



countdown

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Flight readiness review to set official launch date for STS-122



◆ Shuttle Update:

On Wednesday, space shuttle managers will hold a news briefing no earlier than 3 p.m., following an executive-

level flight readiness review that will set an official launch date for shuttle Atlantis' STS-122 flight. Liftoff currently is targeted for 2:45 p.m. Feb. 7. Giving the briefing will be Bill Gerstenmaier, NASA associate administrator for Space Operations, and Wayne Hale, Space Shuttle Program manager.

◆ **NASA News Update:** NASA and the U.S. State Department will welcome ambassadors from more than 45 countries to Kennedy Space Center on Thursday. The visit, one of the largest tours undertaken by the diplomatic corps, is part of the State Department's new Experience America program that hosts tours of cities and towns across the United States in an effort to make exploring America more accessible to the Washington, D.C., diplomatic corps. For more information, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/releases/2008/release-20080124.html>.

■ **Education Opportunity** — The University of Florida Outreach Engineering Management, or OEM, Program will be hosting open house sessions from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Florida Hotel & Conference Center at the Florida Mall (1500 Sand Lake Road) in Orlando and from 5 to 7 p.m. March 11 at the Radisson Resort at the Port (8701 Astronaut

Blvd.) in Cape Canaveral. OEM classes are held off campus in Orlando. Classes meet only one weekend per month (all day Saturday and Sunday) and feature live instruction from accomplished UF faculty members who travel from Gainesville to teach in this program. **The next program begins in August.** The curriculum takes 20 months to complete and is a collaboration of UF's Colleges of Engineering and Business. A recently instituted concurrent degree option makes also getting an M.B.A. degree possible with only 12 more months of coursework.

All interested parties are invited to attend the OEM open house sessions. There will not be a formal program or presentation, so attendees can drop by as their schedules permit. Program faculty and staff, as well as some current students, will be present to answer questions and explain the program. An RSVP is not required, but would be helpful. Call 800-321-0199 or send e-mail to oemprogram@ise.ufl.edu. For more details, please visit the OEM Web site at www.ise.ufl.edu/oemp.



■ **New Year Walking Groups** — To help you with your physical activity plan for the new year, there are two walking groups you may join:

◆ **Industrial Area/O&C Fitness Trail** — from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays (for Nordic poles, stop by the O&C Fitness Center before 11 a.m.). Meet at the east bridge at the southeast corner of the O&C parking lot/trail by 11 a.m. to start walking.

Kennedy will host foreign ambassadors Thursday

◆ **Launch Area/VAB-OPF-OSB Loop** — from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Meet at the southwest corner of the VAB parking lot by 11 a.m. to start walking.

Keep a pair of walking shoes at work! The groups will be canceled for the day if there is rain during walking time.



■ O&C Blood Drive

The blood drive will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday at the O&C Building. Please bring a photo ID with your first and last name on it. All donors will receive a Club Red card, a T-shirt and coupon for free Dunkin Donuts coffee! For appointments, please e-mail Lillian at lbelmont@floridabloodcenters.org.

■ **Road Work** — The Indian River Bridge will be reduced to one lane of traffic from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and Wednesday for preventative maintenance.

■ **NASA Science** — Hang on to your cell phones, a new solar cycle is under way. Solar Cycle 24 began this month with the appearance of a magnetically "backward" high-latitude sunspot. Read the full story at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/10jan_solarcycle24.htm?list947891.

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