



# NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2001



Editors: Jim Chase, GSFC '98, Former President  
Erin Robinson, ARC '98, Editor-in-Chief

### *Dedicated in memory of Jerry Soffen.*

OLD & NEW NAAA..... 1  
ANNOUNCEMENTS..... 1  
ANNUAL EVENT ..... 2  
GET READY FOR NASA ACADEMY & USRP 2001 ..... 3  
DR. GERALD SOFFEN ..... 4  
FEATURE STORY: JAKE VACHON'S DISCOVERY... 5  
WORKING WITH THE SPACE GRANT..... 6  
MORE ON NAAA DECISION 2000 ELECTION..... 6  
ARC '99 ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW? ..... 7

### **OLD & NEW NAAA**

#### *Goodbye from the 2000 Executive Council*

Dear Alumni and Friends,

We would like to extend our appreciation to all of you who have played a role in this memorable year. It is this support from you, our more than 350 members, friends, and sponsors, that provided the foundation for a successful, and yet sad, year. (Please review the acknowledgements at the end.)

Some of our efforts this year included our official tax status as a non-profit organization, visits to each of the academies, reunions in six major cities, participation in a Space Grant Meeting, an improved website with upgraded communications features, and the Congress held in Manhattan Beach, CA.

On a sadder note, 2000 will be marked as the year that we lost our friend and mentor, Dr. Gerald Soffen. It is a rare gift to be a proficient leader and yet give generously to others. Dr. Soffen was outstanding in this respect, and his loss is deeply felt by us, along with the many others whom he has touched.

2000 was also a year that left us with a distinct message. Our environment is filled with constant change and disruption, but we are each capable of rising above this disruption and making a lasting contribution to the causes we wish to champion.

Sincerely,

**Jim Chase, GSFC '98, Former President**  
**Mindy Delaney, MSFC '96, Former Vice President of Finance**  
**Srimal Wangu, GSFC '93, Former Vice President of Operations**

#### **Gold NAAA Sponsors (2):**



#### *Hello from the 2001 Executive Council*

Greetings fellow alumni!

We hope you had a great year and are ready for some excitement in 2001. As you will read in this month's newsletter there is a lot of activity going on in relation to the Academy and the Association, we sincerely request that you will take time to engage yourselves with us in these endeavors. As our membership gains more seniority, and by continuing to stay in contact and working together, it will be possible for us to have large-scale effects on the future. New members who make the commitment to get involved will also get increasing benefits from contact with older members who have been alumni for almost 10 years!

Signed, the new Executive Council,

**Andy Hock, ARC '00, President**  
**Travis Sparks, GSFC '98, Vice President for Operations**  
**Aaron Jacobovits, DFRC '98, Vice President for Finance**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### *The World Space Party*

**By Loretta Hidalgo, ARC '98, [loretta@its.caltech.edu](mailto:loretta@its.caltech.edu)**

April 12<sup>th</sup> is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first human to touch the stars - Yuri Gagarin. This Russian holiday falls on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Space Shuttle's first flight and during the spacey year of 2001. What better day to celebrate and share the passion of space? Yuri's Night is a decentralized confederation of space parties taking place across the world, with funding provided by the Altenkinglen Foundation. Here in Los Angeles, we're going to throw a massive party that will rock the dance underground to the stars. If you think a modest amount of money could make a difference for your space party, then write me for more information or visit the website ([www.yurisnight.net](http://www.yurisnight.net)).

#### *Nevada Dinner with an Astronaut*

**By Dr. Douglas O'Handley, ARC Academy Director**  
**[dohandley@mail.arc.nasa.gov](mailto:dohandley@mail.arc.nasa.gov)**

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, the Nevada Space Grant is having "A Celebration Honoring the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Human Space Flight." The celebration will be held in Las Vegas, and there will be a banquet on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup>. I suggested that they have a table (10 people) for Academy alumni. John Gardner was very receptive to this idea and assured me that there would be a reduced rate. I will be attending the Saturday festivities, and I need the names of at least eight interested alumni. The dinner will include an astronaut at our table, and if the response is greater, then we would have an astronaut at each table. Please let me know if you are interested.

