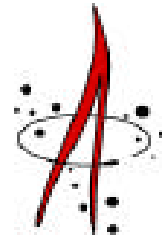




NASA ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER - May 2002

Editors: **Jim Chase, GSFC '98, President**
Erin Robinson, ARC '98, Associate Editor
Stephanie Thomas, GSFC '98, Associate Editor



THE NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.....	1
ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	1
★ 2002 ANNUAL EVENT IN TEXAS★.....	2
SOFFEN MEMORIAL FUND.....	2
GET READY FOR NASA ACADEMY 2002!.....	3
MARS EXPLORATION IN UTAH.....	4
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTING ON SEPTEMBER 11TH.....	5
1999 ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?.....	6
NAAA CONTACT INFORMATION.....	8

Upcoming Events:
June 8th – “Star Party” in PA (with Academy)
July 4th – Reunion & fireworks in DC
July 20th – 10th Anniversary Celebration in DC
Oct. 10-16– Annual Event / World Space Congress in Houston, TX

THE NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Hello from the 2002 Executive Council

Dear Alumni and Friends,

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, which provides the latest information on our activities. Some of the activities planned for this year include alumni dinners, the annual event, and the 2002 academies, along with working more closely with other organizations. Supporting these and other endeavors is not possible without your help, and we encourage you to volunteer for one of the positions listed below (or propose a new one).

On a more personal note, we also encourage you to contact us with your questions and thoughts at any time. Sincerely,

Jim Chase, GSFC '98, President
Srimal Choi (formerly Wangu), GSFC '93, VP of Operations
Mindy Gallo (formerly Delaney), MSFC '96, VP of Finance

Volunteers Needed!

- **Website Development-** Help is needed to update and/or redesign the NAAA website (www.nasa-academy.org).
- **Alumni Dinners-** If you like food and friends, contact local alumni for a dinner, partially sponsored by us.
- **Space Outreach-** Visit schools in your area to share the excitement of NASA and space with kids.
- **Newsletter Writing & Editing-** Please assist us by volunteering to submit articles or edit newsletters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NASA Academy Yearbooks

By **Vanessa Stroh, GSFC '99, Vanessa.Stroh-1@ksc.nasa.gov**

This summer will mark the 10th anniversary of the NASA Academy. In honor of this historic landmark, the NAAA is creating a yearbook of the 24 Academy groups from all ten summers and four centers since 1993. This yearbook will be distributed to our benefactors at NASA Headquarters, as well as the Space Grant Consortia, corporate sponsors of the NAAA, and the alumni. It will contain some basic information as well as questions that we thought would make it a little more fun and a little more special. We hope to have this yearbook complete in time for the annual event this fall, so please keep an eye on your email in the coming weeks for a request for information. Thanks!

Organize an NAAA Dinner!

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

There are now over 300 alumni scattered across a variety of academic and professional organizations. They have a wealth of knowledge on life and career opportunities, ranging from top graduate schools to exciting jobs. Yet, how many alumni have you met? How many opportunities have you missed? To reverse this trend, the executive council is sponsoring NAAA dinners. We are providing partial funding for you to meet fellow alumni in your city, and we are encouraging you to invite a distinguished guest (or guests) from the aerospace industry. For more information, please write to us.

NAAA Educational Outreach

By **Srimal Choi, GSFC '93, vp-ops@nasa-academy.org**

In the past, the NAAA educational outreach committee organized several activities with the goal of educating the public about the NASA Academy and NASA in general. Committee members built rockets with Boy Scouts, answered kindergartners' questions about astronauts, and more. With your initiative, anything is possible. There are countless ways in which we can share the excitement of space, NASA, and the Academy with people all around the world. Please email me if you are interested in implementing your outreach ideas!

International Space University
Scholarship Winner:
Fernmarie Rodriguez, GSFC '00
Congratulations!



2002 Annual Event

By John Feighery, GSFC '98, john.e.feighery1@jsc.nasa.gov

Annual Event - NASA Academy 10th Anniversary Celebration Plans are underway for a special 2002 Annual Event to be held in conjunction with the World Space Congress in Houston, Texas. The World Space Congress is a large joint gathering of the IAF and COSPAR that only happens once every ten years. You can learn more about it at: <http://www.aiaa.org/wsc2002/>. The event takes place over ten days, October 10-19, and many space related organizations are taking part.

