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Spaceport News

America's gateway to the universe.

http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/snews/spnews_toc.html John F. Kennedy Space Center

Remembering Columbia crew at Space Mirror Memorial

At a public memorial service honoring the Columbia STS-107 crew Feb. 1 at the Space Mirror Memorial, Kennedy Space Center Director Jim Kennedy expressed to 300 members of the public in attendance that NASA has made safety its top priority as the Center looks toward Return to Flight.

"The problems have been fixed and we are going to see a manifestation of that in a few months when we fly the Space Shuttles again," Kennedy said. "This Center has many people who devoted themselves to recovering from the tragic accident and they did so with dignity and respect we are proud of."

The Feb. 1 memorial service was hosted by The Astronauts Memorial Foundation and led by Dr. Stephen Feldman, the group's president. The crew of STS-107 included Rick Husband, Willie McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark and Ilan Ramon, whose names are inscribed on the Space Mirror Memorial.

CENTER DIRECTOR Jim Kennedy and Kirstie McCool Chadwick place a wreath at the base of the Space Mirror Memorial.

Kirstie McCool Chadwick, sister of Columbia pilot Willie McCool, said he had the time of his life while in orbit.

"He loved to fly and he loved science," Chadwick said. "Since the mission was dedicated to science, Willie was living his ultimate dream. While the last two years have been incredibly difficult for my family, as well Willie's crewmates' families, I wish I could bottle up the love the nation has shown our families and share it with others in their time of need."

Other speakers included Dr. Samuel Durrance, executive director of Florida Space Research Institute and former Space Shuttle astronaut; Jay Honeycutt, past director of KSC; retired U.S. Navy Capt. Winston Scott, director of Florida Space Authority and former Space Shuttle astronaut; and Lee Solid, a former Boeing Co. executive.

All Hands meeting takes place Feb. 9

Don't miss Kennedy Space Center Director Jim Kennedy's All Hands meeting at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 9 in the Training Auditorium. The director will discuss the major events from 2004 and where the Center stands regarding the Space Shuttle's Return to Flight.

Watch the meeting on NASA TV, channel 7, or the KSC internal home page at **http://www.ksc.nasa.gov/nasa-only/internal.html**. Seating allocations will be made by each directorate.

Jones proud of Return to Flight contribution

By Anna Heiney
Staff Writer

Without Payton "Chuck" Jones and his co-workers, Space Shuttle Discovery and its Return to Flight mission wouldn't even get off the ground.

"For Return to Flight, I feel my job is very important because we provide the ride," Jones says with a proud grin.

Jones, a United Space Alliance technician, is part of a team working to assemble and test the Solid Rocket Boosters (SRBs) that will send Discovery into orbit on a mission to the International Space Station. Discovery's launch is being planned for the May-June time frame in 2005.

The Space Shuttle uses the largest solid rocket motors ever built and flown. Each reusable booster contains 1.1 million pounds of propellant, in the form of a hard, rubbery substance with a consistency like a pencil eraser. The twin set of boosters provide 80 percent of the Space Shuttle's launch thrust, assisting the orbiter's

(See JONES, Page 6)

Payton "Chuck" Jones, a United Space Alliance technician, helps assemble Space Shuttle Solid Rocket Boosters.

The Kennedy Update

Jim Kennedy
Center Director

Greetings, friends! Monday will be an interesting day following on the heels of Pres. George W. Bush's inaugural address Wednesday night. Of course, that is the day he releases his proposed budget for fiscal 2006.

It's always interesting because all the programs we work on every day are in one way or another tied to the budget. It will also be the first budget proposed after the adoption of the Vision for Space Exploration as our national space policy.

At 1 p.m. Monday, on NASA TV, Administrator Sean O'Keefe will hold a press conference to discuss the budget and what it means in the coming year for NASA. I encourage you to listen in. I think you'll find it educational and informative, as it will give you a sense of where we are heading as an Agency.

