

A Flight Projects Directorate Publication
A Newsletter Published for Code 400 Employees

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STEREO: Off and Running



The twin STEREO spacecraft were launched on October 26, 2006 at 00:52 UT from Kennedy Space Center aboard a Delta 7925 launch vehicle. After a series of highly eccentric Earth orbits with apogees beyond the moon, each spacecraft used close flybys of the moon to escape into orbits about the Sun near 1 AU. In heliocentric orbit, one spacecraft (named Behind) trails Earth while the other (Ahead) leads. As viewed from the Sun, the two spacecraft separate from each other at approximately 45 degrees per year with Earth in the middle.

The purposes of the STEREO Mission are to understand the causes and mechanisms of solar storms called coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and to follow their propagation to Earth and through the heliosphere where they can cause electrical disruptions on spacecraft and ground power systems. Researchers will also use STEREO measurements to study energetic particle acceleration and to develop 3-D time-dependent models of the magnetic topology, temperature, density and velocity of the solar wind between the Sun and Earth.

To accomplish these goals, each STEREO spacecraft is equipped with an almost identical set of optical, radio and in

(Stereo Continued on page 4)

Message from the Director Of

Greetings:



The Flight Projects Directorate (FPD) is rightfully proud of our outstanding record of implementing successful flight missions. Inherent in our successes has been a fundamental undertaking that we not only have to select and retain the very best people; we must ensure that we maintain open communication paths. I have attempted to satisfy this very important request by increasing our opportunities to interact. We have established a monthly “Can We Talk” session, where any of our employees can sit across the table from me and our senior Directorate managers and ask questions, or provide comments and suggestions on any and all subjects. I am encouraging anyone with a particular question or concern to communicate with me directly, but I recognize that some discussions are more easily conducted in a more informal exchange atmosphere.

We have also increased the number of “All Hands” sessions as special needs arise. In addition, I am now meeting with each of our Division and Program Managers on a regular, at least monthly, basis with special emphasis on ensuring that micro-level discussions occur as required. (The day-to-day technical, cost and schedule “micro-level” accomplishment meetings are, of course, still held.)

The FPD Diversity Council continues to provide outstanding leadership; they are both active and vibrant. The Council’s Chair and Vice Chair meets monthly with me and my deputies. Starting last year they began hosting Center-wide diversity activities to help the community to better think of diversity in provocative ways. Last year’s Exploring Diversity through Art exhibit received very positive feedback from across the Center, as has this year’s screening of the National Geographic Genographic documentary. The council has also taken a leadership role in our continuing quest to fully engage all of our employees in our mission. They are currently assisting in evaluating the results of the Women’s Advisory Committee survey of the senior directorate women. We have analyzed the survey results, identified potential issues and are developing recommendations to ensure that our operational procedures facilitate employee professional growth. The Diversity Council has recently updated their website at <http://fpd.gsfc.nasa.gov/diversity.html>, and I encourage you all to check it out. I greatly appreciate not only their interest and enthusiasm, but also their most positive and pro-active approach to making the FPD a more productive organization and a better place to work.

Finally, I want to express my continued appreciation and acknowledgment of the outstanding job you are doing to make the NASA mission possible. We continue our streak of successful flight missions, while ensuring that our projects in formulation and implementation meet their accomplishment milestones. You should each be proud of your achievements.

Rick

PERSONALITY TINTYPE

Paul Richards

Paul serves as the Observatory Manager for the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-R Series).



Born: Scranton, PA

Education: BSME Drexel University & MSME, University of Maryland

Life Before Goddard: Paul started as a co-op student with the Philadelphia Navy Yard as a GS-03 Mechanical Technician. As the story goes, Paul dreamed of working for NASA some day and upon graduating from Drexel pursued transferring to GSFC. Faced with a "hiring freeze" he called several times a week, wrote letters to all the engineering branch managers, then just showed up one day for an impromptu interview. He was hired that day in 1987.

