Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

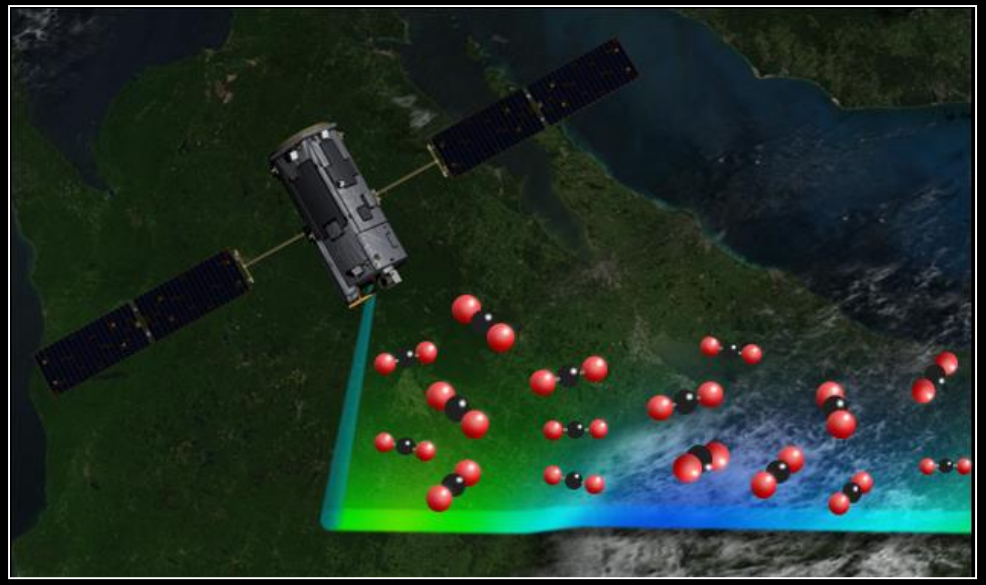
The Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE)
2017 SASE WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

University of California, San Diego, 25 February 2017

-- Workshop I --
A Guide for the Best You: It's Not Rocket Science

Dr. Ralph R. Basilio

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology



[Credit: NASA/JPL]

Clearance No.: CL#17-XXXX

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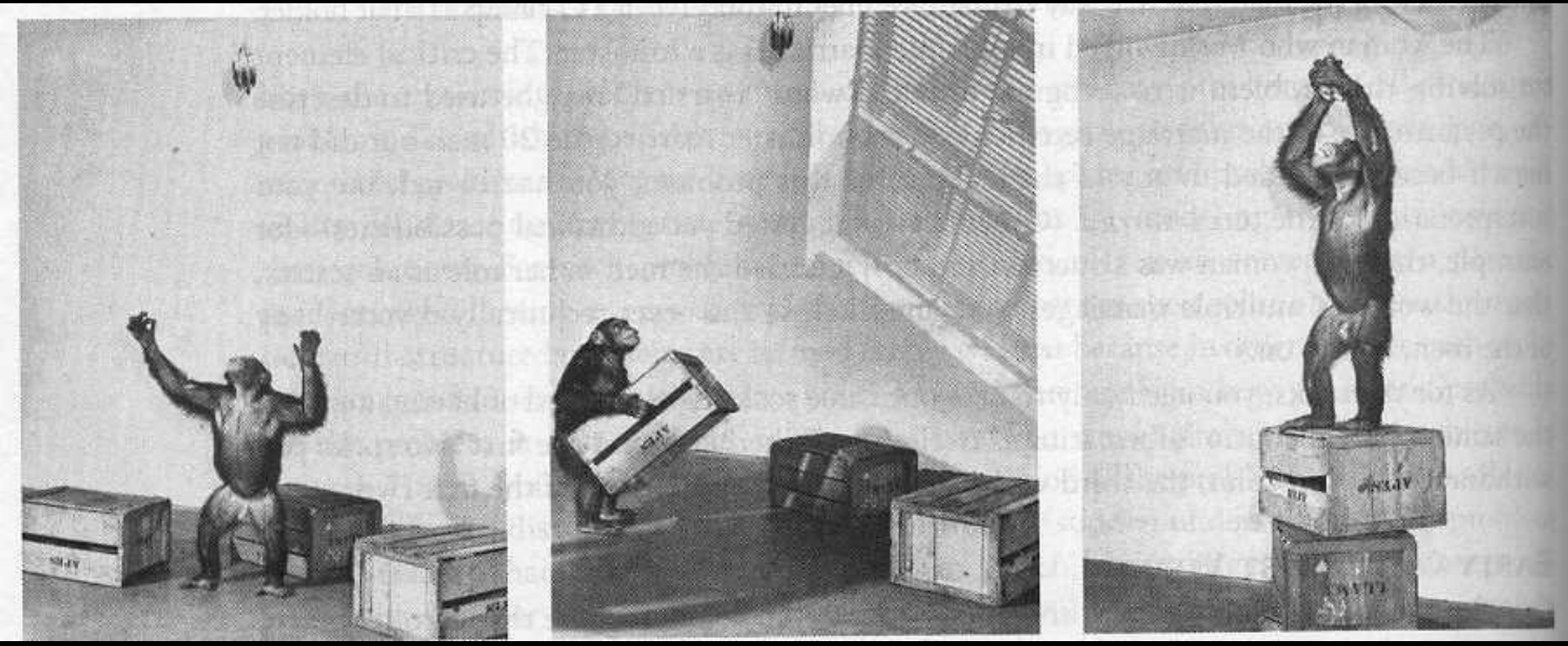
Linking Challenge and Reward



