



MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

June 3, 2004



Photo by Doug Stoffer, NASA/Marshall Center

Marshall-sponsored teams honored in robotics contest

by Grant Thompson

After more than six intense weeks of designing and building their own original robots, seven Huntsville-area high school teams recently got the chance to see their efforts pay off. And what they learned may just help take them to the Moon and beyond!

The local teams supported by the Marshall Center's Education Programs Department recently took part in the international robotics competition FIRST – For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. Mentored by government, academic and industry engineers, student teams designed, built and operated robots for a sports-based competition in which the rules and objectives change from year to year. Each team

See Robotics on page 2

Asian Pacific American Month: Celebrating diversity

Samuel Mok, chief financial officer for the U.S. Department of Labor, far right, chats with Marshall team members at the start of the recent Asian Pacific American Heritage Month program. Joining Mok are, from left, Bettina Chwat, special assistant to Mok; Brenda Sands of Marshall and mistress of ceremony for the Marshall celebration; and Dr. Alan Chow of Marshall and chairman of the event. See more details and celebration photos on page 4.

Groundbreaking for Redstone, Marshall visitor center

Construction has begun on the new 3,000-square-foot visitor center just outside Rideout Road's Gate 9. The \$1.3 million center will streamline traffic going into Redstone Arsenal and provide a 24-hour central location for visitors.

The new center will offer visitor passes, vehicle inspections and badges. There will be a 50-car parking lot, a special through lane for entering the Arsenal and a turnaround area with a traffic light for exits.

While the Marshall Center will continue to issue badges at its Digney Road location, all badges for Redstone will be issued at the new facility. The facility should be completed by January 2005.



Photo by Doug Stoffer, Marshall Center

Breaking ground for the visitor center are from left, Jim Carter, director of Marshall's Center Operations Directorate; Lt. Col. Brad Scofield, Redstone Arsenal director of public safety; Owen Johnson, manager of the Marshall Protective Services Department; and Col. Bob Devlin, garrison commander.



Help identify Lunar Rover Vehicle participants in this Apollo 17 debriefing photo

Mike Wright, Marshall Center historian, wants help identifying members of the Lunar Roving Vehicle Team, shown here during a crew debriefing with Apollo 17 astronaut Gene Cernan, seated at the center of the table. Retired Marshall team member O.H. "Skeet" Vaughan, who brought this photo to Wright's attention, has identified some members. To help, go to the Marshall Center History Web site at <http://history.msfc.nasa.gov> for a high-resolution image of the photo, a list of those who have been identified, and instructions on how to identify the remaining team members.

Robotics

Continued from page 1

received identical packages of materials that included all parts and information needed to complete the robot.

The Marshall Education Programs Department sponsored seven student teams for this year: New Century Technology High School, Lee High School, and Madison County Career Academy, all in Huntsville; Austin High School in Decatur; Guntersville High School in Guntersville; Lincoln County High School in Fayetteville, Tenn.; and Arab High School in Arab. This was the fifth year that the department has sponsored Huntsville-area schools.

"Each year the competition becomes more exciting, but there is so much more than just the head-to-head rivalries," said Tammy Rowan, education specialist at the Marshall Center, who also served as a volunteer during the championship event in Atlanta in April. "The students get the chance to plan and build these robots from the ground up, using the math and science lessons they're getting in the classroom. And with robotics expected to play a major role in the Vision for Space Exploration, these students could play an

important part in returning to the Moon and exploring beyond." Announced in January 2004, the Vision for Space Exploration calls for humans to return to the Moon by 2020 as the launching point for missions beyond.

More than 20,000 students across the United States, Canada, Brazil and Great Britain, comprising 900 teams – including 197 teams sponsored by NASA – participated in the 2004 competition. Teams first competed in U.S. regional events held this spring. Nearly 300 teams from those regional competitions qualified to take part in the championship event.

