



MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Nov. 29, 2007

Marshall employees take time to help others during CFC

By Megan Norris

In the spirit of "Give Today, Change Tomorrow," this year's Combined Federal Campaign theme, more than 350 Marshall civil service and contractor employees volunteered for the CFC "Community Service Days."

Community Service Days, a major component of the government's annual goodwill drive to benefit charitable organizations, encourage volunteerism for community projects over a five-week period.

Rosalind Cylar, an attorney in Marshall's Office of the Chief Counsel and a first-time volunteer for the campaign, recently spent several hours at the Downtown Rescue Mission with a few co-workers sorting and hanging up donated clothing. The mission — one of the charities that benefits from CFC donations — provides food, shelter and other necessities for men, women and children in the Huntsville area.

"Volunteering was such a learning experience for me," Cylar said. "I not only learned a great deal about the Downtown Rescue

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Marshall successfully completes ISO audit

By Jessica Wallace

The Marshall Center has successfully completed a surveillance audit conducted by National Quality Assurance (NQA), USA, a world-renowned registrar providing registration to a wide variety of quality management system standards and environmental system standards.

As a result, NQA has recommended recertification for the center's Quality Management System, ISO 9001:2000 and AS9100B, and Environmental Management System, ISO 14001:2004.

"This audit demonstrates the keen awareness and dedication of the Marshall workforce to quality performance standards," said Marshall Center Associate Director Robin Henderson, Marshall's ISO 9000 management representative. "Audit reports cited the professional and cooperative attitude of center personnel. I appreciate everyone's efforts in making sure we fully satisfy our customers' requirements by producing the highest-quality work."

Get on the bus



Irene Taylor, left, executive chairperson for Marshall's 2007 Combined Federal Campaign, leads a group from Marshall on one of numerous bus tours to visit local charitable organizations this fall. The annual tours give team members a chance to see the practical benefits of their CFC donations, and gain insight into the valuable community services provided by these nonprofit charitable businesses.

David Higginbotham/MSFC

Adopted by the International Organization for Standardization, ISO is a set of international standards and guidelines for an effective quality system. Meeting these standards supports Marshall's policy to provide quality products and services to customers and partners through the NASA values of safety, teamwork, integrity and mission success.

The audit focused on Marshall's implementation of the systems and covered core elements including objectives, customer satisfaction, improvement and management review. There were no major findings and only a few minor noncompliances reported.

The next surveillance audit is scheduled for May 2008. For more information on Marshall's ISO 9000 policy, visit "Inside Marshall" at <http://inside.msfc.nasa.gov/> and click on the "ISO 9000" link.

The writer, an ASRI employee and Marshall Star editor, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.

3 Marshall Center managers receive Presidential Rank Awards

By Sanda Martel, Lori Meggs and Rita Roberts

Three Marshall Center leaders were recently awarded the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executives, one of the highest honors given to federal employees.

President George W. Bush recognized Pamela Cucarola, Marshall Center chief financial officer; Dan Dumbacher, director of the Engineering Directorate; and Jody Singer, deputy manager of the Shuttle Propulsion Office, with the award. They are three of only 26 NASA employees in the Senior Executive Service — the personnel system covering top managerial positions in approximately 75 federal agencies — to be selected for the honor nationwide.

The Presidential Rank Award is presented annually to a select group of senior federal executives for outstanding leadership and service in some of the most critical positions in federal government. Executives who have consistently demonstrated strength, integrity and commitment to public service in their careers are nominated for the award by members of their agency. A board of private citizens reviews nominees' applications and only a select few are referred to the president for approval.

Cucarola leads an office responsible for managing an annual budget of approximately \$2.6 billion, and is responsible for development, implementation and administration of integrated resources management at the Marshall Center.



