



**Dr. Ryan Weber and
UAH Technical Writing Students,**

**The Society for Technical Communication
of Huntsville/North Alabama**

(stc-na.org)

and

The Huntsville AL L5 Society

(hal5.org)

Present

**The Write Stuff: The Authors Who
Chronicle Humanity's Outward Odyssey**

A Panel Discussion

Nebraska Press Authors of Space Related Books

Mediator David Hitt, Author

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

6:00 pm CDT until all questions are answered

To attend RSVP: Write-Stuff-Meeting-RSVP@outlook.com
and include your name and group affiliation.

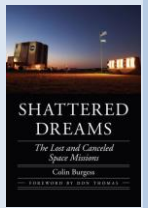
RSVP Due Date: Thursday, 9/10/2020 (first come, first serve)



**This event is FREE and requires RSVP.
Visit stc-na.org and HAL5.org for more information.**



Colin Burgess is a prolific author who has written over 30 books on the subject of human space exploration and whose titles include [Selecting the Mercury Seven](#), [Teacher in Space](#) in respect to Christa McAuliffe, [Fallen Astronauts](#), and most recently [Shattered Dreams](#). He and Francis French co-authored [Into That Silent Sea](#) and [In the Shadow of the Moon](#). Residing in Sydney, Australia, and a familiar face at many past Spacefest gatherings, Burgess also has served for the past 17 years as founder and Series Editor for the University of Nebraska's ongoing Outward Odyssey book series, and is tasked with locating and mentoring new spaceflight authors and guiding them through the publication process.



Michelle Evans is the founder and president of [Mach 25 Media](#) and is a writer, photographer, and communications specialist in aerospace. Michelle's background in aerospace engineering includes serving in the US Air Force working on missile systems and later in private industry accomplishing environmental testing for systems used in airliners and spacecraft. Michelle is a Distinguished Lecturer with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and her book [The X-15 Rocket Plane](#) was a finalist for the Eugene M. Emme Astronautical Literature Award. Michelle received the Diverse Community Leader Award from Orange County Human



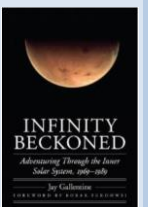
Relations and was recognized as one of the 100 Most Influential People in Orange County. She has appeared in numerous publications including Air & Space Smithsonian, Ad Astra, Orange County Register, Los Angeles Times, Time magazine, and the New York Times. Michelle was also a technical consultant on the Neil Armstrong biopic *First Man*.



Francis French brings International experience in relating science, engineering, music, astronomy, art, and wildlife to general audiences through classes, workshops, public speaking, television, and documentary productions. He is the author of numerous bestselling history books, including [In the Shadow of the Moon](#), co-author of Apollo 15 astronaut Al Worden's bestselling memoir, [Falling To Earth](#), co-author with Colin Burgess on [Into That Silent Sea](#), and author of [Apollo Pilot](#). He stands out as an international keynote speaker at conferences. <https://www.francisfrench.com>



Jay Gallentine has a reputation for stripping away technobabble to focus on the intimate human stories behind space missions. His politely uncouth, casual writing style makes the topic accessible and enjoyable, while retaining accuracy worthy of a reference. Jay's lively and animated public talks have been well-received in classrooms, at science museums, scout gatherings, and at space-themed conferences. His first book, [Ambassadors from Earth](#), detailing the turbulent early days of solar system exploration, was published in 2009 after five years of research. From the American Astronautical Society, his book received the 2009 Eugene M. Emme Astronautical Literature Award. This award recognizes outstanding books



published each year – serving public understanding about the positive impact of astronautics upon society. In 2015, Jay released [Infinity Beckoned](#). Like its predecessor, this book also utilizes original research and numerous interviews with those who did the work. *Infinity Beckoned* will explore such topics as how the Soviet Union put the first wheels on alien soil, why people still can't agree on whether or not life was found on Mars in 1976, and how far backwards the Russians bent in order to fly balloons on Venus.



David Hitt is co-author of two books, [Homesteading Space: The Skylab Story](#), written with astronauts Owen Garriott and Joe Kerwin, and [Bold They Rise: The Space Shuttle Early Years](#). David has worked at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center since 2002 and currently serves as a payload engagement strategist for NASA's Space Launch System. He works with scientists and mission developers interested in launching spacecraft on America's next-generation heavy-lift rocket that will return astronauts to the moon. A contractor employee with ASRC Federal, Hitt is a



recipient of the Silver Snoopy Award, which is given by NASA's astronaut office. A former newspaper editor, David is a native of Huntsville, AL, and holds a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Mississippi. He is a former chair of the National Space Society's policy formulation subcommittee and serves as a volunteer at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center museum in Huntsville. David is past president of the Huntsville Madison County Historical Society, director of the comedy troupe Comic Science Improv, and a tour guide for the Huntsville Ghost Walk. He and his wife, Rebecca, have one son, Owen. <http://davidhitt.net>



John Youskauskas is a commercial pilot with over thirty years of experience in the airline and corporate aviation industries. A former aircraft mechanic, he has logged nearly 10,000 hours in flight, including some 7,000 hours in jet aircraft. Currently a Captain for a major fractional jet operator, he also has served on numerous aviation safety boards throughout his career. He credits his childhood interest in manned spaceflight for his pursuit of an aviation profession. Growing up near Washington, D.C., and the National Air & Space Museum, he has had the opportunity to meet nearly all of the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo



astronauts. He co-authored with Melvin Croft on [Come Fly with Us](#). In addition to writing numerous aviation safety articles, he teamed with Colin Burgess and Mel Croft in contributing to [Footprints in the Dust](#) in which he chronicled the Apollo 12 lunar mission. He also contributed to Burgess and Kate Doolan's [Fallen Astronauts](#).

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