The NAAA will use this unique opportunity to celebrate the first 10 years of the NASA Academy and to honor Dr. Soffen's vision for the next generation of space leaders. Tentative plans include an anniversary banquet, informal gatherings, and the NAAA Annual Congress. Most events will be centered around the second weekend, with the Congress and banquet most likely to take place on Saturday, October 18, to ensure that those arriving late in the week can still attend. John Feighery (GSFC 98) is looking for alumni willing to volunteer some time over the next several months to serve on the organizing committee. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please email me at the above address.

A survey will be sent out shortly to determine how many alumni might be attending. The NAAA is investigating funding options at this time, including cost sharing with other organizations, corporate sponsorship, and the possibility of reduced registration fees for NAAA members. Anyone with connections to the AIAA or other organizations involved in the World Space Congress is encouraged to contact John. In addition, the Houston alumni will help with logistics such as lodging and transportation. Hopefully, we can minimize the cost of attending so that as many of you as possible can attend this exciting event. More information will be available soon.

Travel Money for Annual Event

By Jim Chase, GSFC '98, jimchase@alum.mit.edu

For the 2000 Annual Event, we were able to provide some travel grants to alumni who had helped during the year. This year, we are hoping to do the same. You can help in a variety of ways, as mentioned above, including raising money, mailing flyers, organizing events (such as BBQs) during the event, creating a web page, etc. If you are interested in these or other activities, please contact me (or John Feighery).

Websites to Visit:
www.aiaa.org/wsc2002/
www.nasa-academy.org/soffen
www.nasa-academy.org

The Gerald A. Soffen Memorial Fund

By Michelle Minitti, GSFC '94, minitti@asu.edu, and Brian Roberts, GSFC '93, broberts@ssl.umd.edu

Since the establishment of the Fund in Jerry's honor, a small but dedicated group of NAAA volunteers has been working to establish the first program sponsored by the Fund, creating a brochure advertising the Fund, and acknowledging those who have made the Fund possible.

The first program sponsored by the Soffen Fund, which will begin later this year, is the Gerald A. Soffen Memorial Fund Travel Grant program. The Travel Grants, intended for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing studies in fields of space science and engineering, offer \$500 to enable recipients to attend professional meetings to present their research. The Soffen Fund will be recognized during the recipients' presentations, and a permanent record of the research presentations supported by the Travel Grants will be placed on the Soffen Fund website at <http://www.nasa-academy.org/soffen>. The Travel Grant application will be accessible at the website, as well.



Also on the Soffen Fund website is the electronic version of the brochure created to advertise the Fund. Adorned with great pictures of Jerry and wonderful quotes about him, it includes basic information about the Fund, the NAAA and, of course, Jerry himself. We envision that hard copies of the brochure will spread word of the Fund to schools and organizations as well as to potential donors.

All of these activities would not be possible if it were not for the generosity of those who have donated to the Fund. The individuals and groups who have donated were recently sent a letter updating them on the Fund's activities. They were directed to the Fund's website for future updates on activities.

Even with all that has been accomplished, work by NAAA members is still necessary to maintain the Fund. Currently, NAAA alumni are investigating investment possibilities to insure the Fund's stability and growth to assure that the Fund can continue to support future activities. Advertising the Fund and its programs and supporting the programs with activities, such as selecting Travel Grant recipients, will require a concerted effort by the NAAA. If you are interested in volunteering your time and talents to the Fund's cause, please contact Michelle Minitti or Brian Roberts.

Acknowledgements		Soffen Memorial Committee	
Mike Baine, GSFC '93	Jim Brice, Former GSFC Staff	Deon Brown, GSFC '98	Josh Chamot, GSFC '00
Emily Eelkema, DFRC '98	Enectali Figueroa, GSFC '95	Gene Fujii, GSFC '94	Andrew Gray, GSFC '94
Mindy Gallo, MSFC '96	Aaron Jacobovits, DFRC '98	Adam London, GSFC '94	Laura Mills, GSFC '95
Michelle Minitti, GSFC '94	Mike Moreau, GSFC '94	Holly Ridings, GSFC '96	Brian Roberts, GSFC '94
Dave Rosage, GSFC Staff	Ian Ruiz, GSFC '98	Travis Sparks, GSFC '98	Vanessa Stroh, GSFC '99
Stephanie Thomas, GSFC '98	Jane Thorne, GSFC '95	Jacob Yates, GSFC '96	

GET READY FOR NASA ACADEMY 2002!