# ANNUAL EVENT

---

## **2000 Event Summary**

**By Emily Eelkema, DFRC '98, Annual Event Organizer**  
emilyeelkema@yahoo.com

This year's NAAA event was held in Manhattan Beach, CA, parallel with the Space Frontier Conference. Over 40 alumni attended, flying in from as far away as Canada and Italy.

The Space Frontier Conference covered many topics including space entrepreneurship, commercial applications, tourism, and breakthrough technologies. NAAA was represented by five conference speakers: Eric Anderson (GSFC '95), David Goldstein (GSFC '95), Loretta Hidalgo (ARC '98), Dominic Papineau (ARC '99), and Doug O'Handley (Ames Academy Director). Dominic also presented his research proposal to FINDS (a space exploration R&D endowment), winning 1<sup>st</sup> place and a \$10,000 research grant.

On Saturday morning, the executive council reported the status of the NAAA. Dr. O'Handley gave an update on the Ames Academy, and working groups discussed several topics reviewed later in this newsletter. After lunch, the NASA Academy and ISU hosted an "International Hour". Srimal Wangu (GSFC '93), Loretta Hidalgo (ARC '98), and Kevin Hand (ARC '97) shared their experiences with ISU, the United Nations Space Council, and outreach in Africa.

The highlight of the Annual Event took place at the Wolfgang Puck Cafe. Fifty-five alumni and guests gathered for dinner, along with former astronaut Story Musgrave, who gave the keynote address. Dr. Musgrave and alumni discussed everything from NASA politics to his creative work. On Sunday, alumni had a chance to kick back and enjoy the beautiful California weather. Members gathered at Playa Del Rey for a beach BBQ, complete with burgers, volleyball, sun and sand. A perfect end to a very successful weekend!

## **SFC 9 Conference**

**By Andrea Bruno, GSFC '99, brunand@hotmail.com**

The Space Frontier Conference (SFC), a yearly event, allows private companies and international space agencies to showcase and explore continuing technological, business, and political developments in space exploration. Companies made several presentations; highlighted are AstroExpo.com, JP Aerospace, and Lightcraft Technologies Inc. AstroExpo.com specializes in information exchange within the aerospace sector, connecting consumers with suppliers of a range of aerospace products and services. JP Aerospace, self-dubbed America's OTHER space program, is a creative group building low cost space systems, including launch vehicles. Lightcraft Technologies Inc. develops high-powered lasers that may be launching payloads in approximately 5 years.

## **Summary of Congress Working Groups**

**By Jim Chase, GSFC '98, Former President, jimchase@mit.edu**

At the congress, six working groups discussed NAAA topics of interest. Four of the working groups are discussed below, and the others (Communications & Outreach) have included separate articles.

- **Activities-** Stephanie Gliege (ARC '98) and Jessica Marquez (ARC '98) guided discussion on possible NAAA activities. Some ideas are for social dinners, speakers, greater promotion of reunions, a social coordinator for each area, and hosting the 2002 annual event in Houston (to coincide with the World Space Conference).
- **NA / NAAA Relations-** Brian Roberts (GSFC '94) and Dr. O'Handley led a discussion on how the NA and NAAA can work together. Some ideas include more interaction with the space grants and having a member of the EC visit each summer academy.
- **Fundraising-** Aaron Jacobovits (DFRC '98) initiated discussion on future fundraising efforts. In particular, the subject of dues was discussed with a recommendation of "suggested" dues for students and "strongly suggested" dues for non-students.
- **Website Development-** Elisa Quintana (GSFC '97) led the website development group. She has been enhancing the current website (<http://www.nasa-academy.org>) and is asking for more ideas. Some suggestions have been to add more accomplishments and increase security.

## **Communications**

**By Chris Lewicki, GSFC '96, chrisl@seds.org**

Development of the new Alumni Database is well underway. A simple interface is available on my home server at <http://www2.nasa-academy.org/db/alumni.php>. I would like feedback on how it looks, "advanced" search features, output formats, and especially privacy concerns. At the moment, I expect some information will be public, but other information (e.g. phone numbers, home addresses, etc.) will only be viewable by alumni. The next step is to allow sorting and editing. This will be completed in the near future, and I will send an email when you can update your information.

## **Outreach Working Group**

**By Srimal Wangu, GSFC '93, Former VP of Operations**  
swangu@hotmail.com

The objective of the Educational Outreach Working Group is outreach within NASA and the academic community, with the goal of publicizing the Academy. To do this, we need to take two important steps: form a permanent outreach committee and initiate a project for making the Academy well known.

