



ORBITER NEWS

News, announcements, and more.

Celebrate International Podcast Day with the Space Policy Show

September 30, 2024



It's International Podcast Day! To celebrate, here are five of the top episodes from [The Space Policy Show](#), which is produced by Aerospace's Center for Space Policy and Strategy (CSPS). The Space Policy Show is a virtual series of online webcasts and virtual meetings that enables the broader space policy community to stay engaged while also educating audiences about key topics shaping the future of space.

Episode 122: [How Stuff Works: Defending in Space](#)

Aerospace experts Kristen Kolarik and Britany Washburn explain the basics of operating and defending satellites in space.

Episode 116: [ASATs, Diplomats, and More Than That](#)

Mallory Stewart, the assistant secretary for the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance, joins Aerospace's Dr. Mick Gleason to talk about the US Department of State's role in national security.

Episode 114: [Mapping Our Way to Sustainable Cislunar](#)

Aerospace expert Ron Birk answers questions related to commercial space and the cislunar ecosystem with Purdue University professor, Dr. Kathleen Howell, and Daniel Dumbacher, AIAA's Executive Director.

Episode 112: [Fact or \(Science\) Fiction of Space Diplomacy](#)

Space policy experts, Robin Dickey and Gabriel Swiney, the Senior Advisor at NASA's OTPS, discuss how accurate science fiction shows are in relation to democracy and politics.

Episode 99: [Satellites at Sea – US Navy's Maritime Domain Awareness](#)

Aerospace's Kara Hernandez sits down with Dr. John Mittleman from the US Naval Research Laboratory's Naval Center for Space Technology to talk about the impact commercial space has in the maritime domain.

Check out all 142 episodes of the Space Policy Show on [YouTube](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts.

Thank you, Tammy: A Celebration for Ms. Choy's Retirement

September 24, 2024



Tammy joined The Aerospace Corporation on June 17, 1985, as an intern in the Engineering and Technology Group, rose through the technical ranks culminating in her appointment to Aerospace Fellow, and ascended to the position of Vice President and Chief Information Officer in December 2017. She is a trusted and highly respected leader, whose tireless efforts over the course of her career have had a profound impact on Aerospace, its mission, and its people.

In her role as Vice President and Chief Information Officer, Ms. Choy oversaw the transformation and integration of Aerospace's information technology capabilities, empowering our people with the tools needed to carry out their work in an increasingly digital age. She spent her career solving some of the corporation's most complex operational problems and developed enterprise solutions to safeguard the information of Aerospace, its customers, and its many partners. She ensured the safety and wellbeing of Aerospace's people through her leadership of the corporation's COVID-19 response, her long-running involvement in emergency management planning, and her oversight of its security and safety organizations.

Ms. Choy helped foster a diverse, inclusive workplace that empowered our people through her leadership and involvement with Aerospace's Employee Resource Groups, including as the chair of the Aerospace Diversity Action Committee and as executive liaison for the Aerospace Asian Pacific American Association and the Aerospace Lambda Alliance. She demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our people through her leadership, mentorship and advocacy for her colleagues, including through her work as an instructor at The Aerospace Institute and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Aerospace Federal Credit Union for more than 10 years.

Aerospace expresses its deep appreciation for her dedicated leadership, technical excellence and service to the corporation. Her contributions will have an immense and long-lasting impact on the success of Aerospace and its people.

Team Spirit Takes Flight: Aerospace Takes Third Place at Dulles Day Plane Pull Event

September 23, 2024

Submitted by Joseph Whang: In a thrilling display of teamwork and camaraderie, a group of 32 enthusiastic Aerospaceers secured third place at the [Dulles Day Plane Pull](#), held Sept. 14, 2024, at the Washington Dulles International Airport. The event, which is held as a fundraiser in support of Special Olympics Virginia, has become an annual tradition in the region and draws attendees from many organizations and companies.

Aerospace's Virginia Site Council had been looking for a family-friendly community event supporting a great cause, and the Dulles Plane Pull was a perfect fit.



Congratulations to our team for taking 3rd place at the Dulles Plane Pull, pulling a United Airlines airplane 12 feet in 7.25 minutes. The annual event supports Special Olympics Virginia. Aerospace's participation was organized by the Virginia Site Council.

