

C O M M U N I T Y N E W S**Lopez receives 1999 JSC scholarship**

By Bill Jeffs



JSC Photo 99E07137 by James Blair

Pamela Lopez

NASA Exchange announced that the 1999 JSC scholarship has been awarded to Pamela Lopez, daughter of Telma A. Lopez of the Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance Office at JSC.

"I am very honored to receive this scholarship," said Lopez. "It has further encouraged me to achieve my goals and aspirations."

A 1999 graduate of Friendswood High School, Lopez is a member of the National Honor Society, Who's Who Among American High School Students, Minorities in Medicine and the Hispanic National Honor Society. She also is an assistant

instructor for judo, a hospital junior volunteer, a library volunteer and a cheerleading instructor. She plans to attend Texas Tech University this fall and major in medicine.

"I'm really looking forward to a new environment," said Lopez. "There will be so much to take in – new school, new climate and snow, which I've never seen before!"

Lopez was born in Corpus Christi and lived there until her father was transferred with Exxon to the Houston area in 1995.

"I credit my parents a lot," said Lopez. "My father always pointed me in the right direction and my mother has always been someone I could talk to about anything."

Lopez said when deciding about college courses, she knew she wanted to be challenged and, after her experience volunteering at the hospital, she knew she wanted to help people.

Although Lopez does not leave for her new home until August, she already has plans lined up for her many other interests. She plans to try out for the all-girl cheerleading squad in September and, as an assistant judo instructor, she's already been approached about setting up a judo club at the school. Lopez received her black belt in judo in June.

The 4-year, \$1,000-per-year scholarship is awarded based on academic achievement, financial need, and extracurricular activities. The scholarship was available to children of NASA employees throughout JSC at both Houston and the White Sands Test Facility. ■

Kramer named one of Houston's leading women in technology

Catherine Kramer, executive director of the NASA/Clear Lake Area Economic Development Foundation Technology Outreach Program (TOP), received one of the "Top 20 Houston Women in Technology" awards during a ceremony held last month at the Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel in downtown Houston. The Association for Women in Computing presented the awards.

"I was absolutely thrilled to receive this honor," said Kramer. "It's so wonderful to know that so many women are tackling technology and making it a sole focus of their career."

Kramer is taking a one-year break from her duties at JSC to direct the TOP. Prior to her current assignment, she managed JSC's Biomedical Hardware Development and Engineering Office and served as chief of the Life Sciences Project Division.

She was honored for her work at JSC and with the TOP, a free service designed to speed the transfer of space



Rebecca Bergeron, left, president of the Association for Women in Computing – Houston Chapter, presents the Top 20 Houston Women in Technology Award to Cathy Kramer, director of the Technology Outreach Program.

technology to the private sector by giving up to 40 hours of free technological assistance to local small businesses.

The Association for Women in Computing is a national, nonprofit, professional organization for individuals with an interest in information technology.

For additional information on the TOP, call (281) 486-5535. ■

Volunteers needed for Open House

JSC is making final preparations as the fifth annual Open House approaches. This year's event will be held on August 28.

Volunteers have made this event highly successful as visitors are introduced to the employees and facilities here at NASA, and this year will be no different with the theme of "Pathway to the Future."

Employees may volunteer to be a part of this outstanding event. There are many ways to get involved:

- ◆ Staffing one of 12 information booths
- ◆ Acting as rovers (giving directions)
- ◆ Assisting visitors in the cafeterias

Volunteering is a great way to showcase the wonderful work that is going on at JSC. Bilingual speakers and those willing to volunteer for afternoon timeslots are needed. Get involved and remember that all volunteers receive free drinks and special parking on the day of the event.

The easiest way to sign up is by going to the volunteer home page. This can be accessed at: <http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/openhouse/Databases/>

Volunteers who have already signed up should attend one of seven different training sessions to receive vital information needed for the day of Open House '99. These sessions will be held in the Bldg. 30 auditorium. Please attend one of the following sessions:

- ◆ 10 a.m. Friday, August 13
- ◆ 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday, August 16
- ◆ 2 p.m. Tuesday, August 17
- ◆ 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 18
- ◆ 2 p.m. Thursday, August 19

The Ballunar Liffoff Festival will be held at Rocket Park in conjunction with the Open House. This exciting event will include activities such as the grand parade of balloon pilots, arts and crafts fair, food booths, midway rides and games, business exhibits, and the much anticipated balloon glows. More information on this event can be found at the following Web site: <http://www.ballunarfestival.com/menu.html>

All NASA civil servants will be admitted free to this festival with valid work identification. Come join us and let's make history as we have the biggest and best Open House that NASA has ever seen. ■

Summer Camp brings science to students

By Nicole Cloutier

Wide-eyed and full of curiosity, children at JSC's Sizzling Summer Camp are doing some scientific research of their own.

Every Wednesday afternoon, Dr. Ruwaida Haddad and Dr. Marguerite Sognier, research scientists from JSC's Biotechnology Program, volunteer a couple of hours to bring hands-on science activities to the 27 children in the camp, a cooperative effort among University of Texas Medical Branch, NASA, and the JSC Child Care Center.

"Interactive science activities actually improve academic performance in children in all academic areas – not just science," said Dr. Sognier. "The program also provides role models for young girls who tend to lose interest in science and math during fifth through seventh grades."

"Our goal is to plant the seed of logical thinking and stimulate analytical

minds among our most precious resource, our children," added Dr. Haddad.

This is the first year for the pilot program and is limited to 7- to 12-year-old children of JSC employees. The camp is held in Bldg. 265 and is filled to capacity for this summer but organizers hope to expand the program next year.

"We've had a great response, and Dr. Haddad and Dr. Sognier really go all out – I think sometimes they are more excited than the kids," said Kristy Hirning, executive director for the camp and JSC Child Care Center. "We wouldn't be able to do this without their efforts. And Mr. Abbey provided use of the building and the folks in the transportation department have been very supportive with the use of vans for exciting field trips."

Proceeds from the camp are being directed toward construction of a new child care facility that will expand enrollment to first grade. Employees wanting more information can call x34734. ■



JSC Photo S99-05910

Kiarra Gradney, 7, and Ashlee Calvert, 8, gaze at a bubbling and oozing display of scientific wonders as part of "Weird Science Day" at JSC's Sizzling Summer Camp.