

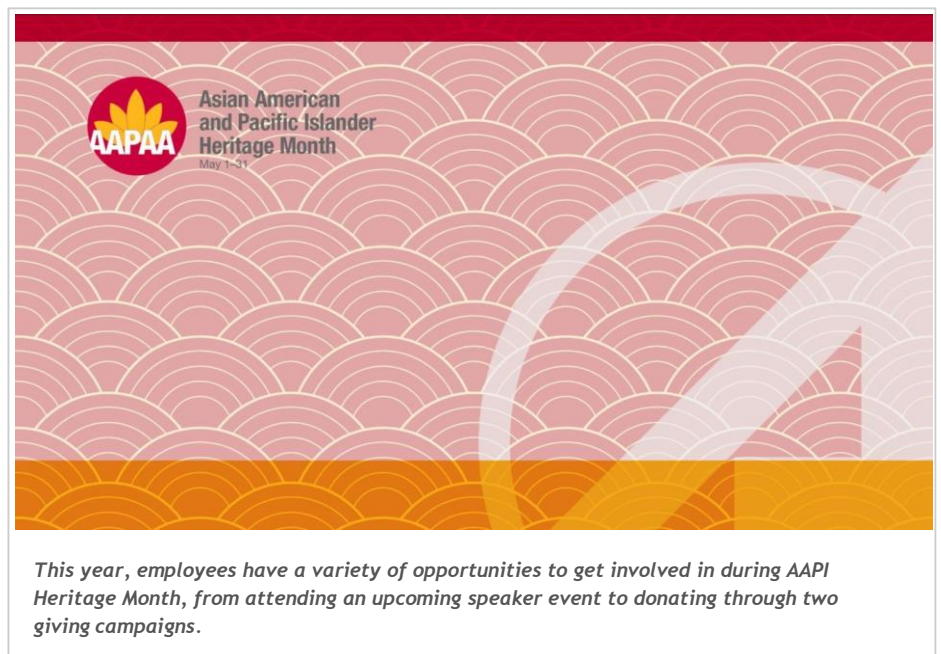
ORBITER NEWS

News, announcements, and more.

AAPAA Celebrates AAPI Heritage Month and 50 Years at Aerospace

May 31, 2022

Each May, Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Month is celebrated throughout the United States. This year, the Aerospace Asian Pacific American Association (AAPAA) developed a variety of ways for everyone to get involved and recognize the rich and diverse cultures that make up the AAPI community across the country and at Aerospace. This year also holds special significance as it marks AAPAA's 50th year at Aerospace, and the group is celebrating its members and the historic contributions the AAPI community has made across the industry and the nation.



This year, employees have a variety of opportunities to get involved in during AAPI Heritage Month, from attending an upcoming speaker event to donating through two giving campaigns.

Upcoming Guest Speaker Event

On June 2, AAPAA will be hosting a discussion on the topic of “Cultural Confidence and Resilience in the AAPI Community,” which will be led by guest speaker Xavier Lee, an international leadership trainer and executive coach. This event will foster discussion and sharing of best practices to enable Aerospace employees to better understand how they can support the AAPI community, which has faced challenges throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent spike in anti-Asian hate crimes.

“Our community has gone through a lot over these last few years,” said Stacy Shimizu, AAPAA Vice President. “The theme of ‘Cultural Confidence and Resilience’ represents those who came before us, Asian Americans across the country and at Aerospace, and our hope for the future as we continue to be proud of who we are and where we came from.”

New Community Page

In an effort to bolster their networking and engagement opportunities for members, AAPAA has recently launched a new internal website, which aims to facilitate communication between members and provides channels for feedback, announcements and event planning. In addition, it will feature a monthly member spotlight to highlight different employees as well as help everyone interested in AAPAA learn more about their community and the impact they are making at Aerospace and beyond.

“We are excited to provide an opportunity for everyone to get to know our members,” said Jake Singh, AAPAA National Treasurer. “This new site will help foster our sense of unity and help build a greater sense of community.”

Giving Campaign

In partnership with Aerospace Cares, AAPAA is currently hosting a giving campaign through June 6 to support the AAPI community. The campaign is called the “AAPAA Heritage Month Giving Opportunity.” The four causes that were chosen were submitted by AAPAA members and reflect causes that the community cares about.

