



Michoud messenger

MAF Kids Join Parents at Work

NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility hosted 55 children and their parents on April 22 as part of the 18th annual "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day." The participants enjoyed activities including a First Robotics demonstration by the Mandeville High School team, cryogenic experiments in the Mechanical Lab, and getting up close and personal with two external space shuttle tanks produced here.

In honor of Earth Day, the children picked out flowers to plant in the Exploration Garden on Venus Drive. They also created an Earth Day poster collage for the employee cafeteria. In the afternoon the children shadowed their parents in their work area.

Many employees volunteered to support the event

and provide a memorable experience for the kids.

"I really liked the demonstrations in the labs where bananas and flowers were frozen," said a 15-year-old who accompanied his dad to work. One 10-year old said. "controlling the robot and moving it through its course was really cool!"

The kids viewed External Tank 138 within its scaffolding and watched ET-122 being rolled into final assembly. ET 122 is the last tank to be shipped to Kennedy Space Center in September.

Boeing Manager Jackie Nesselroad talks to children of MAF employees about how Boeing plays a part in NASA's future space program while Keith Heitzman and Steve Larson look on.



Letters from Leadership

Summer is almost here and everyone is eager to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. Activities range from sports, to vacations, to cookouts, to yard work, to camping and many others. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to think ahead about the safety of yourself, your family and others while you are having fun.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission provides a list of summer safety tips at: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02182.html>. Another source for summer safety tips is: <http://www.keepkidshhealthy.com/welcome/summer.html>

I have provided a few examples here:

- One of the best ways to stay safe this summer is to wear a helmet and other safety gear when biking, skating and skateboarding, and when riding scooters, all-terrain vehicles and horses. Studies on bicycle helmets have shown they can reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85 percent.
- Summer also means yard work. When mowing, keep small children out of the yard, and turn the mower off if children enter the area. If the lawn slopes, mow across the slope with the walk-behind rotary mower, never up and down. With a riding mower, drive up and down the slope, not across it. Never carry children on a riding mower.
- Never leave a child unsupervised near a pool. Do not use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision. Completely fence the pool. Install self-closing and self-latching gates. Position latches out of reach of young children.
- Don't forget sun block and sunglasses. I know from experience that sun block does have an expiration date. The sun is the strongest between 10am and 4pm. Be sure to reapply sun block every few hours.
- Insect repellent is another must for most areas in the southeast. Insect repellents can protect you and your children from insects that commonly bite children, including mosquitoes, gnats, chiggers, etc. Safe and effective insect repellents include those with deet, citronella and soybean oil.
- Remember that for those picnics, barbeques and camping trips that foodborne illness and food poisoning does increase during summer months. When the weather is warmer, bacteria grows faster. Remember to do the following; Clean: Wash hands and surfaces often. Separate: Don't cross-contaminate. Cook: Cook to proper temperatures. Chill: Refrigerate promptly.

– Robert Champion, Deputy MAF Manager

A Big THANK YOU from Soldiers in Iraq!

During a six-week donation period at MAF, \$1250 in goods were collected for soldiers out of the Jackson Barracks who were deployed to Iraq in March. MAF tenants donated items including sun-flower seeds, cookies, paperback books, DVD's and a variety of other goods.

"All I can say about what you and NASA sent is WOW!!!," said First Lieutenant Tiger R. Chaplain, Executive Officer Bravo Battery 1-141st Field Artillery Battalion who is stationed in Iraq with the unit. "I never imagined it would be so much. The soldiers really do appreciate all the goodies," added Chaplain.

Thank you to all who donated and participated in this drive! We could not have done this without you.

CET 16 (Convoy Escort Team) of the 1/141st Field Artillery Battalion poses with their donations from the MAF tenants.



Construction Update



The newly installed tower of the 7-axis Machining Center is being installed by Ingersoll. The 7-axis Machining Center will be used to machine parts for the Upper Stage common bulkhead. Ingersoll employee Josh Farley is preparing to the man lift to install components on the tower.

