Anxiously awaiting results from Augustine Commission

The Lovin’ Spoonful probably had it right in 1966 — “Hot town, summer in the city!”

Many of us who work in the space industry are anxiously awaiting the results of the Augustine Commission (part deux). I can’t help but reflect on the various commissions of which NASA has been the subject over the past few decades, as discussed in several articles circulating in cyberspace.

These commissions offered recommendations that met with varying degrees of acceptance and implementation. In the immortal words of Yogi Berra, “It’s like déjà vu all over again.”

I’ve noticed that along with announcements for space-related anniversaries are a number of obituaries saluting folks who left their mark on spaceflight. Although anniversaries and obituaries are both inevitable indications of an aging (I think the more polite term is “matur-ing”) space program, I look forward to celebrating a few more births (program startups) and graduations (launches!) as signs of a healthy and vital spaceflight program.

Reports of individual HistComm member activities, plans and accomplishments are provided in this newsletter. As you can see, we’ve been a busy and productive lot!

Although it seems like a long way off yet, the AAS Annual Conference and National Meeting is just around the corner — scheduled for Dec. 2-3 at the Gilruth Center at Johnson Space Center in Houston. This will be a new venue for the society. As usual, the History Committee will convene for its annual meeting in conjunction with the AAS conference – details TBD.

Stay cool!

Interactive experience to begin 40 years to the minute after historic launch

An interactive new Web site to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Apollo 11 and President Kennedy’s involvement in the U.S. space program will debut on July 16, exactly 40 years to the minute after the historic launch.

WeChooseTheMoon.org will go live at 9:32 a.m. EST. The site, powered by AOL, will recreate Apollo 11’s lunar mission, minute by minute, with an interactive experience that lets visitors experience the mission as it happened, using archival audio, video, photos and “real time” transmissions.

Online visitors can pre-register to receive emails and get regular “real time” updates during the four-day mission this month. Additionally, users will be able to follow the event on Twitter.

“This site represents a unique opportunity for viewers to ‘go back in time’ and experience one of mankind’s most amazing achievements,” said Tom Putnam, director of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. “From actual mission audio transmissions and archival video to mission factoids and news reels, visitors to WeChooseTheMoon.org will be able to track every step of the Apollo 11 mission, as it happened, 40 years later.”

“Students, historians and anyone who finds space exploration fascinating are in for a treat.”

Apollo anthology

To mark the anniversary of the first moon landing, Air & Space magazine has created a special Web site with photo essays, interviews, and articles examining Apollo from a variety of perspectives, along with a selection of readings from previous coverage in Air & Space.

Online visitors can download a copy of the magazine’s 20th anniversary Apollo issue from 1989.

http://www.airspacemag.com

Lunar videos in high definition

Want to view the Lunar Module descent during Apollo 11 in high definition? Or Neil Armstrong’s first field activities after he stepped on the Moon?

Footagevault.com has hundreds of videos such as these in its archives.

The site provides access to a wide range of space footage in high quality formats that can be used in documentaries.

http://www.footagevault.com

Why Mars? Why now?

IEEE, the world’s leading professional association for the advancement of technology, tries to answer the questions “Why Mars? Why now?” with a new Web site full of feature-length articles.

The site is divided into six parts: challenges, business, the voyage, strategies, exploring the Red planet, and space ambition.

http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/mars

Visitors get to relive Apollo 11 mission

The swing arms move away and a plume of flame signals the liftoff of Apollo 11 and astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr. from Kennedy Space Center on July 16, 1969.
NASA seeking ideas from public about Von Braun collection

NASA wants the public, academia and industry to provide ideas about how to analyze and catalog notes from space-flight pioneer Wernher von Braun into an electronic, searchable database or other system.

Von Braun was the first director of NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., and a key figure in the development of the Saturn V rocket and NASA’s Apollo program.

NASA has issued a request for information and is looking for concepts that will provide an innovative resource for agency engineers and scientists.

“Space Talk” radio program makes on-air debut from Cape

A new one-hour weekly radio space program began broadcasting in June by veteran aerospace writer and commentator Jim Banke.

Banke spent 16 years covering the space program for Florida Today newspaper and Space.com.

Topics for discussion include NASA, military activities, commercial launches, space education, space tourism, space science, history and space-related entertainment.

“We are going to educate, inform, and share what’s on our mind. But mostly we will have fun and talk about the space program in a way that everyone can understand,” said Banke.

