NASA Names KSC Press Site Auditorium for John Holliman

The Kennedy Space Center’s Press Site auditorium has been named the John Holliman Auditorium to honor the late CNN national correspondent for his enthusiastic, dedicated coverage of America’s space program.

NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin formally dedicated the auditorium in Holliman’s memory at a ceremony on May 27, 1999. Dianne Holliman, John Holliman’s widow, and Tom Johnson, CNN News Group Chairman, President and CEO also participated in the dedication.

"John Holliman was excited about the space program, and he easily conveyed that excitement to his viewers," Goldin said. "He held us accountable when we had problems, but he also understood the importance of overcoming obstacles and discovering the unknown."

"I know that John would be absolutely delighted with having the Kennedy Space Center’s press auditorium named after him, given his passion for covering the U.S. space program and his dedication to journalism," Johnson said. “I can think of no one else more deserving of this honor. John’s energy and curiosity made him a first-rate reporter, and his love for his work was matched only by his unending love and loyalty to his family and friends.”

Holliman spent the day, May 6, 1998, at Wallops for the launch of the student Sub-SEM Orion sounding rocket. His profound interest in the educational benefits of the mission and desire to get the entire story led him to interview each student on the project. He interviewed students and Wallops personnel in the Blockhouse (Wallops Island) and Radar 18 (Main Base). Following lunch in the Wallops cafeteria, he viewed the launch from the Control Room where he also interviewed the third group of students.

The KSC auditorium was built in 1980 and since then has been the focal point for news coverage of Space Shuttle launches.

NASA HQ Recommended For ISO 9001 Certification

An audit conducted by an internationally recognized registrar reports that NASA Headquarters will be recommended for ISO 9001 certification, becoming the seventh NASA facility to gain ISO certification.

ISO 9001 is the internationally accepted technical standard for managing all processes that affect an organization’s ability to meet customer requirements for a quality service or product. The audit was conducted by Det Norske Veritas, Oslo, Norway, and Houston, TX.

The drive for NASA to become ISO-certified was sparked by NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin, who in a letter to NASA officials said, “We are leaders in the world of science and technology. We must also be leaders in the world of quality. To this end, I am requiring that the agency be third-party certified in our key processes, by an internationally recognized registrar, to ISO 9001. This commitment applies to all Centers and Headquarters. I am also expecting that our suppliers will step up to this challenge.”

The remaining three NASA field centers, Glenn Research Center, Cleveland, OH; Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD; and Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA, are expected to be certified by the fall of 1999.

Wallops Shorts...........

School Visit — On May 21, Jack Vieira, Range and Mission Management Office, spoke to Pocomoke Elementary School 1st grade students about why astronauts wear space suits.

Student Intern — Notoria Nock, aviation science student at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, arrived May 24 to spend a 10-week internship in Range and Mission Management Office. Doug Young will be her mentor.

Career Fair — Mike Matthews, Real-Time Software Engineering Branch, participated in a Career Fair for 5th and 6th graders at Fruitland Elementary School on May 27.

DARE Program — Betty Flowers and Tony Goodyear, Public Affairs Office, did bottle rocket launch demonstrations at Nandua High School on May 27 for approximately 800 5th and 6th grade students. This was part of a daylong DARE program hosted by the Accomack County Sheriff’s Office.

Greenland Mapping — The return of the NASA P-3 and Greenland crew on May 27 marked the end of the 1999 field season. The most recent mission, Project AIM (Arctic Ice Mapping), successfully completes a re-survey of the northern half of Greenland that was originally made in 1994 and also extended the survey to areas that had not been previously surveyed. The mission set several new records, including a new record for numbers of kilometers mapped. Over 40,000 kilometers of data was collected. This is equivalent to producing a swath 200 meters wide around the earth, containing 1.6 billion laser elevation measurements. Fourteen flights, most between 7-8 hours in duration, were flown in 17 days, also a new record.

Balloon Launch — A NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched from Ft. Sumner, N.M. on May 30. The 39.57 million cubic foot balloon carried a cosmic and heliospheric physics experiment. The flight also was a system performance demonstration prior to flying the experiment on a long duration balloon. The principal investigator was Dietrich Muller of the University of Chicago. Total flight time was 24 hours 35 minutes.

