



Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering Department  
University of California Davis  
Davis, California 95616-5294

## 2005-2006 Monthly Seminar Series on Space Research

20 October, 17 November, 19 January, 16 February, 20 April, 18 May  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 4:00-5:00 pm

### ***Aerojet Titan History***

***Bill Hoffman, Project Engineering Specialist  
Aerojet, Sacramento***

Date: 17 November 2005\_Thursday    Time: 4:10-5:00 pm    Location: 1062 Bainer  
Refreshments will be provided at 4:00 p.m.

#### **ABSTRACT**

***Hosted by: Professor Fidelis Eke***

Aerojet's facility on the east side of the Sacramento area near Folsom consists of 13,300 acres situated on the old Natomas Gold Mining dredger fields. Home to thousands of employees since its purchase in 1950, hundreds of different rocket motors and rocket engines have been developed for government and commercial uses. The first of Aerojet's large liquid rocket engine program has been for the US Air Force Titan missile and launch vehicle program from ICBM to NRO satellites launches. Beginning in 1955, the Titan program completes this year (2005) after a continuous series of contracts spanning the past 50 years. Titan's contribution to the Aerojet's Sacramento facility is chronicled in this presentation that depicts the growth of the facility, the evolution of the rocket engines, employment history, and a summary of the most successful launch program in the history of the country. The presentation is punctuated with trivia comments from the many retirees who shared stories and experiences as well as Mr. Hoffman's own observations. The 45 minute slide presentation is followed by a 15 minute movie produced by Aerojet in about 1960 documenting the first Titan I launches.

#### **ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

Mr. Hoffman has been at Aerojet for 42 years having joined the company following graduation from Purdue University in June 1963 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a major in Rocket Propulsion. At Purdue he studied under Dr. Maurice Zucrow one of two men who wrote the US textbooks on rocket propulsion and colleague of Dr Theodore Von Karman, founder of Aerojet. For the past year he has had the privilege of documenting the history of the Titan engine program. Mr. Hoffman has held many positions during his Aerojet career as well as special assignments and opportunities a few of which are:

- \* Design and development Engineer on the Gemini Combustion Stability program and the Air Force Manned Orbiting Laboratory engine improvement program
- \* Titan Field Support Engineer
- \* Aero-Safe Fire Fighting System Field Support Engineer in Holland's Rotterdam harbor
- \* Project Engineer for Space Shuttle Liquid Rocket Booster Study
- \* Delta Program Manager
- \* Japanese N-II Program Manager
- \* International Business Development Director working primarily with Japan and Russia plus 12 other countries
- \* Special assignments include Aerojet's representative at the Bush-Yeltsin Summit meeting in 1992 and the United Nations Iraq Inspection Team's liquid rocket engine expert (interrupted by the current war)

#### ***For more information about***

***SpaceED (Space Engineering Research and Graduate Program) or the seminars please contact  
Professor Nesrin Sarigul-Klijn at (530)-752-0682 or [nsarigulklijn@ucdavis.edu](mailto:nsarigulklijn@ucdavis.edu)***

Members of the campus community and visitors from the region are welcome to attend the seminar series.  
Sign-in is required at the event. SpaceED seminar will replace MAE297 seminar on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays.

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