

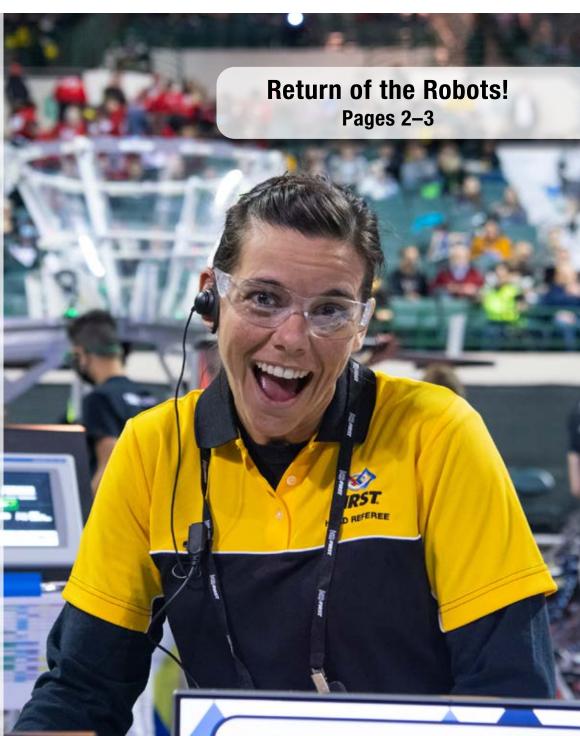
AeroSpace FRONTIERS

VOLUME 24 • ISSUE 6 • JUNE 2022

Center Director to Retire Page 4

Strategic Action
Plan Rolls Out
Page 5

CFC's Face of Change Page 6





Keeping Each Other Safe

June is National Safety Month, an annual observance promoted by the National Safety Council and participating organizations to help "keep each other safe from the workplace to any place." Throughout June, weekly resources and articles related to topics that focus on workplace impairments; injury prevention; and slips, trips, and falls will be posted on Inside Glenn and can be shared at staff meetings. Several new employees and interns have joined our workforce and many of us have been away for a while. Let's be mindful to keep an eye on workplace safety for everyone's benefit.



AeroSpace Frontiers

is an official publication of Glenn Research Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. It is published the second Friday of each month by the Office of Communications in the interest of the Glenn workforce, retirees, government officials, business leaders, and the general public.

Submit short articles and calendar items to the editor at doreen.b.zudell@nasa.gov.

Editor: **Doreen B. Zudell**, ATS, 216–433–5317

Design: Rhys Sampson, ATS

Managing Editor: Kelly R. DiFrancesco



GRC-2022-C-01257

Photos by Bridget Caswell

The Metrobots from Metro Early College High School, a Glenn-sponsored team, won the Gracious Professional Award.

Return of the Battling Robots: NASA Volunteers Support Students

When the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Buckeye Regional Competition returned to Cleveland in March for the first time since 2019, nobody was more excited than the high school student competitors. They came from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York with their robots to vie for a spot in the international championship. Joy also beamed on the faces of NASA Glenn's volunteers and mentors who helped make the competition possible.

"I love seeing all the students here learning and meeting friends. The atmosphere is fantastic," said Herb Schilling, Information and Applications Office. "You meet awesome young people and see them grow. You build a robot, code a robot, everything about it is great."

Schilling, who mentored two Cleveland area teams, was one of dozens of Glenn employees who served as mentors, judges, referees, and other volunteers. The center supported the event through grants and helped coordinate it while sponsoring nine Ohio teams.

Students worked with their mentors for six weeks to design a robot using a kit of parts and a standard set of rules. At the regional competition, teams competed in a game called RAPID REACT, inspired by the future of high-speed transportation. The robots began on a tarmac and raced to shoot balls into an upper and lower hub before returning to their hangars and climbing as many rungs as possible.

Head referee Erin Hubbard, Facilities and Testing Division, had a close-up view of the action. "I like being a referee because I enjoy seeing the competition. It's basically the best seat in the house being right next to the field," she said.

Hubbard got hooked on FIRST Robotics 20 years ago as a student at The Ohio State University mentoring a high school team. She has remained involved since then, but this year was special because FIRST named her the Buckeye Regional's Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

"I was surprised and honored," Hubbard said. "I would volunteer regardless of the award, but it was nice to be appreciated on my 20th year of service to FIRST."

