



# MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

July 10, 2008

## 3 Marshall employees selected for NASA Administrator's Fellowship Program

By Megan Norris Davidson

Marshall Space Flight Center's Elaine Flowers Duncan, Kimberly Robinson and Dr. Virginia Tickle are going back to school this year — only this time, they will be teachers instead of students.

Duncan, a lead flight systems engineer in the Mission Operations Laboratory; Robinson, a project integration manager in the Ares Projects Flight and Integrated Test Office; and Tickle, a cost engineer in the Engineering Cost Office of the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications, have been selected for the NASA Administrator's Fellowship Program. They will spend two years teaching classes and emphasizing the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers — known as STEM — at selected minority institutions.

The fellowship program, founded in 1997, is administered by the United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation. It is designed to enhance the professional development of NASA



Elaine Flowers Duncan



Kimberly Robinson



Dr. Virginia Tickle

employees. For those institutions serving minorities, the program seeks to increase their capability to participate in NASA's research and development programs.

The program continues the Marshall Center's long tradition of partnering with scientists, engineers, scholars and researchers at key institutions in Alabama and throughout the nation to promote education and expand STEM disciplines.

Those selected to participate in the annual, highly competitive process are full-time, permanent NASA civil servants.

Duncan started her NASA career in 1980 as a flight systems engineer and operations integration engineer in Marshall's Systems Analysis and Integration Laboratory. She has served as technical assistant to the division chief in the Vehicle and Spacecraft

*See Fellowship on page 4*

## Phoenix delivers soil chemistry sample

From [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander used its Robotic Arm to deliver a second sample of soil for analysis by the spacecraft's Wet Chemistry Laboratory, data received from Phoenix on July 6 confirmed.

Phoenix is designed to study the history of water and habitability potential in the Martian arctic's ice-rich soil.

Results from testing this sample will be compared in coming days to the results from the first Martian soil analyzed by the Wet Chemistry Laboratory two weeks ago. That laboratory is part of Phoenix's Microscopy, Electrochemistry and Conductivity Analyzer.

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This image, taken July 6, shows the Phoenix Mars Lander's Robotic Arm scoop positioned over the Wet Chemistry Lab Cell 1 delivery funnel after a soil sample was delivered to the instrument.

NASA/JPL-Caltech/University of Arizona/Texas A&M University

# NASA employees can be held liable for lost or stolen government property

By Megan Norris Davidson

Millions of dollars a year are spent on laptops, cell phones and other equipment for NASA civil service and contractor employees to use in the conduct of agency business. But if one of those items is lost, damaged or stolen, an employee may have to dip into his or her own pocket to pay for it.

Lost, damaged and stolen property is a growing concern in business, and is taken seriously at NASA and at the Marshall Center. Though Marshall's loss rate is low — 0.13 percent for 2007 — it could still equal thousands of dollars in property, said Inge Kuberg, an industrial property management specialist in the Property Management Office, part of Marshall's Office of Center Operations. She also serves on the Property Survey Board that decides if corrective action is needed against an employee who may be held responsible for an item that was lost, damaged or stolen.

"Any missing property is detrimental to the center's inventory and dollars," Kuberg said. "The most common problem is employees leaving government property unprotected in highly visible or nonsecure areas, like the back seat of a car."

If a Marshall employee has missing property, he or she is required to call the Protective Services Office and file a Report of Incident, which flags the item as lost or stolen, requiring an investigation.

The employee must then contact his or her organization's property support assistant and fill out a Report of Survey, NASA Form 598, that requires a detailed description of the item, a statement of circumstance, the action recommended to prevent recurrence of the incident,

any corrective actions that are to be implemented and the name and title of the employee's supervisor.

The property support assistant must complete a separate, detailed incident checklist, and the final report is sent to Marshall's Property Management Office for review. A Center-Wide Action Item Tracking System action is then assigned to the case. The Property

Survey Board and property survey officer are responsible for reviewing the investigative findings to determine the extent or absence of personal liability of the employee.

If it is determined that the loss resulted from negligence, misuse, dishonesty or misconduct by the employee, the Property Survey Board will send written notification to the employee and his or her supervisor. The employee is allowed to present a written statement to the board concerning the property loss. The board will consider the statement before making a final determination.

Talmage Reynolds, Property Survey

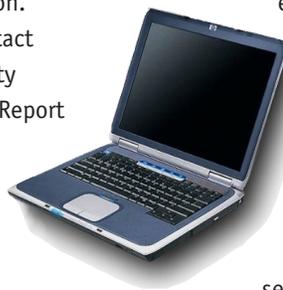
Board chairman and director of contractor industrial labor relations in Marshall's Office of Center Operations, said the process is extensive, and is intended to

enhance NASA's stewardship of its budget. If the final determination reveals negligence, misuse, dishonesty or misconduct by the employee, he or she can be held financially liable for the property. In addition, serious or repeated offenses can result in disciplinary action.