The program will be streamed live on the Web and recorded for download as a Podcast – both available at www.wmmbam.com. Audience members from around the nation can call in to the program at 321-768-1240, and send e-mail to spacetalking @aol.com, or interact via Twitter at http://www.twitter.com/spacetalking.

Apollo 13 drama inspires award-winning play

A trip to Kennedy Space Center in Florida inspired two New Zealanders to write and produce a theatre production about the Apollo 13 mission.

The play won accolades last year in its first year of production and has since been upgraded with more realistic sets. Apollo 13: Mission Control is showing at The Meteor in Hamilton, New Zealand, July 20-26 to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the first Apollo lunar landing; and at the Aotea Centre, Auckland, July 31-Aug 1.

The two men behind the award-winning play were featured recently in the New Zealand Herald.

Moon Shot focus of exhibit at JFK Library and Museum

A special space exhibit at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston will stay open until May 30, 2010.

The exhibit, Moon Shot — JFK and Space Exploration, includes presidential memos, copies of Kennedy's speeches and models given to Kennedy during the Mercury and Gemini programs.

In 1961, President Kennedy challenged the nation to land a man on the Moon and return him safely to Earth by 1970. A reading copy of Kennedy's address at Rice University on NASA's space effort is among the many items on display.

Launius receives SHFG’s first Roger R. Trask Award

Roger Launius received the first Roger R. Trask Award from the Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG) for his work as chief historian at NASA and as curator at the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum.

He was also recognized for promoting the society’s overall mission and as a mentor.

The award was given at the 2009 SHFG conference in March where Launius delivered the keynote lecture.

Russian Cosmonautics museum reopens its doors to the public

Moscow’s Memorial Museum of Cosmonautics reopened its doors in March after a three-year expansion and renovation, according to a recent article on TIME Magazine’s Web site.

The upgrades and new exhibits are more interactive and intended to inspire children to become interested in science and technology.

The museum has life-size mock-ups of a Mir space station module, Sputnik and Vostok spacecraft, space art and cosmonaut food.

Former cosmonaut Alexander Laveikin, who lived on Mir in 1987 for six months before having to leave the station for medical reasons, serves as deputy director of the museum.
Is space a ‘wild west’ or global commons?

In the popular imagination, space is the final frontier. Will that frontier be a wild west, or will it instead be treated as the oceans are: as a global commons, where commerce is allowed to flourish and no one country dominates?

At this moment, nations are free to send missions to Mars or launch space stations. Space satellites have become vital to many of the activities that have become part of our daily lives—from weather forecasting to GPS and satellite radio. The militaries of the United States and a host of other nations have also made space a critical arena—spy and communication satellites are essential to their operations.

In Heavenly Ambitions, Joan Johnson-Freese draws from a myriad of sources to argue that the United States is on the wrong path: first, by politicizing the question of space threats and, second, by continuing to believe that military domination in space is the only way to protect U.S. interests in space.

NASA history monograph available

The NASA History Division recently announced the availability of Research in NASA History (NASA SP-2009-4543, Monograph in Aerospace History 43).

This updated version explains what kinds of resources are available from the NASA History Division at the agency's headquarters in Washington, D.C., its field centers, the National Archives, and other relevant organizations for researchers in aerospace history.

Hard copies of this monograph can be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the NASA History Division, Suite C072, NASA HQ, Washington, D.C. 20546. It is also available online at http://history.nasa.gov/sp4543.pdf.

The Saturn V F-1 Engine, Powering Apollo into History, by Anthony Young
Energiya-Buran: The Soviet Space Shuttle, by Bart Hendrickx and Bert Vis
Preludes to U.S. Space-Launch Vehicle Technology: Goddard Rockets to Minuteman III, by J.D. Hunley
U.S. Space-Launch Vehicle Technology: Viking to Space Shuttle, by J.D. Hunley
SpaceShipOne: An Illustrated History, by Dan Linehan
"Read You Loud and Clear" - The Story of NASA's Spaceflight Tracking and Data Network, by Sunny Tsiao
Twilight War: The Folly of U.S. Space Dominance, by Mike Moore
Harnessing the Heavens: National Defense Through Space, by Paul G. Gillespie and Grant T. Weller
On Space and Time, by Shahn Majid, Alain Connes, Michael Heller, and Roger Penrose
Road to Mach 10: Lessons Learned from the X-43A Flight Research Program, by Curtis Peebles
Chasing Icarus: The Seventeen Days in 1910 That Forever Changed American Aviation, by Gavin Mortimer
Truth, Lies, and O-Rings: Inside the Space Shuttle Challenger Disaster, by Allan J. McDonald and James R. Hansen
A Passion for Mars: Intrepid Explorers of the Red Planet, by Andrew Chaikin
Well-researched narrative comes to life

By De Witt Douglas Kilgore

During the past half-century, stories about space exploration have been an important part of our visual culture. In cinema and comics spectacular tales of space exploration play a familiar role and ever more visible role in popular entertainment. However, the great bulk of visual storytelling tends to ignore the actual history of our efforts in either human or robotic space exploration. Nick Abadzis’ Laika (2007), a graphic novel about the first dog in space and her humans, helps redress the balance.

