




GRAA NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 1184, Greenbelt, MD 20768-1184

June 2026 <https://GoddardRetirees.org> 42nd Year of Publication

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS: We will meet at 11:15 AM on June 9th at the American Legion Post #136 at 6900 Greenbelt Road. **Reservations must be made no later than the Wednesday before the luncheon** by contacting graalunch@gmail.com (preferred) or calling 410-709-8889 **by Wednesday, June 3rd.**

June 9		<p>Dr. Dong Wu, Deputy Principal Investigator for PolSIR Mission, NASA Goddard</p> <p><i>“PolSIR: NASA’s Submillimeter Polarimetric Mission for Diurnal Ice Cloud Science”</i></p>
July 14		<p>Dr. Shawn Domagal-Goldman Director of the NASA’s Astrophysics Division at NASA HQ</p> <p><i>“NASA Astrophysics Portfolio and Plans”</i></p>
Aug 11		<p>Dr. Jennifer Wiseman HST Senior Project Scientist, NASA Goddard</p> <p>Jim Jeletic HST Deputy Project Manager, NASA Goddard</p> <p><i>“The Hubble Space Telescope: Eyeing the Future”</i></p>

TREASURER’S REPORT: Jackie Gasch received donations from: Tom Wrubelski and Brenda Hanrahan in memory of Debra Norton. Please know that all GRAA operating costs are covered by donations. Donations can be made in person at a GRAA luncheon, or by check to GRAA mailed to P. O. Box 1184, Greenbelt, MD 20768-1184.

GRAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION: Voting for the GRAA Board of Directors was conducted at the May 12th lunch meeting and seven persons were elected. The Board then selected officers for the following positions: President - Tony Comberiate, Vice President - Carl Stahle, Treasurer - Jackie Gasch, Secretary - Barbara Hamilton, and Directors at Large - Ron Browning, Dan Krieger, and Jan Kalshoven. We thank those who have volunteered to serve on the Board.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

We are delighted to welcome the following new members:

- Elizabeth Corderman
- Marguerite Dobrosielski
- Steven Dobrosielski
- Shing Fung
- Curtis Johnson
- Melanie Ott
- William Mast
- Gary Meadows
- Joe Miko
- Rick Sabatino
- Sheila Stanford
- Kamal Thakore
- Trevor Williams

RETIREMENT BADGES:

For those members officially retired from Federal service, you can get a retirement badge from the Goddard Badging Office (Greenbelt: Bldg. 17, 301-286-1347; Wallops: Bldg. N-1, 757-824-2222, Hours of Operation, Mon-Fri, 7 am to 3 pm). The retirement badge will allow you access for GEWA sponsored events (examples: Music and Drama Club theater, Running Club 2-mile Fun Run, events at the Recreation Center) and the public areas of the campus (examples: Building 1 at Greenbelt, auditoriums for colloquia, recreational areas) where you show your badge to the security guard at the gate and tell them why you are coming on campus. If you are specifically visiting an employee, you should arrange for a visitor's badge.

WHAT'S UP WITH OUR MEMBERS:

Your colleagues and friends would enjoy hearing about your life experiences after Goddard before they see your name in our "Remembering Our Former Colleagues" section. News of interest to our members could be professional, volunteer activities, awards and recognition, a personal achievement, or an unusual adventure or hobby. Please feel welcome to send a concise message (<100 words, photos welcome) to Pam Sullivan (zsullivan@alum.mit.edu). Inputs may be edited for content and length.

Tony Sanders retired recently from Goddard where he was Chief of the Electrical Engineering Division, Engineering and Technology Directorate. He is doing part-time consulting and executive coaching as well as organizational leadership work. He has offered practically free coaching for any Goddard folks such as \$1 for 30 min sessions or any in-kind agreement like lunch which keeps

him in touch with many and his belly full 😊. With a current gap in training opportunities at Goddard, he considers it one way of giving back. He is also rotating elder care duty outside of Charlotte, NC between his brother and sister taking care of Mom. Life after GSFC can be just as busy as when you're in a lab coat in a clean room. Reach him at: anthony.b.sanders@outlook.com or <https://www.linkedin.com/in/anthony-sanders-a748161a/>.

FROM THE GODDARD ARCHIVES: on June 11, 2008, a Delta-II rocket launched the Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope (GLAST), which was renamed the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope. It has provided an 18-year time lapse of the gamma-ray sky. Fermi is a collaboration with partners in France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the USA.