Goddard Academy

By Dave Rosage, GSFC Academy Director
drosage@pop500.gsfc.nasa.gov

This year, there will be 16 students in the GSFC Academy including 10 male and 6 female (5 junior and 11 senior undergraduates), and a 31% minority ratio. The academic makeup includes Environmental Science (1), Computer Science (1), Mechanical Engineering (2), Physics (5), Aeronautical Engineering (3), Astronomy & Physics (2), and Electrical Engineering (2). The Academy staff this year will include Jared Henderson (GSFC 01), Operations Manager, Katie Gordon (GSFC 01), Logistics Manager, and Kenneth Murphy (ISU Alumnus), General Support

Planned field trips include Orbital, APL, Pentagon, Langley, Wallops, U.S. Naval Observatory, KSC, and JSC. With the help of Dr. Irina Nelson, the 2002 Academy Dean, a new lecture series and curriculum will be developed centered around Earth Science, Space Science, Applied Engineering, and Technology. In addition, there will be a number of formal and informal speakers/meetings at the Academy house.

Work in Progress

- **Articulation Agreements**– Dr. Nelson is in the process of establishing articulation agreements with the colleges and universities of the 2002 Academy participants.
- **Expansion to other NASA Centers**– Efforts are underway to establish (or reestablish) NASA Academies at DFRC, JPL, SSC and JSC.
- **International Participation and Student Exchange Program**– Beginning 2003, an announcement and selection process will be developed to include one or two international students in the Academy through their respective Space Agencies. In addition, a student exchange option will be developed in which NASA Academy alumni will be offered a corresponding international internship.
- **NASA Academy Endowment Fund**– In order to create a non-discretionary funding source for the NASA Academy, a new endowment fund is being established to serve as a funding source for future Academies. This fund would be used to support general Academy expenses, extended group research projects, and possibly future research opportunities. Contributions to the fund will be solicited from the U.S. Space Industry and other "Friends of the Academy".



Astrobiology Academy

By Dr. Douglas O'Handley, ARC Academy Director
dohandley@mail.arc.nasa.gov

The Ames Research Center will host the sixth Academy this summer. First you will note we have changed the name to reflect a broader constituency than merely Ames. It will be referred to as the NASA Astrobiology Academy.

We selected 12 students from a pool of 40 candidates from 30 states. The Canadian Space Agency provided us with two candidates from a pool of 20 candidates from across Canada. The Astrobiology Academy accepted one. That makes a total of 13 Research Associates for the Academy when it begins on June 23, 2002. We have students from Mississippi and Georgia for the first time in our Academy. There will be six gals and seven guys. We expect the profiles of these students to be mounted on the web in the near future. Staff for this summer will include Emily Schaller from the 2001 Ames Academy and David Lamb from the 1999 Ames Academy and staff for the Goddard Academy last summer. Alas, the presence of Joe Tamer at the Ames Academy will be missed. Graduate school and the life of a married man and obligations to the family in New York State have to take priority.

This summer will include visits to the Desert Research Institute in Reno, NV, Lawrence Livermore, Monterey Bay Research Institute, the Dryden Flight Research Center and Jet Propulsion Laboratory of NASA, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography near San Diego. Plans to rendezvous with the Goddard Academy depend on the availability of funds and time to travel.

We have settled in on a program of 60% time with research and the principal investigators and 40% related to the broad experience of space and Astrobiology in general.

The Group Project this summer will have to do with studying how we go from the Apollo experience to a Permanent Colony on the Moon. The details are to be worked out by the RA's. One bonus is that two of the students will be guests at the World Space Congress in Houston, TX in October to present the results of their efforts. The topic of the Moon follows on the group projects of the Goddard Academy in 1998 and the Ames Academy in 1999. It is consistent with the effort begun last summer at Goddard to send "Life" to the Moon. The Permanent Lunar Colony effort results from work performed for the NASA Institute for Advanced Concepts.

