

NASA Academy Alumni Association (NAAA) Electronic Newsletter

Vol. 1 #5 Oct 1998

David Kalman, editor

Please send all questions or comments to David Kalman,
djkalman@pcisys.net

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President's Message

David J. Goldstein , NAAA President

As October begins, I hope everyone is looking forward to the amazing NAAA Conference. For those who won't be able to make it to Washington, we will post pictures and accounts of the events on the website. This month looks to be an exciting one for the NAAA, as many of the things we have planned all year are now coming to fruition.

The summer included three new Academy classes, reunions and get-togethers at the various Centers, and the traditional end-of-summer video conference between the groups and introducing the NAAA. Again this year we are planning a big annual event for the alumni. Last year's was held at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC, and events included the first NAAA Congress, poster sessions, and the banquet including dinner speakers Dave Thompson (President of Orbital), Joe Rothenberg (present NASA AA for Space Flight), and Al Diaz (present GSFC Director). Amazingly, this year we are going to top even that!

This year, what we hope will be the first annual NAAA Fall Conference was chosen to coincide with NASA's 40th Anniversary celebrations, commemorating the founding of NASA in October, 1958. The capstone of the weekend will be a gala, all you can eat and drink, at the National Building

Museum with speakers Dan Goldin (NASA Administrator) and President Bill Clinton! With luck, everything will go as planned and Mr. Clinton will join us - you never know until he walks in the door, but he has confirmed his plans to speak. We are grateful to have been invited to join in this event by NASA and the AIAA.

Prior to the evening of festivities and as part of the conference activities, the NAAA will be hosting a public panel discussion at NASA Headquarters entitled: "The Next Forty Years: A Vision of Humanity's Future in Space." The NAAA has been working with Alan Ladwig's office at NASA HQ to coordinate this event. The theme is NASA's 40th anniversary, and each of the four panelists will present a brief statement of their "vision" for the next 40 years. An open discussion will follow. What is truly special about this event is that it came about due to the NAAA, and it is really the only public activity NASA is holding in Washington for the 40th anniversary. This event is going a long way toward establishing the NAAA as an important asset to NASA in the minds of several senior officials, and we hope it will get people thinking about the future too.

Saturday will bring a VIP tour of Goddard Space Flight Center, the Second NAAA Congress with some interesting discussion groups, and a dinner at Dr. Jerry Soffen's home, founder of the NASA Academy program. We'll have plenty of time for touring DC and for going out at night, so we'll be able to catch up with both old and new friends. In addition, we will be gearing up for the NAAA elections for 1999 officers. What should the next 10 years bring for the NASA Academy Alumni Association?

In conjunction with the weekend commemorating the past and future of NASA, the theme for the weekend will revolve around our own group. We are a growing group of motivated, intelligent, ambitious, and capable students and young professionals. In our ranks are Ph.D.'s, Founders, Directors, and Vice Presidents of entrepreneurial space companies, spacecraft designers, and without exception, outstanding scientists and engineers. What do we do with this assemblage and how do we interact with the outstanding program that brought us together? What do each of us want out of the NAAA? What do each of us expect to get? What can we each give, and why? These are some questions we hope to answer in conference rooms, restaurants and bars this weekend as we plan for the future. It promises to be a great weekend! I look forward to either seeing you there or telling you all about it. Have a great October!

David J. Goldstein
NAAA President
David@aeroastro.com

Election Information

The 1998 NAAA Election is coming up in a few weeks, at which time the members of the NAAA will vote to elect the next NAAA Executive Council (EC), consisting of a President, Vice President of Operations, and Vice President of Finance.

The timeline for the NAAA Election has been shifted such that the close of the nomination period will fall one week after the Annual Conference. This year's schedule is:

- Nomination Period Opens - October 11
- Close of Nomination Period - October 25
- Balloting Opens - November 1
- Balloting Closes - November 8
- Announcement of Election Results - November 15
- New Executive Officers take office - December 1

Holding an elected office is just one of the ways NASA Academy Alumni can become involved with the NAAA. To find out more about the three EC positions, and other appointed positions within the NAAA, visit Frequently Asked Questions at-

<http://www.nasa-academy.org/faq.html>

To be eligible to vote, or to run for office, you must be a current member in NAAA. If it has been more than one year since you submitted a membership form, simply fill out the online membership form at-

<http://www.nasa-academy.org/members/member.form.html>

As a point of information, the NAAA has the beginnings of becoming a powerful force in the space community. Its name is already well recognized within NASA headquarters, and it allows many doors to be opened to some of the top staff. With this year's conference which coincides with the 40th anniversary, the current officers have set up a panel discussion which is going to give the group unprecedented coverage in and out of NASA. By mentioning your affiliation with the NAAA as an officer, you can work very closely with people like Senior Advisor Alan Ladwig, to move programs like this forward, and since the NAAA is only in its second year, you basically have free reign to direct the program in which direction you choose.

