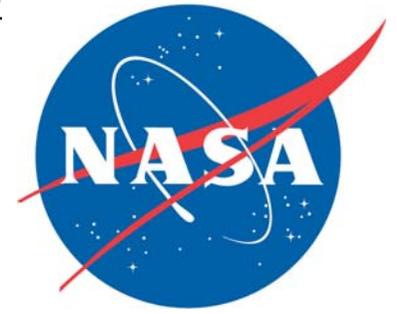


Spaceport News



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http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/snews/spnews_toc.html

Atlantis returns to pad for STS-117 mission

Preparations for Atlantis continue toward a scheduled June 8 launch for mission STS-117 after the space shuttle returned to Launch Pad 39A with repairs to the external fuel tank from a February hail storm.

Rollout of Atlantis from the Vehicle Assembly Building to Launch Pad 39A began at 5:02 a.m. May 15. "The teams have done a phenomenal job of repairing this tank," said Bill Gerstenmaier, space operations associate administrator.

"We've done a lot of extra reviews to make sure we didn't miss anything and a lot of testing to make sure things were done right."

John Chapman, manager of the external tank repair project pointed out that the tank has a speckled appearance but this will not affect performance or safety.

There will be a flight readiness review May 30-31 during which senior managers, both NASA and contractor, will verify the shuttle is ready for launch.

The STS-117 mission will continue construction of the International Space Station. The crew members will complete similar tasks to the last two space shuttle missions, such as installing new solar arrays and retracting an existing array.

The mission will deliver and install the 17.5-ton S3/S4 truss segment to the starboard side of the integrated truss system of the orbital outpost.

The truss, part of the station's girderlike backbone, is similar to the P3/P4 truss installed during STS-115 in September 2006.

For updates on the NASA mission, visit <http://www.nasa.gov>.



THE SPACE Shuttle Atlantis slowly moves along the crawlerway as its reflection appears in the crawler transporter's tracks. Frederick Sturckow will command STS-117. Pilot Lee Archambault joins STS-117 Mission Specialists James Reilly, Patrick Forrester, Steven Swanson and John Olivas. Sunita Williams will return to Earth from the space station on the mission. The flight will carry Expedition 15/16 Flight Engineer Clayton Anderson to the station.

NASA's Dawn spacecraft ready for June launch from Cape

NASA's Dawn spacecraft is scheduled to lift off no earlier than June 30 aboard a Delta II rocket from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The mission is the 51st launch for Kennedy Space Center's Launch Services Program, which is responsible for launch vehicle and spacecraft integration, as well as launch countdown management.

Dawn Mission Manager Armando Piloto is proud of the teamwork displayed while readying the spacecraft and rocket for flight.

"The KSC team has worked very closely with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Orbital Sciences Corporation and the United Launch Alliance since early 2003 to ensure a successful integration

of the Dawn spacecraft to the Delta II (heavy) launch vehicle," Piloto said.

"Dawn's ion propulsion system has added an extra level of complexity to the integration effort. We have a lot of work ahead, but the team continues to work aggressively and safely in time to support a June 30 launch."

Dawn's goal is to characterize the conditions and processes of the solar system's earliest beginning by investigating two of the largest protoplanets remaining intact since their formations. Ceres and Vesta reside in the zone between Mars and Jupiter together with many other smaller bodies, called the asteroid belt.

Each has followed a very

(See DAWN, Page 2)



IN ASTROTECH'S Payload Processing Facility in Titusville, technicians work on the Dawn spacecraft. Launch is scheduled for June 30.



Bill Parsons
Center Director

Director's Update

We are nearly one month removed from the tragic violence that transpired at the Johnson Space Center on April 20. Following the bold leadership of Linda Beverly, our resilient NASA family moved swiftly from mourning a death to celebrating the life of her late husband and NASA engineer David Beverly.

As we continue to support and encourage our teammates in

Houston, we press on with the noble work that lies ahead. Nevertheless, let us remember the words of Robert F. Kennedy when he said, "Tragedy is a tool for the living to gain wisdom."

As Kennedy Space Center employees, we take great pride in our many world-class achievements, but we also take time to learn in times of great loss.

The phrase "senseless violence" is often used to describe

events like those we saw in Houston and Blacksburg, Va. Violence of any kind in the workplace is senseless, but its absolute failure to solve problems makes it particularly futile.

