene of rocky ground near the front of the rover. "Our Curiosity is talking to us from the surface of Mars," said MSL Project Manager Peter Theisinger of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif. "The landing takes us past the most hazardous moments for this project and begins a new and exciting mission to pursue its scientific objectives."

Curiosity carries 10 science instruments with a total mass 15 times as large as the science payloads on previous Mars rovers Spirit and Opportunity. Some of the tools are the first of their kind on Mars, such as a laser-firing instrument for checking elemental composition of rocks from a distance. The rover will use a drill and scoop at the end of its robotic arm to gather soil and powdered samples of rock interiors, then sieve and parcel out these samples into laboratory instruments inside the rover.

To handle this science toolkit, Curiosity is twice as long and five times as heavy as Spirit or Opportunity. The Gale Crater landing site places the rover within driving distance of layers of the crater's interior mountain. Observations from orbit have identified clay and sulfate minerals in the lower layers, indicating a wet history.

The mission is managed by JPL for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington. The rover was designed, developed and assembled at JPL.

For mission info, visit: [www.nasa.gov/mars](http://www.nasa.gov/mars) or <http://marsprogram.jpl.nasa.gov/msl>. Follow the mission on Facebook and Twitter at: [www.facebook.com/marscuriosity](http://www.facebook.com/marscuriosity) and [www.twitter.com/marscuriosity](http://www.twitter.com/marscuriosity).



NASA's Curiosity rover and its parachute were spotted by NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter as Curiosity descended to the surface on Aug. 6 CDT. The High-Resolution Imaging Science Experiment camera captured this image of Curiosity while the orbiter was listening to transmissions from the rover. Curiosity and its parachute are in the center of the white box; the inset image is a cutout of the rover stretched to avoid saturation. The parachute is shown fully inflated and performing perfectly. Details in the parachute,

such as the bandgap at the edges and the central hole, are clearly seen. The cords connecting the parachute to the back shell cannot be seen, although they were seen in the image of NASA's Phoenix lander descending, perhaps due to the difference in lighting angles. The bright spot on the back shell containing Curiosity might be a specular reflection off of a shiny area. Curiosity was released from the back shell sometime after this image was acquired.

FULFILLING NASA'S EXPLORATION MISSION

# INFINITY visitor center hosts hundreds in anticipation of Mars Curiosity landing



NASA welcomed hundreds of children and accompanying adults to its INFINITY visitor center on Aug. 4, offering Mars-related activities that focused attention on the space agency's Curiosity mission to the Red Planet. Students from Gulfport High School, who field a team each year in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition, offered young visitors a firsthand look at how robots work (top left and bottom center photos). Kids used provided materials to show how they would construct a Mars rover (bottom left photo). 3-D images from Mars provided "Wow!" glimpses of the Red Planet (top center photo). Parents and children, such as Myron and Trey (age 3) Cummings, enjoyed

exploring Mars using an interactive touch table (top right photo). Midway through the day of activities, visitors in the Science on a Sphere auditorium also enjoyed a presentation on Mars and the Curiosity mission by Dr. Steven Williams, a NASA expert on Mars. Hundreds of persons visited the INFINITY facility during the day, including media representatives from surrounding communities. In addition to the Mars activities, they were able to tour other space-related exhibits at the center. NASA representatives are planning a follow-up day of activity at INFINITY on Aug. 25 to highlight the rover landing and the progress of Curiosity's research mission.

# 2012 NASA Honor Awards

Stennis Space Center Director Patrick Scheuermann and Goddard Space Flight Center Director Christopher Scolese presented annual NASA Honor Awards during an onsite ceremony Aug. 9.

One Stennis employee received NASA's Outstanding Leadership Medal, a high-level award for notable leadership accomplishments that significantly influence NASA's mission. The award recognizes an individual's leadership and effectiveness in advancing NASA's goals and image.

**Thomas Meredith** received NASA's Outstanding Leadership Award for his work as deputy lead for the Design and Analysis Division of the Stennis Engineering & Test Directorate. Meredith's leadership was noted as critical to the development of Stennis test facilities, which support agency and commercial test projects. He was particularly cited for his leadership in modifying and preparing Stennis' E Test Complex for the commercial Aerojet AJ26 and Blue Origin engine test projects.



