



MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Sept. 24, 2009

Combined Federal Campaign 2009

Tennessee Valley kickoff is Sept. 30; Marshall sets \$625,000 goal

By Rick Smith

The Marshall Space Flight Center will join other regional federal agencies Sept. 30 with a kickoff celebration and agency fair to launch the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign – the federal government's annual goodwill drive to benefit charitable organizations.

All current and retired federal employees and on-site contractors are invited to attend the kickoff from 10-11 a.m. in the Sparkman Center's



Bob Jones Auditorium. Dr. Delbert Baker, president of Oakwood University in Huntsville, will deliver the keynote address. Refreshments will be served afterward.

The agency fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Sparkman Center parade field between Buildings 5303 and 5304. Dozens of local charitable organizations will be on hand to share information about their services and how they benefit from the fundraising drive.

Buses will transport participants to and from the kickoff. See Inside Marshall for a bus schedule and event updates.

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Discovery back in Florida after ferry flight from California

By Sanda Martel

Space shuttle Discovery returned to the Kennedy Space Center, Fla., on Sept. 21, after a 2,500 mile, cross-country trip from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

Discovery landed in California on Sept. 11 after poor weather conditions in Florida prevented landing at Kennedy.

Secured atop a NASA Shuttle Carrier Aircraft – a 747 airliner modified to hold the shuttle on its back, Discovery began its journey from Edwards on

See Discovery on page 4

You did it, guys! You made the cover of the Marshall Star!



From left, Todd Lemons, Charles Knight and Steven Burchell, all Bastion Technologies employees supporting the Marshall Space Flight Center's Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate, perform a ditty about their desire to be pictured on the front page of the Marshall Star. The trio won first place in the directorate's "American Idol" competition – one of the activities at the organization's annual Employee Appreciation Day. For the full story, please see page 5.

Director's Corner

“The Power of Many”

Normally, I use the “Corner” to talk about mission successes and/or some accomplishments of this great team. This month I thought I might share some things we are working on that I believe can better enable us to get our missions executed.

Thomas Edison once claimed he knew “a thousand ways not to make a light bulb.” Smart people have lots of different perspectives and lots of different tools at their disposal to solve problems, which is why genius is 99 percent perspiration. Different people from different backgrounds and walks of life bring different ways of searching for solutions. And these differences are a powerful force for innovation.

Since February 2008 we have been working with nationally recognized consultant Dr. Steve Robbins to heighten awareness among Marshall's work force on fostering an inclusive and diverse workplace. In addition to the sessions, Associate Center Director Robin Henderson and I are hosting focus groups to engage in dialogue with more than 160 employees across the center about inclusion, diversity, creativity and innovation. Focus group discussion has been very thoughtful, and feedback has been very candid and engaged. We're already getting some great information from this effort, and I thank all of you who have participated so far. These efforts are being supported by the NASA FIRST team, which has selected “Communicating Messages of Inclusion to the MSFC Work force” as its project for this year. NASA

FIRST is the Agency's leadership development program for GS-11 and 12 engineers, scientists and administrative professionals. Our NASA FIRST team has been holding focus groups as well and will be making recommendations to the senior management team on how we can raise awareness of inclusion and diversity. I am committed to creating an environment at Marshall that benefits the entire team and encourages the input, expression and development of all employees.

Another area we've been working on is cross-organizational integration and collaboration. As I have said, I believe that teamwork is incredibly important for us to achieve our goals. I want to thank those of you who provided input into ways we could improve collaboration in response to my August 12th request. You gave us some excellent feedback and insights on this issue. In fact, there were several recurring themes in your responses. You told us that time pressures, inadequate communication, control/turf issues and leadership behavior are some of the factors that often contribute to poor coordination and integration at the center. We also asked you for ideas on how to overcome these barriers with a goal of creating a more cooperative and collaborative environment. Jonathan Pettus and his team are meeting regularly to incorporate your ideas and develop action plans to help us work together more effectively. We will be looking for more feedback and participation from you as plans in this area emerge.