Fire Department — On June 1, the Wallops Fire Department responded with an engine and four fire fighters to a request from Accomack County 911 for assistance at the scene of a structural fire on Fleming Road.
The good news is there was plenty of rain in April, the bad news is there was not much in May. There were nine days during May with measurable amounts of rainfall, but the maximum amount recorded was less than one-half an inch on May 19 and 24. Total rainfall for the month was only 1.13 inches. This is more than two inches below rainfall averages for the month. Thanks to a very March when over six inches of rainfall was recorded, we are still 1.25 inches above normal for the year. The average rainfall for June is 3.12 inches. Hopefully, we will receive that much.

Temperatures for May were above average, which usually happens when conditions are drier than normal. The daytime high averaged 72° (8° above normal). There were no new record highs recorded for the month. A high of 90° was recorded on May 30. The coolest daytime high was on May 2 with a reading of 54°. Nights were warm as well. Temperatures averaged 55° (2° above normal). The coolest nighttime reading was 46°. On May 31 the temperature only went down to 69°.

July is historically our hottest month with normal daytime highs averaging near 85°. Nighttime lows average just over 68°. This gives us a fairly comfortable average temperature of almost 77° for the month. All of the record daytime highs for the month are at least 93°. On four different occasions, we have sweltered with record highs topping 100°. There are usually 10 days of measurable rainfall, resulting in an average of 3.56 inches of rain.

The Atlantic hurricane season began June 1. The early part of the season is usually quiet, but now is the time to make sure emergency plans and supplies are in place.

Wallace, by Jim Buchanan, Meteorologist

Wallace Outreach Program Concludes a Busy Year

Participants in the Wallops Outreach Program recently visited the Air and Space Museum, Museum of Natural Science, and the Aquarium in Washington, DC. Twelve children and six adults took part in the day’s activities.

The trip brought to a close a year full of learning projects that included making batteries, motors, and rockets. During the year, volunteers tutored children in math and reading. The children were presented certificates for participating in the program.

The Black History Club, sponsor of the Wallops Outreach Program, would like to thank the volunteers as well as Sam Hall, Lionel Bamuulos, Eric Harmon, Maria Caballero, and David Smith for their support.

News from the Office of Inspector General

NASA Employee Found Guilty

On May 12, 1999, Judge Victor H. Laws of the U.S. District Court, Hyattsville, MD, found Dennis Olivares, a NASA Goddard Space Flight Center employee, guilty of one count of assault. Olivares will be sentenced on July 14, 1999.

On Sept. 9, 1998, Olivares allegedly assaulted another Goddard employee at a Goddard Engineers, Scientist and Technicians Association (GESTA) officers’ meeting.

A criminal complaint was filed against Olivares, in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Maryland, Greenbelt, for the offense of assault, a violation of Title 18 U.S.C., Section 113. Olivares pled not guilty and requested a trial by judge.

The investigation was conducted by Special Agents from the NASA Office of Inspector General and Goddard Security Branch. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Hollis Weisman, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Southern District of Maryland, Greenbelt, MD.

Former NASA Employee Pleads Guilty

On May 24, 1999, Joyce A Green, a former employee at NASA Wallops Flight Facility entered a guilty plea in the U.S. District Court, Norfolk, VA, to one count of embezzlement of Government funds. Green is scheduled for sentencing on Sept. 22, 1999.

A criminal information charged that during a period from about March 1996 to August 1998, Green embezzled approximately $17,700 from the Wallops Employee Morale Association. Green was formerly employed as the association’s bookkeeper.

This investigation was conducted by Special Agents from the NASA Office of Inspector General. The prosecution was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Casey A. Kniser, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk, VA.

Mammography Screening

The mobile mammography-screening unit will be at Wallops on July 20. The American Cancer Society recommends that all women 40 years old and older have a mammogram every year.

Prior to the mammogram, a clinical breast exam must be performed by a health care provider. Employees who have not had a yearly physical exam should call the Health Unit, x1766 to make an appointment.

Discount Coupons Available

Paramount’s Kings Dominion is offering discount coupons to Kings Dominion and their new 16 acre Water Works park.

The discount coupons are valid during the 1999 Armed Forces Appreciation Days, June 26 through July 5, 1999. The coupons offer a discount of $12.00 off the regular main gate admission price of $33.99 per person. You pay only $21.99 per person.

The discount coupons are available in the Wallops Exchange, Bldg. E-2.


Wanted -- A compact refrigerator suitable for a dormitory room. Call Regina Waters, (757) 824-5564.

1999 Savings Bond Campaign “Take Stock in America” Ends June 11

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