Four Stennis employees received NASA's Exceptional Service Medal. This prestigious medal is awarded for significant, sustained performance characterized by unusual initiative or creative ability that clearly demonstrates substantial improvements or contributions in engineering, aeronautics, space flight, administration, support or space-related endeavors that contribute to NASA's mission.

**Curtis "Duane" Armstrong** received NASA's Exceptional Service Medal for 27 years of service and for his leadership as chief of the Stennis Applied Science & Technology

Project Office. In his current role, Armstrong leads NASA's Gulf of Mexico Initiative and \$19 million research portfolio. Armstrong serves in a number of strategic roles, including inaugural member of the NASA Science Council and as one of four federal co-leads for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. His career is characterized by noteworthy contributions to both NASA engineering and applied science areas.



**Rosalind "Rose" Baker** received NASA's Exceptional Service Medal for more than 38 years of service to the government, including her work as senior contracting officer and cost/price analyst in the Stennis Procurement Office. Noted as a strong innovator, Baker has been a driving force in streamlining and strengthening procurement and contract processes for NASA. Her reviews of contract proposals have generated savings of more than \$3 million for NASA.



**Mary Byrd** received NASA's Exceptional Service Medal for 13 years of service at Stennis, including her current role as the contracting officer's technical representative for the Jacobs Technology Facility Operating Services Contract. Byrd works with NASA and Jacobs personnel to ensure contractual requirements and mission needs are fulfilled. Byrd also demonstrated



exceptional leadership skills and expertise in previous roles related to facility maintenance and operations.

**Jason Edge** received NASA's Exceptional Service Award for 12 years of service at Stennis, including lead of construction in the center's Office of Procurement. In that role, Edge is accountable for all procurement actions related to construction activities at Stennis. Edge has demonstrated excellence in executing extensive construction contracts and has documented more than \$11 million in cost avoidances and savings.



Three Stennis employees received NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal. This prestigious medal recognizes a significant, specific accomplishment or contribution that improves operations, efficiency, service, science or technology contributing to the NASA mission.

**Jeffrey Lott** received NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal for outstanding leadership and excellence in the execution of the Aerojet AJ26 engine and Blue Origin Thrust Chamber Assembly test projects at Stennis. Lott has made significant contributions as a test director within the Stennis Engineering & Test Directorate for these commercial test projects, executed simultaneously on the center's E-1 Test Stand.



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## AWARDS

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**David “Skip” Roberts** received NASA’s Exceptional Achievement Award for his leadership in the transition to Stennis’



new propulsion test model and in the J-2X engine test project on the A-2 Test Stand. As both a test director and test conductor within the Stennis Engineering & Test Directorate, Roberts has contributed to the advancement of rocket propulsion testing at Stennis and to meeting NASA mission goals. Roberts served as the first J-2X test conductor and led in the first-ever live, publicly broadcast engine test in Stennis history.

**Karen Vander** received NASA’s



Exceptional Achievement Award for her work in establishing a new configuration management philosophy and system at Stennis. As an aerospace technologist in the Stennis Office of Safety & Mission Assurance, Vander led in consolidating three disparate configuration management processes into one system. In doing so, she has ensured that all fundamental concepts are included in the new process and that workflows and processes continue in compliance with standards.

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One Stennis employee received NASA’s Exceptional Public Service Medal. It is awarded to persons who are not government employees but made exceptional contributions to the mission of NASA.

**Lawrence “Haynes” Haselmaier** received NASA’s Exceptional Public

Service Medal for more than 35 years of engineering support at Stennis. A University of Southern Mississippi employee, Haselmaier has supported and led a number of key projects, such as the effort to replace and strengthen the safety of 45-year-old liquid oxygen barge pump systems and work on the liquid hydrogen run tank on the B-1/B-2 Test Stand.




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One Stennis Space Center employee received NASA’s Exceptional Public Achievement Medal. It is awarded to persons who are not government employees for a significant specific achievement or substantial improvement in operations, efficiency, service, financial savings, science or technology that contributes to the mission of NASA.

