NASA sends historic Apollo mission control consoles to Cosmosphere for restoration

By Robert Pearlman, editor, collectSPACE.com.

Jan. 25, 2018 — The historic consoles used by NASA flight controllers to manage the first missions to land astronauts on the moon are on the move. Workers on Thursday (Jan. 25) were busy labeling and removing the iconic rows of consoles that comprised NASA’s historic mission control at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. The green metal cabinets, with their cathode-ray tube displays, rotary dials and backlit push button panels, are being temporarily relocated to the Cosmosphere museum in Hutchinson, Kansas, where they will be restored to their Apollo-era condition and appearance.

“All of these historical consoles have been catalogued and we are removing them from the room and sending them to our restoration contractor,” said Jim Thornton, NASA’s project manager for the restoration, during a media tour Thursday. “This is [the first] stepping stone in the overall project to restore the original Apollo flight control room, visitor viewing room and the simulation control room back to the way they appeared in July of 1969.”

The $5 million restoration will return Mission Operations Control Room-2 (MOCR-2) inside the Mission Control Center to how it looked at the time of Apollo 11, the first mission to land humans on the moon.

“This will be a complete and accurate historical restoration,” said Sandra Tetley, the historic preservation officer and real property officer at Johnson Space Center. “It will not be a fix-it-up. Everything will be preserved and accurate, from buttons, button labels, lighting — everything will be completely accurate.”

“It’s going to look as if the flight controllers just walked out of the room,” she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
**Dillon’s Community Rewards Program**

Join the Dillons Reward Program and help the Cosmosphere earn credit!

Dillon’s Community Rewards program allows the Cosmosphere to earn credit for each purchase you make at Dillons just by using your Plus Card.

**TO ENROLL IN THE COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:**

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2. Sign in- OR- Create an account
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### DILLONS REWARD PROGRAM FUN FACT:

Twenty households who shopped at Dillons between 12-31-2017 and 3-30-2018 (Cycle 2018, Qtr 1) have contributed to our total donation. Just think what we could do to celebrate and honor those donors who make our mission possible!

Contact Mimi Meredith, Chief Development Officer, at donate@cosmo.org if you’d like to donate to the future of the Cosmosphere.

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**Make a Difference**

Patty Carey, Cosmosphere founder, looked up to the stars in awe and wondered. That was the beginning of the vision she had for the Cosmosphere. Wonder is critical to the discoveries that move mankind forward.

For the Cosmosphere to continue to be the place where wonder is celebrated and the quest for understanding is cultivated, support from donors will always be required. Our donors become advocates not only for the Cosmosphere, but for the ideals represented in the foundation of scientific analysis and the kind of technology-supported thinking that will shape our future. In turn, we celebrate and honor those donors who make our mission possible!

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**IRA Giving**

Just another way you can support the Cosmosphere!

Dexter Schnebly, Cosmosphere volunteer, and his wife, Ralphine.

Dexter Schnebly, a retired engineer who worked in manned space flight during the Apollo era, and his wife, Ralphine, are amazing Cosmosphere supporters! Not only does Dexter give his time as a volunteer to the organization, the couple chooses to give back financially in a unique way—through their IRA accounts.

“Both my wife and I came from poor families,” Schnebly recalled. “But we were given gifts as children. Now, we choose to give to the Cosmosphere for camp scholarships.”

"It just makes sense to me," he said. "We wanted to give back and are required to take a minimum deduction every year from the account anyhow," he added.

Schnebly explained that giving through an IRA account benefits both the charitable organization and the donor because there are no taxes to be paid on the deducted amount. “It allows the recipient to get a little more money,” he said. To learn more about this giving option — speak with your financial advisor today!

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- **KU School of Engineering**
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Learn about our Corporate Partnerships at cosmo.org/get-involved/corporate-partnership

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**Support/Donate**

The Cosmosphere would not exist without the incredible generosity of passionate supporters like you. Please consider the Cosmosphere in your annual giving and estate planning.

Contact Mimi Meredith, Chief Development Officer, at 620.665.9339 or mimi@cosmo.org to learn more about how your contribution of any size can help the Cosmosphere grow and thrive.

