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CONTACT:

Bill Herrington
Public Relations Office Saint Paul's College
434-848-6413
434-848-6415 FAX
wherrington@saintpauls.edu
www.saintpauls.edu

ASTRONAUTS HAVE TIES TO SAINT PAUL'S COLLEGE



Dr. Robert L. Satcher, Jr.

Lawrenceville, VA. NASA Mission Specialists for space launch STS-129, scheduled for lift-off November 16, 2009, will have aboard Dr. Robert L. Satcher, Jr. and Leland D. Melvin. Mission Specialist Satcher is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Satcher, Sr., President and First Lady of Saint Paul's College, Lawrenceville, Virginia. Mission Specialist Melvin is the son of Deems Melvin, a 1960 graduate of Saint Paul's.

The mission of STS-129 is to return home Expedition 21 Flight Engineer Nicole Scott from the international space station, deliver and test Express Logistics Carriers (ELC racks) and perform several other scientific experiments. The mission features three spacewalks over a thirteen day period.

Mission Specialist Satcher was selected in May 2004, out of approximately 2,800 applicants, to join the space agency's first class since 2000. He holds the B. S. and the Ph.D. Degree in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the M. D. Degree from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Satcher completed his internship, residency, and postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley and an Orthopedic Oncology fellowship at the University of Florida.

Dr. Satcher will serve as the medical officer for the mission. He will be performing his first spacewalk. He is scheduled to participate in the first and the third spacewalk during the mission.

Specialist Melvin is a veteran of space flight. He has logged more than 306 hours in space. His first flight was aboard STS-122 in February 2008. Mr. Melvin first reported for astronaut training in 1998.



Leland D. Melvin

Prior to being accepted into the Astronaut Candidate Training Program at NASA, Specialist Melvin had a distinguished college athletic career. He was named NCAA Division I Academic All-American, he holds the record for career receptions at the University of Richmond, ranks fourth in career touchdown receptions and has been inducted into the University of Richmond Athletic Hall of Fame. Specialist Melvin was drafted as a wide receiver in the 11th round of the 1986 NFL draft by the Detroit Lions.

Mr. Melvin holds a B. S. Degree in Chemistry from the University of Richmond and the M. S. Degree in Materials Science Engineering from the University of Virginia. His career at NASA includes serving in the Astronaut Office of the Space Station Operations Branch, the Education Department at NASA Headquarters, and the Robotics Branch of the Astronaut Office. He is a strong advocate for space exploration. Specialist Melvin has traveled across the country, engaging thousands of students and teachers in the excitement of space exploration, and continues to inspire students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. His parents, Deems and Grace Melvin, reside in Lynchburg, Virginia.