**Benjamin McGrath** re-



ceived NASA’s Exceptional Public Achievement Medal for his work as principal quality inspector for source inspections on NASA direct contracts. An employee with the Jacobs Technology Facility Operating Services Contract Group, McGrath was particularly cited for expertise he demonstrated in inspections related to construction of the A-3 Test Stand at Stennis. His contributions have enhanced safety and generated tremendous cost savings.

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One Stennis employee received NASA’s Silver Achievement Medal during the Aug. 9 ceremony. It is awarded by NASA center directors to government or nongovernment individuals or teams for a stellar achieve-

ment that supports one or more of NASA’s core values.

**Craig Peterson** received NASA’s Silver Achievement Medal for consistently demonstrating the highest standards of management in support of applied science work at Stennis. An employee with ASRC Research & Technology Solutions, Peterson represents NASA on several science project teams and is credited with helping to transform the way science is conducted, and lowering barriers to broader participation in NASA science missions.




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One Stennis employee received NASA’s Early Career Achievement Medal. It is awarded to a government employee for unusual and significant performance during the first 10 years of a career.

**Marvin Horne** received NASA’s Early Career Achievement Medal for demonstrating outstanding and sustained



leadership as a contract specialist and contracting officer within the Stennis Office of Procurement. Horne was cited for providing sound analytical advice on a broad spectrum of projects and influencing the success of major efforts at Stennis.

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One Stennis employee received Stennis’ J. Harry Guin Outstanding Leadership Award. It is awarded for demonstrating exemplary leadership that has significantly enhanced the role, capability or professional recognition of Stennis Space Center.

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## AWARDS

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**Thomas “Randy” Galloway** received Stennis’ J. Harry Guin Outstanding Leadership Award for his dedication to the NASA/Stennis mission, as well as his technical expertise and foresight. These qualities were demonstrated as Galloway led the transition of Stennis propulsion test operations from a contractor-led model to a NASA civil service-led arrangement. Galloway also was recognized for his strong commitment to employee development.



One Stennis Space Center employee received the inaugural Stennis’ Roy S. Estess Service Leadership Award. It recognizes NASA civil servants whose career achievements demonstrate business and/or technical leadership leading to significant advancement of NASA’s mission and whose record of volunteerism reflects a profound commitment to surrounding communities.

### Myron Webb

received Stennis’ first-ever Roy S. Estess Service Leadership Award for 27 years of professional and volunteer accomplishments that reflect a profound commitment to NASA, its mission and communities surrounding Stennis Space Center. Webb currently serves as the Stennis Legislative Affairs Officer and as liaison to the INFINITY at NASA Science Center Inc., board. She was cited for enhancing the recognition and prominence of Stennis.



Several additional Stennis Space Center individuals and groups were recognized for service and contributions during the NASA Honor Awards ceremony. Those honors included:

### Length of Service Awards

#### 40 years

Connie Shuler

#### 35 years

David Brannon

#### 30 years

Bradley Brown  
Bruce Farner  
Charlene Guin  
Wendy Holladay  
Patricia Penton  
Thomas Stanley Jr.  
Ramona Travis

#### 25 years

Cabrina Bell  
Beth Bradley  
Dinna Cottrell  
Anita Douglas  
David Failla  
Gay Irby  
Bryon Maynard  
James Morgan  
Candace Rogers  
John Stealey  
Gigi Savona  
Pennie Turner

### Group Achievement Awards

#### B-1 Liquid Hydrogen Tank Team

#### NASA

David Coote  
Bartt Hebert  
Thomas Jacks  
Nicholas Nugent  
Harry Ryan  
Jared Sass (KSC)  
Dale Sewell  
Timothy White  
Son Le  
David Liberto  
Stephen Huff (KSC)

#### Contractor Support

Dorothy Acker  
Caleb Adams  
Peggy Alston  
Jo Anthony  
Barry Autin  
Leonie Barden (KSC)  
Glen Beech  
Jesse Bilbo  
Becky Black  
Henry Bonney  
Ethan Calder  
Deborah Case  
Don Caudill  
Paula Caudill  
James Clark  
Eddie Cook

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Group Achievement Award – B-1 Liquid Hydrogen Tank Team

