

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

WILLIAM MAXWELL REED SEMINAR SERIES

“20 Years Supporting Shuttle Ground Processing”

Robert Youngquist, Ph.D.

Kennedy Space Center Applied Physics Lab

Abstract: This talk will present highlights of 20 years of support provided to Shuttle Ground Processing by the Kennedy Space Center Applied Physics Laboratory. Early support concentrated on optical and ultrasonic alignment tools to aid in positioning very large spaceflight objects, but soon branched into ultrasonic leak detection and hydrogen flame detection support. With a growing need for vehicle processing after flight, the lab shifted emphasis over to window defect detection and quantification and water detection and removal from the Space Shuttle tiles. The talk will conclude with a discussion of how we dealt with vultures at the launch pad.

Bio: Dr. Robert Youngquist is the lead of the Kennedy Space Center Applied Physics Lab, a role that he has held for 28 years. In this capacity he has worked to help solve a diverse set of problems arising from multiple aerospace programs and customers, but primarily has supported ground processing for the Space Shuttle. Dr. Youngquist received his PhD in Applied Physics from Stanford University in 1984, taught and worked at University College London, and then joined the Kennedy Space Center in 1988. He has numerous journal publications and 28 patents granted.

Date: Tuesday, April 24

Place: CB 118

Time: 3:15PM

Contact: Dr. Alexandre Martin 257-4462

Meet the speaker and have refreshments
Attendance open to all interested persons