We thought of several possible projects. We could work with the Space Grant Consortia to start a "Junior Space Academy," a one-week program introducing NASA and space careers to high school students. Another possibility would be to expand upon the work of the GSFC '99 Academy and distribute their Academy CD to alumni and academic institutions. There are more possibilities, and many opportunities for involvement. If you would like to be part of the Outreach committee, please let me know!

Special thanks to Markus Wilkinson (GSFC '93), Cynthia Atkinson (GSFC '96), Loretta Hidalgo (ARC '98), and Adam Ross (GSFC '00). It was great working with you all.

## GET READY FOR NASA ACADEMY & USRP 2001

---

### ***Ames Academy***

**By Dr. Douglas O'Handley, ARC Academy Director**  
[dohandley@mail.arc.nasa.gov](mailto:dohandley@mail.arc.nasa.gov)

The NASA Ames Astrobiology Academy will again host 12 students at Ames Research Center near San Francisco. Dr. O'Handley will once more lead the Academy, now in its fifth year. Joe Tamer will also be returning as the Deputy Director, marking his fourth summer at Ames. Two returning alumni will round out the staff. Andy Hock, the new president of the NAAA, is recovering in great fashion from his spinal cord injury that occurred while mountain biking in the Santa Monica Mountains. He, together with Natacha Chough from Seattle, will guide the students through the summer.

This summer, one of the 12 students will be sponsored by the Canadian Space Agency, chosen in a nation-wide competition for attendance in the Academy at Ames. There may be a 13<sup>th</sup> student as a result of a similar selection from the Spanish Astrobiology Institute. The theme of Astrobiology will be spread to the International Space University community this summer with a special theme day hosted by Lockheed-Martin Corporation and led by Dr. O'Handley.

As in previous summers the Academy will visit the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Dryden Flight Research Center along with corporations and other research institutions in Silicon Valley. It is hoped that this Academy will repeat the great opportunity of seeing a launch at the Vandenberg West Coast launch facility to round out the summer's great adventures.

### ***Goddard Academy***

**By Enectali Figueroa-Feliciano, GSFC '95, Goddard Liaison**  
[Enectali.Figueroa@gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:Enectali.Figueroa@gsfc.nasa.gov)

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, a group of alumni met with Dr. Richard Fahey to discuss the Goddard Academy. Dr. Fahey has accepted the challenge of running the Academy at Goddard for this summer. During the meeting, we identified several ways that the Alumni Association could help Dr. Fahey and the university programs office make the 2001 Goddard Academy the most fulfilling experience possible for its RA's.

Dr. Fahey sees the Goddard Academy comprised of approximately a dozen students, with an emphasis on leadership and space. The recruitment effort for the Academy will put more importance on the leadership and experience aspects of the Academy, and the theme will be "the toughest summer you'll ever love." The preferred years for RA's are rising seniors or just graduated students, although qualified students from all ages and years will be considered.

The most pressing need at the moment is to find good candidates for this summer's staff positions. The future staff person needs to be a highly motivated, self-starter with good leadership qualities and a good knowledge of how the

academy works. In short, a NASA Academy alum! So if you hear the trumpets calling out your name, this is the time to shine, to take up the challenge, (background brass ensemble getting louder) to step up to the plate... OK, you get the picture. Let me know if you're interested.

The second thing we can do for the Goddard Academy is to help support the staff. We are initiating the "Ask an ex-Academy Staff" email hotline for the current staff to ask questions answered by a volunteer group ex-staff. There will be other ways to help that will inevitably surface. If you want to be involved, say so!

*It is up to us to carry on the legacy of Dr. Soffen.*

### ***Undergraduate Student Research Program***

**By Jim Chase, GSFC '98, Former President, [jimchase@mit.edu](mailto:jimchase@mit.edu)**

The USRP program is a new initiative that is being sponsored by the NASA Headquarters Education Division and coordinated by the Virginia Space Grant Consortium. In its first summer and fall of 2001, they expect to place 80 to 100 rising juniors and seniors across nine NASA centers.

This program has a three-fold purpose: attracting talented students for NASA research, building a national program bridge from K-12 to higher education activities, and strengthening NASA's commitment to academic excellence. Student requirements during the program are a research paper and participation in NASA colloquia and workshops.