# AWARDS

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Steve Costello  
 Rachel Cranford  
 Cody Cuevas  
 Casey Deschamp  
 Doug Dike  
 Justin Dunhurst  
 Teresa Ehrlich  
 Jimmy Everett  
 Troy Fleming  
 James Fortenberry  
 Kenny Fortenberry  
 Dale Green  
 Donna Grimsley  
 Haynes Haselmaier  
 Vance Hathcock  
 Lee Hathorn  
 Robert Hayward  
 David Haysbrook (KSC)  
 John Iten  
 Bill Ivey  
 Anthony Jackson  
 Ed Johnston  
 Mike Johnston  
 Kevin Jurich  
 Jeanne Kellar  
 Jerry Knight  
 Philip Kopfinger  
 Austin Ladner  
 Debra Ladner  
 Greg Ladner  
 Preston Ladner  
 Shanea Ladner  
 Truc Le  
 Angie Lee  
 Joseph Lesieur  
 Mark Lichtenstein Jr.  
 Cynthia Lossett  
 Rickey Lyons  
 Joey Malley  
 Todd Mannion  
 Mike Marodis  
 Benjamin McGrath  
 Johnny Middleton (KSC)  
 Ken Montgomery  
 William Moran  
 Ken Morgan  
 Doug Necaise  
 Chad Nicholas  
 Justin Nossier  
 Glen Parker



Group Achievement Award – Kronos Controller Development Team

Cleveland Pichon  
 Nelwyn Pickett  
 Charles Polk  
 Luis Ramos (KSC)  
 Steve Rathburn  
 Brock Saucier  
 Robert Seal  
 Pete Shaw  
 Billy Smith  
 George Smith  
 Shane Smith  
 Fran Songy  
 George Spence  
 Mike Theriot  
 Roger Walters  
 Robert Williams  
 Clark Woods  
 Skip Wright  
 Robert Zar

### Kronos Controller Development Team

#### NASA

Gregory Carmouche  
 David Carver  
 Jack Conley  
 Howard Conyers  
 Juan Gomez  
 Jaren Grover  
 Jeffery Henderson  
 Michael Holmes  
 Jason Hopper

Melissa Huggins  
 Justin Junell  
 Nate Laborde  
 Ryan McKibben  
 Vincent Pachel  
 David Roberts  
 Marc Shoemaker  
 Keith Stockstill  
 Mark Turowski

### **Contractor Support**

Matthew Adams  
 Chad Albritton  
 Thomas Austin  
 Cory Beckmeyer  
 Barrett Bryson  
 Tim Delcuze  
 Dwayne Garcia  
 John Giveans  
 Scotty Herrin  
 Butch Howard  
 Adam Knight  
 Chase Ladner  
 Brent LeBlanc  
 Vince Moran  
 Jon Morris  
 Don Necaise  
 Carley Odom  
 Todd Pearson  
 Alvin Richards  
 Stephen Rose

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# AWARDS

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**Voluntary Protection Programs  
Working Group and  
Pressure Vessel/System Team**

**NASA**

- Mike Blotzer (retired)
- Clyde Dease
- Tiffany Hawkins
- Joseph Lacher
- Son Le
- Kenneth Volante (GSFC)
- Katrina Wright

**Contractor Support**

- Raymond Breault
- Frank Costanza
- Greg Garrett
- Ruth Hextall
- Jeanne Kellar
- Stephen Koch
- Truc Le
- John Lindsay
- Aaron Lunt
- Sharlene Majors
- Jim Mirandy
- Chad Nicholas
- Dean Noel
- Larry Oman
- Glen Parker
- Lasonya Pulliam
- Donna Pullman
- Steve Rathburn
- Brenda Reynolds
- Jim Sever
- Gale Smith
- George Smith
- Mike Theriot
- Jim Watson
- Howard Wilson
- Clark Woods

**Stennis Energy and  
Water Reduction Team**

**NASA**

- Melissa Ferguson
- Jenette Gordon

**Contractor Support**

- James Cospelich
- Charles Feigel
- Timothy Kellar



Group Achievement Award – VPP Working Group and Pressure Vessel/System Team

- Michael McKinion
- Luke Scianna
- Donald Thompson

- Nick Coleman
- Duke Donner
- Willie Ellie
- Kevin Gallagher
- Danny Guin
- Daniel Gurneck
- Josh Hancock
- Ken Hawkins
- Doug Henderson
- Mike Hodge
- Wayne Hodge