Pamela Cucarola

Cucarola joined NASA as an operating accountant at the Marshall Center in 1982. She has held a number of managerial and leadership positions at Marshall including chief of the Financial Systems Division from 1992 to 1997, chief of the Systems Processes Office from 1997 to 2000, manager of the Integrated Financial Management Program's Core Financial Project Office from 2000 to 2002, and manager of the program's Administrative Systems Implementation Projects Office from 2002 to 2005. Before her current position at Marshall, she served from 2005 to 2007 as deputy director of the Budget Office in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

Dumbacher leads an organization of 1,400 civil service personnel and 1,200 support contractors responsible for the design, test, evaluation and operation of hardware and software associated with space transportation, spacecraft systems and science instruments, along with payloads under development at the Marshall Center. The Engineering Directorate also manages NASA's Payload Operations Center — the command post for scientific research activities on board the International Space Station.

From September 2005 to May 2007, he was deputy manager of the Exploration Launch Projects Office. Prior to that, Dumbacher was deputy director for product assurance in the Safety and Mission

Assurance Office at Marshall. He also served from 2003 to 2004 as manager of Marshall's X-37 Flight Demonstrator Project Office. From 1994 to 2003, Dumbacher served in a variety of Marshall leadership positions related to advanced space transportation research and technology development. His positions included manager of the Delta Clipper-Experimental Advanced Flight Vehicle Project; deputy manager of the X-33 Program; manager of the Structures, Mechanics and Thermal Department; manager of the Space Launch Initiative's 2nd Generation Reusable Launch Vehicle Program; and deputy manager of the Orbital Space Plane Program.



Dan Dumbacher

Dumbacher, who joined NASA in 1979, also has served in Marshall's Propulsion Laboratory, responsible for space shuttle main engine systems analysis; the Space Shuttle Main Engine Chief Engineer's Office; the Space Shuttle Main Engine Project Office, where he was assistant project manager; and at NASA Headquarters in Washington as the Space Shuttle Main Engine Program representative.

Singer was appointed as deputy manager of the Shuttle Propulsion Office in October 2007, helping lead the organization responsible for the manufacture, assembly and operation of the primary space shuttle propulsion elements: the main engines, external tank and solid rocket boosters with their reusable solid rocket motors.

Singer served as manager of the Reusable Solid Rocket Booster Project Office at Marshall from 2002 until assuming her current position, where she oversaw the work of several hundred NASA and contractor engineers and technicians responsible for the flight safety, performance and hardware integrity of the shuttle's reusable solid rocket motor and booster hardware. She also was responsible for ensuring the safety and viability of the program through the critical ground test program.

From 2000 to 2002, she served as assistant manager of the Shuttle Propulsion Office and from 1990 to 2002, held various positions in the External Tank Project Office, including deputy manager from 1998 to 2000, project assistant manager from 1996 to 1998, and business manager from 1990 to 1996. From 1986 to 1990, she worked as an engineer in the Space Shuttle Main Engine Project Office, responsible for tracking and evaluating contractor hardware deliveries. Singer joined NASA in 1985 as an engineer in the professional intern program.

The writers, ASRI employees, support the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.

THE FACE OF MISSION SUCCESS IS:

Markeeva Morgan

*Team lead for continuous risk management and independent assessments
in the Mission Systems Assurance and Technical Support Department
of Marshall's Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate*

Since joining the Marshall Center in April, Markeeva Morgan quickly picked up on the can-do attitude of the center's employees: The Marshall workforce will get the job done — no matter what. As team lead for continuous risk management and independent assessments in the Mission Systems Assurance and Technical Support Department of Marshall's Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate, Morgan has joined with the rest of the center in accomplishing Marshall's mission.

What is your education background?

I received a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Mississippi in Oxford in 2001. I received my Master of Science degree in engineering management from the Catholic University of America in Washington in 2006. I also received a certificate in nuclear reactor design from the Bettis Reactor Engineering School in Pittsburgh, Pa.

What are the key responsibilities of your job?

My team has two major areas of responsibility. The first is performance of independent assessments of select issues related to the mission assurance of all programs and projects managed at Marshall. For example, we participate in all space shuttle meetings in preparation for the Flight Readiness Review, specifically the pre-flight assessments and the safety and mission success review. We also serve as independent reviewers in program/project milestone reviews. Our second major responsibility is providing continuous risk management expertise to the center. We assist in the implementation of continuous risk management processes in all programs and projects at the center.