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**Volunteer**

Cosmosphere volunteers are an integral part of the organization’s daily operations. Without volunteers, the Cosmosphere would be unable to conduct the wide variety of programs and services now offered.

For more information on volunteering at the Cosmosphere, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 620.665.9320 or volunteer@cosmo.org.

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- **JIM REMAR** President and Chief Executive Officer
- **TRACEY TOMMIE** Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
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- **MIMI MEREDITH** Senior Vice President of Development and Director of Corporate Giving
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- **KELSEY GENSCHORCK** Newsletter Development Assistant

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**FROM THE COSMOSPHERE’S INBOX**

Frank & Kym Mattioli have been visiting and supporting the Cosmosphere since 1996. Here is what they had to say about the museum and its collection:

“We live just outside of the DC area and make frequent trips to the Smithsonian Air & Space and Udvar-Hazy Center. While visiting family in Kansas, we again made a trip to the Cosmosphere and we LOVED it! What an impressive collection Cosmosphere has. In addition to the Apollo 11 Capsule, they have one of the best collections of Soviet hardware this side of the iron curtain. How wonderful the Midwest has a top-notch space museum for people who might not have the opportunity to travel East to still experience and be inspired by the space program and its place in our nation’s history.”

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**Connect with Us**

Tell us YOUR story! Email your story to info@cosmo.org
Space Center Houston, the visitor center for Johnson Space Center, together with NASA, Texas Historical Commission and the National Park Service are overseeing the project, with the goal of it having ready in time for the 50th anniversary of the first lunar landing next year. The Park Service gave its approval for the restoration in 2017 given the room’s status as a National Historic Landmark since 1985.

Before removing the consoles, each component needed to be tagged and entered into a database.

“Every piece that goes out has to be documented,” Tetley told collectSPACE. “We went through and documented every part and serial number, manufacturer’s part number and which console and which position it is in.”

Though the overall control room is being returned to its Apollo 11 appearance, the consoles will be configured to how they looked during the fourth moon landing in July 1971. The Apollo 15 mission included the first use of the lunar roving vehicle (lunar rover) and began the extended exploration of the moon.

“The flight controllers said Apollo 15 was the height of the technological changes in the Apollo program. After that mission, the console configuration did not change very much,” Tetley said.

At the Cosmosphere’s SpaceWorks restoration facility, conservators will carefully take apart the more than half-century old consoles in order to bring them back to life.

First used for NASA’s Gemini 4 mission in 1965 and retired after STS-53, the 52nd space shuttle mission in December 1992, the consoles’ electronics are largely no longer serviceable. As such, the displays and some of the other visible elements will be augmented with modern components in order to create the appearance that the consoles are operational.

“We’re not re-energizing the consoles, but they will be animated to appear as if they are,” said Thornton.

“They will be representative working,” added Tetley. “They will be backlit with LED lighting so the visitor’s experience is such that when you are in the viewing room looking in, all of the lights and monitors will be the same as when we were landing on the moon.”

First to depart by truck for the Cosmosphere are the consoles from the simulation control room and the first two rows of the main room — including the stations for the retrofire officer (RETRO), flight dynamics officer (FDO), capsule communicator (CAPCOM) and electrical, environmental and communications officer (EECOM). They are slated to return to Houston in October, when the second and last set of consoles, including the flight director (FLIGHT) station, is expected to leave.

In the meantime, work to restore the rooms themselves is beginning, with details like the carpet, ceiling tiles, wallpaper and upholstery being cleaned or replaced to match their 1969 appearance.

COMING SOON...

T-MINUS 66 DAYS — a camp-inspired way to support the Cosmosphere.
Find out more at www.crowdfund.cosmo.org
“Regardless of the job you choose, STEM education programs build an understanding of our universe, tactics for problem-solving, and collaborative skills which transfer to different industries.”  
— Sandy Marshall, Cosmosphere Camps Alumni

**Sandy Marshall**

Camper: 1989 & 1990  
Current job: Writer/Producer/Director/Actor

Did experiences at Cosmosphere Camps influence your career choices?

