

JSC to observe National Women's History Month

The theme of this year's Women's History Month is "Celebrating Women of Courage and Vision." The National Women's History Project is honoring six women whose lives and work exemplify both courage and vision. The honorees can be found at <http://www.nwhp.org/whm/themes/themes> and include Astronaut Ellen Ochoa.

In observance of Women's History Month, JSC is having a live web cast March 15 from noon to 1 pm. The web address will be announced on the QUEST website:

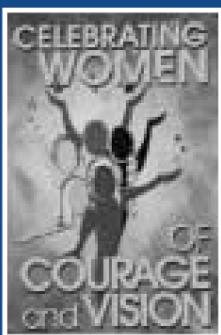
<http://quest.nasa.gov/space/>

Panelists include Dr. Linda Shackelford and Janis Davis-Street.

Dr. Shackelford is a Mississippi native and received her undergraduate degree in chemistry and biology from the Mississippi University for Women. She got her M.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine before joining the Army in 1980. She has worked at Johnson Space Center since 1991, except for eight months of service in Germany, as she is a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve. She is currently the head of the Bone Lab, a position she assumed in 1992. She works in Medical Operations with post-flight astronaut bone issues and rehabilitation.

Janis Davis-Street grew up in Georgetown, Guyana, located on the northeastern coast of South America. She attended school in Ontario, Canada, and completed graduate school in Alberta. She immigrated to the United States in 1987 and has lived in Houston ever since. She is currently a nutritionist working in Life Sciences.

The women will each have five to ten minutes to give a brief background of why they chose the science field and then will take turns answering questions from people around the world. A second web cast will feature Vanessa Ellerbe, Dorothy Rasco and Gladys Henderson on March 28. Look for an update in the next *Roundup*.



Volunteers become role models at Expanding Your Horizons conference

The Expanding Your Horizons in Math and Science Career Conference For Girls was held January 27 at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. The NASA workshops and booth were a success for the third time this conference has been held in Clear Lake, thanks to close to 20 employees who gave up a beautiful Saturday to inspire a younger generation of potential NASA employees.

"I have been lucky enough to have a wonderful family and incredible teachers," says Mamta Patel, a co-op in the Space Flight Training Department. "But, I know that others are not so fortunate. So, any time that I can give back to young girls...I do it. It makes my day to see those girls smile."

Another co-op, Kelly Halacka, who works in Space and Life Sciences, was impressed with the maturity and curiosity of the students. "It was reassuring for me to see the future of the engineering field."

Other volunteers were Anne Roemer, Dr. Jaelyn Allen, Jean Carter, Carolyn Krumrey, Sharon McDougale, Shannon Melton, Jennifer Wilds, Ericka Brewer, Jessie Hendrick, Dr. Marguerite Sognier, Irene Verinder, Rhonda Moore, Dr. Marilyn Lindstrom, Gretchen Thomas, Elizabeth Fountain and Lt. Col. Timothy Creamer.

The Math Science Network located at Mills College in California has promoted, conducted and sponsored Expanding Your Horizons conferences across the country for almost 20 years. Working with co-sponsoring agencies including the American Association of University Women and Girl Scouts of America, more than 350,000 students in 35 states and Canada have been served. Locally, NASA JSC has supported EYH for six years. During that time, more than 1,400 local middle school girls have attended hands-on interactive workshops designed to foster an interest in math and science. Many JSC and contractor employees have volunteered to present workshops,

Students and volunteers participate in one of many workshops at the EYH conference.



Co-ops Jennifer Wilds, Ericka Brewer and Mamta Patel explain to students why they chose to pursue engineering degrees.



staff the JSC booth, and work as general conference help.

The booth was a stopping point for the more than 600 students in attendance. Jessie Hendrick of the JSC Equal Employment Opportunity Program Office helped each girl find a position at NASA where she may be needed one day. Even those students who expressed interests outside of science or math were included. Hendrick would simply ask if they played a sport, played in the band, or sang in the choir at school. Then she would relate the teamwork skills they are learning during these activities to the ones they would need as a member of the Space Shuttle Program or the NASA JSC Team Exploration, which designs advanced space missions to the moon, Mars, and asteroids. Dr. Sally Ride was the keynote speaker. "(She) did a wonderful job presenting the space program and providing

enthusiasm towards math and science," says Jennifer Wilds, a co-op with Titan-LinCom Corporation in the Guidance, Navigation & Control Division. Wilds is one of many who views Ride as a role model. "Having the opportunity to meet a role model is exciting, but getting to be recognized as a role model to younger girls in the same day is rewarding!" ■

Jessie Hendrick talks with a student interested in a career with NASA.



Former attendee returns after five years

These volunteers do become role models, as Marguerite Sognier learned firsthand from the EYH conference she worked at five years ago. Sognier presents one of the most popular workshops, titled "Bubble, Bubble, Boil and Puzzle."

According to the program, students in the workshop "get to perform fun, hands-on laboratory experiments to experience the life of a research scientist." Sognier takes care to always have a new, exciting lesson for the students to learn. She makes up a "goo" that the students must observe. Then, they record observations in a laboratory notebook that Sognier helps to design. This notebook is actually the way Sognier found out that her workshop made an impact on one student, Georgia Everett.

Everett attended the Bubble, Bubble, Boil and Puzzle session five years ago and is now in her senior year at Clear Creek High School. After a talk with a teacher about the goo that Sognier designed, she called U.T.M.B. and got in contact with Sognier to get the recipe. The two got to talking and had breakfast one morning. Sognier learned that Everett plans to attend college and pursue a science-related career. "She is an outstanding young lady," Sognier said.



Marguerite Sognier gives her "Bubble, Bubble, Boil and Puzzle" workshop.

Everett came to help Sognier in the afternoon sessions for this year's conference, and got to be a role model herself. Sognier explained to the students that Everett "was in your chair five years ago. She's now made it through high school and will be pursuing a science-related field in college." Everett plans to get involved in the medical field.

Everett said that the conference made her aware of the many opportunities for women. She also said that Sognier helped her to realize that medical school is attainable. "From someone who scans the applications at the U.T.M.B., and turns

down (students with) 4.0s for those with 3.7s and extracurricular activities, she made me feel better. She said as long as I want to go, I will," said Everett.

Sognier trains the workshop presenters before the conference every year. She makes sure to tell them to "keep in mind that there will be at least one girl whose life is changed because of that workshop. That is your inspiration for it." After finding out that Everett was affected, Sognier said, "you always know in your heart that you've made a difference. But it is very rare that you see the person and know that difference has been made." ■