[Reference: Dr. Wolfgang Kohler, 1945]

Do you want to achieve <u>your</u> full potential?

If this little boy can do it, so can you!

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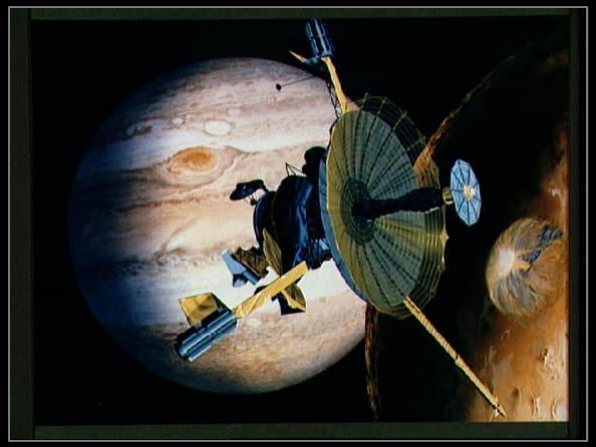
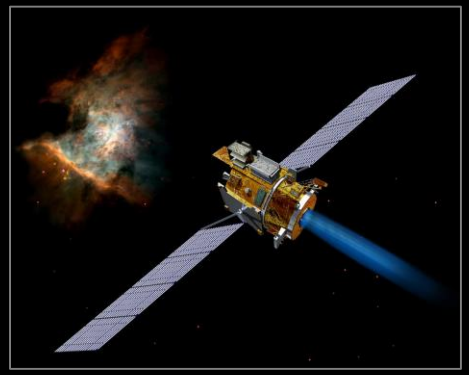
Ralph's early journey…





