



# MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Feb. 19, 2009

## Memorial service planned for Konrad Dannenberg

A memorial service for Marshall Space Flight Center retiree Konrad Dannenberg will be held at 2 p.m., Feb. 20, at the Davidson Center at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. A space exploration pioneer and promoter, Dannenberg died Feb. 16 in Huntsville.

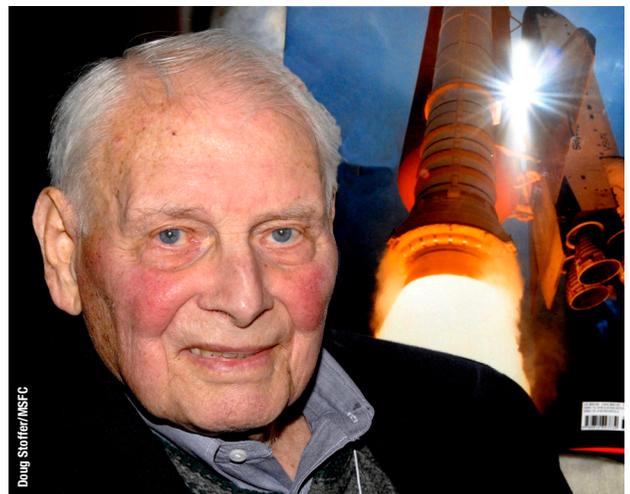
Following a career with the U.S. Army and NASA that spanned more than 40 years of direct participation in rocket building, Dannenberg spent an additional 35 years after he retired personally promoting space exploration.

Dannenberg, who was 96 at the time of his death, joined the Marshall Center when it was created in 1960. As deputy manager of the Saturn launch vehicle program, he worked on the Saturn family of space boosters, including the Saturn V launch vehicle that boosted the first humans to the lunar surface in 1969. Dannenberg retired from Marshall in 1973 as deputy director of Marshall's Program Development's Mission and Payload

Planning Office. He was working on early space station concepts at the time of his retirement.

Dannenberg was born in Weissenfels, Germany, and earned his Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the Technical University of Hannover. Drafted by the German Army in the 1930s, he was injured from a fall while on horseback. Eventually released from military duty, he was assigned to the premier rocket development and test site for the V-2 missile during World War II in Peenemuende, Germany. There he worked for Dr. Wernher von Braun, who served later as the first director of the Marshall Center from 1960 to 1970.

After World War II, Dannenberg



Doug Steifer/MSFC  
Konrad Dannenberg

moved with the von Braun team from Germany to Fort Bliss, Texas, to work for the U.S. Army. In 1950, the Army moved the team to Huntsville where Dannenberg worked on the Redstone and Jupiter missile systems for the Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Redstone Arsenal.

*See Dannenberg on page 2*

## Huntsville, Madison mayors to speak at Marshall Association luncheon Feb. 25



Tommy Battle



Paul Finley

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and Madison Mayor Paul Finley will speak at the Marshall Association luncheon Feb. 25. The meeting will begin at 11 a.m. in Activities Building 4613.

Lunch will be \$12 for Marshall Association members and \$14 for nonmembers. Team members planning to attend must contact Jennifer McCaghren at [jennifer.b.mccaghren@](mailto:jennifer.b.mccaghren@nasa.gov)

[nasa.gov](http://inside.msfc.nasa.gov/er/marshall_association.html) or call 544-5189 by noon Feb. 20. Any cancellations after that date or no shows will be expected to pay.

For employees interested in joining the association, a \$25 membership fee can be paid at the door, or contact McCaghren.

For a list of benefits and advantages of Marshall Association membership, go to [http://inside.msfc.nasa.gov/er/marshall\\_association.html](http://inside.msfc.nasa.gov/er/marshall_association.html).

# Kim Whitson named Marshall deputy director of Procurement



Kim Whitson

Kim E. Whitson has been appointed deputy director of the Office of Procurement at the Marshall Space Flight Center.