Of course, an excellent example of collaboration is the team we've put together to respond to the Augustine Committee findings. We have a cross-organizational team that meets each week internally, and I participate with other Center Directors in periodic cross-Agency meetings at headquarters to prepare ourselves for potential options that might come down the road.

Inclusion, diversity and collaboration are critical to our success going forward because they drive innovation. We've identified them as areas where we can improve, and we're working on them.

Thanks to all of you who have participated in these efforts as we work to make Marshall the best it can be!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Lightfoot". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robert Lightfoot
Center Director

Online tool gives Marshall team members one-stop shop for research, engineering resources

By Megan Norris Davidson

Everyone looks for better ways to use their time – especially when it comes to meeting those all-important deadlines. And one online system can help team members across the Marshall Space Flight Center and NASA save those valuable hours by providing single-point access to engineering tools and services.

The NASA Standards and Technical Assistance Resource Tool, or START, a Web tool sponsored by the NASA Technical Standards Program, provides access to more than half-a-million active technical standards.

Technical Standards are those recognized and adopted documents that establish uniform engineering and technical requirements for processes, procedures, practices and methods. The standards are developed from more than 300 organizations, including the Department of Defense and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Formerly named the NASA Technical Standards System, the tool now has a new look, and the START team is working to improve some of its functions.

"We are working to advance the capabilities of the tool to allow technical standards to work seamlessly with other digital products such as parts libraries, lessons learned and other systems," said Steve Lide, manager of the NASA Technical Standards Program for the agency. "The idea is to make it simpler for technical people to access great technical

information quickly and conveniently."

START is provided by the NASA Technical Standards Program, sponsored by the Office of the Chief Engineer at NASA Headquarters in Washington and managed by the Marshall Center.

"The NASA Technical Standards Program works closely with agency and industry sources to bring an extensive collection of technical reference information to the desktops of NASA designers, manufacturers and operators," Lide said. "We do that primarily through the START Web site."

Through START, users also can register standards and NASA directives on a watch list and receive automatic notification via e-mail as specific documents are accepted for notification change. The system links relevant lessons learned to many standards provided from various databases. Another feature links standards with relevant application notes, or experiences based on usage, to assist in applying a specific standard. Technical standards tutorials also provide the agency with an interactive and continuous learning environment and reference that can be used as a guide.

Engineering tools are available to users through the system and include:

- Haystack Gold – Provides logistic parts information from more than 40 databases about items that are purchased and stocked by the federal government. Information can be located by part number, keyword or batch search functions.

- 4D-Online Parts Universe – An electronic component database with more than 25 million parts. Organized into 350 categories, Parts Universe provides single-point access to data sheets, environmental compliance data and cross-references for more than 500 manufacturers.
- MatWeb – A searchable database of materials properties including data sheets of thermoplastic and thermoset polymers such as nylon and polyester; metals such as cobalt and nickel; and other engineering materials.
- eFunda – An online destination for the engineering community, where working professionals can quickly find concise and reliable information to meet the majority of their daily reference needs.
- The Materials and Processes Technical Information System, or MAPTIS – Provides a single-point source for materials properties for NASA and NASA-associated contractors and organizations. The MAPTIS system contains physical, mechanical and environmental properties for metallic and nonmetallic materials.

START is located at <http://standards.nasa.gov>. Marshall employees also can access the Web site from Inside Marshall.

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

Obituaries

Leo Milewicz, 88, of Huntsville died Aug. 4. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1983 as an engineer.

Doris Key Flowers, 73, of Hartselle died Aug. 7. She retired from the Marshall Center in 1999 as a

management support assistant.

Earl Lavon Whisenant, 84, of Union Grove died Aug. 7. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1980 as a supply clerk. He is survived by his wife, Mary Whisenant.

John Arthur Brown Sr., 82, of Huntsville died Aug. 15. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1978 as a configuration management specialist. He is survived by his wife, Gladys Brown.