A couple of opportunities may present themselves with the International Space University holding the summer session in Pomona, CA and also some alumnus will be participating in an Astrobiology conference on Catalina Island. They have indicated a possible invitation to spend a day on Catalina Island. Of course there is always the hope for a launch at Vandenberg.

Acknowledgements

Jeff Baltrush, GSFC '97
Chris May, ARC '01
Brian Roberts, GSFC '94

Academy Interview Committee

James Chase, GSFC '98
Michelle Minitti, GSFC '94
Troy Savoie, GSFC '93

Aprille Ericsson, GSFC '93
Tammy Misuinas, GSFC '00
Mindy Schwasinger, GSFC '01

Caroline Acosta, GSFC '01
John Feighery, GSFC '98
Mark Rentschler, GSFC '01
Rich Sturmfels, GSFC '98

MARS EXPLORATION IN UTAH

An Experience: Mars Desert Research Station

By Matt Lowry, GSFC '93, lowryclan@yahoo.com

I have long been an advocate of space exploration, and my early experiences with the 1993 Space Academy (as it was known 'in the old days') galvanized what may have once been a youthful fancy into a determined sense of activism. Through the years, I have become ever more involved in helping humanity on its next steps into space, and in recent years I've become especially active in the Mars Society.

The Mars Society has gone so far in its quest to push for human Mars missions that it has privately funded, built, and operated two simulated Mars research stations - one in the Canadian High Arctic (FMARS) and one in the deserts of Utah (MDRS) - with a third such station on the way. The purpose of the research at these stations is twofold: to begin building up a knowledge base on having humans on Mars (by studying field procedures, communications systems & protocols, testing equipment / Mars-suit design, psychology, and anything else), and by using the program as a public outreach tool to educate more people about the promise of sending humans to Mars.

In this regard, I've become very much involved in this research station program within the last year. Last summer, I spent two weeks 'captaining' a team of volunteers as we publicly displayed the Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS) at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. This last March, I spent one week on this same station in Utah as part of a simulated crew rotation on the inaugural field season of the MDRS.

My stay at the MDRS was a pivotal experience in my life, probably the boldest thing I've ever done (next to getting married, of course), and it has steeled me to be even more active in my quest to help get humanity into space. What follows is an edited entry into my personal log during my stay 'on Mars'...



Personal Log (3-29-02):

... tonight Joel and I went out on my last EVA (Shannon's suggestion), which was to Phobos Peak. Phobos Peak is an incredible jumbling hill of rock directly to the East of the Hab across the road, and its name hails from the fact that each night we see the moon (i.e., 'Phobos') rise over this hill. The distances here are deceiving, and what looked to be a small hill only 10 minutes walk away ended up being about 40 minutes away by foot. Joel and I hiked to the very top in time to see the beginning of the sunset - absolutely astounding and terribly beautiful at the same time. While at the top Joel and I took some photos, and the wind was whipping at us quite strongly. At one point I was concerned that Joel was going to be blown off the edge of the ridge - if he had been blown off, the drop and steep down slope before him wouldn't have stopped for about 300-400 feet at least (maybe more). I was also prepared to grip onto him and hold him back from the edge, but at the same time I wasn't sure that his inertia wouldn't have also carried me over the edge. This and the hard climb up Phobos Peak served again to remind me of the foreboding beauty that nature possesses; I have been, time and again, stunned at the glory and danger I have encountered here at the hands of the environment. It is as if I have been given both a gift and a warning or caution simultaneously.

Tonight, after a farewell dinner ('Martian duck', in honor of my friend I swear that I spotted last Sunday night - perhaps I did imagine it after all) and a movie, I went outside with Andrew to refill the generator. The nights here are staggering in their scope and silence (in those moments when the generator is off). I found at that moment that there was a sense of peace I felt knowing that the ghostly splendor of the moonlit landscape was spread out before me like the most glorious of portraits, silent and mysterious. In those moments, I found myself almost not wishing to return to the life I knew before I came to this place.