No one wins and trouble is only multiplied for the aggressor and innocent bystanders.

The overwhelming majority of us strive daily to do the right and proper thing when it comes to our work and work relationships. Still, I urge the entire Kennedy team to be mindful of the many resources for comfort, discussion and conflict resolution that are available across our center.

I do believe that the most important tool we possess is in each of us. That is, simply, the spirit of caring.

We will take care of each other, offer peaceful support and lead by example.

Petro begins tenure as deputy director



Kennedy Space Center
Deputy Director Janet Petro

Janet Petro has joined the Kennedy Space Center senior management team as deputy director. She resides in Indian Harbor Beach with her daughter, Hannah, and son, Andrew.

DAWN . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

different evolutionary path constrained by the diversity of processes that operated during the first few million years of solar system evolution.

Dawn has much to offer the public. The mission brings images of varied landscapes on previously unseen worlds, including mountains, canyons and, possibly, ancient lakebeds and gullies.

Students can follow the mission over an entire kindergarten through 12th grade experience as the mission is built, and the spacecraft cruises to Vesta and Ceres and returns data. The public will be able to participate through the Solar System Ambassadors Program at www2.jpl.nasa.gov/ambassador/index.html and via the Web at <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov>.

The primary question the mission addresses is what role size and water play in determining the evolution of the planets. Ceres and Vesta are the right two bodies with which to address this question, as they are the most massive of the protoplanets, baby planets whose growth was interrupted by the formation of Jupiter.

Ceres is very primitive and wet while Vesta is evolved and dry.

The instruments to be flown are flight-proven and similar to those used for missions involving Mercury, Mars, the moon, Eros and comets.

There are three principal scientific drivers for the mission. The first is that it captures the

earliest moments in the origin of the solar system, helping to understand the conditions under which these objects formed. Second, Dawn determines the nature of the building blocks from which the terrestrial planets formed, improving mankind's

understanding of this formation. Finally, it contrasts the formation and evolution of two small planets that followed very different evolutionary paths to help understand what controls that evolution.

May NASA employees of the month



The May NASA employees of the month include, from left, Matthew Mattingly, Engineering Directorate; Leonard Duncil, Launch Services Program; Brian Burns, Information Technology and Communications Services; Ginny Kinslow, Engineering Directorate; Joyce McDowell, Procurement Office; Mark Biesack, International Space Station and Spacecraft Processing; Bill Roy, Launch Integration Office; David Diaz, Launch Vehicle Processing; and John Shaffer, Center Operations. Not pictured are Patricia Nicolik, Constellation Project Office and Richard Lamoreaux, Safety and Mission Assurance.

Kennedy directors brief community leaders on future

By Linda Herridge
Staff Writer

Kennedy Space Center Director Bill Parsons expressed his optimism about the center's future to a full audience during the annual Community Leaders Breakfast on May 11 at the KSC Visitor Complex's Dr. Kurt H. Debus Conference Center.

The program included highlights of the past year's accomplishments, as well as current and future work. "It's a great time to be at Kennedy Space Center," Parsons said. Parsons noted that KSC has a \$3.7 billion impact on Brevard County and each KSC job creates another 2.45 jobs in the county.

He said partnerships with the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, the U.S. Air Force 45th Space Wing, Space Florida and others are important to the center.

Rita Willcox, director of the Launch Vehicle Processing Directorate, gave an overview of processing highlights and challenges for missions STS-121, STS-115 and STS-116. She discussed the outstanding work technicians performed to repair hail damage to the external tank for mission STS-117, targeted for launch June 8.

Russell Romanella, director of

the International Space Station/Spacecraft Processing Directorate, said there have been 20 space shuttle missions to the space station between November 1998 and April 2007, and 15 Expedition crews.

More than 200,000 pounds of space station elements, including Node 2, the European Space Agency's Columbus module, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Japanese Experiment Module and the Cupola, are in the Space Station Processing Facility awaiting delivery to the orbiting laboratory.

Steve Cain, project manager for KSC's Commercial Orbital Transportation System, said two companies — SpaceX in El Segundo, Calif., and Rocketplane Kistler headquartered in Oklahoma City, Okla. — were selected by NASA to develop and demonstrate commercial transportation launch vehicles for low-Earth orbit and beyond.