Whitson will share responsibility for all stages of the

Marshall Center's contracting process, including solicitation, evaluation, negotiations, awards and contract management – both at Marshall and at associated contractor facilities. He will help oversee more than 150 civil service and contract employees and will supervise more than 900 active contracts, grants and cooperative agreements valued at more than \$30 billion. He assumed his position in October 2008.

From 2004 to 2008, Whitson was manager of the Engineering Support Office in Marshall's Office of

Procurement, responsible for planning and directing procurement of products and services for the Engineering Directorate. From 2002 to 2004, he managed procurement activities and contracts for the Space Shuttle Projects Office and the Flight Projects Directorate.

From 1998 to 2002, Whitson was chief of the Research and Development Support Division of the Office of Procurement, responsible for procurement activities for several Marshall organizations. In 2001, he was selected to participate in a NASA Headquarters Industry Rotation Program for one year. During that assignment, he worked with the Georgia Power Company's product marketing organization in Atlanta, assisting it in developing, launching and managing various products.

Earlier in his NASA career, Whitson held various supervisory positions in Marshall's Office of

Procurement. From 1991 to 1993, he was a procurement analyst at NASA Headquarters in Washington. He joined NASA in 1988.

From 1984 to 1988, he was a contract administrator for the Defense Logistics Agency at McDonnell Douglas in Huntington Beach, Calif.

A native of Oak Ridge, Tenn., Whitson earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in 1983.

During his NASA career, he has received various awards and honors, including the 2002 Marshall Procurement Supervisor of the Year, a Marshall Director's Commendation in 2000, NASA Contract Manager of the Year in 1998, and the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal in 1997.

Whitson and his wife, the former Stephanie Olson of Marietta, Ga., live in Huntsville. They have three children.

## Dannenberg *Continued from page 1*

As a NASA employee and retiree, Dannenberg established a reputation as one of the most prominent public lecturers on the history of space exploration in both the United States and the world. For several years, Dannenberg was a consultant and a lecturer at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. His career also included serving as associate professor of aviation systems at the University of Tennessee Space Institute in Tullahoma.

Dannenberg was sought constantly as a speaker at public events related to spaceflight. He was especially involved in promoting interest in space exploration among students at the elementary, high school and college levels. Early in his career with NASA, he spoke to a group of students in

Alabama in 1962, and commented on his personal involvement in space exploration and the benefits that it offered to society. "I have encountered during my career most drastic changes," he said. "I came to a new continent and to a new country, I speak a different language now; I work under a different type of government. When I left school, I would never have dreamed of any of these things to happen."

Then speaking directly to the students he said, "I wanted to point out to all of you here the benefits [that stem from] the fertilization of ideas" and "to show how an experiment in one field may spark an unexpected development in another field. And this fact will prove to be the greatest benefit mankind will reap from spaceflight."

Dannenberg was a member and past president of the Alabama/Mississippi Chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He also received numerous prestigious awards for his public contributions to spaceflight. Dannenberg was a member of the Marshall Retirees Association, an honorary member of the Hermann Oberth Society of Germany, a recipient of the Hermann Oberth Award, and a charter member of the L-5 Society, a space organization in Huntsville.

He was also active in the International Astronautical Federation, and presented a number of historical papers in its sessions. Over the years, various organizations established scholarships in Dannenberg's name to promote interest in spaceflight among young people.

## National African-American History Month

# Huntsville's multicultural affairs officer to speak at lunch and learn Feb. 26

In celebration of National African-American History Month, the Marshall Space Flight Center will hold a lunch and learn at 11:30 a.m., Feb. 26, in Building 4600, Room 4013. Brenda Martin, multicultural affairs officer for the City of

Huntsville, will be the speaker. She will discuss multicultural diversity in Huntsville and her vision for the One Huntsville Initiative. This initiative aims to unify different cultures from all parts of the city.

The lunch and learn is an informal

session where team members bring their own lunch and hear about interesting topics and current initiatives that are happening locally.

For more information, contact Willie Love at 544-0088 or Sandra Hyder-Wesley Muhammad at 544-6714.