Most Americans interested in spaceflight will have some notion of the Soviet Union’s priority in producing a series of “firsts” in space during the 1950s while the United States lagged behind. However, with the exception of a handful of serious space historians, we are generally innocent of the details. Why did the Soviet space program use dogs instead of chimpanzees? What is the story behind Laika and her selection? How did the program use dogs instead of chimpanzees? What is the human and personal cost of sending a living being into space, knowing that she would not return? Abadzis poses answers to these questions with an effecting and well-researched narrative.

Managing the balance between creating Laika’s story and that of her human confederates was obviously a difficult challenge but it is one that Abadzis pulls off. He does this by resisting the cartoonish impulse of anthropomorphizing the dog: making her talk. Instead he takes us into her mind — through some very effective dream sequences — and shows her interactions with the human world around her. Critically, for the appreciation of the humans among us, this story is not only about a heroic dog, but also those of the people whose dreams and ambitions bind them to Laika and make her sacrifice necessary.

The book opens with Sergei Korolev, the great architect of Soviet space flight, walking out of a Siberian gulag. His trek establishes the themes of imprisonment and release that characterize the novel. We also meet less renowned figures as part of Abadzis’ central cast: Oleg Georgivitch Gazenko, the head of the medical division responsible for selecting and training the animals used in the Soviet space effort and Yelena Alexandrovna Dubrovky, the lead dog-handler who attends to Laika’s rigorous training. Through their lives and interactions the author gives us a world that is difficult and grim for the high and the low. Laika’s role is to sponsor those moments of revelation and transcendence that can make life bearable for humans and canines. The reader is swept up into the narrative, learning something about the Soviet space program and of the very personal passions behind its accomplishments.

As a graphic novel Laika’s pictures are part of the apparatus that tells the story. The Soviet Union of the 1950s is drawn as a grim and cramped place that is hard on people and dogs alike. Abadzis’ rumpled and unflattering portrayal is a far cry from the pristine and clean-lined heroism available elsewhere. This approach makes the story he has to tell all the more effecting. Laika and her human associates rise from circumstances that are barren and often desperate to reach previously unattainable goals. Their participation in the Soviet space program is both perilous and a release from prison. Thus the writer-artist recounts a very human triumph while not hiding its cost. Highly recommended.

De Witt Douglas Kilgore is an associate professor of English at Indiana University and is the author of “Astrofuturism: Science, Race, and Visions of Utopia in Space” (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003). Kilgore is also member of the AAS History Committee.
CALL FOR PAPERS

11th SpaceOps Conference

Abstracts and papers are being sought for the 11th SpaceOps Conference in Huntsville, Ala., in April 2010.

The SpaceOps 2010 conference organizing committee’s highest priority is to accept abstracts and papers that emphasize unique and innovative practices, technologies, and experiences from which others in the Space Operations community will benefit. The abstract deadline is Aug. 1.

The SpaceOps Conference is a technical forum for the space operations community that addresses state-of-the-art operations principles, methods, and tools. The biennial event attracts engineers, technologists, scientists, managers, and experts from space agencies, industry, and academia. The scope is intended to cover all spaceflight missions, including human and robotic, near Earth and deep space.

For more information, visit http://www.SpaceOps2010.org

Third International Conference on Space Applications

Abstracts and papers are being sought for the third International Conference on Space Applications in Toulouse, France, in June 2010.

The Conference will provide an opportunity to demonstrate how new satellite-based services and applications are playing an increasing role in simplifying everyday life for us all. This covers themes as diverse as environmental management, health issues and economic development.

The abstract deadline is Oct. 15.

The Conference is aimed particularly at those who are engaged in developing new and innovative technologies for the space sector, especially for applications designed for the general public, to allow them to share their experiences. It is also for all those who believe that Space is the key to resolving their technical and economic requirements, either alone or when combined with other technologies.

For more information, visit http://www.toulouse-spaceshow.eu

First Space-Eco Symposium

Abstracts and papers are being sought for the first Space-Eco Symposium to be held in conjunction with the International Conference on Space Applications in Toulouse, France, in June 2010.

