

BAHEP extends its sincere appreciation for the continued support of the *Houston Chronicle* through this monthly supplement.

October 2, 2008

## IN BRIEF



### Orbital Sciences Corp. names Culbertson SVP

Orbital Sciences Corp. has named Frank L. Culbertson, Jr. senior vice president and deputy general manager of the company's Advanced Programs Group, responsible for Orbital's human spaceflight programs.

The division is based in Dulles, Va., and provides commercial transportation services to the International Space Station and the Orion Launch Abort System.

Well known to many in the Houston area, Culbertson was originally selected as a NASA astronaut candidate in 1984. For the next 18 years, he served in a variety of critical spaceflight and management roles for NASA's Space Shuttle and Space Station programs, including three launches aboard the Space Shuttle and command of the International Space Station. During Expedition 3 to the ISS, which began in August 2001 and returned to Earth in December 2001, Culbertson and his two Russian crewmates lived and worked in space for 129 days. In total, he has logged over 144 days in space and over five hours of extra-vehicular activity (space walk) experience.

While at NASA, Culbertson also served as program manager of the Shuttle-Mir Program for three years and deputy program manager for Operations for the ISS program.

### Hennessey promoted



On Sept. 1, 2008, Alison Hennessey was officially appointed director of San Jacinto College District's Aerospace & Biotechnology Academy following an interim appointment that began Feb. 1st. Her focus includes grants development and program administration as well as education/industry collaborations supportive of local and regional workforce development and K-20 education issues in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Hennessey received a bachelor's and a master's degree in sociology from the University of Houston - Clear Lake.

**BUSINESS to BUSINESS** is a monthly Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership publication in partnership with the *Houston Chronicle*. BAHEP is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeast Texas. Its members include over 270 business partners encompassing 13 cities and Galveston and Harris counties.

Bay Area Houston  
Economic Partnership  
2525 Bay Area Blvd.  
Suite 640  
Bay Area Houston, TX 77058  
281.486.5535

## Elected officials speak to devastated community during BAHEP news conference

When storm weary residents ventured outside of their homes the morning of Sept. 13, 2008, just hours after Hurricane Ike bullied his way through southeast Texas, many looked upon a surreal landscape littered with pieces of their lives. Ike tore apart houses and fences but also built bridges between neighbors who helped each other to begin the recovery process.

Many along Ike's devastating path have stated the all too obvious - the rebuilding effort is going to be a marathon and not a sprint. It is going to take patience and a considerable amount of help from local, state and federal governments. The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, in conjunction with Griffin Integrated Marketing of Seabrook, Texas, recognized in the days following Ike that elected officials from the cities hardest hit in Harris and Galveston counties needed a way to convey information to their residents as quickly as possible. Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president, Gwen Griffin and Stacy Sarault of Griffin Marketing organized a news conference on Sept. 17th where 10 area mayors, U.S. Congressman Nick

Lampson of Texas' 22nd Congressional District, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia, CenterPoint Energy Area Service Director Jim Darnell, and Guy Rankin with Harris County's Commu-

nity Services Department spoke of the damage to their communities, where residents could find assistance, proper disposal of debris, and restoration of public services.

Mitchell facilitated the news conference, which was held at South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center. He opened

it by saying, "There are more than 500,000 residents in Bay Area Houston who need updates about the status of their communities, and that is why we have invited you to this news conference today. We know that the recovery process will be slow. However, with that said, Bay

Area Houston is known as a region for getting things done. Despite all of this damage and the overwhelming rebuilding process that awaits us, our residents and businesses are moving forward to rebuild this great community."

The mayors in attendance were: Vern Johnson, City of Clear Lake Shores; Julie Masters, City of Dickinson; Brad Emel, City of El Lago; David Smith, City of Friendswood; Greg Collins, City of Kemah; Toni Randall, City of League City; Don Matter, City of Nassau Bay; Gary Renola, City of Seabrook; Natalie O'Neill, City of Taylor Lake Village; and Floyd H. Myers, City of Webster.

The mayors were unified in expressing their appreciation for the support that had already arrived. They were equally concerned about residents who wanted to return to their homes before adequate infrastructure had been restored.

The news conference, which lasted over an hour, was broadcast by Houston TV stations and covered by several members of the local media.



Bob Mitchell, president, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, speaks to media representatives during a news conference held Sept. 17th. Standing behind him are (l to r): Mayor Floyd H. Myers, City of Webster; Mayor David Smith, City of Friendswood; Mayor Brad Emel, City of El Lago; Mayor Julie Masters, City of Dickinson; and Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia.

## IMAC working with PISD on maritime pilot program

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's International Maritime Advisory Committee held its first Steering Committee meeting Sept. 4th. Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, vice president / CEO, Texas A&M University at Galveston, is serving as IMAC's chairman. When established, the full committee will focus on initiatives that will potentially in-

men and women who hold a license as a third mate or deck officer is at an all time high. Starting salaries exceed \$100,000 per year. Within just a few years, those who excel at their jobs could be making as much as \$250,000. These are jobs that are available right now in the Bay Area as well as on inland tank barges and towing vessels.



clude maritime workforce development and education; intermodal transportation issues associated with ship, barge, truck, and rail; and homeland security on water routes.

Although still in its formative stages, the IMAC has assisted in establishing a dialogue with Dr. Kirk Lewis, superintendent of the Pasadena Independent School District, to develop a maritime studies curriculum pilot program for PISD high school students. Once established, this program will become the first leg of Bay Area Houston's maritime workforce pipeline that will have students progressing from high school classes, to courses offered through the San Jacinto College District, to undergraduate and graduate degrees and licensure training offered through Texas A&M University at Galveston, as well as masters and doctoral level programs offered at the University of Houston - Clear Lake. PISD is the first school district in Texas to adopt a maritime program. It is anticipated that the program will launch in fall 2009.

Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president, stated, "The demand for

You don't have to work on an ocean-going vessel that takes you away from your family for weeks at a time."

Students will have the option of leaving the training path at a number of designated points, entering the local maritime workforce and earning substantial salaries. Now that Pasadena ISD is leading the way to establish this pilot program, members of IMAC are holding discussions with other area school districts to follow suit.

A partial list of the members of the IMAC Steering Committee includes: Dr. Bowen Loftin; Dr. Kirk Lewis; Rear Admiral Allen B. Worley, superintendent, Texas Maritime Academy; Dr. Bill Lindemann, chancellor, San Jacinto College District; Dr. Bill Staples, president, University of Houston - Clear Lake; Judge Jim Yarbrough, Galveston County; Charles Grant, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia's Office; Jim McGregor, Ocean Shipholdings Inc.; Frans Gillebaard, Amstel Holdings, Inc.; Bill Diehl, U.S. Coast Guard; Tom Tray, Bay-Houston Towing Company; and Steve Valerius, Kirby Inland Marine.

## Local municipalities meet with FEMA

### BAHEP works with Harris County Judge Emmett to expedite aid for Bay Area residents and businesses

On Friday, Sept. 19, 2008, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, working with Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, brought together representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local governments to discuss programs available through FEMA, to expedite access, and to optimize coordination. Attendees filled the conference room of BAHEP, host of the meeting.

Items discussed included: 1) How to register for FEMA benefits, 2) Benefit coverage for individuals and businesses, 3) How to access the low interest Small Business Administration loan program, 4) Blue Roof program to temporarily cover open roofs, 5) FEMA and United States Army Corps of Engineers programs available to assist municipalities in debris removal, roadway

improvements, and getting generators for temporary emergency power.

An important outcome of this initial meeting was the designation of the first Disaster Recovery Center to be established in the Bay Area in the former Freeman Branch Library on Diana Lane. The center offers a one-stop location for citizens to access many agencies like FEMA, the American Red Cross, the SBA, the Texas Employment Commission, etc.

Joining Emmett and Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president, in the meeting were: U.S. Congressman Nick Lampson; Texas State Representatives John Davis and Larry Taylor; representatives from U.S. Sen. John Cornyn's office and U.S. Rep. Ron Paul's office; Mayor Julie Masters, City of Dickinson; Mayor Brad Emel, City of El Lago; Mayor David

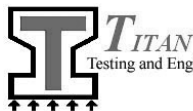
Smith, City of Friendswood; Mayor Greg Collins, City of Kemah; Mayor Alton Porter, City of La Porte; Mayor Don Matter, City of Nassau Bay; Mayor Gary Renola, City of Seabrook; Mayor Natalie O'Neill, City of Taylor Lake Village; Mayor Floyd H. Myers, City of Webster; Mayor Vern Johnson, City of Clear Lake Shores; Sarah Benavides, City of Pasadena; Susie Allen, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia's office; 11 FEMA representatives including Gracia Szezech of the FEMA Central Area Field Office; and representatives from Harris County's Housing Assistance Program.

FEMA will host town hall meetings, and BAHEP will help to coordinate additional meetings to insure that assistance is available to those in need.

## Partnership welcomes new members

### Titan Testing & Engineering Services Inc.

Titan Testing & Engineering Services Inc. is a Texas based corporation as well as a Texas owned and accredited multi-disciplined engineering firm. Its primary purpose is to provide prompt, accurate, cost effective,



and comprehensive construction materials testing and inspection services, geotechnical investigations, and environmental assessments. The company works on public, commercial, and industrial projects throughout Texas and surrounding areas.

Titan's construction materials testing and inspection includes soils, asphalt, concrete, steel, masonry, etc. Its geotechnical engineering includes sub-surface exploration and soil borings, laboratory testing, engineering analysis and evaluations, recommendations pertain-

ing to foundations, paving, slope stability, and more. The company's environmental engineering includes site assessments, underground storage tank contamination studies, and monitoring of well installations.

Titan Testing & Engineering Services Inc. is located at 8922

Frey Rd., Suite D, in Houston. For more information on the company, please visit [www.titantesting.net](http://www.titantesting.net).

### San Jacinto Museum of History Association

In 1938, one year before the San Jacinto Monument was completed, the San Jacinto State Park Commission created the San Jacinto Museum of History and granted it the authority to accept gifts of historical materials. The Museum is housed in the base of the masonry structure that rises 570 feet above the battleground.

The Association is a non-profit educational organization that collects and preserves significant historical materials that relate to the early history and culture of Texas and promotes the study of the history of Texas through exhibits, publications, and educational programs. Over 40,000 students visit its Museum annually as a special part of their history studies.

The Museum's collection is extensive and chronologically covers over 1,100 years of history in the New World. It includes objects such as pottery, clothing, tableware, weapons, tools, and medical supplies.

For additional information on all that the San Jacinto Museum of History has to offer, visit [www.sanjacinto-museum.org](http://www.sanjacinto-museum.org).

