



The Astronauts Memorial Foundation
The Center for Space Education
 Mail Code AMF
 Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899

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 PAID
 TITUSVILLE, FL 32780
 PERMIT NO.455

“The Astronauts Memorial Foundation honors and memorializes those astronauts who have sacrificed their lives for the nation and the space program by sponsoring the National Space Mirror Memorial and by implementing innovative educational technology programs.”

MISSION:

EXCELLENCE

WINTER 2008/2009

The Astronauts Memorial Foundation is a private 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

AMF's Innovative Learning Site – at the Zoo



Classroom part of Digital Video Elements course conducted at satellite site at Lowry Park Zoo, Tampa, FL. AMF instructor, Walt Jaworski, teaches Florida educators on digital video techniques using a green chroma key background.



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AMF Training Programs Span Several States

The AMF's education department, as part of its mission, conducts high-caliber, state-of-the-art computer training courses for educators at Kennedy Space Center, Florida. For several years, the AMF has taken these courses on the road to school districts throughout the State of Florida. More recently, satellite training sites are being established in Florida.

The education department staff is now offering its programs on-site in several states throughout the country. The AMF instructors will travel to the school district where they will ship all of the needed computers, course-related equipment and course materials. Among the courses being offered on a national level are *Windows Vista*, *Windows Server 2003*, *Windows Security Tools*, *Windows Server 2003 with Group*

Policies, Technology Specialist, Digital Video Elements, and Photoshop Elements.

This breakthrough expansion of on-site, national educational technology training programs has a two-fold, cost-saving benefit to the school districts outside the State of Florida. First, the course participants save the cost of travel expenses to Florida. Secondly, and equally important, is that these national training programs are being offered at a discounted fee under a grant from the **A. Newman Ormand Trust**.

Detailed program descriptions, contents, duration and fees can be found at the AMF's Web site, www.amfcse.org. For questions or scheduling of courses, contact the AMF at 321-452-2887 extension 13 or e-mail to amfreg@amfcse.org.



A little over a year ago, the AMF presented one of its core technology programs in an unprecedented environment – Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Florida. A brainchild of the AMF's educational technology department, the response was so positive from the course attendees that the AMF has expanded its course offerings at the zoo, which is now an AMF satellite training site.

In addition to *Digital Video Elements*, the AMF is also conducting *Photoshop Elements*. Providing a learning environment that combines classroom with nature, participants are furnished with individual computers, digital cameras, video cameras, microphones and all necessary equipment and supplies needed for the courses. Each participant goes home with a comprehensive course manual and a completed hands-on project.

“Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is a fantastic place for our students to experience a practical, hands-on application of what they learn in the classroom,” said **Gene Tavares, Vice President, the AMF**. “With an amazing cast of animals to use as subjects for their photos or videos coupled with the astounding natural setting, Lowry Park Zoo stimulates and inspires. Also significant is the affordability of these particular courses at the zoo. Thanks to a grant from the **A. Newman Ormand Trust**, we are able to offer Florida educators a discounted rate,” added Tavares.

(AMF's Innovative Learning Site continued on Page 2)

President's Perspective

Stephen Feldman, Ph.D.



On November 14, 2008 at 7:55 p.m., on the same day as the AMF Board of Directors meeting, Endeavor STS-126 lit up the sky as it lifted off to deliver equipment to the International Space Station. This night launch reinforced the excitement of the space program as tens of thousands of people filled

the roads in order to get close enough to clearly see and hear the shuttle liftoff.


Regardless of how severe a bear market we are experiencing or how deep a recession we may be entering, the roar of the rockets and the liftoff of the shuttle is an exhilarating experience that makes all of us proud to be associated with the space program at a time that NASA is celebrating its 50th anniversary of innovation and discovery. At the same time, we are acutely aware of the fact that the shuttle program will come to an end in 2010 causing a loss of jobs at the Space Center during this "gap" in space exploration.

At the AMF we do not launch rockets or do scientific research, but we do honor and memorialize those courageous astronauts who sacrificed their lives for our nation and the space program. We are not supported by the state or federal government, and during a period of national economic crises we are able to carry out our mission because of the generous support of companies

such as Harris, Lockheed Martin and Boeing as well as individuals such as Masato Maruyama and Mick Ukleja.

We are using these resources to embark on new educational initiatives to help prepare students in science, technology, engineering and math. Students trained in these disciplines will provide the next generation of astronauts who will continue to lead us into this last frontier as we go back to the moon and on to Mars.

The AMF education department, following the guidelines described in the AMF Education Roadmap, has embarked on a number of new initiatives described in this publication. We have established our first satellite location at the Tampa Zoo and are offering four courses there during this fiscal year. We have also initiated an educational program in Georgia in conjunction with a former Alan Shepard Award winner that is designed specifically for high school students, and we are aggressively attempting to expand our educational programs into a national marketplace.