Although USRP is similar to the NASA Academy, it is intended to be a less selective program that focuses on research rather than leadership. This program will provide opportunities for both undergraduates and the Academy. It will allow more students to participate in NASA research, while giving the Ames and Goddard Academies a closer relationship with possible applicants. Students who participate in both programs will have the best of each world: a significant research contribution and participation in an inspirational leadership program.

I encourage you to help promote the USRP program, alongside the Academy. If you have more questions, you are welcome to contact Heidi Davis (from the Virginia Space Grant Consortium) at [hbdavis@odu.edu](mailto:hbdavis@odu.edu).

---

### **Silver NAAA Sponsors (8):**



## DR. GERALD SOFFEN

### *Dr. Gerald Soffen Foundation*

By Brian Roberts, GSFC '94, Chairman of Soffen Foundation  
broberts@ssl.umd.edu

When Dr. Soffen passed away in November, his wife Kazuko wanted donations for the Academy. With these donations, some alumni are establishing the "Gerald A. Soffen Memorial Fund for the Advancement of Space Science Education." Kazuko and a few of Jerry's friends will suggest what type of Memorial should be established, while we seek legal advice and look into similar organizations. Meanwhile, Mindy Delaney (MSFC '96) has collected donations for the Fund and reports that we have close to \$2,000. There is still plenty to do, so please let me know if you would like to help.

### *Dr. Soffen*

By Mike Moreau, GSFC '94, Email List Manager  
moreau@colorado.edu

I was asked to write about Dr. Soffen for this newsletter. I can't possibly do this topic justice in just a few paragraphs. So instead, I will share with you how he has influenced my life, because I know he has impacted hundreds of students in a similar way. I will also share some remarks that were made at the memorial service, because they touch on the spirit that made him special. Finally, I will close with an email from Dr. Soffen himself that really captures his dream of the Academy.

I worked with Dr. Soffen as a student in the 1994 Academy and as a staff member in the 1995 Academy. During this time, we had many discussions about "my future," and Dr. Soffen took a sincere interest in my success and constantly challenged me to "live up to my potential." Following the Academy, I switched to aerospace engineering and started graduate school at Colorado. Even today, his impact is felt by the GSRP Fellowship that funds my research. Jerry's influence as a teacher, mentor, and ultimately a great friend helped me find my way from rural Vermont to a career in space.

We have learned many things from Dr. Soffen. He taught us if you want to get something done, start at the top! It's not how old you are that matters, but how old you act. He would give this as a reason why he constantly surrounded himself with young people. How many septuagenarians do you know who have been white water rafting with twenty-something college kids? Jerry taught us the importance of involving young people in the real projects and programs of NASA. He was adept at seeing the future, and when he came across a young person, he didn't see the student of today, he saw the renowned scientist, president of a company, author, NASA researcher, or teacher of tomorrow.

Dr. Soffen sent the following email shortly before the 1996 Goddard Academy. I saved it because I thought it captured his vision for the academy. All who have been through the Academy have already reaped some benefits, but if this vision comes to fruition, the true impact of the Academy experience on our lives is yet to come, and will be much greater.

*Of Jerry's many accomplishments, his effect on hundreds of students will have the most significant and long lasting impact.*



From: Gerald Soffen Date: Wed, 8 May 1996

In two short weeks all of you will come together and become SA IV (Space Academy four). There will be some remarkable magic that takes place, a little like falling in love, when you finally see each other face to face. The electronic communication that has been going on is terrific, but nothing comes close to 'having a hot dog together at the Air and Space Museum'.

As you all know by now that I am deeply involved this year in the celebration for the 20th anniversary of the Viking Missions to Mars and plans for this year's return to Mars via the Discovery Program. Programs are being planned all over the world for this occasion, but the two primary ones are the COSPAR in Birmingham, Eng. and the Mars Revisited here in Washington (of which you will have a part).

That same magic that will touch you, burned in our hearts (the Vikings of 1976) over all of these past 20 years. Whenever we meet one another we have an instant moment of 'common bond', whether at an airport, in a meeting or over the phone. They used to call us the Viking Mafia. And it is already happening to SA I, II and III, not only for each individual group but crossing over the years. SA IV will become a new part of all of your lives.

