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CHARLESTON NATIVE HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPACE PROGRAM

HOUSTON, TX (June 23, 2008) – Charleston native and United Space Alliance employee Christian Garcia was recently recognized as a Space Flight Awareness (SFA) honoree for her work in support of NASA's Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs at Kennedy Space Center.

An Auburn University graduate, Garcia serves as a test and operations engineer and works with the Space Shuttle's Primary Avionics Software System. She was recognized for her outstanding support in analyzing data from computer simulations that are used to create error scenarios that may occur on the Space Shuttle. Garcia studies the problem scenario and determines how to translate it into text script commands. She then develops the test case and runs it remotely on the simulators at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Garcia's initiative to begin running these remote tests significantly contributes to mission safety and success.

"I dreamed about working for the Space Shuttle program my entire life and through hard work and dedication my dreams were realized," said Garcia. "To be recognized for the work that I do and love has been a highlight of my career so far."

As an SFA honoree, Garcia received a tour of Kennedy Space Center and viewed the launch of Space Shuttle Discovery on May 31.

Garcia currently resides in Merritt Island, Florida with her husband Carlos. Her parents, Raymond and Carolyn Nelson, live in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

The SFA Program is a NASA safety and awareness managed motivational program geared at ensuring that every employee involved in human space flight is aware of the importance of their role in promoting astronaut safety and mission success in the critical, challenging task of flying humans in the hostile environment of space by communicating and educating the government and industry workforce about human space flight.

United Space Alliance is a world leader in space operations with extensive experience in all aspects of the field. Headquartered in Houston, USA has 10,000 employees working in Texas, Florida and Alabama. Currently, USA is applying its broad range of capabilities to NASA's Space Shuttle, International Space Station and Constellation programs as well as to space operations customers in the commercial and international space industry sectors.

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