Finally, I want to thank all of the people who have volunteered their time to serve as members of the AMF board and in particular Bill Potter, who has completed seven years on the board, including two years as chairman, and is now rotating off the board in accordance with the AMF bylaws. 

Stephen Feldman

Message from the Chairman


The educational programs of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation serve as a living memorial to the Astronauts' lives we commemorate, and our goal is for these efforts to help encourage our nation's youth to embrace science, technology and space exploration with the same passion and desire to expand the horizons of humankind that those fallen heroes displayed. Over the last few years, interest in math, science and technical fields as careers has significantly declined in the U.S. The AMF is in a unique position to incorporate the ideals of the astronauts we honor to renew excitement in space-related education and aid in reversing these trends.

The AMF has had strong educational programs for many years, offering numerous training courses for educators across the country through the Center for Space Education. We've partnered with leading educational institutions such as the University of Central Florida and with NASA to expand the scope of our programs. The AMF initiated the Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award to honor excellence and innovation in technology-related education. But the AMF Board sensed we could do even more, and with a grant from the A. Newman Ormand Trust, we have additional resources to further expand our programs.

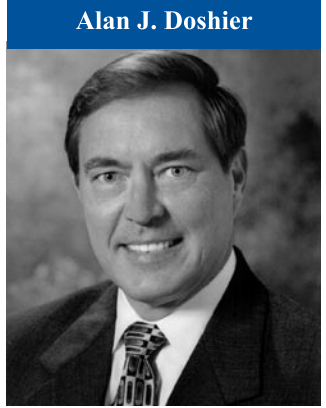
In 2008 we embarked on a focused effort to identify new initiatives and partnerships that, when coupled with our existing educational programs, would reach more students and educators, which would rekindle enthusiasm for scientific education in the schools and students that we touch. Our Education Committee,

led by Bob Sieck and with great support from the AMF staff, did an outstanding job of developing an updated roadmap for the AMF's educational programs. The roadmap lays out objectives and priorities for the future and highlights several new programs that we plan to develop over the next few months. With the roadmap in place and new programs identified, we have a strong foundation for our goal of expanding our educational programs.


The focus on education is bringing results. This issue of the AMF newsletter has articles on three programs that highlight some of the educational initiatives we have going on. Expansion of our computer training, partnering with an Alan Shepard Award winner, and using innovative sites for training are some examples of the work the dedicated AMF education staff is doing with educators and students across the country.

As we enter 2009, the AMF Board will continue to monitor the progress we make toward implementing our educational roadmap and the new programs we have identified. But we won't stop there. We will continually look for additional ways to strengthen and expand our educational programs. The men and women that the Astronauts Memorial Foundation honors deserve nothing less. 

Alan J. Doshier




(AMF's Innovative Learning Site continued from Cover)

As with all programs offered through the AMF's Center for Space Education, the participants, who are educators, use the latest technology in equipment, experience excellent delivery of content and have former educators as instructors. For more information about the AMF's *Digital Video Elements* and *Photoshop Elements* at Lowry Park Zoo as well as all of the AMF's educational technology courses, send an e-mail to amfreg@amfcse.org or visit www.amfcse.org for details. 

AMF Helps Local Schools after Tropical Storm

During September, Tropical Storm Fay dropped up to 19 inches of rain in parts of Brevard County, Florida. Some of the area schools experienced extensive damage including flooded classrooms. The Foundation, in possession of good, excess furniture, immediately sent out an e-mail to all of Brevard County's public schools offering assistance.

Clearlake Middle School in Cocoa and Apollo Elementary School in Titusville were recipients of bookshelves, audio visual stands, large desks and credenzas. **Mark Mullins, Principal, Clearlake Middle School**, expressed his gratitude when he stated, "... thank you for your contribution and help in getting our classrooms set up to meet the re-opening of school. We appreciate your good neighbor attitude more than you can know." 


Robotics to the Edge of Space: AMF Engages Nation's Students

In alliance with its 2007 *Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award* recipient, **Luther Richardson**, the Foundation is involved in a training program called “**Robotics to the Edge of Space**” in Columbus, Georgia. The program, a two-phased strategy, provides the opportunity for students to program basic autonomous systems that will be used on a scientific high-altitude balloon.

In Phase One, approximately 50 Columbus High School students in grades 9 – 12, who are enrolled in the Columbus High School Space Program’s engineering or advanced physics classes, will have the hands-on experience of learning how to program an integrated chip. The culmination of Phase One occurs when the students fly a high-altitude balloon. The students’ programmable integrated chips (PICs)


will be able to release a payload and turn on video functions based on timing or input from pressure, temperature or acceleration sensors.