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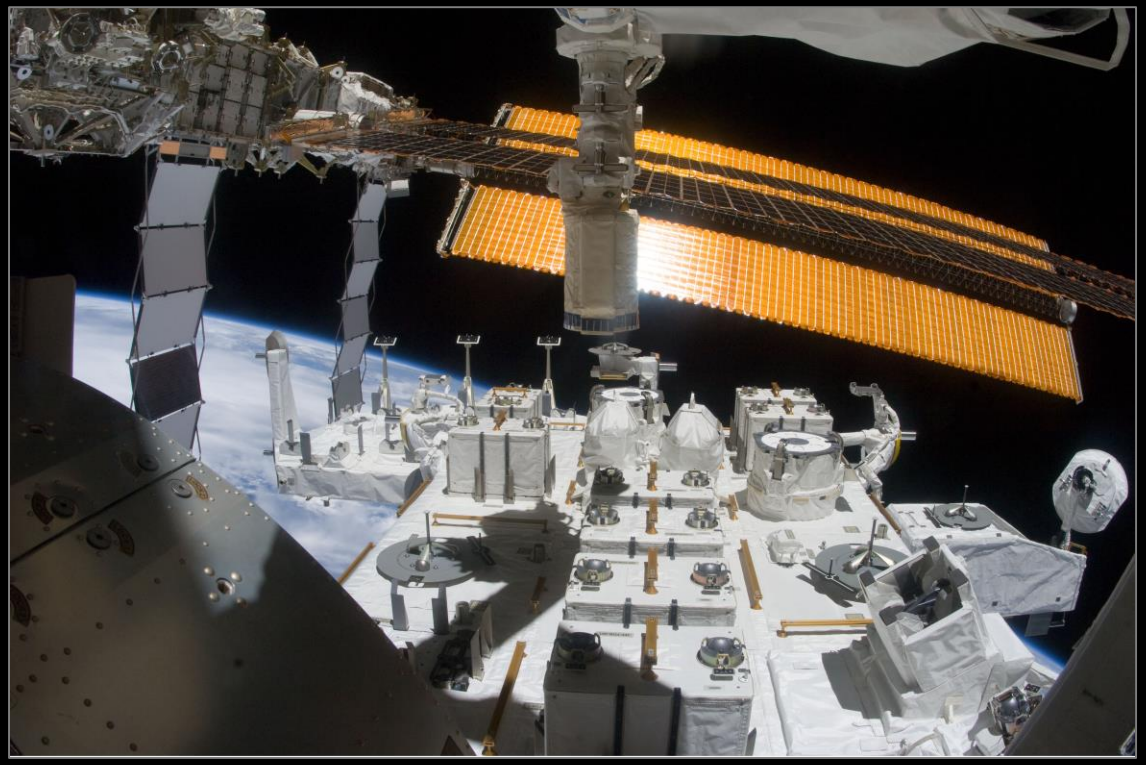
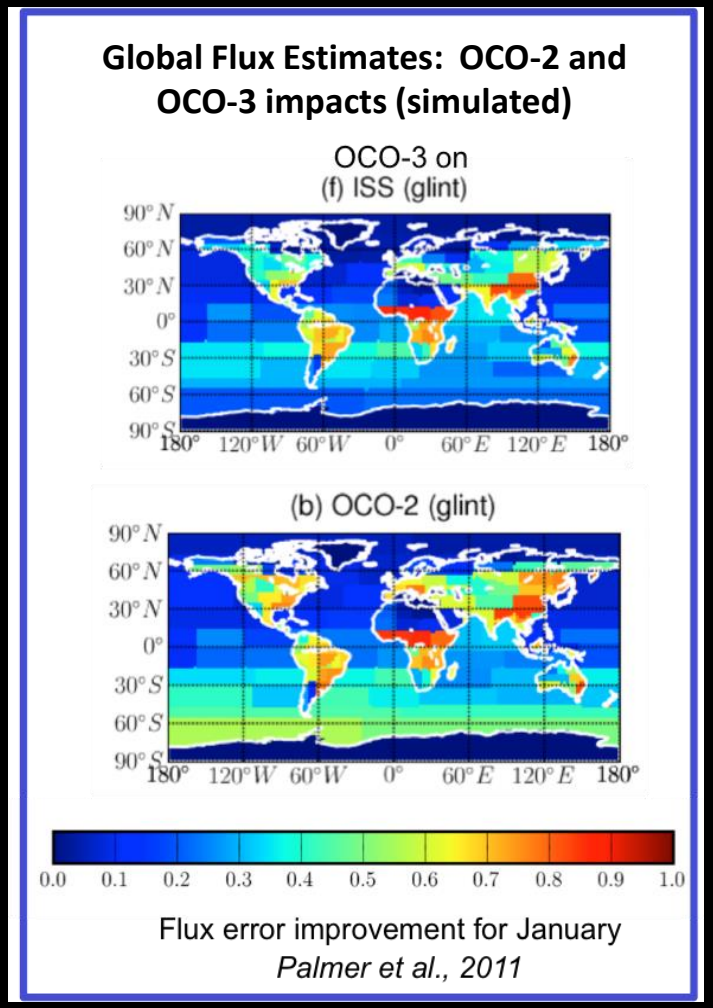
Orbiting Carbon Observatory-3 (OCO-3)