Life at Goddard: Paul started in the Verification Office as a test engineer working on COBE and UARS. He transferred to the Mechanism Branch and supported the Mars Observer, UARS, and the ISS Flight Tele-robotics (FTS) missions. Upon completing his master's degree part-time, Paul transferred to the HST Project working on EVA tools. Working on Hubble brought Paul one step closer to his childhood dream of becoming an astronaut. After applying every year from 1987 through 1995,

(Richards Tintype Continued on page 19)

Katy Mikkelsen

Katy is the Heliophysics Projects Division (HPD) Support Manager. She joined the HPD (when it was the Sun Earth Connection Program) in August of 2001 as the Program Support Manager, after being the Project Support Manager on the GOES project for 10 years.



Born: Cambuslang, Scotland

Education: Educated in Scotland. On leaving school Katy entered the secretarial field but found it too dull. She then followed in the footsteps of two aunts and her sister and joined the nursing profession. (On graduation from nursing school Katy and her girl friend decided to travel the world, nursing here and there. They didn't make it very far.)

On Family: Katy, her daughter Heather, and her wirehaired dachshund Duchess, live in Laurel, Maryland.

Life on HPD: HPD is a super place to work and the people are great. We have a very diverse group of people who all get on very well together. We work as a team and there is plenty of communication between us so we always know what is going on. Being able to join the HPD is one of the best career moves I have made.

Life Before HPD: Katy joined GSFC originally in 1971 working for the Bendix Corporation in

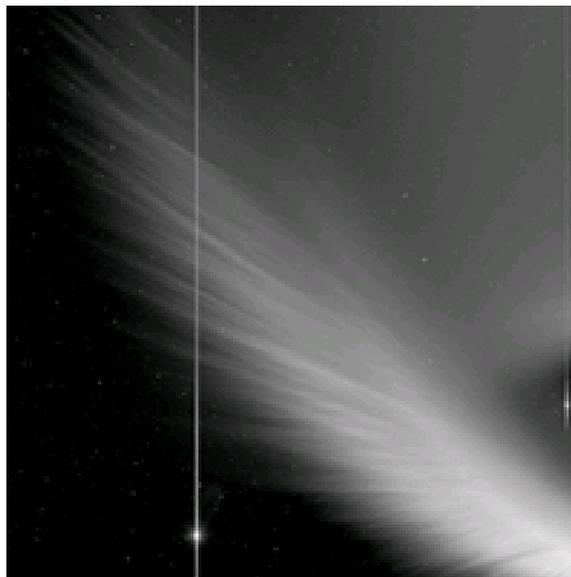
(Mikkelsen Tintype Continued on page 19)

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situ particles and fields instruments provided by U.S. and European investigators. The SECCHI suite of instruments includes two white light coronagraphs, an extreme ultraviolet imager, and two heliospheric white light imagers which track CMEs out to 1 AU. The IMPACT suite of instruments measures in situ solar wind electrons, protons and heavier ions. IMPACT also includes a magnetometer to measure the in situ magnetic field strength and direction. The PLASTIC instrument measures the composition of heavy ions in the ambient plasma as well as protons and alpha particles. The SWAVES instrument uses radio waves to track the location of CME-driven shocks and the 3-D topology of open field lines along which flow particles produced by solar flares.

In addition to the normal daily data download, each of the four instrument packages produce a small real-time stream of selected data for purposes of predicting space weather events at Earth. NOAA forecasters at the Space Environment Center and others will use these data in their space weather forecasting and their resultant products will be widely used throughout the world.

The initial observations from the STEREO instruments have been nothing short of spectacular, including stunning images and movies of Comet McNaught – a surprise visitor in mid-January arriving just in time for STEREO and a totally un-Earthly eclipse of the Sun as seen on February 25 from STEREO Behind as it was receding from Earth.



The extended tail of Comet McNaught showing numerous striations. Venus is at the bottom near the center (so bright that it temporarily affects an entire column of pixels). Mercury is below center on the right.

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The moon as viewed from the STEREO Behind Extreme Ultraviolet instrument on February 25, 2007. At the time, the STEREO Behind spacecraft was receding from Earth roughly along the Earth-Sun line on its way to heliocentric orbit and was some 4.5 times the normal Earth-moon distance. The transit took about 12 hours and is actually quite useful for calibration purposes.

Additional pictures, movies and all other STEREO data is freely available through the STEREO Science Center located in Building 21 (<http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov>).