The evolution of the global economy and the technical maturity of satellites and launchers have opened a new era of space exploitation. When considering how many nations have now acquired space-faring capabilities, and how many nations or companies have the economical resources and the know-how to deploy and operate space missions, it is certainly worthwhile considering space not only as a venture but also as a business. The Space-Eco Symposium wishes to cover as many aspects of the economy of space as possible.

The abstract deadline is Oct. 15.

For more information, visit http://www.toulouse-spaceshow.eu

Quest: The History of Spaceflight Quarterly

David Arnold, editor of Quest: The History of Spaceflight Quarterly, is seeking articles for publication.

The journal is published quarterly and is dedicated to the history of spaceflight. Stories cover the people, projects and programs that comprise the civil, military and commercial space programs of the world.

Articles submitted by amateur and professional historians are welcome.

For more about the journal, see http://www.space-business.com/quest, or contact Arnold at: historyof-space@aol.com.

To have requests for papers added to the AAS history committee’s newsletter, send announcements to: timothy.m.chamberlin@gmail.com.
July 15 - Sept. 10
Ask an Expert Lecture Series
Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum,
Washington, D.C.
www.nasm.si.edu/events/lectures/askanexpert.cfm
At the National Mall Building

July 15 Apollo 11 Command Module Columbia, By Allan Needell (Space History Division)
July 22 Von Braun’s Giant: The Saturn V, By Michael Neufeld (Space History Division)
At the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center

July 16 What does all this Photography Show? The AIL 1540 Light table and the IDEX II work Station, By James David (Space History Division)
Aug. 13 The New Horizons Spacecraft and the Exploration of the Outer Solar System, By Roger Launius (Space History Division)
Sept. 10 Measuring the Winds of Venus: the Vega Venus Atmospheric Balloon, By Cathleen Lewis (Space History Division)

Sept. 14-17
AIAA Space 2009 Conference & Exposition
Pasadena, California
http://www.aiaa.org/content.cfm?pageid=230&lumeetingid=2074

Oct. 12-16
60th International Astronautical Congress (IAC)
Daejeon, Korea
http://www.iac2009.kr

Oct. 20-21
2nd Wernher Von Braun Memorial Symposium
Huntsville, Alabama
http://astronautical.org/events/vonbraun

Apollo 11 40th anniversary events
All events are open to the public unless otherwise noted.

July 16
Opening of the Apollo Treasures Gallery, a new exhibit at the Apollo/Saturn V Center
Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, Cape Canaveral, Florida
Must arrive by 10 a.m. to be processed through Visitor Complex security and transported to the event site.

NASA History Panel’s Apollo 40th Anniversary Symposium
1 p.m. at NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C.
Not open to the public. The discussion will air live on NASA TV and be streamed at http://www.nasa.gov/ntv.

July 18
Fly Me to the Moon: A Community Celebration of the First Lunar Landing
6-9 p.m. at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, Texas, UHCL’s Alumni Plaza and Liberty Park

July 19
Moonfest 2009: From Apollo to LCROSS, and Beyond
Noon to 6 p.m. at NASA Ames Research Center, Mountain View, Calif.

July 20
Apollo 40th Anniversary News Conference
9:30-10:30 a.m. at NASA Headquarters in Washington
Not open to the public. The discussion will air live on NASA TV and be streamed at http://www.nasa.gov/ntv.

Apollo 40th Anniversary Educational Forum
2-3 p.m. at the Newseum, Washington, D.C.

Apollo 40th Anniversary Celebratory Reception
8 p.m. at the National Air & Space Museum, Washington, D.C.
Not open to the public. The program will air live on NASA TV and be streamed at http://www.nasa.gov/ntv.
Steven J. Dick is an astronomer, author and historian. He has written extensively on the history of astrobiology, including “Life on Other Worlds: The 20th Century Extraterrestrial Life Debate” (1998). He has served as past president of the History of Astronomy Commission and International Astronomical Union. In 2006, Dick received the LeRoy E. Doggett Prize from the American Astronomical Society. Dick has served as NASA’s chief historian since 2003 and will be retiring this month.

What are your specific interests in space history?

I’m interested in all aspects of space history. As NASA chief historian I’ve tried to fill the many gaps, in particular by sponsoring book projects in the Earth and space sciences, and in areas such as life sciences, NASA’s international relations, and deep space navigation. I’m also particularly proud of the societal impact of spaceflight series we are publishing, beginning with Societal Impact of Spaceflight (2007), Cosmos and Culture (in press) and Historical Studies in the Societal Impact of Spaceflight (in press). My personal research has centered around the history of astrobiology, most recently in The Living Universe: NASA and the Development of Astrobiology (Rutgers University Press).

