



# michoud messenger

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## MAF impacts students during Space Days at Louisiana Tech University

More than 3000 North Louisiana students from Kindergarten through eighth grade participated in Space Days at Louisiana Tech University May 11-20. Michoud Assembly Facility's Robert Gravolet took part in the annual event and said the main goal is to get more students involved in science fields.

"We're trying to get younger kids interested in space," Gravolet said. "We want to let them know it is hard work — math and science are not easy, but it's worth the effort."

Space Days is in its third year and is an important educational tool according to Glenn Beer, director of the Science and Technology Education Center at Louisiana. "It is important for students to get a greater interest in science in general," Beer said. "Space has always been an effective vehicle for garnering interest."

During Space Days, students were involved with several interactive learning activities, exhibits in the IDEA Place, a children's sci-

ence museum on Tech's campus, a space presentation by Gravolet, planetarium show, spacewalks, games, lunch and other activi-

ties. The event was sponsored by NASA, Louisiana Tech and several businesses in North Louisiana.



Engineer Robert Gravolet, who works at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF), talks to children during Louisiana Tech University's Space Days.

## Navy Week Visits MAF



NASA Deputy Chief Operating Officer at the Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF), Malcolm Wood, explains the importance of MAF in supporting NASA's exploration and discovery missions to Principal Deputy for the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy for Plans, Policy, Oversight and Integration, Mark Gorenflo. The facility has been the manufacture site of many notable projects including the external tank for the Space Shuttle System and the Saturn 1C booster rocket that took the first humans to the moon. The 832 acre site is now the home to state-of-the-art labs, machine shops and the National Center for Advanced Manufacturing. Gorenflo toured the facility as part of New Orleans Navy Week, one of 21 Navy Weeks planned across America in 2011. Navy Weeks are designed to show Americans the investment they have made in their Navy. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Mark O'Donald).

## New Orleans Chamber Tours MAF



Mike Gnau of Lockheed Martin speaks to the Executive Board of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce May 24 inside building 103 in front of the Orion area. Gnau hosted the group with lunch and a tour of the Michoud Assembly Facility. The group also heard from Michoud's tenants – Boeing, Jacobs, the National Finance Center and the U.S. Coast Guard. NASA recently accepted the Orion-based design reference vehicle for the development phase of the Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV). NASA administrator Charlie Bolden said testing has proven the vehicle to be the best option for exploration efforts beyond lower Earth orbit.

## Endeavour's Final Flight

Rising on twin columns of fire and kicking up a trail of smoke and steam, space shuttle Endeavour lifts off from its seaside launch pad at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Endeavour began its final flight, the STS-134 mission, to the International Space Station on time at 8:56 a.m. EDT on May 16. Endeavour and its six-member crew embarked on a mission to deliver the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer-2 (AMS), Express Logistics Carrier-3, a high-pressure gas tank

and additional spare parts for the Dextre robotic helper to the space station. Endeavour's first launch attempt on April 29 was scrubbed because of an issue associated with a faulty power distribution box called the aft load control assembly-2 (ALCA-2). For more information visit, [www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/sts134/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/sts134/index.html).



# New NASA Website Available for Kids

Two award-winning kids' websites have joined forces to further inspire a new generation of explorers.

NASAScience Kids and SpacePlace have combined to provide several new Web features with interactive graphic designs, in addition to having extensive rich science and technology content of the "old" SpacePlace -- with over 50 NASA science missions -- and content from NASAScience Kids. These sites offer the best of NASA material for elementary school students.

The site includes over 300 separate modules available in English and Spanish. Modules feature categories related to Space, Earth, Sun, Solar System, People and Technology, Parents and Teachers. Information mirrors the missions of the NASA's Science Mission Directorate, as well as the agency's commitment to education and public engagement.

The menus are filterable by subject or type of activity, and searches produce customized menus. Educational and compelling games have been reframed, images and illustrations are enlargeable with a mouse click, and videos run within the page. All pages are printer friendly, with a special formatting algorithm that appropriately arranges headings, sidebars, and images. The site is available at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov>.

# MEF-3 Wraps up



*The third class of the Michoud Education Fellows (MEF) held a final briefing of their year-long program May 3 at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF). The Louisiana Space Consortium sponsored MEF along with Louisiana State University (LSU). Teachers from St. Tammany Parish and Zachary, La. took part in the program's third year. The MEF Program provides educators an opportunity to explore the way science content and inquiry skills, mathematics and communication skills are used by scientists, engineers and skilled workers at MAF. This goal is supported by a two-week field trip to MAF in the summer, as well as five course meetings at LSU during the fall. Pictured left to right are Paulette Perrin of the St. Tammany Parish Schools; teacher Kathy Trees of Pearl River High; teacher Christina Hotard of Monteleone Jr. High; teacher Circe Bridges of Copper Mill Elementary; teacher Renee Davis of Madisonville Jr. High; Ian Binns of LSU and teacher Diana Morgan of Salmen High School (seated in front). The fourth year starts Jun. 6 at MAF and continues through the summer.*

## Are You Ready?

### *Before the Hurricane Season*

- Determine safe evacuation routes inland.
- Learn locations of official shelters.
- Check emergency equipment, such as flashlights, generators and battery-powered equipment such as cell phones and your NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards receiver.
- Buy food that will keep and store drinking water.
- Buy plywood or other material to protect your home if you don't already have it.
- Trim trees and shrubbery so branches don't fly into your home.
- Clear clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Decide where to move your boat.
- Review your insurance policy.
- Find pet-friendly hotels on your evacuation route.

For more information: <http://www.noaa.gov/>

# Blinded by Science



Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) Manager Joshua West participated in KIPP Academy's Science Fair May 19. West, MAF Graphic Designer Shannon Jurado and Jacobs Technology intern Sam Senter judged about 100 fifth and sixth grade science projects at the New Orleans school. Following the fair, the winners were announced and awards were presented to the first, second and third place winners in each grade level.

# Blast Off into Space



NASA Special Agent Steve Turner points to the Space Shuttle Atlantis as it sits on the pad prior to launch last May. Turner talked to 50 students inside the library of Arlan Cahill Academy in Marrero May 3. Turner runs the safety and security department at the Michoud Assembly Facility and says he enjoys talking about science and technology with children.

Bring Your *Child* to *Work* and Get a *Free Hot Dog* Day

— June 6, 2011, 8:00 am —

Open to all MAF tenants but space is limited

See your department administrative assistant for a registration form

- Must be employee's child, niece/nephew, grandchild or legal ward
- Children must be between the ages of 7 – 21 years old
- All participants must wear closed-toe shoes (no sandals, etc.)
- Employees must stay with their children for the entire event
- If you arrive before 7:45 am, please take your child to your work area until then

For questions call 257-6003 or send an email to: [maryalice.daly@nasa.gov](mailto:maryalice.daly@nasa.gov)



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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