So, if you are interested in becoming a candidate, please submit the Candidacy Declaration form provided below to the elections@nasa-academy.org, and this will be compiled with other candidates and distributed to the list prior to balloting. Any other questions or comments can also be sent to the elections e-mail.

Thank you, Robert Bayt(GSFC '93, GSFC Staff '94) and Jon Sims (GSFC '95)

Candidacy Declaration Form

Candidacy Declaration Form for NASA Academy Alumni Association Office

Email this form to elections@nasa-academy.org by October 25, 1998.

Check the office for which you are declaring candidacy:

- President
 Vice President of Operations
 Vice President of Finance

Name:

Address:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Academy Attended (e.g., GSFC 1995):

Please include a statement (100-500 words) of your qualifications for the office, your goals for your term, and your vision for the future of NAAA.

Out and About in Colorado

Erin Robinson (ARC'98)

On Saturday, September 26th, the weather and timing were right for many of the NASA Academy alums round about Colorado to converge and converse. A few diligent and outdoor-loving types met early to hike up to Royal Arch, near Chautauqua Park in Boulder, with Mike Moreau leading and Don Olinger and Erin Robinson trailing along.

Don and Erin, both Ames alumni, enjoyed the Ames domination for only a short while as latecomers to the hike, Jeremy Richardson, Jeff Baltrush, and Greg Richardson suddenly appeared on the trail. It was a steep hike, hard on the lungs going up and hard on the knees going down. The payoff: two impressively large boulders leaning up to create "the Royal Arch" and a stirring panoramic view of Colorado's Front Range communities, all within an hour of downtown Boulder.

Following this little adventure, the hikers and several other Academy alumni converged on Mike's house for a barbecue. Other than the hot weather (Colorado's high temperature Friday broke a 100 year old record) it was a great day to get outside and hang out with some old and new friends. Present were Don Olinger (ARC'97), Erin Robinson (ARC'98), Trey McDowell (GSFC'93), Dave Kalman and Mike Moreau (GSFC'94), Jeremy Richardson (GSFC'96), Jeff Baltrush, Jennifer Probst, and Jeff and Amy Tingley (GSFC'97).

(Editor's note: the Colorado alumni try to have a large get-together at least once a semester. I last heard that there are 16 alumni in Colorado, and we have emails for all of them! Normally we just email the other Colorado alumni regarding it, but if you are interested in try to attend, please email me and I will ensure that we add your name to the list of people we will inform regarding the next get-together. David)

New and Improved Electronic Phonebook now on line

Julia Plummer (GSFC 97), Membership Chair

The Electronic Phonebook on the NAAA website was just recently updated to include all of the current contact information for the NASA Academy alumni through September 26, 1998. The Electronic Phonebook provides a means for all of you to have access to the most up to date contact information for all of the alumni.

The "front end" allows you to query the Electronic Phonebook by searching within several of the database fields, such as name, Academy center or year, or current address to name a few. For example, you can search for a particular person by entering their name, for all of the people in your Academy "class," or all of the people in a particular city or state. You are encouraged to look up your own entry and let us know if any of your information is not displayed properly. Simply visit the NAAA website (www.nasa-academy.org) and select "electronic phonebook."

Of course, the information that is available is only as good as what you have provided us with. For this reason, we encourage you to visit the website and submit a membership form whenever you have any changes in your contact information. When you submit a membership form, the information is entered in the NAAA master database, and the email lists are updated to reflect any changes you made on the form. Periodically, this master database is uploaded to the Electronic Phonebook on the NAAA website, where the alumni have access to it. Some of you may remember being assigned a password so you could log on to the database and make changes yourself. This feature is not being supported at this time, so the way to make changes is to submit a membership form.

With the electronic phonebook now up and running the NAAA will be introducing some new services to the alumni. The first is an email aliasing service. Soon, you will be able to send email to anyone who has a current "primary email address" listed in the database by sending a message to `firstname.lastname@nasa-academy.org`

Email messages sent to this address will automatically be directed to the "primary email address" you have provided. So as long as you keep your information up to date in the database, people will know how to reach you.