The team's impressive turnout of 32 — well beyond the required 25 participants — saw them categorized in the “Just for Fun” portion of the competition, but that did not slow them down. The team's remarkable display of strength, teamwork, and enthusiasm enabled them to pull a United Airlines airplane 12 feet in an impressive 7.25 minutes.

This was the first year for Aerospace's participation, but the VA Site Council is hoping to field additional teams next year.

A huge congratulations to the team members for their outstanding effort and teamwork!



Craig Johnson

Heather Hurt

Kaitlyn Fields

Scott Oliveira

Vincent Laorenza

Rylan Pettit

Stephen Blanchette

Natasha Laorenza

Lara Grose

Christopher Cannon

William Koch

Roshni Patel

Annika Cannon

David Rodak

Jacob Sabol

Andreas Cannon

Susan Rodak

Julia Eng

Jay Bargeron

Roberto Lamberte

Mikala Miller

Zack Goss

Bob Dillow

Brady Hunt

Luke Bedrosian

Galan Murphy

Erin Watson

Grant Siedschlag

Kerstyn Auman

Fredda Lerner

Joshua Lyzhoft

CSPS Fellows Bukley and Sorge Awarded Membership in the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA)

September 20, 2024

From Jamie Morin, Vice President of Defense Strategic Space at Aerospace:

Congratulations to Center for Space Policy & Strategy Technical Fellows Dr. Angie Bukley and Marlon Sorge for their recent acceptance to the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). After passing through the rigorous admissions process, Dr. Bukley and Mr. Sorge have been granted Academician member status. As such they are recognized as distinguished leaders in their field who have made outstanding contributions to the development of astronautics, to international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, or to the activities of the Academy.



Dr. Bukley and Mr. Sorge have been invited to accept their diploma on Academy Day, Oct 13th, at the gala dinner held in Milan, Italy. And as active members they are also invited to contribute to the peer reviewed journal, Acta Astronautica and participate in study groups and reviews.

Dr. Angie Bukley is a Technical Fellow performing research in the areas of human exploration and international relations. With more than 40 years of professional experience, Bukley's career has spanned a broad range of space systems research, design, and technical management. Bukley served as tenured professor and associate dean at Ohio University Russ College of Engineering, and as associate vice president and chief administrator at the University of Tennessee Space Institute. Bukley went on to the International Space University (ISU) in Strasbourg, France to become director of the Space Studies Program, and vice president for academics and research. Bukley has more than 100 technical publications to her credit, including four books.

Marlon Sorge is Technical Fellow and executive director of Aerospace's Center for Orbital and Reentry Debris Studies (CORDS). For more than 30 years, Sorge has conducted space debris research and analysis in a broad range of fields. He developed the Aerospace fragmentation model and conducted some of the first work in real-time fragmentation event risk assessment. He is also a DOD representative on the NASA delegation to the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC). Sorge joined The Aerospace Corporation in 1989.

Congratulations to Dr. Bukley and Mr. Sorge on this remarkable achievement!

Press Release: Aerospace Selects Tameika Hollis as New Vice President and CIO

September 20, 2024

CHANTILLY, Va., Sept. 19, 2024 – The Aerospace Corporation (Aerospace) has chosen experienced national security executive Tameika Hollis to be vice president and chief information officer (CIO).

As CIO, Hollis will oversee Aerospace’s information technology (IT), security, safety and facilities organizations.

“Advanced digital and cyber technologies are essential to solving the hard problems we face in space today,” said [Steve Isakowitz](#), Aerospace president and CEO. “Tameika brings extensive experience in digital transformation and strategy that will prove invaluable as we deliver mission and business IT systems critical to the nation’s space enterprise.”



Hollis joins Aerospace with more than 25 years of experience in senior executive roles in IT services and people management in the aerospace and defense industry. She has deep expertise in engineering, manufacturing and logistics, including oversight of cyber, intelligence, space, radar and electronic systems, as well as a broad background that spans global mission solutions, strategic services and program management.

Prior to Aerospace, Hollis spent four years as chief executive officer and chief operating officer for Illuminate Corporation, a cyber, IT and technology business that builds sensors and provides services to the Intelligence Community.

Hollis also held key leadership positions at Northrop Grumman Corporation for more than 17 years in areas including cyber and intelligence mission solutions; engineering, manufacturing and logistics for advanced concepts and technologies; and strategic services for the electronic systems sector.

