



National Space Club & Foundation
204 E Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(P) 202-547-0060 (F) 202-547-6348
www.spaceclub.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2016

NATIONAL SPACE CLUB & FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2016 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Washington, DC - The National Space Club & Foundation is pleased to announce its Annual Award Recipients. The Awards are selected by panels of experts from across the aerospace and defense industry, government and academia, and are a testament to the inspiring work of individuals across the United States. The Awards will be presented at the 59th Annual Robert H. Goddard Memorial Dinner, taking place at the Washington Hilton Hotel on Friday, March 11, 2016.

Recipients are:

The New Horizons Team will receive the Club's preeminent award, the **Dr. Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy**. The New Horizons mission is honored for helping us understand worlds at the edge of our solar system by making the first reconnaissance of the Pluto system, and by venturing deeper into the distant, mysterious Kuiper Belt - a relic of solar system formation.

New Horizons launched on January 19, 2006; the spacecraft swung past Jupiter for a gravity boost and scientific studies in February 2007, and conducted a six-month-long reconnaissance flyby study of Pluto and its moons in summer 2015, culminating with Pluto closest approach on July 14, 2015. As part of an extended mission, pending NASA approval, the spacecraft is expected to head farther into the Kuiper Belt to examine an ancient building block of small planets like Pluto on January 1, 2019, more than a billion miles beyond Pluto. [Read the Goddard Trophy Press Release](#)

Brianna Belz, Student, William Byrd High School, Vinton VA is the winner of a national search and competition and will be the recipient of the **Goddard Memorial Dinner Keynote Scholarship** and will serve as the keynote speaker at the Goddard Memorial Dinner.

Dr. Stewart Cameron, Director, Survivability Assurance Office, National Reconnaissance Office, will receive the **Dr. Joseph V. Charyk Award**. Dr. Cameron developed an analytically-based, architectural-level resiliency strategy for the National Reconnaissance Office responsive to, and effective against, the full range of current and projected threats. He has since been instrumental in gaining complete support for that strategy through the Department of Defense, the Intelligence Community, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Congress. Dr. Cameron's strategy reshaped the NRO future architecture, and his passion and commitment for mission resiliency has changed NRO culture. His thorough, physics-based approach has also changed the course of the broader National Security Space architecture. The distinctive accomplishments of Dr. Stewart M. Cameron reflect great credit on himself, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the United States of America.

Mark S. Geyer, Deputy Director, NASA Johnson Space Center, will receive the **Astronautics Engineer Award** for his many accomplishments throughout a distinguished career in aerospace and systems engineering and particularly for his leadership in the development and successful flight test of the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV) which moves NASA closer to the goal of human exploration beyond low Earth orbit.

Warren Ferster, Former Editor in Chief, *Space News*, will receive the **Press Award** for informing a global audience with timely and knowledgeable news and opinion on the most important trends and events impacting the people who defend freedom, push the limits of technology, and explore the universe. As a reporter he covered every aspect of commercial, government, and military space activity. As the newspaper's primary editorial writer for more than a decade, he has been an important voice in shaping policy and chronicling the contributions of the space industry to science, defense, and the global economy.

The Dawn Project Team will receive the **Nelson B. Jackson Award**. In March 2015, Dawn became the first mission to reach a Dwarf Planet when it captured orbit around Ceres, the largest unexplored world between the Sun and Pluto. The first spacecraft to orbit a body in the main asteroid belt, Dawn also is the first to orbit two solar system destinations (Vesta and Ceres) making it the first true interplanetary spaceship. Robert Mase, Dr. Christopher Russell and the Dawn Project Team of the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab and UCLA are congratulated on this outstanding contribution to aerospace.

The **Orion EFT-1 Team** will be recognized with the **Eagle Manned Mission Award** for the extraordinarily successful execution of the Orion Exploration Flight Test-1, paving the way for the development of the first new American crew vehicle in over forty years.

Dr. John T. Reager, Research Scientist, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, will receive the **NOAA - David Johnson Award** for using the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) time-variable gravity to estimate the potential for catastrophic flooding.

Commander Peter Sheehy, Principal Assistant Program Manager, of the Mobile User Objective System, PMW 146, United States Navy will receive the **General Bernard Schriever Award** for providing astute technical management, acquisition leadership and contract supervision of the \$7.7B Mobile User Objective System – known as MUOS - ACAT-ID program. His critical contributions directly enabled the Program Executive Office for Space Systems and the Navy Communications Satellite Program Office to complete an unprecedented year of accomplishments. His ability to efficiently integrate multiple disciplines was instrumental in the Navy space team successfully launching two MUOS satellites into geosynchronous orbit in less than eight months – a first for Navy communication satellites.

Dr. Kerry M. Joels, Space Educator, Total Learning Research Institute, will receive the **Space Educator Award**. Dr. Joels is recognized for his work in inspiring and educating teachers and students in space science through leadership and creative direction of national programs for NASA, the National Air and Space Museum, the White House, the Challenger Center, SPACE EXPLORERS and MARS CITY.

Vincent Esposito, Student, Chemistry, University of South Carolina, is the winner of the **Goddard Memorial Scholarship** for his continued study in analytical chemistry with a concentration in organics in an effort to design and conduct space based analytical experiments to detect, locate and identify organics on other planets and/or celestial bodies.

Emma Loudon, Student, Park City High School, Park City, UT is the winner of the **Olin Teague Scholarship** for determining the orbital elements for the Near Earth Asteroid 1999 JD6, and the classification of NEA 1999 JD6 as a Potentially Hazardous Asteroid as well as the tracking of their positions and the prediction of potential catastrophic impacts with the Earth well in advance so plans can be made to protect life on Earth. The orbit determination was achieved by analyzing three images collected at Etsorn Observatory in Socorro, NM during separate observations. The celestial coordinates were then used in the Method of Gauss to obtain the asteroid-sun vector and subsequently the six orbital elements of the asteroid's path.

Individuals and organizations interested in attending the 59th Annual Robert H. Goddard Memorial Dinner on Friday, March 11, 2016 at the Washington Hilton, may find more information on our website www.spaceclub.org. For specific questions please contact the Space Club at info@spaceclub.org or by calling 202-547-0060.

###

The National Space Club & Foundation is a non-profit organization devoted to fostering excellence in space activity through interaction between industry and government, and through a continuing program of educational support. Awards are offered to recognize significant achievements in space science and enterprise. Scholarships and other education support are a major focus of Club activity.