

# OSU/NASA Education Projects: Aerospace Education Services Program (AESP) Archive

Oklahoma State University-Stillwater, Oklahoma

## My AESP Life Story by Steve Culivan. Written 2001.

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By Steve Culivan

My first experience with AESP was when Tom Sarko visited my school in Baton Rouge in Spring 1987. Right after that I was selected as a NEWMAST participant at MSFC for the upcoming Summer in 1987. When I was at MSFC for NEWMAST, I met Wil Robertson, Larry Bilbrough, and Bill Anderson. They recruited me for AESP during the two weeks. I then contacted Dr. Wiggins at OSU to learn more about the program and then proceeded to fill out and submit an application. Dr. Wiggins interviewed me over the phone. I was then sent to KSC in June 1988 to interview with Ray Corey and Steve Dutczak. (I had to borrow a suit from my Dad for the interview, since I didn't own one at the time.) This was my first experience with hotels, per diem, and rental cars.

I was hired by OSU and my first official day on the AESP contract was Aug. 1, 1988. I was then brought up to OSU to meet everyone. Stanley Jones and I went up at the same time and we have been dear friends ever since. We were briefed on AESP procedure and policy by the famous and much-loved Mary Chaplin.

I worked at KSC from 8/88 to 8/90. My first solo program was in Broadwater, NE. I had to fill in for Bob Mayfield who was recalled into active military duty during a CIP in Nebraska. I had trained with Les Gold a couple time, Charles Anderson, Gordon Eskridge, and Angelo Casaburri. I was able to observe 4 or 5 programs before I went solo. (I had to drive to the school, set-up, and present all alone—there was no one available to observe me that day). I did pretty well. I may be the only AESP'er who had more training AFTER my first solo than I did before.

During May of that first year, 1989, I had the opportunity to travel to Germany to perform programs in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools. During my travels through that country I had the rare privilege of sitting in Herman Oberth's kitchen and talked with him while sipping orange soda and snacking on cookies.

From 89/90 till present, I have been assigned to MSFC living here in Baton Rouge. I've been married (met my wife in a teacher workshop in Ft. Walton Beach, FL) and had three kids since I've been part of AESP.