[Credit: NASA]



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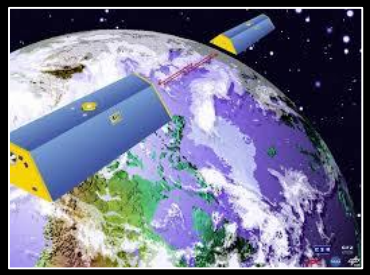
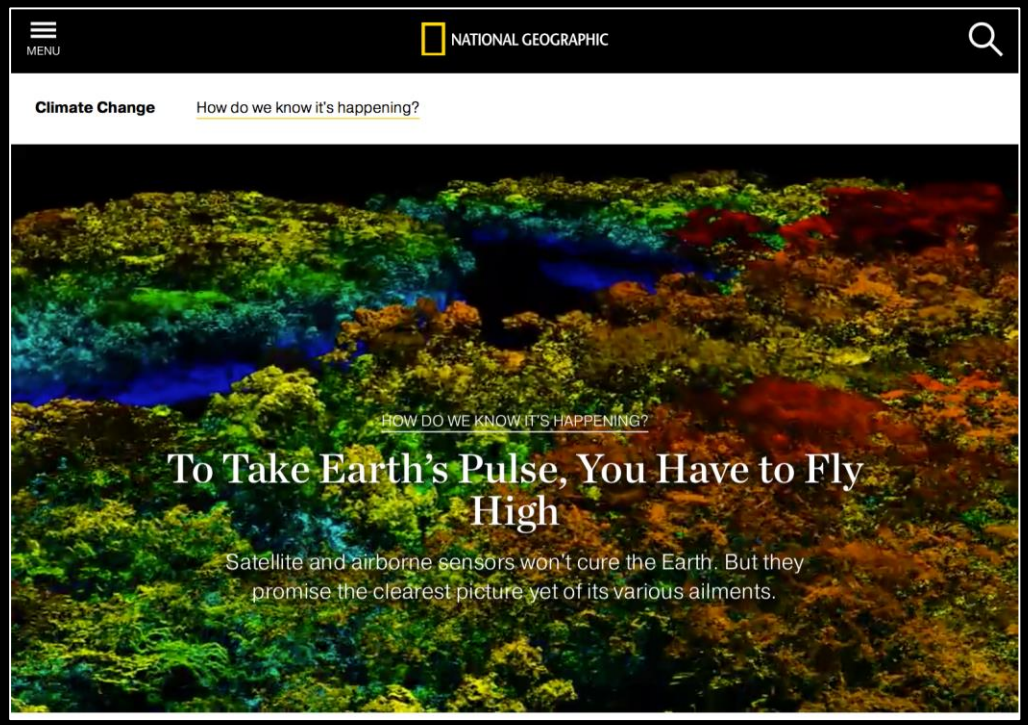
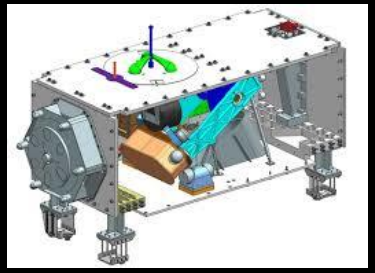
Western States Water Mission (WSWM)