We provide training and assistance to Marshall employees by holding meetings such as hands-on workshops, combining the

theory of continuous risk management with its application in particular projects. We're also in the process of assisting the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications in its development of a center- or institutional-focused continuous risk management process. Traditionally, continuous risk management has been a program or project activity.

The center also has risks associated with its ability to execute its function, so we're setting up this center-focused risk management process right now.

What services does your job provide in support of the center's mission?

We provide an independently funded team — one that is available to the entire center, offering a fresh set of eyes on any particular issue, whether it's dealing with hardware, software or processes. We're funded from Headquarters to specifically provide a fresh perspective. If a decisionmaker would just like a quiet, independent back-check, we are a free service. We're completely separate from programs and projects and,

to some extent, from the rest of the Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate. It is our responsibility to provide pointers and say, "You may want to think about this," or "We've looked at this, and we think what you're doing is great." This service provides another level of assurance that Marshall continues its tradition of developing great products that are safe and sustainable, that challenge the boundaries of existing engineering and scientific knowledge, and that stretch the human reach farther into space.

On the continuous risk management side, we support the center's mission by providing a nucleus of expertise from which all programs and projects can benefit. We teach center personnel how to recognize risks and differentiate risks from problems, how to effectively communicate risks, and how to develop and execute good mitigation plans. All of that support helps program and center



Markeeva Morgan

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Marshall's Payload Operations Center

Gearing up for arrival of European laboratory on space station

By Lori Meggs

It's still a couple of weeks away, but the arrival of the European Space Agency's laboratory module — Columbus — on the International Space Station brings a whole new manifest of activities for the Marshall Center's Payload Operations Center.

There are new science activities to coordinate and a brand new team to work with at the control center near Munich, Germany.

Columbus — targeted for launch on the STS-122 mission in December — can accommodate up to 10 racks of experiments, with each rack approximately the size of a phone booth. It also can hold four external experiments. Once the laboratory is attached to the orbiting space station, five of these rack locations and two external sites will be used by NASA. Each location provides independent controls for power and cooling, along with communication links to Earth-bound controllers and researchers.

The control center for the Columbus laboratory is located near Munich in Oberpfaffenhofen. Recently, a Marshall team participated there in a space station simulation, or practice run, as if the module were already attached to the station.

"Our team members sat in on the simulation to observe how their counterparts in the Columbus Control Center do business," said Mike Fawcett, chief of the Planning, Operations and Analysis Branch in Marshall's Mission Operations Laboratory. "We were looking for areas where we might need to modify our processes to ensure efficient

operations between the two control centers."

Kevin Kasperitis, one of the Marshall team members who attended the simulation in Germany, knows the importance of these face-to-face meetings.

"This was a good opportunity for us to see and understand their processes, and everything we saw shows they are ready to go," said Kasperitis, an operations controller in Marshall's Payload

Operations Center, who maintains the daily schedule of science activities and work assignments for the station crew. "Several of our ESA counterparts also came to Huntsville during the past year to see how we operate, and I think knowing we're all on the same page is really going to pay off when we



From left, Tim Hanby and Mark Roberts, data management coordinators at Marshall's Payload Operations Center, alongside their European counterpart, Fabrice Scheid, monitor the International Space Station simulation in the Columbus Control Center in Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany.

begin working together full time."

A Marshall payload operations team just returned from a similar trip to Japan, working with their Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency counterparts at the Space Station Operations Facility at Tsukuba Space Center in Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan, just north of Tokyo. This is the control center for the Japanese Experiment Module, Kibo, scheduled to launch to the station in 2008.

"We've been defining our payload processes and procedures with ESA for several years," added Fawcett. "Everybody's excited that it's all coming together successfully, and we're finally getting to use them."

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.



Kevin Kasperitis, left, an operations controller at Marshall's Payload Operations Center, reviews procedures with ESA operations controller Robert Rehm in the Columbus Control Center.