What are you currently working on related to space history?

I’ve just finished a paper on “Exploration, Discovery and Culture: NASA’s Role in History” for the NASA 50th anniversary volume. This paper compares the Age of Space with the Age of Discovery, and emphasizes the importance of exploration for any society. A second paper in press is “Cosmic Evolution: History, Culture and Human Destiny,” for the Cosmos and Culture volume. Another paper, “Space, Time and Aliens: The Role of Imagination in Outer Space” will appear in a volume on Space and the Imagination, edited by Alexander Geppert based on a meeting he convened in Germany. The latter paper also reveals another of my interests: science fiction.

I am hopeful that our societal impact of spaceflight studies will prove helpful in making the public and Congress realize the importance of space to the long-term future of our society and humanity in general.
An update from Stephen Johnson, general editor:

Initial discussions have begun with ABC-CLIO regarding the production process for the two-volume ABC-CLIO/American Astronautical Society space history encyclopedia project, Space Exploration and Humanity: A Historical Encyclopedia. “We are done with the articles in all sections except for Civilian and Commercial Applications, where we have five to go, (plus) three overview articles, and then the remaining work to complete acronym definitions, images, and other miscellaneous items.” The remaining work is expected to be completed by mid-August.

The current publication date for the 845-page encyclopedia is January 2010.

For more information about the encyclopedia, see the product fact sheet at ABC-CLIO’s Web site.

How did you get interested in space history?

Astronomy and space history are closely related, so having a degree in astrophysics naturally led to an interest in space history.

What are your favorite space-related books, movies and Web sites?

I’m partial to the NASA History series! I think our series of Boris Chertok’s memoirs, Rockets and People, edited by Asif Siddiqi, is an extraordinary contribution to the literature, as was his book Challenge to Apollo. I also think Critical Issues in the History of Spaceflight is a very useful volume as an entrée to space history literature and issues. In the area of science fiction, I’m partial to philosophical works like Olaf Stapledon’s Star Maker and Last and First Men, and Arthur C. Clarke’s novels and his movie 2001: A Space Odyssey. I find science fiction a good stimulant whenever I get bogged down in the bureaucracy.

Besides the first piloted lunar landing, what do you think was the most memorable moment in space history and why?

The results from COBE (Cosmic Background Explorer) certainly have to rank high. COBE (and its successor WMAP) showed us that the Big Bang theory is correct, and that humans are the result of 13.7 billion years of cosmic evolution. Not only did this result net NASA its first Nobelist (John Mather), it also confirmed that cosmic evolution is the master narrative of the universe. That has all kinds of philosophical and religious implications, well beyond the scientific. For more, see Cosmos and Culture!

What else would you like to share with us?

As I head for retirement this summer, I am reminded that it has been a great honor to serve as NASA chief historian for the last six years, particularly during so many important anniversaries: the 50th anniversaries of the Space Age, NASA, and Explorer 1, the 40th anniversaries of Apollo, and so on. I am hopeful that our societal impact of spaceflight studies will prove helpful in making the public and Congress realize the importance of space to the long-term future of our society and humanity in general. Like the United States itself, NASA has some huge challenges in its immediate future. How we address them will affect the future of the country for a long time to come.
The latest volume in the AAS History Series includes proceedings of the 34th History Symposium of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2000. Seventeen papers are included by authors from several different countries. The papers cover a broad spectrum of subjects spanning several different time periods. The book is divided into four sections:

**PART I  Developing Space Countries**
Chapter 1: TeÚfilo M. Tabanera (1909-1981): The Divulger, by Oscar Fernández-Brital and Miguel Sánchez-Peá;  
Chapter 2. Biological Studies in Animals Using Sounding Rockets, by Miguel Sánchez-Peá and Hugo F. L. Niotti;  
Chapter 3. Rocketry in Latin America in the 19th Century: A Historical Overview, by Frank H. Winter and Karlheinz Rohrwild;  

**PART II  Failure and Success: Lessons Learned for Everybody**
Chapter 6. Baikonur Tragedy, by L. V. Andreyev and S. N. Konyukhov;  
Chapter 7. Between a Rocket and a Hard Place: Episodes in the Evolution of Launch Vehicle Technology, by Roger D. Launius and Lori B. Garver;  
Chapter 8. The True Beginnings of French Astronautics: 1938-1959 (Part II), by Philippe Jung;  
Chapter 9. Early History of Kágosima Space Center, by Yasunori Matogawa;  
Chapter 12. The Larger Solid Propellant Rocket Motors of the United Kingdom, by John Harlow;  

