



MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Dec. 6, 2007

Atlantis flight is fourth space shuttle mission in 2007

STS-122: Expanding science capabilities on the space station



From left, front row, are Commander Stephen Frick, European Space Agency astronaut Léopold Eyharts and Pilot Alan Poindexter. From left, back row, are mission specialists Leland Melvin, Rex Walheim, Stanley Love and European Space Agency astronaut Hans Schlegel.

By Sanda Martel

At Marshall Star press time, space shuttle Atlantis was set to launch from the Kennedy Space Center, Fla., Dec. 6 at 3:31 p.m. CST, for an 11-day mission to the International Space Station.

On board the shuttle is the European Space Agency's Columbus Laboratory, a 23-by-15-foot research laboratory that will expand the science capabilities of the space station. Once at the station, Columbus will be connected to the Node 2, or Harmony module, which was delivered to the space station during the STS-120 mission in October.

The Marshall Center was responsible for overall system engineering of Node 2, including system analysis for the Space Station Program Office at Johnson Space Center in Houston. The Nodes Project Integration Office at Marshall provides integration and coordination of Node 2 day-to-day activities among NASA, government contractors and international partners.

See Launch on page 4

Counting down: CFC nears conclusion, donations still sought

At the start of the ninth week of the Marshall Center's Combined Federal Campaign, total workforce contributions stood at \$555,817. That put the Marshall team, at press time, just \$44,183 shy of its goal of \$600,000.

Two new Marshall Center videos encourage team members to dig deep and surpass the goal for this year's campaign, which officially ends Dec. 7.

In one video, Marshall Center Director David King promotes the value of the annual fundraising efforts on a national as well as local level. He reflects on natural disasters such as the recent spate of California wildfires, water shortages threatening Georgia and Alabama, and the needs of local charitable organizations, which rely on donations and volunteer help to conduct vital social and humanitarian functions.

"We can't prevent the tragedies and catastrophic events that happen every day, but we can make a difference in the lives they affect," King

says in the

video. "We can make sure that when disasters do happen —

when floods come, or when our families experience trying times — that CFC support groups are standing at the ready."

The other video is a complete recording of the Oct. 25 CFC rally, including remarks by Robin Henderson, associate director of the Marshall Center; Irene Taylor, Marshall's CFC executive chairperson; and the speaker at the event, Amy George, director of special projects for the Huntsville Hospital Foundation.

Both videos are available on the Marshall CFC Web site, <http://cfc.msfc.nasa.gov>. For more information, call Taylor at 544-2051.

INSIDE: See what CFC means to Marshall team members, page 2

What does the Combined Federal Campaign mean to me?

"Everywhere I volunteered [during Marshall's CFC 'Community Service Days,' supporting local charitable organizations] — painting wheelchair ramps for CASA [Care Assurance System for the Aging and Homebound of Madison County], helping out in the Huntsville Hospital store, preparing and serving food at the Downtown Rescue Mission — it was obvious they really needed our help. The experience really opened my eyes to the needs of our community, and of people in general. It made me want to volunteer more, not just during CFC but all of the time."

— **Darlene Hill, quality assurance specialist**
Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate



"There's a lot of good work going on in our community. It gave me a desire to get more involved in helping others [as CFC executive chairperson for bus tours]. We received a lot of positive comments about the tours. People at Marshall have so much going on they find it hard to break away, but I talked to a lot of folks who are looking to get more involved with CFC in the future as a result of participating in the tours. Don't be fooled into thinking there's no room on the bus — we can always make room for one more."

— **Steve Spearman, operations engineer**
Science & Mission Systems Office

"This was my second year to take part in Marshall's CFC effort. I volunteered to work at the local Christmas Charities Year Round organization, sorting clothes for needy families and wrapping gifts to be given to children. It was really enlightening. The workers there remembered several of us from last year's Marshall volunteer team. They were very welcoming. At this time of year, they have a lot to do and a lot of people to reach. It's a blessing for Marshall to jump in and help do things for our community."

— **Aquita Wherry, budget analyst**
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



"CFC is very visible here at Marshall. I've worked at other federal agencies where CFC did not receive the same level of attention — they may bring in a speaker, or make an announcement at the start, but that's often it. At Marshall, we run bus tours, hold team events, provide weekly internal and external news about employees' level of giving. It's a wonderful process, and it becomes an event. I've been very impressed with it."

— **Digna Carballosa, deputy director**
Office of Human Capital

"I've been assigned to cover a lot of CFC-related events for Marshall. I don't think most people can fully grasp the experience until they take a bus tour or volunteer during Community Service Days or just go out and visit one of these [charitable] organizations. There's no sense of desperation, nobody with their head in their hands. There's so much enthusiasm among volunteers, so much hard work being done, and so much gratitude for being able to contribute. It's inspiring."