COMMENTS FROM TONY COMBERIATE AND CARL STAHL

Our May speaker was Dr. Stephanie Getty, Acting Director of Goddard's Sciences and Exploration Directorate, whose presentation was entitled "[Eyes on the Earth, Solar System, and Universe: Updates from the Sciences and Exploration Team at NASA Goddard.](#)" Dr. Getty emphasized that science is Goddard's mission, and that the Science & Exploration Directorate (Code 600) drives progress through research and analysis, mission science, and observations across Earth and space. She described her organization as a key driver of progress in civil space science. She noted three priority areas: Moon to Mars safety and success, exploration security for the nation, and protecting our planet — areas where Goddard can connect its sophisticated work to the interests of the public by touching everyday life and benefiting humanity. She added that decades of scientific investigation were critical to the safety and success of the Artemis II mission, from launch and travel through Earth's atmosphere and weather, to operations in the space-weather environment.



Dr. Getty also shared broader examples of how Goddard science supports national security through observations and scientific ambition that strengthen national posture and assets. She described how the Directorate delivers trusted, decision-quality data products that enable informed decision-making. She further highlighted how Earth observations help protect the planet by providing insights that support the safety of people and communities. Those measurements feed models that help scientists make predictions and inform actions that can protect communities across the country.

Dr. Getty highlighted the critical role a Goddard scientist, Kelsey Young, played in the Artemis II mission, along with progress on the Roman Space Telescope — Goddard's current astrophysics flagship mission — which is scheduled to launch later this year. She noted that Goddard has begun preliminary work on the Habitable Worlds Observatory, expected to be Goddard's next flagship mission. She also described

upcoming planetary science missions, including Dragonfly, a rotorcraft lander to Saturn's moon Titan that will provide robust surface sampling coupled with a sensitive analytical instrument, and DAVINCI, which will study the origin, evolution, and current state of Venus in unprecedented detail to help determine whether it was once wet and habitable.

Dr. Getty was excited to describe two new Goddard Earth Explorer missions: Stratosphere–Troposphere Response using Infrared Vertically-resolved light Explorer (STRIVE) and the Earth Dynamics Geodetic Explorer (EDGE). STRIVE will revolutionize our understanding of Earth's upper atmosphere and improve weather, climate, and environmental forecasting. EDGE will use laser altimetry to revolutionize global Earth surface mapping. It is the first global swath-imaging lidar system, developed entirely in the United States, and will provide unprecedented 3D views of land, ice, and coastal regions.



Juan Roman, Michael Johnson, and Carl Stahle have a reunion at the GRAA Luncheon. All three worked together in the Engineering and Technology Directorate with Juan as the Deputy Director of Engineering, Michael as the Chief Technologist, and Carl as the Assistant Director for Business Development.

Suggestions for Luncheon Topics and Speakers

We welcome your suggestions for specific topics and speakers for our monthly luncheons. It can be a speaker outside of Goddard and NASA as well as on a non-technical topic you think would be of interest to our luncheon attendees. Please contact Carl Stahle (carl.m.stahle@gmail.com) who has the responsibility to organize our Luncheon Speakers' Program.

NASA Reorganization

NASA announced a major agency-wide realignment on May 22nd. The change is being done to increase mission focus and includes consolidation into three Mission Directorates: Human Spaceflight (HSMD, combining the previous Exploration Systems and Space Operations directorates), Research and Technology (RTMD, integrating the former Aeronautics Research and Space Technology directorates), and the Science Mission Directorate (SMD, unchanged in the reorganization). Several personnel changes were announced including naming **Jamie Dunn** as the GSFC Center Director. Jamie has spent his career at GSFC and is currently the Roman Space Telescope Project Manager. **Cynthia Simmons**, who has been the acting Center Director, will return to her role as Deputy Director. **Wesley Deadrick** was named the Director of the Katherine Johnson IV&V Facility. **Dave Pierce** remains as the Wallops Flight Facility Director, although he will now report to the KSC Center Director. Also, former GSFC employees have significant new roles including **Dr. Lori Glaze** becoming the HSMD Associate Administrator (AA), **Wanda Peters** becoming the RTMD Deputy AA, and **Dave Mitchell** (former head of Mission Support Directorate)

who has a special assignment as lead for NASA HQ Relocation. In the announcement, GSFC was named as the “Earth and Space Science Center of Excellence”. To read more, see: <https://www.nasa.gov/news-release/nasa-announces-realignment-to-accelerate-mission-delivery/>

ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS:

Volunteering Opportunity: The **Goddard Visitors Center** has a need for someone to cover the Front Desk of the Visitors Center on Friday mornings from 10am to 1pm. They would greet visitors as they arrive, answer the phone, and hand out and then check scavenger hunts. Please contact Amanda Harvey at 301-286-9041 or amanda.c.harvey@nasa.gov

Medicare Presentation Materials Available: GRAA had a virtual presentation on Medicare on May 18th by Patrick Hamilton from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), within the Department of Health and Human Services. The webinar was expertly tailored to us and very well attended with 69 participants. Seven additional members could not attend but requested the presentation materials. You can request the presentation charts and Q&A document from Carl Stahle (carl.m.stahle@gmail.com).