The NAAA: What's the Point?

Brian Roberts (GSFC '94, GSFC staff '95, NAAA VP Finance '97-'98)

As I have been involved with the formation of the NASA Academy Alumni Association (NAAA), I have often wondered if what we were doing was worth the effort. After helping the NAAA function on a monthly basis, it's only now that I have a clear idea of exactly WHAT the NAAA should do. While talking with over a dozen alumni during both my recent trip to Houston and at the annual Goddard GSRP symposium, I am convinced more than ever that an alumni association is crucial to the future success of the NASA Academy programs.

Even though we call ourselves an "alumni association," I think the NAAA must do more than support alumni related activities. Socializing is important for members of different Academies to meet each other to create the network of colleagues that is so important and an organized group like the NAAA is the ONLY way that is going to happen. However, I have seen the true potential benefit of the NAAA when it supports the NASA Academy programs at each Center. There are four activities, I think the NAAA should be involved with (in no particular order):

1) Support summer group projects

This was done in the summer of 1997 and the idea would be for the RAs at each Center to submit a proposal with a budget and the NAAA would solicit donations from the Space Grants. This helps the Space Grant Program feel more a part of the NASA Academy program than simply sending in their applications.

2) Scholarships for Research Associates

The NASA Academy RAs would still be selected by the NASA Centers and it is up to each Center to decide if they are going to accept unfunded RAs. If they continue to do as they have in the past, the NAAA should be in the position to provide scholarships. This could be accomplished by establishing a scholarship endowment funded primarily by donations from corporations. This also allows alumni who would rather donate to the scholarship endowment instead of the general fund to financially contribute to the NAAA.

3) Annual Conference

Besides the small yearly expenses of running the corporation, this is where I feel a majority of the general fund should (and has been the last two years) be spent. The idea is to gather the alumni within a few months of the end of the summer program to continue the Academy excitement for the newest alumni. The conference serves as a way to reminisce with old friends and make some new ones, but its major focus should be to educate the public and/or the alumni body at large. I think the panel discussion scheduled for this year's conference is one excellent example of what is possible and other ideas discussed for future conferences include an alumni technical oral and poster session.

4) Support the NASA Academy Program

This is where I see the NAAA having the greatest impact. One idea would be to have the NAAA organize (and fund) a kick-off meeting of all NASA Academy RAs before (or after) each summer session to make them feel a part of the NASA Academy program as a whole rather than just the program at their particular Center. The NAAA has already attempted to do this by hosting a videoconference for the Academy RAs at each Center near the end of the summer. In addition, as new NASA Academy programs start and as Academy staff at the various NASA Centers come and go, the NAAA can provide the continuity and act as a resource for the new staff which is essential to maintaining the quality of the NASA Academy program. This is already being done in a small way as the NAAA maintains the only database of the NASA Academy alumni.

In addition to the annual alumni-related activities the NAAA has done thus far, the other important roles filled by the NAAA include: facilitating communication among the alumni (through the mailing lists, the monthly newsletters, and the yearly magazine), tracking and keeping updated contact information on the alumni, and making the resources and expertise of individuals in the group available to all alumni.

At the NAAA Founders Meeting in February 1997, Dr. Soffen, the founder of the NASA Academy program, suggested that we, as Goddard alumni, make contact with the two new Academies at the Dryden Flight Research Center and the Ames Research Center that were in the process of being formed to insure the continued high quality of the program and that promoting the welfare of the Academy should be high on our priority list. I agree that this is exactly where the NAAA should focus its efforts in the coming years.

The ideas I discussed above are just that -- my ideas based on being intimately involved with the NAAA over the last year and half and talking with other alumni. I would love to hear what you think. Feel free to e-mail (broberts@ssl.umd.edu) or give me a call (301.614.0690) if you would like to share your views.

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed here are strictly my own and do not necessarily represent those of the NAAA or the NASA Academy.

NAAA Gift Shop Debuts

by Brian Roberts

After months of planning and lots of hard work (thanks to Jim Brice and Ian Ruiz), the NASA Academy Alumni Association is proud to announce its online gift shop. Part of the motivation for this is the fact that we (and the Academy staff) get many requests about how people can get a bag, shirt, etc. that the Academy RAs have during the summer.

