

**DATES & DATA****March 27**

**Alzheimer's support group meets:** The Clear Lake Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the first floor conference room, St. John Hospital West building, Nassau Bay. For more information contact Nancy Malley at (281) 480-8917 or John Gouveia (281) 280-8517.

**March 29**

**Spaceteam Toastmasters meet:** Spaceteam Toastmasters will meet at 11:30 a.m. March 29 and April 5 and 12 at United Space Alliance, 600 Gemini. For more information contact Patricia Blackwell at (281) 280-6863.

**March 30**

**Communicators meet:** The Clear Lake Communicators, a Toastmasters International club, will meet March 30, April 6 and 13. Please note the new meeting location at Wyle Laboratories, 1100 Hercules, Suite 305. For more information contact Allen Prescott at (281) 282-3281 or Richard Lehman at (281) 280-6557.

**Radio Club meets:** The JSC Amateur Radio Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Piccadilly, 2465 Bay Area Blvd. For more information contact Larry Dietrich at x39198.

**April 3**

**NSBE meets:** The National Society of Black Engineers will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Texas Southern University, School of Technology, Rm. 316. For more information contact Kimberly Topps at (281) 280-2917.

**April 4**

**Quality Society meets:** The Bay Area section of the American Society for Quality will meet at 6 p.m. at the Ramada King's Inn on NASA Road 1. For more information contact Ann Dorris at X38620.

**Correction**

The names of the secretaries who received the Bocking Award and their pictures were transposed in the February 25 *Roundup*. Katheleen Moser is shown on the left and Patricia LeBlanc is on the right. We regret the error.

**OUT&ABOUT** ★

Composite of NASA JSC Photos by Bill Stafford

**Danny Siner** and **Jim Newsome** explain "glass cockpit" upgrades at an AIAA Lunch-n-Learn in February. Siner and Newsome, both NASA Multi-function Electronic Display Subsystem (MEDS) managers, presented an overview of the MEDS being incorporated into space shuttles. MEDS replaces older mechanical flight instruments and CRT displays with more ergonomic, easy-to-read display screens that can be customized for specific pilot preferences or phases of flight. MEDS has been installed in *Atlantis* and is ready to be flown in its inaugural space flight during STS-101 in April.

For more information on AIAA and its activities visit <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/aiaa>.

**April 6**

**Tech Symposium:** AIAA's Annual Technical Symposium, titled "Pioneering A New Millennium of Technology and Discovery," will occur at the University of Houston April 6 and 7. For additional information visit [www.jsc.nasa.gov/aiaa/](http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/aiaa/).

**Warning System Test:** The site-wide Employee Warning System will perform its monthly audio test at noon. For more information contact Bob Gaffney at x34249.

**April 8**

**Scholarship luncheon:** The National Society for Black Engineers hosts a scholarship luncheon at Brady's Landing. For details regarding applications, volunteering or attending the luncheon, contact Stacey at dotsoni@hotmail.com.

**April 9**

**Westside NSS meets:** The "Westside" group of the Clear Lake area chapter of the National Space Society will meet at 2 p.m. at Silicon Graphics, 11490 Westheimer, Suite 100. For information contact Murray Clark at (281) 367-2227.

**Ames to sponsor NASA-wide data management workshop in April**

**O**n April 18 and 19, 2000, Ames Research Center and Oracle will jointly sponsor a data management workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to inform and educate NASA and contractor project managers and researchers from across the entire agency about the present availability and applicability of a wide range of commercial, off-the-shelf (COTS) database systems.

Yuri Gawdiak of the Computational Sciences Division (Code IC) of Ames says that the goal of the workshop is to communicate and share various data management experiences, tools, and lessons learned across the agency. Use of an appropriate COTS product can be much more efficient and have a lower life-cycle cost than developing and updating needed software products from scratch on a case-by-case basis, according to Gawdiak.

Material covered at the workshop will include presentations and a series of specific case studies covering a diversity of projects – from large to small, in various discipline settings, and using different commercially available data management systems. While the workshop is

a NASA-internal informational meeting, attendance is open to all NASA employees and support service contractors agencywide. Gawdiak sees this as the first in what may well be an ongoing series of Ames-sponsored workshops designed to bring the NASA data management community together to learn and share experiences.

The workshop will run from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day and will be held at the Oracle Headquarters Corporate Visitor Center at 500 Oracle Parkway in Redwood Shores, California (about 12 miles north of Ames Research Center). To register online please go to

[http://ace.arc.nasa.gov/postdoc/t/group/members.ehtml?group\\_id=-759](http://ace.arc.nasa.gov/postdoc/t/group/members.ehtml?group_id=-759)

and join the workshop group. For the latest information on the workshop please go to

[http://ace.arc.nasa.gov/postdoc/t/folder/main.ehtml?url\\_id=37952](http://ace.arc.nasa.gov/postdoc/t/folder/main.ehtml?url_id=37952)

**NASA BRIEFS****NEW LAB READY TO TEST SUDDEN IMPACTS**

The last time a government cannon boomed across the shores of Lake Erie was during the War of 1812, but a new laboratory at Glenn Research Center is now experimenting with ballistics of a different kind.

Building 49 houses Glenn's new ballistic impact facility. Its main features are a 40-foot-long gas gun that can eject projectiles at speeds up to 1,500 feet per second and a high-speed camera that can capture 2.5 million images per second.

One of the facility's main tasks is testing materials for aircraft engine housings. During rare in-flight events, if the engine is hit by hail or birds, the engine housing must contain any fragments and withstand the severe loads, or forces, that otherwise could cause the engine to separate from the wing of the airplane. Current engine housing materials, usually high-strength metal alloys and non-metal ballistic fabrics, do this job very well but are very heavy.

The materials to be tested include intermetallic alloys, fiber-reinforced composites and cloth-like polymers. New engine concepts require materials that can withstand higher temperatures and higher speed projectiles than current containment materials.

The data taken during these impact tests will also be used to verify and improve the accuracy of computer models that predict material response to impacts. Manufacturers can use these more accurate models to shorten the time and reduce the cost of bringing new designs to market.

**GLAST INVESTIGATION SELECTED**

NASA has announced the selection of an investigation to be flown on the Gamma Ray Large Area Space Telescope (GLAST) mission, planned for launch in 2005. In addition to the flight investigation, NASA selected four interdisciplinary scientist investigations to broaden the scientific expertise available to the project.

GLAST will explore the most energetic and violent events in a quest for the ultimate sources of energy in the universe. Objects explored will include distant galaxies fueled by super massive black holes at the center, neutron stars and individual black holes, remnants of stars that have ended their life with an explosion (supernova), and many others at the extremes of mass and energy.

The investigation selected by NASA is the "GLAST Large Area Telescope Flight Investigation: A Particle-Astrophysics Partnership to Explore the High-Energy Universe." The principal investigator is Professor Peter F. Michelson of Stanford University. The four interdisciplinary scientists selected and their investigations are: Stephen Thorsett of the University of California at Santa Cruz, "Observations of Rotation Powered Pulsars in Support of GLAST"; Professor Brenda Dingus of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, "GLAST: A GeV All-Sky Monitor of Transient Phenomena"; Dr. Charles D. Dermer of the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C., "Exploring the Non-thermal Universe: Analysis and Modeling to Maximize the Scientific Impact of GLAST"; and Dr. Martin Pohl, Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany, "Modeling the Diffuse Galactic Gamma Ray Emission."

**SPACE CENTER Roundup**

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