Tameika Hollis begins her role at Aerospace on Oct. 7, 2024.

ALMA Kicks Off Hispanic Heritage Month 2024: Shaping the Future Together

September 18, 2024



Aerospace continues to strengthen its dedication to shaping the future of space by supporting its people. This Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM), the Aerospace Latino Members Association (ALMA) is recognizing the important contributions diversity brings to the corporation. Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) is recognized from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 each year, recognizing the achievements of Latino culture in the United States. This year, ALMA has events slated to support the 2024 theme 'Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together' which aims to capture the spirit of unity, innovation, and resilience in the Latino experience.

ALMA builds a community based in diversity, supporting its members and the greater Aerospace community. As their name, which means 'spirit' or 'soul' in Spanish, indicates, ALMA promotes celebrating Latino culture, spirit, and achievements of fellow Latinos at Aerospace. ALMA aims to support the growth of professionals as well as their involvement in their communities.

"During our month of celebration, we want to highlight achievements through the Spirit of Excellence, share our various cultures through our annual Taste of event, and help people grow personally as well as professionally through our panel discussions and EAP events," said Edelina Villavicencio Rose, President of ALMA. "We invite everyone to participate!"

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua celebrate their independence from Spain in 1821 each year on Sept. 15. Mexico and Chile also celebrate independence this month on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18 respectively. HHM began as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, celebrating the cultures and histories of Americans with ancestry in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Mexico and Spain. This celebration was expanded to a one month-long recognition in 1988.



ALMA hosted a leadership panel discussion in 2023 with Latino leaders at Aerospace.

Join in the Celebration

This year, ALMA will host their annual Taste Of event on both coasts, at Chantilly and El Segundo locations. The event will highlight cultural cuisine from Venezuela, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico. ALMA will also host a leadership panel discussion as well as a final event to finish off the month's celebrations. The ALMA Spirit of Excellence (SOE) Award celebrates the impact and commitment of true leaders in the community. The award recognizes employees who are truly leading from the front

and inspiring others along the way. During Hispanic Heritage Month, ALMA is partnering with Aerospace Cares in a giving opportunity to support three organizations that provide outreach and mentoring for Hispanics. To read more about the specific organizations and to donate, see this year's [giving campaign](#).



“Our annual Taste Of Event allows us to celebrate heritage, share culture, and try delicious dishes across the Hispanic and Latin communities with our membership and the Corporation at large,” said Kaitlyn Fields, Treasurer of ALMA. “I encourage everyone at Aerospace to join us as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month to show your support to ALMA and learn something new!”

‘Top of the T’: Distinguished Speaker Series Provides Platform for Valuable Interdisciplinary Discussion, Partnership

September 12, 2024

As the space industry continues to evolve rapidly, it is critical that Aerospace’s perspectives and technical understanding keep pace with the momentum of the dynamic catalysts transforming the broader landscape.

Recognized as the foremost experts within Aerospace, the Aerospace Technical Fellows support and lead in critical situations where agility across both the depth and breadth of technical understanding is paramount. Through their considerable experience and networks, they also foster connections and collaboration with other world-class caliber experts to advance solutions and novel innovations for the nation’s hardest problems in space.



In the Distinguished Speaker Series, the Technical Fellows look to not only share this knowledge with the broader Aerospace community, but to establish a premier forum for discussion and partnership. In elevating the event, the Technical Fellows are gearing the speaker series toward the broader corporate goals of fostering more agile interdisciplinary collaboration and thought leadership across the space enterprise.

“Given Aerospace’s push to have a broader view of things — the ‘top of the T’ type of approach — it’s worth expanding this series to a much broader audience,” said Marlon Sorge, Technical Fellow and one of the key leads of the Distinguished Speaker Series. “We want to leverage the quality of speakers we’re able to bring in to ensure everyone can benefit from their insights, not just those in technical roles.”



The “T” illustrates Aerospace’s focus on far-reaching breadth and depth of technical expertise. The Distinguished Speaker Series provides an opportunity for employees of all backgrounds and disciplines to expand the breadth of their understanding in a variety of topics that impact the space industry.