“It means a lot to us and our members that we are able to support organizations they truly care about and that positively impact them, their families and their communities,” said Singh. “Our members are already involved with a few of these organizations, so we really know how important the work they do is to our community and what a great impact our contributions will make.”

Celebrating 50 Years at Aerospace

In recognition of their 50th anniversary, AAPAA is also spotlighting the Aerospace STEM Endowment, which funds scholarship programs like the Dr. Wanda M. Austin STEM Scholarship, by encouraging donations of \$50 or more from at least 100 AAPAA members by June 6.

An anonymous donor from AAPAA will generously match member contributions up to \$5,000 for the duration of the campaign, allowing even more students to benefit. Increasing diversity in STEM is at the core of Aerospace’s outreach initiatives and assuring affirmative action and community outreach are key pillars of AAPAA’s purpose. This campaign hopes to increase financial support and awareness for this important scholarship, which provides STEM opportunities for high-achieving, underrepresented students.

“It is a significant milestone that AAPAA, along with Aerospace Black Caucus, Aerospace Latino Members Association and Aerospace Women’s Committee are all celebrating 50th anniversaries this year,” said Tammy Choy, Vice President and Chief Information Officer of Aerospace and Executive

Sponsor of AAPAA. “For half a century, AAPAA and our sister Employee Resource Groups have served as a place to celebrate our members and showcase the power of the diverse perspectives we bring to the table, enabled us to develop leaders and educate each other, provided a focal point to hold discussions of membership interest with the corporation, and allowed us to volunteer and support activities in our local communities. AAPAA’s 50th anniversary is a testament to Aerospace’s continued and long-term commitment to our people and we look forward to what the next 50 years will bring!”

Press Release: John Galer Named Aerospace’s Chief of Government Relations

May 23, 2022

CRYSTAL CITY, Va., May 23, 2022 – The Aerospace Corporation (Aerospace) announced today that John Galer has joined the company as the new chief of government relations.

In this role, Galer will lead Aerospace’s government relations activities, providing strategic vision and execution of a growing portfolio of educational and outreach efforts to Congress, Executive Branch, and state/local government officials.



“We are excited to have John joining the Aerospace team to help us communicate with and serve as a trusted partner to key leaders in the executive and legislative branches,” said Jamie Morin, vice president at Aerospace. “John’s strategic vision, past experience in uniform, and the credibility he has won working across industry, will be great assets as Aerospace continues to work to advance national interests and shape the future in space.”

Prior to joining Aerospace, Galer served as the assistant vice president for National Security Space at the Aerospace Industries Association, where he provided policy leadership and represented industry consensus on national security space matters. Galer is a former active-duty Air Force space operations officer with experience leading dynamic teams in strategy, policy, communications, government relations, and operations. During his career, he has served as a satellite operator and integrator and as a trusted advisor and strategic communicator for chief executives in the Department of Defense, intelligence community, and U.S. Congress.

Galer is currently pursuing a doctorate of International Affairs at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MBA from Florida State University.

Galer succeeded Dr. John Plumb, who was recently appointed as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy.

ABOUT THE AEROSPACE CORPORATION

The Aerospace Corporation is a national nonprofit corporation that operates a federally funded research and development center and has more than 4,100 employees. With major locations in El Segundo, California; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Colorado Springs, Colorado; and the Washington, D.C. region, Aerospace addresses complex problems across the space enterprise and other areas of national and international significance through agility, innovation, and objective technical leadership. For more information, visit www.aerospace.org. Follow us on Twitter: [@AerospaceCorp](https://twitter.com/AerospaceCorp).

