



# In This Issue

**Congratulations, Dr. Gillette!**

**LI<sup>2</sup> Employee attends SmartPay Training Conference**

**A Message from the President**



Estella Gillette and her dissertation chair, Neal Chalofsky, celebrate her successful defense.

## **Estella Gillette to Receive Doctorate of Education from George Washington University**

On July 31, Estella Gillette successfully defended her dissertation earning a doctorate in education from the Graduate School of Education and Human Development, Department of Human and Organizational Learning at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Her thesis, *A Case Study of the Socialization Processes of the NASA Spacewalkers in the High Reliability*, discusses the socialization of astronauts and how they learn (outside of their technical training) to do their jobs well in a hazardous environment, return safely from their spacewalks, and still enjoy their work so much that they want to return to spacewalk again.

Gillette traveled one weekend a month, for two years as part of her program and claims she could write a book relating the unique experiences going back and forth throughout that time period. She



## LI<sup>2</sup> Represented at 14th Annual GSA SmartPay Training Conference

Logical Innovations Inc. Purchase Card Implementation Manager Gracie Robinson attended the 14th Annual General Services Administration SmartPay Training Conference in Nashville. The three day event held July 31 - August 2, was attended by government purchase card management officials from several federal agencies as well as representatives from GSA SmartPay vendors, JPMorgan, US Bank, and Citibank.

Training sessions focused on purchase, travel, and fleet charge card program management,

best practices, and program advancements and innovations.

Additional hands-on training labs covered PaymentNet, J.P. Morgan's web-based charge card program management solution, and Visa Intellilink, Visa's web-based charge card compliance reporting solution.

The GSA SmartPay program was established in 1998 and provides access charge cards to more than 350 federal agencies, organizations, and Native American tribal governments through a master contract with

selected banks.

The program provides several cost saving benefits to agencies by offering secure and accountable payment solution for convenient transactions, refunds based on transaction volume and payment performance, and the enhanced ability to electronically detect fraud, waste, and abuse.



Gracie Robinson

## Gillette One of 28 Applicants to be Accepted to Doctoral Program

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was in the D.C. area during sniper attacks, spent the night in a Hampton Inn in Sterling, VA, while watching a hurricane from her window and, was stranded for three days at the Hyatt Hotel near Dulles Airport during a blizzard.

Gillette searched for doctoral programs closer to home but decided to apply to the George Washington University Executive Leadership Program because she liked their focus on human and organizational learning and it was highly recommended by other NASA employees who attended the program.

She was one of 28 other students selected from

a nationwide pool of applicants from various professional backgrounds.

Gillette began her NASA career in 1964 at the Johnson Space Center, then known as the Manned Spacecraft Center (MSC), as a GS-4 in the Structures and Mechanics Division (SMD) in the Engineering and Development Directorate.

She left NASA briefly to work in the Federal Bureau of Narcotics in Houston and returned after marrying her husband Pete in 1967. The two met at MSC when he was an electrical engineering co-op from Drexel University. Upon his graduation, he began working full time at MSC provoking her return to the

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# Company Ad to Appear in USA Today Special Edition Publication

Look for our ad in the upcoming USA Today commemorative special edition publication, *NASA 2012 and Beyond*.

The issue hits newsstands nationwide September 24 in conjunction with World Space Week (October 4-10), and will be available for six weeks.

The publication will highlight the accomplishments and future of NASA's revamped space program. This issue will feature editorials on NASA's plans to

redefine space exploration, in-depth interviews with the officials who have planned the program, the impact that institutions of higher education have had on the space program over the years, and much more.

The publication will be distributed throughout the various Space Commands including: Goddard Space Flight Center, Kennedy Space Center, Marshall Space Flight Center and Johnson Space Center.



Look for our ad (pictured above) to appear in the Sept. 24 USA Today *NASA 2012 and Beyond* special commemorative edition publication.

## Gillette Balances Educational Pursuits with Full-Time NASA Career

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center. She resigned in 1970 after the birth of their first son fully intending to remain a stay-at-home mom. However, she found herself missing work and in 1972 returned to what was by then JSC.

In 1979 she transitioned from executive secretary in to the human resources office as a personnel assistant to the astronaut selections office manager Greg Hayes.

There, she helped with qualifying more than 3200 applicants for astronaut positions and assisted with running the selection process.

Seeing so many applicants and new astronauts younger than her with two or three degrees influenced Gillette to return to college, an endeavor she had abandoned a few years after high school because she thoroughly enjoyed working. So after the 1979-80 astronaut selection, she adopted the mantra, "if it's going to be, it's up to me," and set a goal of graduating by the age of 40.

She reached her goal with two weeks to spare in August of 1986. She graduated from the University of Houston–Clear Lake with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration. In the meantime, she left HR to become an Equal Opportunity Specialist and eventually joined the Flight Crew Operations Directorate as the Supervisory Administrative Officer for the Astronaut Office.

In 1989, she returned to HR as a Human Resources Development Specialist, where she learned the training skills she utilizes in her training courses today.

In her late '40s, Gillette found her career at a crossroads. Unhappy that she was not receiving promotions, Gillette began her masters degree with the intention to retire from NASA and teach junior college. However, in 1993, she accepted an invitation to go on a detail assignment at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC, working in the Office of Small, Disadvantaged Business.

While in DC, she applied and was hired for the position of Deputy Director of Equal Opportunity Programs at JSC. A year later she became director and received membership to the Astronaut Selections Board.

In 2002, she was accepted into the Senior Executive Development Career Development Program (SESCDP). As a result of that opportunity, she was able to apply to the Executive Leadership Program doctoral program at George Washington University.

In 2004, she was named deputy director of the new External Relations Office, deputy to her former boss, Greg Hayes. She remained there until she retired in January 2006.

Gillette plans to participate in the commencement ceremony in May of 2013.

# A Message From the President

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Hopefully, we've all enjoyed a nice 3-day weekend, to observe Labor Day, a holiday that is truly ours in that it celebrates the economic and social contributions of workers. It is certainly one of my favorite holidays! Most of you have already had your children/grandchildren return to school (or you have returned to school

yourselves). I hope you took the time to enjoy these last days of summer, whether with family and/or friends or just spending some time alone with a good book or with a remote control... Thank you for your economic and social contributions, as a member of Logical Innovations, a member of the state in which you reside, and a member of our great United States of America.

I also hope you will all join me in congratulating our own Estella Hernández Gillette – now Dr. Gillette – on her outstanding accomplishment. I am so proud of my colleague and dear friend—she always upgrades her status as an excellent role model for us all!

Again, this newsletter is yours and I ask you to please contribute to keep us all informed and keep our communication lines open. Thanks, as always, for the great job you all do in support of our great customers across the country!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise S. Navarro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Denise S. Navarro  
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