Then on Wednesday, at 9:30 a.m. in the Training Auditorium, I will hold my first "All Hands" meeting since before our hurricanes of last year. I'm way overdue and have some important personnel-related information to discuss, along with some strategic planning information the KSC leadership team discussed in early December.

If you can't come in person, please tune in on NASA TV.

Speaking of Sean O'Keefe, this will be a tough week for me personally, as the budget rollout will, for the most part, be the last major official act Sean oversees before departing for Louisiana State University. Sean is a brilliant administrator who led us through some of the toughest days this Agency has ever seen, with the Columbia accident and the investigation that followed.

We will forever owe him a debt of gratitude for helping to shape and create the Vision for Space Exploration and then fostering Congressional support for it. We all will miss him, but I know Pres. Bush will select a new administrator who is ready to lead us through the safe return to flight of our Space Shuttle program and the first stages of implementing the Vision for Space Exploration.

Whoever is selected, and at the time I'm writing this I honestly don't know who that person will be, please give him or her the outstanding support you've shown Sean during his tenure. I believe our brightest days as an Agency are still in front of us in the years to come.

To Sean, his lovely wife, Laura, and his family, I know I speak for all of us when I wish them the best of luck at LSU. Our loss is definitely their gain!

Things are still heating up for Return to Flight. On Feb. 10 and 11, the STS-114 crew will be here for their Crew Equipment Interface Test, also simply known as CEIT. This is the time the crew comes to KSC and works with the space flight hardware they will actually use in space. It is another exciting sign that our RTF launch, set for the May-June timeframe, is just around the corner.

All of America, and indeed the world, is behind us and excited to see our Space Shuttles fly again.

Finally, February is Black History month and a luncheon is set for Feb. 11 to honor the event. The contributions of this community to space travel are immeasurable, ranging from astronauts and engineers to technicians and mission-support people. I encourage you to participate in one of the many activities celebrating this month, in order to learn more about their contributions.

Keep up the hard work, everyone; it's noticed and appreciated. I'll see you around the Center!

"It is another exciting sign that our RTF launch is just around the corner. All of America, and indeed the world, is excited to see our Space Shuttles fly again."

January Employees of the Month

STANDING in the back row, from left, are Cathy Parker, Independent Technical Authority and Systems Management; Taya Hall, Spaceport Engineering and Technology; Tiffany Lackey, Procurement Office; and Betty Ann Gary, Information Technology and Communication Services. Sitting in the front row, from left, are Robert Yaskovic, ISS/Payload Processing; Bernie Kennedy, Safety and Mission Assurance; and Christopher Iannello, Shuttle Processing.

Robotics volunteers needed in Orlando

Volunteers are needed for the 2005 FIRST Robotics Florida Regional Competition at the University of Central Florida Arena, March 9-12. FIRST (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics is a nationwide competition that teams professionals and high school students together to solve an engineering design in an intense and competitive way.

The regional depends on many volunteers with a broad spectrum of talents to support competition demands. If you are interested in helping to make this event a continued success, please register at **www.USFIRST.org**. All volunteers MUST register in order to be assigned a volunteer position.

A volunteer dinner to kick-off the event is scheduled for March 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Arena. Visit http://firstfloridaregional.org for more information or call Laurel Lichtenberger at 867-4036.

Recognizing Our People

Collier supports co-workers with commitment

By Jennifer Wolfinger
Staff Writer

When an employee goes to any length to accomplish a project, there's no question they should be recognized. Chief Financial Office Employee of the Year Henry Collier is just that type of worker and redefines dedication.

In 1984, after being with NASA only two years, he worked hard on a project and knew it was his chance to confirm that his supervisor picked the right person for the task.

Satisfied with his progress, Collier placed the unclassified but important documents on the floor near his chair and went to lunch. When Collier returned, his supervisor asked for the work. However, it was no longer where Collier left it.

After frantically asking all of his co-workers for help, he concluded it had been taken out with the trash.

"My lead and I ran downstairs, jumped in the dumpster with all the smelly trash, food and debris looking for that folder," Collier said. "After being waist deep in trash for about 20 minutes, we found the folder and I also probably saved my career."