The series, sponsored by the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO), is a bi-monthly presentation and discussion featuring external thought and technical leaders who share their insights on innovations, technical developments and future directions that are relevant to Aerospace and its customers. Past series events have provided insight into space nuclear, generative AI, China’s grand strategy, and the European Space Agency’s Space Safety Programme. The most recent Distinguished Speaker Series presentation showcased the wide breadth of capability provided by the James Webb Space Telescope and a glimpse into the science that will be performed through the mission over the next two decades.

Broadening Perspectives

Originally launched in 2020, the Distinguished Speaker Series focused on deeply technical topics, which predominantly appealed to narrower segment of Aerospace.

Today, the series is adapting its focus toward topics and discussions that are more pertinent and relevancy to a wider audience across the entire company, strengthening the foundation of knowledge at Aerospace and building opportunities for cross-departmental teamwork.

“By their very nature, the solutions to the hard problems of the future will require an interdisciplinary team of engineers and non-engineers,” Henry Helvajian, Technical Fellow and co-lead for the Distinguished Speaker Series. “For Aerospace to be a leader in innovating future space systems development, it is imperative that we view problems from different perspectives.”



Past Distinguished Speakers include Dr. Namrata Goswami, who explained China's Grand Strategy to Aerospace attendees.

Aligning with Aerospace's Strategic Vision

The Distinguished Speaker Series is not just about bringing in impressive speakers. As Aerospace continues to break down silos and promote interdisciplinary collaboration, this series serves as a key platform for exposing teams to an exciting spectrum of external ideas and perspectives that are essential for pushing new possibilities and innovative ideas forward.

“The series brings together thought leaders from across the aerospace community to share their expertise, spark innovation, and inspire new ways of thinking,” said Dr. Debra Emmons, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at Aerospace. “It's through these engagements that we not only stay at the forefront of technological advancement, but also foster a culture of collaboration and learning that drives our mission forward.”

Recent speakers have included influential leaders from organizations and companies like Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Stanford University, the European Space Agency and Microsoft.

“We've seen how critical it is for our employees, especially those early in their careers, to understand how their work fits into the bigger picture,” Helvajian said. “This series offers them a chance to hear from high profile leaders who can provide that broad perspective, helping them see how their efforts contribute to the overall goals of Aerospace.”

Strengthening Ties and Creating Deeper Connections

The Distinguished Speaker Series is valuable not only to Aerospace, but also to the esteemed speakers who participate.

The interaction goes beyond a simple presentation — speakers are given a platform to share their expertise and perspectives, while also gaining insight into Aerospace's innovative work and culture. Past speakers have spent the day at

Aerospace, touring facilities, meeting with executives and technical teams, and gaining a comprehensive understanding of Aerospace’s capabilities. This has led to ongoing partnerships.

“We want our guest speakers to walk away with a strong impression of Aerospace as an organization with which they want to continue to engage,” Helvajian said. “By facilitating meet-and-greets, tours, and small group discussions, we’re not just expanding perspectives, we’re building relationships that can contribute to our future success.”

This reciprocal approach ensures that both Aerospace and the speakers benefit from the experience, fostering a network of shared knowledge and potential future collaboration.

“We’re not just bringing in speakers to talk — we’re creating opportunities for meaningful interaction,” Sorge said. “This approach not only broadens our employees’ perspectives but also fosters deeper relationships with our speakers.”

Looking Ahead

As the next phase of the Distinguished Speaker Series launches this month, there is optimism about the future. The series has been rebranded and given greater visibility across Aerospace campuses, with a dedicated logo and branding that will signal upcoming events to all employees.



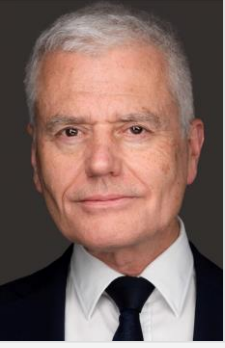
Distinguished Speakers invited by the Tech Fellows to speak at Aerospace are presented with a signature coin as a mark of appreciation and recognition.

The team emphasized that while significant strides have been made in elevating this series, the work does not stop here.

“We’re continually evolving this process to ensure it remains relevant and valuable,” Sorge said. “Our goal is to keep pushing boundaries, bringing in speakers who challenge our thinking and help us navigate the complex challenges of the space industry.”

As Aerospace and the Distinguished Speaker Series embark on this next chapter, all employees are encouraged to take advantage of this unique opportunity. The Distinguished Speaker Series is more than just a lecture — it’s a platform for growth, collaboration, and innovation.