— **David Higginbotham, photographer**
Marshall Imaging Services (Honeywell/UNITeS)



"You never know when you or someone in your family may need one of the services offered by a CFC organization. About 18 months ago, I was diagnosed with a form of breast cancer. CFC helps fund a lot of the organizations that I was able to turn to for literature about the disease, for services and resources I previously never anticipated I might need. I've seen the impact CFC has had on my life and the lives of people I love. I appreciate having the opportunity to contribute now. To give something back."

— **Audrey Robinson, director**
Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity

4 sisters support mission success — and each other — at Marshall

By Megan Norris

Growing up in Limestone County, Ala., sisters Vera “Nell” Harris, Gloria Ayers and Lena Andrews spent countless hours together chopping cotton in the hot Alabama sun to save money for new bicycles.

With every dollar and dime they tucked away, the girls imagined themselves taking off on new adventures and traveling distances they never thought possible. Younger sister Dorothy Holloway embraced her sisters’ zest for adventure and ambition to pursue her own goals.

The siblings have shown that same dedication as Marshall employees, and each is making her own contribution to traveling new distances in space exploration.

Harris is a contractor custodian in Building 4631. Ayers is a program specialist and communications material review manager supporting the External Relations Office, part of the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications. Andrews is an accountant in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and Holloway is a transportation specialist for the Logistics Services Office in the Office of Center Operations.

“We all do something different at Marshall, but we contribute in our own way to successful missions,” Ayers said. “Vera helps maintain Marshall’s clean environment, Lena ensures contractors are paid on time, Dorothy makes sure shipping and employee air travel follow regulations, and I support the center’s communications activities. Each of us loves our work, and I feel like every time we have a successful shuttle mission, we’ve had some small part in that.”

The sisters’ combined 65 years of service at Marshall began when Andrews — then a senior at East Limestone High School — got a job as a student aide at Marshall. Her knack for numbers led her to major in accounting and business at Calhoun Community College in Huntsville. She completed her degree in 1984 at Athens State University in Athens, Ala. She started out in financing at the U.S. Army Missile Command on Redstone Arsenal. In 1997, she accepted an Army civilian finance job at Dobbins Air Force Base in Marietta, Ga.

“While I was working for the Army, my sisters and other people I knew who worked for NASA only had good things to say about working here. That was definitely an influence in my decision to take a job at Marshall back in 2001,” Andrews said. “The atmosphere and people here make it so enjoyable. I really believe that’s why all four of us work here.”

Andrews’ positive experience as a student aide at Marshall

influenced sisters Ayers and Holloway to enroll in Marshall’s co-op program while Ayers attended Athens State University and Holloway was a student at Drake State Technical College in Huntsville. Like Andrews, Ayers majored in accounting. After graduating in 1988, she accepted a job in Marshall’s Chief Financial Office, where she worked for 20 years before moving into her current position in 2006.

Holloway earned her degree in office administration, and in 1986, she accepted a position as a management support assistant in Marshall’s Facilities Office. In January 1994, she transitioned to the Environmental Engineering & Occupational Health Office in the Office of Center Operations. After 14 years of service there as a management support assistant, she took on a new challenge as transportation specialist.

“Interacting with other employees through my duties at the center, including clearing all international shipments for Marshall through customs and resolving any travel issues, has shown me

what a good team we have and how diverse NASA is,” Holloway said.

The Marshall team also is the driving force behind Harris’ long career at the center. She has provided cleaning services to numerous Marshall facilities over the years, including Buildings 4200, 4312, 4629 and 4653. “Working at all these different buildings, I have met a lot of friends,” she said. “One of the best parts of my job is meeting different people.”

“But of course,” she added, “knowing my sisters are all right here together makes it even better.”

Holloway and Harris, who both work in Building 4631, see each other

most often, and all four siblings try to get together when they can for lunch or family get-togethers. One of their favorite conversation topics? The sisters’ 11 children.

Educating their families and their communities about NASA and the work that is being done to support space exploration is important to each of them.

“Because we come from a rural area, we know that a lot of people in our communities aren’t fully aware of NASA’s missions and goals,” Ayers said. “We are able to take back NASA pamphlets, patches and posters that those children and families wouldn’t normally see.”

For Harris, Ayers, Andrews and Holloway, their long careers at Marshall have been fulfilling, continuing the challenges they took on as children, working hard — together — to reach their goals. But no matter where they soar professionally, staying close as family is their most important mission of all.

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



Seated is Vera “Nell” Harris; standing, from left, are Lena Andrews, Dorothy Holloway and Gloria Ayers.

