

GAS Team's First Payload | Projects | GAS

Tom Christensen

06/27/1982



Space Shuttle Columbia

GET AWAY SPECIAL | First Launch

G-001 Mission Summary:

USU's first GAS payload, also the world's first, flew on STS-4 which launched on June 27, 1982. G-001 was a very ambitious payload. One experiment grew successive generations of fruit flies to see if microgravity would affect their genetic structure. Other tests examined the effects of microgravity on epoxy resin-graphite composite curing, brine-shrimp genetics, duckweed root growth, soldering, homogenous alloy formation, surface tension, growth rate of algae, and thermal conductivity of a water and oil mixture. Two students flew Masters degree projects. The first was a survey of the distribution of temperature within the payload. The other was in response to the need for an affordable microcontroller. The student developed a controller for use in GAS canisters.

Space Shuttle Columbia

In 1981 Columbia was the first shuttle to reach space. Columbia carried dozens of astronauts into space during the next two decades, reaching several milestones.

Columbia also underwent upgrades as technology advanced.

However, the shuttle and a seven-member crew were lost over Texas when Columbia burned up during re-entry on Feb. 1, 2003. Columbia's loss prompted NASA to do extra safety checks in orbit for all future missions.

- First flight: STS-1 (April 12-14, 1981)
- Last flight: STS-107 (Jan. 16, 2003 - Feb. 1, 2003)
- Number of missions: 28
- Time in space: 300 days, 17 hours, 40 minutes, 22 seconds (Source: [CBS](#))
- Notable: Had the first flight of space shuttle program. Its last flight, STS-107, ended catastrophically and killed seven crew members.

Here at the GAS Team we are focused on providing opportunities to get involved in space.