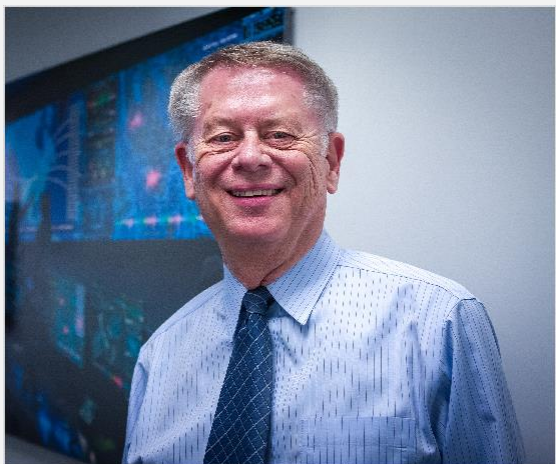
Aerospace's Top Technical Talent: Delivering Excellence to Advance the Space Enterprise

May 17, 2022



The complexities of the space domain are growing. As the trusted partner for the nation's space enterprise, Aerospace has a unique role, leveraging the unparalleled breadth and depth of its technical expertise to advance capabilities and concepts that ensure the success of government customers across a wide range of mission areas and domains.

Essential to this are the Aerospace Technical Fellows, a group comprised of the foremost experts, not only within the corporation but in their respective fields. Collectively, the Technical Fellows actively broaden Aerospace’s capabilities and technical knowledge across multiple disciplines.



Dr. Felix Hoots, Technical Fellow in the Systems Analysis and Simulation Subdivision.

As technical leaders, they provide solutions to the most critical strategic technical problems for the corporation and their customers.

In addition, Technical Fellows lead projects and provide guidance to advance the company’s strategic priorities and direction.

“Many Technical Fellows hold patents and publish leading- edge work in top scientific journals,” said Dr. Felix Hoots, Technical Fellow in the Systems Analysis and Simulation Subdivision.

“We also interact at the corporate level on customers’ difficult problems as well as contributing to the strategies and goals of the corporation.”

World-Class Technical Experts

The application of Technical Fellows’ insight to enterprise-wide decision-making deepens Aerospace’s Technical Excellence in areas such as internal research and development investments, as well as the top-level architectural planning that advances technical capabilities to meet current and future customer demands for innovative solutions.

When called upon, Technical Fellows can also serve as a de facto emergency response team for the most critical projects, underscoring the value of Aerospace’s expert analysis to the space domain.

“The program encourages the creative use of our tools in solving customer problems. We get to expand our technical skills in ways that help us respond to challenging new customer tasks and corporate priorities,” said Dr. Allyson Yarbrough, Technical Fellow in the Electronic and Sensors Division. “It’s exciting to work in environments that span capturing detailed technical data to developing new techniques to mining high- value results out of well-integrated tools.”

Aerospace empowers its technical leaders to cultivate and diversify their talents by collaborating across the corporation’s many capabilities.

This development of top technical talent and institutional knowledge embodies Aerospace’s People Excellence, which enables the company to meet or exceed customer demands for innovative alternative approaches and solutions to difficult problems.



Dr. Allyson Yarbrough, Technical Fellow in the Electronic and Sensors Division.

“I’ve always enjoyed advancing technologies in different areas, understanding customer needs and aligning our research and development portfolio to meet or exceed those needs. That’s exciting to me, because that’s how we offer the most value to the customer,” said Dr. Vinay Goyal, Technical Fellow in the Launch Systems Division. “I also think it’s equally important to perform the basic research that can position Aerospace to tackle harder problems down the road. The Technical Fellows Program allows for the time needed to solve the hardest problems Aerospace needs to solve, and to connect that to customer needs.”

Flexible Career Paths Expand Aerospace Capabilities

Technical Fellows fulfill one of three Level 4 technical roles that comprise the top rung of Aerospace’s technical ladder, with each role requiring varying degrees of responsibility, influence, recognition, and engagement:

- ◆ Principal Scientist and Engineer – Must possess deep technical expertise, while also being an influencer and communicator.
- ◆ Distinguished Scientist and Engineer – Must be a Principal Scientist and Engineer with world-class recognition, while also mentoring technical talent and providing community engagement.
- ◆ Technical Fellow – Must be a Distinguished Scientist and Engineer who provides broad leadership at the corporate level.

The Technical Fellows Program provides a distinct career progression path for engineers and scientists who desire to provide leadership and broader impact primarily by deepening their technical expertise.

“One of the things I really appreciate about Aerospace is the flexibility it offers you, and given that it’s a Federally Funded Research and Development Center, you can actually influence things on a global scale,” said Marlon Sorge, Technical Fellow in the Space Innovation Directorate. “There’s a lot of opportunity to decide where you want to go and to make things happen. Knowing that is critical because you can really make a big difference.”