Since this act of devotion, he's maintained a strong work ethic. "In my opinion, my main accomplishments are truly centered around the commitment, pride and love I exhibit in trying to help, support, train and mentor my fellow co-workers," he said. "When I found out I was selected, I was extremely elated, humbled and appreciative that my co-workers selected me."

As a systems accountant, Collier leads the Cost Accounting, Contractor Reporting and Collections area. He ensures financial information provided to management at the Center and at NASA Headquarters is accurate and timely. Collier also guarantees all collection functions are performed properly according to NASA and U.S. Treasury regulations.

In college, his friend suggested he focus on gaining an accounting education because of Collier's love for math. During his first course, he discovered accounting incorporated a lot of theories which he felt could be used in everyday life.

Regardless of accolades, Collier - who spends free time with his wife, Robbin, 13-year-old daughter, Jasmine, 8-year-old son, Nigel, and dog, Cokie - remains modest. "Humbleness generates an environment where people feel comfortable with each other...where people can work together in harmony to achieve the goals of the team," he said.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICE Employee of the Year Henry Collier ensures financial information provided to management at the Center and at NASA Headquarters is accurate and timely. Collier also guarantees all collection functions are performed properly according to regulations. He spends free time with his wife, Robbin, 13-year-old daughter, Jasmine, 8-year-old son, Nigel, and dog, Cokie.

He has continuously helped and inspired people who failed at a job and lost morale because they didn't have good teachers, mentors or training. Collier said, "Seeing the frustration that some people endured due to the lack of adequate training motivated me to help people and train them, and give them whatever I could to help them succeed in doing the work of the team, for the mission, for NASA, KSC and for their career."

Eliason's 'Thought of the Day' e-mail inspires work force

By Linda Herridge
Staff Writer

Success is not a place that we aspire to, it is a process in which we live by . . . often the only ingredient being the ability to not quit. -author unknown

Each weekday morning, these and other inspirational messages called "Thought of the Day" are e-mailed to more than 1,500 KSC workers by Sandra Eliason, a management support assistant in the Launch and Landing Division of the Space Shuttle Processing directorate.

Eliason started the e-mail in 1998 when she was president of the KSC Federally Employed Women and wanted to inspire the women in her group. When her term ended, it seemed natural to continue the e-mails for all of the KSC employees who wanted to receive the daily inspirations.

SANDRA ELIASON of the Space Shuttle Processing directorate writes "Thought of the Day," currently e-mailed to more than 1,500 KSC workers. Her inspirations come from street signs, news articles and books, among others.

"When you really stop to think about it, we live our lives in our head," said Eliason.

Currently, the e-mail subscriber list includes the Center director, KSC workers and their family and friends. "The list of recipients has significantly increased over the years," said Eliason. "I've heard that many people forward the e-mail on to others around the country and overseas."

Where does she get her "thoughts"? Eliason says her inspirations come from street signs, quotes from calendars, editorials, news articles, and books by authors Jennifer James and Ruth Fishel, to name a few.

(See ELIASON, Page 7)

KSC's Space Life Sciences Lab mark

By Linda Herridge
Staff Writer

From biological research to analytical chemistry and space flight experiment development, the Space Life Sciences (SLS) Lab at Kennedy Space Center buzzes with activity.

Marking the state-of-the-art facility's first anniversary, researchers from NASA, multiple universities and the Florida Space Research Institute (FSRI) recently hosted an open house for the media.

FSRI co-manages the SLS Lab research and utilization with KSC. The Florida Space Authority owns the building. The University of Florida is also a partner, and contractors Dynamac Corp. and Bionetics Corp. operate the facility for NASA under the Life Science Services Contract.

Jim Heald, KSC's Spaceport Engineering and Technology director, welcomed visitors to the 100,000-square-foot facility. "This is truly an exciting time for us," Heald said.