Biography



Dr. Mark Clampin, NASA

Dr. Mark Clampin is the Astrophysics Division Director in the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC. He previously served as the Director of the Sciences and Exploration Directorate (SED) at the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) where he led the Astrophysics, Solar System, Heliophysics, Earth Science Divisions, and the high-performance computing office. During his tenure at GSFC he was the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) Observatory Project Scientist developing scientific requirements and overseeing their implementation. Prior to joining GSFC, Dr. Clampin was the Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) Group Lead at the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI), where he worked on the first four Hubble Space Telescope (HST) Servicing Missions. Dr. Clampin is a Co-Investigator with the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), and the Advanced camera for Surveys (ACS) science team. His research interests focus on studying the formation and evolution of planetary systems and astronomical instrumentation. Dr. Clampin has designed space and ground-based telescope instruments including adaptive optics systems, coronagraphs and detectors.

Celebrating a Summer of Intern Excellence

September 04, 2024

Aerospace's 2024 summer intern season has officially come to an end. This year, 197 interns nationwide showcased exceptional talent and creativity across various impactful projects, taking on challenging tasks and delivering impressive results. From gaining hands-on experience to contributing fresh perspectives, their efforts have played a key role in advancing Aerospace's initiatives and operations.



From securing a spot on the [WayUp Top 100 Internship Programs](#) to finishing among the top five at the annual [Aerospace Summer Games](#), this season has truly demonstrated the strength and value of Aerospace's internship program in developing the future leaders and innovators for space. The corporation is proud of the achievements and contributions made by the 2024 interns and wish them well as they continue their journey.

Check out some of this year's most memorable moments with Aerospace's interns, including social media highlights, videos and more.

- At this year's TecTalk mixers, interns participated in Network Bingo, Shark Tank, Deserted Island Survival Game, and an Ice Cream Social. Hear what they were excited [interning at Aerospace](#).
- Interns supported Aerospace's outreach efforts by volunteering for Zero Robotics program events, the LA promise event and by making 511 paracord lanyards for Operation Gratitude.
- A group of 37 interns took a trip to the Mojave Desert for a unique hands-on experience at [Intern Rocket Launch Event](#).
- During the Aerospace Summer Games, interns representing the "A-Team" secured third place in the Soccer, Tug-of-War and Human Pyramid competitions, and [fifth place overall for the Games](#).
- On Instagram, Aerospace got to know some of these incredible interns a little better, including [Haley Duncan](#) and [Angel Santana](#), the first co-recipients of the Dr. Wanda M. Austin Scholarship.
- AeroScholar Evelyn Gamez took viewers through [A Day in the Life of a Small Satellite Design Intern](#), while Caleb Medchill gave a look at what it's like working in the Propulsion Science Department.

September 2024 Obituaries

September 01, 2024

Sincere sympathy is extended to the families of:

- Francis Brown** member of technical staff, hired Aug. 21, 1967, retired Sept. 1, 2010, died July 4, 2024
Harrison Sarrafian member of technical staff, hired Oct. 6, 1980, retired November 1, 2003, died April 25, 2024
Margaret Bohnet member of administrative staff, hired Jan. 30, 1961, retired Nov. 1, 1989, died July 1, 2024
Clyde Christopher member of technical staff, hired May 27, 1980, retired April 1, 2018, died Aug. 6, 2024
Donald Connors member of technical staff, hired April 16, 1981, retired Sept. 1, 1986, died Aug. 3, 2024
Karl Ganz member of technical staff, hired Jan. 29, 1979, retired Sept. 1, 2010, died May 16, 2024
Rebecca Gick member of technical staff, hired Oct. 9, 1981, retired Nov. 1, 1991, died July 2, 2024
Esther Krikorian member of technical staff, hired June 15, 1998, retired Nov. 1, 2015, died April 1, 2024
James Labelle member of technical staff, hired Dec. 12, 1989, retired Sept. 1, 1995, died July 16, 2024
Milton Lewis member of technical staff, hired June 23, 1969, retired Sept. 1, 2001, died Dec. 17, 2023
Richard Meis office of technical support, hired April 1, 1964, retired July 1, 1988, died July 16, 2024
William Mott member of technical staff, hired Aug. 5, 1991, retired Aug. 1, 2004, died June 8, 2024

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

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