



michoud messenger

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Astronaut Jan Davis shares her experiences with local students

Former astronaut Jan Davis visited two St. Tammany Parish schools Jan. 28. Davis addressed two science classes at Mandeville High and two classes at Fontainebleau Junior High. She talked about her experiences during three space flights aboard the shuttle and answered students' questions about life in outer space.

Dr. Davis became an astronaut in June 1987 and has logged over 673 hours in space. She flew as a mission specialist on STS-47 in 1992 and STS-60 in 1994, and was the payload commander on STS-85 in 1997.

"Getting students excited about math and science is important to me," said Davis. "I enjoy telling young folks about the opportunities related to space exploration."

"Dr. Davis' visit helped us in our efforts to encourage more students to pursue the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) professions," said Paulette Perrin, secondary science curriculum specialist for St. Tammany Parish

Schools. She added that the visit sparked a lot of excitement and discussion.

Davis also presented awards to Perrin and three teachers who participated in the 2009 Michoud Education Fellowship (MEF), a program funded by the Louisiana Space Consortium. MEF is designed to promote math and

science education training of teachers.

After retiring from NASA, Davis joined Jacobs Technology. She currently serves as vice president and deputy general manager of the Jacobs operation at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.



Jan Davis (center) presents an award to Paulette Perrin (left) and Ian Binns of LSU. Both Perrin and Binns were instrumental in the 2009 Michoud Education Fellowship program. Also receiving awards but not pictured were Pam Blanchard of LSU, Mark Hazlett of Mandeville High School, and Donna Frank and Margaret Piazza, both of Fontainebleau Jr. High.

Local Eighth Graders Tour MAF



Eighth grade science teacher Brandi Bateson (center) of Stella Worley Middle School in Westwego and her science club toured Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) Dec. 22, 2009, hours after completing final exams. Bateson said her group studied the recent space shuttle missions. If you know of school groups interested in touring MAF, call (504) 257-6226.

Science Fair at St. Tammany Jr. High



MSFOC worker Chip Howat and others recently helped judge the St. Tammany Junior High School Science Fair on January 11. Students entered projects in many different scientific disciplines including chemistry, biology, and physical science. Student winners from this fair will advance to a regional competition. If you would like to be a judge in upcoming school fairs, call (504) 257-6226.

MSFOC Honorees to view STS-130 Launch



After a one day delay on Superbowl Sunday, STS-130 launched on February 8 at 3:14 am CST. Tony Rao, Sean Barnes and Tammy Austin have been selected for their outstanding achievement to view this early morning launch at KSC. The STS-130 crew are now on their way to the International Space Station and will participate in three space walks.



Tony Rao



Sean Barnes



Tammy Austin