

Profiles

Sue Leibert



carried the Olympic torch

By Beth Nischik

JSC's Sue Leibert could easily describe her recent experience in two words: **Just awesome.**

On Dec. 10 at 3:01 p.m., Leibert, who works in Human Resources, participated in the 2002 Salt Lake Olympic Torch relay.

Her experience, while unique to most, will be shared with more than 11,500 torchbearers and 4,500 other support runners along the torch's path.

The torch began its journey through Houston on a 30-mile loop that began with Olympian Laura Wilkinson at 1 p.m. in Downtown Houston and ended with a

final run from Olympian Mary Lou Retton at 8 p.m. at The George R. Brown Convention Center.

For three minutes, Leibert was a part of Olympic history. While she was running with the torch, Leibert said all she could think of was, "Wow, this is really happening!" The torch was heavy at first, but as she was running, "the torch felt light as a

feather," she said. "We were welcomed to run at any pace, there were people in wheelchairs and runners, a range of paces and people."

Leibert's best friends, Jeff and Diane DeTroye nominated her through a contest sponsored by Chevrolet. Nominees were selected not by athletic ability, but for their fire within.

Leibert had no idea she was considered, let alone selected, for the honor. She was notified via a FedEx package from Chevy after returning from vacation. As she read through the material, she at first thought it was a joke. However, the many legal forms and thorough logistics told her it was legitimate.

Even after learning she was selected, she was still clueless about one important aspect: "I had no idea who nominated me, until I got an e-mail note from my friends."

The theme for the contest was inspiration and illumination. Diane DeTroye said she and her husband nominated Leibert because her extensive community involvement is indeed inspirational to them and others.

"Needless to say, we were thrilled when she was selected," DeTroye said.

Leibert is involved with the Bay Area Turning Point, and served on the board of Trustees. She taught English as a second language through the United Way and the Harris County Library for about five years.

She started at NASA in 1984 and, within 17 years, has been involved in a number of organizations and numerous achievements. Leibert was selected as Federal Employee of the Year in 1998 by her managers in HR, and she received the NASA Certificate of Commendation.

With her family and friends present on that December day, Leibert successfully completed her torch run, and then went on to celebrate. "I think I had more pictures of me that day than I had in my entire life!" she said.

The Olympic Torch Relay has been a tradition since 1952 when it was adopted from an idea proposed by a chairman of the 1936 Berlin Games. Symbolizing spirit, knowledge and life, this event delivers the Olympic Flame from Greece to the host country.

The Flame of the 2002 Winter Games was lit November 19, 2001, in Olympia, Greece. It traveled to Athens before arriving in Atlanta, Ga. – the previous U.S. city to host the Olympic Games. Now, it's headed to Salt Lake City, Utah.

What was it like for Leibert to have this honor? "It was one of the best experiences of my life." ❖



By Aaron Wyatt

Don Bogard never underestimates the importance of meteorites. "Meteorites have been called the 'poor man's space probes' because we don't have to travel into space to get them," he said.

"We have learned a great deal about the origin and evolution of our solar system from their study, and there is a great deal more to be learned."

The JSC scientist's dedication to studying meteorites has earned him a prestigious honor. Bogard will be the 2002 recipient of the Meteoritical Society's Leonard Medal for his outstanding contributions to the field of meteoritics. The Leonard Medal is the society's highest honor.

According to the nomination, Bogard will receive the medal for "his distinguished contributions to noble gas geochemistry and the chronology of the solar system."

The award was established in 1962 in memory of the first president of the society, Professor Frederick C. Leonard, with the purpose of encouraging original research in the broad field of meteoritics. Bogard will receive his award at the society's annual meeting next July in Los Angeles.

Society member Ed Scott said Bogard is best known for dating meteorites and lunar samples. "His work provides the definitive proof that a rare group of meteorites came from Mars," Scott said.

Don Bogard

honored for his work with 'poor man's space probes'

Don Bogard

Place of birth:

Washington County, Arkansas ("That's in the Ozarks")

Time at JSC:

1968-present

Organization:

Planetary Sciences, Earth Science and Solar System Exploration Division (SN), JSC

Position Title:

Senior Scientist, Planetary Materials (Planetary Studies)

Education:

- B.S., chemistry, University of Arkansas, 1962
- M.S. radiochemistry, University of Arkansas, 1964
- Ph.D., nuclear geochemistry, University of Arkansas, 1966
- Post-doctoral fellow, Department Geological & Planetary Sciences, California Institute of Technology, 1966-68

Hobbies:

Gardening and old railroads

Bogard has been employed at JSC for 33 years and currently works in Planetary Sciences, Earth Science and Solar System Exploration Division (SN). In 1982, he performed the research that demonstrated certain meteorites derived from Mars.

Bogard also participated in the construction of the Gas Analysis Laboratory in the JSC Lunar Receiving Laboratory and served as a member of the Preliminary Examination Team for Apollo returned lunar materials.

He served as a member of NASA's Mars Sample Handling and Requirements panel in 1997 and 1998, as well as NASA's Solar System Exploration Subcommittee from 1995 to 1999.

Currently, Bogard is conducting a research program at JSC involving noble gas isotopic measurements on planetary materials. Scientific objectives of the research include the establishment of chronologies and thermal histories for the moon and asteroidal parent bodies of meteorites, and investigation of the composition and origin of volatile components in the solar system.

Members of the society choose the Leonard Medal recipients. Bogard said the most meaningful awards are those given by peers because they can be quick to criticize.

"When you give a science talk and say something dumb, they'll let you know," he said. ❖

SPACE CENTER Roundup

The Roundup is an official publication of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, and is published by the Public Affairs Office for all space center employees. The Roundup office is in Bldg. 2, Rm. 166A. The mail code is AP121. The main telephone number is x39978, and the fax is x32000. Visit our website at: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/pao/roundup/weekly/> Electronic mail messages may be directed to:

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