



The Astronauts Memorial Foundation
The Center for Space Education
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“As a living memorial to the astronauts we honor, The Astronauts Memorial Foundation will become a major influence on the future of education through the excitement of technology and space to ensure that future generations are prepared to face the challenges, both on and off our celestial home . . . The Spaceship Earth.”

MISSION:

EXCELLENCE

SPRING 2006

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



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2006 Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award Goes to Kathy R. Brandon

The prestigious 22nd National Space Symposium in Colorado Springs was the setting for the presentation of the 2006 Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award. On April 3, during the Opening Ceremony of the symposium, **Dr. Stephen Feldman**, president of The Astronauts Memorial Foundation (AMF), presented **Kathy R. Brandon** with the award. Assisting Dr. Feldman was **Laura Shepard Churchley**, daughter of astronaut Alan Shepard. The award is given by the AMF, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Space Foundation.

The Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award recipient is a K-12 educator who has made an outstanding contribution in educational technology. “Kathy Brandon demonstrates how hard work and a commitment to her students can enhance the learning process,” said Feldman. “Alan Shepard was one of the early directors of the AMF, one of the original seven Mercury astronauts, the first American to fly in space, and one of only 12 humans who has walked on the moon. Upon his death, the Foundation established this award in memory of his passion and dedication to our nation’s space program. We were honored to have Laura Churchley partake in this event,” added Feldman.



Pictured Left to Right: Kathy R. Brandon, 2006 Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award recipient and Laura Shepard Churchley, daughter of astronaut Alan Shepard.

Brandon was chosen for her longtime service as a program instructor and her outstanding contribution to the STARBASE Louisiana program, which is a hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) learning center at Barksdale Air Force Base and funded by the Department of Defense (DoD). Fifth-grade students from local public schools attend five-day academies, participating in an intense 25-hour integrated curriculum using aviation and space exploration as the theme.

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Bruce Melnick

Key to sustaining the mission of the Foundation is the successful delivery of educational technology training programs to educators, who in turn fuel the minds and spirits of students in the areas of math, science and space exploration. Thanks to The Boeing Company one program in particular, Technology Specialist, will again realize outstanding results.

The Technology Specialist program will be made available to all K-12 teachers in the State of Florida in August and will continue through June 2007. All training will take place at the AMF's National Educational Technology Institute in the Foundation's Center for Space Education located at the Kennedy Space Center.

“The AMF has the facility, expertise and proven track record to make this training a reality. Their programs offer a unique hands-on approach, which allows educators a learning opportunity not available at all schools due to limited resources,” said Melnick.

For more information about the Technology Specialist or other educational training programs, call 321-452-2887 x13 or visit www.amfcse.org.

Boeing \$10,000 Grant Bolsters AMF's Ongoing Technology Programs

President's Perspective

Stephen Feldman, Ph.D.



As the Foundation moves forward into 2006, many events have already taken place. It was recently my pleasure to present the 2006 Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award to Kathy Brandon of Louisiana. Kathy has done a phenomenal job of utilizing technology in an innovative environment to foster youth's interest in the science,

technology, engineering and math disciplines using space as the theme through the STARBASE Louisiana Program. The Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award rewards excellence and quality in the development and delivery of educational technology programs – Kathy has demonstrated this at the highest level. This national award is sponsored by the Astronauts Memorial Foundation in partnership with the Space Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Emphasizing the importance of this recognition was the fact that the award was presented during the opening ceremony of the Space Foundation's 22nd National Space Symposium in Colorado. The symposium is the premier annual space industry conference. More than 7,000 professionals from around the world attend including the most senior executive leadership of NASA and other space and government agencies, the commercial space and satellite broadcasting industry, research universities and academia, space tourism concerns, the Department of Defense, military space commands and the global space industry. The Foundation is honored to partner with the Space Foundation in this endeavor as well as other joint ventures in education.

The Foundation also congratulates Jim Kennedy, Director, Kennedy Space Center, for being this year's recipient of the Dr. Kurt H. Debus Award. Named for the first director of the Kennedy Space Center and created by the National Space Club Florida Committee, this award recognizes a person who has made a particularly important contribution to the space program while working on Florida's Space Coast. Jim Kennedy has provided outstanding leadership to the Kennedy Space Center and he has been extremely supportive of the initiatives of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation. We join the National Space Club and the entire space community in congratulating Mr. Kennedy and thanking him for his contributions to the space program in general and the

Kennedy Space Center in particular. The AMF continues to offer its support to NASA and to the steady leadership of Jim Kennedy as we evolve towards the next generation of space exploration.