This year's game – one-on-one contests called "Frenzy" – required each team to maneuver its robot in an enclosed obstacle course, fight with opposing teams over a limited number of beach balls, and place the balls in bins to accrue points. It was a challenge that brought out the competitive spirit in everyone.

"As a rookie team we were surprised at the level of competition of the other teams, but that helped raise our own level of expectations," said Jeannie Wallace, advisor and sponsor of the team from Guntersville High School.

Many Huntsville-area teams received accolades during regional events. In the St. Louis regional, Lincoln County High School received the Regional Chairman's Award – the highest regional award – for its exemplary effort in spreading the goals of FIRST. At the Columbia, S.C., regional, Guntersville High School was given the Entrepreneurship Award, recognizing the team with the best business strategy for managing resources and achieving goals. During the Duluth, Ga., regional, Arab High School received the Judge's Award for unique effort and performance; Austin High School received the Leadership in Control Award for innovative control systems; and New Century Technology High School was given the Autodesk, Inc., Visualization Award for excellence in animation that best illustrated the spirit of FIRST. Teams can apply to participate in any of the regional events.

Both Lincoln County High School and Arab High School performed well enough in their respective regional to join the championship field.

The writer, an employee of ASRI, supports the Media Relations Department.

Patricia Dedrick Lloyd named editor of Marshall Star, Daily Planet

Patricia Dedrick Lloyd, an employee of AI Signal Research Inc. (ASRI), takes over this week as editor of the Marshall Star.

Former Star editor Jonathan Baggs, an ASRI employee, will continue to support the Internal Relations and Communications Department as a historian assisting Marshall Historian Mike Wright.

Lloyd is a former reporter and editor with The Birmingham News, The Huntsville Times and Montgomery Advertiser. A journalism graduate of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, she has covered



Lloyd

state and federal government, courts and education.

She began her career as a reporter at The Huntsville Times and worked there for nearly seven years. She then worked for The Birmingham News where she covered

Birmingham City Hall. She served as the paper's Saturday editor and as its Capital Bureau Chief. She was business editor of the Montgomery Advertiser.

Most recently she was executive editor of the Birmingham View, an urban community and economic development magazine.

As editor of the Marshall Star, Lloyd also will be responsible for the Daily Planet.

Lloyd can be reached at 544-3749 or by e-mail at marshall.star@msfc.nasa.gov

Job Announcements

MS04S0138, Senior Executive Service, Associate Director, Office of the Director. ES-0301-01.06 (promotion potential to ES-6). Closes June 4. Contact: Diedra Williams at 544-5721.

MS04C0139, AST, Experimental Facilities Development. GS-0801-14, Center Operations Directorate, Facilities Engineering Department, Facilities

Operations and Maintenance Group. Competitive Placement Plan. Closes June 3. Contact: Dana Blaine, 544-7514.

MS04D0140, AST, Aerospace Materials, GS-0806-14, Space Shuttle Propulsion Office, External Tank Project, Michoud Assembly Facility. Delegated Examining Unit. Closes June 4. Contact Edwina Bressette, 544-8115.

MS04C0144, Supervisor, AST,

Materials Engineer, GS-0806-15, Engineering Directorate. Materials, Processes and Manufacturing Department, Metallic Materials and Processes Group. Competitive Placement Plan. Closes June 8. Contact: Debbie Longeddy, 544-2308

MS04C0145, Program Analyst, GS-0343-14, Science Directorate, Business Management Office. Competitive Placement Plan. Closes June 11. Contact: Debbie Longeddy, 544-2308.



Cotton Row runners take the heat

Marshall team members joined about 2,000 other runners in downtown Huntsville Memorial Day as they fought off rain and battled one another to complete the annual Mercedes Benz Cotton Row Run.

Marshall Center Director David King, No. 531, and Marshall team member Brian Matisak, No. 877, crossed the finish line with a time of 52.54. John Itati, No. 1, below, of Rayersford, Pa., finished first with a time of 29.47.