**PART III  People and Society**
Chapter 14. Czechs in Space, by Petr Bares and Marcel Grun;  
Chapter 15. Herman Potocnik Noordung: Slovenian Space Visionary, by Miloa Krmelj;  

**PART IV  In Memoriam**
Chapter 17. The First Soviet Space Flight Organizations, by B. V. Rauschenbach and V. N. Sokolsky. Illustrated.
Discounts

A 50% discount off list prices for all AAS History Series volumes is available for individual members of the:
- American Astronautical Society History Committee
- International Academy of Astronautics History Study Group
- Authors for books in which their articles appear

A 25% discount off list prices for all AAS History Series volumes is available for individual members of the AAS, AIAA, AAAF and:
- The British Interplanetary Society
- The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Luft und Raumfahrt
- The National Space Society
- The Space Studies Institute
- The U.S. Space Foundation
- The Planetary Society
- Individual members of any IAF Society may take the same discount.

The AAS History Committee, first under the leadership of Eugene M. Emme, NASA historian, established the AAS History Series of books in 1977 to dedicate the continued pursuit and broader appreciation of the full history of flight in American history and its global influence.

PREVIOUS VOLUMES

Vol. 8  History of Rocketry and Astronautics, 1989, 368p, Hard $50; Soft $35.
Vol. 11 History of Rocketry and Astronautics, 1994, 236p, Hard $60; Soft $40.
Vol. 15 History of Rocketry and Astronautics, 1993, 452p, Hard $60; Soft $40.
Vol. 18 Organizing for the Use of Space: Historical Perspectives on a Persistent Issue, 1995, 234p, Hard $60; Soft $40.
Vol. 21 History of Rocketry and Astronautics, 1997, 368p, Hard $60; Soft $40.
Vol. 23 History of Rocketry and Astronautics, 2001, 566p, Hard $85; Soft $60
Vol. 26 History of Rocketry and Astronautics, 2005, 430p, Hard $95; Soft $70.
Vol. 27 History of Rocketry and Astronautics, 2007, 416p, Hard $95; Soft $70.
Vol. 28 History of Rocketry and Astronautics, 2007, 560p, Hard $95; Soft $70.
Vol. 29 Space Shuttle Main Engine: The First Twenty Years and Beyond, 2008, 270p, Hard $70; Soft $50.

For more information about the AAS History Series, visit Univelt’s Web site.
MEMBER ACTIVITIES

CHAIRMAN  
MICHAEL L. CIANCONE | michael.l.ciancone@nasa.gov

I have completed my editorial responsibilities for the Space and Society area of the ABC-CLIO/AAS space history encyclopedia project. Earlier this year, I completed editing the papers from the IAA History Symposium at the 2002 World Space Congress (Houston, Texas) in my capacity as volume editor for the Univelt AAS History Series and forwarded the material to the series editor. I look forward to a busy summer as a member of the Constellation Program safety review panel (my day job).

MATTHEW BILLE | bille_matt@bah.com

I am coauthoring a paper on the technological ancestry of DARPA’s F6 “fractionated satellite” program, tracing the evolution of the concept’s attributes (networking, distributed computing, etc.) from the first satellites of the 1950s to the present. The paper will be the lead presentation in the lead session of the Conference on Small Satellites in August.

JAMES BUSBY | apollo.busby@yahoo.com


TIMOTHY M. CHAMBERLIN | timothy.m.chamberlin@gmail.com

I wrote an article for Space Times magazine about special advisory bodies appointed by presidents to offer NASA guidance with carrying out policy directives. The article is slated for the July/August issue.

DR. STEVEN J. DICK | Steven.j.dick@nasa.gov

Dick is retiring as NASA chief historian. Please see the “Spotlight” column on pages 8-9.

STEPHEN E. DOYLE | sedoyle@cleanenergysystems.com

Doyle attended a memorial service last month for Eilene Galloway. Please see the “Obituaries” on page 16 for his comments.

DONALD C. ELDER | donald.elder@enmu.edu

I had a manuscript accepted for publication by the University of Iowa Press. It is tentatively titled, ‘Where Are You Now, My Love?’ The Diary and Letters of Mary Kemper Vermilion, 1855-1870.

JOAN JOHNSON-FRESEE | johnsonj@nwc.navy.mil

I recently traveled to Shanghai and Beijing at the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences to discuss my 2007 book, Space as A Strategic Asset, which had been translated into Chinese, and my new book, Heavenly Ambitions, America’s Quest to Dominate Space, released May 22.