**Lockheed Martin  
Test Operations Contract  
Component Processing  
Facility Team**

**NASA**

- Joseph Schuyler

**Contractor Support**

- Larry Clayton

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Group Achievement Award – Stennis Energy and Water Reduction Team

# AWARDS

Continued from Page 12

- Kurt Jarrell
- Marcella Jones
- Kenny McCormack
- Mark Mills
- Tim Mitchell
- Shelly O'Neal
- Bobby Rodriguez
- David Slavinsky
- Darrin Spansel
- William Spansel
- Greg Walls



Group Achievement Award – Lockheed Martin TOC Component Processing Facility Team

### Stennis Protective Services Contract Acquisition Team

- NASA**
- Rosalind Baker
- Mary Byrd
- Christopher Carmichael
- Cheryl Cuevas
- David Del Santo
- Michael Harbart
- Rebecca Hopper
- Gerald Norris
- Michael Rewis
- Candace Rogers
- Michelle Stracener
- Lavaniel Ward

### Stennis 50th Anniversary Celebration Team

- NASA**
- Sallie Bilbo
- Pamela Covington
- Clyde Dease
- Ladarian Faulkner
- Earnest Foerman
- Marco Giardino
- Richard Harris

- Tessa Keating
- Rebecca Strecker
- Jessica Thompson
- Timothy White

- Contractor Support**
- Daphne Alford
- Jack Allen
- Linda Antoine
- Sharon Arnold
- Michael Badon
- Vicki Bess
- Jon Bounds
- Judy Clements
- Wayne Crawford
- Christopher De Long
- Greg Garrett
- Suzanne Glasscock
- Graham Golden
- Karla Graham
- Natalie Kelly
- Daryl Kosturock
- Angela Lane
- Wendy LeSieur
- Joanna Lewis
- Eunice Lichtenstein
- Douglass Mayberry
- Donna Mellott
- Jennifer Melton
- Nick Middleton
- James Mirandy
- Gail Mitchell
- Ron Moore



Group Achievement Award –Stennis Protective Services Contract Acquisition Team

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## AWARDS

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Danny Nowlin  
Lynne Oshiro  
Barbara Palmer  
Brian Raymond  
John Rhodes  
Donald Robinson  
Shelby Russell  
Perry Schmidt  
Taryn Sciambra  
Shannon Simpson  
William Stewart  
Lacy Thompson  
Sheilah Ware  
Joe Weems  
Karl Wilcox

### Special Recognition Awards

Director's Certificate of  
Appreciation  
Martha Bounds

Systems Engineering  
Excellence Award

**NASA**  
Eric Ross  
Rebecca Deschamp  
Elizabeth Messer (retired)  
Brad Messer  
Christine Powell  
Charles Hallal  
Bryon Maynard

### Contractor Support

Justin Nosser  
Tammy Smith  
Cherie Beech  
Todd Sandeman  
Theresa Leslie  
William Nail  
Melissa Alford  
Thang Le  
Bill O'Rourke  
Timothy Stiglets  
Colby Albasini

Peer Recognition Award for  
Executive Excellence

Beth Bradley

Peer Recognition Award for Safety

Jeffrey Henderson

Blue Marble Award

Bryon Maynard

NASA Barge Transition Team

Donald Griffith  
Richard Harris

Program/Project Management  
Requirements Team

Harry Ryan

Agencywide Contract Closeout  
and Procurement Service

James Jacobs

## NASA in the News

### NASA selects Stennis construction contracts

NASA has selected six indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity multiple award construction contracts at the agency's Stennis Space Center. The fixed price contracts consist of a performance period of five years, with a total value not to exceed \$700 million. Selected companies are: Advon Corp. in Tallahassee, Fla.; Birmingham Industrial Construction LLC in Birmingham, Ala.; Harry Pepper & Associates Inc. in Jacksonville, Fla.; McClain Contracting Company Inc. in Andalusia, Ala.; MOWA Development LLC in Gautier, Miss.; and Sauer Inc. in Jacksonville, Fla. Work may include but will not be limited to maintenance, repair, alteration, mechanical, civil, electrical, heating/air conditioning, demolition, painting, earthwork, fencing, steel fabrication and/or welding. Other work may include but will not be limited to design/build projects, as well as new construction of buildings or facilities.

