

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

Oklahoma State University-Stillwater, Oklahoma

## A Letter by Gregory Vogt. Written in February 1997.

A Letter  
By Gregory Vogt

Although I have had many experiences I could share, there was one that stands out. A few years ago I received a letter from a young man in Alaska. He had been a student in one of the Spacemobile programs I presented twenty years earlier as I traveled through Wisconsin. He tracked me down because he wanted to thank me for the program I gave. I value this letter more than my autographed picture of Neil Armstrong or any of the other mementos I have collected.

I want to share excerpts from the letter not because it points to how great I was. I did put on an excellent assembly demonstration but so did everybody else in the program at the time. Sharing this letter is my way of reminding all of us of the real value of the work we did. Yes, we can reach more students indirectly by working through teachers and state associations. However, I don't believe any of those activities can ever match the impact of direct personal contact on the children we served when we visited their schools as representatives of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

I offer this letter to all Spacemobilers. Any of you could have received it. I am just grateful I am the one that did receive it.

February 8, 1997

"It sure was interesting to find out that you were the guy that peaked my interest in the space program in 1977! It sure doesn't seem as if it's been 20 years. I can still remember it as if it was yesterday. I still have to laugh when I think about how you explained to us what would happen if we were to go outside the space station without our space suits! My friends and I talked about that for quite awhile afterwards. Of course I was also very interested in all of the other topics that day too! I recall something also having been mentioned pertaining to the Space Shuttle but that we'd have to wait a few years to see it in action. I was only in the third grade but I can still remember thinking that a few years was a long time to wait! (At least for a third grader.) I must also admit that your presentation helped get me through a sad time in my life. My grandmother had passed away a month or so before and I'd been down in the dumps since. I can still remember traveling across town to Jefferson Elementary feeling that I wasn't going to have any fun. Boy! That sure wasn't the case! I came away from the presentation with a new outlook and a field that I have enjoyed studying ever since! I follow the space program as much as I can even to this day. I guess you can say it's one of my hobbies.

You have no idea how big a thrill this is for me to be writing to you. Even though we never really met, (except for when I said hello to you) I have considered you a friend all these years. Your presentation had a great affect on me, and got me interested in space and science. I guess you could say it was a turning point in my life. No one can ever tell me that a speaker can't get through to kids! I would like to take the time now to thank you for taking the time to talk with all of us there at Jefferson School that day, and thank you for helping to get me interested in space exploration! THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Because of this, you too are one of my heroes!

Postscript: I have maintained contact with the writer. We correspond periodically. Last summer, I visited him and his small family while on a trip to Kenai, Alaska. I hope to see them again this summer.