this week at NASA escorted by a NASA t-38 jet space shuttle Discovery atop the NASA 905 shuttle carrier aircraft made its much anticipated arrival in the washington DC metro area it was the 38th and final time discovery has traveled piggyback on the modified Boeing 747 and undoubtedly the most anticipated onlookers gathered on rooftops along the National Mall wherever they could to catch a glimpse of the iconic shuttle as it was blown overhead I got goosebumps I was watching it through my telephoto lens as it went over the Lincoln
monument down here and really impressed me emotionally what a defining moment this is for us because it's the end of a incredible space program there's so much the shuttle program is done and I want to make sure that my kids had that personal appreciation of it after a series of flyovers the SCA and the most prolific Space Shuttle in history made a picture-perfect landing at dulles international airport in advance of its induction into the Smithsonian and display at the udvar-hazy center in Northern Virginia to those who say our
best days of space exploration are behind us I simply must disagree while it is absolutely wonderful to reminisce about the past and that is of course what we come to the smithsonian museums to do NASA must continue and does focus on the future you need only admire this unbelievable space shuttle and their accomplishments to realize that the people the organizations and the nation that created them have only just begun we'll have more coverage of discoveries trip to the Smithsonian on the next episode of this week at NASA
thank you good morning this is Mark kuro

for aviation week and space three of the six crew members living aboard the International Space Station fielded questions from reporters during a news conference shown live on NASA television and streamed on the agency's website.

expedition 30 commander dan burbank and flight engineers Don Pettit and European Space Agency astronaut Andre Kuiper's discuss the multitude of activity taking place onboard the orbiting laboratory.

dr. petty you'll be the one reeling in the Dragon capsule talk about the importance of this inaugural commercial.
cargo run andre and i will be doing this
task and we'll be sharing the robotics
duties for flying the arm from capture
to ultimately birthing it on to the node
nadir port burbank along with cosmonauts
anton shkaplerov and anatoly ivanishin
wrap up their mission later this month
when the soyuz spacecraft they're
scheduled to return to Earth in lands in
Kazakhstan
in Houston at the National Space
Biomedical Research Institute and Baylor
College of Medicine's Center for space medicine hell the official opening of a
new laboratory that examines the health risks associated with spaceflight the new facility opened with support from NASA brings together scientists from the government private companies and universities and that allows them to work together to solve the mysteries of the human body and how it reacts to space this partnership is a shining example of the possibilities of dedicated researchers and scientists working with industry government and academia to achieve significantly more than the sum of their parts these
scientists are not only creating
experiments that will fly to the
International Space Station but they are also figuring out ways to bring their findings down to earth and in the hospitals and homes some of the research that was on display included experiments that look at how the bones in the human body can be strengthened through exercise diet and medication how kidney stones can be detected and moved using an ultrasound rather than surgery and how an MRI machine which normally takes up an entire hospital room can be put in
the palm of your hand it's very exciting

to work on it to be honest you know a

lot of lot of groups that I have worked

with in the past its most fun working

with NASA just thinking about this

contributing to the space program and

any sort

way the goal is to develop it for NASA

but we see a number of spin-offs on

earth here that were eager to pursue it

well we choose to go to the moon in this
decade and do the other thing the new

research center is located directly

across the street from rice stadium for

President Kennedy delivered his famous
moon speech in 1962 on hand for the opening were leadership from Rice University Baylor College of Medicine the city of Houston and US senator kay Bailey Hutchison representatives from the Ames Research Center and the National Park Service give the public an up-close look at how the extreme conditions of California's Death Valley are helping assaf prepare for surface exploration of Mars the first ever Mars and the Mojave festival featured geology and mini rover demonstrations a scale model of the Mars Science Laboratory
Curiosity rover and guided tours of areas whose topography and characteristics make them ideal research sites for equipment testing and evaluation in a Mars-like environment. Among these sites is Badwater Basin, the lowest point in the continental United States where specially adapted microbial life can be found under salt and mineral deposits. Mars Hill, which mimics the boulder-strewn Martian surface first seen up close by NASA's Viking landers, and UVB crater where scientists can plan crater exploration for missions like MSL.
he traveled more than 65 million miles

around the planet while living aboard

the International Space Station for 161 days but a new journey has led astronaut TJ creamer to the Marshall Space Flight Center the former expedition 22 23 flight engineer and NASA science officer is now learning what things are like from the ground up literally creamer has been training since last September to become a payload operations director in NASA's payload Operations Center at Marshall he's the first astronaut certified to lead the team that
coordinates real-time science operations

between the crews on orbit the Johnson

Space Center and international partners

around the world

perhaps with my interests and marshalls

focus that it might be a nice marriage

to bring an operational experience here

share my living on board as well as to

be able to be the liaison and help both

in the pale of management as well as the

liaison communications between Houston

and Huntsville the NASA dime competition

in microgravity is underway at the Glenn

Research Center in Cleveland Ohio this

year for student teams who are selected
to develop an experiment for a NASA drop

in the control room of the 2.2 second drop tower the 79 foot tower gets its name because when an experiment is dropped into it one package experiences weightlessness or microgravity for 2.2 seconds researchers from around the world uses tower to study the effects of microgravity on physical phenomena such as combustion and fluid dynamics and to develop new technology for future space missions dropping in a microgravity environment or dime is a national competition for high school students in
the 9th through 12th grades and open to

student teams from all 50 states working with NASA's engineers and scientists is 

amazing I mean it is a bit of tip

intimidating because these are our heroes like this is what we want to do

these are who we want to be when we're older dime is part of NASA's education

program the program allows the agency to continuous work around the country to inspire engage and educate the next generation of engineers and scientists

one employees at the Michoud assembly facility held a ribbon-cutting ceremony
for its robot repair unit known affectionately as our to the mobile machine shop is dedicated to helping teams competing in FIRST Robotics events make repairs to their robots the r2 unit was rolled out at the recent first Bayou regionals in Kenner Louisiana assisted by adult mentors first robotics teams of high school student design and build a robot to compete in a specific challenge NASA partners with first to promote stem based careers with the agency Gigi playin and having any in two different agencies the Marshall Space Flight
Center hosted a NASA woman-owned small business industry day at the Huntsville Museum of Art more than 300 small companies learn the how to's of doing business with NASA their representatives also got to pitch their capabilities to Marshall prime contractors and small business specialists even though NASA was one of the only three nett agencies federal government agencies that achieved our small business goal we were unable to achieve our goal in three areas which are the women-owned small business hub zone small business and service disabled veteran small
businesses so administrator Bolden asked me to put together a plan that we can do extensive outreach to these three communities there's one of three industry days that are planned for fy2012 this will create some really good networking opportunities and we hope to that this will be pay off for many of our women-owned small businesses who are in attendance today 40 years ago on April sixteenth 1972 apollo 16 launched from the kennedy space center crewed by Commander John Young lunar module pilot Charlie Duke
and command module pilot Ken Mattingly

it was the tenth manned mission in the

Apollo space program the next-to-last to

land on the moon and the first to land

in the lunar highlands with Mattingly

making observations from orbit young and

Duke spent about 71 hours on the lunar

surface the pair conducted three moon

rocks and most notably drove the lunar

roving bin the LRV a total of about 16

miles the pair collected about 211

pounds of lunar samples that returned

with them 11 days later when the Apollo

16 capsule splashed down safely in the
South Pacific and that's this week @nasa

for more on these and other stories or

to follow us on Facebook Twitter and

other social media log on to WWE