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Dr. Edward Cheung put ARUBA into outer space!

Principal engineer of the Hubble Space Telescope Service Project, Dr. Cheung was raised in San Nicolas, passing time at the small rum shop of his grandfather who had been brought to Aruba from Hong Kong to work in the Lago Refinery. His grandmother followed with Ed's father to escape World War II. Dr. Cheung's father later opened his own business, the Kong Ming Supermarket, which would pay for his son's undergraduate education.



Dr Cheung spent five years with NASA before joining the Hubble Team

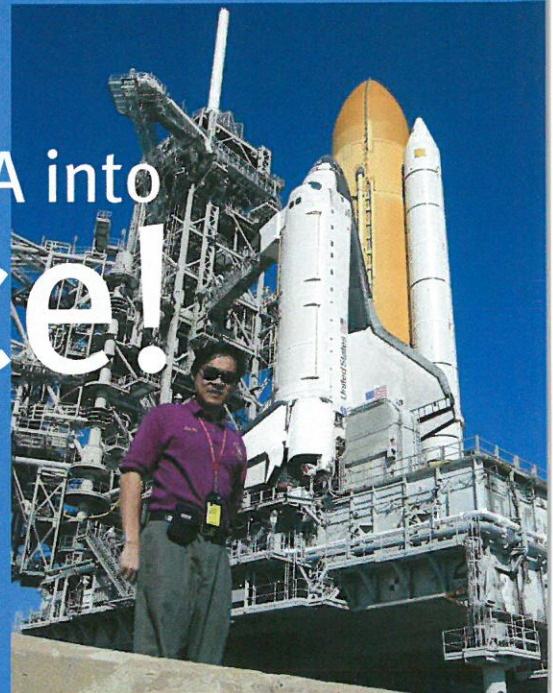
With a near perfect score on the physics ACT2 test and a strong letter of recommendation from his high school counselor, Dr. Cheung was accepted at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts even though it was quite unusual at that time for an Aruban student to attend an American university. He went on to Yale for his Masters and PhD in Electrical Engineering with a specialization in robotics. In 1990, Dr. Cheung's doctorate dissertation was witnessed by a recruiter from NASA and he secured a summer job at the Kennedy Space Center. Though he was offered work at the Kennedy and Johnson Space Centers, Dr. Cheung opted for the Goddard Space Center which he felt offered him the best chance to "put something into space".

When problems cropped up with a very important part of the Hubble Space Telescope which affected the cooling system, Dr. Cheung and his team devised the ARUBA box, or ASCS/NCS Relay Unit Breaker Assembly which was attached to the telescope in spring 2002 during the last successful mission of the ill-fated Columbia Space Shuttle. This acronym was a source of great pride for Arubans who viewed the ARUBA Box as the mission was telecast worldwide.

Since then, Dr. Cheung has continued to make important contributions to the Hubble project and to Computer and Robotic Science, garnering many accolades for his designs and inventions. Astronaut John Grunsfeld pinned a Silver Snoopy Award on Dr. Cheung for his contributions to the Hubble project, an honor he shares with his excellent team. Dr. Cheung spent five years with NASA before joining the Hubble team where he now holds his present position as principal engineer. In 2005, he received an award for fifteen years of service. Dr. Cheung's current responsibility is the design and creation of the hardware that keeps the telescope in orbit and to analyze and correct any anomalies. He is presently constructing the Wide Field Camera 3 which will be added on to the telescope during the next service mission in 2007.

Dr. Cheung's hobbies include inline skating (roller-blading) and collecting and repairing pinball machines. When the family travels, he is always looking for places to skate and opportunities to play pinball machines. More details on how to get started with pinball machines is on his website at <http://www.edcheung.com>.

Dr. Cheung and his wife, Agnes, return to their beloved homeland every year to be with family and friends, accompanied by their children, Stephanie and Christopher.



Dr Cheung alongside the Columbia space shuttle

Dr. Cheung takes this opportunity to share his time with the community, visiting local schools and giving lectures. A science classroom in the Aruba school he attended as a child was recently dedicated to Dr. Cheung; he in turn dedicated the classroom to his parents, his greatest source of



Pinball machines - Dr Cheung's hobby

inspiration. This accomplished Aruban speaks both from experience and from his heart when he addresses young students, "You may come from the tiny island of Aruba, but you can be anything you want to be out in the big wide world."

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