

Thursday, January 7, 1999

Employees invited to briefing on astrobiology



Next Shuttle launch to occur in April

▲ **What is Astrobiology?** Dr. Gerald A. Soffen, Goddard Space Flight Center, will present a briefing of this new research area 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Jan. 12 in the O&C Building, Mission Briefing Room. **Employees are invited** to hear Dr. Soffen define the program, present the concepts behind this new area of research, and outline the areas in the research where KSC might contribute. For the first time in human history, advances in the biological sciences, space exploration and space technology make it possible for us to answer: Where did we come from? Are we alone? What is our future on Earth and in space? Learn more about it on Jan. 12.

▲ **The next Shuttle launch** is STS-93, targeted for April 8. The primary mission is the deployment of the Chandra X-ray Observatory, designed to observe X-rays from high energy regions of the universe. The crew members are Commander Eileen M. Collins, Pilot Jeffrey S. Ashby, and Mission Specialists Steven A. Hawley, Catherine G. Coleman, and Michel Tognini from France. Collins is the first woman to serve as commander on a Shuttle launch.

The next unmanned launch from Cape Canaveral is a commercial Atlas from Pad 36-B with the JCSat-6 commercial communications satellite. Launch is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 13, at the opening of a launch window which extends from 7:40 to 9:28 p.m.

Training Makeup: Two makeup sessions have been scheduled for those employees who did not receive annual ethics training in 1998. The dates are Jan. 8, 1999 from 2 to 3:15 p.m. and Jan. 11, 1999 from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Training for both days will be located at the Headquarters Building, Room 2229 (Comptroller's Conference Room). For information, please contact Jessie Clarke at 867-2552.

FIRST Volunteers: The southeast regional competition of For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, or FIRST, takes place at KSC **March 4-6**. Twenty or more student teams will be testing their robots on a playing field at the KSC Visitor Complex. Volunteers are needed from the 3rd -- 6th in such areas as the pit and the playing field, as well as escorts. Those wishing to help can contact Pat Caroleo at 867-2622.

Did You Know? One NASA **spinoff** has resulted in a **digital imaging breast biopsy system**. Charge Coupled Devices (CCDs) developed for the NASA Hubble Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph are high technology silicon chips that convert light directly into electronic or digital images, which can be manipulated and enhanced by computers. Advanced CCDs are manufactured for digital mammography, resulting in imaging breast tissue more clearly and efficiently, replacing surgical biopsy, and saving patients time, pain, scarring, radiation exposure and money.

Comments or Questions: E-Mail – Anita.Barrett-1@ksc.nasa.gov
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