Having worked in business development, comedy, film/TV, finance, and digital advertising, the camp’s core tenets of “nothing is impossible” and “teamwork is Key” are globally applicable. Thinking back on the camp experience, my role as the mission CAPCOM (Capsule Communicator) taught me about balancing flight plans with improvised problem solving, and working as a counselor offered a hands-on opportunity to learn about all aspects of the space program.

I also worked there at the time when the SpaceWorks team was constructing the spacecraft & hardware for the film “Apollo 13”...a great chance to see what I had to create practical elements for movies.

Favorite Memories:

I had the honor of speaking with Ron Evans (Command Module Pilot, Apollo 17 and Kansas native) about his mission’s awareness. Story Musgrave (the only 17 and Kansas native) about his mission’s Evans (Command Module Pilot, Apollo event on Space Lasers at NASA’s 1990.

Karen & Travis Lechtenberg

Camper: Karen-Level 1 in 2000, which she won through a Coca-Cola essay contest  
Counselors: 2005-08 for IS, Mars Academy, Levels 1-3, ACE + Overnights for scouts & schools  
Current Job: Karen, Geologist for Encan; Travis, Aerospace Engineer for Omtron  

Did experiences at Cosmosphere Camps influence your career choices?

Karen and Travis are both from Hutchinson and were high school sweethearts in 2003 at Buhler High School. They were counselors together at the Cosmosphere from 2005-2008. Travis proposed at the STS-82 shuttle launch in Titusville, Florida. Karen earned a B.S. and M.S. in Geology from the University of Kansas and Travis earned a B.S., M.S., and PhD in Aerospace Engineering, also from KU. They were married in 2010 and their reception was held in the Cosmosphere lobby. They now live in Denver, Colorado, with their two children, Ryan and Lincoln.

Karen and Travis make LOXIC (liquid oxygen ice cream) for campers in the early 2000’s.  

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**Advisory to students thinking about attending Cosmosphere Camps or entering STEM field:**

KL: My best advice is to challenge yourself. Take the hard classes, step out of your comfort zone, and learn something new. You might not get that easy A, but you had to work to learn something new and now it’ll stay with you forever. You can do it because you are awesome.

KL: One of the perks of attending camps and becoming counselors was that we got to meet several of our heroes. I remember shaking the hands of Apollo Astronauts including Walt Cunningham (Apollo VII), Joe Engle (Backup LM Pilot for Apollo XIV, STS-51), Richard Gordon (Apollo XII, Gemini XI), Fred Haise (Apollo XII), and Buzz Aldrin (Apollo XI, Gemini XII) to pad leader Gunter Wendt to shuttle astronauts including Chris Hadfield (STS-74, Expedition 3E, STS-100, Expedition 34, Soyuz TMA-01M), Steve Hawley (STS-31, STS-93, STS-41-D, STS- 61-C, STS-82), and many others. Steve Hawley actually became a good friend through the Cosmosphere and University of Kansas’s astronomy program. We always enjoy seeing him at Cosmosphere events.

Even though we were often star struck when meeting our heroes for the first time, the Cosmosphere provided venues for meet-and-greets to ask questions and make connections. Through these connections, we learned about their experiences and the steps they took to earn their positions. For me, as a sixth grader, when the future seemed so far away and unattainable, this helped me form goals and motivated me to challenge myself throughout school.

The best part about being a counselor at the Cosmosphere is the friends you make. We are forever grateful for the opportunities and the friendships we have made over the years for our fascination with the Cos. These are the memories you cherish and the friends you keep.

TL: Getting experience early is key. Find out what you like.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 10**

**Sandy Marshall**

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Current job: Writer/Producer/Director/Actor

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**CONTINUED ON PAGE 10**
From Captain Kelly’s Facebook Stories.

Kelly’s fiancée, Amiko Kauderer, shown in the monitor on the right, rides Cosmosphere’s centrifuge.

Photo courtesy of Saedra Wilson.

From Captain Kelly’s Twitter account.