I have wondered at times where this magic comes from! I believe that it deals with the extraordinary quality that we seek in each of you. You were not selected because you have a high GPA, or just because you know something about Space, or come from some choice school. You were selected because we saw something special in your application or your essay or your experience that seemed to 'fit' this pattern of success. I can assure you that none of you will be the same after this summer! -Dr. Soffen

### *Soffen Memorial Website*

By Mike Baine, GSFC '93, [mike@mike-baine.net](mailto:mike@mike-baine.net)

I want to thank everyone who graciously shared photos and stories with us. They made a big impact at the memorial. The website (<http://www.nasa-academy.org/soffen/>) includes:

- Nearly 100 photos spanning Jerry's life
- More than a dozen reflections, stories and remembrances of Jerry expressed by his friends
- The memorial service program and abridged biography

I also hope to include a video and transcript of the memorial service for those who were not able to attend. In the mean time, please keep the Jerry stories and photos coming.

## FEATURE STORY: JAKE VACHON'S DISCOVERY

### Photo Essay by Jake Vachon, ARC '98

Edited by Erin Robinson, ARC '98, Newsletter Editor  
airin@worldshare.net

The high desert of California hadn't welcomed a space shuttle home from space for more than four years, but when Discovery needed a dry place to land on October 24, 2000, Jake Vachon (ARC '98) couldn't have been more elated. He captured these stunning photos, depicting STS-92's successful landing and processing at NASA Dryden Research Center.



After watching STS-92 land gracefully on the lakebed, Jake stayed all night to watch them tow it from the runway to the mate-demat facility.



On the morning of Discovery's departure, Jake went to work before sunrise to witness the event. Delays resulted in a later departure than expected, and when the shuttle finally did roll out, it paused right outside of Jake's building for these spectacular photos.



VIRGINIA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM



MASSACHUSETTS SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM  
MIT, Room 33-288, 77 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139



Our special thanks to Jake Vachon for sharing his photo-journalistic abilities with the NAAA community!

## WORKING WITH THE SPACE GRANT

### National Space Grant Meeting

By Charlotte Brown, GSFC '95, [embrown1@yahoo.com](mailto:embrown1@yahoo.com)

In October, Markus Wilkinson (GSFC '93) and I attended the National Space Grant Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. At the meeting, Dr. Douglas O'Handley (Ames Academy Director) gave a presentation on the Ames Academy and handed out pamphlets that were very popular with the Space Grant directors. We also individually spoke to several people about the NASA Academy. In particular, we discussed how the alumni association might be able help the Space Grant Consortia. One of the suggestions is to have alumni talk directly to students regarding NASA Academy and the USRP program. Additionally, the Space Grants are extremely interested in any help we can give in finding companies that are willing to support academy stipends.



## MORE ON NAAA DECISION 2000 ELECTION

### Election Statistics

By Shawn Kuehl, GSFC '95, [Shawn.Kuehl@trw.com](mailto:Shawn.Kuehl@trw.com)

Congratulations to our new Executive Council and thank you to Jon Sims (GSFC '95) and everyone who participated in this year's elections. The Academy rankings and other statistics are shown below for your enlightenment and entertainment.

#### Overall 2000 Turnout By Academy

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) DFRC '97: 60.0%          | 8) ARC '00: 38.5%   |
| 2) GSFC '95: 56.5%-my year! | 9) GSFC '94: 37.5%  |
| 3) MSFC-97: 50.0%           | 10) MSFC '96:28.6%  |
| 3) DFRC-98: 50.0%           | 11) ARC '97: 25.0%  |
| 3) DFRC '00: 50.0%          | 12) GSFC '97: 21.7% |
| 4) GSFC '99: 47.8%          | 13) ARC '98: 20.0%  |
| 5) GSFC '93: 47.4%          | 14) GSFC '00: 19.0% |
| 6) GSFC '96: 45.8%          | 15) MSFC '95:13.3%  |
| 7) GSFC '98: 43.5%          | 16) MSFC '94:7.1%   |
| 8) ARC '99: 38.5%           | 17) DFRC '99:0.0%   |

Way to go DFRC 1997! Top three for two years running! Unfortunately, the bottom three academies are the same. Below are the 1999 results for comparison.