We currently have lapel pins, polo shirts, and bags for sale, but the possibility of what can be offered in the future (sweats, hats, cups, license plate holders, golf balls, etc.) is endless.

The idea is not to use the sale of these items as a major fundraiser, but rather to make a few dollars off of what we sell to recover our set-up costs and to cover shipping them out to alumni. If you wish to make a specific donation to cover some of the set-up charges, look for an e-mail message to the list in the next week.

The lapel pins have the Academy logo with "NASA" above and "Academy" below the logo. They sell for \$5 to members of the NAAA, \$7 to non-members, or you can get one free with a \$15 donation.

The polo shirts are 100% cotton and are the same shirts that the Academy at Goddard purchased the last two summers with the Academy logo and the words "NASA Academy" next to it on the front. You can select a variety of colors for each "field" of the logo: 1) The "A" and 2) The swoosh around the "A" and the text "NASA Academy". Medium, large, and extra large shirts sell for \$25 to members of the NAAA, \$32 to non-members, and you get one free with a \$75 donation. Add \$2 to the prices for XXL or XXXL shirts.

The bags are the same that last year's Goddard Academy purchased and have the same logo found on the shirt. They sell for \$50 to members of the NAAA, \$60 to non-members, and you get one free with a \$150 donation.

We will be taking pin, shirt, and bag orders at the annual conference, but if you are not attending the conference and wish to place an order, visit the online gift shop at-

<http://www.nasa-academy.org/giftshop/>

and e-mail us your order (naaa@nasa-academy.org). Look for an online order form soon.

Editor's Ramblings

by **David Kalman, NAAA newsletter editor**

Welcome back to everyone who has missed the newsletter over the summer. I know that I missed reading on what everyone else has been up to over the past few month.

I appreciate all of the articles that were submitted, and hope that this flow of ideas continues. I especially enjoy see how all of the NASA Academies are becoming active in the newsletter.

I hope that NAAA can get some new blood in for officers, to spread out the workload and to get new ideas for the organization. Consequently, I propose to publish all of the candidate statements in the next newsletter, so that everyone can see what people think may be the direction for next year's NAAA. I am sure that Mike M. will post something that details the election schedule, and also when we need to re-register our members to be eligible to vote.

Once again, welcome back to the NAAA newsletter, and send me what you are doing. I am sure many people would be interested in hearing what is going on.

David Kalman
djkalman@pcisys.net

NASA Academy Leads to True Love

Name: Jerry Gomez and Susan Wetstone
email: Wetmez@aol.com
Home contact info: (206)526-8485
Work company (or school): University of Washington
Work title: Dental & Medical students
Work contact info:
Major work project(s):

It's great to hear about so many familiar people doing such exciting things! Susan and I (Jerry Gomez) are starting a completely different course. We are going to be married in August, and a month later, I start Dental School and Susan starts Medical School at the U. of Washington. We bought a brand new house in Seattle and quit our jobs. Susan was working for the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center as a computer programmer trying to solve the Phase Problem of X-Ray Crystallography (protein structure determination), and I was working as an electrical engineer for AVTECH, an avionics development and manufacturing company.

For fun, I read Russian literature and Susan reads Russian history. We would both love to go to Russia itself someday (we're a little fanatical: "Jerry, I swear I'm the last of the Romanovs!" Susan, 1997 ;)) but we've done enough travelling the past four years (about 20 countries) that we've decided to go on strike against the airlines (one more cancelled flight, and I'll go crazy (hee hee)). All in all, it has been quite an adventure for both of us since the first day we met at the NASA ACADEMY in 1994.

Sincerely,
Jerry Gomez, SAll

Special Where Are They Now - Jim Brice

For those Academy alumni who I have met, I wanted to share with you the details on my new job. I recently (three weeks ago) left Boeing for a position with Orbital Sciences Corp, in Dulles VA. I have taken a new position as Systems Lead for a suite of experiments to be flown on the X-34. The X-34 is a technology demonstrator vehicle to prove fast turnaround operations for a hypersonic vehicle. It's stated purpose is also to act as a test-bed for embedded and attached experiments. The suite of experiments that I will oversee include thermal protection systems and active vehicle health monitoring systems. For the Goddard Academy students who visited Orbital each year, I'm sure you can understand how excited I am to have this opportunity. So far, I can tell you that Orbital lives up to its reputation. The engineering staff here are smart, aggressive, and hard-working (not sure how I slipped in). Right now I am commuting from my place in Greenbelt (1 hour and 10 minutes each way, on a good beltway day!). However, I made an offer on a townhouse this weekend near Orbital; should the owner accept my less than generous offer, I'll have a place for you all to stay when you visit. Take care and please keep me posted on your whereabouts and whatabouts. Jim

Where Are They Now?