Reynolds' advice on how to avoid going through such a lengthy and costly process? "All employees need to be good stewards of government property," Reynolds said. "When you sign for that property, you become liable for it."

For more information, contact Inge Kuberg at 544-5678.

*Davidson, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.*



## Tips on how to keep your property safe:

- Don't leave government property in highly visible areas, such as the back seat of a car.
- Store items in the trunk or carry them with you.
- Educate yourself! Take property accountability training on SATERN, <https://satern.nasa.gov>.



## Moving toward NASA's 50th anniversary ...

NASA will mark its 50th anniversary this year on Oct. 1. July 16 is also the 39th anniversary of the first lunar launch. As a vital part of that program, the Marshall Space Flight Center provided the Saturn V launch vehicle that carried three American astronauts on their journey toward the lunar surface.

## Civil service employees reminded to update emergency contact information

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management have directed agencies to prepare their work forces to continue operations during national or regional emergencies.

All NASA civil service employees are asked to provide emergency contact information. At least one emergency contact should be from outside the geographical area of the employee's worksite. This emergency contact information

can be used to notify family members in the event of an on-site emergency involving the employee, as well as allow the agency to obtain information on the status and/or location of the employee in the event of a national or regional emergency that requires evacuation.

To update information, go to <https://www.employeeexpress.gov>.

For more information, go to "Inside Marshall."

## Phoenix

### Continued from page 1

The main activity on the lander's schedule is testing a method for scraping up a sample of icy material and getting it into the scoop at the end of the Robotic Arm. Photography before, during and after the process will allow evaluation of this method. If the test goes well, the science team plans to use this method for gathering the next sample to be delivered to Phoenix's bake-and-sniff instrument, the Thermal and Evolved-Gas Analyzer.

The Phoenix mission is led by Peter Smith of The University of Arizona with project management at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., and development partnership at Lockheed Martin in Denver. International contributions come from the Canadian Space Agency; the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland; the universities of Copenhagen and Aarhus, Denmark; Max Planck Institute, Germany; and the Finnish Meteorological Institute. For more information on Phoenix, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/phoenix> and <http://phoenix.lpl.arizona.edu>.

## 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, July 17, is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, July 10.*

### Miscellaneous

- Dell AXIM X30 Pocket PC, 624MHz processor, \$100 obo. 843-513-7939
- Baby Einstein activity center/floor gyms, carrier bases, swing. 880-3737
- Large chest freezer, \$100. 508-8269
- Firewood, seasoned, various types. 679-5799
- Front door, steel, sidelight on both sides, door frame. 461-6337
- Boys' sport shorts, sizes 14-16, red, blue, black, silver, \$24. 533-5942
- Lapidary equipment, one gem-cutting faceting unit. 883-8257
- Commercial picture mat cutter, dozens of mat boards, \$50. 683-3397

- PSE Mini G hunting bow, TruGlo sight, case, all accessories, \$215. 755-6020
- Dryer, needs timer, \$75 firm. 200-0687
- Parsons chairs, olive green damask, picture: <http://home.mchsi.com/~jscottm/chairs.htm> \$100. 828-9651
- Pool table, 8 feet, slate, balls, two racks, six cues, hand chalk, holder, \$450. 883-7752
- Pillow-top mattress, \$200. 722-9989
- Mirage speakers, two OM-7 towers, two Omnisat satellite speakers, stands, \$1,500. 679-2165
- Heritage Collection convertible crib, mattress, bumper pads, sheets, \$100; Heritage Collection changing table, \$100. 656-2965
- Leather couch, burgundy, reclines, \$600 firm; cherry dining room table, four chairs, \$350 firm. 975-7287
- Daylight craft lamp, 4 feet high, magnifier, clip attachment, \$75. 772-1989
- Chevrolet 327 short block, \$400; 1948 Chevrolet right-rear fender, \$150. 656-2081
- Pentax SF1N 35mm camera, multiprogramming, auto focus, 28-80/20-200 zoom lenses, \$185. 797-7829
- 0.86-carat round diamond solitaire ring, white gold, \$1,800. 599-0209
- IKEA single-platform bed, two nightstands. 503-7060
- Giant breed metal dog crate, \$125. 655-9267
- Cherry lumber, any reasonable offer accepted. 837-5113 or 683-4584
- CKC Yorkies, two boys, two girls, 8 weeks old, \$500-\$600. 890-6193
- Apple iPod touch, 32 GB, new in sealed box, \$450. 468-3749
- 20-inch chrome Arelli rims, \$1,000 obo. 532-3934
- 1999 GMC/Chevy Suburban four-volume service manual set, \$115. 931-703-5956

