

2015 Distinguished Alumni recipient

Carl Biagetti

62 years ago “a little boy stood outside his home on Salt Point Road gazing through the toy telescope he had received for his 5th birthday. His father stood beside him answering his questions about the stars and planets.”**

Thus began a lifelong journey for the 2015 WGHS Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni recipient, Carl Peter Biagetti. On April 24th, 2015, the Hubble Space Telescope celebrated its 25th year in space. “The Hubble has provided answers to some of the most compelling astronomical questions of our time, while at the same time uncovering mysteries never before known to exist.”*** What does this have to do with the little boy from Salt Point Road?

Prior to the Hubble’s Launch in 1990, Mr. Biagetti had been involved for years in its preparation. He was responsible for the technical planning of the many varied systems engineering activities for the design, development and operational support for the Hubble Space Telescope Operations Control Center. Following the successful launch of the Hubble, Carl received his first of several awards from NASA, recognizing his contributions to the Hubble. Along with this award he was presented with the American Flag that had flown aboard Space Shuttle Discovery, when it launched Hubble into orbit! During Hubble’s first 25 years in space, five complicated service missions, requiring various equipment repairs and new equipment installations, were necessary. Once the astronauts completed the mechanical work, months were often needed to then adjust, balance and recalibrate the sensitive instruments so the Hubble could do its job.

Carl Biagetti was the manager of the extraordinary ground team of scientists and engineers whose job it was to accomplish that. It was done with great success. The development of the James Webb Space Telescope has been underway for years and its launching is expected in 2018. The Webb, which has a much larger mirror than the Hubble, is designed to look much deeper into space and, like the Hubble before it, will usher in a new chapter in space exploration. For the past six years Mr. Biagetti has been overseeing the development of the Webb Telescope science commissioning plans, a role similar to the one he undertook and accomplished for the Hubble. Throughout Carl Biagetti’s career he has received numerous awards for his contribution to aerospace engineering and astronomy satellite operations. He has been recognized by NASA, by The Goddard Space Flight Center and by the Space Telescope Science Institute. Carl has also authored and co-authored numerous published papers and has presented these works at various national and international conferences and workshops, as far away as Germany, France and The Netherlands and as close to home as Montreal, Canada.

That little boy from Salt Point Road, who star-gazed so many years ago with his father, dared to reach for the stars. No longer a boy, he continues his long, distinguished and stellar journey. The WGHS Alumni Association is so very proud to recognize and honor this year’s Distinguished Alumnus, graduate of the Class Of 1965, Carl Peter Biagetti.

** Frank Steber, Seneca Spectator 2/16/1994

*** Hubblesite.org, Science Year In Review, 2012

EDUCATION

John Hopkins University, Whiting School of Engineering

2002 Masters Degree, Applied Physics

Washington Technical Institute, University of D.C.

1976 Associate's Degree, Electronics Technology

Georgetown University, Washington, DC

1969 Bachelor of Science, School of Languages and Linguistics,

Italian and French Language and Culture

CAREER HISTORY

Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, MD / James Webb Space Telescope Commissioning Support, 2009 to present. Overseeing development of the science commissioning plans / Hubble (HST) Servicing Mission Observatory Verification Manager, 1993 to 2009 Manager for all of Hubble servicing missions, planning and execution of the science verification program following servicing / JWST (the Webb) Principle Mission Software Systems Engineer, 2005 to present Lead systems engineer in early requirements phase of the Flight Operations Subsystem / HST Manager, SM97 Calibration Pipeline Development, 1995-1996 Management of major systems engineering to upgrade pipeline in preparation for 1997 HST servicing mission / Loral Aero-systems Development and Spaceflight Engineering, Seabrook, MD / PORTS System Engineering Section Supervisor, 1986 to 1993

Responsible for varied systems engineering activities on the NASA/GSFC contract for the design, development and operational support for the Hubble control center / Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, MA / Senior Mission Coordinator, Equipment Operations Team, 1978 to 1981 Comsat General Corporation, Washington, D.C. / Spacecraft Controller, 1976 to 1978 Operation and monitoring of five geosynchronous communications satellites

RECOGNITIONS and AWARDS

May 2010 NASA Award recognizing Contribution to Hubble Servicing Mission 4

April 2009 NASA Award for Contributions to James Webb Space Telescope Preliminary Design Review

March 2002 NASA Award Recognition of Contributions to Success of Hubble

Year 2000 NASA Award for Contributions to Hubble Space Telescope 3 A Servicing Mission

Oct. 1997 Space Telescope Science Institute Service Award

June 1994 NASA Award for Contributions to Hubble First Servicing Mission

Nov. 1991 Goddard Space Flight Center Certificate of Recognition of An Outstanding Commitment to Hubble Servicing Missions Year 1990 NASA Award for Contributions to the Hubble Space Telescope. This award was accompanied by his receipt of the American Flag flown aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery that brought Hubble into orbit.

PAPERS AUTHORED, PUBLISHED and PRESENTED

July 2012 "Science Commissioning of JWST: Applying Hubble's Principles and Lessons to the Webb" - Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers, Amsterdam The Netherlands Year 2008 "Re-commissioning Hubble after the 2008 Servicing Mission" -Space-Ops Conference, Heidelberg, Germany

Aug. 2002 "Observatory Verification; Principles and Lessons Learned in Commissioning the Hubble Observatory following Shuttle Servicing" -Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers, Kona, Hawaii

Feb. 2001 "Orbital Verification and Observatory Commissioning" -STAIF Conference, Albuquerque, NM

Dec. 1995 "Planning for STIS and NICMOS" (Hubble's Scientific Instruments) -Proceedings, Science and Hubble Space Telescope II Workshop in Paris, France

PAPERS CO-AUTHORED, PUBLISHED and PRESENTED

2010 "Commissioning of the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph on the Hubble Space Telescope: an Overview of COS Servicing Mission Observatory Verification" -David Sahnou/JHU, Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers

2004 "Servicing of the Hubble Space Telescope" -David Soderblom/Space Telescope Science Institute, Space Operations Conference, Montreal, Canada