SpaceX will use the Falcon 9 for its cargo flight demonstration in 2008 at KSC, while the company Rocketplane Kistler will use a K-1 for its cargo flight demonstration in 2008-2009 in Woomera, Australia.

Pepper Phillips, deputy director of KSC's Constellation Project Office, said the group is



CENTER DIRECTOR Bill Parsons (at podium) talks to politicians, police and other members of the area during the Community Leaders Breakfast held May 11 in the Dr. Kurt H. Debus Conference Facility.

preparing several facilities for the Ares 1-X test flight and beyond. The Young-Crippen Firing Room 1 is dismantled and ready for modifications for the new program. The Launch Equipment Test Facility, originally used for space shuttle testing, will be converted to a vehicle motion simulator for the Constellation Program.

Phillips said plans are in the review stage for an emergency egress rail system and launch pad configurations for the Ares 1 crew launch vehicle and the Ares V cargo launch vehicle.

"Our role is to get our custom-

ers' payloads safely to space," said Steve Francois, manager of the Launch Services Program. Francois said future expendable launch vehicle missions include DAWN, scheduled for no earlier than June 30, and Phoenix, scheduled for an early August launch to Mars. Francois said the program will use some new vehicles.

Lisa Malone, director of External Relations, completed the program with an overview of the new Shuttle Launch Experience at the KSC Visitor Complex. The attraction is scheduled to open to the public May 25.

Shuttle Launch Experience offers employees free opening celebration

In conjunction with the Memorial Day holiday weekend and the launch of the new Shuttle Launch Experience at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, badged KSC employees will have a unique opportunity to join the celebration and enjoy free admission.

From Saturday to Monday, May 26 to 28, there will be 1,000 tickets available each day on a first-come, first-served basis at the NASA exchange stores. Badged employees can get up to six tickets. The tickets are marked for early entry by 10 a.m. each day. An additional 3,000 tickets will be available for admission after 3 p.m. on May 26 and include the opportunity to attend that evening's performance of Mannheim Steamroller at 9 p.m.

This unique offer is in addition to other KSC employee benefits throughout the year, including:

- Discounts at Camp Kennedy Space Center for summer camp
- Free daily limited admission with a KSC badge
- Access to the Visitor Complex during KSC Family Day
- Brevard "free weekend" each fall
- Special events throughout the year
- 30-percent December discounts at Visitor Complex stores
- Daily and promotional discount tickets for employees and families



THE SHUTTLE Launch Experience at the Visitor Complex will offer badged employees the opportunity to enjoy the thrill of a simulated launch from May 26 to 28.

Coats, Hawley and Hoffman join U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame

Space Shuttle astronauts Michael Coats, Steven Hawley and Jeffrey Hoffman joined 63 American space heroes as the newest group inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame during a public ceremony May 5 at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex's Apollo/Saturn V Center.

A standing-room-only audience watched Coats, director of the Johnson Space Center, Hawley, whose mission helped deploy the Hubble Space Telescope, and Hoffman, the first astronaut to log 1,000 hours aboard the space shuttle fleet, accept the prestigious honor.

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation oversees the annual event, including supervising the selection of candidates for the Hall of Fame.

Wally Schirra, the only U.S. astronaut to have flown Mercury, Gemini and Apollo missions, was honored with a tribute at the

beginning of the ceremony. Schirra passed away May 3 at the age of 84. See page 7 for more information about the stoic astronaut.

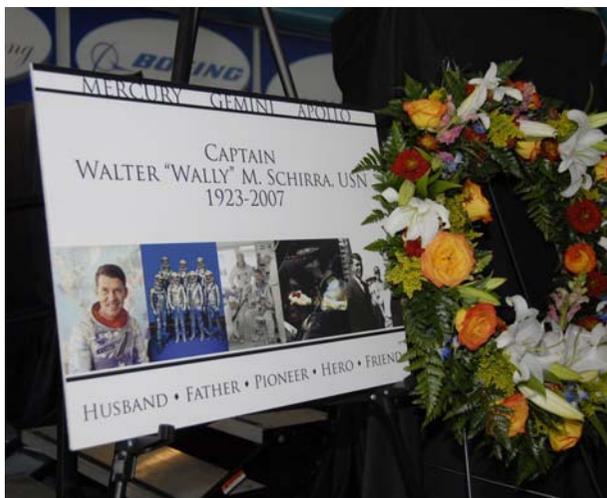
Also in attendance were Mercury 7 astronauts and fellow Hall of Fame members John Glenn and Scott Carpenter, who were recognized for their accomplishments, as well.