R. CARGILL HALL | overflight@comcast.net

I submitted two book reviews to Space Times magazine: Twilight War, the Folly of U.S. Space Dominance (by Mike Moore), and A History of Hypersonics (by T.A. Heppenheimer). I am currently working on a brief history of U.S. unmanned aerial vehicles.

DR. STEPHEN B. JOHNSON | sjohns22@uccs.edu

Johnson is general editor of the ABC-CLIO/AAS space history encyclopedia project. Please see page 9 for his comments.

DR. DE WITT DOUGLAS KILGORE | dkilgore@indiana.edu

During this past year I have presented papers at the Science Fiction Research Association, the International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts, and the Society for Literature, Science and the Arts. These presentations have been devoted to advancing my current research in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence and its presence in American cultural history. I am also examining the social and political conversations inspired by alternate histories of the American Civil War.

DR. ROGER D. LAUNIUS | launiusr@si.edu

2008 EMME AWARD NOMINATIONS

An update from Mike Ciancone:

Nominations for the 2008 Emme Award closed in March.

Publishers of nominated titles were subsequently contacted to provide review copies, which are now in hand by members of the review panel.

It has been heartening to see the increased interest in the Emme Award over the past few years, as evidenced by the incredible response rate from publishers.

The panel expects to complete by August its review of books that were submitted for consideration. We will present the Award to the author of the selected title at the AAS National Conference and Annual Meeting in Houston in December.

One change to note since last year is that the panel is now taking the opportunity to publicly recognize Emme Award finalists, not just the winner. In addition, we have refined the Award Web site to provide greater clarity on the types of books considered for the Award, and the Award schedule.

This annual award recognizes an outstanding book that advances public understanding of astronautics. It rewards originality, scholarship and readability.

The 2007 award was presented to Michael Neufeld for Wernher von Braun: Dreamer of Space, Engineer of War (Knopf).

The complete list of past recipients is available on the AAS Web site.

 MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Continued from page 12

DR. OTFRID LIEPACK | otfrid.liepack@jpl.nasa.gov

I have finished editing the proceedings from the IAA History Symposium of the 2003 International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Bremen, Germany, for which I am serving as volume editor (as part the AAS History Series). These proceedings contain memoirs and technical papers, and reports from Boris Chertok, Fred Ordway, Philippe Jung and J. Harlow about Germany’s contributions to post-World War II rocket programs in the Soviet Union, United States, France and Great Britain. Chertok’s personal memories are featured.

GIDEON MARCUS | fagin@earthlink.net

I am currently working on the next several articles in the Space Technology Laboratories series. They will cover Explorer 6 through Pioneer 5. I have also revamped my STL online archive with hundreds of documents and photographs, most exclusive to that site.

KATHERINE SCOTT STURDEVANT | Katherine.Sturdevant@ppcc.edu

As a History Professor at Pikes Peak Community College, I team-teach some of my classes with a colleague in Communication. Our learning communities fully integrate history and communication. This summer we designed a new one—U.S. History Since 1945 with Group Communication—that had a space history component. The students had to apply Group Communication concepts to historical situations such as the Space Race, Apollo 13, and Challenger/Morton Thiokol.

DR. RICK W. STURDEVANT | Rick.Sturdevant@Peterson.af.mil

I am currently working on my portion of the Air Force Space Command annual history; reading books nominated for the 2008 Emme Award; editing three IAA History Symposia volumes for submission to Univelt, Inc.; composing papers for presentation at the AIAA Space Symposium in Pasadena and the Western Historical Association conference in Denver this autumn; reviewing four books for two different journals, and continuing to serve on the Quest editorial board and High Frontier staff.

FRANK H. WINTER | fhwinter@gmail.com

HISTORY COMMITTEE GOALS FOR 2009

- Work with Univelt, Inc., to publish three volumes in the AAS History Series, plus an Index of IAA History Series papers, 1967-2000, which was prepared by the IAA History Study Group.
- Complete work on the ABC-CLIO/AAS space history encyclopedia.
- Assemble a list of astronautical publications from 2008 and make this list widely available. Completed!
- Select the recipient of the 2008 Emme Award for Astronautical Literature.
- Assess the AAS History Committee charter and implement recommendations of the Doyle Working Group. Completed!
- Publish three editions of Explorer.
- Provide Space Times and other publications with six book reviews.
- Initiate the compilation of college-level space history courses and programs available nationally, eventually to include sample syllabi and other information.
Apollo’s three amigos

Apollo 11 astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., and Michael Collins, wearing sombreros and ponchos, are swarmed in Mexico City as their motorcade is slowed by the enthusiastic crowd. In the fall of 1969 after their mission, the astronauts visited more than two dozen countries and cities in about a month as part of the Giantstep-Apollo 11 Presidential Goodwill Tour. The cities included Bogota (Columbia), Rome (Italy) and Las Palmas (Canary Islands).
By Stephen Doyle

On May 2, just two days shy of her 103rd birthday, Eilene Marie Galloway died of cancer.