Space shuttle Discovery atop the Boeing 747 Carrier Aircraft touches down at the Kennedy Space Center, Fla., on Sept. 21.

Sept. 20. On the way back to Kennedy, there were two refueling stops in Texas – in Amarillo and Fort Worth. A third stop was in Shreveport, La., for an overnight stay Sept. 20.

Discovery's 14-day mission to the International Space Station delivered the Material Science Research Rack to the orbiting facility, bringing it "one step closer to being a robust orbiting laboratory," said Jimmie Johnson, Marshall project manager of the Material Science Research Rack.

The rack – the size of a refrigerator – will be used to conduct experiments in the microgravity environment on materials

such as metals, glasses and ceramic, which could lead to the development of better materials on Earth.

The mission also delivered a new station crew member, a new sleeping compartment, an air purification system and a treadmill named after comedian Stephen Colbert. The mission included three spacewalks to replace experiments outside the European Space Agency's Columbus laboratory and an empty ammonia storage tank. Ammonia is needed to move excess heat from inside the station to the radiators outside.

STS-128 Commander Rick Sturckow was joined on the mission by Pilot Kevin Ford, Mission Specialists Pat Forrester, Jose Hernandez and Danny Olivas, and European Space Agency astronaut Christer Fuglesang. NASA astronaut Nicole Stott flew to the orbiting complex aboard Discovery to begin her mission as a station resident, replacing Tim Kopra, who returned home on the shuttle.

Back home at Kennedy, Discovery was towed to the Orbiter Processing Facility and preparations will begin for its next mission, STS-131, targeted for launch in March 2010 on a mission to the space station.

Preparations now are under way for the launch of space shuttle Atlantis on its STS-129 mission, targeted for lift off Nov. 12. The flight will focus on storing important spare hardware on the space station's exterior. The 11-day flight will include three spacewalks and the installation of two platforms to the station's truss, or backbone.

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

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, Oct. 1, is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24.

Miscellaneous

Four bamboo cane-wrapped chairs, no cushions, <http://home.comcast.net/~savagmf/>, \$30 each. 883-7752

20-inch TV with remote, \$50; Alan Jackson tickets, Oct. 3, Birmingham, \$50 each obo. 684-7936

Coastal Bermuda hay, round and square bales. 776-9506 or 653-9229

Natural-color Ibanez sound gear, five-string bass active pickups, EQ knobs, \$450. 498-3452

Jacuzzi fiberglass whirlpool tub, white, 6 feet, six jets, pump, \$500 obo. 830-9464

White Ibanez guitar RG350 DX locking tremolo system with high output pickups, \$300. 468-8925

Yamaha YST-FSW100 subwoofer, \$75; CerwinVega Sub-150 subwoofer, \$50; Pioneer VSX-1015TX receiver, w/o microphone, \$150. 325-2368

CasaBlanca wedding dress, size 8, includes free altering. 217-0811

Contemporary walnut dresser, mirror, chest, \$250. 851-0893

Portable display panels with lights, \$350; Fender 7-piece drum set, \$500. 227-0339

Spiegel quilt, 68x88 inches, \$25. 426-5185

Nikon FE2 Body, Speedlight SB-24, three lenses, more, \$300 obo. 325-3589

Electric welder, \$100; aluminum-frame man's bicycle, \$150; miscellaneous cherry/walnut wood. 536-8951