### NASA, Louisiana extend space partnership

NASA and Louisiana leaders Aug. 2 committed to a five-year extension of their partnership in the National Center for Advanced Manufacturing (NCAM). NCAM is a principal NASA resource in Louisiana that supports aerospace manufacturing research, development and innovation. It includes NASA, NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, the state of Louisiana and the University of New Orleans. This new agreement also includes Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

For the latest NASA news releases, visit online: [www.nasa.gov/news/releases/latest/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/news/releases/latest/index.html).



Group Achievement Award – Stennis 50th Anniversary Celebration Team

# Stennis hosts Take Our Children to Work Day



More than 250 children of employees at 15 Stennis Space Center resident agencies and organizations visited the facility July 31 to participate in annual Take Our Children to Work Day activities. Participants enjoyed

various presentations and demonstrations on topics such as cryogenics and information security. They also had an opportunity to visit site facilities to learn about various work performed at the NASA center.

## NASA, Stennis top federal innovation rankings

**N**ASA and Stennis Space Center rank as the top large and subcomponent agencies of innovation, a Partnership for Public Service analysis indicates.

NASA ranks No. 1 among 30 federal agencies in terms of innovation, with a score of 75. That compares to a governmentwide score of 63.2 and is ahead of the second-place score of 73.9 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Stennis Space Center tops more than 225 subcomponent facilities in terms of innovation with a score of 78.3. The score is the same as NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. This score reflects an increase in Stennis' overall score and rank over last year.

The scores are based on data from the 2011 Office of Personnel Management's Federal Employee View-

point Survey, which also is used to determine the best places to work in the federal government.

"This is a great affirmation of the culture and the dedicated employees at Stennis and all across NASA," Center Director Patrick Scheuermann said. "NASA is built on the idea of innovation, and Stennis is committed to that approach. In lean economic times, it is critical that employees bring forth ideas to ensure we remain cost effective and relevant. It is very exciting to be cited as one of the best – and innovative – places at work in the federal government."

Innovation scores are based on employee responses regarding six workplace conditions. These range from employees having a sense of personal empowerment in decision making and work processes to whether they have opportunities to improve skills and demonstrate

leadership abilities to whether they respect senior leaders and are rewarded for good work.

On the subcomponent innovation list, NASA centers hold the top three spots – Stennis, Goddard and Johnson Space Center in Houston. Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., ranks fifth, and Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., fills the eighth spot. Altogether, NASA centers claim five of the top 10 spots on the list and nine of the first 17. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., was not included in the workplace survey.

For the analysis, innovation is defined as "the process of improving, adapting or developing a product, system or service to deliver better results and create value for people."

For more information regarding the rankings, [Click Here](#).

## 1969 – Hurricane Camille slams Gulf Coast

*Note: For more than 50 years, NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center has played a pivotal role in the success of the nation's space program. This month's Lagniappe highlights a moment in the history of the south Mississippi rocket engine test center.*

**F**orty-three years ago, on the Sunday morning of Aug. 17, 1969, Hurricane Camille was located 200 miles southeast of New Orleans with wind speeds of 160 mph.

While employees of the Mississippi Test Facility (now John C. Stennis Space Center) were securing the hydrogen and oxygen barges in preparation of the Category 5 hurricane, evacuees from the Gulf Coast began arriving at the south gate, seeking shelter.

By 10 p.m., 1,063 evacuees were registered and bedded down in the empty offices and hallways of Building 1100. At 11:05 p.m., Hurricane Camille, now with 200 mph winds, roared ashore, its eye passing directly over the Bay of St. Louis.

Those who weathered the historic storm described a night of howling winds, tearing lumber, flying brick, and rushing waves of seawater crashing down on homes. All communication to and from the Gulf Coast was blown out by the hurricane force winds or washed away by a 27-foot tidal wave.



Officials participating in the post-Hurricane Camille news conference at Mississippi Test Facility in 1969 were (from left): U.S. Rep. William M. Colmer (Miss.); U.S. Sen. John C. Stennis (Miss.); Gov. John B. Williams (Miss.); Thomas O. Paine, NASA administrator; Dr. Wernher von Braun, director of NASA Marshall Space Flight Center; and Jackson Balch, MTF manager (behind Paine).