The 2007 inductees were selected by a committee of current Hall of Fame astronauts, former NASA managers and flight directors, journalists and other space historians. To be eligible, an astronaut must have made his or her first flight at least 17 years before the induction year and must be retired at least five years from NASA's astronaut corps.

Committee members evaluate not only an individual's flight accomplishments, but also how he or she contributed to the success and future successes of the U.S. space program.



THE NEWEST inductees to the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame stand tall at the ceremony. From left are Jeffrey Hoffman, Steven Hawley and Michael Coats. The May 5 induction increased the number of space explorers enshrined in the Hall of Fame to 66. The ceremony was held at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex's Apollo/Saturn V Center.



AT THE U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame induction ceremony, a wreath and poster honor former astronaut and U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame member Wally Schirra, who died May 3.



BEFORE THE U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame induction ceremony on May 5, Boy Scouts lead the pledge of allegiance for the packed audience in the Apollo/Saturn V Center.



RETIRED ASTRONAUT Al Worden (third from left in front row) reads a list of the astronauts honored in past ceremonies, some of whom stand on the dais. Standing in the front row, from left, are John Glenn, Scott Carpenter, Worden, Fred Haise, Edgar Mitchell, Charlie Duke, John Young, Owen Garriott and Jim Lovell. Pictured standing in the back row, from left, are Jerry Carr, Bob Crippen, Hank Hartsfield, Joe Allen, Rick Hauck, Dan Brandenstein, Robert "Hoot" Gibson and Charlie Bolden.

Center recognizes National Day of Prayer

By Jennifer Wolfinger
Staff Writer

Just as Kennedy Space Center workers join forces to safely launch astronauts and spacecraft, they also came together at the Training Auditorium May 3 to follow the National Day of Prayer theme, “America, Unite in Prayer.”

The Rev. Arnold Postell of Unity Fellowship Baptist Church in Daytona Beach welcomed more than 200 employees by encouraging event participation.

“Where I come from, if you don’t put anything in, you don’t get anything out,” he advised.

Uplifting music provided the audience with positive energy. Suzy Cunningham of the Advanced Planning Office sang the national anthem while the Quiet Quartet performed the song using sign language. The Space Coast Praise Band performed worship music and Joel Wells, an External Relations employee and pastor of the Pentecostals of Titusville, sang “We Will Stand.”

Launch Integration Office Manager LeRoy Cain and Michael O’Neal of Applied Technology recited the presidential and gubernatorial proclamations.

Ed Markowski of Launch Vehicle Processing shared scriptures and motivation to pray. He said everyone should always pray, especially during challenging times for the agency, families and leaders.

“Prayer is the most important



utterance a person can make,” Markowski said.

Astronauts Joe Tanner and Jeff Williams reflected on the purpose of prayer. Tanner said some of his favorite moments in space were watching the Earth from the orbiter and seeing the majesty of what God created. He also described a time when his prayers were answered.

While waiting to launch aboard Atlantis for the STS-66 mission in 1994, he prayed that God would ease any fears of his wife and two sons. Two days later, his wife wrote to say she prayed with her children at that same moment.

“At that time, I realized what God had done. He took his loving hands around us and pulled us

together for one sweet moment,” said Tanner.

Williams’ appearance was much more grounded than his previous one last year, when he spoke from the International Space Station.

He explained many types of prayers, such as those where people ask for material things or for bad situations to be removed, times for people to reflect on God’s character and provisions, and a chance for individuals to recognize their sins and grow from them.

“Prayer doesn’t change God; it changes us,” Williams said before leading the group in a silent moment of prayer.

Ivory P. Webb-Smith, pastor of Bibleway Christian Ministries and an employee of the Office of the



THE NATIONAL Day of Prayer event held May 3 in the Training Auditorium included NASA astronaut Joe Tanner (above).

Chief Financial Officer, recited a corporate prayer.

KSC Director Bill Parsons commented on how the nation is great because of the freedom Americans have to conduct a day of prayer, and solicited prayers for those who protect our freedoms. An inspirational video followed.