Photos by Doug Stoffer, NASA/Marshall Center

Marshall celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



Nerissa Santos, an administrative assistant with Marshall's Mainthia Corp., performs Mama Ro Ro, a traditional Polynesian dance during the 2004 Asian Pacific American Heritage celebration. Santos is a member of Hawaiian Fun Polynesian Dance Troupe and has been dancing about two years.



Samuel Mok, chief financial officer for the Department of Labor, joined Marshall team members and guests for the annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration May 26 at the Marshall Center. Mok, top right, spoke about cultural diversity in space exploration.

Guests sampled traditional cuisine from nearly a dozen Asian Pacific nations and joined in as dancers, dressed in their native garb, performed traditional dances.

This year's event was jointly organized by the Marshall Center, the U.S. Army at Redstone Arsenal, the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency and the Federal Asian Pacific American Council of Alabama.

Photos by Doug Stoffer, NASA/Marshall Center



Patrick Yim of the Boeing Co. performs "America the Beautiful" on his ukulele.



Vietnamese dance troupe entertains during the annual celebration. The dancers from left, Xa Rambo, Huong Vu and Kim Hengler, use wide-brim hats in their Moon Festival dance.

Announcements

Annual Marshall Retiree Dinner is Thursday, June 3

The 2004 annual Marshall Center Retirement Dinner will be Thursday at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville. The event begins with a social at 5:30 p.m. in the West Exhibit Hall followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and entertainment at 8 p.m. This year's theme is "Marshall's American Idol."

Transit of Venus Viewing Party set June 8 at Space Center

A party to view the planet Venus as it passes between the Earth and Sun for the first time since 1882 will be June 8 from 5:30-7:30 a.m. in the U.S. Space & Rocket Center west parking lot. Several experts will speak, including astronomer Bill Cooke. There is no cost but participants must register before Friday. To register, call 544-5812.

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin to speak at the Saturn-Apollo Reunion

A reunion of individuals who worked on the Saturn-Apollo Program will be 6-9 p.m. June 19 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's Rocket Park. Apollo 11 astronaut Dr. Buzz Aldrin will speak. The event will feature live music, food, traveling exhibits, and raffles. Admission is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. All proceeds will benefit the Saturn V Restoration Project. Tickets are available on Redstone Arsenal at the NASA Exchange and Redstone Recreation Center. For more information, call Marcia Lindstrom at 864-7833 or Hazel Crawford at 721-7101.

New procedures for Facilities Work Request in effect

In accordance with MPG 8812.1B, the Facilities Engineering Department will only accept a Facilities Work Request (Form 199) when authorized in writing at a group lead level or above. For more information, call Nell Clemmons at 544-7845 or see "Inside Marshall."

Free appraisals for aviation, space collectors at road show

Aurora Galleries International Appraisal Road Show, a public auction for aviation and space collectors, will offer free appraisals of aviation and space-age artifacts from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., June 17 and 18 at the U. S. Space & Rocket Center Astro Trek Building.

New form, address for NASA Safety Reporting System

NASA Headquarters has released a new form and mailing address for use with the NASA Safety Reporting System. The system is a way for Marshall and other Agency team members to report unsafe acts or concerns. New forms are available in various Marshall buildings. The new mailing address is NSRS, P.O. Box 5826, Bethesda, MD 20824. An electronic form is available at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/nsrs>. For more information, call Prince Kalia at 544-6871.

Training in A-Z Web-based ordering system begins June 7

Training begins June 7 for Management Support Assistants and others who use the A-Z Web-based ordering system. Sessions are scheduled in one-hour intervals starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m. in Bldg. 4200, Room G13E. Civic service and contractor personnel should register through the NORS System. For more information, call Jerry Miller at 544-7555.

Some NASA directives temporarily unavailable

Several NASA directives are temporarily unavailable from the NASA Online Directives Information System (NODIS) Library while they undergo editorial changes. These directives should be available again by June 5. Meanwhile, those who need access to one of the unavailable directives may download the redlined version at: http://nodisdms.gsfc.nasa.gov/dir_homepage/Revisions_A.cfm.

