

Upcoming Annual Awards Banquet Featuring a Talk on the NASA Warp Drive!

DANIEL NOBLES, CHAIR

On the evening of June 13th, the Houston Section will hold our Annual Awards Banquet in memory of Mr. James C. McLane, Jr. (1923-2012). Mr. McLane held the position of AIAA Houston Section Chair from 1971-1972, during which the Johnson Space Center flew Apollo Mission 15 and 16. He was the second person in South Carolina to build a gasoline-powered model airplane, and attended Clemson University. He joined the Army Air Corps, and flew as a combat pilot over Germany as a member of the 357th fighter group. From there, he worked for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics in Langley, VA, and then designed wind tunnels in Tullahoma, TN. He

also led the design of the Lunar Receiving Laboratory, and was a Division Chief for the Space Environmental Simulation Lab. On a more personal note, Mr. McLane was a dear friend to many of us here in the Houston Section, and still regularly attended dinner meetings whenever possible, and we looked forward to speaking with him. His passing has been felt by many of us, and we will be holding this year's Awards Banquet in his memory.

Dr. Sonny White holds a Ph.D. in physics from Rice University, and a vast amount of experience in engineering here at the NASA Johnson Space Center, where many of us best remember his merito-

rious service to the Engineering Robotics Division. He has been awarded a Silver Snoopy and a NASA Spaceflight Awareness Award, both of which are prestigious awards. Currently, he holds a post as the Advanced Propulsion Theme Lead for the NASA Engineering Directorate and is the JSC representative to the Nuclear Systems Working Group. I cannot wait to hear his perspective of how we can achieve faster than light travel. For more information, check out this [link](#) at Space.com: "Warp Drive May Be More Feasible Than Thought, Scientists Say."

We will also present various awards and introduce our executive council for next year.

From the Chair



chair2012@aiaahouston.org

(Daniel A. Nobles)

Links:

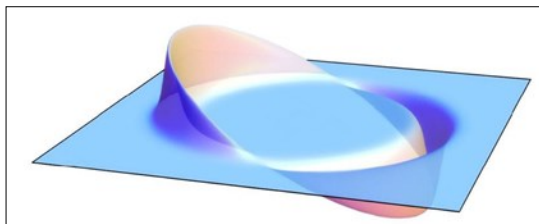
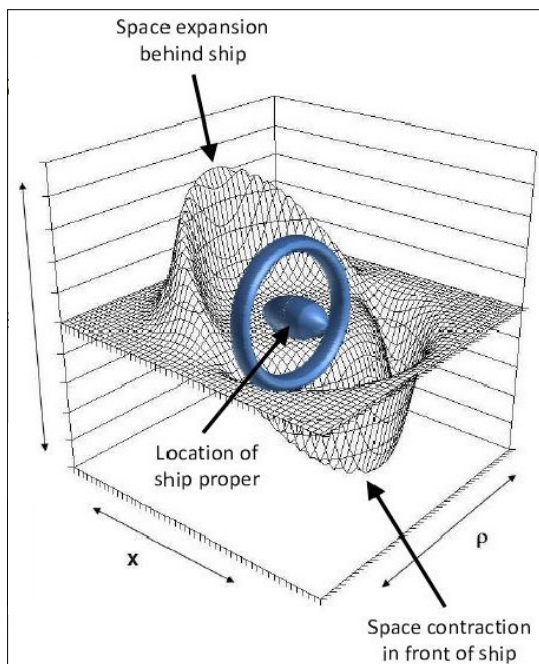
<https://people.nasa.gov>

I hope to see you there.

For more information about this dinner meeting, visit our website's event page via this [link](#) or email Jennifer Wells at:

honors2012@aiaahouston.org

Thank you for your continued support of the AIAA Houston Section.



Above: Photo from a 1972 Section meeting in the Holiday Inn on NASA Road 1. Chairman James C. McLane, Jr. (standing) is introducing the speaker, Major General Douglas T. Nelson, Program Director for the B-1 supersonic bomber. The guest on the right (seated) is Gemini/Apollo astronaut and Air Force test pilot James A. McDivitt. Image credit: James C. McLane III.



Above right: Sheriff Foster B. McLane, Abbeville, South Carolina, circa 1900.

Left: Images from the January / February 2012 [issue](#) of Horizons from an article starting on page 26 reporting on our Section's lunch-and-learn by Dr. Harold "Sonny" White. Image credits: Harold White.