Dining room table, six chairs, photos available, \$325. 776-7399

Body Solid Home Gym Plus, \$1,500; Jugs Pitching Machine, \$900. 895-8294

Vehicles

John Deere 4030 diesel 85 H.P. tractor, \$9,800. 881-1867

2009 Harley Davidson Nightster (Sportster 1200), two-tone silver and matte black, \$8,900. 426-4552

2006 Chrysler Pacifica Touring, third row, red, 25k miles, \$13,000. 797-1300

2004 Dodge Intrepid, gray, 160k miles, \$2,500. 604-7424

2004 Chevrolet Z71, extended cab, 84k miles, \$16,000. 509-3208

2002 Toyota Sienna XLE minivan, two-tone color, all service records, 115k miles, \$8,000. 724-1980

2002 Pontiac Grand Prix GT, two door, power, heads up display, 77k miles, \$7,500. 519-2797

2001 GMC Yukon SLT, 4WD, green, service records, leather, tow package, 131k miles, \$8,350. 724-1980

1997 Honda Recon 250 TRX 4-wheeler, 2WD, tuned up, new battery, \$1,200. 655-6348

1996 Toyota Corolla, auto, rebuild title, 170k miles, \$2,000 obo. 651-2712

1995 Toyota Corolla, five speed, 30 MPG, 193k miles, \$1,800. 882-0133

Wanted

31x10.50-15 tires, prefer four. 658-8241

Used elliptical machine in good condition. 318-5447

Pull-behind Bush Hog for ATV. 586-4937

Sony PS3. 527-8116

Houses to clean and elderly to assist. 651-4723

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

Free

Four medium goldfish, 10-gallon tank, filter and light, black-iron stand. 975-5690

Male Sheltie Collie, 7 years old, to good home. 217-0811

Driver-side door panel from 1985 Blue 1-ton F350 Diesel. 527-8116

Other

Bluegrass slowjam biweekly Monday evening. patient experts welcome, Monte Sano area. 417-5265

Safety & Mission Assurance celebrates team members at 'Employee Appreciation Day'

By Megan Norris Davidson

The Marshall Space Flight Center's Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate recently paid tribute to its civil service and contractor team at the organization's annual Employee Appreciation Day.

The organization provides and supports mission-critical safety and mission assurance functions for all center projects. The theme for the event, held Aug. 27 at Activities Building 4316, was "Together We Can."

More than 200 people attended the event, which kicked off with introductions by Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate Director Roy Malone. "This team has worked incredibly hard this year," Malone said. "The performance of our team members is setting new standards for safety and mission assurance across the agency."

Malone and special guest Jorge Hernandez, chief executive officer of Houston-based Bastion Technologies – the primary contracting company for the directorate – presented awards to 45 honorees.

David Spacek, manager of the Safety & Mission Assurance's Vehicle Systems Department, was honored with a Space Flight Awareness Leadership Award for outstanding technical and managerial leadership in support of the Space Shuttle and Constellation programs.

Director's Commendation Certificates – the highest award given at the Marshall Center – were presented to civil service employees Caroline Wang, Tracy Vanderslice, Phillip Boswell, Michael Giuntini and John Crisler.

Certificates of appreciation from Marshall Center Director Robert Lightfoot were awarded to Bastion Technologies employees Theodore Drude, Kent Schock, Carla Shackelford, Judy Roberts, Chad Woods, Kenneth McGee and Marie Webb.

Brenda Lindley-Anderson, Clifford Watson, Paul Johnson, Jon Wetherholt, Herb Shivers and Danny Weldon – all civil service employees – received Road Map awards for meeting all requirements in the S&MA Professional Development Road Map process. The process supports a tiered qualification system for safety engineers, enabling them to rise from novice to journeyman to expert system safety engineers.

Eleven civil service employees received Years of Service

awards for their dedication to the Marshall Center:

- 15 years of service: Sherry Jennings and Elizabeth Lyons
- 20 years of service: Michael Giuntini, Terry Jones, Toan Vu and Kerry Warner
- 25 years of service: Herb Zollar, Rosalyn Patrick and Dana Billings
- 30 years of service: Linda Lang
- 35 years of service: Al Clark

Army Maj. Renee Bright of the Huntsville-based Defense Contract Management Agency honored S&MA civil service employees Gloria Caldwell and Sandra Such with certificates of appreciation for outstanding support at the Space and Missile Systems Division and Contract Management Office's Change of Command ceremony.