This alternative to a traditional managerial path also enables Aerospace to continue to attract, develop and retain the brightest minds and top technical talent by providing its workforce with more flexibility in career planning while also facilitating the pursuit of different opportunities.

“The program doesn’t just provide advancement up a technical path. It’s purposefully tied into our corporate strategic goals and the advancement of those objectives,” said Mark Mueller, Technical Fellow in the Vehicle Performance Subdivision. “And although ‘Technical Fellow’ might be the highest technical title you can achieve, none of us have stopped learning.”

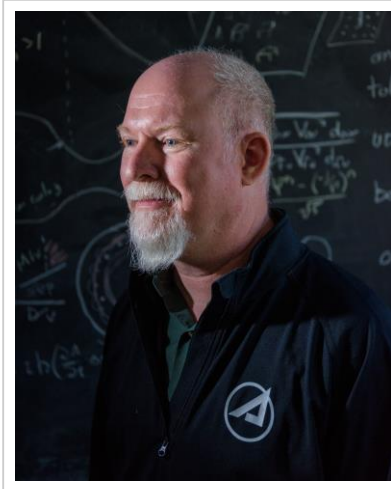
Our New Technical Fellows, Distinguished Scientists and Engineers, and Principal Scientists and Engineers

Aerospace recently welcomed four new Technical Fellows who collectively possess decades of industry experience in a broad range of subjects:

- ◆ Dr. Vinay Goyal, whose technical interests include advanced thermo-structural technologies, reusable launch vehicles, and multi-disciplinary technical assessments. He is also the 2022 recipient of NASA’s Honor Award for Exceptional Public Service.
- ◆ Mark Mueller, whose area of expertise is spacecraft propulsion.
- ◆ Donald Sather, whose area of expertise is enterprise/ground systems.
- ◆ Marlon Sorge, whose areas of expertise include orbital debris, space traffic management, space safety, and astrodynamics.



Dr. Vinay Goyal, Technical Fellow in the Launch Systems Division.



Mark Mueller, Technical Fellow in the Vehicle Performance Subdivision.



Donald Sather, Technical Fellow in the Information Systems and Cyber Division.



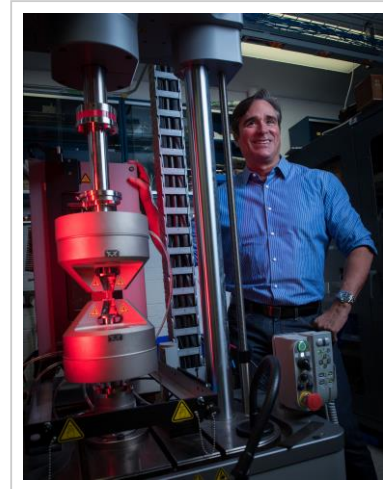
Marlon Sorge, Technical Fellow in the Space Innovation Directorate.

In addition, Aerospace also named three new Distinguished Scientists and Engineers:

- ◆ Dr. Andrea Gilbert, whose interests include enterprise space/ground architectures, and advanced sensing and processing technology development.
- ◆ Dr. Rafael Zaldivar, whose interests include composite replicated optics, high-temperature resilient materials, and development of agile testing techniques.
- ◆ Dr. James Martin, whose interests include model-based systems engineering and digital engineering.



Dr. Andrea Gilbert, Distinguished Scientist and Engineer in the NSS Programs Policy and Oversight Office



Dr. Rafael Zaldivar, Distinguished Scientist and Engineer in the Materials Science Department.



Dr. James Martin, Distinguished Scientist and Engineer in the Systems Engineering Division.

Completing the cycle, the following individuals have recently been promoted to Principal Scientist and Engineer:

- ◆ Dr. David Kunkee, whose areas of expertise include passive microwave remote sensing and space-based environmental modeling.
- ◆ Nick Cohen, whose area of expertise is defensive cyber operations.
- ◆ Dr. Henry Helvajian, whose areas of expertise include advanced concepts, small satellite technologies, and advanced laser processing.
- ◆ Dr. Andrea Hsu, who is a propulsion expert with a particular focus on small satellite technologies.
- ◆ Dr. Brian Hardy, whose areas of expertise are small satellite technologies and advanced materials.
- ◆ Dr. David Thompson, whose areas of expertise include RF Payloads (and associated end-to-end performance), electromagnetic theory and analysis, and antenna and RF measurements.
- ◆ Catherine Venturini, whose areas of expertise are small satellite technologies, including buses and components, missions, architectures, and innovative concepts, as well as infrared spectroscopy.

