



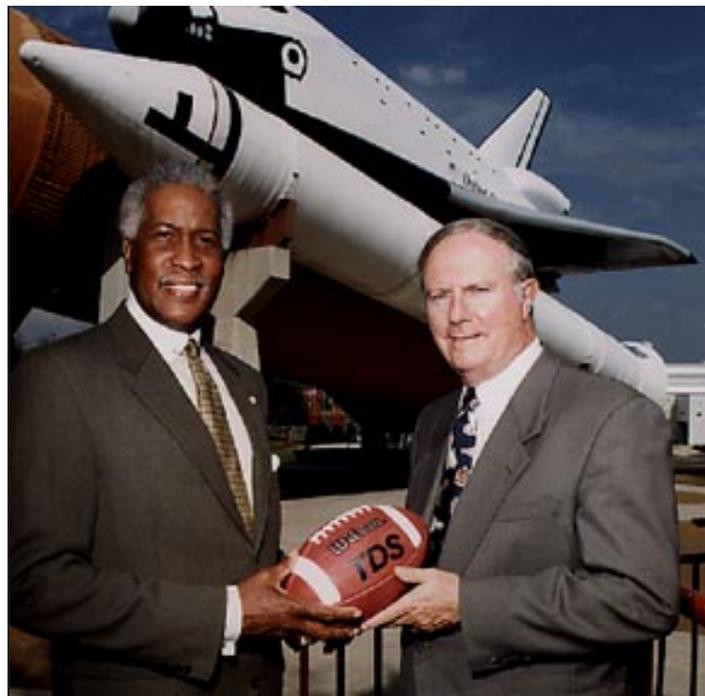
## Solid Rocket Motor Team Receives Award from EPA

The Environmental Protection Agency has ranked NASA's Space Shuttle Reusable Solid Rocket Motor team on its "best-of-the-best" list for efforts to protect the stratospheric ozone. Team members from the Marshall Center and Thiokol Corporation of Ogden, Utah, recently accepted the award at ceremonies in Montreal.

Since 1990, 320 companies, organizations and individuals from 25 countries have earned the EPA's annual Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award. The Marshall-Thiokol team received the EPA annual award in 1993 for its commitment to eliminate ozone-depleting substances.

The EPA's Best-of-the-Best awards recognize annual winners who have demonstrated the most exceptional commitment to environmental stewardship through precedent-setting innovation and international leadership, according to EPA. The Marshall-managed Reusable Solid Rocket Motor project is one of 71 Best-

*continued on page 3*



Marshall Center will join Alabama A&M University and Tuskegee University in their spirited tradition on the gridiron Sat., Nov. 8, at 1:30 p.m. at Alabama A&M Stadium. Off the field, several thousand visiting high school seniors from Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia will participate in NASA Day, sponsored by Marshall Center — an effort to recruit future members of the Marshall Team by encouraging careers in math, science, engineering and technology. Alabama A&M President Dr. John Gibson, left, and Center Director Dr. Wayne Littles will help tell Marshall's story on game day. **Photo by Dennis Keim**

## Center Director Littles to Retire From NASA Jan. 3

Marshall Center Director Dr. Wayne Littles announced Monday morning that he has advised NASA Associate Administrator for Space Flight Wil Trafton and NASA Administrator Dan Goldin of his plans to retire on Jan. 3, 1998.



**Dr. Wayne Littles**

He indicated that no decision has been made as to who will replace him.

Dr. Littles joined NASA and the Marshall Center in 1967 and has served as director of the Center's Science and Engineering Directorate, Center Deputy Director, NASA Chief Engineer and NASA Associate Administrator for the Office of Space Flight. He became director of the Center in February 1996.

Among his numerous awards, Dr. Littles was twice awarded the Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executive, most recently by President Clinton earlier this year.

He called his decision to retire "the toughest decision of my professional career," but indicated it is "the right time."

## Employee Update Scheduled for Nov. 13

An Employee Information Update will be held on Nov. 13 at 9 a.m. in Morris Auditorium. Employees are encouraged to attend the Update or view it on Center closed circuit television.

# ISO 9000 Preassessment Prepares Center for 'Real Thing'

Registrars from National Quality Assurance in Stamford, Conn., completed their ISO 9000 preassessment audit at the Marshall Center last Friday. The audit was intended to help the Center prepare for certification in ISO 9000, the quality management system of the International Organization for Standards.

Lead Registrar Lee Bravener, said that conducting a preassessment is beneficial in at least two ways: as an informative device and by reducing anxiety levels.

"The preassessment gives an opportunity for both the registrars and employees of the Center to see how the other party operates," explained Bravener. "With a mature and complex center such as Marshall, we must remember that simplicity may be the rule."

The preassessment is a key part of Marshall's preparation for the full-up ISO 9000 audit in February.

"The difference between this time and the 'real thing'," Bravener noted, "is that this time major issues can be corrected and we can give recommendations or conclusions. In February, we will not."

