



*Students
for the
Exploration
and
Development
of Space*

*United
States
of
America*

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Page 1

Welcome to the first issue of the 1996-1997 NOVA! My name is **Birgit Dahlberg** and I am Director of Publications for SEDS-USA. My main goal this year will be to make NOVA a consistent, effective communication tool between members, chapters and the National organization. To clarify, consistent means once a month. I believe that the NOVA should be the monthly publication that it is touted as. In order to fulfill this goal, I will need your help. I will be calling on many of you to contribute articles for the NOVA, so if your chapter is doing something that you feel would be beneficial for other chapters to know about, please let me know. The NOVA will probably go through several evolutions this year as I continue to try and make it the best publication that I can. If you would like to make suggestions, either creative or content oriented, please do so. I would appreciate feedback!

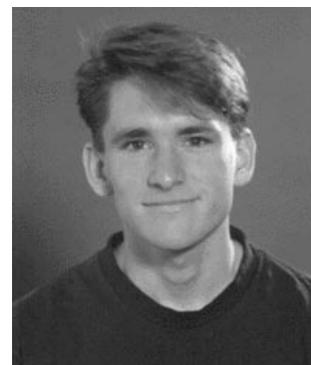


In addition to NOVA, I will be working to update the Chapter Starter Kits this year. I will also be maintaining the general information tri-fold, the IDM tri-fold, and the Prospectus. If your chapter needs assistance in creating and/or laying out a tri-fold, or any other promotional information, please contact me and I'd be happy to help you.

FROM
THE
EDITOR

SEDS
CHAIR

Hello, Once again, I am your Chair of SEDS-USA this year. Along with my responsibilities of leading the board, this year I would like to do what it takes to make SEDS, as an organization, a more visible, more important part of public awareness of and student involvement in space exploration. I will continue my work in developing SEDS-USA as a more valuable resource to our chapters, most notably by promoting much more communication between SEDS-USA and the chapters. We will continue to look for more opportunities



and services we can provide to you, such as the SEDS-USA NOVA, promotion of regional activities, production of promotional materials, and other things along the way, like the use of "SEDS" paraphernalia

in next summer's movie "Contact" starring Jodie Foster (see Page 5). Please contact me if there is anything you are concerned about, or want SEDS-USA to pursue. I look forward to serving you again this year! Ad Astra Per SEDS! **Chris Lewicki**

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

My name is **Chris Deards** and as Director of Educational Outreach, it is my responsibility to advise and help SEDS chapters with their educational outreach projects and ideas. I also work with other national space organizations like NASA and NSS to develop educational outreach program packages that can be distributed to all the SEDS chapters and go toward helping them establish a better organized educational outreach program. For this term/year, I am working with the National Space Society and N.A.S.A. to develop an educational outreach package. With the help of Jeff Foust who is the Educational Outreach Chair for MIT SEDS and the Boston NSS, we are developing an educational package with Mars as a theme for obvious reasons. I hope to distribute this educational package to other SEDS chapters as soon as its done. For the time being I recommend that chapters who do not have an educational outreach chair position establish one immediately and start working on your own ideas of reaching out to your community.

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Robert Pearlman is the new Vice Chair for SEDS-USA. Originally from New Jersey, Rob is currently attending the University of Maryland in College Park where he is working toward his English degree. He was one of the six founding members of Maryland SEDS, and is currently serving as President of the growing chapter. Rob was recently hired by the National Space Society to serve as Online Manager at their headquarters in Washington, DC.

While new to the national arena, Rob has already started planning on how he would like to make an impact on the organization. Focusing on the "common goal," he would like to see SEDS extend itself to become both an integral part of the growing non-profit, pro-space community and still provide a strong, independent voice for students interested in the future of space exploration. He wants to see SEDS stabilize itself, and remove the rumors of its eventual disbandment simply because it is organized by students. Finally, he wants to see a strong showing at the 1997 SEDS Conference, an event he is responsible for organizing. Every chapter should be represented, and that should include more than just the President or Secretary, but members as well.



As a chapter president, Rob realizes one of the most important resources to chapters is a strong communications tool. If an event is extremely successful at one campus, it is very possible it will do the same for another. He wants to see "local" chapters work together more on both large and small projects. He also would like to see a set "new chapter" package created, to help facilitate the creation of more groups.