Investing in Our People

To stay ahead of the rapidly changing space domain, Aerospace is dedicated to ensuring it has the right mix of technical capabilities and talent to deliver mission success across the enterprise. The Technical Fellows embody the pinnacle of cross-collaborative expertise and impact Aerospace brings to bear in support of its government customers to outpace the threat and shape the future of space.

“There’s no other company that I know of that offers the variety of opportunities that Aerospace does, and the freedom to move to other disciplines and learn about them. This gives you a very unique view of things,” said Donald Sather, Technical Fellow in the Information Systems and Cyber Division. “A message to the early career people working here: You’re in a great company. If you want to learn and expand your horizons, Aerospace is the place to be.”

NROL-85 Launch: A Mission of Milestones

May 09, 2022

On April 17, 2022, a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Vandenberg Space Force Base SLC-4E at 6:13 a.m. PDT and successfully delivered the NROL-85 payload into orbit. This was a unique mission, inasmuch, it was the first time the United States Space Force (USSF) launched a previously flown booster for an Intelligence Community mission. The first use of the rocket was for the National Reconnaissance Office Launch (NROL) 87 on Feb. 2.



“The teamwork and mission focus on these most recent national security launches directly influences our national strategic capabilities,” said Col Erin Gulden, Senior Materiel Leader of Space System Command’s Launch Execution Acquisition Delta. “Ensuring the efficient processing and successful on-orbit delivery of our customer’s payloads remain our highest priorities. The team did a phenomenal job ensuring strong mission confidence while utilizing new, innovative tools and processes.”

The Aerospace Corporation provided support to both the NROL-85 and NROL-87 missions, adapting new approaches to ensure the successful launches of critical National Security Space assets within a span of three months.

“This was the first time the Aerospace Falcon team supported back-to-back launches for National Security Space Launch (NSSL) in less than 75 days,” said Akhil Gujral, General Manager for Aerospace’s Launch

Systems Division. “Our teams continue to remain laser-focused, utilizing critical and valuable capabilities to support our nation’s prevalent needs.”

In the days leading up to the launch, the Aerospace team performed outstanding work adjudicating several emerging issues. Working closely with the government customers and the launch provider, Aerospace ensured risks were mitigated and conditions met the agreed-upon criteria.

This launch also marked the first time Aerospace leveraged tools on the Future STARS platform on the front line with legacy applications serving as backups.

“Credit to the STARS of the Future development team,” said Bruce Mau, Principal Director of Launch Systems Division. “They have worked hard to create a powerful analytics platform built on the Aerospace’s Enterprise Engineering Ecosystem (E3) cloud-based technical computing platform, which enables applications that will help our launch teams become more effective and efficient in assessing vehicle performance.”

