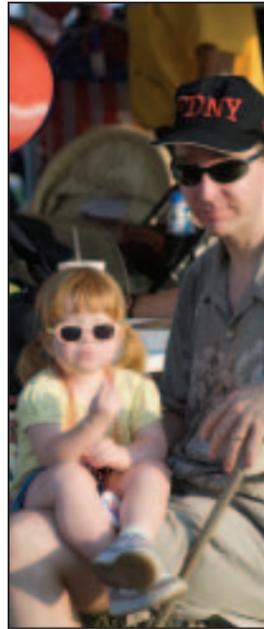


Ballunar Fest



NASA JSC2005E9561

NASA JSC2005E9561

NASA JSC2005E9554



NASA JSC2005E95462

Ballunar Fest photographers: James Blair, Robert Markowitz, Carlos Sanchez and Regan Geeseman.

The Ballunar Liffoff Festival brought dozens of hot-air balloons, and hundreds of guests, to JSC Aug. 26-27. The festivities on Aug. 28 had to be cancelled due to the weather, but the other two days' events provided plenty of fun for the visitors. The festival included hot-air balloon glows, live entertainment, skydiving exhibitions, arts and crafts exhibits and aviation equipment displays. In addition, several JSC facilities were available for guests to tour.

Space Center Roundup

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History in the making

Since the first International Space Station components launched in 1998, the space station has proven to be a construction marvel. See, on page 6, how this incredible engineering and science laboratory has evolved over the last five years.

Backdropped by a colorful Earth, this aft zenith view of the space station was photographed during the flyaround by the space shuttle *Discovery* following the undocking of the two spacecraft. *Discovery* pulled away from the complex at 2:24 a.m. (CDT) on Aug. 6. The view in the background is over the North Caspian Sea and Kazakhstan, Russia.

October
 2005
 Houston, Texas

Guest column...



Opportunity...

“How would you like the opportunity to excel?” Ever heard that before? How did you react?

Recently, we had the opportunity to transition control of the International Space Station to Moscow under an emergency situation and the results were picture perfect. We have had the opportunity to support the human occupancy of the space station for almost five years. And we have had the opportunity to support friends and family through the course of two hurricanes. The fact is that, in our world, opportunities abound.

As we begin a new fiscal year, we also begin a new era in the human exploration of space. JSC was created to support human spaceflight and we have been provided a firm Vision for the path forward. Opportunities associated with the Constellation Program and its projects, including the Crew Exploration Vehicle as well as continued support for the Space Shuttle and Space Station Programs, will be daunting but we would not have it any other way.

As we celebrate five years of living and working 24 hours a day in space and as we look to a future of vibrant space exploration, we understand that each and every day will be made up of many opportunities. I am told that, when written in Chinese, the word “crisis” is composed of two characters – one represents danger and the other represents opportunity. It is a matter of perspective.

“How would you like the opportunity to excel?” You will hear it again. How will you react?

Randy K. Gish
Chief of Staff
Associate Director

Shooting from the heart

Astronaut finds passion for photography in space

by Amiko Nevills



The Himalaya Mountains are featured in this image photographed by Leroy Chiao on the International Space Station.

Moroccan desert sand seas ripple in the sunlight. Rugged, snowcapped Himalaya Mountains pierce the heavens. Egyptian lakes spill liquid metal onto the Earth's surface while stretches of shoreline summon the eye.

The eye widens, zeroes in and blinks. Whir, click-click. Captured!

For more than a century, travels to exotic lands have inspired explorers to record their journeys in snapshots. However, no place on Earth lends a better view to these beautiful places than does space.

Unlike most travelers, Astronaut Leroy Chiao has come full circle. Orbiting the Earth every 92 minutes onboard the International Space Station, Chiao made his trek from afar, capturing more than 24,000 images along the way.

Photography – Greek for the words light and writing – from space is useful for scientific research on Earth. Among Chiao's tasks in space as Expedition 10 Station Commander was to snap up various meteorological and atmospheric phenomena as well as geographical, human-made and natural landmarks.

With no darkroom onboard, the perfect temperature and mix of developer, fixer and stop-bath solutions are replaced with pixels, a sensor and various lenses. Digital cameras aid astronauts in getting the right shot with instant image processing.

“I was able to see my results quickly and adjust technique and composition for next time,” Chiao said.

Continued on page 4