David Higginbotham/MSFC



Marshall Center celebrates 50 years of NASA holiday cheer with tree lighting

Marshall Center Associate Director Robin Henderson, at podium at left, looks on as children from the Marshall Child Development Center kick off the annual holiday tree-lighting event with their rendition of "Frosty the Snowman." Celebrating 50 years of NASA holiday cheer, the Marshall team gathered Nov. 28 in front of Building 4200 to enjoy the children's performance and drink hot chocolate as they watched the lighting of the holiday tree.

Doug Steffer/MSFC

Marshall rings in the season with holiday reception Dec. 11

The annual Center Director's Holiday Reception will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Dec. 11 in the Marshall Activities Building 4316. This year's theme is "50 Years of Holiday Cheer." Marshall team members also are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the North Alabama Food Bank.

Buses to the event will run every 15 minutes from noon until 3:30 p.m. Those employees not on a bus route may call the Marshall Center taxi service at 544-TAXI to schedule a ride.

For more information or to view the bus schedule, go to "Inside Marshall."

Launch

Continued from page 1

Harmony will provide a passageway between Columbus and the two other space station science experiment modules — the U.S. Destiny Laboratory, taken into orbit in 2001, and the Kibo Japanese Experiment Module, which will be delivered to the space station in 2008.

Columbus 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 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 European Space Agency's Columbus Control Center in Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany, will come online for the first time to plan and facilitate science on the new module. Flight controllers in the Columbus Control Center will be working with the Marshall team at the Payload Operations Center to coordinate science activities. Marshall has been working with the team in Germany to establish processes and procedures that will ensure efficient operations

between the two control centers.

Navy Cmdr. Stephen N. Frick, a veteran astronaut, will command the STS-122 mission. Navy Cmdr. Alan G. Poindexter will serve as pilot. Mission specialists include Air Force Col. Rex J. Walheim, Stanley G. Love, Leland D. Melvin and European Space Agency astronaut Hans Schlegel. Poindexter, Love and Melvin will be making their first spaceflight.

STS-122, the 24th shuttle mission to the International Space Station, also will deliver a new crew member to the station and return another to Earth. European Space Agency astronaut Léopold Eyharts will replace current Expedition 16 flight engineer Daniel Tani. Tani, who flew to the space station on the STS-120 mission, will return home with the STS-122 crew. Eyharts will return home on board STS-123, which is targeted to launch Feb. 14.

For more information about the STS-122 mission, visit http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/main/index.html.

For more information about the Columbus module, visit http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/structure/Columbus_module.html.

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

Marshall Star Readership Survey ends Dec. 7

The Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications is conducting a Marshall Star Readership Survey to better understand the information needs of its readers.

The survey, printed in the Nov. 8 issue of the Marshall Star, also is available online through Dec. 7.

To participate, take the survey online at http://extweb.bah.com/NASA/Marshall_Star_Survey.html

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.

T-shirts now on sale to commemorate NASA's 50th anniversary

The NASA Exchange is selling T-shirts through Dec. 31 to commemorate NASA's 50th anniversary in October 2008. Shirts cost \$5 and may be ordered at <http://www.tcbspecialties.com/nasa50th.html>.

Shirts will be available for pickup the last week of February or first week of March. Employees will be notified in early February with the specific pickup dates and locations. For more information, contact the Space Shop at 544-2185.

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. 13, is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6.

Miscellaneous

GE Decorator's Choice Just-Cut Timberline Spruce 7-foot Christmas tree, artificial, 750 white lights, \$75. 520-3874

US Divers two-piece wetsuit, extra small, ladies/girls, 24-inch waist, \$50. (931) 438-0476

Total Gym 1700 Club, \$250. 603-0741

Marantz SD-800 cassette deck, \$20; Marantz 6110 turntable, \$20; Marantz HD-660 speakers, \$60. 350-7461

Canon EF 75-300mm III USM lens, for DSLR camera, hood, caps, \$240. 684-2606

Princess-cut diamond promise ring, 1/5 carat, 10-carat white gold band, \$150 obo. 541-4445

Ashley Glen Eagle roll-top desk, \$300. 337-4235

Body-Solid Smith machine, accessories, weight set, \$500 obo; Ping-Pong table, net, paddles, balls, \$60. 617-1718

Tube of Colorado red touch-up paint, for Volkswagen Passat, \$15. 464-9055

Two Schwinn Missile FS battery-powered scooters, \$75. 683-4758

Chromecraft dining table, chairs, \$75. 289-5651

30-gallon fish tank, fish, all accessories, \$99. 289-5651
Bose 901 speakers, \$75; Sansui 9090 receiver, \$50; NAD 1300 pre-amp, \$25. 837-8020