Marshall Associate Director (Technical) Bob Schwinghamer



Registrars from National Quality Assurance examine results from the ISO 9000 preassessment audit with Marshall Associate Director (Technical) Bob Schwinghamer. Shown from left are Keith Thorson, Lee Bravener, Mark Stevens, Schwinghamer and Jim Dozier. Photo by Jack Ray

echoed Bravener's comments by saying that the visit was beneficial for the Center.

"The preassessment audit did what it was supposed to do," said Schwinghamer. "It allows us to correct deficiencies before February. No stone will be left unturned," he added.

## Decatur Students Say 'Gracias'

Elementary students from Decatur and spanish club students from Decatur High School recently toured the Marshall Center in conjunction with Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

Hispanic Coordinator Alicia Beam received letters from the students indicating how they enjoyed their visit.

Following are excerpts from some of the letters, some of which were written in English and some in Spanish.

- *On behalf of all the people at Decatur High I would like to thank you for all the work you did to allow us to come and visit you at Marshall Space Flight Center. The students really enjoyed the trip and are looking forward to hopefully coming again one day. —Carla Terry, Decatur High School*

- *Estoy muy agradecida porque nos dio la oportunidad, a todos los del club internacional, de ver de lo que consiste parte de NASA. —Patricia Gonzalez*

- *I want to thank all the people who invited us to Hispanic Day. I learned things that I did not know and you helped me understand how important NASA is to all of us. —Estella Solis*



Bill Nye, creator and host of the television show "Bill Nye the Science Guy," visited the Center last week to tape segments for an upcoming program. Nye is shown in the Solar Vector Magnetograph. Photo by Dennis Olive

# Employee CFC Gifts Reach \$378,651 After Fourth Week

The Marshall Center's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has passed its fourth week with employees contributing \$378,651 to charitable organizations. The 1997 campaign average gift at this time is \$188, compared to \$164 at the same time during last year's campaign.

"We are down to the last two weeks and so far the campaign is going great," said CFC Executive Chairperson Steve Gaddis. "Participation is up and the dollar amount per person is up.

"To those who have already given, thank you," added Gaddis. "For those who have not made up their mind, there is still time to make that donation. Please remember, every contribution makes a big difference."

The CFC financial manager reported at the end of the fourth week, 24 additional Center offices had 100 percent of their employees participating in the campaign.

Those offices are: AI01, CA20, CM01, CN01, CN51, CO01, CR75, CR85, CR90, DA01, DE01, EH11, EL61, EP01, GP24, GP30, JA51, MG30, PA01, PP03, PS05, RA02, RA10 and TA11.



Miria Finckenor, co-investigator for the Passive Optical Sample Assembly (POSA-1), inspects the POSA-1 for micrometeoroid and space debris impacts. POSA-1, a Phase I risk mitigation experiment for the International Space Station, was retrieved during STS-86 after 18 months of space exposure.

Photo by Emmett Given

## Abstracts Due by Nov. 14 for Environmental Conference

NASA, the Marshall Center, the University of Alabama in Huntsville and others are sponsoring the third conference on Aerospace Environmental Technology June 1-3, 1998, at the Von Braun Center. The general chairperson for the conference will be Marshall Associate Director (Technical) Bob Schwinghamer.

The conference is unclassified and prospective speakers are invited to submit unclassified English language abstracts, not to exceed one page, no later than Nov. 14. Abstracts should be sent to Tammy Townsend, EH42, or faxed to 4-5877.

## What CFC Means to Me...



"What CFC really means to me is the opportunity to volunteer on my own time to help others, especially children, who are so willing to learn and to improve themselves. I volunteer as a big brother in the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Program of North Alabama. My little brother, James, and I have been together for six years and four months... He is now an exuberant, inquisitive and cheerful fellow, who at 12 years of age, is rapidly becoming a young man."  
Paul Luz, PD22

## Environmental Award

from page 1

of-the-Best champions honored this year for outstanding contributions to protect the Earth's stratospheric ozone layer — which shields the Earth from ultraviolet radiation harmful to life.

"We've put substantial effort into dramatically changing the way we clean, preserve and transport the Space Shuttle reusable solid rocket motors to make the processes and materials we use environmentally friendly," said Marshall's Keith Henson, manager of the Reusable Solid Rocket Motor project.

EPA credits the team's cumulative efforts with reducing Thiokol's total consumption of methyl chloroform — an industrial solvent consisting of carbon, hydrogen and chlorine — from 1.4 million pounds in 1989 to about 160,000 pounds in 1997. EPA also praised the NASA team for sharing its information with other agencies, programs and industry organizations to further accelerate the global phaseout of ozone-depleting substances, such as methyl chloroform.

The Best-of-the-Best awards were presented on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol — an international treaty governing the protection of the stratospheric ozone.

## Decision-Making Workshop Set

The Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) Center will hold a Career Decision-Making Workshop Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon in Building 4200, Room G-13. The class is open to civil service employees, retirees and their families. For more information call 961-1354.