On Aug. 29, NASA and government officials from Washington, D.C., Jackson, Miss., and Huntsville, Ala., conducted an inspection tour of Mississippi Test Facility and Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, to assess damage from the hurricane. In a subsequent press conference, the officials addressed employees via a sitewide public address system.

Marshall Space Flight Center Director Dr. Wernher von Braun acknowledged the suffering on the Gulf Coast but urged employees to help the engine test facility recover. “We had a severe blow here, and we, of course, are deeply impressed by the damage and by the suffering that must have come with this damage on the Coast,” von Braun said. “On the other hand, the facility is in very good shape and so is our Apollo Program, and I think you all never had any doubt at all that the show must go on, and the first business at hand would be to get the facility moving.”

NASA Administrator Thomas O. Paine echoed the call, urging employees to capture the “spirit of Apollo” as they moved ahead and rebuilt for the future. “I certainly hope that the contractor people here and the NASA people here, who have taken so much leadership in the early disaster and cleanup phase of this, will also be able to play a role in this rebuilding process.”

U.S. Sen. John C. Stennis reassured employees, “We are proud of you, and I am going to join hands with you as we face the future unafraid and build for an even greater space program, an even greater facility here, and a finer Mississippi.”



### Stennis visits National Urban League Convention

Freddie Douglas (right), manager of the Office of Safety & Mission Assurance at Stennis Space Center, helps distribute NASA materials during an outreach effort at the National Urban League Convention in New Orleans on July 25-28. Stennis offered thousands of convention participants information on space exploration, NASA and engine testing work at Stennis.

## Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity

# Workplace bullying need not be tolerated

**B**ullies come in all shapes, sizes and ethnicities. Bullying has taken center stage as one of the most serious issues facing society today. What was once considered a problem of the young has now been shown to continue into adulthood, and what was once thought of as harmless growing up is now known to cause lasting psychological and emotional damage on bullied children and adults of all ages.

For adult men and women, one of the most common places of bullying is the workplace. Many adults use bullying as an outlet for the pressures of life, some out of sheer arrogance and others out of an inward shame or cowardliness that they carry around with them throughout life, with little regard to the psychological damage it causes to those on the receiving end.

Workplace bullying is a form of harassment. If you are experiencing bullying from anyone in the workplace, report the activity to your supervisor, ombuds, Office of Human Capital, or the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity.

Following are some additional coping mechanisms for dealing with the stress of workplace bullying.

The most powerful tool at one's disposal is knowledge. One of the main issues with workplace bullying occurs when a person accepts the shame or fear as his or her own issue. Workplace bullying is very real. If individuals are able to admit to themselves and others that they are being bullied in the workplace, they will already be well on the way toward coping with the situation.

A person who feels he/she is being bullied should keep a log book of every example of workplace bullying, no matter who it is from. Keep the log book somewhere safe and keep track of every instance. Information gives a person power over the bully, and makes taking action easier. Some of the information on BullyOnline.org could be beneficial in helping a person better understand options.

Let's face it, bullying causes an intense physical toll. It causes extra stress. Staying fit and active in general is a powerful coping mechanism. It burns away stress hormones that cause one to feel bad, resulting in fewer physical symptoms.

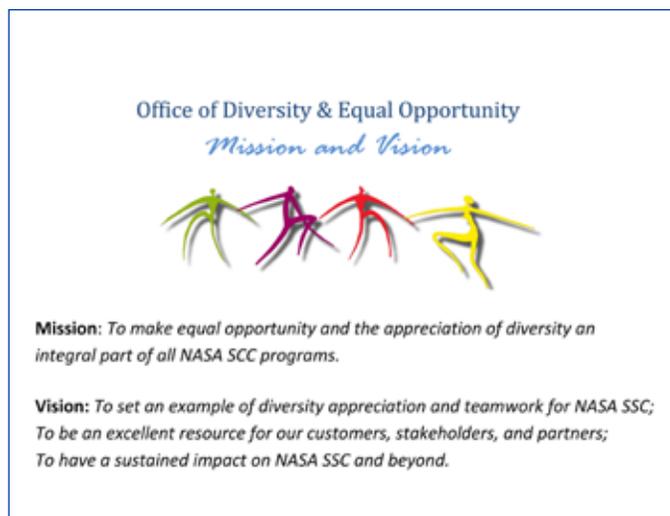
Evidence shows that workplace bullying affects more than just those who are bullied. It affects those who witness it as well, and in most businesses there are many witnesses. They may be willing to stand by one's side when it happens, supporting the argument when a grievance is filed, or helping

to log what occurs within the workplace. These individuals can help turn a workplace into a better environment.