There are so many things to say; yet I cannot seem to put them all into words at this point in time. I almost feel as if I've been here a much longer time than 5 days; I almost feel as if I am among the mallorn of Tolkien's famed Lothlorien - a place where time stands still and pays no heed to the outside world. Indeed, I saw my first major headline since coming here this evening - I peeked over Andrew's shoulder and saw the news of a major attack on Yassar Arafat's compound in Rumallah, and the unwelcome burden of the outer world almost seemed to mock me, knowing that it would once again place its hold upon me. But I have a strong deterrent to such a burden: the memories of this time and place, and the people with whom I've shared (and will share) this experience.

For I see this experience as not just my own, though I will have felt it in a unique and personal way, but I see it as something that others should share as well. That is, I feel, the least I can do - pass on the gift. I went to 'Mars on Earth', but with our combined efforts, perhaps the young ones among us will do it for real.

Who knows what the future holds? We'll never know unless we look... the New Frontier awaits. Ad Astra.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTING ON SEPTEMBER 11TH

The September 11th Attack on the Pentagon

By Brian Roberts, GSFC '94, broberts@ssl.umd.edu

On the morning of September 11th, shortly after American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the west side of the Pentagon, the Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department put out a call for all volunteer and career personnel to report to their stations. Being a volunteer firefighter/EMT with the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department for close to six years, I reported to Greenbelt's station near Goddard. Around 11:00am, we were transferred into DC to fill in at a station whose crew was at the Pentagon. Because we were unfamiliar with DC, an officer from that station rode on our engine.



An engine from College Park responding to the third alarm at the Pentagon (Photo courtesy of firefighting.com)

We ran a call at a high school in the area and headed back to the station to drop off the officer. Just as we were about to leave, the officer ran out telling us that we were the first engine due on the third alarm at the Pentagon! Driving down the freeway, it looked like a war zone—military vehicles and busses carrying personnel, police cruisers, and Red Cross and other disaster aid vehicles all rushing past; helicopters in the air; and not an airplane or passenger vehicle in sight.

When we arrived at the Pentagon, we stood by in the south parking lot so that we could meet with DC fire officials and review the plan of attack. The fires were still burning, and thick black smoke filled the air.



Photo courtesy of BBC News

The Pentagon is made up of five pentagonal structures arranged in concentric rings. These rings surround a 5-acre open courtyard and are connected by 10 spike-like corridors. The plane took out light poles in the parking lot, hit the ground just outside the outermost ring, turned up on its wing, and penetrated the outermost ring midway between two corridors.

While the first and second alarms were attacking the fire from the exterior of the outer ring, at 1:25 pm, our third alarm units proceeded through a tunnel into the inner courtyard. The idea was to attack the fire from inside the Pentagon, pushing it from the unburned areas back into the burnt areas. What we found when we entered the inner courtyard was unbelievable. Large groups of military and emergency room doctors were milling about waiting for survivors to be brought out of the building. Parts of the airplane and building were thrown about the courtyard and marked with evidence flags. FBI and other federal officials were walking around conducting their investigation. Members of the military were standing by at a makeshift morgue with body bags waiting for the fires to be put out so that search-and-rescue crews could go in and recover the bodies of victims. Around 3:00 pm, we were given the unenviable task of taking the first interior attack line into the second floor of the middle ring of the Pentagon. It had been determined that this was the area most likely to have survivors. If none were found, extinguishing the fires would allow search-and-rescue crews to follow behind and begin to recover bodies. My task was to carry one of two attack lines (red in the picture) that were to be deployed to attack the fires.



There was fire on all five floors. The heat was, at times, unbearable. The floor tiles were literally “popping” off the floor out of the water due to the intense heat of the fires burning on the floor beneath us, and some of the water was turning into steam. While working our way through the building, we encountered extreme fire conditions and numerous fatalities, but unfortunately no survivors. The devastation was unbelievable. Some hallways were smoke filled while others had the fire alarms still sounding. In a few locations, we came across golf carts that were still running. It was apparent that these common modes of transportation around the Pentagon on this day became escape vehicles. After exhausting our breathing apparatus, we were physically and mentally drained so we returned to the outside and immediately filled our air bottles. (Continued on page 9.)