"We're looking at how we can continue Return to Flight activities and keep the Vision for Space Exploration on track. KSC will continue to be the gateway to the stars."

Referring to the SLS Lab as a consortium between the State of Florida and university partners, Heald said biological systems play an important role in NASA's exploration agenda.

Scott Vangen, SLS Lab chief operating officer, gave a brief overview of the facility, which consists of 25 science labs, eight hardware labs and an animal care area. Vangen said the LSSC is ready and equipped to support the Space Transportation System and International Space Station payloads and experiments, payload flight hardware engineering and industry and commercial research, in addition to the current ground research and space science education.

Highlights of the tour included viewing a Mars Simulation Chamber and design concepts for a Mars Deployable Greenhouse, plant growth chambers with unique lighting and atmospheric controls and a radish-harvesting demonstration from a hydroponic system.

Media also saw a biological water purification system in the resource recovery lab and had an up-close look at the the Space Bio-Imaging Lab.

Laboratory capabilities include plant growth and physiology, biomolecular and microbial ecology, analytical chemistry, animal care, experiment processing support, flight experiment development, astrobiology and biological imaging. The building currently accommodates close to 100 staff members, including scientists and engineers, in addition to several visiting researchers.

"We're extremely pleased with the development of research programs with the SLS Lab," said Sam Durrance, FSRI executive director. "As planned when the state funded the facility, Florida university scientists are working side by side with NASA and industry researchers on projects that will enable future missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond."

Representatives from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture discussed collaborative efforts being performed at the SLS Lab.

Speakers included Don Poucher, assistant vice president for Marketing and Communications, and Richard Jones, interim senior vice president for Agriculture and Natural Resources. Rob Ferl, professor and director of the University of Florida programs at the SLS Lab, also shared updates on current science research.

Ross Hinkle, LSSC project director for Dynamac Corp., updated the media on the current research to support the Vision for Space Exploration.

DR. OSCAR MONJE, a plant scientist with Dynamac Corp., explains how a filter cartridge is used for space flight plant experiments aboard spacecraft.

s first anniversary with open house

THE SPACE LIFE SCIENCES LAB (above) is a state-of-the-art facility built for biotechnology research. Developed as a partnership between NASA-KSC and the State of Florida, approximately 20 percent of the facility is used by Florida's university researchers through the Florida Space Research Institute.

AT LEFT, JEFF RICHARDS, a plant physiologist with Dynamac Corp., displays a crop of strawberries grown in a controlled environment chamber at the SLS Lab. In missions to the International Space Station or early planetary outposts, plant production systems will likely be small and rely upon the spacecraft to regulate temperature, relative humidity and carbon dioxide concentrations.

BELOW, DAVE REED, a project engineer with the Bionetics Corp., discusses the various flight hardware developed or currently being developed for future space exploration during a tour of the SLS Lab. The Exploration Flight Development and Demonstration project provides innovative hardware solutions focused on advancing critical technologies that fly on parabolic aircraft, the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station.

THESE STRAWBERRIES are being grown in conditions that might be experienced in a spacecraft to evaluate the effects of different environmental conditions on plant growth.

Fincke shares Space Station experience with work force

By Cheryl Mansfield
Staff Writer


NASA astronaut Mike Fincke, the flight engineer for Expedition 9, talks to an employee during his Jan. 26 visit to Kennedy Space Center.

Not many 3-year-olds know what they want to be when they grow up. But while most children at that age are content simply playing with their toys, Mike Fincke was awestruck by men walking on the Moon and imagining himself as one of them.

He's now NASA astronaut Fincke, the flight engineer for Expedition 9 who returned in October from a six-month stay aboard the International Space Station. For the U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, the mission was the ultimate journey that truly made his childhood dream a reality.

Fincke gave a presentation about his time spent in space to the Center's work force Jan. 26 at the Training Auditorium.

The path that led him from being a toddler watching the Apollo program unfold to flying aboard the Space Station came by way of hard work, including earning two bachelor's degrees and two master's degrees in astronautics and science.

