A Message from the Executive Director,  
Dr. Mark Whorton

Spring is now in full swing at the UT Space Institute and great things are happening. Thanks to Meghan Morris for a great job in pulling together our UTSI Newsletter – The UTSI Voyager! We are especially excited about our newsletter title this month because it directly reflects on our friend and colleague, Dr. Gary Flandro. Dr. Flandro is being honored in May as a Distinguished Alumnus of Caltech for his stellar achievement in conceiving the Grand Tour of outer planets using gravitational assists in the Voyager Missions. Please congratulate Dr. Flandro for this well-deserved, high honor. You will also read in the following pages about other great work by our team as well as upcoming events. We are excited that our Chancellor, Dr. Beverly Davenport, is bringing her cabinet to visit our campus on June 4. Let’s get ready for a great visit to show that UTSI is the place to be.
Recent Events at UTSI

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, speaker for 23rd Annual African American History Celebration
February 22, 2018

Dr. McPhee delivered a lecture entitled, “African Americans in Times of Crisis.” He was appointed as the 10th president of Middle Tennessee State University in 2001. He is a native of The Bahamas and came to the US, earning his MS and PhD in Applied Behavioral Studies. He has been recognized over the years as a humanitarian, academician, publisher, author, and consultant. His wife is Mrs. Elizabeth McPhee and they have two children, Asiah and Langston.

3rd Annual Wu Student Presentation Competition
March 28, 2018

Twelve students competed in the student competition. It was an open forum to help students hone in on their presentation skills. The 1st Place winner was Matthew Schwartz, receiving a $2,000 travel grant. The 2nd Place winner was, Stefen Lindorfer, receiving a $1,000 travel grant. There was a panel of 4 outside judges who determined the winners. Additionally, seven departmental posters were displayed, highlighting their research during the competition.

The competition was named after Emeritus Professors, Drs. Jimmy and Susan Wu. They spent over 25 years in combined service at UTSI.

2018 Presenters

Drs. Jimmy & Susan Wu

Former NASA Astronaut, Rhea Seddon, M.D. at UTSI
March 28, 2018

Rhea Seddon came to UTSI for a NASA mural dedication and as lecturer for the 1st Wu Lecture Series. Her lecture was entitled, “A Different Kind of Research.” She discussed life sciences research and experiments she performed on herself and crew members during her flight on the STS-40 in 1991. This is also the flight depicted in the mural. Seddon is a well-known astronaut, surgeon, author, entrepreneur, and public speaker. She is married to fellow NASA Astronaut Captain, Robert, “Hoot” Gipson and resides in Murfreesboro, TN.

Seddon admiring the NASA Mural

Seddon and UTSI’s Executive Director, Dr. Mark Whorton

Pg. 2
What’s to Come at UTSI

Service Awards Recognition Luncheon
May 8, 2018 at 11am

This annual event recognizes faculty and staff as they reach milestones in their employment at UTSI. There are 7 employees receiving the 5 year recognition, 5 employees receiving the 10 year recognition, 1 receiving the 20 year recognition, 2 receiving the 25 year recognition, and 3 receiving the 30 years of service award at UTSI. Other recognitions will be made as well.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication!

Other Tours & Meetings

April 4, 2018
UT Institute of Public Service Leadership Team

April 20, 2018
Dr. Farley - UT Air Force ROTC Group

June 4, 2018
Chancellor & Senior Leadership Team

June 14, 2018
System Wide UT Communications Meeting

October 12, 2018
Dr. Kevin P. Hoyt, UT Research
Chancellor Davenport and her Senior Leadership Team will be on campus touring the facilities on June 4, 2018. This is exciting news as the Chancellor has never visited UTSI. This is a perfect opportunity to show her what our capabilities are here at UTSI and can open many doors for us. There will be a full day planned for the Chancellor and her team.

Chip Bryant
Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs

Chris Cimino
Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration

Philip Fulmer
Director of Athletics

Victor McCrary
Vice Chancellor for Research

Ryan Robinson
Vice Chancellor for Communications

John Zomchick
Interim Provost & Senior Vice Chancellor
Dr. Edward Kraft
UTSI’s Associate Executive Director for Research

Dr. Kraft was special guest speaker for the AIAA Greater Huntsville Section – Luncheon Seminar on March 20, 2018. His topic was, “Digital Engineering – a Disruptive Transformation of Aerospace and Defense Tools, Processes, and Culture.”

Kraft has over 48 years’ experience in testing and evaluation in industry and government. He retired as Senior Leader from AF Test center (AEDC) recently and was the top technical expert in the testing of hardware in aerodynamic, propulsion and space ground test facilities, he developed advanced test techniques, and was instrumental in facilities by exploiting current research and applying new technology. He is a distinguished alumnus of the University of Cincinnati and our own, University of Tennessee Space Institute, both in Aerospace Engineering. We are so fortunate to have him as part of the UTSI family!
Shout out to Gary Payne and Jack LeGeune for the Hand Crafted, UTSI “ROCKET”

Gary Payne and Jack LeGeune, machinists at UTSI were asked a couple months back to create a rocket award. They spent about 15 hours making it using copper, brass and aluminum. All they had to go by was a photo and created a true piece of art.

