

# Young receives Nolen Lifetime Achievement Award

By Nicole Cloutier

Capt. John Young, astronaut and JSC's associate director (technical), was awarded the 1999 Lloyd P. Nolen Lifetime Achievement in Aviation Award earlier this month. Announced at a press conference at Ellington Field by the Wings Over Houston Airshow Festival Executive Committee, the award honors Young's substantial contributions to the aviation community throughout his lifetime.

"They're giving this award to me for lifetime achievements, but I'm still working on about 120 or 130 other things," said Young. "We still have a long way to go."

Young has flown in space six times in three different spacecraft. And as he's well known throughout the NASA community for his legendary role as one of the early astronauts, his contributions to the field of flight go far beyond that.

"I feel honored that our organization could recognize someone of such outstanding accomplishments," said Everett Gibson, an airshow volunteer and JSC senior space scientist and co-leader for the Mars Research Team. "Aside from his NASA career, he has been a leader with his aviation work and what he did as a test pilot for the Navy."

After graduating from Georgia Institute of Technology, Young joined the Navy. He underwent training at the U.S. Navy Test Pilot School in 1959 and was assigned to the Naval Air Test Center where he assessed weapon systems on the Phantom and the Crusader. He went on to set world time-to-climb records in the Phantom in 1962.

That same year, Young joined NASA's astronaut program and began his incredible record of space flights starting with Gemini 3. He's the only person to have flown in Gemini, Apollo and space shuttle vehicles.

"Even with these remarkable achievements, he is a very nice person and a humble person," added Gibson. "He always recognizes the people who work to put these programs together. He's been involved in the space program for so long,

yet he still maintains such enthusiasm and inspiration. It's unusual to find all of these qualities in a person."

Upon accepting the award, Young made a point to thank the people who've contributed to his success.

"It's a team effort to be in aviation as long as I have," said Young, who thanked his wife for her support throughout his endeavors. He also thanked the Navy for launching his aviation career. "Were it not

for them [U.S. Navy], I would never have started, and that F-4 back there gave me the chance to get into the astronaut corps."

Since joining NASA, Young has fulfilled a variety of positions including chief of Space Shuttle Branch of the Astronaut Office; chief of the Astronaut Office; and special assistant to the director of JSC for Engineering, Operations and Safety.

The award, first given in 1989, is named for Lloyd P. Nolen, a man immersed in aviation as a pilot, aircraft owner, mechanic, and businessman throughout his life. Noting that thousands of World War II aircraft were being destroyed in the early 50's without any efforts for preservation, Nolen recruited friends in the Rio Grande Valley to acquire the aircraft. By 1957, they formed an organization dedicated to locating, acquiring and restoring as many allied and enemy aircraft as possible. Today the American Airpower Heritage Foundation, located in Midland, Texas, has more than 140 aircraft in its inventory and is one of the finest aviation museums in the country. Nolen was the first recipient of the award given in his name.

The 1999 award will be displayed in the trophy case in the Teague Auditorium. "I'm going to set the trophy up at JSC so the people who really deserve a piece of it can come and look at it," said Young. "All the folks at NASA, they are the people who support this flying operation and have made it probably the best that we have on the continent." ■



NASA JSC Photo S99-11921 by James Blair

Capt. John Young receives the Lloyd P. Nolen Lifetime Achievement in Aviation Award. Presenting the award is Wings Over Houston Airshow Festival volunteer and JSC Senior Space Scientist Everett Gibson.

*“My old flight instructor told me, ‘You don’t learn anything by sitting on the ground.’ I think he was right on.*

— John Young

# Space Center Houston opens doors to teachers

By Nicole Cloutier

Just weeks after JSC opened its doors for a community Open House, our neighbor, Space Center Houston, opened its doors to share an inside look at its attractions. This time to more than 700 teachers from around Texas.

The fourth annual Open House for Educators, held September 23, was designed to give teachers an opportunity to experience SCH's attractions, exhibits and educational resources.

"Not only do we offer daily field trips, we offer school overnight programs, teacher conferences, teacher workshops and a teacher camp-in where the teachers spend the night in our facility," said Laurie Murphey, SCH's educational program specialist. "Our programs and curriculum are designed to help teachers motivate students, using the theme of space to stay in school, take math and science courses, and realize the many possibilities of working in the space program."

That message wasn't lost on this audience. Chris Chilelli, aerospace specialist for the Juan Linn Math and Science Magnet School, was part of a small contingent that drove from Victoria to attend the event. He said he and his group walked away with a greater awareness of the programs available for schools and teachers to participate in.

"It was an outstanding experience and the four of us talked about it all on the two hour drive back to Victoria," said Chilelli. He also said that Astronaut Jim Newman's presentation was particularly inspiring and informative.



NASA JSC S99-11658 by James Blair

Teachers take a spin on some of Space Center Houston's educational exhibits, like this hands-on gyroscopic display, during Open House for Educators.

"His insights and interpretation of living in space were memorable and 'down to Earth' in an amusing yet respectful way," said Chilelli.

Dr. William Staples, president of University of Houston Clear Lake, and Susan Moore Fontenot, Goose Creek ISD, told a filled-to-capacity auditorium about their Baytown Educational Recruitment (BAER) initiative and introduced Erica Edwards, a BAER participant who will graduate from UHCL this December. BAER is a program that provides scholarships and internship opportunities for students aspiring to enter the educational field in an effort to combat the attrition occurring in the profession.

"Half of the teachers in today's classrooms will retire in the next five years,"

said Staples. "Through BAER, University of Houston Clear Lake helps students become teachers."

The teachers were treated to a sneak peek of the new "Are We Alone?" exhibit, an elaborate collection of larger-than-life, animated alien creatures and special viewings of the *On Human Destiny* and *To Be an Astronaut* IMAX productions. ■

*“This kind of exposure and awareness, the access to the exploration and adventure by those who work to make the space program work is very valuable to teachers. These are the motivators for us as humans to explore and learn, to solve problems and to become better people.*

— Chris Chilelli