#### 1999 Top Three

- 1) GSFC 1999: 65%
- 2) DFRC 1997: 60%
- 3) GSFC 1998: 48%

#### 1999 Worst Three

- 1) MSFC 1994: 0%
- 2) MSFC 1995: 13%
- 3) DFRC 1999: 14%

#### Miscellaneous Statistics

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Andy's Vote of Confidence: | An overwhelming 97%   |
| First Voter Award:         | Brad Bailey, ARC 1998 |
| Members that are current:  | 76.2%                 |
| Members that voted:        | 35.2%                 |

#### Gender Statistics

In regards to the recent gender discussions on the email list, here are some voting facts. I think we can safely say that gender plays no role in Academy participation level. I am also including how the voting went for VP-Ops by gender, though the data set is too small to draw any conclusions. Enjoy.

- |                             |            |          |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------|
| All members:                | 42% female | 58% male |
| Members that are current:   | 42% female | 58% male |
| Current Members that voted: | 38% female | 52% male |
| Votes for females (VP-Ops): | 60% female | 51% male |
| Votes for males (VP-Ops):   | 40% female | 43% male |



**University of Puerto Rico  
Space Grant**

## ARC '99 ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### *Brennan Gantner*

**Email:** bgantner@mail.arc.nasa.gov  
**Contact Info:** 260 Steelhammer Rd, Silverton, OR 97381  
**Major Project:** Genetic manipulation of hypothermophiles in response to Origin of Life questions  
**Discussion:** Hello all, I am between jobs/schools as I just returned from Germany, where I spent the last year working in a university lab. I had a great time and now I want to think about nothing but unpacking and trying to get back into a normal sleep pattern. I plan on returning to the Bay Area and starting work. Currently, I am applying my 100K of schooling into construction work and sweeping up my dad's shop.

I am also going to spend the summer studying for the GRE and the MCAT. I know they are not really compatible tests, but I am still not sure which field I am going to decide to go into so I am falling back on the plan of applying to everything. So that will cut into my sweeping time for dad, but hopefully I can ready myself for both tests come fall (yeah right).

So if anyone is ever in the Silverton, OR area, ring me. We can go out and do something fun (like bowling or watching the fields of wheat grow). Best wishes to all.

### *Matt Lacey*

**Email:** mlacey@stanford.edu  
**Contact info:** 796 Escondido Rd #8J, Stanford, CA 94305  
650-497-3313 or 3914 Trappers Forest, Houston, TX 77088 281-448-4620  
**School:** Stanford University  
**Major:** MS in Mechanical Eng. with emphasis in High-Temperature Gas Dynamics

**School project:** Development of a ion microthruster for Stanford's next microsatellite, EMERALD

**Future goal:** Upper NASA management.  
**Discussion:** After the 1999 Ames Academy, I continued my work with Dr. Jenniskens on the Multi-Instrument Aircraft Campaign. I flew aboard the mission between November 13 and 20. It was a tremendous experience being with so many great scientists and recording the large amount of meteor, aurora and lightning data. Lately, I've decided that Stanford is not the best place for me to get a PhD. I applied for the PMI Program that Aprille sent out. If anyone has been through the interview process for it, I owe you dinner if you tell me what to expect. Short of that, I'd like to be at Johnson, Dryden, Kennedy, Marshall or Stennis starting this summer, with maybe continuing for a PhD nearby. My ideal science position would be working for Franklin Chang-Diaz on the VASIMR project at JSC. If anyone has any leads on getting a job in that lab, please let me know.

### *David Lamb*

**Email:** dmlamb1@earthlink.net  
**Homepage:** [home.earthlink.net/~dmlamb1](http://home.earthlink.net/~dmlamb1)  
**Contact info:** 21636 Dakota Circle, Tualatin, OR 97062  
**School:** Portland State University  
**Major:** Extremophile Biofilms (Current)  
**Major Work:** History/Philosophy of Science (Ph.D.)  
**Discussion:** Although my path has been somewhat circuitous, the ideals instilled from the Academy are still ingrained. I've also found that the questions that interest me

are philosophical. Thus, I have submitted 5 applications (cross your fingers) to history/philosophy of science doctoral programs. Since I completed my Masters and some paleo fieldwork in August I've been doing a lot of R & R.