Dillon Lecture Series brought in an historic 4,200+ visitors.

CAPTAIN SCOTT KELLY
NASA astronaut famous for spending a year in space.

April 17, 2018

Press Conference at the Cosmosphere.

Kelly signing the autograph board in our SciEd Center.

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Molly Martens
Camper: 2002-2004
Counselor: 2008
Current job: Flight Reliability Engineer at SpaceX

Did experiences at Cosmosphere Camps influence your career choices?
Absolutely! Cosmosphere camps introduced me to a career path I had not even considered before attending camp. I had never thought about becoming an engineer, mostly because I didn’t know what an engineer was. It especially intrigued me to learn about the fields. I was an engineer, mostly because I didn’t know what an engineer was. I distinctly remember one counselor talking about how I wanted to become an engineer — he encouraged me to follow my dreams and continue my education.

Advice to students thinking about attending Cosmosphere Camps or entering STEM field:
Science and Engineering courses are tough. I struggled in my first college physics class and had to drop the class and take it again the following summer. At the time, I thought it was the end of the world, but looking back, I realize that failure is part of being an engineer. In fact, most companies make some of their best discoveries from technical failures. Study hard, but don’t beat yourself up when things get tough. I found hands-on extracurricular engineering activities incredibly helpful in understanding and applying what I was learning in the classroom. Not to mention, most employers love seeing that kind of stuff. Additionally, I’d say be open to the unexpected. From age 14 on, I was determined my dream job was at one specific place doing one specific thing. I exclusively applied to colleges that had known relationships with that organization. I did extensive networking and research to figure out what exactly I needed on my resume to get hired. Applied for internships at that organization several times and after finally getting an interview… I didn’t get the job. I remember being so heartbroken that something I’d wanted so badly and worked so hard for was not in the cards for me. Looking back, this was honestly the best thing that ever happened to me. It forced me to discover new interests and explore other career paths. After college, I spent time working on an airplane development program at Boeing and as an Imagineer at Disney. Each experience has uniquely contributed to my professional growth and development and helped me find a career path that suited me.

Theresa Perks
Camper: 2001-2003
Counselor: 2005-2008
Jobs: Extravehicular Activity (EVA) Instructor & Flight Controller at NASA Johnson Space Center

In 2009 Theresa started working as a Space Shuttle flight controller for the Assembly & Checkout Officer (ACO) position. She transitioned into working as an ISS flight controller, Integration & Systems Engineer (ISE) group. She worked with commercial and international partners for the cargo vehicles that brought supplies up to the ISS. Over 2 years ago, Theresa moved into the Extravehicular Activity (EVA) group and is now a crew instructor and training to be an EVA flight controller. Theresa teaches the crew about the Extravehicular Mobility Unit (EMU, aka spacesuit) and the Airlock — and currently, she’s teaching the Expedition 60 crew, who will be launching to ISS in 2019.

Did experiences at Cosmosphere Camps influence your career choices?
Absolutely! The summer after my freshman year in high school, I went to the Liberty Bell 7 traveling exhibit at the Space Station. In my current job I even get to role-play as an astronaut during simulations. So I think that it’s safe to say that I got to do most of the cool stuff from camp, but in real life now! I also got my SCUBA certification at the first ever Xtreme camp (as a counselor). Now I occasionally SCUBA dive at the Neutral Buoyancy Lab.

Advice to students thinking about attending Cosmosphere Camp or entering STEM field:
Study hard in your classes and take the time to figure out what you want to do. There are many different science and engineering fields, and they aren’t all for everyone. Figure out what you like to do (the best research, design, computer programming, math, experiments, etc) and go talk to some people who are actually in those fields to see what their everyday work lives are like.
The Cosmosphere welcomed scientists of NASA’s New Horizons mission to Pluto and the Kuiper Belt: Glen Fountain, Alice Bowman, Dr. Kelsi Singer and Dr. Joel Parker.