Job Opportunity: McCallie Associates is the Systems Engineering (SEAS II) prime contractor for GSFC’s Engineering and Technology Directorate (Code 500). McCallie is looking for experienced systems engineering retirees that may be interested in either full time or part time employment to support missions and instruments systems engineering opportunities. If interested, please contact the SEAS II Program Manager, Roger Prokic at 443-570-8849 or rprokic@alutiq.com.

GRAA IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA: We are now on LinkedIn, the world’s largest professional network. Members can visit [linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com) and search for NASA Goddard Retirees and Alumni Association. You are welcome to be a follower of this group.

DIRECTORIES AND NEWSLETTERS: Send your email address to goddardretirees@gmail.com to get our monthly Newsletters. Past Newsletters and links to videos of the talks are on our website <https://goddardretirees.org>. Multi-month abstracts of Newsletters are mailed to the retirees with only residential addresses in our files. We depend on retirees to furnish their home addresses to be listed in the biennial GRAA Membership Directories, only available as mailed hardcopies to members. These mailings are supported by donations to GRAA, P. O. Box 1184, Greenbelt, MD 20768-1184.

REMEMBERING OUR FORMER COLLEAGUES:

Stephen Paul Meszaros, 75, passed away on November 6, 2020. Steve was a U.S. Air Force veteran who served in Viet Nam before starting his federal career as a cartographer and visual information specialist. From 1973 through 2005, he worked in various locations for the U.S. Geological Survey, NASA, and the Kitt Peak National Observatory. Steve was at Goddard in the

years 1977 through 1986, working in the Information Management Division (Code 253). Steve authored multiple publications on cartography, optical telescopes, and planetary geology.

Robert Harold Demorest, 93, passed away on December 4, 2022. After high school, he joined the U.S. Navy where he was a crew chief for aircraft in Norfolk, VA. After his naval service, he worked with Bell Aircraft in the "Rocket House," where he learned his trade in the study of liquid rocket fuel. This training launched his career with NASA as a Liquid Rocket Fuel Specialist, a career he dedicated himself to for 21 years before retirement in 1992.

Edward David Rothe, 88, passed away on April 24, 2026. Edward served as a physicist at GSFC beginning in 1959, when he was hired into the Solar Physics Branch (Code 614). Over his career, he supported the Laboratory for Solar Physics and Astrophysics (680), the NASA Communications Division (543), and the Flight Data Systems Branch (735), from which he retired in 1994. Edward was deeply involved in pioneering projects that contributed to the understanding of space and atmospheric sciences.

Jody Shirlen Fillmann, 78, passed on April 27, 2026. Jody began at GSFC in the late 1960s and continued working there into the early 2000s. She began as a secretary in Code 240, the Procurement Division at that time. Over her career she supported Code 900 and 400, and spent two decades in the Security Branch (205.1) which eventually became the Security Division (240).

Hugh B. O'Donnell, 89, passed on May 4, 2026. After serving in the U.S. Army in Korea, Hugh began his Goddard career in the Antenna Systems Branch in the mid-1970's. In 1985, he became the Head of the Simulations Operations Section (Code 515.2) in the Mission Operations Division, and in 1996, he became the Assistant Head of the Test and Verification Branch. He then worked in the Mission & Data Systems Project (453) until retiring in April 2001. After retiring, Hugh volunteered in the education office for 20 years and remained a member of Goddard's Amateur Radio Club.

John Tominovich, 92, passed away on May 14, 2026. John began his career at GSFC in the early 1960s, working space science procurement activities. Over time, he became a Section Head in the Network Support Branch (Code 247.1), and he finished his career in 1990 as the Procurement Manager for the Explorers and Attached Payloads and Earth Observing System Projects (284.5). John's work supported pioneering research including missions that advanced our understanding of the Earth's atmosphere and would lead to modern weather satellites.

Carmie Peavler passed away on May 19, 2026. Carmie was the spouse of GRAA member Bob Peavler (deceased in 2006) and a regular attendee at GRAA meetings for years. Arrangements are: wake on June 3 at 6-8PM at Beall Funeral Home on Crain Highway in Bowie and wake also on June 4 at 10AM at Grace Baptist Church on Racetrack Road in Bowie, with funeral and burial following at 11AM at Lakemont Memorial Gardens in Davidsonville, MD.