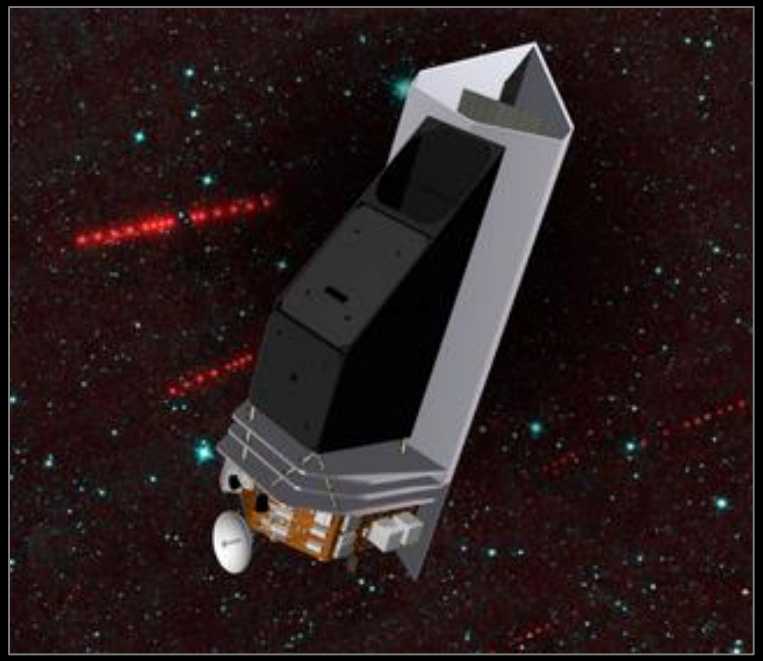


Story by Peter Miller, 15 October 2015

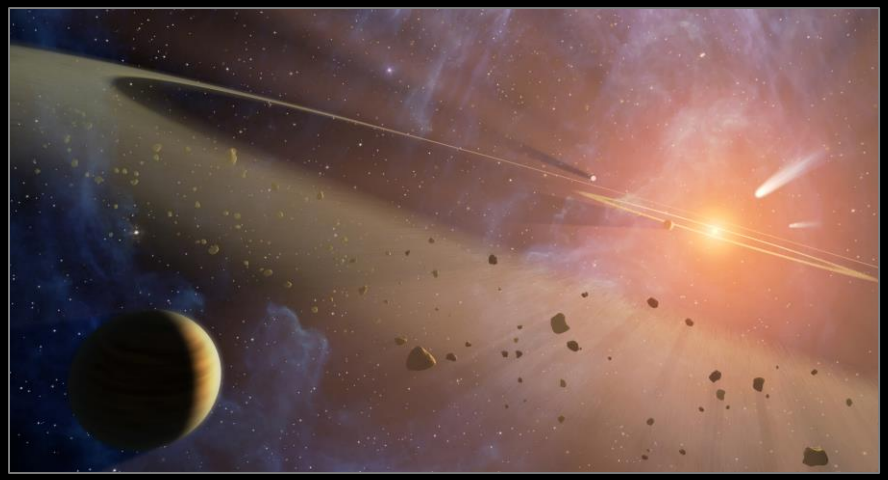


[Artist renditions of spacecraft and aircraft photo, Credit: NASA]

Near-Earth Object Camera (NEOCam)

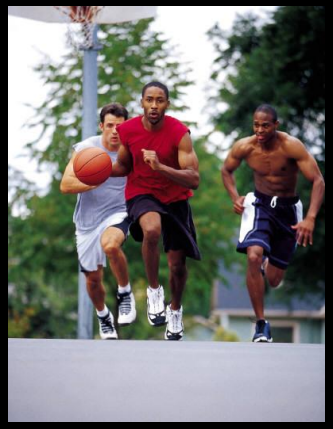


[Credit: NASA/Caltech-JPL]



[Credit: NASA]

[Credit: M. Ahmetvaleev]



