

Museum Wins Oklahoma Tourism Award!



Pictured: co-executive directors Lynne Thurman and Chuck Dougherty holding the 2008 RedBud Award in the new award winning Flight Simulation Lab

The new flight simulation computer lab has taken off with a blast. The Stafford Air & Space Museum received the 2008 RedBud Award for Outstanding New Attraction in the state of Oklahoma.

The award was presented at the awards gala by Oklahoma Lt. Governor Jari Askins at the Governor's Conference on Tourism Monday, October 13. The Museum's Redbud plaque was accepted by Weatherford's Chamber of Commerce executive director Marie Hanza.

The flight simulation lab has quickly become a popular attraction for the museum. After a July press release announcing the opening of the flight lab, the museum attendance doubled the next day! The computers allow guests to "fly" out of almost any airport in the world and fly. Terrain

and landscapes are mapped through satellite technology and the graphics are amazingly realistic. Guests can also choose different type of aircraft ranging from a World War II P-51 Mustang fighter to a jumbo jet airliner or several models of helicopters. Guests "fly" using the joysticks, throttles and optional rudder foot pedals. Not only can guests potentially tour any place in the world including the Egyptian pyramids, the Grand Canyon, or the Roman ruins, but they can actually dogfight with other guests!

"We are excited about receiving this prestigious award". Lynne Thurman, executive director said, "It's an honor to be considered by our peers as outstanding and we hope this will compel visitors to come to the museum and see the flight simulators as well

as everything else we have to offer."

The Stafford Air & Space Museum would like thank the City of Weatherford and Mayor Mike Brown for their continual support in the museum's growth. Also, the museum would like to thank Marie Hanza and the chamber of commerce of Weatherford, OK for accepting the RedBud award for the museum. The flight simulation computer lab was made possible with grant funding and other private donations.

The Computer Flight Simulation Lab is open Monday—Saturday 9–4:30 and Sunday 1–4:30. The simulators are included with the price of admissions. Group reservations are available upon request by contacting the museum at 580-772-5871.

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New Additions to Coming to the Museum!

- F-35 Simulator
- Boiler Plate from an Apollo Mission
- 747 Cowling
- Luczo Education Center

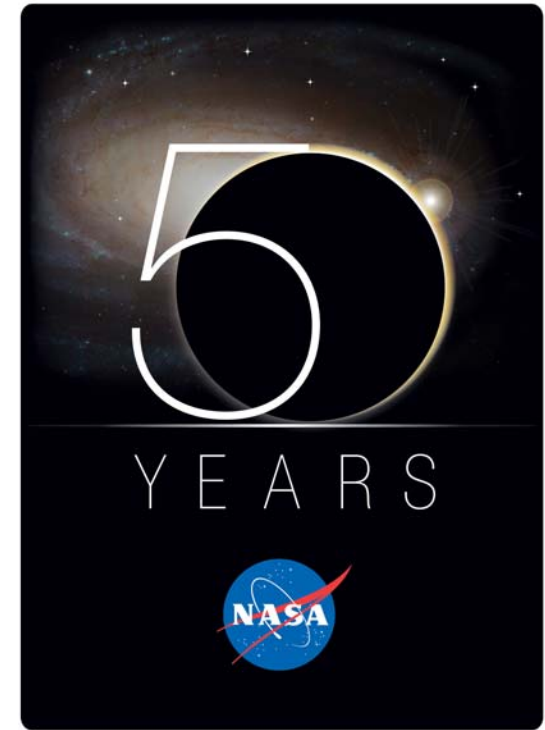
NASA's 50th anniversary

Through the Space Race, beginning in 1957 with the launch of the Soviet Union's Sputnik and the United States' launch of Explorer 1, the United States knew it was necessary to have a space agency to advance growth in space technology. On July 29, 1958 President Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics Space Act. This allowed NASA to be formed. On October 1, 1958 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration began operations. The beginning of NASA helped to take American men and women into space. One of the first seven astronauts picked was Oklahoma's Gordon Cooper, from Shawnee. He logged more hours in Space than all the other Mercury program astronauts combined. The second program, Gemini, included our own Weatherford native astronaut, Thomas P.

Stafford. Stafford flew two Gemini missions: 6 and 9.

After both successful programs of the Mercury and Gemini concluded, NASA suffered the loss of three astronauts on the launch pad practice for Apollo 1. The loss helped to take more protective measures with a fire proof space suit. General Stafford flew on Apollo 10. This mission helped to plan for the infamous Apollo 11, moon landing mission.

The end of the Space Race concluded with a mission docking the United States' Apollo craft and the Soviet Union's Soyuz craft. General Stafford had the honor of commanding the Apollo craft for the Apollo Soyuz Test Project in 1975. From there, the shuttle program began. Five different orbiters were made. Out of 123



launches, two missions ended in tragic loss: the Challenger mission 1986 and the Columbia mission 2003. The 50th anniversary is a time to remember both the successes beginning with Explorer 1 to now and those lives that were lost. The future holds many

things for NASA. The shuttle is planned to retire in 2010. There are plans to go back to the moon again. The museum has many artifacts on display from NASA featuring the progression of the Administration.

NASA NEWS!

KGA-Stafford Bench at NASA

The 3rd installation of the limited edition KGA-Stafford bench has been accomplished. The 3rd bench in the series now makes it's home at NASA Johnson Space Center located in Houston, TX. The 1st bench was originally released in February of this year at the Stafford Air & Space Museum during the volunteer brunch. The second bench was purchased by the Jann and

David Tenenbaum of Boston, MA. Included with each bench is a portfolio with information on it's history, copies of the original Stafford drawings, and the certificate of authenticity. The Certificate of Authenticity is signed by both designer Kelly Gale Amen and astronaut General Thomas P. Stafford. All proceeds of the bench sale go toward funding education at the Museum



The KGA-Stafford bench #3 located at NASA Space Center, Houston

Oklahoma National Honor Society Begins State Convention at the Museum



Left: Students use the flight computers;
Above: getting ready to start their day;
Below : a group rides the Spaceplane

This year, Hydro-Eakly High School had the honor of hosting Oklahoma's National Honor Society Convention. Their problem then became how to begin the adventure with the possibility of 300 students attending. They decided the best

place to start would be the Stafford Air & Space Museum. Over 150 students attended the convention. The students participated in a number of activities; including a scavenger hunt through the museum, using the flight simulation

computer lab, taking a ride in the SpacePlane, a movie, and gliding on the museum's newest addition, the Segway. "We are always excited when events of this proportion take place at the Museum, especially when we have so many bright, interested, students participating,"



stated co-director, Lynne Thurman. The museum hopes this will open the doors for more events of this size.

NASA Workshop held at Museum

Another amazing NASA educators workshop was held at the Stafford Air & Space Museum. On September 24, teachers as far as Shawnee came to the free workshop hosted by the museum. The workshop, entitled "Wiley Post to Astronaut General Stafford and Beyond", began with a basic aeronautics lesson and activities. The afternoon included a field trip to the moon. The basic aeronautics

included such activities as making a kite, using balsa gliders and determining how airfoils make a difference during flight. The afternoon field trip to the moon was an extensive stay with an interactive project about living on the moon for more than a month! Groups decided the living location, experiments to be conducted, source of energy, medical equipment needed and



living conditions. Mike McGlone, NASA Aerospace Education Specialist led the workshop. Mike has conducted previous workshops at the museum. The Stafford Air & Space Museum schedules a workshop during the fall

spring semesters of the school year. If you are interested in more information on the workshops, please contact director@staffordmuseum.com to be put on the workshop contact list.

What's Happening...

Stafford Air & Space Museum

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<http://staffordmuseum.com>

Discover the Wonder!



Chuck Dougherty
Lynne Thurman
Executive Directors

Katie Yeager
Museum Coordinator

Jim Friesen
Chairman of the Board

We're on the Web!

www.staffordmuseum.com

Stafford Air & Space Museum Coloring & Activity Book

Now available is the printable Stafford Air & Space Museum Coloring and Activity Book. The coloring book begins with the life of General Stafford and is followed by fun space puzzles such as a maze, crossword puzzle, connect the stars and much more! The coloring book is found at <http://staffordmuseum.com> under the "Education" information.



Direct Link: <http://www.staffordmuseum.com/downloads/coloringbook.pdf>

Construction Continues on the Rose and Tom Luczo Educational Center

The 5,000 square foot Rose and Tom Luczo Education Center is starting to take form. The cement slab was poured at the end of September. On Monday, October 13 the steel frame started to be put up.

The Education Center will be committed to hands-on academic growth. Also included in the addition will be the museum's SpacePlane, Segway trail through the planets, and much more.

Rose and Tom Luczo are the parents of Stephen Luczo, Board Chairman of Seagate Technology. Stephen Luczo is the major donor for the education center addition.

The Educational Center is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2008.