LA Tech Day



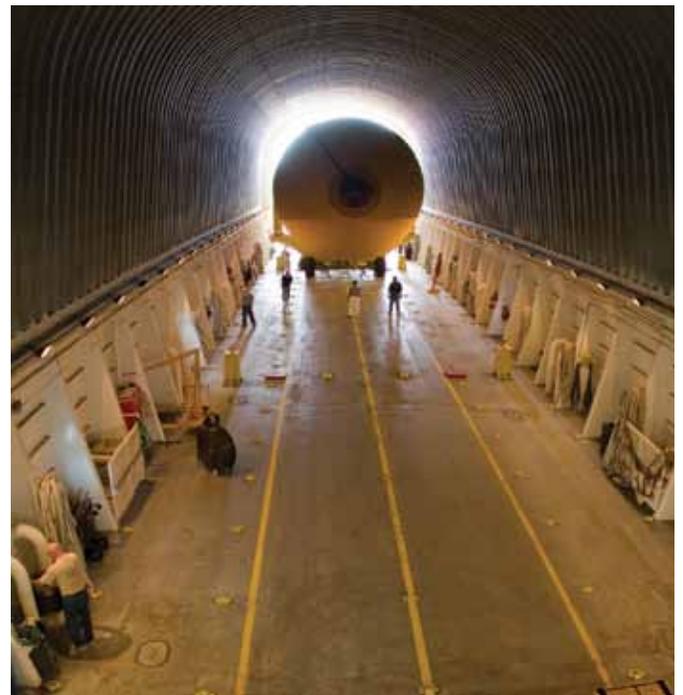
NASA's Robert Gravolet poses with members of Delta Junior High April 30. Gravolet addressed members of Delta and 500 other students from several North Louisiana area schools during Space Days 2010. Gravolet, a Louisiana Tech alum, was in Ruston, La. for Space Days, a week-long outreach event hosted annually by Louisiana Tech University's Science and Technology Education Center.

Katrina Tank Team



Members of the Hurricane Katrina ride-out crew met at MAF Apr. 21 for a reunion luncheon. Five years ago this August Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, leaving behind much devastation. ET-122 was damaged during the storm but workers repaired the tank and Lockheed Martin plans to deliver it to NASA in September.

ET-137 Rolls Out



External Tank 137 left MAF May 3, headed for Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It's the third to last tank to be delivered to NASA by Lockheed Martin. ET-138 and ET-122 are the last remaining tanks at Michoud. Both are in final assembly.

IEEE Tours MAF



IEEE PES (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Power & Energy Society) held their annual Transmission and Distribution Conference and Exposition in New Orleans April 19-22. This year marked the conference's return to New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina in 2005 forced it to relocate. The conference committee, which has members affiliated with the UNO College of Engineering, offered a UNO-sponsored tour of MAF as one of the conference's Technical Tours. Fourteen members of IEEE took the tour hosted by UNO/NCAM and led by NCAM Executive Director Bruce Brailsford (at far right in photo) on April 22.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Luncheon

May 12 11:00-12:00 - Bldg 351 E Cafe
Tickets on sale \$8.00 (advance only)

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Employee Spotlight

May's MAF employee spotlight is on Sonovia M. Hicks of Coastal International Security. Hicks is responsible for all visitor badge issues and oversees the Identification and Registration System for NASA at MAF. "Every day is challenging at MAF with new and improving processes and procedures," said Hicks. "In with the new and out with the old – there are challenges each day with my position and I'm eager to try something new if it helps improve the process."



Sonovia Hicks

Following Hurricane Katrina, Hicks decided to make a change. In January 2007 she went back to college. Despite a busy work schedule, Hicks earned her bachelor's degree in business administration at the University of Phoenix. "I actually feel like a role model to my staff members, three of whom are now attending college," said Hicks. She credits her family, friends and coworkers with helping her reach her goal.

If you know of a coworker who recently accomplished a personnel or professional goal, email john.filostrat@nasa.gov for the next MAF employee spotlight.

Sound off!

Go to <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/michoud/> and read MAF's blog, an interactive site where you can ask key leaders questions.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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