1999 ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Andrea Bruno, GSFC '99

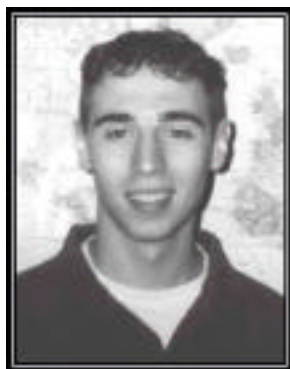
Emails: bruan@tin.it or
brunand@hotmail.com

Position: Aerospace Eng.
Master, Research Engineer

Employer: Centro Sviluppo
Materiali S.p.A (Materials
Research Center) www.c-s-m.it

Contact Info: Via Gabelli n°32, I-05100 Terni, Italy
Home phone & fax: +39 0744 302712
Mobile: +39 339 4195382

Discussion: Hi everybody, I hope you are all doing well. Well, as for me I've been working at CSM-Materials Research Center for almost 3 years now. I'm involved in special metal forming technologies (such as hydroforming, explosive forming, etc.) especially for the automotive industry in Europe and, in a minor degree, for the aerospace and defense industries. I'll be glad to give more information about our job and research to whoever emails me. The materials we most work with are high alloyed and stainless steels but we also work with Titanium alloys or Nickel alloys for particular customers such as formula 1 teams or niche car markets. I'm also involved (with my colleagues) in European Government Projects focused on metal forming technologies. Other applications we deal with are the materials and techniques for orthopedic implants.



Andrew (Drew) Caffrey, GSFC '99

Email: APC118@aol.com

Major: Masters in Mechanical &
Aerospace Engineering (4/02)

School: University of Virginia

Thesis: "Investigation of the
Transient ThermoReflectance
Technique for measuring
thermophysical properties in thin
metallic films."

Degrees: BS in Applied Physics, BA in Math, SUNY,
Geneseo (5/00)

Discussion: Since the academy, I finished my undergrad degrees in applied physics and math, and then decided to add an engineering degree to the list to increase my chance of actually gaining employment. I am finishing up at UVA, with no secure plans for next year. My girlfriend has applied to graduate programs in clinical psychology, but they have a very late acceptance period, so hopefully we'll have plans settled before I graduate! We'll probably be heading somewhere between NY and Indiana, so that will be a bit closer to home (Syracuse). This is not the recommended method for finding a job, so hopefully it will work out. I have enjoyed grad school, but don't mind leaving for a bit. I would like to finish my PhD at some point. I have enjoyed the nice Virginia weather, which is the main reason I came here for grad school. I played plenty of ultimate frisbee and golf, of course. Anyway, I haven't talked much with any Academites lately, so I hope everyone is doing well.



Jeff Freeman, GSFC '99

Emails: jjf@dolby.com or
audiosaurus@mindspring.com

Position: Manager, Applications Eng.

Employer: Dolby Laboratories

Degree: BS in Physics, NCSU, 5/00

Contact info: 129A Ord Street, San
Francisco CA 94114, 415-436-9321

Major Projects: All manner of home theater nonsense.

Discussion: Married effective October 2000. Living in San Francisco with lovely wife and three cats (Amelia, neurotic; Seuss, abnormally friendly and strangely obsessed with dripping water; Bronte, roughly spherical). Working for Dolby Laboratories as the manager of their group of applications engineers, and so function as de facto home theater guru for all friends, family, and neighbors. Finally wangled my way into the Audio Engineering Society! I still always take the stairs, if you were wondering (inside joke).

Aaron Jacobovits, DFRC '99

Email: jacobovits@yahoo.com

Position: BizDevAssoc, ControlSysEngr

Employer: AeroAstro Inc. (<http://www.aeroastro.com>)

Major Projects: Small Aerobraking Orbit Transfer Vehicles,
Solar Sail Missions, lots of other stuff, too.

Discussion: I recently moved from Boston to Fairfax Virginia - just west of Washington DC. I'm having a good time living and working here. I still work for AeroAstro, which is a great place to be employed. I have a lot of friends in the company and we have a good time together during and after hours. Some of my other friends from past jobs and schools are also in the area, as well as my family.