STS-126 ships from Michoud Assembly Facility



Space shuttle external tank ET-126 rolls out on Nov. 25 from the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, where it was loaded onto the Pegasus barge for a six-day sea journey to the Kennedy Space Center, Fla. There the tank will be mated to solid rocket boosters and the Endeavour orbiter for shuttle mission STS-123, targeted for launch in February. Lockheed Martin contract workers at Michoud were lauded by NASA Administrator Mike Griffin in his Thanksgiving message to NASA employees for their dedicated work on shuttle external tanks, including their effort to complete processing and shipment of ET-126.

Lockheed Martin

NASA launches 2007-2008 Student Launch Initiative

18 rocketry teams named

Eighteen middle and high school teams across 12 states will fly high, with the Marshall Center's help, in the 2007-2008 Student Launch Initiative rocketeering challenge.

Founded in 2001 to inspire young people to pursue careers in science, engineering, math and technology, the Student Launch Initiative provides hands-on, practical experience in managing aerospace and engineering projects similar to those found in a professional environment.

Guided by Marshall Center engineers and their own science and math teachers, participating teams will spend eight months designing, building and launching rockets with working science payloads and a goal of

flying to an altitude of one mile.

"We're extremely thrilled to welcome, and welcome back, so many stellar teams for this year's challenge," said Tammy Rowan, assistant manager of the Marshall Center's Academic Affairs Office. "Nowhere is the enthusiasm and ingenuity needed to achieve NASA's goals more evident than among our Student Launch Initiative rocketeers."

New participants this year include teams from W.G. Enloe High School in Raleigh, N.C.; Frenship High School in Wolforth, Texas; Krueger Middle School in San Antonio, Texas; Washington County 4-H of Slinger, Wis.; Seabrook Intermediate School in Seabrook, Texas; Millington High School in Millington, Mich.; Stone Middle School in Huntsville, Ala.; two teams from Plantation High School in Plantation, Fla.; and Madison West High School in Madison, Wis.

Returning student teams selected to

participate in the 2007 challenge include Benson High School in Omaha, Neb.; Lloyd C. Bird High School in Chesterfield, Va.; St. Andrew's Lutheran School in Park Ridge, Ill.; Statesville Christian School in Statesville, N.C.; Byron Middle School in Byron, Ill.; Weare Middle School in Dunbarton, N.H.; West Point-Beemer High School in West Point, Neb.; and Yough High School in Herminie, Pa.

Student teams are eligible to participate for up to two years. Schools may field more than one team. Each new team receives a \$2,500 grant and a travel stipend from NASA, and each returning team receives a \$1,250 grant.

The 2007-2008 challenge will conclude with a final rocket launch in the Huntsville area in April 2008. For more information about the Student Launch Initiative, visit <http://education.msfc.nasa.gov/sli>.

34 selected for Space Flight Awareness honors

Thirty-four Marshall Center employees and contractors are being honored for their significant contributions to the space program. The honorees are attending a special recognition event in Orlando,

Fla., on Dec. 3-7. There will be an awards ceremony in their honor, and they will tour Kennedy Space Center and view the launch of STS-122, targeted for Dec. 6.



Judy L. Ballance
Engineering Directorate



Thea C. Baskerville-Brown
*Science & Mission
Systems Office*



Lucille A. Boger
*Office of Center
Operations*



Sigrid R. Burge
*Office of the Chief
Financial Officer*



Dee Chapman
*Bastion Technologies
Inc.*



Rickey A. Clements
*Safety & Mission
Assurance Directorate*



Robert F. Colbert
*Jacobs Engineering,
ESTS Group*



Richard A. Cooper
Engineering Directorate



Harry B. Craig
Office of Procurement



Susan Davis
*Shuttle Propulsion
Office*



Darryl L. Ford
*EG&G Technical
Services Inc.*



Valeta Glover
*Teledyne Brown
Engineering*



Thom Holden
Office of Human Capital



John H. Howell
Ares Projects Office



Peggy Hueter
Engineering Directorate



Yetta H. Jones
*Jacobs Engineering,
ESTS Group*



Robert H. Kirchmyer
Engineering Directorate



Stephanie Lacy-Conerly
*Shuttle Propulsion
Office*



Lea Allison Lee
Engineering Directorate



Sherry Martin
SAIC

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Space Flight Awareness

NASA

Marshall Space Flight Center

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James J. McGroary
Office of the Chief Counsel



Geoffrey F. Morris
Teledyne Brown Engineering



Debra Mynatt
A-Z Office Resource



Danny H. Osborne
Engineering Directorate



Patricia K. Puckett
Science & Mission Systems Office



Patricia A. Ragland
COLSA



Matthew N. Ramsey
Willbrook Solutions Inc.