February 14, 2018

Their mascot – Pluto! LOL

Robert and Genille Allargott  
Stacey Andersen  
Stephen Baker and Charlene Davis-Baker  
Melony Ball  
Thomas and Carol Barnett  
Eugene and Dorothy Batt  
Amy and Ted Bandler  
Gary and Linda Bergstrom  
Gary and Marlys Best  
Gary and Margaret Blankers  
Michael and Suzanne Boston  
Dante Brown  
Frank Brown  
Kristin Brown  
Luis and Veronica Burgos  
Jason and Jill Campbell  
Cheryl Canfield  
Steve and Sally Cauble  
Philip and Sarah Cauthon  
Casey Clawson  
Joshua and Sarah Clemins  
John and Michelle Clough  
Richard and Linda Conard  
Barbara Davis  
Mark DeCou  
William and Alba DeVore  
David and Patricia Dick  
Joe and Bentley Dillon  
Damon and Christy Dodge  
Heather Elliott  
Mark and Kayla Emert  
Mark and Claire Foy  
Mark Gainer  
Rod and Becky Goering  
Mason and Andrea Goodman  
Alan and Maria Graves  
Phyllis Grow  
Paul and Jan Harding  
Christopher and Mauxe Harris  
Carol Harrison  
Gary Hart  
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Warren and Sharon Hixson  
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Virginia Huett  
Magdalis Ibarra  
Carl and Amanda Isenburg  
Peter Jasso and Mario Angell  
Vincent Jenkins  
Rob and Chris Jenson  
Dawn Johnson  
Eugene Johnson  
Zeke Johnson  
Suman and Mythili Kambhampati  
Melba Kelsey  
Curtis and Lauren Kennedy  
John Kovac  
Steve and Lauren Luna  
James and Jeanette Leonard  
Michael Levin

WELCOME NEW COSMOSPHERE MEMBERS!  
(As of December 6, 2017 - May 16, 2018)

Here are a few of the perks:  
• Free entrance into the Hall of Space Museum  
• Discounts on tickets to shows & special events  
• Special “Members Only” premiere screenings of new documentaries  
• Discounts in the Cosmosphere Gift Store  
• And more...

For more information on becoming a member of the Cosmosphere, or enrolling your child in the Junior Astronaut Club, contact Marla Eriksen, Membership Coordinator at 620.665.9320 or membership@cosmo.org.

Discover more at cosmo.org/membership

What are the benefits of becoming a Cosmosphere Member?  
Have you been thinking about becoming a Cosmosphere Member but are unaware of what membership includes?

So far the Be a Spark campaign has brought in $80,928.80 to the Cosmosphere Annual Fund. Thank you to all that donated!

Be a SPARK

Robert and Genille Allargott  
Stacey Andersen  
Stephen Baker and Charlene Davis-Baker  
Melony Ball  
Thomas and Carol Barnett  
Eugene and Dorothy Batt  
Amy and Ted Bandler  
Gary and Linda Bergstrom  
Gary and Marlys Best  
Gary and Margaret Blankers  
Michael and Suzanne Boston  
Dante Brown  
Frank Brown  
Kristin Brown  
Luis and Veronica Burgos  
Jason and Jill Campbell  
Cheryl Canfield  
Steve and Sally Cauble  
Philip and Sarah Cauthon  
Casey Clawson  
Joshua and Sarah Clemins  
John and Michelle Clough  
Richard and Linda Conard  
Barbara Davis  
Mark DeCou  
William and Alba DeVore  
David and Patricia Dick  
Joe and Bentley Dillon  
Damon and Christy Dodge  
Heather Elliott  
Mark and Kayla Emert  
Mark and Claire Foy  
Mark Gainer  
Rod and Becky Goering  
Mason and Andrea Goodman  
Alan and Maria Graves  
Phyllis Grow  
Paul and Jan Harding  
Christopher and Mauxe Harris  
Carol Harrison  
Gary Hart  
Jason and Brandi Harvey  
Ben and Courtney Henry  
Warren and Sharon Hixson  
Jeremy and Jennifer Holmes  
Virginia Huett  
Magdalis Ibarra  
Carl and Amanda Isenburg  
Peter Jasso and Mario Angell  
Vincent Jenkins  
Rob and Chris Jenson  
Dawn Johnson  
Eugene Johnson  
Zeke Johnson  
Suman and Mythili Kambhampati  
Melba Kelsey  
Curtis and Lauren Kennedy  
John Kovac  
Steve and Lauren Luna  
James and Jeanette Leonard  
Michael Levin