For future issues, I suggest the following format for the submissions:

Name:

email:

Home contact info:

Work company:

Work title:

Work contact info:

Major work project(s):

Discussion (2-3 paragraphs, can be either or both personal and work related)

So here they are, MSFC Academy 2 (1995), in their own words:

Jill Macklem

Well, probably unlike the majority of the members on the NAAA mailing list, I'm not working directly in the space industry. I've been working for The Boeing Company in the Commercial Airplane Group in Seattle for about two and a half years now. Currently I work in Aerodynamics as a stability and control engineer. The work is challenging, interesting, and exciting, and I am enjoying it very much. I only hope I have enough seniority and skill to survive the downsizing that, word is, we are about to go through. :-P

Away from work, I'm enjoying participating in a wide variety of sports- mainly indoor soccer and ice hockey. After breaking my wrist very badly playing rugby two weeks before attending the Marshall Academy in '95 I decided to retire from that sport (much to my parents relief), but I just can't give up sports altogether (much to my parent's chagrin). I'm also still basking in the glow of the Detroit Redwing's TWO Stanley Cup victories and the University of Michigan football national championship season. WooHoo!! And like many 'Philes the world around, I'm counting down the hours until November 8th when the X-Files season premieres. (Yeah, go ahead and call me a geek for that-I've been called worse before. ;))

That's about it from me.
Jill Macklem

Ruth Moser

moser@kafb.aero.org (current work email..will be changing soon)

Home contact info:
5601 Taylor Ranch Drive NW # 1812
Albuquerque New Mexico 87120
505-898-7843

Work Company: The Aerospace Corporation
Work Title: MTS(Member of the Technical Staff)
Work Contact info: (see email above) 505-846-7891
(note: all work email and phone calls are monitored so don't send/say anything you might regret).
Major Work Projects:

I am doing a lot of system engineering work. The main program I am supporting is UltraLITE (Ultra Lightweight Imaging Technologies Experiments). The includes some structural work on the PDOS ground demo. (Precision Deployable Optical Structures). And systems engineering and management responsibilities as a part of the DST ground demo(Deployable Space Telescope). UltraLITE is a part of the IGDL program at AFRL.

Discussion:

I just finished my masters at Utah State majoring in Mechanical Engineering with an emphasis on Solid Mechanics. I then moved to Albuquerque (literally one week after my defense) and started working for The Aerospace Corporation in their regional office. I am on-site at the AFRL at Kirtland Air Force Base.

Other than work, I have been really busy trying to finish unpacking, getting settled etc. If there are any other alumni in the Albuquerque area (Sandia? Intel? etc) drop me a line.

Catherine Venturini

email: venturinic@cspar.uah.edu

Home contact info:

3030 Sunlake Blvd. Apt 2014
Huntsville, AL 35824
(256) 461-0393

After MSFC Academy in '95, I took a few months off which included a trip to Italy for two weeks to visit with family and see the sites. I came back to good 'ol Huntsville, AL the beginning of 1996 to start graduate school at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. I am still there working on my Master's degree in Physics. I am under an Alabama Space Grant Fellowship to continue my research on Dusty Plasmas which I started under NASA Academy. I hope to finish my degree no later than May 1999. When I finish I will either look for a job or continue on for my Ph.D. I have not decided on that yet!

Next Issue

Issue deadline: 26 Oct 5 PM MST

Planned articles:

Officers messages

Election information

Candidate statements

NASA Reunion Reports (more than one are welcome - let's see everyone's perspectives!)

Other article submissions (it is your newsletter!!)

Where are they now - GSFC Academy 4 (1996)

Contact Information

The following are way to contact the officers of the NAAA:

THE NASA ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

www.nasa-acdemy.org

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

David Goldstein, President
email: david@qm.aeroastro.com
phone: 617.451.8630

Brian Roberts, VP - Finance
email: broberts@eng.umd.edu
phone: 301.405.7353

Michael Moreau, VP - Operations
email: moreau@colorado.edu
phone: 303.492.3944

NAAA ELECTRONIC MAGAZINE
David Kalman, Editor
email: djkalman@pcisys.net
phone: 719.591.1808