Matching couch, rocking/reclining loveseat, covers, \$250. 828-5964 or 759-2521

Power Wheels Jeep, 12-volt battery, charger. 325-2919
Broyhill kitchen hutch, white, glass sides, doors, \$600; wood kitchen table, four chairs, \$400. 975-1667

Samsung 42-inch Plasma HD TV, model HPS4253, \$990. 417-0945

Broadway Theater League, Hal Holbrook's Mark Twain, two tickets, Jan. 5, \$46 each. 883-2863

Riverside formal entertainment center/computer desk, black, 65x38x23, 3 years old, \$550. 880-9935 or 653-2424

Toddler bed, \$30. 885-1596

Trombone King 3B, F attachment, two mutes, hard case, \$800. 539-5439

Roper fridge, white, ice maker, \$150. 753-0020

Computer desks, \$100, \$75; magazine table, \$50; gold/green sofa, \$75; formals, sizes 12-16, \$10-\$35. 534-0939

Fifties country music stars library, 12 VHS tapes, \$50; 35mm slide projector, \$35. 852-6952

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

Vehicles

2007 Honda Accord EX, V6, all power, sunroof, white, tan leather, 8k miles, \$22,800. 232-4379

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

2004 Toyota Sequoia, third-row seats, TRD racing package, Borla mufflers, 61k miles, \$18,900. 351-0112

2004 Chrysler Pacifica, fully loaded, 66k miles, \$15,999. 325-5646

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

2003 Escalade, black, 77k miles, \$21,000 obo; 2007 Chrysler 300, 23k miles, \$18,300 obo. 520-2802

2001 Mazda Miata LX, tan leather, power windows, black,

61k miles, \$10,900. 883-6894 or 468-6894

2001 black Mustang, V6, new tires, battery. 828-1571

2001 Chevy S-10 pickup, six-cylinder, new tires, front brakes, 67k miles, \$7,200. 864-0413 or 682-5927

1999 Corvette, hard top, pewter, black leather, six-speed manual, 345 HP, 71k miles, \$17,000. 655-3324

1997 Saturn SLI, five speed, 144k miles, \$2,300; 2001 Saturn L200, 120K miles, \$4,000. 682-7165

1997 Toyota Camry, \$3,800. 534-6831 or 797-7204
1992 300SL Mercedes convertible, white, white hard top, 112k miles, \$13,000. 797-4336

1989 Mercedes Wagon 300TE, third seat, airbag, all options, sunroof, 159k miles, \$3,800. 603-1217

1985 Grand Prix, 172k miles, \$1,600; Winchester 1400, 12 gauge, \$290. 851-8085

1979 International Scout II, 4x4, auto, V8, soft, hard top. \$3,000. 714-7807

Wanted

Top quality backpacking equipment, need 1-2 person tent, light-weight stove. 603-0656

Pottery kiln. 508-4812

Small Teacup Yorkie, adult, no larger than 3 pounds. 338-9840

Found

Mont Blanc ink pen, found Nov. 29, 4200 north parking lot. 544-4680

Free

Bobtail cat, female, gray and white. 617-1718

Issues of Gospel Singing News magazine, 1980s-90s. 651-5847

LED 50th birthday button, roll of black plastic table cloths. 534-2623

Lab-mix puppies, two females, 14 weeks old, third set of shots, rabies vaccinations. 509-3392

Lost

SD card, inside brown plastic USB converter. 544-4234
Black key, BMW insignia, lost Nov. 28, Building 4600. 544-4680

International Space Station astronauts visit Marshall Center



Emmett Giverny/MSC



David Higginbotham/MSC

International Space Station Expedition 14 Commander Michael "LA" Lopez-Alegria, left, and Expedition 15 flight engineer Sunita "Suni" Williams, take turns signing a plaque of their mission patch to hang on the wall at Marshall's Payload Operations Center during their visit to Marshall on Nov. 29. The crew members presented mission highlights to a packed Morris Auditorium and thanked employees for their continued support of space station and space shuttle missions. Lopez-Alegria

served as commander for Expedition 14 from October 2006 to April 2007. Williams joined Lopez-Alegria as a flight engineer on the station in December 2006. She remained on the station as part of the Expedition 15 crew and returned home with the crew of the STS-117 mission in June 2007. Both astronauts set U.S. records for a single, long-duration mission. Lopez-Alegria set the men's record with more than 215 days in space, while Williams set a new record by a woman with 195 days on orbit.

This month in history ...

Fifty years ago this month, engineers were discussing the configuration for what later became the first capsule that would carry Americans into space. Engineer Maxime Faget worked at a site in Langley, Va., operated by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Faget proposed a



ballistic shape for the capsule. Other engineers proposed a glider configuration for the manned spacecraft.

All of the research represented initial steps in gathering capsule-design knowledge for NASA's human space exploration initiatives in the 1960s.

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