The STEREO Program was managed by Goddard's Code 463 from its early days up through launch plus 90 days and now by Goddard's Heliophysics Science Division Code 674. The two spacecraft were built and tested by Johns-Hopkins APL and they are also responsible for control and commanding of the spacecraft on orbit. From this scientists' perspective, the entire program to date has been a great joy. No major problems were encountered and all the minor problems were dealt with quickly and fairly. The attitude and clear professionalism of the Code 463 staff resulted in everyone getting along well and everyone had a 'can do' attitude. STEREO will be a mission we can all take great pride in for years to come.

M. L. Kaiser / Code 674
STEREO Project Scientist



NASA PM Challenge 2007: Knowledge Sharing

Nearly 1,200 project management practitioners from the NASA field centers, headquarters, industry, and universities gathered once again in Galveston, Texas on February 6-7 for a very successful PM Challenge 2007 – NASA's fourth annual project management conference.

This year's theme was "Knowledge Sharing". The PM Challenge continues to provide a forum for sharing project management knowledge through world class speaker presentations, case studies, discussion panels, and unique insights offered by the agency's top executives. This conference also provides attendees with an opportunity to network with colleagues from within the agency, industry, and the academic world.

Highlights from this year's conference included NASA's senior leadership and industry executives speaking on the power of knowledge sharing, the NASA game plan, communication as the key to knowledge sharing, international program management, and NASA-industry partnerships. Other plenary speakers focused on sharing crucial information with program managers, the constructive relationship between engineering and project management, and the NASA Academy of Program/Project and Engineering Leadership (APPEL) approach to building high performing teams.

In addition to the many attendees from the Center, Goddard's project management excellence was well represented by speakers, panelists, and panel/case study moderators including: Gil Colon, Nick Chrisotimos, Rich Ryan, Jonathan Bryson, Joshua Krague, Randy Seftes, Russell Carpenter, Bill Paradis, Ed Rogers, Mark Goldman, Kathy Nado, George Andrew, Andre Dress, Ken Yienger, Mike Rackley, Harold Stinger, John Baniszewski, Roger Evans, and Ken Costello. Additionally, several influential Goddard alumni also participated as speakers or panelists including Chris Scolese, Bill Townsend, Steve Xander, Bryant Cramer, Joe Fuller, Joe Rothenberg, and Ken Dolan.

Organizing the PM Challenge was itself a major challenge, but conference co-chairs Dorothy Tiffany and Walt Majerowicz were fortunate to have the support and involvement of an extraordinary conference team who helped in so many ways and included: Jennifer Poston, Niloo Naderi, Domenic Greco, John Hartnett, Marge Rich, Lesley Paul, Lynn Wyatt, Kevin Miller, Rodolfo LaVaque, Nicole Turner, Dwight Norwood, David Jacintho, Diane Trakas, and Cassandra Scott.

PM Challenge also featured some new activities including hosting the 2006 George M. Low Award ceremony and introducing the "NASA Student Challenge." The student challenge was a well-received outreach initiative to Galveston area middle and high school students who had the opportunity to learn about careers in NASA and aerospace from NASA employees and contractors. Again, Goddard supported this activity with engaging talks by Gil Colon, Vanessa Johnson, Jay Kovacs, Jahi Wartts, Dorothy Tiffany, Walt Majerowicz, and Peg Luce.

The theme for PM Challenge 2008 is "Reach Higher," and planning is already underway. Mark your calendars for February 26-27, and check the conference website in the coming weeks for more details. Also, look for the "Call for Speakers" later this summer so you can share your knowledge of project management with your NASA colleagues. (<http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov>)





Letters received about the PM Challenge Conference 2007



“I would like to thank you for sponsoring the NASA Student Challenge in Galveston. My students were fortunate enough to participate in this event. Thank you for trying to show students the career opportunities at NASA.”

• MISSION SUCCESS STORIES - Deni Mize, Weis Middle School, Galveston, TX

• TEAM BUILDING BLOCKS

“Great job...this forum is great way to share knowledge across program and projects within NASA. This year’s meeting was even better than the previous years. I heard many positive comments. I think this has a chance of really improving program and project management at NASA. The networking is also great. I see a great sharing between centers and directorates. Thanks for you efforts and perseverance. Also thanks for letting me participate. I am working on an article for ASK, on the topic of my presentation if you want it.”