### Vehicles

- 2008 Tahoe LS, black, 4.8 liter, 20 MPG, 12,500 miles, \$29,500; 2007 Nissan Altima SE. 423-304-8201
- 2007 Chevy Tahoe LT, 21k miles, \$35,000; 1997 Chevy Camaro Z28, 157k miles, \$5,500. 565-9918
- 2005 Lexus RX330, warranty, factory chrome rims, black on black, 46k miles, \$25,500 firm. 603-3988
- 2003 Jeep Cherokee Laredo, 2WD, leather, cruise, CD, 59,600 miles, \$9,500. 655-6701
- 2002 Honda XR100 trail bike, less than 25 hours, \$1,000. 318-3403
- 2001 Ford Mustang Cobra Coupe, 70,500 miles, \$10,500. 683-4976
- 2001 Honda CRV LX, black/gray, new timing belt/battery, 103k miles, \$8,000. 883-6894 or 468-6894
- 1999 Toyota 4-Runner Limited Edition, white, brown interior, sunroof, CD, A/C, \$7,000. 694-1260
- 1997 Chevy Suburban 1500, red/silver, seats eight, towing package, \$3,500 neg. 931-625-9355
- 1994 Mitsubishi Montero LS, 4WD, runs, 180k miles, \$1,500 obo. 239-1874
- 1989 Stratos 17-foot boat, 100 Evenrude engine, trolling motor, Stratos trailer, \$4,800. 881-8058 or 679-7227

### Wanted

- Used fryer oil, prefer peanut oil, will pick up at your convenience. 931-993-7768
- Trees to cut, trimming limbs, stump grinding. 679-5799

### Free

- 8-month-old lab mix, good with kids. 586-2994
- Glass for Anderson full-view storm door, 31x75. 503-7060

# Fellowship

*Continued from page 1*

Department's Systems Engineering and Integration Division; independent assessment manager and continuous risk management team lead in the Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate; technical assistant to the director of the Flight Projects Office; lead project engineer and project manager for the Flight Project Directorate; project manager for the Payloads Project Office; lead program operations and utilization engineer for NASA Headquarters' Space Station Program; and lead operations integration project engineer for the Space Station Project Office.

Today she performs operations integration, design and development and operability assessment activities in support of the Orion Project Vehicle Operations Integration Office at Johnson Space Center in Houston. The Orion crew capsule will be launched on the Ares I.

As part of her fellowship at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Duncan will assist in the accreditation of a new materiel engineering graduate program in the School of Engineering & Technology and teach classes in project life cycle and product assurance. She also will support NASA's Office of the Chief Engineer by providing initiatives to improve NASA's systems engineering capabilities. "This fellowship will provide an opportunity for me to support the growth of a historical minority college and improve my knowledge of systems engineering processes and techniques," Duncan said.

Robinson joined NASA in 1989 as a project engineer in Marshall's Propulsion Laboratory. She served in the Mission Operations Laboratory as a flight controller for Spacelab missions and as a project manager in the Microgravity Program Office. Robinson also was a systems engineer for the Space Transportation Programs/Projects Office and completed an internship as special executive assistant to the Marshall Center director.

As project integration manager, she assists in overall management and development of the Ares I-X test flight project and provides technical leadership to a project integration team that handles risk assessment, mitigation planning and other duties for the Ares I-X mission. The Ares I and Ares V rockets, currently under

development at Marshall, are part of the Constellation Program to send human explorers back to the moon, and then to Mars and other destinations in the solar system. The Ares I-X test flight is scheduled for April 2009.

Robinson will conduct her fellowship at Oakwood University in Huntsville, teaching operations management in the Department of Business and Information Systems. Her goal is to guide students in improving the efficiency, productivity and quality of operational processes. "Through this fellowship, I hope to bring my passion about the value of education and the benefits of science and technology to the classroom to inspire, challenge and educate," Robinson said.

Tickles came to Marshall in 1989 as an aerospace engineer in the Propulsion Laboratory. She has served as an aerospace engineer in the Propulsion Laboratory's Liquid Propulsion Systems and an operations cost engineer on the Space Transportation Directorate's System Reliability, Maintainability and Operability Analysis Team. She supported the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and the Engineering Cost Office in performing operations cost analysis using the Operations Cost Model, a tool that performs recurring cost estimates for the operation and maintenance of space vehicles. She currently supports cost estimation and analysis of conceptual launch vehicles using cost models, such as the NASA/Air Force Cost Model, a software tool employed to predict the cost of space hardware at the subsystem and component levels.

Tickles will teach cost estimating and analysis for both undergraduate and graduate programs during her fellowships at Alabama A&M and Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tenn. She also will develop and implement a cost-estimating capability for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Conservation Research Center in Jackson, Miss. "An old adage, 'To teach is to learn,' best describes how I can use this fellowship to empower future STEM students, and in return, receive personal fulfillment in being able to give back to historically black universities," Tickles said.

For more information about the fellowship program, visit <http://uncfsp.org/nasa/nafp>.

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