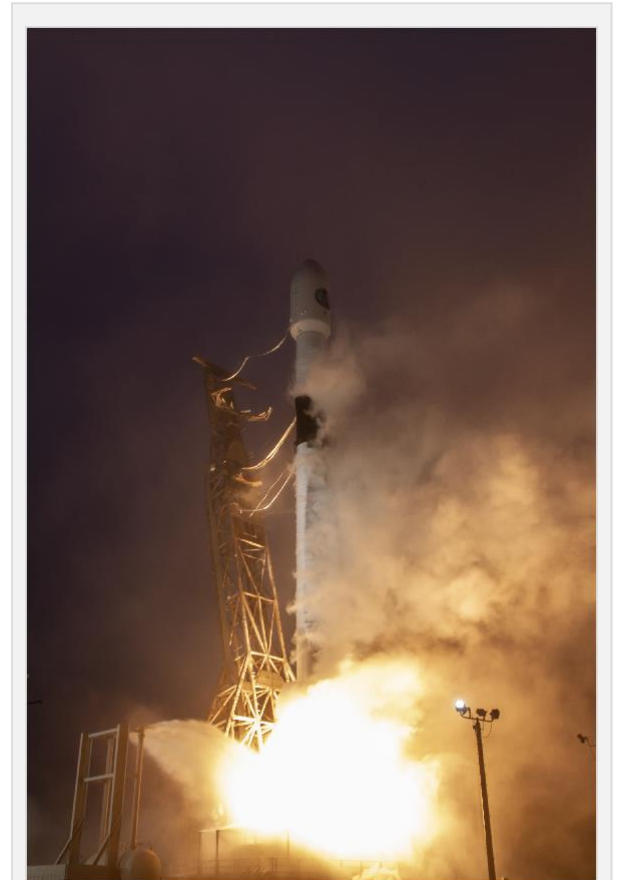
The significant achievements of the team were highlighted by many, including the USSF, Intelligence Community, and Aerospace leadership. In particular, the Aerospace Falcon team was acknowledged for their excellent work by teaming with NRO’s Office of Space Launch and the National Systems Group, Systems Engineering and Launch Directorate in mitigating emerging issues, maintaining technical excellence and dedication to mission success.

In many ways, the successful completion of NROL-85 can serve as a testament to what makes Aerospace unique, the ability to combine an unparalleled legacy of mission success with rapidly evolving capabilities to address the needs of the modern space environment.

While the launch of the NROL-85 payload signified milestones and exciting prospects for the future of the space enterprise, it also marked the last launch for Steve Frolik, who served as chief engineer for Aerospace’s Falcon program and supported the last five out of six NSSL Falcon 9 missions.

“We wish Steve well as he explores new experiences within Aerospace,” said Jeff Michlitsch, Principal Director for Aerospace’s Launch Systems Division.

This article was provided by Akhil Gujral, General Manager of Launch & Architecture Operations, and has been published on [Aerospace.org](https://www.aerospace.org).



*The NROL-85 launch mission reused the same SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket booster from the NROL-87 launch just a couple months prior.
(Credit: SpaceX)*

May 2022 Obituaries

May 01, 2022

Sincere sympathy is extended to the families of:

- ♦ **Ronald Berman**, member of administrative staff, hired Aug. 7, 1961, retired Dec. 1, 2001, died Feb. 10, 2022
- ♦ **Richard Chodzko**, member of technical staff, hired Aug. 31, 1970, retired Dec. 1, 1994, died Feb. 24, 2022
- ♦ **George Epstein**, member of technical staff, hired Jan. 18, 1966, retired Nov. 1, 1991, died March 29, 2022
- ♦ **Deanna Farmer**, office of technical support, hired May 21, 1979, retired July 1, 2014, died March 24, 2022
- ♦ **Donald Herbert**, member of technical staff, hired Aug. 6, 1979, retired June 1, 1994, died Feb. 24, 2022
- ♦ **Barbara Hill**, office of technical support, hired Aug. 27, 1984, retired Nov. 1, 2014, died March 11, 2022
- ♦ **Richard Miller**, member of technical staff, hired May 23, 2011, died April 18, 2022
- ♦ **John Petersen**, office of technical support, hired May 11, 1961, retired Aug. 1, 1991, died March 31, 2022
- ♦ **Orville Reid**, office of technical support, hired Oct. 14, 1968, retired Oct. 1, 2010, died March 11, 2022
- ♦ **Ernest Scheyhing**, member of technical staff, hired Nov. 16, 1964, retired Oct. 1, 2013, died March 11, 2022
- ♦ **Martin Schwartz**, member of technical staff, hired July 23, 1962, retired Feb. 1, 1992, died April 15, 2022
- ♦ **Stanley Schwartz**, member of technical staff, hired July 9, 1973, retired May 1, 1996, died March 14, 2022
- ♦ **Ira Weiss**, member of technical staff, hired April 30, 1979, died April 18, 2022

To notify Aerospace of a death and have it included in the Orbiter, please contact People Operations at (310) 336- 5107.

These articles are reprinted from The Orbiter, a publication of The Aerospace Corporation 2310 E. El Segundo Blvd., El Segundo, CA 90245-4691 310-336-5000

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