• RISK MANAGEMENT - Bill Gerstenmaier, Associate Administrator for Space Operations

• BACK TO BASICS

“It has been a pleasure to participate at NASA PM Challenge 2007. For a person from US, NASA is something exceptional, but for an Italian it is something too big and important to be described. When we are not able to deal with a problem we say: I don’t work for NASA, sorry; that means that we consider NASA superior to every other company. For me it has been a great honor to be part of the conference. Thank you very much.”

Marco Sampietro, Professor, SDA Bocconi School of Management, Milan, Italy



February 6-7, 2007
Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center
Galveston, Texas



SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN – SAFETY FOR LIFE

The Flight Project Directorate's annual Safety Awareness Campaign will begin at 10 a.m. on April 17 in the building 8 auditorium with opening remarks by Deputy Center Director, Mike Ryschkewitsch. Rick Obenschain will review the safety highlights for Flight Projects—perhaps the most significant is that we had no lost time injuries for 2006. With almost 350 people in our directorate, that is quite an achievement and everyone in the directorate should be proud of that achievement.



This is the second year for Goddard's Safety Awareness Campaign and the theme for this year is Safety for Life. Last year, the directorate presented a program for office safety and personal safety that was very successful. We are hoping for the same success this year for April's observance of Safety Awareness. The directorate has selected a theme of "Driving Safety" as this year's theme and we will

have a short film to show at our opening kickoff.

With regards to driving safety, we want to look at our own Center statistics. We are all drivers and pedestrians and we need to look out for one another. In 2006, the Security Division reports that security guards issued 236 tickets for moving violations prioritized them into the following categories according to prevalence:

- Did not stop at stop sign;
- Speeding;
- Did not stop for pedestrians in crosswalk;
- Reckless Driving.

Inattention was probably the most cited cause for these violations. We might be fiddling with the radio, drinking coffee or changing a CD or talking to our passengers when we break concentration and drive in an unsafe manner. Even though we are so familiar with the roads on-site—we've driven over them for years—we still can have an accident.

There were 38 motor vehicle accidents on Center—which might be considered excellent for a Center of this size with the number of private and commercial vehicles operating on a daily basis, but we should do even better.

Our goal should be to have an uneventful driving day. In order to achieve this goal we need to concentrate on giving pedestrians the right of way in a crosswalk. We need to come to a complete stop when a pedestrian is in the half of the roadway where our vehicle is traveling. We need to be aware of the speed limits on Center. Speed limits range from 20 mph on the main roads and less for driving through parking lots. We must also observe the parking regulations on Center. An illegally parked car can limit visibility for others at an intersection; therefore parking is restricted for several feet on either side of an intersection.

We need to be alert as pedestrians, too. We should stop at a crosswalk before proceeding to

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make sure that the oncoming vehicle can see us and comes to a stop. The pedestrian has the right of way in a street; but pedestrians need to look where we are going. The Security Division has a website: <http://securitydivision.gsfc.nasa.gov>. You can visit the site and review Goddard Announcement 99-38 on the traffic management policies at Goddard. The Announcement explains the "point" system for those of us who happen to break the rules and are assessed points for various types of violations.

Next year, we will look at the number of moving violations and vehicular accidents and see if there is a reduction. If we all concentrate on what we are doing, we should see this reduction. I hope to see you at our activity on April 17 or at one of the many activities presented by the other directorates on site regarding safety. You can find out more about the various activities by visiting the Code 250 Safety 1st website at: <http://safety1st.gsfc.nasa.gov>.

If you have any suggestions on driving safety or how we might improve safety on Center, please call me at 301-286-0454.

Gail K. Regan, Safety Manager for Code 400

Social News

Weddings



Congratulations to Michelle Ondrus (440) and Michael Crigger! They were married on March 17, 2007, in Crofton, MD. Michelle and her husband reside in their new home in Pasadena, MD, with their dog Kahlua.

Best wishes to Lesley Paul (401), who married Ray Young on the beautiful beach of Jamaica, March 31st, 2007.