Currently, I'm working on research for NASA at Portland State. We're examining fossilization of thermophiles (prokaryotes that like heat) in hot springs/geyser settings. It's pretty cool, since I get to work with a variety of scopes incl. TEM, SEM, and optical/CCD. Also, I'm looking forward to some hiking and skiing in the Oregonian highlands

### *Mike Obland*

**Email:** obland@physics.montana.edu  
**Contact info:** 702 Nelson Story, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-585-8437  
**School:** Montana State University  
**Major:** 1<sup>st</sup> year graduate student in Physics, picking up a Master's degree on the way to a Ph.D.

**Discussion:** I am just starting research in the new MSU Space Science and Eng. Laboratory. I was appointed Deputy Project Manager/Systems-Engineer for our first project, CubeSat. We'll be building a 4 inch square satellites with a radiation experiment payload for launch next November.

### *Dominic Papineau*

**Email:** dominic\_papineau@hotmail.com  
**Contact info:** 450-663-3726  
**School:** McGill University  
**Major:** Physics (major) and biochemistry (minor)  
**Major Project:** Characterization of protoplanetary disks around young stars.

**Discussion:** I am particularly interested in the first billion years of evolution of Earth and other biospheres. For many years, I have been developing a multidisciplinary background to understand the physical and biochemical processes involved in the origin of planetary systems and in the origin of life. I feel very fortunate to be living in such an exciting moment of transition of humanity in time.

### *Courtney Vanyo*

**Email:** vanyo@alum.dartmouth.org  
**School/Work:** Graduated with a Masters from Thayer School of Eng. and will start with Ford Motor Company (in MI) in mid-2001  
**Major:** Master of Eng. Management, Bachelor of Mechanical Eng. & Global Business Development/Product Development at Ford  
**School Project:** DartSAT at Dartmouth/Thayer. (Helped design a cubesat for the Stanford/CalPoly)

**Discussion:** Right now I'm in New Zealand. I graduated in November, and I decided that I didn't need to start work right away...so I decided to do some overseas travelling--and NZ and Australia are my destinations. I have been in NZ for two weeks travelling around and doing tons of great adventure stuff (it is an awesome country, and everyone should plan to come visit!). In two weeks, it is off to Australia for 2-3 months! Then, I have a bit at time at home before moving out to Dearborn (by Detroit) to start at Ford. Anyone who ventures to MI is more than welcome to visit!

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Executive Council would like to thank all those who have helped support the NASA Academy Alumni Association, and we encourage everyone to become more actively involved this year. If your name was mistakenly omitted below, please send us a note.

Eric Anderson<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '95

Cyndi Atkinson<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '96

**Mike Baine<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '93**

James Brice<sup>TS</sup>, GSFC Academy Staff

Andrea Bruno<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '99

**Charlotte Brown<sup>TS</sup>, GSFC '95**

**Deon Brown<sup>TS</sup>, GSFC '98**

Warren Brown<sup>S</sup>, GSFC '93

Laura Burns<sup>TS</sup>, MSFC '96

Kevin Callahan<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '98

**Jim Chase<sup>TS</sup>, GSFC '98**

Julius Dasch<sup>T</sup>, Advisor

**Mindy Delaney<sup>TS</sup>, MSFC '96**

Peter Diamandis<sup>T</sup>, Advisor

**Emily Eelkema<sup>TS</sup>, DFRC '98**

Aprille Ericsson-Jackson<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '93