Hubbard emphasized that hands-on experience and competition play an important role in engaging students and preparing them for STEM careers.

"Being in the classroom, you learn about the math and the physics behind these things," Hubbard said. "But when you actually get involved with a project that has deadlines and physical tasks to be completed, it's the application of all the things you've learned."

Schilling said the competition also helps build the students' confidence: "They're doing electrical work, using pretty sophisticated coding techniques, drilling holes, and it's like 'hey I can do this stuff.'"

Along with confidence and hands-on experience, sometimes the students need a little extra help. In this fast-paced competition, unexpected mechanical problems can eliminate a team. When the students cannot fix a problem, they head to the machine shop, sponsored by Sierra Lobo and run by Glenn support service contractors in Glenn's Fabrication Division. The shop is equipped with a drill press, welder, band saw, mill, and lathe.

"It's great to see the expressions on their faces when they come to us for help and we make a part for them or we fix their parts," said Csongor Hollohazy, Fabrication Division. "They're so elated to put it back on their robot. They're back in business."

Below: Glenn's Zeyad Nooman, research lab mechanic apprentice, helped students fix their robots as a volunteer in the machine shop at the regional competition.





GRC-2022-C-01229

Schilling (center) mentors the AstroCircuits, a team of students from Cleveland's John Marshall School of Information Technology.

Seven teams from the Buckeye Regional qualified to advance to the International Championships in Houston, and two NASA Glenn-sponsored teams received special honors. Though they did not compete in the championship, the Metrobots from Metro Early College High School in Columbus, Ohio, won the Gracious Professionalism Award, and the BotCats from Grandview Heights High School in Columbus won the Judge's Award.

The annual global tournament is organized by the nonprofit FIRST to encourage students to embark on STEM careers. NASA and the Office of STEM Engagement have supported the FIRST Robotics for many years by providing grants to high school teams and sponsoring FIRST regional competitions. For more information, visit https://go.nasa.gov/3FH3UY7.

by Jan Wittry

On the Cover:

Glenn's Erin Hubbard, who served as the head referee, was named Outstanding Volunteer of the Year during the 2022 FIRST Robotics Competition at Cleveland State's Wolstein Center.

> GRC-2022-C-01247 Photo by Bridget Caswell



Center Director to Retire

Center Director Dr. Marla Pérez-Davis has announced plans to retire from the agency on June 17.

"Marla's four decades of service to NASA have made a remarkable impact on critical agency goals and missions in aeronautics, human exploration and, of course, on Glenn Research Center. Her trailblazing legacy is the members of the Artemis Generation she has inspired to believe they, too, can work for, and lead, at NASA. I wish her well in her future endeavors," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

Over her 38-year career at Glenn, Pérez-Davis held several positions, including deputy center director from 2016 to 2020, and deputy director of the Research and Engineering Directorate from 2014 to 2016. Earlier in her career, Pérez-Davis served as the chief of the Electrochemistry Branch. She also is the recipient of numerous accolades, including the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executives, and 2021 Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation Engineer of the Year.

For more information on Pérez-Davis' NASA background, visit https://go.nasa.gov/3ywtAFg.

See Inside Glenn for details on her retirement celebration.



Dr. Pérez-Davis

NEWS AND EVENTS

Acting Center Director and Acting Deputy Named

During a town hall update on May 23,
Deputy Associate Administrator for
Business Operations Casey Swails joined
Center Director Dr. Marla Pérez-Davis in
announcing that Dr. James "Jimmy" Kenyon
will serve as acting director and Dawn
Schaible as acting deputy director for NASA
Glenn. They will take leadership upon
Pérez-Davis' retirement on June 17 and
until permanent selections have been made.



GRC-2022-C-00563

Photo by Marvin Smith

Town Hall Rolls Out Strategic Action Plan

Center leadership held a hybrid town hall on April 19 to highlight and explain the recently released 2022 Glenn Strategic Action Plan (SAP).

Center Director Dr. Marla Pérez-Davis welcomed employees and explained that the center has worked diligently, under the leadership of Acting Associate Director of Strategy Charles Cockrell, to revise the previous action plan that was released in 2018. The new version of the plan is designed for accessibility, flexibility, and meeting the needs of our hybrid workplace. She encouraged employees to familiarize themselves with the different aspects of the SAP as everyone will have an opportunity to engage in various aspects of the document.