What wonderful craftsmanship! Great job guys!

Dr. Phil Kreth was promoted to a tenure track Assistant Professor in the MABE Department on February 1, 2018.

Congratulations Dr. Kreth!

Dr. John Schmisseur was named lead investigator for a $9.8 million US Air Force Research Laboratory contract. The research dollars will be divided to the UT System, Purdue University, and the University Dayton Research Institute. It will fund research for the development of materials and structures for reusable hypersonic vehicles to travel at speeds greater than five times the speed of sound. Congratulations!!
The Facilities and Operations Department, or better known as Physical Plant, is comprised of maintenance, custodial, operations and the IT Department. Some of the areas that the facilities team is responsible for, includes but is not limited to; in-house maintenance, grounds, shipping and receiving, mail, office supplies, keys and locks, phone system, internet, and the security and management of the waste water treatment plant. Our mission is to provide and operate a campus environment that is safe, organized, comfortable and well-maintained by optimizing our resources through the integration of people, technology and innovative work practices in order to support the vision of the Executive Director.

The Physical Plant Team sure does do an exceptional job at making UTSI a beautiful, pleasant, and safe place to work.

Thank you all for the hard work!

Tonya Travis recently joined UTSI’s Budget and Planning Office as the Financial Specialist. She graduated from MTSU with a Bachelor’s Degree, majoring in accounting with a minor in Business Administration. While attending MTSU, she worked as a co-op student with Winnett Associates, PLLC, in Shelbyville, TN. After graduating MTSU, she started full time with Winnett Associates, working on corporate tax returns and performed audits on local governments and utilities. Later, Tonya worked as the city accountant with the City of Shelbyville for two years, then became the Director of Finance for the City of Fayetteville. She worked there for 11 years and completed the certified municipal finance officers program, from there she was designated as a certified municipal officer by the State Comptroller. She resides in Fayetteville, TN on a small farm with her husband Danny Travis and their two kids, Weston who is 9 and Brayden who is 6. Welcome Tonya!

Glenn Rogers also joined UTSI back in December, 2017. He works for the Physical Plant as a Service Aide. Let’s all welcome Glenn to the UTSI family!

Dr. Chris McKenna joined the HORIZON Team in November of 2017 as a Post Doc with Dr. Schmisseur. Welcome Dr. McKenna!
Students at UTSI have a wide variety of interests, which in turn forms your basis of their clubs. Whether you enjoy working out, sailing, music, or want to better a hobby, someone at UTSI will share your interests. Each club is sponsored by the SGA and receives funds to hold events and activities. For a complete list of existing clubs, please refer to the SGA Club website: http://sga-utsi.weebly.com/clubs.html

Aero Club
The UTSI Aero club provides the opportunity for students, staff, faculty, and AEDC personnel to pursue licensure as a private pilot. For members already holding an FAA approved license, the club allows rental of a Cessna 150 aircraft.

Membership is $50 annually and the club meets monthly at the UTSI hanger located at the Tullahoma Regional Airport. If you are interested in obtaining a private pilot license, contact the following:

Marcos More, President
mgmbugler@yahoo.com

Stefen Lindorfer, Secretary
slindorfer@utsi.edu

Buddy Club
The UTSI buddy club seeks to support incoming students by pairing them with a peer from the current student body. Due to the unique nature of the UTSI campus community, the Buddy Club’s goal is to help both international and domestic students who need help and support adapting to life on campus and in surrounding areas. If you are in need of a buddy or need more information, contact one of the two below.

Julie King, President
jking@utsi.edu

Adam Harris, Vice President
aharris@utsi.edu

UTSI Running Club
The UTSI running club seeks to promote running, walking, hiking, group runs, and races. They have group runs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Any and all are welcome to join. The Running club hosts two on campus races’ the One-Miles Fun Run every Fall Semester as part of the UTSI fall Picnic and a Poker Run in the spring. The club also sponsors two local, off campus races during the academic year; traditionally 5ks, 10ks, and half-marathons. For more information about the running club, please contact one of the two below.

Lara Lash
elash@utsi.edu

Adam Croft
kcroft@utsi.edu
UTSI Alumnus Gary Flandro will receive the 2018 California University of Technology Distinguished Alumni Award which recognizes a particular achievement that holds significant value and/or a career of noteworthy accomplishment. This award also celebrates the diversity of Caltech’s alumni and how the individual’s work impacts science and society. Dr. Flandro is receiving the award for his contributions to the design and engineering of multi-outer-planet missions, including the Grand Tour. Flandro discovered the alignment of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune while studying techniques for exploring the outer planets in 1964 at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Caltech. He found that a multiple-planet tour was possible by using the gravitational assist of the planets to slingshot a single spacecraft to visit each planet, collecting data, photos and information that had never been discovered before.

The Tickle College of Engineering ranked 29th graduate school among all public universities in the US!

The next Issue will be released in early fall, if there is any news or stories to be featured in it, send requests via email.

Meghan Morris
411 B.H. Goethert Parkway
Mail Stop 01
Tullahoma, TN 37388
mmorris@utsi.edu
Phone 931.393.7318
Fax 931.393.7211