

■ When my son Anthony was deciding which college to attend, we visited Texas Tech University in 2001. Since he was interested in the undergraduate Engineering program, we toured that department and noticed NASA items in a display case showing Mechanical Engineering graduate and alumnus, Rick Husband. I sent an e-mail message to Rick, asking about his experiences at Tech and what advice he might impart to my son. Rick was very forthcoming and his advice eventually led to Anthony selecting Tech. Rick also sent a signed photograph to Anthony that he will cherish always.

Louis Cioletti, Project Coordinator, Bioastronautics Program, Wyle Laboratories Life Sciences

■ The crew inspired my continuing personal improvement to: live a life filled with humor and joy; thank family, friends and co-workers often; build close bonds with the wonderful mix of people who cross our paths, then share intimate, personal moments of friendship with them; find hobbies I really love, then share them with others and invite them to participate; develop inclusive leadership manners; study and work hard to do the very best I can given my capabilities, gifts and limitations; and accept responsibility in the face of risk.

Carolynn Conley, Increment Engineer, Barrios Technology

■ The STS-107 crewmembers were very special to us in Life Sciences, not only because of the experiments they were conducting, but also due to their backgrounds. All of the crewmembers were kind and empathetic, often taking time from their busy lives to personally attend to the needs of friends and family around them. Yet they each had special gifts of intellectual curiosity, perseverance and never-ending energy. Their dedication to the acquisition of knowledge inspired me to ensure that our research here in Space Medicine serves as many “in need” people as we can through scientific presentations, outreach, and publications.

Jeffrey A. Jones, Medical Operations office

■ I first met Laurel Salton in the 7th grade at Monroe Junior High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1972. She was a clear-thinking, prim, proper and inquisitive girl – a far cry from her contemporary male classmates. I didn’t see Cmdr. Laurel Clark, USN, again until 2000, when she visited WSTF. We had some fun with Laurel at the WSTF Open House showing pictures from our days at Monroe JHS. I grieve for all those lost on *Columbia*, but Laurel has a special place in my memories as a real life survivor and an inspiration.

David Loyd, Chief of the Quality Assurance, Reliability & Safety Office, White Sands Test Facility

■ One of the ironies of life is that it sometimes takes tragedy to make us aware of all that we have. I didn’t know the STS-107 crew in life, but their loss instilled in me a deeper appreciation for the time I’ve been given, and that we should make every moment count as if it was our last. From everything I’ve read, that’s what every member of this crew did. Like the magnet on my refrigerator says: “The aim of life is to live, and to live is to be aware – joyously, drunkenly, serenely, divinely aware.” –Henry Miller

Marshall Mellard, Graphic Designer, IMPASS contract

■ I was inspired by the crew of *Columbia* by knowing that these seven individuals gave the ultimate sacrifice minutes away from being home after working a long, hard, successful mission. I felt compelled to help in the recovery effort. I volunteered and was assigned a two-week stint in Corsicana, Texas, walking fields with Forestry Service fire fighters and identifying parts recovered. No matter how tired I was, wild horses couldn’t have dragged me away from helping in the recovery effort. It was my way of giving back my time and talent to the dedicated STS-107 crew and their families.

Andrew J. Ideler, Mission Operations Directorate Avionics, Reconfiguration Systems Group

■ I didn’t realize the depth of how much I was affected by this tragedy until I tried to explain to my daughters what happened. I knew the part I played may be small but when all small parts come together it makes for something big; each part is important. My daughters and I don’t live together, but we promised to pray for the astronauts and thank the lord that we still have each other. *Columbia* has inspired me to be more professional, a better father and friend and more aware of how the government votes to keep this program going.

Donald Roberson, Supply Tech, DynCorp

■ I was inspired by the crew of *Columbia* when I learned that they had come together to pray. This is an example to the rest of the world that people of different religious beliefs, ethnic backgrounds, and nationalities can work together in peace for the common good of humanity.

Laz Gonzales, Computer Facilities Administrator, Flight Design and Dynamics Division

Walk through these doors and remember: you are not on television, your picture will not make the morning edition. On a good day, the world will never know you exist, for you toil not in the light but in its shadow.

But know too that what you do here is no less important because of these things. Quite the contrary.

What you do here, you do for your country, for the world, and for the men and women who wear stars.

What you do here allows humankind to reach beyond what it was: to explore, to learn, and to understand.

Six hundred years ago you would have been building ships for men named Columbus and Magellan. Six hundred years from now, your children’s children will build starships for men and women whose grandparents are not yet born.

What you do here makes the future possible. What you do here today makes tomorrow better.

The world may never see you, but know this – that those who stand in shadow also serve.

Brent H. Bynum, The Boeing Company,
NASA Systems/MEDS T&O



Brent Bynum of the Multifunction Electronic Display Subsystem Test and Operations Group is shown in Building 9.

■ I have been inspired to be more diligent in carrying out my duties, knowing that my actions can affect areas I am unaware that I am impacting. I have been more observant of the practices around me and how they affect my quality of work life. I have a more jaundiced eye towards my attitude, towards my work and what I need to get accomplished. I better understand how critical it is that I give NASA diligence in carrying out our mission and requirements, knowing that I have my leader’s support!

Barry B. Copeland, CPA, Orbital Space Plane Project Control Office

■ Life is fraught with uncertainty, which can be a source of discomfort. To me, the glorious legacy of the brave, selfless crew of *Columbia* is the continuing reminder to give your best, do your best, and never fear the future.

Mary Peterson, Editor, Safety & Total Health Newsletter

■ During the practice launch count in December of 2002, we had a quiet dinner the night the crew arrived at KSC. Since we were so happy to be finally close to launch, we celebrated and had several toasts. I started the toasts by telling the crew that I respected them not for being astronauts, or pilots, or doctors or highly accomplished people, but for the great attitudes that each showed continually. They always stressed that everyone was important and everyone matters. We were all in it together. They didn’t just share the mission. They shared themselves.

Robert Hanley, Vehicle Integration Test Office, Flight Crew Operations