External Relations employee Bruce Buckingham offered the closing prayer, emphasizing to members of the work force that they were created by God to do good deeds.

The national prayer day tradition began in 1775, before the founding of the U.S. In 1952, Congress established an annual prayer day and in 1988, the first Thursday in May was designated the National Day of Prayer.

Artificial lights near ocean can distract sea turtles

Sea turtles already have begun nesting on the beaches of the Kennedy Space Center, and nesting season runs from May 1 to Oct. 31. Artificial exterior lighting is harmful to both nesting adults and new hatchlings, as sea turtles orient themselves to the brightest point in the sky in order to navigate back to the ocean.

Artificial lights, such as those on structures near the beaches and the KSC Industrial Area, can disorient the turtles away from the ocean. For more information, visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Web site at www.myfwc.com/seaturtle/Lighting/Lighting_Course.htm for a PowerPoint presentation that includes fantastic photographs and ideas to reduce artificial light pollution.



THREE GREEN sea turtles are released into the Mosquito Lagoon at KSC after being rehabilitated at the Clearwater Aquarium. Sea turtle nesting season runs until Oct. 31. Artificial exterior lighting can be harmful to nesting adults and new hatchlings.

Manning handling multiple projects for Orion flight

By Steve Siceloff
Staff Writer

Kelvin Manning has seen the space shuttles up close for about 15 years. Now he's excited about helping NASA give birth to a new spacecraft, one destined to go to the moon.

The Orion capsule and its service module will take shape in the high bay of the Operations and Checkout Building a few feet from Manning's office and those of the Constellation Program at Kennedy Space Center. Coordination is the key word for the engineer's role as he watches over Orion's development from the Kennedy perspective.

For Manning, it presents the latest challenge in a career that has spanned 25 years and seen aerospace from several different perspectives.

"Coming out of the Air Force Academy I wanted to fly, but I didn't end up being a pilot, so I worked space operations," he explained. Opting out of the military, Manning worked for several contractors including McDonnell Douglas as the company supported the shuttle program at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

Seeing an opportunity to work

at Kennedy, Manning signed up for NASA operations. "My first interview with NASA was with (astronaut) Bob Crippen," he said. "It was a great discussion."

Manning was eager to see the launch pads, processing facilities and shuttles up close as soon as he arrived at the Florida center. Before long, Manning started working third shifts, holidays and weekends to learn about the orbiters and NASA culture.

He moved up to become NASA vehicle manager for Columbia, then NASA test director. Next came the role of flow director for Atlantis, a position which called on him to make sure the orbiter is ready for its mission.

While overseeing Atlantis' preparation for the STS-110 mission, he ended up readying the vehicle for Air Force Academy classmate Michael Bloomfield, who was commanding the flight to the International Space Station. Manning next took on a project to replace the spacecraft fleet he had grown so familiar with.

The effort, known then as an orbital space plane, did not have a firm timeline because no one was sure when the space shuttle would be retired. But with a firm directive in the nation's Vision for Space Exploration, the Constellation

Program had a clear destination and Manning knew he would be watching over a capsule designed for the moon instead of a space plane.

Lockheed Martin was chosen to build the capsule, which will fly its first missions to the International Space Station. Although the large components of the capsule will be built elsewhere, they will be assembled into one spacecraft at the Operations and Checkout Building.

"This is going to be more or less a Lockheed Martin factory," Manning said.

It is part of Manning's duty to get the Kennedy Space Center ready for the new spacecraft, from the facility at the Operations and Checkout Building and the reconfigured launch pad, to stacking the modules on top of a shuttle-derived, solid-fueled rocket booster and liquid-fueled upper stage.

The goal is a simpler, safer manned spacecraft, but Manning left no doubt about the challenge of handling a program from the ground up.

"This is the hardest job I've ever had," he said. "Working with a new program, you understand the depth of the shuttle program."

How different is the capsule



KELVIN MANNING is coordinating many aspects of the first Orion test flight scheduled for April 2009.

from the orbiter, on a scale of one to 10? "I would call it an 8 1/2, nine."

For those looking for a concrete sign of progress, Manning points to April 2009.

"When we start getting ready to do this first test flight (of the Ares I booster), that's going to be a big deal. Here, internally, when you start stacking those boosters and the test articles start rolling in, it'll be more real for folks. . . . It's real for me right now."