"This plan positions the center for success," said Pérez-Davis.

The event featured presentations by senior leaders and panelists. A mission-focused panel discussion centered on Glenn's strategic objectives in aeronautics and space exploration and how our core competencies will evolve to meet these objectives. Panelists included Cockrell, Timothy McCarthy, Aeronautics; Dr. Ajay Misra, Research and Engineering; and Kathleen Schubert, Space Flight Systems.

An institution-focused panel discussion shared how we are positioning our workforce, services, and infrastructure for success. Panelists included Dr. Debbie Augustin, Human Resources; Seth Harbaugh, Center Operations; Gus Martzaklis, Safety and Mission Assurance; and Bryan Smith, Space Flight Systems. Following the panel discussions, employees were encouraged to provide feedback to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to contribute to the success of the plan.

View the SAP at https://go.nasa.gov/39gg37w.



GRC-2022-C-01642 Photos by Jef Janis

Cockrell shared highlights of the SAP and participated

in the mission-focused panel.



GRC-2022-C-01643

The institution-focused panel included, left to right: Dr. Augustin, Smith, Martzaklis, and Harbaugh.

Gordon Receives YWCA Award

The YWCA of Greater Cleveland has chosen Robyn N. Gordon, director of Center Operations, for a 2022 Woman of Achievement Award. Gordon was recognized for her work at Glenn and service with local charities. This award is presented to a select group of Northeast Ohio women who have achieved extraordinary accomplishments through career success, community service, leadership, mentoring, and dedication to YWCA's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. To learn more about the Women of Achievement Award, click here.



Gordon

Employees Became the Face of Change

Participation in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is a proud tradition at NASA Glenn.

Glenn's 2021 CFC drive continued the legacy of making a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need. Federal employees and retirees raised over \$269,000, proving that despite lingering challenges from the pandemic "You Can Be the Face of Change."

"Generating awareness during a virtual campaign can be challenging," said CFC Chairperson Tonya Mitchell. "Yet, directorate representatives and key workers across Glenn put in the work and creativity needed for a successful campaign that will provide valuable services for communities across the country."

Due to these efforts, Glenn earned the CFC Agency of the Year award. Additionally, Mitchell was nominated for running the 2021 Campaign of the Year and as the Most Valuable Volunteer.

Thank you to everyone that contributed—you made a difference!



Cheryl Niznick (B), Candice McDonald (C), Ashley Cantor (E), Denise Ryant (F), Karen Ault (G), Gina Lauterio (G), Brittny Counts (J), Lisa O'Connor (K), Marian Cronin (L), Peter Simon (L), Paul Senick (M), Rene Fernandez (Q), Aaron Brister (T), Ashley King (V), and Richard Kurak (V).

Cleveland Federal Executive Board Liaison: Lori Manthey



GRC-2022-CN-00025

Roger Luptak, left, and Mitchell, center, from NASA, with Andrew Falatic, DFAS, at the Providence House for CFC Volunteer Day on Nov. 30, 2021.



GRC-2022-CN-00026

Photo by Candice McDonald

Protective Services Office's Deputy Chief Del Simonovich, seated, proudly takes a pie to the face from Lt. Ernest Witcher because of the generosity of Center Operations Directorate employees during CFC. Darrell Williams looks on.



Save the Date!

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
On-site at Lewis Field

Retirees welcome!

Watch for registration details in the July AeroSpace Frontiers.

POC: betsy.e.lavelle@nasa.gov

More Than a Memory

Irene M. Geye, 95, a 1986 retiree with 20 years of NASA service, died April 13. Geye began her NACA-NASA career in the steno pool at age 17. Within months she transferred to the Director's Office and became the executive secretary to Director Dr. Edward R. Sharp. She left to raise a family and later returned as part of the ACTS Satellite Project Office. Geye and her husband, Richard (a 1979 retiree who died in 2013), planned many NACA reunions.