Lesson 1

Respect yourself and others; have a positive attitude

People tend to gravitate to those with a positive attitude and outlook

It all starts with listening and understanding your audience

VERBAL

Conversations

Group discussions

Presentations

Lesson 2

Communication – make it a life skill

Non-verbal body language can be just as important

WRITTEN

Letters

E-mails

Technical papers, etc

Lesson 3
Be self-motivated; take initiative; and volunteer for tasks that force you to ‘stretch’

[Credit: J. Hook]

Launch of the Original OCO

[Credit: NASA]

Then…

- No positive indication of launch vehicle payload fairing separation
- Launch vehicle trajectory solution indicates negative perigee!
- Launch vehicle upper stage fails to achieve orbital velocity due to excess mass carried into space
- A somber moment: The mission manager reports failure to acquire any signal from the observatory
- Another somber moment: Launch vehicle telemetry indicates positive observatory separation, albeit, inside the fairing

Fast Forward to the OCO-2 Launch

[Credit: Bill Ingalls, NASA]

Lift-Off at 2:56 am PDT
02 July 2014

Streaking Across the Southern Sky

[Credit: Jeff Sullivan]

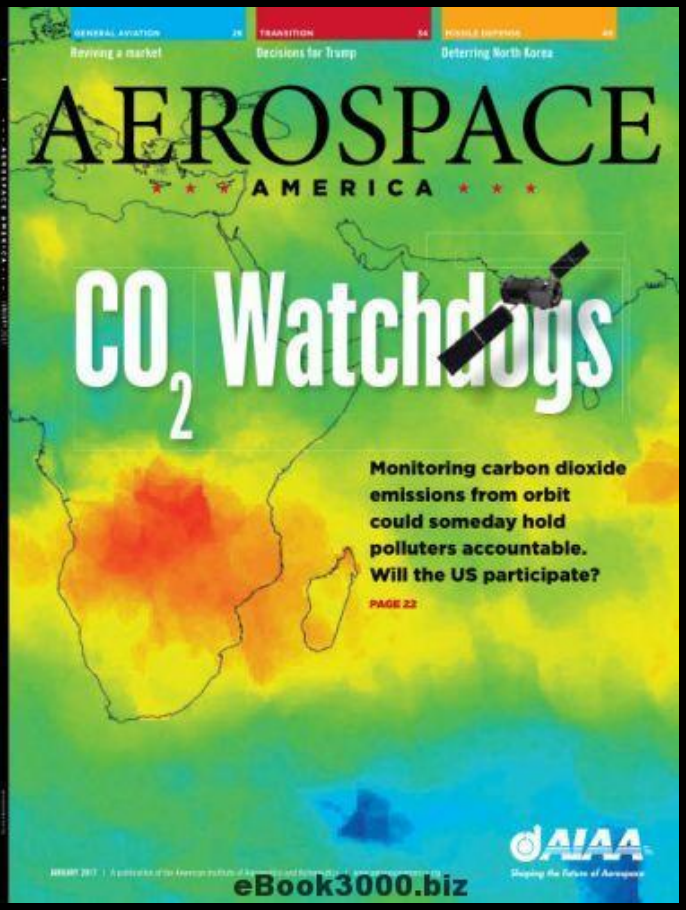
Observatory Separation!

[Credit: NASA / Caltech-JPL]

Lesson 4
Develop a strong work ethic and meet your commitments

Lesson 5

Complete tasks in a timely and professional matter. Results matter!



Lesson 6
Treat yourself as an independent contractor

Rely on yourself, not others

Are my customers satisfied with my work?

Am I positioning myself well for the next assignment?

What can I do to not just maintain, but to improve my skills?

The Six Lessons

Respect and attitude

Communication

Motivation

Work ethic and commitment

Don’t just do, but complete tasks

The best assignment? The next one!

"To finish the moment, to find the journey's end in every step of the road, to live the greatest number of good hours, is wisdom."

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

My e-mail address:

Ralph.R.Basilio@jpl.nasa.gov

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http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/opportunities/