NASA's Phoenix spacecraft arrives for August launch

In the Payload Hazardous Servicing Facility, the Phoenix Mars Lander (foreground) can be seen inside the backshell. In the background, workers are helping place the heat shield, just removed from the Phoenix, onto a platform. The Phoenix mission is the first project in NASA's first openly competed program of Mars Scout missions.

Phoenix will land in icy soils near the north polar permanent ice cap of Mars and explore the history of the water in these soils and any associated rocks, while monitoring polar climate. Landing is planned in May 2008 on arctic ground where a mission currently in orbit, Mars Odyssey, has detected high concentrations of ice just beneath the top layer of soil. It will serve as NASA's first exploration of a potential modern habitat on Mars and open the door to a renewed search for carbon-bearing compounds, last attempted with NASA's Viking missions in the 1970s.

A stereo color camera and a weather station will study the surrounding environment while the other instruments check excavated soil samples for water, organic chemicals and conditions that could indicate whether the site was ever hospitable to life. Microscopes can reveal features as small as one one-thousandth the width of a human hair. Launch of Phoenix aboard a Delta II rocket is targeted for Aug. 3 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.



Remembering Our Heritage

1923 - 2007: Mission accomplished for veteran astronaut Schirra

By Kay Grinter
Reference Librarian

Walter "Wally" Schirra, the only NASA astronaut to fly in America's first three human space programs, died May 3 of natural causes. He was 84. He served America as one of the original "Mercury Seven" astronauts, selected in 1959 from among 110 test pilot applicants.

Schirra's first flight on Oct. 3, 1962, was the fifth Mercury mission. He orbited Earth six times in nine hours and 13 minutes aboard Sigma 7, doubling the flight time any astronaut had spent in space, and splashed down just five miles from the recovery ship.

In December 1965, Schirra flew with astronaut Tom Stafford as commander of Gemini 6-A. The mission accomplished the first rendezvous of two manned, maneuverable spacecraft. Gemini 6-A and Gemini 7 flew in formation for five hours, as close as one foot apart.

Schirra was also commander of the first crew to fly into space aboard an Apollo capsule. During Apollo 7 in October 1968, he and fellow crew members Walt

Cunningham and Donn Eisele tested the Apollo systems in Earth orbit during an 11-day flight, proving that the Apollo hardware was ready to carry astronauts to the moon.

Paul Donnelly, the chief spacecraft test conductor for Mercury and Gemini and the launch operations manager for Apollo, was in the blockhouse for each of Schirra's launches. From his home in Indian Harbour Beach, Donnelly said: "I knew Wally before he became an astronaut, when we were both stationed at (Naval Air Station) Patuxent in Maryland. He was attending the Naval Test Pilot School, and I was an electronic test engineer in civil service, maintaining the aircraft he flew."

Schirra had a sense of humor well known to the launch team at Cape Canaveral. "We had a standing joke that Wally was the best aviator of the 'Original Seven,' and if you didn't believe it, just ask him!" Donnelly recalled.

In an official statement, veteran Mercury astronaut Scott Carpenter said, "Despite our good-natured competition for flights into space,



THREE ASTRONAUTS (from right), Alan Shepard, Wally Schirra and John Glenn, work in the Mercury Control Room during Virgil Grissom's Mercury-Redstone 4 launch, the second U.S. manned space flight. Schirra passed away May 3.

Wally strove to bring a smile to everyone he met, and it's with a smile that I will forever fondly remember him."

After Schirra retired from NASA in 1969, he joined CBS News as a commentator, complementing anchorman Walter Cronkite with his enthusiasm and knowledge of the space program.

He authored three books: "We Seven" in 1960, "Schirra's Space" in 1988 and "The Real Space Cowboys" in 2005.

In 1984, he moved to a San Diego suburb where his favorite craft became the "Windchime," a 36-foot sailboat.

Bon voyage, Wally! You'll be missed.

Camp KSC offers space experience for second through ninth graders

Students entering second through ninth grades will enjoy Camp Kennedy Space Center, an out-of-this-world experience to explore space as never before.

Summer camp sessions are available June 4 through Aug. 17 and regular tuition is \$295 per child, per session. There is a 15-percent discount for badged employees and contractors of Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Patrick Air Force Base and retired KSC personnel.

