

Shooting stars

Nancy Cormier, Communications



Vincent Boucher

Vincent Boucher : I would like to introduce Vincent Boucher, a new co-worker who joined the Canadian Space Agency on January 4 as a trainee in the Space Technology Division. You may run into Vincent on his way from his office to the library or the Astronaut Physical Training Facilities. We decided to profile him because he is definitely a good example of perseverance and determination. This 26-year-old young man, who grew up in a group home, had to find his own motivation to get to where he is today. He chucks up university degrees in less time than it takes to say them!

At age 14, Vincent was at the bottom of his class. After reading some medical books, he became inspired to pursue physical exercise as a way to purge his body, develop his mental abilities and expand his knowledge in various fields, such as physics, chemistry, social sciences and economics.

An intensive, thirteen-year mental and physical training program ending in January 2001 has enabled Vincent to finally achieve his objectives. In two years, he has completed a Bachelor's degree in Physics and 45 credits in Chemistry! He also has a Master's degree in policy analysis and is currently finishing a Master's in aerospace engineering.

When Pierre Moreau, Dean, Science and Engineering, Laval University, was interviewed by Moderator Anne-Marie Dussault on the show Quebec Plein écran, he said that he allowed Vincent to do an accelerated program of study so that he would not waste his time!

In 1993, Vincent ranked first in the Quebec Chemist Association Annual competition. Three hours are allocated to write this exam; after only 29 minutes, Vincent completed the exam with a result of 100%. In his free time, Vincent, among other things, mentors young students. One of his students won first place in Canada and 12th place worldwide in a science competition.

We are fortunate to have Vincent Boucher on our staff. Working under the supervision of Darius Nikampour, Manager, Materials and Thermal Group, he is studying the development of materials that will prolong the operational lifetime of satellites and the International Space Station. Air Nikampour says, "He has an incredible memory and great stamina. He is a very hard worker, attentive to detail and a valued teammate."

Vincent dreams of becoming an astronaut and making movies. He hopes one day to be in a decision-making capacity where he can put discoveries to good use

for mankind. Vincent is clearly proof that human beings can accomplish great things through determination and effort!

Sylvie Béland : The Canadian Society for Civil Engineering provides women engineers with a forum to highlight their involvement in their profession. In its February issue, Canadian Civil Engineer magazine published a profile of our co-worker Sylvie Béland, an engineer and PhD graduate, who is Manager, Launch and Flight Systems. Her responsibilities in the Space Science Division are to ensure that the Special Purpose Dextrous Manipulator (SPDM) arrives at its destination on the International Space Station.

Sylvie has been working at the Canadian Space Agency for four years on the Mobile Servicing System (MSS), the Canadian robot component that will be used to assemble and maintain the International Space Station. In addition to managing the structural design of interfaces that will permit various components of the robot to support vibration loads during liftoff and temperature fluctuations, Sylvie has to coordinate with several partners the various parameters for assembling and installing the robot. Good luck, Sylvie, and congratulations on your profile in Canadian Civil Engineer magazine!



Sylvie Béland

Julie Payette : On February 2, Laval University awarded Canadian Astronaut Julie Payette an honorary Doctor of Science degree. It was reported in the university community newspaper that Julie Payette gave a very "uplifting" speech. On March 10, Julie was awarded another doctorate, this time in Law, from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. Well done, Julie!

Dave Williams : Canadian Space Agency astronaut Dr. Dave R. Williams who is also head of NASA/Johnson Space Center's Directorate of Space and Life Sciences, has received the prestigious Melbourne W. Brown Award for 1999. The award is presented by the American Astronautical Society.

Williams was cited for his "extraordinary contributions to the successful implementation of the STS-90 NeuroLab mission" and his "leadership in developing innovative strategies for the advancement of space medicine and Earth-based human health care and safety."

CANADIAN ASTRONAUT OFFICE



The Canadian Armed Forces are training NASA astronauts

Joanne Blais, Canadian Astronaut Office

At the initiative of the CSA Canadian Astronaut Office, the Canadian Armed Forces are training NASA astronauts. The CSA and DND are helping each other with a project called CANADAX CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION PROGRAM, which offers NASA astronauts ten days of training in Cold Lake, Alberta.



NASA Astronaut setting up camp at Burnt Lake, Alberta CANADA February 2000. NASA Astronaut Shannon W. Lusk, NASA Flight Surgeon Chris F. Flynn and Lieutenant Commander US Navy Mark E. Kelly.

The Canadian Armed Forces Air Force has developed a specific training program for astronauts who will be assigned to the International Space Station. Some have already taken this particularly unique training.

The training, involving winter activities, conducted in small groups in tents, focused on environment-related and physical



NASA Astronauts attending a "two-week" snowshoe techniques.

stress, personal interaction in restricted spaces, motivation required to perform lesser tasks, individual laboratory work and group missions in harsh environments. Canadian Armed Forces retirees, hired on contract, and regulars and reservists, all specialized in winter warfare and leadership training, gave courses with the support of the 4 Wing Cold Lake.



Canadian astronaut Dave Williams, Mike McKay, Julie Payette and Djani Tryggvason during their winter training in the bush, in 1993. This is the same training that the American astronauts underwent at Cold Lake, Alberta, CANADA.

LAUNCHES AND LANDINGS

Nancy Cormier, Communications

Andrew Eddy : Andrew Eddy led the CSA on March 3. He is taking his many talents and vast experience to MirCorp, the company that will renovate the Mir orbital space station to extend its operational lifetime and make it usable for commercial purposes. Andrew will be Senior Vice-President, Business Development. At the CSA, he was Manager responsible for ISS commercialization. Prior to that, he was Executive Advisor to Dr Karl Doetsch and worked for two years as Secretary for the National Space Plan Task Force. We wish him every success in his new duties and thank him for his faithful service.

Michel Fortin : Michel joined Satellite Operations as TT&C Engineer on January 10, 2000. He was previously with CBC. We welcome Michel in our System Operations team.

Caroline Lavallée : Caroline Lavallée is now part of the Communications' team as Senior Communications Officer, Public and Media Relations.

Caroline Lavallée has a University diploma in Public Relations/Human Resources Management. She acted as communications consultant at Johanne Carrier Communications before joining the CSA. As such, she carried out internal and external communications mandates for various corporations. Prior to that, she worked as a free-lance public relations consultant. Welcome Caroline!

Nancy Sample : As Communications Manager and Liaison, Nancy Sample is responsible for managing communications for Space Science, as well as providing Communications Support for the Ottawa Liaison Office. She has an Honours degree in Linguistics from Carleton University with several years of experience as an editor, desktop publisher, and communications analyst. More recently, she worked as a Senior Communications Strategist for corporate issues with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Nancy is located in Ottawa at the Space Science office on Sussex Street, Room 1024, and can be reached at 613-990-3703. Welcome Nancy!