"We're going to the Moon, we're going to Mars together, and I'm really glad to be here to share it with you," Fincke told the enthusiastic crowd. "What happens here is something very special. We're on a journey as human beings to leave our planet and to explore and to live in the cosmos. That's something that's not just science fiction, but it happens here at the Kennedy Space Center."

He thanked them for their hard work and dedication in preparing the Space Shuttle for Return to Flight, and expressed his excitement about flying a future Shuttle mission launched from Kennedy.

His ride to and from the Space Station - Fincke's first trip into space - was aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. He holds the distinction of being the only U.S. astronaut to fly in space without ever having flown on a U.S. spacecraft, something he hopes to remedy as soon as possible by flying on the Space Shuttle.

Fincke holds yet another distinction: he became a father for a second time while aboard the Space Station when his wife gave birth to their daughter. Thanks to communication technology, he was able share in the event and hear his baby's first cry while he floated high above the Earth.

> "We're on a journey to leave our planet and to explore and to live in the cosmos. That's something that's not just science fiction, but it happens here at the Kennedy Space Center."

During his presentation, Fincke showed both his enthusiasm and his humor. His video from the days aboard the Space Station gave glimpses into both the work and everyday life on the scientific outpost. Highlights of the mission included four spacewalks, Space Station maintenance, and science that focused on the study of how muscle and bone are lost in the weightlessness of space.

"During our mission, we were first able to characterize the long-term effect of how muscle and bone are lost over time by using an ultrasound machine," said Fincke.

But by far, the biggest and longest-lasting impression left by his days aboard the Space Station seems to be the view of planet Earth, in all its beauty - so much so that he took more than 21,000 pictures of the planet.

"I was very blessed and very lucky to have a chance to see our planet from 250 miles above," he reflected. "I would just look down and smile, both on the inside and on the outside, because it's such a beautiful view."

But his observations about Earth were deeper than just its loveliness, and he admits seeing it from that perspective has affected him.

"It changed me, honestly it did. I was able to get a perspective that the Space Station and our Space Program is about what human beings can do when they work together constructively."

JONES . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

three main engines for the first two minutes of flight. At that point, the SRBs are jettisoned into the Atlantic Ocean. The spent boosters are later recovered, cleaned, taken apart, refurbished and reused.

With Return to Flight approaching, Jones spends his days connecting each booster segment to the others, or "stacking."

Typically a two- or three-week process, stacking takes place vertically. Each booster segment is brought in and hoisted atop the segments already in place on the Mobile Launcher Platform.

Over the following two weeks, leak checks are performed to ensure each joint that connects the two segments is watertight.

SRB stacking and close-out work takes place inside the Vehicle Assembly Building, a 525-foot-tall building where the inside environment often mirrors conditions outdoors.

"If it's cold outside, it's cold in here," says Jones, while wearing a sweatshirt to stay warm on an unusually chilly Florida morning. "The conditions come from the weather."

In some areas, such as where the SRBs are connected to the large, orange External Tank, Jones and his teammates often find themselves on their knees or backs, squeezing into small workspaces.

"It's hands-on work," he says, proudly waving an arm toward the booster segments towering behind him. "From one end to the other, we do it all."

According to Jones, the best part of his job is being a part of a one-of-a-kind program - and sharing the experience with an equally dedicated group of co-workers. With the Vision for Space Exploration calling for new journeys to the Moon, Mars and beyond, he knows the importance of working together to fulfill each mission.

"It's teamwork from beginning to end," he says. "If I don't get my job done, an astronaut can't get his job done."

Jones emphasizes there's nowhere else in the world to train for stacking SRBs.

"It's something that no one else does but a select few people," Jones says, "so I consider it a privilege."

Remembering Our Heritage

The first Launch Umbilical Tower has been retired - again

By Kay Grinter
Reference Librarian

In 1983, as the existing Apollo hardware was redesigned to meet the needs of the Space Shuttle program, parts of the Launch Umbilical Tower-1 were relocated from atop its Mobile Launcher Platform to a storage site behind the O&C Building in Kennedy Space Center's Industrial Area.

Gail King, NASA remediation project manager, was responsible for seeing that the remaining hardware was finally and properly removed from the Center. The work began in March 2004 and was completed in December.

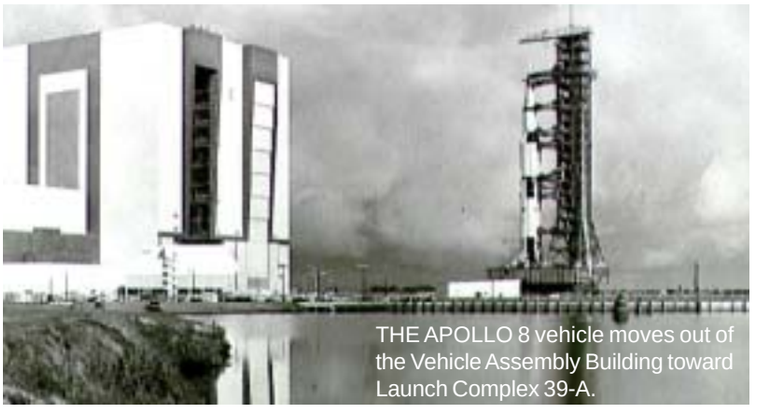
"A little more than half of the stored structure had been decontaminated and removed from the site when Florida experienced one of the busiest hurricane seasons in years," King reported. "But as soon as transportation services could be secured again, the remaining pieces were removed, as well."

Construction began on the first launcher in December 1963. The last major piece of steel, a 19-ton crane boom, was hoisted into place atop the 380-foot-high tower nine months later. In all, the tower employed nine swing arms of various sizes that carried electric, propellant and pneumatic lines to the Saturn V rocket, each averaging more than 22 metric tons in weight.

Each arm was wide enough for a jeep to drive across.

The ninth swing arm on LUT-1 is on display in the Rocket Garden at Kennedy's Visitor Complex. The swing arms were the most difficult feature of the Apollo towers to plan and build. A combination of such large access and umbilical devices had never been built before, and the constantly changing design of the Saturn V vehicle required that the criteria for the swing arms be adjusted. These unprecedented devices performed reliably with majestic smoothness.

THE dismantled Launch Umbilical Tower behind the O&C Building.



THE APOLLO 8 vehicle moves out of the Vehicle Assembly Building toward Launch Complex 39-A.

Other parts of LUT-1 are on public display, as well. These include its 320-foot level, which provided astronaut access into the Apollo spacecraft, its 380-foot level at the top of the tower, and its 25-ton hammerhead crane, all of which reside in the Apollo/Saturn V Facility at Kennedy. Its white room has also been preserved and is on display at the Kansas Cosmodrome and Space Center in Hutchinson, Kan.

Four hold-down arms secured the Saturn V to the mobile launcher. One of the hold-down arms from LUT-1 remains in storage at Kennedy and will be refurbished for display in the future.

LUT-1 had a glorious career. It supported Apollo 4, the first Saturn V launch; Apollo 8, the first manned mission to leave Earth's orbit; Apollo 11, the first mission in which humans walked on the Moon; and all three of the manned missions to Skylab.

PARTS OF LUT-1 are on display in the Apollo/Saturn V Facility at Kennedy.

ELIASON . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

"I do this because I believe that positive thought or affirmations are hidden in our subconscious. It's there when we need it," Eliason said. "It's definitely made a big difference in my life."

Her office is located at the Launch Control Center, where she interfaces with many dignitaries and the astronauts' families during launch time. Recently, a worker stopped by Eliason's office and gave her a special book, "The Home Book of Quotations – Classical and Modern," to add to her resource collection.

After the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Eliason stopped the e-mails. Many people wondered what had happened and contacted her. Feedback was so positive that Eliason decided to resume the daily service and the list of recipients continued to grow.