Phase Two is implemented by the students from Phase One who will go to elementary and middle schools to teach those students how to program PICs on remote controlled aircraft or ground robots. From these elementary and middle school students, a group will be selected to attend a “Saturday Robotics Camp.” A requisite for these students will be to take their experiences back to their respective classes. There they will present their work and demonstrate how the entire class can get involved in future flights of the high-altitude balloon program.

The second phase will directly involve 250 students from 25 elementary schools and three middle schools. Based on the follow through presentations to peers, approximately 1200 students will be impacted by the **Robotics to the Edge of Space** program. To learn more about this program visit www.columbus2space.org. 

Boeing's Gift to AMF Earmarked for Brevard Educators


As part of its annual charitable contribution program, the Boeing Company’s Space Exploration Division presented the Foundation with \$8,250. “This contribution demonstrates our commitment to promote professional development for our local educators and to support the work of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation,”

said **Kevin Hoshstrasser**, site director for Florida Operations at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, for Boeing’s Space Exploration division. “We are pleased to partner with the AMF through our charitable investments,” added Hoshstrasser. The gift is designated for the AMF’s *Digital Video Elements* program specifically for educators in Brevard County, Florida. 

Lockheed Martin Supports AMF's Educational Programs

Lockheed Martin recently presented the Foundation with a \$10,000 gift as part of a 20-year-long commitment to support the AMF through its involvement on the Board of Directors and financial commitments. “Encouraging students to pursue studies in science, technology, engineering and math is a major cornerstone of our community involvement. This effort also includes supporting teachers in their professional development in these key studies. Lockheed Martin is proud to support the AMF’s educational programs, which give teachers

an insight into the space program as they inspire our next generation of space professionals,” said **Adrian LaFitte**, Director of Florida Government Relations, Lockheed Martin and AMF Board Member.

The AMF’s educational programs focus on providing the highest quality technology training customized to the K-12 education environment. Current programs include: Digital Video Elements, Video and Photoshop Adventures at the Zoo, Technology Specialist, Windows Server 2003 with Group Policies, and Windows Vista. 

Japanese Businessman Contributes to the Foundation



Masato Maruyama boards a real Apollo 22 in Fukuoka, Japan. The Apollo 22 was presented to Japan by the U.S. government.

and continually make a donation to the AMF in memory of the Apollo I astronauts.

Recently, Maruyama had the opportunity to speak on the phone with three family members of the Apollo I astronauts – Martha and Sheryl Chaffee, widow and daughter of Roger Chaffee, respectively, and Lowell Grissom, brother of Gus Grissom. “I am honored and privileged to talk with Mrs. Chaffee, her daughter and Mr. Grissom. It makes me happy to know they are well and dedicating their lives to continue space exploration. I truly hope that all the children of the Apollo I astronauts have grown up happily and are living in peace with the blessings of Gus, Ed and Roger,” said Maruyama. “I have committed much time to teaching my children to respect and remember America’s astronauts for the pioneers that they were and that it takes hard work and guts. To me, they are like the Japanese samurai of old,” continued Maruyama.

In 1967, at the age of 15, Masato Maruyama remembers vividly that he was in school in Tokyo, Japan when he learned of the Apollo I tragedy. He was devastated that three great Americans lost their lives for their country and for the advancement of space exploration.

Today Maruyama is a 56-year-old Japanese citizen and businessman running an international environmental-related firm in Tokyo, Japan. During the past four decades, Maruyama has never forgotten the Apollo I astronauts and their families. He has paid his respects to Roger Chaffee, Gus Grissom and Ed White by visiting their gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery and at West Point.

Maruyama learned of the existence of the AMF and its mission to honor and memorialize the Apollo I astronauts and all the astronauts who sacrificed their lives for the nation and the space program. Maruyama was so moved to know of the American citizens’ desire to forever remember their astronauts that he contacted Stephen Feldman, the AMF president, to inquire as to how he could personally

When asked what Maruyama’s passion and love for the Apollo I crew meant to her, as a daughter, Sheryl Chaffee replied, “It was very heart warming to hear Mr. Maruyama speak so highly of my father. I was truly touched. He is very knowledgeable of my father’s life and of American history. We tend to forget that there are people out there that remember our loved ones and will honor them for a long time to come. I appreciate that Mr. Maruyama has taught his children about the history of the space program and supports the Astronauts Memorial Foundation.”

So too, Lowell Grissom’s reaction was equally appreciative when he said, “The fact that someone from Japan, so far away, really cared about our Apollo I astronauts was very enlightening to me. I found this particularly interesting as there are many people in this country who don’t remember Apollo I.” 