Sherri Smith
ASRI



Jeffrey L. Spencer
Shuttle Propulsion Office



Gregory R. Swanson
Engineering Directorate



Holly Wales
COLSA



William K. Ward
Engineering Directorate



Anita G. Webster
Office of the Chief Information Officer



Mark Young
ERC Inc.

Executive conference highlights NASA's exploration goals



At a recent executive conference, Dr. Rajiv Doreswamy, project integration manager of the Ares Projects Office at the Marshall Center, discusses NASA's future exploration goals. Sponsored by the Alabama Power Company, the Point Clear, Ala., event brought together nearly 200 executives from Alabama's top industrial organizations. Through Doreswamy's presentation, these industry leaders learned more about NASA's Constellation Program, with its mission to explore the moon and beyond — and heard how team members at Marshall are working to develop the Ares launch vehicles that will help take us there.

Photo courtesy of Southern Company

POLARIS Web site integral tool for program and project management

By Megan Norris

A "one-stop shop" for Marshall team members to find program and project management resources is just a click away, thanks to an informative NASA Web site.

The Program/Project Online Library and Resource Information System, or POLARIS, is a reference tool for program and project managers and their support teams. The site, <https://polaris.nasa.gov>, provides necessary information about program and project life cycles, from concept definition to close-out and disposal.

"POLARIS places NASA program and project management requirements at your fingertips, with download, search and sort capabilities," said Kelly Looney, POLARIS project manager in the Performance and Capabilities Management Office, part of the Office

of Strategic Analysis and Communications. "The site supports the project management community by providing an easy-to-navigate version of current management NASA procedural requirements, along with additional helpful information such as review lists, product lists, templates and examples."

Users can also access essential definitions and descriptions, databases, links to other NASA Web sites and more.

The site's main category of information is "Management Support." This section includes a drop-down menu of links that provide specific program or project information, such as interactive program and project life cycle diagrams, reviews, standard work breakdown structures, requirements, waivers, categorization, management councils, dissenting opinions and more. Other categories of information included on the site are "Programs and Projects @ NASA" and "Support Disciplines."

In the coming months, POLARIS will be updated to include NASA procedural requirements for research and technology programs and projects, institutional programs and projects, and systems engineering.

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.



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Mission, but I also learned a great deal about my co-workers who volunteered with me. I think everyone should give back in some capacity. You never know when the tables may turn, and you find yourself in need of someone's generosity."

David Edwards, chief of the Natural Environments Branch in the Engineering Directorate, was also a first-time volunteer for Community Service Days. He put his woodworking skills to good use, building wheelchair ramps for the Care Assurance System for the Aging and Homebound of Madison County. CASA provides services to individuals age 60 and older and to wheelchair- and bed-bound persons of all ages.

"Seeing the look of gratitude on the faces of the families that received the ramps was unforgettable," Edwards said. "That's what made it all worth it. Giving a small amount of my time to make a contribution that will have practical benefits to needy families for many years makes me feel really good."

The difference CASA made in the lives of his aunt and uncle is the reason Nelson Parker, deputy manager of the Space Systems Department in the Engineering Directorate, decided to donate his time to the organization. He has supported CASA activities as a part of CFC Community Service Days for the past five years.

"About 10 years ago, CASA volunteers built a wheelchair ramp for my aunt and uncle. I witnessed firsthand what a difference this type of support could make in terms of enhanced mobility and improved quality of life for aging or homebound individuals," Parker said.