Geye

Dr. James D. Guptill, 70, a 2011 retiree and 2013 Distinguished Research Associate with 31 years of federal service, died March 23. Guptill was a mathematician and computer scientist. He worked in various branches before retiring as a member of the International Space Station Electrical Power System analysis team. He provided expertise to scientists and engineers in applied mathematics and coding and was instrumental in the development of launch collusion probability. He mentored coworkers in various technical disciplines. Guptill earned a 1985 Special Achievement Award and 1988 Group Achievement Award for UNICOS Migration Team.



Dr. Guptill

Neil Rowe, 83, a 1994 retiree with 37 years of NASA service, died April 8. He graduated from the Apprentice Program in 1961 and worked as a mechanical engineering technician. Rowe made significant contributions in hardware design and development for space science experiments and space technology demonstrations. Some of these efforts included work with Centaur, Titan-Centaur, Solid Surface Combustion Space Shuttle Experiment, and Space Acceleration Measurement System. He co-authored a technical memorandum on a furnace designed to conduct microgravity experiments on the space shuttle.



Rowe

GLENNHAPPENINGS

EXCHANGE STORE OPEN

Visit the Glenn Exchange Store in the Research Support Building (164). Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Tuesday through Thursday.

POC: lori.a.manthey@nasa.gov

INFORMATION CAFÉ

The next Information Café will focus on a Wiley eBook Collection Demo. Join the Library staff on Wednesday, June 15, from 11–11:45 a.m. in bldg. 142, room 188, or on Teams. Check Inside Glenn for the link.

POC: robin.n.pertz@nasa.gov

OUTDOOR SIREN TESTING

Emergency Management Office staff will conduct an audible siren test on the "Area Evacuation" tone on Saturday, July 2, at Lewis Field. A mass notification voice test will be conducted at building 3 on Wednesday, July 6.

POC: allen.r.turner@nasa.gov

SPARK MENTORING

Join Shaping Professionals and Relating Knowledge (SPARK), the formal one-year mentoring program for Glenn. Applications are due July 15, 2022. Contact Kathy Clark, program manager for SPARK, with any questions at kathy.m.clark@nasa.gov.

Deadline for the next calendar section is **Wednesday**, **June 15**, **noon**. News and feature stories require additional time.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

John H. Glenn Research Center

Lewis Field

21000 Brookpark Road Cleveland, Ohio 44135

Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility 3597 E. Scheid Road Sandusky, Ohio 44870

www.nasa.gov

Read AeroSpace Frontiers online at https://www.nasa.gov/glenn/aerospacefrontiers.



Keeping the Center Moving *Forward*



Photo by Marvin Smith

While many employees transitioned to telework due to the pandemic, others remained on-site to ensure a safe and secure environment at the center. This column highlights these services.

There are more than 150 buildings at Lewis Field that enable the NASA mission. These facilities, whether at low- or full-occupancy, require regular system

Wolf Creek Federal Services (WCFS), operated under Glenn's Facilities Management Branch, has ensured the integrity of these facilities throughout the NASA COVID-19 Response Framework. WCFS is responsible for maintaining all institutional systems such as life safety; water; steam; natural gas; high- and low-voltage systems; power dispatch; heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC); plumbing; and carpentry, to name a few. They also provide snow removal and landscaping for the 300-acre campus.

When the center entered Stage 4 of the Response Framework, a crew of WCFS essential personnel worked on-site to monitor vital systems within the buildings and provide immediate emergency response. Within a few months, staff increased to perform necessary preventive maintenance grounds upkeep and snow removal in the latter months of 2020.

In 2021, technicians began addressing system needs associated with an increase in approved on-site projects authorized by the Facilities Management Team. Along with emergency response and preventative maintenance tasks, the team responded to numerous service calls associated with the systems.

Since the staff was needed on-site to perform these functions, it was imperative that they observe all COVID-19 protocols. WCFS established two crews with multiple start times to ensure better lab coverage and minimize contact between employees. Personal protective equipment standards recommended by NASA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were also implemented, along with social distancing, to ensure no close contact of on-site employees.

WCFS has risen to the challenge by performing their responsibilities safely and effectively throughout the pandemic.

Left: WCFS's Dennis Murphy changes the air filter on an HVAC air handler in the Mission Integration Center.

Emergency and Inclement Weather Lines

Lewis Field: 216-433-9328 (WEAT) Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility: 419-621-3333

Connect With Glenn











