



Home News Sports Lifestyle Opinion Multimedia Health Weather Obits Newspaper Ads Autos Real Estate Jobs Classifieds

KEYWORD SEARCH

Search

Sponsored by: Ben Mynatt Nissan | Archive Search

Photo Galleries | Post your photos | Advertise | Post your classified ad online | Subscribe to the paper

Area

West Rowan grad in on effort to return astronauts to moon

Friday, June 19, 2009 3:00 AM



Rivers Lamb

E-mail to a friend

vote
now

Bookmark

Seth Leonard

sleonard@salisburypost.com

NASA launched what it calls America's first steps back to the moon Thursday with two lunar modules. And a Salisbury man has a hand in the endeavor.

Rivers Lamb is an aerospace engineer at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. Working for NASA, he supported this project by calculating complex flight dynamics and orbital trajectories needed to reach the moon.

The mission is meant to create new maps of the lunar surface. NASA managers hope new information will allow them to once again send astronauts safely to the moon.

According to Lamb's mother, he has always had his head in the stars.

"It's the only thing he's ever wanted to do, to work for NASA," said Jean Lamb, a homemaker who lives in Salisbury.

Lamb's father, Steve, is an engineer at the Performance Fibers plant in western Rowan. He always advised his son to pursue a more versatile field of engineering than aerospace. The sector has been notoriously boom and bust, but the younger Lamb was difficult to dissuade.

Lamb graduated from West Rowan High School as valedictorian in 1998.

He also achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and played soccer and tennis.

He went to Virginia Tech, where he studied aerospace engineering and was able to tackle a co-op study with NASA.

Lamb, 29, already has had an exemplary career. A successful launch Thursday marked the largest of his major projects so far. He will monitor the mission for only the first 10 days of its year-long flight. After that he will move into an associate branch position managing software development.

Lamb isn't certain about the future of his career.

"I always wanted to be part of the manned flight program," he said. "In the back of my mind, maybe I want to go somewhere else."

As a former athlete and current scientist, the possibility remains of him getting to space as an astronaut.

Lamb is a model for others seeking to be successful.

"Anybody from anywhere can do anything they want," he said. "NASA hires from all over the nation."

Lamb noted that the best chance to work for the space agency comes from a background in science or engineering. He

Call James P. Hoffman Jr.
ATTORNEY AT LAW
to discuss your
legal rights

704-633-7710

Other Headlines

N.C. May jobless rate rises to 11.1 percent

Posted on Friday, June 19, 2009 2:32 PM

Court affirms teen's second-degree murder conviction

Posted on Friday, June 19, 2009 3:15 PM

Nights out end for teens on July 1 when curfew kicks in

Posted on Friday, June 19, 2009 5:58 AM

Fraud gets physician's assistant 20 months in prison

Posted on Friday, June 19, 2009 3:17 PM

Tax revenue down for county

Posted on Friday, June 19, 2009 7:05 AM

West Rowan grad in on effort to return astronauts to moon

Posted on Friday, June 19, 2009 7:04 AM

Food line: Quarterly giveaway draws huge crowd to Civic Center

Posted on Friday, June 19, 2009 1:20 AM

Some community college leaders want immigrants

Posted on Friday, June 19, 2009 1:06 PM

Nestle recalls Toll House cookie dough products

Posted on Friday, June 19, 2009 9:51 AM

More than 100 workers recalled to Freightliner's Gastonia plant

Posted on Friday, June 19, 2009 9:46 AM

Lamb noted that the best chance to work for the space agency comes from a background in science or engineering. He said NASA also hires a lot of public relations professionals, business and purchasing managers and contractors.

"It's not the highest paying position in the world," he said of his job. "But it's a darn good one."

He said the biggest payoff is the satisfaction from having a job you love. He noted that as an engineer, there was probably more money in a private company.

At a time when people are intensely focused on problems on Earth, it can be difficult for some to see the benefit of spending billions of dollars for space exploration. But Lamb offers this historical comparison:

"Space exploration is pushing the next frontier," he said. "Look back at Columbus, for example. He didn't know what was going to come of that. NASA's role in our country is to discover things we didn't know we'd discover."