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A few weeks ago a couple of SEDS alums and I got together to start actively helping SEDS and its chapters any way we can. SEDS has 16 years of Alumni so we have a wealth of information, experience, contacts, and sometimes even money to help you out with your chapters' projects. Although we're starting with a handful of SEDS alums who just can't get enough of SEDS, we're actively tracking down all of our old SEDShead friends from across the country. In fact, one of our main projects for this year is to track down as many people as we can and add them to our mailing list. If you know of anyone who's just graduated, thinking about graduating, or hoping to graduate soon, please make sure we have all their contact info!

Alumni Scholarship The other project for this year is to start an Alumni Scholarship to be named in memory of Todd Hawley who was very active in SEDS in the early 80's and was one of the founders of International Space University (ISU). We're currently in the middle of outlining what the scholarship will be and planning a fundraising drive to get enough money to have a nice scholarship to hand out in about 2 years.

Get Your Chapter on Cable! One immediate and exciting benefit from keeping alumni around is already here. Amy Houts who rose to SEDS fame by starting the first high school SEDS chapter at Riverview High School in Sarasota, Florida, now works at Inside Space, the space exploration program on the cable SciFi Channel. If your chapter has an interesting event or project you'd like to be profiled on Inside Space, contact Amy at Inside Space 201-217-6281 or ahouts@aol.com.

Who You Gonna Call? If you have any questions about the Alumni Organization, need some advice, or need some contacts please contact us. The SEDS Alumni email list is alumni@seds.org. To subscribe to the list just send a message to majordomo@seds.org and type in the body of the message, "sub alumni <your name>". You can also contact me directly at wrightj@oxy.edu or 818-793-8857. Have a great year!

John Wright, Alumni Coordinator

CHAPTER AFFAIRS

My name is **Amber Thweatt** and I'm the new Director of Chapter Affairs. I've been involved with SEDS for several years. Last year I served as President of the University of Michigan SEDS Chapter, as well as the safety engineer for the UM-SEDS VORTEX GAS canister project for the last two years. I will be a senior this upcoming year in Aerospace Engineering. Currently I am co-oping at Orbital Sciences, so I thought I would get involved in SEDS on a National level. I ran for the position of Director of Chapter Affairs because I think communication between chapters is of vital importance for the growth of SEDS. I know as president of UM-SEDS, I was always searching for new and exciting activities for our chapter to do. One of my goals is to create a database that lists all chapter activities, to give suggestions and points of contact to other chapters. I also hope to communicate with chapter representatives on a regular basis, so that SEDS-USA can help you with your needs. The IDM (Individual Membership) Program also falls under my responsibility, so we can continue to increase our membership with people like me that aren't near a SEDS chapter. I'm looking forward to a great year! Feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions.

EXPANSION

A major emphasis of the SEDS expansion effort this year will be to reach out to schools who have never before had a SEDS chapter, a real chance for SEDS to break new ground. Meanwhile, schools where SEDS chapters have existed but are now inactive will also be contacted and told about all of the great things SEDS-USA is doing this year. A new aspect of SEDS expansion is international. While SEDS-USA does not have international chapters, we are giving all of the encouragement we can to new SEDS organizations across the world!

If you know of anyone at a high school or university who is interested in space, even if they are not interested in starting a SEDS chapter, it would be great if you could refer them to me. They may have contacts that would be interested in helping us out! Good luck to everyone this year.

Mark Ciotola

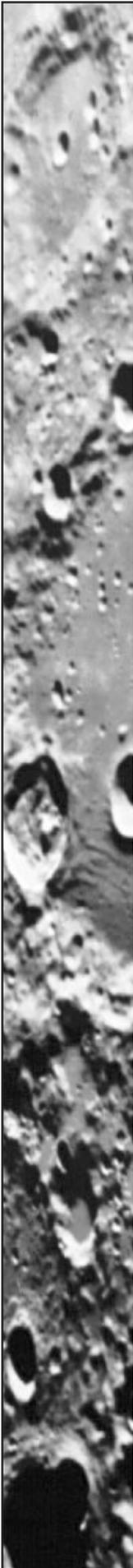


As Acting Director of Finance I'll be continuing some of the same activities I carried out during the past three years as Director of Finance. These activities include maintaining SEDS's bank account, writing checks for reimbursements and other expenditures, and (the best part) depositing chapter dues and fundraising checks. This work often has little to do specifically with space exploration and development, but it is critical to the continued health of this organization.