Gregory and Mary Jane Luft  
Donald and Stacy Mahany  
Bill and Carol Malcolm  
Michael Martin  
Mark Mason  
Frank and Kym Mattioli  
Tom and Ellen McCarley  
Kristle Mitchell and Jennifer Swanson  
Stavros Morrison  
Chloe Murkin  
Andy and Cara Negasaard  
Dennis and Jennifer Noll  
Kyle and Rachel Owens  
Brian and Patricia Palmer  
Chris Partezana  
John and Kay Paulson  
Sarah Petzer and Nathan Bowser  
Brett and Robin Perkins  
Jennifer and Scott Portmiller  
Stephen and Amanda Ramsey  
Dennis and Shirley Rayl  
Roland Reimer  
Colin Richter  
Kris Root and Chad Shepler  
Freda Sanders  
Jona and Lisa Sanz  
Todd and Jennifer Schellhas  
Amy Seck  
Tim and Andrea Sieffes  
Tiffany Slade  
Jana Slicker  
Martha and Meisha Sonsteng  
James and Morgan Starkweather  
Starkey Inc.  
Christopher Staufter  
Miriem Haubert-Staufter  
Eric and Leanne Stewart  
Greg and Pam Stice  
Marcus and Kelly Stice  
Patsy Stoecker  
Robert and Lisa Stuever  
Kavin and Robin Tieman  
Benjamin and Alicia Timberlake  
Todd Trottie and Tiphani Allen  
David Tumbo and Cindy Hayes  
John and Cary Utean  
Craig and Teresa Vance  
Dori Vandergiesen  
Alyson Von Feldt  
Randall and Mary Jo Vonfeldt  
Dave Walden  
Alex Warren  
Melissa Webb  
Guy and Alison Wenzel  
Steven and Michael Westerman  
Shannon Whetzel  
Wichita Children’s Home  
Jay Wigtom and Lisa Torres-Wigtom  
Kimberly With and Gray Woods  
Ryan and Melanie Wood  
Mark Yackley and Laura Farrell-Yackley
COSMO CAMP ALUMNI: Where are they now?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Janet Sprecker
Camper: 1985 & 1987
Counselor: 1990
Jobs: NASA: Storage Manager for the International Space Station & Stay-at-home-Mom

Janet participated in the first year of camps hosted by the Cosmosphere. She was the only female Level I camper during the session in 1985. We sat down in person with Janet and her mom, Mrs. Metcalf, to ask about her time at Cosmosphere Camps.

When you attended Cosmosphere Camps — was it brand new? What attracted you to come?
JS: My mom brought home a brochure from a friend of hers who was a teacher. I’d always been interested in space; anytime I had to write a paper—space was the topic I chose. I wanted an engineering degree and hoped to work for NASA, so this seemed like the perfect opportunity.

Once I got to camp—all of the info, briefings and activities were right up my alley. This is what I wanted to do. It was so much more than science class and was a great way for me to learn more.
Mrs. Metcalf: I was kinda concerned about the cost of this camp and if Janet would like it. I remember the first night Janet called home and told me that it was “worth every penny” we’d paid. When she got home from that first week she told me: “Now I know what I want to do!” She rattled off a list of classes she wanted to take, mostly math and science, and told me she wanted to work for NASA. I was just delighted she wanted to get her education and work hard.

Did experiences at Cosmosphere Camps influence your career choices?
JS: My time at the Cosmosphere had a big impact on where I ended up. Going to Houston (Level 2 trip) opened doors for me in ways I didn’t expect. I was able to meet and then re-connect to some individuals who would later serve as references for me. Those connections are how I was able to land a co-op position. My co-op position led me working with Boeing for storage and design work for the International Space Station. Where I toured with the Cosmosphere during camp is where I actually ended up working 10 years later.