Peer awards also were presented at the Safety & Mission Assurance ceremony. Civil service employee recipients were Todd Lee, Integrity Award; Kyle Daniel, Safety Award; John Crisler, Excellence Award; Dan Thompson, Teamwork Award; and Sandra Such, NASA Family Award.

Bastion Technologies contractor employees who received peer awards were Kathy Ross, Integrity Award; Eric Osborne, Safety Award; Tim Heimann, Excellence Award; Teresa Colgan, Teamwork Award; and Rick Sizemore, NASA Family Award.

Customer Service awards went to Eric Osborne and civil service employee Brian Brown for providing excellent customer service to an organization or department outside the Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate.

For a complete listing of winners and more pictures from the event, visit <https://safety.msfc.nasa.gov/sites/vsma/index.php>.

Davidson, an AI Signal Research Inc. employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.



Roy Malone, director of Marshall's Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate, greets guests at the organization's annual Employee Appreciation Day.

Medical oncologist to speak

Marshall to hold Breast Cancer Awareness Program on Oct. 1

By Jessica Wallace

It will be 25 years in October since National Breast Cancer Awareness Month was created to promote awareness of breast cancer issues. Today, the goal remains the same: educating and encouraging everyone to take charge of their health and keep America healthy.

In recognition of this month, the Marshall Space Flight Center will hold its sixth annual Breast Cancer Awareness Program on Oct. 1, beginning at 9:45 a.m. in Building 4200, Morris Auditorium. A vendor fair, featuring local agencies and support groups that provide breast cancer information, will be open in the lobby of 4200 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

This year's program speaker will be Dr. Marshall T. Schreeder, a medical oncologist at Clearview Cancer Institute in Huntsville. He will speak about breast cancer genomics – research focused on the study of cancer and human DNA. A question-and-answer session with Schreeder will follow the program.

The event will conclude with a group photo opportunity on the front steps of Building 4200, followed by the annual Pink Ribbon Walk around the 4200 complex.

"Cancer has touched the lives of many people here at Marshall," said Patty Montgomery, a computer scientist in Marshall's Office of the Chief Information Officer. "As a

breast cancer survivor, I know the need to stay informed about the latest news on breast cancer research."

Vendor exhibitors and support groups will include NESIN Therapy Services, Special Touch by Eunice, Just for Women magazine, Clearview Cancer Institute, Crestwood Hospital, the American Cancer Society, the Huntsville Hospital Breast Center, Marshall Rocketeers, the Sandra J. Bryant Bosom Buddies Support Group and Waiora Wellness.

For more information about the Marshall program, contact Inge Kuberg, industrial property management specialist in the Office of Center Operations, who is serving as Marshall's Breast Cancer Awareness committee chair, at 544-5678, or at inge.h.kuberg@nasa.gov. For more information about National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, visit <http://www.nbcam.org/>.

Wallace, an AI Signal Research Inc. employee and the Marshall Star editor, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.



Dr. Marshall T. Schreeder

CFC 2009 *Continued from page 1*

The 2009 campaign theme is "iCan: Now More Than Ever." This year's campaign will run through Dec. 11. The Marshall Center's goal for 2009 is to raise \$625,000.

In 2008, the center surpassed its \$600,000 goal by more than \$64,000.

The Tennessee Valley campaign, which in 2009 seeks to raise a combined \$2 million, is a joint effort between Marshall, the Army's Aviation and Missile Command and other federal agencies at Redstone Arsenal and in surrounding Alabama and Tennessee counties.

The Marshall Center will hold its own kickoff rally in October. More details about the 2009 CFC effort will appear in upcoming issues of the Marshall Star.

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

MARSHALL STAR

Vol. 50/No. 2

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 4:30 p.m. Thursday 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. The Star does not publish commercial advertising of any kind.

Manager of Public and Employee Communications: Dom Amatore
Editor: Jessica Wallace

U.S. Government Printing Office 2009-523-047-00017

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