## Employee Ads

### Miscellaneous

- ★ Solid wood dresser \$300. Moving, other furniture available. 539-6114
- ★ Snap-on tool box, rolling cabinet. 837-0085
- ★ HP model 683 Color Inkjet printer works with Windows 3.1 & 95 \$175. 881-0551
- ★ Besson cornet \$120; Conn trumpet \$300; Buescher trumpet \$50; Besson trombone \$225. 880-8134
- ★ Lawn sweep for riding mower, 38" wide \$150; Kenmore washer and dryer \$200 each. 539-6114
- ★ GE Refrigerator, almond, 23 cu.ft., approx. 7 years old \$350. 539-3858
- ★ Sofa light brown, corduroy, loose back pillows, informal, \$95. 883-2757
- ★ Curtains, 8 panels blue stripe, pinch pleated, lined, 21" x 40" \$8 per panel. 882-6832
- ★ Antique oak table (4ft. diameter) and 4 chairs; Maytag washer & dryer, almond \$300. 757-8143
- ★ Amana upright freezer, 17 cu.ft., almond \$275. 880-9025

### Vehicles

- ★ 1991 Ford Explorer XLT, \$7,000 o.b.o. 859-4156
- ★ 1987 Chevy Blazer, automatic, all power \$3,995. 880-7204
- ★ 1996 Ford Explorer XLT, 4-dr., 2WD, leather, sunroof, 15K miles \$22,000. 837-1885
- ★ 1989 4 x 4 Dodge Power Ram, new engine, 6,000 miles, warranty, 69K original miles \$4,500. 223-1119
- ★ 1989 Ford Starcraft van, customized, 7 passenger, 31K miles, garaged, new tires, alarm \$12,000. 533-5673
- ★ 1995 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited Edition, white, 6-cyl., 2-WD, leather, full power, 39K miles. 586-2304

### Wanted

- ☞ 24-pin dot matrix printer or cheap laser printer. 837-0085
- ☞ Freezer, chest or upright. 830-8956
- ☞ Motorized treadmill with incline. 880-6197

### Found

- ☞ Ladies watch found in parking lot of Bldg. 4201 south, call 4-4758 to identify.

## Center Announcements

- ★ **Toastmasters International** — Toastmasters will meet Nov. 5 at 11:30 a.m. in bldg. 4610 cafeteria conference room.
- ★ **MARS Dance Club** — The MARS Ballroom Dance Club will offer Foxtrot and Tango lessons (\$8 per person) from 7 to 8 p.m. Nov. 3, 10, 17, and 24. The classes will be held in the Parish Hall of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church at 8020 Whitesburg Drive. These lessons are available to club members and their partners/guests. For more info. call Pat Sage at 544-5427.
- ★ **Stop Abuse** — Aware of waste, fraud or abuse? Telephonically contact the MSFC Office of Inspector General at 544-9188 or send complaints to Mail Stop M-DI. Confidentiality will be maintained.
- ★ **Annual Nut Sale** — MSFC is offering the opportunity for Marshall employees, retirees, and on-site contractors to purchase pecans (fancy mammoth halves), for \$4.85 for the 16 oz. bag; chocolate-covered pecans for \$6.75 per lb.; hickory smoked almonds for \$3.90 per lb.; roasted, salted (in shell) natural pistachios for \$3.45 per lb.; natural, whole almonds for \$3.90 per lb.; English walnuts for \$4.40 per lb.; jumbo raw peanuts for \$1.75 per lb.; honey roasted almonds for \$3.90 per lb. and dry roasted cashews at \$5.40 per lb. They will go on sale weekdays from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. beginning Nov. 21 in the MSFC Activities Building (4752) on a first-come/first-served basis.
- ★ **American Education Week** — MSFC employees who are involved in providing on-going support to the educational community are invited by the Center to a recognition ceremony and reception in their honor on Nov. 19. The reception will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the south end of Bldg. 4755. Employees who serve the educational community and can attend the reception may confirm their attendance by e-mail to the Education Program Office at the following address: tammy-rowan@msfc.nasa.gov.
- ★ **FEHB** — The 1998 Federal Employee Health Benefits open season health fair is scheduled for Nov. 3 in Bldg. 4203, Rm. 1201 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The FEHB open season will be Nov. 11 thru Dec. 8. Comparison charts and brochures will be available through your administrative office starting approximately the first week in November.
- ★ **NCMA** — The Huntsville Chapter of the National Contract Management Association will hold a luncheon on Nov. 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sheraton Four Points located at the Huntsville Airport. Rep. Bud Cramer, congressmen from the 5th District of Alabama, will be the speaker. Registration begins at 11:15 a.m. and luncheon will be served at 11:30. Cost is \$10 for members and \$12 for guests. For reservations call 533-3954 by Nov. 17.

# MARSHALL STAR

Marshall Space Flight Center, Alabama 35812

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