Galloway was a renowned authority on national and international space law and policy; an exemplary, dedicated public servant; a beloved teacher, adviser and counselor; a tireless and productive researcher, scholar, and writer; a philanthropist, and a charming, witty, insightful, gracious and happy lady, who had friends and admirers all over the world.

Galloway was as comfortable visiting and advising in the highest offices of government as she was in a classroom full of students. She had thoughtful, profound advice and entertaining anecdotes for students and national leaders alike, drawn from the extraordinary experiences of her life.

On a visit to China in the 1990s, Galloway was taken by car to the vicinity of the Great Wall. There she encountered passing groups of Chinese tourists who were as awe-stricken by this 90-year old sojourner from abroad as they were to see their own Great Wall. She found their reverence of her age remarkable. She said she hadn't done a thing to earn her age, it had just crept up on her!

Galloway was a world traveler who appeared at conferences, symposia and workshops around the globe convened to address space law and policy issues. She is referred to as the matriarch of space law in the United States because of her involvement in its development for five decades.

Galloway earned a bachelor's degree in political science in 1928 from Swarthmore College where she taught until 1930. She worked for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration from 1934-35; served as assistant chief of the Information Section, Division of Special Information, Library of Congress, from 1941-43 and as editor of abstracts from 1943-51; served as a national defense analyst from 1951-57; and as a specialist in national defense from 1957-66.

She was a specialist in international relations (for national security) at the Congressional Research Service from 1966-75, where she became a consultant in international space activities.

Memorial for Eilene Galloway

The family of Eilene Galloway hosted a memorial service June 6 at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C. Family members, friends and professional associates — more than 100 people from Europe, California and the Washington, D.C. area — shared their memories of Galloway.

Galloway's surviving son, Jonathan, provided a detailed history of significant events in his mother’s life.

In the tradition of a Quaker prayer session, members of the assembly spoke in turn reflecting on their relationships with Galloway, her humor, and her contributions and encouragements to many young people during the beginning of their careers. Galloway was remembered with love, admiration, and deep sorrow by all who spoke.

— Stephen Doyle

Also...

Paul Haney, chief of public affairs for NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston during the Gemini and Apollo programs, died May 28 after battling melanoma for more than two years. Haney's reports during space flights, which were fed to broadcast television viewers, earned him the distinction of being the “voice of Mission Control.”

Richard Booton, Space Technology Laboratories’ communications manager for the Able programs and architect of the first global tracking network, died Jan. 28 after a heart bypass operation and two strokes.
THE AMERICAN ASTRONAUTICAL SOCIETY (AAS) HISTORY COMMITTEE CHARTER

The AAS History Committee was established to stimulate historical research in and teaching, publication, and preservation of the history of astronautics while encouraging interest and scholarship in and appreciation of the history of astronautics.

Activities of the Committee include, but are not limited to, recommending topics for and coordination of and participation in meetings addressing historical subjects; encouraging publication papers, articles, and books on topics in the history of astronautics; and providing recognition and prizes for significant historical achievements in astronautics.

In addition the Committee collaborates with other historically oriented groups and organizations, including the history groups of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the European Space Agency (ESA), the Smithsonian Institution, the New Mexico Museum of Space History at Alamogordo, the Huntington Museum, and other such institutions and organizations.

Concerning publication activities, a subcommittee annually reviews new books on topics in astronautics and selects recipients of the Emme Award for Astronautical Literature, which recognizes outstanding publications that advance public understanding of the effects of astronautics on society. The Committee collaborates closely with the IAA History Study Group in the editing and publication of the proceedings of IAA Historical Symposia in the AAS History Series. In addition, the Committee coordinates the review by Committee members of books of potential interest to the AAS membership in general and the spaceflight history community in particular.

On the horizon

What the History Committee has in the works for its next newsletter

New AAS History Series volume

We preview Volume 31 (Index of IAA History Series), the latest covering the proceedings of the annual History Symposium of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA).