



Students
for the
Exploration
and
Development
of Space

United
States
of
America

Vol 12
Issue 1

October
1997

Welcome To SEDS!

Welcome to the first issue of the 1997-1998 NOVA! This is the monthly publication of the Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS). NOVA will help chapters stay current with both national and regional level SEDS activities, and starting this year, help the individual member become more active within the organization.

The focus this year is on expansion. This effort will be present through many different activities. We will place more attention on chapter support, especially those just starting or at the high school level. We will be rejuvenating our Individual Membership Program and encouraging everyone to get more active nationally. We will be expanding our cooperative relationships with other pro-space organizations. We will be working more closely with several of our international counterparts. And finally, we will be expanding into space with the launch of our first satellite!

To start this effort, we strongly encourage all those interested to submit information for the NOVA. Did your chapter participate in an event you want to share with others? Did you come up with a great idea and want to share it with all SEDS members? Do you have a particular view on a current space event? All submissions are welcome.

SEDS '97 Conference Report

Rebecca Horne

On Saturday, May 24, SEDS held its annual conference in conjunction with the National Space Society's International Space Development Conference (ISDC) in Orlando, Florida. A wide distribution of chapters were represented



Above: SEDS '97 attendees pose in front of a space shuttle simulator at U.S. Space Camp (Florida)

at the conference with students from MIT, Penn State University, the University of Arizona, the University of Maryland, and the University of Virginia in attendance. Students had the opportunity to review activities of the past year and to brainstorm about future ideas on both the national and chapter

(con't on page 3)



SEDS '97 Scholarship Winner

Tae Min Hong of Warren High School, located in Downey California, was chosen by our Scholarship Committee to be the recipient of the 1997 SEDS-USA Scholarship. He is currently attending Harvard, seeking a degree in Physics. Tae Min is an outstanding student, graduating 1st in a class of almost 500. He has participated in many organizations during high school, including being President of the Math Club, Captain on the Science Bowl Team, and participating in the Science Olympiad. He has a long list of achievements and awards in his high school career, hopefully they will continue into his profession career where he may help lead the continued *exploration and development of space.*

Tae Min Hong's Winning Essay:

"My knack for science began when I was three; I distinctly remember asking my mother in a taxi "Why is the moon following us?" Both the taxi driver and my mother laughed at my naivete, but it seemed to remain at the same place no matter how far we traveled. At that age, I was just learning about space and rockets as I was beginning to read. I was instantly fascinated by science. Throughout my childhood, my affinity towards science grew as I began to read the entire series of "How Things Work" and a subscription to a science magazine for children. I once even promised my mother that I would build a rocket launching station on top of a local hotel named Komodo. These promises and childhood experiences may seem silly and childish, but they have been a tremendous force in determining my life. My childhood knack for science became a passion (on the verge of obsession) and serve as the driving force of my ambition.

My educational goal is to graduate with summa cum laude in physics for a career in physics related fields; and to study philosophy and mathematics for personal enjoyment at Harvard University where I am accepted to attend this fall. I will apply for internships during the summers of my college career, hopefully one relevant to space science, astrophysics, or physics. Upon completion of undergraduate education, I will obtain a doctorate in physics and perhaps a post-doc position after that. My immediate career goal is in academia — as a research physicist or a research professor in physics. I am aware that this will not be readily achieved as it requires many toiling, frustrating years in the laboratory and a encyclopedic doctoral thesis, but it will be accomplished during my lifetime. Time will not be a factor in accomplishing this goal.

Next I have a greater goal, but it is more a dream for it requires more than hard work. But it is for this childhood dream that I am yearning for. I wish to be an astronaut in space someday. I dreamt about this since I was a toddler, but I realized that you cannot study "astronaucy" or plan a career in

(con't on page 3)

(Scholarship - con't from page 2)

a space travel agency. So I decided that a strong background in physics will help achieve my dream in a roundabout way. This will require many respectable years in my profession, and a lucky draw in the astronaut candidacy program. Working as a specialist as an astronaut is my ultimate goal in life. As the space program will expand and dominate the next century, I believe my chances of becoming an astronaut will multiply greatly. The increased or decreased opportunity of the space program in the future will determine whether I will have the chance.

As you can see, the Lego sets and the picture books about black holes have determined my life from the beginning. It is with great pleasure that I accept the challenge put forth by my childhood dreams."

Tae Min will receive a \$350 scholarship towards his education. The scholarship was made possible this year by generous donations from SEDS Alumni, including:

Tim Van Devender (University of Arizona SEDS)

Eric Anderson (University of Virginia SEDS)

Sam Coniglio (University of Central Florida SEDS)

Jon and Gwendolyn Sims (Purdue SEDS)

SEDS Members: New Benefits

As hinted to in the introduction of this issue, we are putting a renewed focus on the Individual Membership (IDM) program this year. Once only thought of as a way of joining SEDS if a chapter did not exist near you, or you were part of a special group of members (high school, alumni, etc), we are now encouraging everyone to register as an individual member of SEDS national. With this renewed focus, we have added some additional benefits not described within the IDM brochure included with this mailing.

As you might be aware, SEDS has had an agreement with the National Space Society to offer benefits to members for the past two years. Among the provisions offered by the NSS have been the co-location of the annual SEDS conference with the NSS's International Space Development Conference and the availability of NSS publications (such as Inside NSS, which SEDS chapters have been receiving over the past year).

We are pleased to announce that several new opportunities have been offered to SEDS members by the National Space Society (NSS). Starting this year, chapters with 5 or more individual members, will receive *Ad Astra* magazine (in place of Inside NSS). *Ad Astra* is the bi-monthly, full-color, 60 page magazine of the NSS. In addition, starting with the September/October issue, SEDS will be able to publish articles within *Ad Astra*. In addition, over the

(con't on page 5)





(Conference - con't from page 1)

Of the congregation, Vice Chair and conference organizer, Robert Pearlman remarked: "The SEDS national conference is unique because it is one of the only gatherings where the members of the next generation of space pioneers and engineers can meet to discuss their future. In addition the conference reminds the general public that students want and do have a say in space exploration of today."

Chair Chris Lewicki brought conference attendees up to date on the progress of SEDSAT, proclaiming that "SEDSAT is a shining example of what students can accomplish once they set their minds to it. Once in orbit, it will be beacon to students world-wide in pursuit of similar projects."

Also discussed at the conference were chapters' own technical projects, speakers, field trips, and social events. Members reported numerous successes and compared notes to spur ideas for the upcoming year.

Exciting speakers certainly aren't limited to the school year: the conference began with a presentation by Karen Meyers, Mission Specialist for the 60-day stay in Johnson Space Center's Advanced Life Support Test Chamber. Karen explained the goals of the project and described to students her work and life in the chamber. Other special guests for the day were National Space Society Board Member Jeffrey Liss and SEDS founder (and NSS Board Member) Peter Diamandis. Diamandis wrapped up the day with words of encouragement for SEDS members, reminiscing about his own experiences with SEDS.

The excitement did not end with the day, however. Saturday night SEDS sponsored a trip to US Space Camp, open to all who attended ISDC, and a wonderful experience for those who attended. Visitors got a chance to test out the simulators, explore the Astronaut Hall of Fame, and talk with Space Camp counselors about...what else: space! The evening, like the rest of the SEDS conference, provided the perfect opportunity for space enthusiasts to gather and discuss their common goal of furthering space education and exploration.

How to Contact SEDS-USA

There are several ways to contact SEDS-USA:

By mail: MIT Room W20-445
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

By phone: 1-888-321-SEDS

By WWW: <http://www.seds.org/>

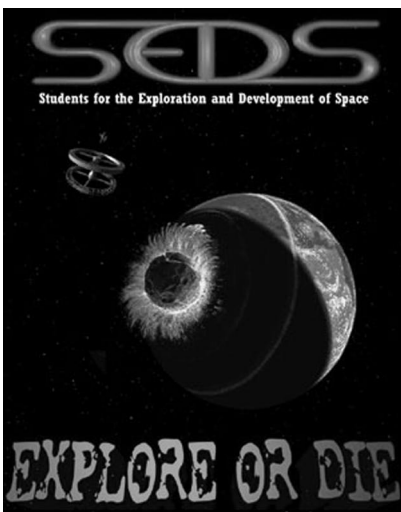
(Benefits - con't from page 3)

next year, NSS will award several scholarships to SEDS members and chapters.

New this year is an agreement with the The Planetary Society (TPS) to offer Associate memberships to each individual member of SEDS-USA. Included with this offer, will be individual subscriptions to TPS's bi-monthly magazine, *The Planetary Report*. In addition, several unique opportunities will be offered to SEDS-USA members (to be detailed in further mailings).

Joining SEDS-USA should not only be for the material benefits, however. We are asking all members to stand and up and be counted by joining as an individual member. It has become increasingly important for SEDS National to be able to represent students across the nation on current issues that will affect our future and space exploration. By being able to offer a more exact count on how many students we represent, and being able to reach you directly to hear your opinions on current space events, SEDS National will be able to meet the needs of its chapters and members more reliably. We will also be able to offer more benefits to individual members as our numbers grow. So, we encourage you to join now and let your voice be counted as a student interested in the future of space exploration.

SEDS-USA T-Shirt



The UA-SEDS "Explore or Die" T-Shirt is now available for \$15! The graphic below (courtesy Bill Hartmann, designed by UA-SEDS) is laser printed directly to the back of a white poly-cotton T-Shirt in 11"x14" format at 16 million colors. To order: Send a check or money order (payable to UA-SEDS.) to:

UASEDS T-Shirt
Box 174 Space Sciences Building
The University of Arizona
Tucson AZ 85721

Make sure to include:

- 1.the size (XL,L,M) and how many you want
- 2.your mailing address
- 3.an e-mail if possible (so you can be notified when it is sent out)