Nora Kelly, GSFC '99



Email: nkelly@physics.arizona.edu

Major: PhD. In Physics

School: Arizona University

Major Project: I'm currently
working with the High-Energy
Particle Physics group, but I'm
hoping to become involved with
analysis of the incoming data from
2001 Mars Odyssey (Gamma Ray
Spectrometer, specifically).

Contact info: 60 W. Stone Loop
#1913, Tucson, AZ 85704; 520-293-2072

Discussion: After my summer at Goddard, I returned to finish my senior year at Northwestern University studying Mechanical Engineering. The following year I moved out to sunny Tucson, AZ to enjoy the mountains and cacti, and pursue a Ph.D. in Physics. I'm currently finishing my second year and have been doing research with the High-Energy particle physics group who are preparing equipment for the Large Hadron Collider to be run at CERN. As mentioned above, I am hoping to become involved fairly soon with research concerning the incoming data from 2001 Mars Odyssey and the investigation of ice and water on Mars.



Karen Knierman, GSFC '99

Email: kknierman@as.arizona.edu

<http://thorn.as.arizona.edu/~kak>

Major: Ph.D. in Astronomy

School: University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Major Projects: The Geometrical Structure of the Small Magellanic Cloud



Douglas A. O'Handley, Ph.D. ARC '99 Academy Director

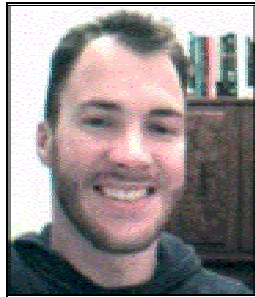
Email: dohphd@earthlink.net

<http://home.earthlink.net/~dohphd/>

Employer: Science and Technology Corporation

Contact info: 650-604-6746 Ames / 408-736-5937 home

Discussion: Besides teaching "Astrobiology" in the Physics Dept. of Santa Clara University, I work for Lockheed - Martin as Director for the Ames Academy, I am a VP and task manager for the proposed Research and Technology support role at NASA Ames, and also a consultant to Orbitrec in Madison, WI.



David Lamb, ARC '99

Email: dalamb@indiana.edu

<http://davidmlamb.net>

Major: Philosophy of Science

School: Indiana University

Major Project: Philosophy of biology & the demarcation of science and religion.

Contact info: (812) 336-1842

Discussion: For the third time, I'll be heading to the Academy. Last summer I staffed at Goddard; this summer I'll be back at alma mater: ARC. At the end of August, I will stay on base at Ames and work for Lockheed. After living in 10 different states in ~5 years, I'll be ready to settle in California (at least for awhile!).



Kate M. Shaw, GSFC '99

Email: kmshaw4@yahoo.com

Major: Masters of Statistics

School: North Carolina State Univ.

Contact Info: 1210 Trinity Oaks Ln #104, Raleigh, NC 27607; (919) 854-4481

Discussion: In May, I will receive my Masters of Statistics. Currently, I'm working for a pharmaceutical company in Research Triangle Park, NC. If all goes well, I will continue there after graduation. I plan on going back to graduate school in a couple of years for a PhD in Biostatistics.



Rob Lamontagne

Email: robert.lamontagne@nasa-academy.org

Position: Air Force Officer and Student Pilot

Contact info: cell (580) 484-7416, home (580) 758-1269

Discussion: I'm currently living near Vance AFB in Oklahoma and have about 4 months left to go in

Undergraduate Pilot Training. I've been here since last July, and I enjoy my job immensely, but I do find that it's easy to become overly focused and lose track of the world around. In fact, regretfully so, I'm notorious for not replying to messages right away, so please don't give up on me.

In February, I transitioned to the secondary phase of training, and I'm now flying the T-38, a high-performance super-sonic jet trainer made famous by the 1986 hit-movie "Top Gun" as the elusive "Mig-28." Some other fun facts about the T-38 include: 1. It has the fastest roll rate of any aircraft in the inventory. 2. It's the aircraft the astronaut pilots train in on a regular basis.