'I Am Set' mentors needed

Mentors are needed to work with high school students during a high-tech summer internship for the Individuals with Disabilities in Math, Science, Engineering & Technology (I Am Set) program scheduled for June 7-July 16. For more information, including location and times, call Dr. Barbara Cady, project director, at (256) 372-4041 or Madeline Hereford in the Marshall Center's Equal Opportunity Office at 544-7420.

Marshall Association scholarship applications due Friday

The Marshall Association is accepting applications for college scholarships until 4 p.m. Friday. A technical and non-technical scholarship will be awarded to incoming freshmen who are dependents of Marshall employees or retirees. Call Beth Cook at 544-2545 for an application. Completed applications must be returned to ED02/Roslin Hicks.

Redstone policy on cell phone use while driving reviewed

Redstone Arsenal officials and the Marshall Protective Services Department are considering a new policy that would address the use of cell phones or other electronic devices while driving a personal vehicle on the Arsenal. Once a policy has been approved, MSFC Protective Services will publish its details and explain how it would impact Marshall team members.

NASA, Marshall property disposal sales on Internet

Live auctions for NASA and Marshall Center property disposal sales now are conducted by Internet only. Go to <http://gsaauctions.gov/gsaauctions/gsaauctions/> and search by "State of Alabama" to find items for sale at Marshall and other federal agencies in the state. An average of one auction a week is held. For more information or assistance, call 544-1774.

Classified Ads

Miscellaneous

- ★ Tiara, Avon, Cape Cod collectibles, baskets, Peach Sandwich and lots more, \$40 and up. 256-353-5861
- ★ GE Down Draft surface unit, 2-burner w/grill, \$100. 722-2821
- ★ Metal bunk bed, full bottom & twin top w/quality mattresses, \$250. 864-2735
- ★ Pro-Form 700 CardioCross trainer, purchased in 2003, \$250. 355-9651
- ★ Schwinn youth mountain bike, 12", \$60; Schwinn Caliente ladies bike, \$35; kid's bike, \$15. 256-498-5575
- ★ Tice & Watts recurve bow, 55# @ 28 draw, \$150; Savage bolt-action rifle, .222 caliber, w/scope, \$200. 883-0795
- ★ Black drafting table, 42"x30" w/matching adjustable swivel chair, \$40. 256-922-0948
- ★ Childcraft Cherry crib/toddler bed, mattress, pad, sheet, bumper pads, comforter, changing table, \$350. 883-1874
- ★ Color TV, 19", \$20; TV stand, \$15; drafting table, 30"x48", \$40. 971-1414
- ★ RCA TV, 27", flat screen, stereo sound, \$50. 650-5128
- ★ Twin bed w/Maple headboard, \$100. 828-5805
- ★ 1998 SeaArk fishing boat, 18' modified vee, 40hp Evinrude, trolling motor, \$3,500. 883-6446
- ★ Pine queen pier group bed w/mattress & box springs, \$250; 1960's console stereo, \$175. 534-3393
- ★ Kodak DC210 digital camera, 1160x872, flash, 24-bit color, case, cables, & software, \$100. 864-9468/Joe
- ★ Fender Standard Stratocaster, maple neck & fingerboard, deep blue finish, \$250. 325-8377
- ★ Solid pine, dark Cherry stain, cannonball queen poster bed, headboard, footboard & rails, \$150. 464-0337
- ★ Maytag washer, \$85; Kenmore dryer, \$90; Westinghouse refrigerator, ice-maker, self-defrost, 18 cu ft., \$130. 837-6649
- ★ 1977 Avion travel trailer, 27', \$3,800. 931-427-2059
- ★ Huntsville Stars baseball tickets, assorted dates, Section M, first base side, 2-seats. 828-4758
- ★ Roller blades, ABEC3 Hybrid v-3 Ultra composite, 72mm ultra-wheels, w/elbow & knee pads, \$95. 430-6897
- ★ Clothes washer, \$50; dryer, \$50; refrigerator, 8-