Another milestone was NASA's Space Shuttle Silver Anniversary. On April 12, 1981, the world watched in wonder as Commander John W. Young and Pilot Robert L. Crippen, currently on the Foundation's Board of Trustees, flew the Space Shuttle Columbia on her maiden voyage. Considered the greatest test flight in history, STS-1 launched a new concept in human spaceflight: the reusable space transportation system. The Foundation applauds NASA on its tremendous record during these last twenty five years and its commitment to the future of space travel and exploration.

Stephen Feldman 

Alan Shepard Award continued from cover...

Although Brandon is required to teach core components as outlined by DoD regulations, in her seven years as an instructor with the program, Brandon has worked diligently to author and present many additions and innovations which enhance the curriculum, particularly in the area of technology integration. There are 50 STARBASE sites nationally and Kathy has authored or co-authored two-thirds of the supplemental lessons that are made available at each of the 50 sites. In addition, she has coordinated career mentors, conducted lessons on science topics, and developed a student workbook. Brandon conducts lessons on science topics relating to the principles of flight and motion and accompanies students on tours of aircraft, providing information on parts of the airplane, mechanics and safety, munitions, and career opportunities in aviation and support roles.

When asked what it meant to receive this award, Brandon stated, "I was very humbled and honored. It was the most incredible and awesome professional experience of my life. You do what you do every day

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Message from the Chairman

It is a distinct privilege for me to serve as the current chairman of the board of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation. The Foundation is deeply indebted to our outgoing chairman, Bob Henry, and to all of the Board of Directors for their efforts, which have placed the Foundation in a position to be the stable and effective organization that it is. We are also fortunate to have a capable and dedicated staff, led by our unusually talented president, Dr. Steve Feldman.

It is, of course, fitting that the Foundation honors the service of those brave heroes who died in Apollo I, the Challenger accident, the Columbia tragedy and the other brave men and women who have died in the course of man's efforts to improve life on earth through exploration and understanding of space. However, the Foundation also seeks to look to the future as well as the past. By means of our programs, which pay homage to the accomplishments of these explorers, we also have implemented important educational programs to help meet the challenges of understanding our universe that remain to be accomplished.

When President Eisenhower reacted to the Soviet's launch of Sputnik by establishing NASA, and President Kennedy issued the challenge to put men on the moon by the end of the 60's, those events set off dramatic scientific and engi-

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and you don't think it's anything out of the ordinary. I want everyone to understand and recognize that so many other support people were involved – from my staff and co-workers to the very cooperative spirit of the local school administrations. It's a win-win situation because the school administration has given us the freedom to make a difference. Also, our funding sources have allowed for the purchase of the technology tools we need. And finally, I am so appreciative to the vision of the founders of the program, which has expanded to where it is today. It's incredible how synergistic the whole program is."

For more information about the Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award or other Foundation programs, call 321-452-2887 or visit www.amfse.org.



neering interest throughout our society. Men and women leaped to the challenge through our educational institutions, our industries, our governmental institutions, our military, the result of which was an explosion of our scientific and engineering knowledge and the thirst for more such knowledge. This brought about the technological innovations that enabled the United States to lead the world in the development of our modern high-tech world. It also caused brave young men and women, such as those the Foundation honors, to rush to join this quest for scientific exploration and knowledge.

Today, however, more than 40 years after Kennedy's challenge and 20 years after Challenger, we seem to have lost some of that zeal. Many standardized tests indicate that U.S. students are lagging far behind in their science and math skills. Many universities are finding that foreign students have a much greater enthusiasm for math, science and engineering than do U.S. students. That should cause us to be concerned about the social and economic changes that trend could mean for our country.

Thus, it is the goal of the Foundation not only to honor and celebrate the feats of those who have died in their quest to explore space and to expand man's knowledge, but also to use the example of these heroic men and women to inspire a new generation of young men and women with a similar thirst for knowledge and the courage and initiative to devote their lives to the pursuit of that thirst.

The Astronauts Memorial Foundation looks forward to continuing and expanding its role in that effort through its programs to honor our fallen heroes while advancing the quest for knowledge to which they were devoted.

Bill Potter 

Bill Potter



See Special Section Insert
on AMF Educational
Training Programs