Although my future is uncertain, my initial assignment options could include: F-15, F-16, A-10, B-1, B52, or FAIP (First Assignment Instructor Pilot). Each aircraft has its own set of follow-on training requirements and is associated with a number of possible locations spread out all over the world. But whether I'm flying over the plains of Oklahoma or the mountains of Japan, I'll be thinking of the friends I made at the NASA Academy and try to keep in touch.



Leigh Anne Smith, GSFC '99

Email: lasmith@ess.ucla.edu

Major: PhD in Precambrian Paleontology

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Discussion: I am in my second year of graduate school at UCLA, studying Precambrian (really, really old) paleontology (dead stuff-mostly bacteria). I recently presented a poster at the NASA Astrobiology Conference and will soon present another poster at the ISSOL conference (International Society for the Study of the Origin of Life). My research has been going well and I am very happy with UCLA and life in general.

This is news to most of you - I recently became engaged to be married. His name is John Riedman. He is an engineer working at Sea Launch/Boeing in Long Beach, CA and he is of the space Mafia (ISU masters program). We've set the date for November 2nd here in LA. Let me know if you'll be in the area. I'll try not to forget anyone, but there's so much to do.

Minor plug - I'll be hosting an informal seminar of a seminar series on May 29th here at UCLA. David Des Marais of NASA Ames will be speaking and I'll be cooking gumbo, jambalaya and pecan pie. If you're in the area, come by - it's likely to be one of the cheapest meals in Los Angeles at \$5 for students and \$7 for non-students. Email me for info: lasmith@ess.ucla.edu



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Discussion: Upon graduation in May 2000, from Wichita State University, I began work at Raytheon Aircraft Company in

Wichita, KS. I worked with 4 different engineering groups for two years as part of an engineering rotation program. In early April 2002, I found myself driving across the desert with a U-haul and everything I own, moving to the Los Angeles area to work for Northrop Grumman Corporation. While I have only been here for over a month, I have enjoyed the area, meeting new people, and experiencing some of the basic differences between commercial aircraft and those of a defense agency (these planes are HUGE!) I was lucky to have found an apartment about 5 miles from work (this means only taking city streets to work) and 1.5 miles from the ocean. The biggest shock was the cost of my apartment, 3 times what I paid in the Midwest! I feel mostly settled and am beginning to venture further from home each weekend. I would like to take the opportunity to meet some Alumni in the LA area, so please give me a call! I got together recently with Leigh Anne Smith (also GSFC '99) and I enjoyed seeing a familiar face. Hope to hear from some of you!

Volunteer Firefighting (continued from page 5)

A lieutenant from the U.S. Navy, who was inside the west side of the Pentagon when the plane hit and helped get some people out that morning, advised us that there was a possibility

of survivors in a communications bunker on the fourth floor of the outer ring. Because the bunker is where workers were informed to retreat in case of an attack on the building, the lieutenant requested that an attempt be made to locate the bunker. Because he knew the layout of the Pentagon better than any of us, he donned fire fighting clothes and the breathing apparatus of one of the rookie firefighters. We reentered the Pentagon and, following his lead, attempted to reach the fourth floor. Unfortunately, the bunker had not survived the initial impact of Flight 77.

After a much needed rest outside the building, we were asked to make another incursion into the second floor of the middle ring to extinguish a fire that had flared up in this area. In addition to finding portions of walls still burning, we found fire inside filing cabinets and desk drawers.

After spending just over seven hours at the Pentagon (close to three hours of which were fire fighting duties) and making four separate forays into the building, we were relieved by off-duty firefighters who had been recalled to duty.

Many people have asked me over the past few months what it was like to be at the Pentagon on September 11th and I have placed a more detailed write up of our Pentagon operation that day on the web at <<http://wrench.ssl.umd.edu/pentagon.html>>. Perhaps the hardest thing to deal with was searching for survivors and seeing people's offices just as they had left them that morning—keys and pictures of their families on their desks, and newspapers and coffee cups still sitting around. The gravity of the day really hit me as we were walking to the facilities that the Red Cross and other relief agencies had set up in the parking lot. As I walked by the cars in the lot, I could not help but wonder how many of them belonged to people who had lost their lives in the Pentagon that day. They came to work just as they have every other day, unaware of what was about to happen.

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