"Sandy is an extraordinary individual with a bright and positive attitude," said Steve Altemus, chief of the Launch and Landing Division in the Space Shuttle Processing directorate.

"Her attitude is not only reflected in her work with this division, but she also extends it to the rest of the Center through her 'Thought of the Day.' We are fortunate to have Sandy in our organization."

Eliason's current Return to Flight work includes updating the master list of people allowed in the Launch Control Center for launches and incorporating the new protocol or processes as they are developed. She is also helping to coordinate recertification of the launch team.

In her spare time, she likes to write poetry and paint beach and landscape scenes. She is also a volunteer at the Cocoa Village Playhouse, where her husband serves as a percussionist in the orchestra.

To be added to the "Thought of the Day" mailing list, call Eliason at 861-9309, or e-mail her at **sandra.k.eliason@nasa.gov**.

KSC celebrates African-American History Month

The Kennedy Space Center Black Employee Strategy Team (BEST) is hosting several events in February to celebrate African-American History Month (AAHM).

KSC celebrates the many achievements and contributions of African-Americans whose legacies continue to be an inspiration to employees, the Space Program, our nation and the world. BEST Fridays are Feb. 4, 18 and 25, when employees are encouraged to wear BEST or KSC logo shirts and partake in the African-American entrees served in the cafeterias.

On Feb. 11, the AAHM luncheon will be held at the Debus Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The keynote speaker is NASA Deputy Administrator Frederick Gregory. BEST emphasizes that all KSC employees are invited.

Only 300 tickets will be on sale through Feb. 8. Tickets are available from Sena Jones, HQ/3257, 867-3950; Wanda Petty, HQ/2321B, 867-9165; Hortense Burt, HQ/4th Floor, 867-2386; Debbie Houston, O&C/3018, 867-6923; Carol Davis, SSPF/3220J, 867-5942; LaTasha Walker, Logistics Bldg./2710F2, 861-7439; Willie Moore, OSB/4309K1, 861-4862; and Tamiko Fletcher, Hangar I Annex/ 214, 476-4049.

The AAHM celebration concludes Feb. 27 with church fellowship and an 11 a.m. service at Grace Baptist Church in Titusville.

NASA DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR Frederick Gregory will be the keynote speaker at the Feb. 11 African-American History Month luncheon in the Debus Center.

Go Red For Women focuses on health

The Kennedy Space Center Occupational Health Program, in partnership with the American Heart Association and the Wuesthoff Health System, will present the Go Red For Women (GRFW) program at 9 a.m.Feb. 11 in the Training Auditorium, as well as on NASA TV, channel 7, and on the KSC Web site.

Heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases claim more women's lives each year than the next five causes of death *combined*. The GRFW campaign is an effort to educate all KSC employees about this major health problem. Employees will also have an opportunity to sign up for the KSC Cardiovascular Screening Program, as well as the Fitness Center.

NASCAR crew visits Kennedy

WHILE TESTING for NASCAR takes place at Daytona International Speedway, crews from the racing circuit often tour the Center to learn about new engineering techniques and to see the Space Shuttle fleet up close. Pictured from left are crew members from Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s team, including H.A. Mergen, test engineer; Jay Gerst, engineer; and Tony Eury, crew chief, who commented when standing next to the Space Shuttle Discovery in the Orbiter Processing Facility, "Nothing goes much faster than this."

Space Exploration Conference discusses NASA's future

THE FIRST SPACE EXPLORATION CONFERENCE in Orlando Jan. 31-Feb. 1 brought the space community together to reflect on NASA's achievements since Pres. Bush revealed the Agency's new mission to explore the Moon, Mars and beyond, and to discuss exploration plans for 2005. The conference focused on space exploration requirements, International Space Station plans to support exploration and the technologies required to meet these goals. In one of his last speeches as NASA Administrator, **Sean O'Keefe (pictured right)** also encouraged the group to look toward the future. "The stage is as well set as it could be," O'Keefe said. "For our goals, let's achieve this set of objectives set forth by the president."

John F. Kennedy Space Center

Spaceport News

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