**Enectali Figueroa-Feliciano<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '95**

**Richard Fahey<sup>T</sup>, GSFC Academy Dir.**

Gene Fujii<sup>S</sup>, GSFC '94

David Goldstein<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '95

Stephanie Gliege<sup>T</sup>, ARC '98

Kevin Hand<sup>T</sup>, ARC '97

Tyson Harty<sup>S</sup>, ARC '98

Loretta Hidalgo<sup>T</sup>, ARC '98

Andy Hock<sup>T</sup>, ARC '00

Aaron Jacobovits<sup>T</sup>, DFRC '98

Shawn Kuehl<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '95

Arnaldo Leon<sup>S</sup>, GSFC '95

**Chris Lewicki<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '96**

Jill Macklem<sup>S</sup>, MSFC '95

Jessica Marquez<sup>T</sup>, ARC '98

Michelle Minitti<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '94

**Mike Moreau<sup>TS</sup>, GSFC '94**

Jeffrey Munson<sup>TS</sup>, GSFC '96

**Doug O'Handley<sup>T</sup>, ARC Academy Dir.**

Dominic Papineau<sup>T</sup>, ARC '99

Jennifer Probst<sup>S</sup>, GSFC '97

**Elisa Quintana<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '97**

Greg Richardson<sup>S</sup>, GSFC '96

Holly Ridings<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '96

**Brian Roberts<sup>TS</sup>, GSFC '94**

**Erin Robinson<sup>T</sup>, ARC '98**

Deanne Rogers<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '98

Ian Ruiz<sup>TS</sup>, GSFC '97

Laura Mills<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '95

Kathy Sienko<sup>TS</sup>, ARC '97

**Jon Sims<sup>TS</sup>, GSFC '95**

Amy Snyder<sup>S</sup>, GSFC '97

**Gerald Soffen<sup>T</sup>, Former Academy Dir.**

Travis Sparks<sup>TS</sup>, GSFC '98

Stephanie Sprague<sup>T</sup>, DFRC '99

Vanessa Stroh<sup>T</sup>, GSFC Academy Staff

Rich Sturmfels<sup>TS</sup>, GSFC '98

Joe Tamer<sup>T</sup>, ARC '97

Heather Thomas<sup>S</sup>, GSFC '93

**Stephanie Thomas<sup>TS</sup>, GSFC '98**

Jane Thorpe<sup>TS</sup>, GSFC '95

Julie Townsend<sup>TS</sup>, MSFC '97

Carissa Tudryn<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '99

Jake Vachon<sup>T</sup>, ARC '98

Catherine Venturini<sup>T</sup>, MSFC '95

**Srimal Wangu<sup>TS</sup>, GSFC '93**

Susan Welsh<sup>S</sup>, GSFC '95

Chris Wilkinson<sup>S</sup>, GSFC '96

**Markus Wilkinson<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '93**

Jacob Yates<sup>T</sup>, GSFC '96

Massachusetts Space Grant Consortium<sup>S</sup>

New Jersey Space Grant Consortium<sup>S</sup>

**Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium<sup>S</sup>**

Puerto Rico Space Grant Consortium<sup>S</sup>

Virginia Space Grant Consortium<sup>S</sup>

AeroAstro<sup>S</sup>

e-Aerospace, MIT<sup>S</sup>

**Orbital Sciences Corporation<sup>S</sup>**

Princeton Satellite Systems<sup>S</sup>

Space.com<sup>S</sup>

Legend: T = Time S = Money

**Bold** = Major contribution

## NAAA CONTACT INFORMATION

**President:** Andrew Hock, ARC '00  
ahock@ucla.edu  
Academy Staff, Ames Research Center, CA

**VP-Operations:** Travis Sparks, GSFC '98  
sparkst@utanet.com  
Pres. Tech. Fellow, User Tech. Assoc., VA

**VP-Finance:** Aaron Jacobovits, DFRC '98  
aaronjj@stanford.edu  
Graduate Student, Stanford University, CA

**Editor-in-Chief:** Erin Robinson, ARC '98  
airin@worldshare.net  
Shuttle Analyst, United Space Alliance, TX

**Webmaster:** Elisa Quintana, GSFC '97  
equintan@umich.edu  
Graduate Student, Univ. of Michigan / Ames, CA

**NAAA Address:** NASA Academy Alumni Association  
14625 Baltimore Avenue, PMB 481  
Laurel, MD 20707  
<http://www.nasa-academy.org>

**Discussion:** Focused- voices@nasa-academy.org  
Chat- alumni@nasa-academy.org  
News- news@nasa-academy.org

**Committees:** Communications, Chris Lewicki  
ecomm@nasa-academy.org  
Elections, Jon Sims  
elections@nasa-academy.org  
GSFC Steering, Enectali Figueroa-Feliciano  
academy-steering@nasa-academy.org  
ask-NA-staff@nasa-academy.org  
Soffen Foundation, Brian Roberts  
soffenfund@nasa-academy.org

**Cities:** boston-area@nasa-academy.org  
dc-area@nasa-academy.org  
denver-area@nasa-academy.org  
houston-area@nasa-academy.org  
la-area@nasa-academy.org  
sanfran-area@nasa-academy.org