Births



Jane & Roger Flaherty (452) welcomed the arrival of twin girls, Ava and Ella Gotterer on the 17th of February. The identical twins were born to their daughter, Erin and her husband Matt, in Chicago, IL. Ava weighed 4lbs, 15 oz., and Ella 4 lbs, 9 oz. This makes 4 grandchildren for Jane & Roger, joining Liam (7) and Connell (4) Kennedy, who reside in Louisville, KY.

2007 Safety Awareness Campaign Poster Contest



Tiara Butler accepts the poster contest award at Code 400 Safety Awareness Campaign program April 17. Others from L to R George Morrow(400), George Barth(400), Tiara, Dena Butler(403), Mike Ryschkewitsch Center Deputy Director, and Gail Regan(403) Directorate Safety Manager

An office environment is one of the safer places to work at Goddard, however the poster submitted by Tiara Butler, a 9th grader at North Point High School in Charles County, Md., reminds us of the hazards we must be aware of while in the office.

Dena Butler of Code 403 told her daughter about the project. “Tiara is such an amazing artist, she can draw anything, especially cartoons. I knew she would make a great poster.” Tiara used her imagination to create a colorful and educational poster based on visits to her mother’s office. The only direction Dena gave was to remind Tiara that the poster had to be “safety” related.

Tiara, an honor student with a 3.625 GPA, is already thinking about college prospects, and when a college recruiter told her she needed to start thinking about her art portfolio, she jumped at the chance to add to it by making this poster. The high school freshman takes Art II where her teacher, Mr. Ball, sees a lot of potential in her. This poster will be added to her growing portfolio. The budding artist is also taking all Advanced Placement (AP) courses and is getting A’s in Math. The Safety Awareness Poster Contest was sponsored by the Safety Awareness Council in honor of Safety Awareness Campaign (SAC) 2007. All dependants of contractors and civil servants were invited to use their artistic talents to create a poster which conveys the theme “Safety for Life” as it relates to work performed at NASA/GSFC. A prize will be presented to winning posters within each age category, and posters will be displayed at various locations around the Center during SAC 2007. In addition, a presentation of the winner’s posters will be made at the parent’s respective directorates’ SAC opening event.

Goddard View, March 2007



The Winning Poster by Tiara Butler

Quotes To Think About



Fortune may have yet a better success in reserve for you, and they who lose today may win tomorrow.

- Cervantes -

When you come to a fork in the road take it.

- Yogi Berra -

It is a bad plan that admits of no modification.

- Syrus Publilius -

In human endeavor, chance favors the prepared mind.

- Louis Pasteur -



Boy Scouts Ben and John Luce Salute President Ford

My sons, Ben (12) and John (16) are boys scouts in Alexandria and had the wonderful opportunity of participating in President Ford's state funeral, January 2, 2007. As you may know, President Ford was an Eagle Scout and his family invited scout participation in many aspects of his funeral. The Fords also lived near our neighborhood in Alexandria for 28 years, so it was especially meaningful for the scouts from our troop.

The boys and their troop leader, Jim Lovo, departed from Alexandria at 4:00 am on the day of the funeral and were gathered with other scouts, the color guard, pall bearers, and others at the National Cathedral by 6:30 am. The situation was a rapidly changing one as plans for the ceremonies were being finalized. The Ford family had requested that the scouts be part of the processional, but the Secret Service wanted to limit the number of people in the processional. In the end, this was probably the right call (even if for the wrong reasons) as the processional was only the family and their escorts, and the military honor guard bearing the President's casket. Instead of being in the processional, Ben and John served as 'guides' holding directional markers for the dignitaries to find their seating areas. They were then seated on the aisle, and enjoyed a first-hand view of history being made. This was truly an experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives. The pictures below provide a glimpse of the scene from their perspective.

I couldn't help being a proud mom and sharing.

Peg Luce, Code 401
Associate Director for Formulation



Scout Ben Luce (aisle seat, lower right) salutes the 38th President in the National Cathedral. (John is to Ben's right, just out of view.)



Ben and John are in the last row, on the right.

THEMIS

Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms (THEMIS) is NASA's first five-satellite mission launched aboard a single rocket. Managed by the Explorer Program Office (Code 410) at Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), the 2-year mission to study geomagnetic storms, successfully launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on February 17 aboard a Delta II rocket. At the time of this writing all five probes are safe and healthy and are in stable orbits and science instruments are operational and collecting data.

Frank Snow (410) is Mission Manager. The University of California, Berkeley is responsible for project management. Swales Aerospace built the THEMIS probes. THEMIS is an international project conducted in partnership with Germany, France, Austria and Canada.

“Cultural Tidbits”

Did you know ... what the differences are between the terms England, Great Britain, and the United Kingdom? Great Britain is the term used to describe the island consisting of the contiguous nations of England, Scotland and Wales. England, Scotland and Wales together with the province of Northern Ireland, form the country officially known as "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland" or simply the United Kingdom. Some related historical details can be found on the following Web site:

<http://www.geo.ed.ac.uk/home/scotland/britain.html>

The Queen is Head of State in the United Kingdom. Her official title in the UK is "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith" (official website of the British monarchy).

Do you have a cultural tidbit to share? Send it to the Code 400 Diversity Council c/o Andrea Razzaghi @ andrea.i.razzaghi@nasa.gov and we'll publish it in a future issue.

Patricia Fogelman
Code 407



Proverbs and First Graders



There have been a couple of generations in the last sixty years that have missed the boat but this group isn't one of them.

A first grade school teacher in Virginia had twenty-five students in her class. She presented each child in her classroom the first half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb.

It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you. While reading, keep in mind that these are first graders, 6-year-olds, because the last one is a classic!

1. Don't change horses.....until they stop running.
2. Strike while the.....bug is close.
3. It's always darkest before.....Daylight Saving Time.
4. Never underestimate the power oftermites.
5. You can lead a horse to water but how?
6. Don't bite the hand thatlooks dirty.
7. No news is.....impossible.
8. A miss is as good as a Mr.
9. You can't teach an old dog new math.
10. If you lie down with dogs, you'llstink in the morning.
11. Love all, trust me.
12. The pen is mightier than thepigs.
13. An idle mind is.....the best way to relax.
14. Where there's smoke there'spollution.
15. Happy the bride who.....gets all the presents.
16. A penny saved isnot much
17. Two's company, three's the Musketeers
18. Don't put off till tomorrow what you put on to go to bed.
19. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and..... you have to blow your nose.
20. There are none so blind as Stevie Wonder.
21. Children should be seen and notspanked or grounded.
22. If at first you don't succeed get new batteries.
23. You get out of something only what you ... see in the picture on the box.
24. When the blind lead the blind get out of the way.

And the WINNER and last one!

25. **Better late than..... pregnant**

Comings & Goings

Comings:

Donna Burfoot to 446/GLAST Project, Resource Analyst
Tonya Cryster to 426/GLORY Project, Resource Analyst
Paul Geithner to 443/JWST Project, Observatory Manager
Claire MaCaulay to 407/ESTO Project, Resource Analyst (Term Conversion to Perm)
Angela Mason to 420.1/NPOESS IPO Support Office, Spacecraft Manager
Michelle Ondrus to 440/Astrophysics Projects Division, Resource Analyst
Teresa Rishell to 464/SDO Project, Resource Analyst (Term Conversion to Perm)
Marsha Gosselin to 464/SDO Project, Resource Analyst
Karen Jackson to 452/Space Network Project, Resource Analyst
Ray Pages to 450.2/Ground System Management Office, Mission Manager
Wynn Watson to 428/ESMO Project, Deputy Project Manager/Technical
Diane Yun to 446/GLAST Project, Associate Observatory Manager (Detail)
Farhad Tahmasebi to 401.1/RSDO Project, Mission Integration Manager (Detail)
Susan Sparacino to 400/Flight Projects Directorate, Deputy Project Manager/Resources
Javier Lecha to 420.1/NPOESS IPO Support Office, NPP Thread Manager
Lisa Shears to 429/NPP Project, Observatory Manager

Goings:

Bonnie Matters to 153/Program Analysis Office (Detail)
Natalie McMurdy to 700/Information Technology and Communications Directorate
Lillian Reichenthal to 556/Instrument Systems Branch
Kim Tann to 501/AETD Business Management Office
Tim Van Zant to 700/Information Technology and Communications Directorate (Detail)
Richard Burg Transferred outside NASA
Michael Delmont to 303/Assurance Management Office
Bill Davis Retires from 410/Explorers Division
Janet Jew Retires from 408/ACTO Project Office
Dwayne Kronser to 720/Systems Engineering and Development Division
Paul Ondrus Retires from 458/ECANS Project Office
James Burd Resigns from 450.1/Networks Integration Management Office
Cathy Richardson to 556/Instrument Systems Branch
Jim Adams Transferred to NASA Headquarters, Planetary Division
Kristina Beverly to 700/Information Technology and Communications Directorate
Diane Hronek to 153/Program Analysis Office
Greg Manfra Retires from 441/HST Operations Project
Maureen Menton to 240/Security (Detail)

Project Management Development Emprise Program (PMDE)

Code 400 Director Of Rick Obenschain presented graduation plaques to Betsy Forsbacka (Code 556) and Ted Sobchak (Code 456) at a brief ceremony in the Flight Projects Directorate suite on March 1. There are currently 12 mentees in the program.

Vacancy announcements (both technical and professional administrative) will be published shortly for the class of 2007. Applicants are generally considered for PMDE every other year. A General Announcement was recently distributed to civil servants at all Goddard locations giving information on the program.

For additional information contact Howard Ottenstein at 6-8583.



Sandra Cauffman, Ted Sobchak, Betsy Forsbacka, Rick Obenschain, George Barth

Getting Oriented for Financial and Resources Management

Are you a new Resources Analyst, Project Support Specialist, or Accountant trying to figure out who's who and what's what? Are you a Supervisor, Team Lead, conscientious co-worker who needs to orient a new employee? There is an effort underway to assist you.

When several Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO)/Office of Human Capital Management (OHCM) focus groups were held last year and connected with over 100 employees, there was a resounding statement from folks in the Financial and Resources Management community that having a new orientation package is an essential and urgent need. Led by the Policy & Standards Office (Code 152), a team from several directorates, including Code 400, is creating a Financial and Resources Management Orientation package that will offer much benefit to new and current employees. This package will include some practical and important things you need to get started, such as how NASA and GSFC are organized, the necessary systems to sign onto, training classes to complete, initial key points of contact (POCs) to call, and other aspects of their jobs.

This Financial and Resources Management Orientation is intended as a supplement to the information provided by the Office of Human Capital Management (Code 113) on a new employee's first day at Goddard. Ideally, the Orientation package will be presented and explained to a new employee by either a supervisor, team lead, or a more senior co-worker.

The Financial and Resources Management Orientation is organized into sections to address the questions a new employee may have, such as:

- Where do I fit in the organization?
- What systems will I be using?
- How do I get connected?
- What training do I need to take?
- Whom can I call to get more information about my job?

The Financial and Resources Management Orientation will be completed in April 2007 and will be available to managers, supervisors, and employees in the Financial and Resources Management community on the Office of Chief Financial Officer website (<http://cfo.gsfc.nasa.gov>). Code 152 is committed to semi-annual updates so that this Financial and Resources Management Orientation is current and remains valuable to our employees and supervisors.

The team that designed this Orientation Package consists of the following members: Kellie Behrle/152, Eila Rab/152, Melanie CrespoRamos/Code 442, Linnette Morales/451, Kris Beverly/Code 703, and Amy Strong/Code 801.

Nancy Abell(150), Julie Baker(150), George Barth(400), Jonathan Bryson(152), Kellie Behrle(152)

April Fool's Day

Why is April 1st a fool's day?



Until 1564, it was a tradition to begin the New Year with a week long celebration, ending with a big party. But the calendar was different then. The New Year began on March 25 – which meant the annual party was held on April 1. In 1564, a new calendar was instituted making January 1 the New Year. People who forgot and still showed up to celebrate the New Year on April 1, were called 'April Fools.'

Way back, when people were less tense and paranoid, memorable April Fool's jokes were played by radio broadcasters. On April 1, 1976, a famous British astronomer told BBC radio audiences that since the planet Pluto would be passing closer to Jupiter on April 1, the Earth's gravitational pull would decrease slightly for about 24 hours. He explained that listeners would feel the effect most if they jumped into the air at precisely 9:45 that morning. The BBC switchboard was jammed with listeners who said that the experiment worked.