You'll note in the previous paragraph that I listed myself as the "Acting" Director of Finance. After three years of being the full-fledged "DoF" I wasn't interested in taking on the full duties for another year. Unfortunately, neither was anyone else in SEDS-USA, so I agreed to carry on in an acting capacity until someone else is willing to take over the reins. The other work I had been pursuing included working on fundraising projects and establishing a SEDS-USA endowment to help give the organization a secure financial future. If these projects do sound interesting, and you'd like to think about taking over as Director of Finance, please contact me and I'd be more than happy to discuss some of the details of the position with you. Ad astra per ardua, **Jeff Foust**

FINANCE





CONFERENCE

The Space Frontier Foundation will bring together businessmen, scientists, members of Congress, astronauts and futurists at its 5th annual conference, at Space FrontierCon V. Scheduled for Oct. 18-20 at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, conference themes include how America can achieve cheap access to space and how innovative businesses such as space tourism can help establish the first commercial hub for private citizens to live and work there.

Conference sessions include progress of the first commercial companies in space, how asteroids may be a viable natural resource, and how to turn NASA's International Space Station into the heart of a commercial center on the frontier. Attending the conference will be such luminaries as: Gemini/Apollo/Skylab astronaut Pete Conrad, head of Universal Space Lines; Congressman George Brown (D-Colton), Ranking Minority Member of the House of Representatives' Science Committee; and Dr. Robert Zubrin, a leading advocate for the exploration and settlement of Mars.

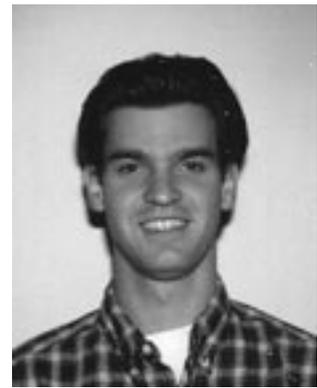
The conference fees are: \$70 till Oct. 4, \$90 thereafter, with a one-day rate of \$50. Student rates are available. For more information, visit [HTTP://WWW.SPACFRONTIER.ORG](http://WWW.SPACFRONTIER.ORG), send e-mail to OpenFrontier@delphi.com, or call 1-800-78SPACE.

The Space Frontier Foundation is a grass-roots national space policy and media organization made up of space and political professionals, scientists, entrepreneurs and citizens of all types. The Foundation calls for a new space agenda that puts the people first, stresses free enterprise and individual achievement over a single government program, works to save the Earth's environment and sets out a path for the human settlement of space.

If you do not now have a registration packet, the Foundation can mail or fax you the material. Please forward your mailing address or fax number to: davida@cwo.com as soon as possible.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Hello, my name is **Jeff Munson** and I am a fourth year student at the University of Virginia. This year I will be assuming the role of Director of Special Projects. The responsibilities of this office tend to change frequently depending on which direction the national organization is moving. Initially, I will be working with Amber on creating a Chapter Project Database. This will present information on what types of projects each chapter is working on as well as contact information for chapters wishing to pursue similar projects in the future. I know that several chapters are now working on rocket projects and I think it would be very beneficial to set up a special database for sharing more in depth technical and management information. Eventually, I would like to organize some type of national project that would involve the collective effort of all the chapters. Plans for this are not concrete and suggestions are quite welcome. This looks to be a very promising and exciting year for SEDS and I am very enthusiastic about what lies ahead for our organization.



Does your chapter have a web page online? If not, you might consider this a project for some of your members. Having a web page allows you to advertise your activities to your campus community, as well as make your presence known to other chapters throughout the US and the world. If you don't have a web server available to you, SEDS-USA will provide you with space on the SEDS Internet Server, <http://www.seds.org>. If you do, make sure you are listed on the SEDS site. Also, SEDS can give you a "special" URL for your chapter, such as <http://maryland.seds.org>. Contact chrisl@seds.org for details.

Is your chapter online?