"Although we can easily become overwhelmed by the magnitude of needs in our area, serving as volunteers can help us realize that our very limited efforts really can make a difference in the community, one small step at a time," Parker added. "I would encourage others to form a team with co-workers. It's a lot of fun serving together, and seeing the positive impact the team can have on just one family in need is a very rewarding experience."

Patricia Benson, Marshall's Community Service Days executive vice chairperson, said e-mails have been pouring in from participating organizations about the good work done by Marshall

Nearing the goal

As the Thanksgiving holiday week concluded, marking the end of week seven of the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign, Marshall Center team members had raised a combined total of \$499,473.78.

The 2007 goal for Marshall's CFC donations is \$600,000. Visit the Marshall CFC Web site, <http://cfc.msfc.nasa.gov>, to donate.

Center volunteers, and how much their support was needed. Ten organizations participated this year, including the Huntsville Hospital Foundation, the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center, Christmas Charities Year Round, Habitat for Humanity of Madison County and WAY-FM Share-A-Thon.

"I've received positive feedback from the Salvation Army, Special Olympics, Huntsville Botanical Garden and the Harris Home for Children saying they really appreciated the volunteers," Benson said. "Some groups said they got more accomplished with the volunteers' help than they have all year."

Although Marshall's CFC committee didn't set a goal for volunteer turnout this year, Benson said, "We exceeded last year's number of volunteers. I was really pleased with the number of volunteers we had, considering all of the volunteer shifts were during work hours. That shows a lot of dedication from our employees."

Community Service Days have ended for this year's campaign, but Marshall employees still can make CFC donations through Dec. 7, when the fundraiser officially concludes. Donors are reminded that all federal agencies have been issued new, five-digit identification codes by the Office of Personnel Management. The codes are used to properly allocate charitable gifts according to each donor's wishes. The four-digit codes previously used are no longer valid. New codes are available in the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign charity listings.

For more information, visit <http://cfc.redstone.army.mil> or call Irene Taylor, CFC executive chairperson, at 544-0042.

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.

Dec. 7 lectures focus on science achievements past and future

Don't miss a lecture series on Dec. 7 sponsored by the National Space Science Technology Center looking back at the past lunar science achievements and looking forward to the future of space science for the next 50 years.

The event is one in a series of international public seminars co-hosted by the National Academy of Sciences marking the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year that launched science into space.

Talks begin at 1 p.m. in Room 4078 at the NSSTC and feature

author Ed Buckbee, astronauts Drs. Jan Davis and Owen Garriott, retired Hubble Space Telescope project manager James Odom, and retired Marshall Associate Director for Science Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger.

At 2:30 p.m., learn where we are going in science and exploration from Marshall scientists Drs. John Horack, Melissa McGrath, Barbara Cohen and Martin Weisskopf, NASA Deputy Associate Administrator for Science programs Todd May, and Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center Larry Capps.

The day concludes with a 5 p.m. lecture by Dr. Wesley Huntress, director emeritus of the Carnegie Institution's Geophysical Laboratory in Washington at the Space & Rocket Center's Education Complex.

The events are free and open to the public. For a full schedule of events and more information about this lecture series, visit <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/ssb/>.

Next week in history ...

In the wake of the successful Soviet launch of Sputnik on Oct. 4, 1957, President Dwight Eisenhower instructed U.S. Secretary of Defense Charles Wilson on Oct. 8, 1957, to have the Army Ballistic Missile Agency in Huntsville prepare the Redstone launch vehicle for satellite-launching capability.

At that point, Redstone was not the prime vehicle for the mission. The president ordered the Army to prepare the Redstone as a backup in case



there were problems with the prime selected Navy Vanguard Rocket.

Unfortunately, that Vanguard vehicle, labeled TV-3, launched on Dec. 6, lifted 4 feet and fell back in flames. U.S. Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson called the failure “humiliating,” and preparations to use the Army Redstone moved faster than originally planned. On Jan. 31, 1958, a modified Redstone launched Explorer I, America’s first satellite.

Morgan

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management make informed decisions on the most effective use of our limited resources. Continuous risk management, especially when combined with earned value management, helps all of us become better stewards of the American taxpayers’ contributions as well as of our nation’s assets.

What do you hope to accomplish in your role this year?

We really hope to get the center-focused risk management system in place. This system is going to help center management more effectively allocate time and resources. Given the additional responsibility associated with the Constellation Program and the complexity of transitioning our focus from the Space Shuttle Program to Constellation, we must provide our management with a well-defined system that can be used to assist in making the kinds of decisions that will be forthcoming.

We want to make sure that the system is rigid enough that it is consistently implemented across the center but flexible enough to accommodate the many different types of work being done here at Marshall. We also want to make sure that the implementation of this process is as painless as possible. Quite frankly, we’re simply providing an architecture in which we can capture conversations that are already taking place, and documenting decisions for posterity that are already being made. We are providing an approach to evaluating risks to the center and, based upon available resources, establishing a systematic method for allocating those resources to ensure the continued success of the Marshall Center.

We also want to re-establish our independent assessment capability as a value-added function available to everyone in the center. We want employees, organizational managers, program/project managers and support contractors to know who we are and to know that we are available to assist in any way we can.

What is the biggest challenge you face?

Our biggest challenge is re-establishing the center of excellence for continuous risk management and independent assessments while maintaining the wonderful momentum that our predecessors have begun. We have a great team. A lot of former members have gone on to bigger and better things, which is great. They’ve set the bar high for us. So we’re re-establishing that foundation of excellence and then spending some energy on growing. What an excellent problem to have! One of the most admirable characteristics of my team — of Marshall as a whole — is this attitude that we’ll get it done no matter what. That attitude is one of many reasons that Marshall has an awesome environment in which to work.

One specific challenge that we have is establishing a center-focused risk management process and system that adds value to all of our management decisionmaking. Continuing our ability to execute Marshall’s mission in support of the agency’s mission is extremely important. A center-focused risk management process will assist in that continuation.

On the personal side, how do you like to spend your leisure time?

I love spending time with my wife, Shaquinta, and my 17-month-old daughter, Mallory. I enjoy meeting people. Everyone has an interesting conversation waiting to happen. I also enjoy golfing — I’m not good at it, but I enjoy playing nonetheless. I like to play videogames and watch movies in my home theater when I have time. I love all things Ole Miss-related. Though our football team isn’t very good right now, I still support them. I’m no fair-weather fan — I guess it’s a good thing that the basketball and baseball seasons are on the way!

Jessica Wallace, an ASRI employee and Marshall Star editor in the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications, contributed to this article.

NASA Retirement and Benefits Programs briefing to be held Dec. 3

Representatives from the NASA Shared Services Center will hold two information sessions to brief employees on the transition of NASA's Retirement and Benefits Programs to the NSSC.

The sessions will be held from 12:30-1:30 p.m. and 2-3 p.m. on Dec. 3 in the lobby of Building 4200. Civil service employees are encouraged to attend one of the sessions. Following the briefing, NSSC representatives will address questions and concerns pertaining to

health insurance benefits, life insurance, civilian or military deposits, survivor benefits counseling, and retirement estimates. NASA's Retirement and Benefits Programs are scheduled to transition to the NASA Shared Services Center on Jan. 6, 2008.

For more information, go to "Inside Marshall," or contact Cathy A. Fletcher, NSSC liaison for Marshall, at 544-7752 or cathy.a.fletcher@nasa.gov.

Classified Ads

To submit a classified ad to the Marshall Star, go to Inside Marshall, to "Employee Resources," and click on "Employee Ads — Submit Ad." Ads are limited to 15 words, including contact numbers. No sales pitches. Deadline for the next issue, Dec. 6, is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29.

Miscellaneous

Two-year-old, side-by-side fridge, white, ice maker, filtered water in door, \$900. 783-1466

Crib, mattress, \$180; bedding set, uni-sex, \$50; infant swing, \$50; ExcerSaucer, \$50. 337-2534

Kahr CW-40, 40 S&W caliber, three magazines, one holster, \$380. 227-1327

Two 14x21 rubber heating mats, thermostat controlled, \$40 each; antique gold bathroom fixture, \$25. 655-6348

Four-piece solid maple bedroom suite, vintage, bedding. 586-5893

Set of 11 lead-blown genuine crystal champagne, wine glasses, \$35. 464-7074

Broyhill kitchen hutch, white, glass sides, doors, \$600; wood kitchen table, four chairs, \$400. 975-1667

Selmer Bundy II alto saxophone, case, \$350 obo. 971-2066

Flexi 16-foot long retractable leash for medium sized dog, \$10. 325-0085

Chromcraft circular dinette table, four swivel chairs, \$80. 881-1249

Kenmore washer, dryer, white, heavy duty, \$400 for pair. 651-8264

John Deere LT145 riding mower, 23 HP, less than 30 hours, warranty, \$1,800. 508-7527

.75 carat diamond, princess cut, 14kt white gold mounting, certified, \$2,800. 455-5183

Kenmore dryer, \$40; Little Tikes infant rocketship rope swing, \$10; electric winch, \$8. 325-2919

Oscilloscope, student model, \$25. 353-8229

Kasson-Auburn pool table, fruitwood, Queen Anne feet, leather pockets, all accessories, \$1,995. 880-6563

Three Boston terrier puppies, CKC registered, first vet check, shots, dewormed, \$300 each. 859-0889

Computer desk, printer shelf, file drawer, upper cabinet, \$60; bookcase, \$60. 837-6352

Round diamond solitaire ring, .75 carats, diamond wrap, .50 carat anniversary band, \$1,300 obo. 961-0364

Vehicles

2007 Honda TRX450R Sport ATV/quad, electric start, plastics black/flames, red frame, \$5,200. 345-9555

2004 Harley Davidson Road King Classic, pearl white, 14k miles, \$13,900. 776-0811

2003 Tahoe, leather, third-row seats, rear air, XM, CD, \$18,000. 468-0854

2002 Honda XR80 trail bike, \$1,050. 683-4758

2001 Ford Taurus SES Sedan, 3.0L, V6, new alternator, battery, tires, brake pads \$6,900. 682-8795

2001 Mitsubishi Mirage, auto, 137k miles, \$3,200. 679-4929

2001 Mazda Miata LX, leather, power windows, black/tan, 61k miles, \$10,900. 883-6894 or 468-6894

1997 Saturn SLI, four door, five speed, 28 mpg, new tires, 144k miles, \$2,400. 682-7165

27-foot Allegro motorhome, jacks, new tires, 15k miles on drivetrain, \$7,450 obo. 655-3469

Wanted

Suspended ceiling parts, 24-inch cross-tees, older style for 25- to 40-year-old grid system. 233-0705

48-inch or larger aluminum tool chest for S-150 truck. 464-7074

Telescope eyepiece, 1.25 inches, any power. 683-5204

Tickets to Dec. 15 Sugarland concert, three or four tickets preferably, at least two. 527-1444

Used or new 250 gallon or larger propane tank. 585-4564

Found

Ladies watch, Bldg. 4200 parking lot. 318-5529

Free

Orange adult male cat, declawed, fixed. 230-3655

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or print a copy from the survey site, fill it in and return it to: MSFC, Star Survey, Public & Employee Communications Office, Building 4200, Room 102-12, Huntsville, Alabama 35812. Please fill out only one survey per reader.

The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete and all feedback is strictly confidential.



Emmett Given/MSFC

Sharing the heritage

Five-year-old home-schooler Makenzie Mintzer, left, examines authentic Native American regalia worn by 8-year-old Lacey Haywahe, a member of the American Indian dance company that performed during Team Redstone's Native American Heritage Month event Nov. 14. Lacey, who is Cherokee, dances in a "jingle dress" adorned with hand-shaped tobacco tins that was worn by her mother as a child. More than 275 Huntsville-area school children, including home-schoolers and classes from Rainbow Elementary School in Madison, joined the Marshall Center and Redstone Arsenal military organizations to honor Native American tradition and customs. Attendees enjoyed authentic Native American food, music, dance and other activities.

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