When it comes to bullying, the most important thing to do is take action. While bullies deserve to take responsibility for their actions, many of them bully because they feel they must. It's their way of coping with their own inadequacies and pressures.

Bullies are not going to stop simply because someone wants them to stop. But the bullied are the ones with the law on their side, and as long as they are willing to acknowledge the problem and the effect it has on them, they are also the ones who can have the most power.

Once a person is ready to take action, he/she has the opportunity not only to stop workplace bullying, but to help cope with the stress involved in the process.



## Hail & Farewell

### NASA bids farewell to the following:

**Lakeisha White** Contract Specialist  
Office of Procurement

### And welcomes the following:

**Monica Ceruti** Chief Counsel  
Office of the Chief Counsel

# Former astronaut visits Stennis

Local 4-H students had an opportunity to grow their imagination and potential at NASA's Stennis Space Center when NASA Associate Administrator for Education Leland Melvin took time to visit with them July 30.

About 80 students in grades 4 through 9 from several south Mississippi counties participated in the event. The visit capped the clubs' involvement in NASA's Summer of Innovation project, which provides hands-on learning opportunities for middle school students and educators through NASA-unique science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) educational activities during the summer school break. Summer of Innovation is a key component of the agency's broader education program to increase student interest in STEM courses, particularly among students in underserved sectors of the academic community. Mississippi 4-H was Stennis' largest Summer of Innovation partner this year.

Melvin told the visiting students about his experiences as an NFL player, scientist and astronaut, urging them to discover and pursue their own dreams. He emphasized the importance of education, explaining it is key to turning dreams into reality.

"I saw this 7-year-old future astronaut who is beginning to dream and is inspired to follow that dream,"



NASA Associate Administrator for Education Leland Melvin speaks with 7-year-old Ben during a presentation to Mississippi 4-H students at Stennis Space Center on July 30. Melvin predicted Ben could be a future astronaut, urging students to prepare to make their dreams into reality as well.

Melvin said following his comments. "It's just inspiring to me to see that next generation of explorers who will grow to advance our civilization."

The 4-H visit also included a round of activities hosted by the Stennis Office of Education – magnetic levitation cars, stomp rockets, and biospheres – designed to reinforce fun and practical applications of their STEM learning experiences.

"We are so pleased Mr. Melvin chose to spend time with this group," said Emma Seiler, coordinator for Stennis' Summer of Innovation activities. "NASA has so much to offer

children in the way of inspiration, and Mr. Melvin certainly serves as a great example of what you can do if you dream big and work hard."

Melvin joined NASA in 1989 as an aerospace research engineer. He joined the astronaut corps in 1998 and has served as a mission specialist on two space shuttle missions: STS-122 in 2008 and STS-129 in 2009. He has logged more than 565 hours in space. In 2003, Melvin co-managed the former Educator Astronaut Program, which recruited teachers to become fully-trained astronauts in an effort to connect space exploration with students across the country.

## Stennis student interns close out summer of research

Students involved in NASA program internships at Stennis Space Center closed out a summer of work with presentations on assigned research topics.

Stennis hosted 12 DEVELOP students this summer, marking the busiest summer term the center program has experienced. Interns worked on three environmental research projects, using remote sensing to assess severe-weather wheat crop damage in

Oklahoma, creating a geographic information system to aid St. Bernard Parish in Louisiana with finding ideal planting sites for bald cypress trees, and contributing to the Climate Adaptation Science Investigator project in the Stennis Applied Science and Technology Project Office.

The students presented their projects Aug. 10.

A pair of NASA Undergraduate

Student Research Program interns closed out their summer of study at Stennis with presentations Aug. 9.

Daniel Huggett from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond and focused on propellant tank modeling and impact analysis of an unmanned aerial vehicle. Robert Talley from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and focused on nuclear propulsion and power non-nuclear test facility element analysis.