## *Inside Marshall Today, Heads Up to be combined into one e-mail*

Inside Marshall Today, a daily, morning e-mail intended to keep the Marshall team up-to-date on what's happening that day at the center, will soon be combined with Heads Up. Heads Up is a midday e-mail containing

Marshall news and information about upcoming events. The new combined e-mail, called Heads Up, will be distributed daily at 9 a.m. The new e-mail will launch Feb. 23.

Due to these changes, organizations

should submit messages by 2 p.m. to MSFC-INTERCOM@mail.nasa.gov the day prior to their distribution in Heads Up.

For more information contact Megan Davidson at 544-6279.

### **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, Feb. 26, is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19.

#### **Miscellaneous**

Golf club, LH seven iron, King Cobra SS-i, stiff flex, low kick, 105g, \$10. 797-7829

TomTom GPS navigation system, third edition, \$140. 586-7424 or 486-4716

TroyBuilt riding lawnmower, 17.5HP, 42-inch new blades, less than 25 hours, \$800. 428-3363 or 975-7766

Medium-sized recliner, gold tweed, \$25. 837-6776

Paradigm Reference Studio Series ADP-450 surround speakers, black, left, right and center, \$325 obo. 843-513-7939

La-Z-Boy reclining three-seat sofa, cream leather, \$700. 722-9455

32-inch Sony Wega, Panasonic home theater, DVD/VCR deck, DVD player, manuals, remotes, cables, \$350. 518-9194

Overhead/track lights, <http://home.comcast.net/~savagmf/>,

\$30 each. 883-7752

Reed & Barton 1982 Winterthur Silverplate, 16 place settings, five serving pieces, \$975 obo. 347-1674

Firewood, \$80 per truckload. 755-0050

Antique barber chair, \$800; 1970s Coke machine, 10 oz. bottles/cans, \$300. 658-8241 or bospragins@yahoo.com

Cedar fence posts. 682-7165

Entertainment center, section for 27-inch standard television, light to medium wood, \$35. 461-7520

Drexel pecan dining table, two leaves, pad, \$500; Henredon end tables, \$150 each. 585-3594

Broyhill solid wood oak computer desk, painted black swivel chair, five castors, \$300. 468-6016

Valhalla Crosses Garden double-depth lawn crypt, memorial plaque, \$4,000 plus \$75 deed transfer fee. 828-6893

Yard Machine garden/landscaping edger, 3.5HP. 461-3625 after 5 p.m.

Craftsmen YS4500 riding mower, 54-inch cut, 26 HP, 118 hours, \$1,650. 931-625-6514

#### **Vehicles**

2008 Blue Honda Accord Coupe, black leather, ground effects, multi-CD/XM, iPod, 8,600 miles, \$26,900. 604-9951

2006 BMW 325i, white/tan, loaded, 41k miles, \$21,500. 883-6894 or 468-6894

2006 SL55 Mercedes AMG, loaded, hardtop convertible, silver, 14k miles. 830-5999

2004 Chevy Silverado, 64k miles, \$8,000 obo. 289-1129

2002 22-foot Pontoon and trailer, 90 HP motor, custom cover,

50 hours, \$12,500. 509-5340

2000 Buick Century Custom, silver, new tires/fluids, 137k miles, \$2,700. 772-9018

2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee, black/gray, 117k miles, \$4,700 obo. 658-8241

1998 Honda Civic LX, five speed, new tires, 37 mpg, 96,700 miles, \$4,750. 931-732-4742

1997 Lincoln Towncar, loaded, \$3,850. 586-7424 or 486-4716

1996 F150 XLT Super Cab, auto, power, sliding rear window, bedliner, 152k miles, \$4,250 obo. 509-2828

1996 Mazda Miata M-Edition, leather, new Bilstein shocks, 115k miles, \$5,000. 714-1941

#### **Wanted**

Houses/offices to clean, available evenings/weekends. 777-8595

EZ Curl weight bar, must fit universal weights. 352-514-8405

Houses to clean; elderly/children assistance. 651-4723

#### **Free**

Carpet pad remnant, premium grade, 6 by 18 feet. 724-2270

#### **Found**

Black umbrella, Building 4200 area. 544-4680

#### **Lost**

Prescription glasses, clip-on shades, Buildings 4203, 4487 or 4663. 544-4880

## 2009 'HUNCH' project under way

# Alabama, Tennessee students help NASA develop Ares I

By Rick Smith

Students at 10 high schools and engineering academies in Alabama and Tennessee aren't just cracking science texts and deciphering advanced math formulas this winter.

They're helping NASA plan, build and test vehicle hardware to ready the stage for America's next-generation Ares I rocket.

The student teams are participating in NASA's "High Schools United with NASA to Create Hardware," or HUNCH project. Now in its fifth year, the project is designed to inspire students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math – the cornerstones of technical and aerospace careers so vital to the nation's economy.

It's also a key component of NASA's work toward U.S. Space Exploration Policy goals: developing the Ares I rocket and Ares V heavy cargo launch vehicle.

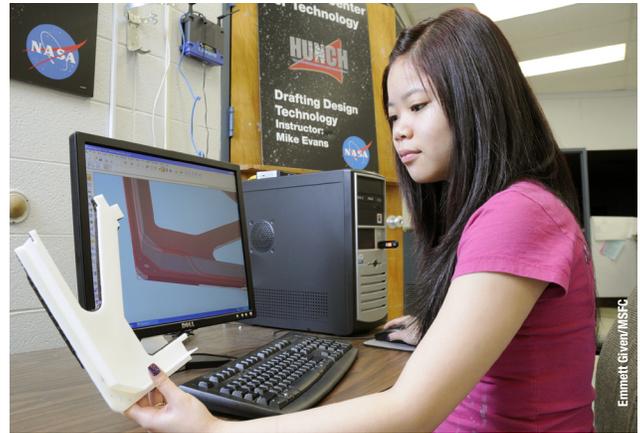
Through March, student teams – partnering with engineers at the Marshall Space Flight Center – will analyze plans, model hardware and fabricate prototypes for elements of the Ares I upper stage and the J-2X engine that will power that stage to orbit. The prototypes will be used for functional "fit checks" – hands-on studies to determine how the designs function

when translated from two- and three-dimensional computer models to full-scale hardware mockups.

The HUNCH project benefits NASA and students alike. It helps NASA engineers finalize Ares I hardware and component designs, while students gain proficiency with cutting-edge design modeling tools and techniques. They also participate in professional design meetings and teleconferences with NASA teams and contractors, and learn practical career tips from their Marshall Center mentors.

NASA engineers will review all completed HUNCH project work in April, and in May will hold a celebration at Marshall to recognize the teams for their participation.

Schools taking part in the 2008-2009 HUNCH project are Lincoln County High School in Fayetteville, Tenn.; and from Alabama, Bob Jones High School in Madison; Brewbaker Technology Magnet High School in Montgomery; Brewer High School in Somerville; Dothan Technology Center in Dothan; Hewitt-



Hong Huynh, a high school senior studying drafting at the Huntsville Center for Technology, compares a prototype of an Ares I rocket component to a computer model. Huynh is among dozens of HUNCH project students helping NASA develop hardware in support of the Ares I rocket.

Trussville High School in Trussville; Huntsville Center for Technology; Limestone County Career Tech Center in Athens; Madison County Career Tech Center in Huntsville; and Walker County Career Tech Center in Jasper.

HUNCH is a collaborative NASA effort supported by the Marshall Center's Ares Projects, the Academic Affairs Office, and the Training and Crew Operations Branch of the Engineering Directorate's Mission Operations Laboratory.

*Smith, an AI Signal Research Inc. employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.*

## MARSHALL STAR

Vol. 49/No. 22

Marshall Space Flight Center, Alabama 35812  
256-544-0030  
<http://www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall>

The Marshall Star is published every Thursday by the Public and Employee Communications Office at the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Classified ads must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. Friday to the Marshall Public and Employee Communications Office (CS20), Bldg. 4200, room 102. Submissions should be written legibly and include the originator's name. Send e-mail submissions to: [intercom@msfc.nasa.gov](mailto:intercom@msfc.nasa.gov)  
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Manager of Public and Employee Communications: Dom Amatore  
Editor: Jessica Wallace

U.S. Government Printing Office 2009-523-047-20187

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