Sprecker was the only female Level I camper during the session in 1985. She and her class are pictured in front of the F1 engine outside of the Cosmosphere. Sprecker is in the second row, far right.

Janet’s two sons have also attended camp. Here’s what they had to say:

Eric Sprecker
Camper: has attended 101 & 201

“My favorite activities at camp are the Falcon missions because they’re challenging and fun. I really like all of the very unique science activities that we do at camp.”

Skyler Sprecker
Camper: has attended 101, 201, 301 & 401

“My favorite camp was 301 because we were able to visit many of the different astronaut training facilities at the Johnson Space Center. The Cosmosphere camps are awesome. They really challenge you and make you work outside of your comfort zone.”

Come see some of Janet’s Cosmosphere Camp memorabilia on display on the Observation Deck camp display through the summer. Check out that logo!

Lauren “NEMO” Lane
Camper: 2002-2006

Job: Lauren just completed her service in September as an F15E Strike Eagle Weapons System Officer/Aviator. (Basically she was “Gloose” from the movie Top Gun.) Her call sign is Nemo. She is currently pursuing her Master’s degree through Purdue University in Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Hello all!

My name is Lauren (Petersen) Lane and I was the Frank Mohesky Scholarship winner in the 2001-2002 schol year. Seems like so long ago but it was because of that experience that my dreams of becoming an astronaut went from something I thought about to something I would fully pursue. Cosmosphere Camp was one of the best experiences of my life, enough for me to save money every year after that to attend each of the following camp courses. At the time the Cosmosphere offered 5 levels and you bet I went to them all. One year we flew Cosnas’ another we toured Johnson Space Center, and my favorite was the final year where we flew to Kennedy Space Center in Florida, toured the entire campus, met with astronauts, and got some hands-on experience with current engineering tasks.

It was through those experiences that I decided where I would go to college. I applied to the University of Southern Mississippi, Riddle Aeronautical University and majored in Aerospace Engineering with a concentration in Astronautics, along with a minor in Mathematics. Part of my school was paid for by an Air Force scholarship and when I graduated I was commissioned into the United States Air Force as an Officer and also selected for an airman slot. After training for 2 years, I worked hard enough to graduate #2 in my flight class of 30 (only two females including myself) and had top choice of whatever airframe I wanted to pursue. So I picked something fast...really fast, and something that would employ a lot of AIR POWER, the F15E Strike Eagle.

I was the only female in my class of 24 during the Strike Eagle training course, which lasted a year. Through a lot of hard work and drive I graduated #3 overall in my class and got to, again, have top choice on location. Over the next four years, I became an expert on the Strike Eagle and flew it day and night in many incredible locations. But it was time to start gearing my focus higher in the sky. I finished my service in the Air Force last September and applied for my Masters. Thankfully I got into my top choice, Purdue University, and I am currently a full time Master’s student in the elite Aeronautics and Astronautics program. I study under some of the most brilliant minds in the space industry and I’m loving every minute of it.

So what I leave you with is this: you can do anything you set your mind to. Surround yourself with people who lift you up and encourage you. Forget the naysayers (there will be a lot). This is your life, mold it into what you want because no one else will do it for you.

I had an incredible teacher in high school, SMNW, Dr. Jeffery Bishop, and he always said to us, “What have you done today to make your dreams come true?” Live by that, and nothing will stop you! Good Luck in your future!

Lauren “NEMO” Lane
Hocker Grove Alumni ’03
SMNW Alumni ‘01

Lauren in front of the F1 engine outside of the Cosmosphere. Sprecker is in the second row, far right.

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Save the Date
Saturday, December 1, 2018 • 6:00 pm
Meadowlark Building at the Kansas State Fairgrounds

EARTHRISE
THE CELEBRATION OF APOLLO 8

Join astronaut Jim Lovell and members of the Apollo 8 Mission Control team including Jerry Bostick, Charles Deiterich, Fred Haise, Frank Van Rensselaer and Milt Windler, as we help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 8 mission.

More VIP guests and details will be announced soon.