NASA officials are looking at building a permanent base or colony on the moon that could provide important practice for more difficult missions to Mars and beyond. Some also believe the moon could be a potential source for helium-based fuels.



What do you think? Post your comment below.

Comments

SalisburyPost.com is pleased to offer readers the ability to comment on stories. We expect our readers to engage in lively, yet civil discourse.

SalisburyPost.com does not edit user submitted statements and we cannot promise that readers will not occasionally find offensive or inaccurate comments posted in the comments area. Responsibility for the statements posted lies with the person submitting the comment, not SalisburyPost.com. If you find a comment that is objectionable, please send us an email to webmaster@salisburypost.com with the article title and offensive post's contents and we will review it for possible removal.

Please be reminded, however, that in accordance with our Terms of Use and federal law, we are under no obligation to remove any third party comments posted on our website.

Comments

Login or signup now to comment.

There are no comments posted yet. Be the first one!

[Salisbury Homes For Sale](#)

See Salisbury NC Home Listings View Maps, Photos & Detailed Info

[Online Aerospace Degree](#)

Study aerospace online & earn a college degree. Learn how & apply.

TopAds

Featured Homes, Jobs, Vehicles and Classified Ads from the Salisbury Post

- Top Ads
- Autos
- Jobs
- Homes

- E Rowan. 2BR/2BA. Nice! Water, sewage, lawn care incl. \$425/mo + deposit. 704-279-1771 or 704-431-4
- Disney/Beach area. 7 days, 6 night stay with 2 Disney tickets. Paid \$750, sell for \$249. Good for 1
- China Grove. US Hwy 29 South. House zoned commercial/residential. For sale, lease or rent. Please ca
- Private country club is now accepting applications for the following food and beverage positions:

[View All Top Ads >](#)

No Top Automotive today

- Bail professionals, agencies, bail agents/runners wanted. Email mrbaillnc@msn.com or call 1-800-585-1
- Drivers A Great Opportunity with a Growing Company Due to increases in business, Swing Transport i
- Asst. Manager/Stylist. Tired of booth rental or low wages? For great pay/benefits, call 336-312-188
- Substitute organist(s) needed for the Christian Science Church in Salisbury. Please contact Music Co

[View All Top Jobs >](#)

- Cleveland, 3 BD, 2 BA 301 Johnstone Foreclosure!!! 2 car att cpt. Great opportunity. "As is"
- Salisbury. 4BR, 2BA. 5 minutes to East Rowan & Erwin! 1,585 square feet. 2.4 acres. Tax Value \$97,41

[View All Top Homes >](#)

No Top Homes today

Today's Newspaper Ads

- Announcements
- Automotive & Vehicles
- Community
- Home Improvement & Gardening
- Real Estate & Rentals
- Services
- Apparel & Jewelry

[Business & Finance](#)
[Dining & Entertainment](#)
[Medical](#)
[Recreation](#)
[Shopping](#)

Website Forms

[Birth Announcement](#)
[Birthdays](#)
[Business News](#)
[Celebrations Forms](#)
[Employee News](#)
[Feedback](#)
[Graduations](#)
[Hold your paper delivery](#)
[Letter to the Editor](#)
[Mailing List](#)
[Sponsorship](#)
[Subscribe](#)
[Worship directory submission](#)

Special Sections

[A Day In The Life](#)
[Autos Only Baby of the Year](#)
[Biotech 101](#)
[Bridal Page](#)
[Celebrations](#)
[Explorer](#)
[Faith 4th](#)
[Living Here](#)
[NC Statewide Classified Line Ad Network](#)
[Pops at the Post](#)
[Prime Time](#)
[Shop Local](#)
[Spring Home Improvement](#)
[Summer Fun](#)
[Taste of Home](#)
[Worship Directory](#)

[View All](#)

© 2008 Post Publishing Company, Inc. | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Staff Directory](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Kannapolis Citizen](#) | [Davie County Enterprise Record](#) | [Clemmons Courier](#)