- years old, 21 cu. ft., \$250. 650-5128
- ★ Playmobile pirate ship w/accessories, \$40. 721-9005
- ★ Wedding gown w/train & veil, size 6, \$90; green Naugahyde recliner, \$30. 881-8674
- ★ English "Blue Ribbon" saddle, stirrup leathers & irons, Aztec design pad, cover, saddle cleaner, \$550. 882-1862
- ★ Refrigerator, \$100; kitchen table/chairs, \$60; patio table/chairs, \$15; twin bed, \$25; foosball table, \$100. 256-864-2337
- ★ Dive suites, long/short, X-large, flippers, boots, \$175. 256-773-5051

Vehicles

- ★ 1999 Chevrolet Suburban LT, 4x4, white w/tan leather, rear heat/ac, 91K miles, CD/cassette, \$13,500. 256-431-3551
- ★ 1998 Chevrolet pickup, 350/4-barrel, trailering special suspension transmission, \$600. 227-0339/Dave
- ★ 1988 Chevy extended cab LWB pickup, red, 175k miles, v8, automatic. Make offer. 256-683-2209
- ★ 2001 Hyundai Sonata GLS, v6, 50k miles, leather, power windows, doors, seat, mirrors, \$11,000. 883-9436
- ★ 1991 Honda Accord LX, 5-speed, 240k miles, 2nd owner, all records, \$2,200. 837-4464
- ★ 2001 Polaris 500 Sportsman 4-wheeler, 4x4, dark green, automatic, \$3,500. 389-8818
- ★ 1995 Geo Metro, red, 3-cycle, 5-speed, a/c, 40mpg, \$1,200. 256-572-3574
- ★ 2002 Nissan Altima, silver, 4-door, <47k miles, automatic. 426-3870
- ★ 1996 Ford Explorer XLT, 4-door, v6, auto, 4wd, 134k miles, loaded, \$5,500. 489-3624
- ★ 1991 Mercedes 300E, white, automatic, \$5,900. 895-6900
- ★ 2001 Toyota Corolla S, black, automatic, all-power, a/c, 97k miles, 39mpg hwy, \$8,200. 256-426-2516
- ★ 1999 Buick Century, 26k miles, dark green, cloth seats, auto, v6. Make offer. 828-4758
- ★ 2001 Dodge Ram 1500 Sport, quad-cab, 4x4, all-power, step/bed rails, bedliner, towing pkg., \$15,000. 859-0729
- ★ 2000 RV travel trailer, 22', awning, stove, table, microwave, bath w/shower, AC/heat, sleeps 6, \$7,500. 881-8674

- ★ 1965 Chevrolet pickup, stepside, 350/v8, at/ps/pdb, \$3,500. 256-565-9806/Decatur
- ★ 2000 Ford Contour, auto, pb/pw/ps, cruise, 81K miles. 256-746-8289
- ★ 2002 Winnebago Adventurer, 35', A-Class RV, Ford/V10, 2-slide outs, warranty, \$85,000. 256-520-0816
- ★ Gulfstream, 36', 24k miles, generator, hydraulic jacks, tv/vcr, camera, awning, heat/ac, bath, kitchen, \$45,000. 256-931-0177

Wanted

- ★ Ride to work, near Huntsville Hospital, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., \$7 per day. 533-6980
- ★ Dual axle utility trailer. 746-9443
- ★ Used French horn in good condition. 256-828-5840 after 6 p.m.
- ★ Basic ammo reloading equipment. 256-650-5427

Lost

- ★ Silver elephant ring, Thursday, May 20, afternoon, likely Bldg. 4610. 256-881-6311

Found

- ★ Silver pendant in East Parking Lot, Bldg. 4200. Call Terri at 544-5959 to identify/claim
- ★ Handheld walkie/talkie, sun glasses, & prescription glasses. Call 544-3623 to identify/claim

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