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION



SEDs TO APPEAR IN MOVIES

This summer, SEDs was contacted by Warner Brothers requesting the use SEDs paraphernalia in an upcoming movie entitled "Contact", starring Jodie Foster. Jodie will be sporting a SEDs T-shirt in some scenes of the movie and she will also have some SEDs conference posters, mugs, pencils, etc. decorating her set office in Socorro, New Mexico. "Contact" is based on a novel written by Carl Sagan in 1985. The film will be directed by Robert Zemeckis and star Jodie Foster for a scheduled release in the summer of 1997. SEDs will also be receiving Contact "promo posters" about a month before the movie premiers. We are looking into the possibility of getting some SEDs members in the movie as extras!

Following is a description of the plot from Warner Brothers: The story follows the emotional journey of Ellie Arroway, an intensely passionate Radio Astronomer, who searches the Universe for signs of intelligent life. She finally receives a signal which gives instructions to build a machine to transport a human being to the center of the Universe. The news of the signal comes to the attention of the entire world, bringing together the great minds of both politics and religion. Ellie takes man's greatest risk when she is selected to travel through space, placing her face to face with man's greatest philosophical questions.



GIVE US THE SHIRT OFF YOUR BACK!

That's right, as a result of gathering material for SEDs' appearance in "Contact", we have started a small archive of SEDs T-shirts online. You can check it out at: <http://www.seds.org/seds/history/seds-shirts.html>. An archive of SEDs T-shirts would give us all an interesting historical profile of SEDs chapters, so if you have any SEDs T-shirts, or other paraphernalia, please contribute! If you have the capability, you can scan in the shirt itself, or a picture of it, and then ftp it to the /incoming directory of [ftp.seds.org](ftp://ftp.seds.org) (please notify ftpadmin@seds.org when you do). If you don't have a scanner, please take a picture of your T-shirt (back and front if there's print on both sides) and mail it with a description to: Chris Lewicki/SEDs; Space Sciences; Tucson, AZ 85721-0092.



FLORIDA TECH SEDs GAS OPPORTUNITY:

For those interested, the PAR is in the writing stage & proposals for funding are going out. Our two experiments are the Red Sprite ROGUE (Radio, Optical, Gamma ray, Undergraduate Experiment) and Electrodeposition. Contact Andrew D. Soleimany at Florida Tech SEDs <Soleiman@winnie.fit.edu> for further information.



SEDs SITE AWARDED 4 STARS BY MAGELLAN

The SEDs Internet site has been reviewed and rated by The McKinley Group's online editorial team. Their professional writing staff has determined that the SEDs site has excelled in each of their criteria for evaluating web sites, namely "Depth of Content," "Ease of Exploration," and "Net Appeal." Therefore, they were delighted to designate our resource as a "4-Star" site. This is the highest rating an Internet site can achieve in Magellan, McKinley's comprehensive Internet directory of nearly 2 million sites and 40,000 reviews. As a Magellan 4-Star site, SEDs has been awarded a special logo to recognize the hard work that has gone into establishing and maintaining the site. You can visit the Magellan Directory at <http://www.mckinley.com/>



SEDS NATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS

Chair:	Chris Lewicki	UA-SEDS	chrisl@seds.org
Vice Chair:	Robert Z. Pearlman	Maryland SEDS	rpearlman@ARI.NET
Finance:	Jeff Foust (Acting)	MIT-SEDS	jeff@astron.mit.edu
Chapter Affairs:	Amber Thweatt	UM-SEDS	105155.2444@compuserve.com
Expansion:	Mark P. A Ciotola	SEDS-CADEE	acentaur@futon.sfsu.edu
Publication:	Birgit Dahlberg	KAMSC-SEDS	birgit@seds.org
Education:	Chris Deards	MIT-SEDS	cldeards@seds.org
Special Projects:	Jeffrey Eric Munson	Space Advance Society	jem4q@watt.seas.virginia.edu

All votes were unanimous for the above candidates, with no write-ins for any position.

CLASSIFIEDS

This section will (hopefully) be an area for members to post their **informational** needs and wants. Material items will be okay if they are project oriented. If you need help with a project or an idea or just want to bounce ideas off of someone who has been there, do it here! Send your information to birgit@seds.org with a subject line of "classifieds" and it'll be printed in the next NOVA.



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