Camp KSC is based at the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. Summer camp hours are from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with extended early drop-off and late pick-up hours available free for badged employees.

Campers receive a complimentary KSC Visitor Complex annual pass, lunches and afternoon snacks, an official Camp KSC T-shirt, four complimentary admission tickets to the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame, a Camp KSC graduation ceremony and a certificate of completion.

For registration details, call 321-449-4444 or visit www.KennedySpaceCenter.com.

National Employee Health and Fitness Day is May 30

Spaceport employees can learn how to enhance their quality of life on May 30 as the Kennedy Space Center recognizes National Employee Health and Fitness Day. The nationally observed day promotes the benefits of physical activity, proper nutrition, holistic wellness and a healthier lifestyle for employees at their work sites.

This year's event, with the theme "Be Active for Life," will be

held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Operations and Checkout Building's Mission Briefing Room and will feature vendors from across the nation.

Do not miss this exciting opportunity to have health questions and concerns addressed, while receiving free gifts in the process. Contact Erik Johnson at 867-7829 or Erik.J.Johnson@nasa.gov for information.

Asian Pacific Heritage Month Celebration showcases cultures

By Jennifer Wolfinger
Staff Writer

At the Asian Pacific Heritage Month Celebration May 11, Kennedy Space Center employees were given direction on how they should be “pursuing excellence through leadership, diversity and unity,” the event’s theme.

Diana Navas of United Space Alliance welcomed attendees to the Training Auditorium for the event, and NASA employee Shirish Patel introduced the guest speaker, Brevard County Judge Alli Majeed.

Majeed was born in the former British Colony of Guayana, South America, to parents who were descendants of indentured servants from India. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1969, and now serves as a judge of the Eighteenth Judicial

Circuit.

Majeed emphasized how many people risk their lives and save all of their money to move to the United States, a country that he says is full of the most generous people in the world. He also encouraged everybody to appreciate the freedom, liberty and justice that they wake up with each morning, and to overcome any prejudices or bigotry they may encounter.

“When you encounter these folks, laugh at them. Don’t become like them,” he said. “For every one person that’s prejudiced against you, there are thousands that are the opposite.”

Various cultural arts were showcased at the program. A Japanese dancer portrayed walking in a field during a rainstorm. Indian dancers performed classical and folk dances. Two Japanese



YOSHIKO CARLTON (left) and Satomi Hirano both play a Japanese koto harp during the Asian Pacific Heritage Month Celebration on May 11.

harpists performed music that represented light and wind. Hula dancers entertained the audience with their performance. Martial arts experts demonstrated their self-defense tactics and explained the origins of karate. A presentation of

Far Eastern temple dances concluded the entertainment portion of the event.

Joan Caracciolo of Boeing thanked the event participants and the audience. Attendees enjoyed refreshments that represented various Asian Pacific cultures.

DuPont Challenge awards science essay winners

The DuPont Challenge science essay competition award ceremony took place April 27 in the Debus Conference Facility at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex.

The event, which is celebrating its 21st year, is a widely recognized and respected student competition which promotes interest in science and technology.

Two talented teens won the top National Science Essay Awards. Masooma Raza, junior division winner (grades 7-9), is a freshman at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Va., and Yocheved Kramer, senior division winner (grades 10-12), is a junior at Manhattan High School for Girls in New York City.

Both winners took the challenge to explore, learn and write about medical mysteries and discoveries.

NASA guest speakers and hosts included Joe Dowdy, Russell Romanella and Hortense Burt. The competition is sponsored by the DuPont Center for Collaborative Research and Education in cooperation with General Learning Communications.

DuPont and NASA’s KSC are discussing additional initiatives to partner in education nationwide.

In 1997, Asian Pacific Heritage Month was established and recognized during the first 10 days of May, the month when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the U.S. in 1843. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter made it an annual event and, in 1990, President George H.W. Bush designated the entire month as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Sponsors of the event included United Space Alliance’s Diversity and Compliance Office, Boeing, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and NASA’s Asian-American Pacific Islander Working Group.



JOE DOWDY, special operations manager at Kennedy Space Center, presents certificates to winners of the DuPont Challenge 2007 Science Essay Awards Program, including from left, Jennifer Seavey, Masooma Raza, Yocheved Kramer and Brenda From.



John F. Kennedy Space Center

Spaceport News

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