In the 70s, Britain's Radio Norwich announced, on April 1st, that it was experimenting with 'color radio' and that the tests would effect the brilliance of the tuning lights on radios at home. Some listeners actually reported seeing the results. One complained that the experiment had affected the traffic lights in his area. Another asked the station manager how much longer the bright lights he saw would be coming out of his radio.

In 1992, National Public Radio's 'Talk of the Nation' news show announced, on April 1, that Richard Nixon entered the race for president. They actually interviewed the 'former president' (played by impressionist Rich Little) on the air. "I never did anything wrong" he stated, "and I won't ever do it again." Listeners called to comment. "Nixon is more trustworthy than Clinton." one remarked. "Nixon never fooled around with anyone's wife except his own. And according to some accounts, not even with her," said another.

Mel Lewis, Editor, from the Logo Messenger (a good friend who recently passed away)

Earth Day 2007



April 26

Earth day provides an opportunity to think about your home planet and what it does for you.

Storm Drain Stenciling ... May 1st from 11-1

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(Richards Tintype Continued from page 3)

he was finally selected as a mission specialist for Astronaut Group XVI.

Life After Goddard: Paul reported to the Johnson Space Center in August 1996. Having completed two years of training and evaluation, he is qualified for flight assignment as a mission specialist. Richards was initially assigned to the Computer Branch working on software for the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station. He next served in the Astronaut Office Shuttle Operations Branch assigned to support Payload and General Support Computers (PGSCs) and the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory (SAIL). Richards flew on STS-102 and has logged over 307 hours in space, including 6.4 EVA hours. He was assigned as a back-up crewmember for ISS Expedition-7. Richards left NASA in February 2002 to become an aerospace consultant. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Maryland Space Business Roundtable and currently serves on the Board of Advisors for Drexel University's College of Engineering.

Life Back at Goddard: In 2004 Richards returned to NASA GSFC as the Observatory Manager for the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-R Series). The GOES-R series is the next-generation of advanced weather satellites being developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in partnership with NASA.

Hobbies: Paul's main hobbies today include raising his two children, Shannon (9) and Connor (5). Previously, he enjoyed skiing, running, golf, boating (both sail and power), and home repair and improvement projects. Paul has been actively recruiting his children to join his hobbies as a family affair. When not busy with work or family, Paul is also a Lieutenant Commander with the Naval Reserves supporting the Naval Research Lab.

(Mikkelsen Tintype Continued from page 3)

the old Magnetic Tape Rehabilitation Facility which was in building 16W. In 1973, prior to the Apollo-Soyuz mission, Katy and her family moved to the island of Madagascar where her husband was assigned to the NASA Station. Katy worked as the nurse at the American Embassy for the two years she was on the island and that was very interesting. She rejoined GSFC in September of 1976 as a civil servant and was secretary for the (then) code 862 Compatibility and Simulations Test Branch. Katy also was with the code 600 directorate office for a couple of years where she was secretary to Dr. Siegfried Bauer. Most of her time at GSFC has been in code 400, which was code 800, and she has worked in several different offices and projects including Space Station, EOS and GOES.

Hobbies: Katy reads a lot, and does a little bit of gardening and sewing. She has an interest in machine embroidery and machine knitting, but has not done much of them recently. Katy and her daughter love the beach and spend some time there each year. They also enjoy Colonial Williamsburg and try to get there at least a couple of times a year.

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FUTURE LAUNCHES CALENDAR YEAR 2007	
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TWINS-B	OCT
GLAST	DEC

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Howard K. Ottenstein,
Editor

Nancy L. White,
Production Assistant/Photographer

Paula L. Wood,
Editorial Assistant

If you have a story idea, news item, or letter for The Critical Path, please let us know about it. Send your note to Howard Ottenstein via Email: hottenst@pop400.gsfc.nasa.gov, Mail: Code 403, or Phone: 6-8583. Don't forget to include your name and telephone number. Deadline for the next issue is July 27, 2007.