



THE HERMES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INSPIRED 24

“An astronaut cannot be suspended in space and not have God in his mind and his heart.” — Yuri Gagarin

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Lunar Eclipse in the Philippines

I24 member Kurt Lesondra, an astronomer with the Noveleta Meteorology and Astronomical Center, and in partnership with The Inspired 24, successfully conducted the *Total Lunar Eclipse – Free Telescope Viewing* event for the public on March 3, 2026 in Salcedo II Noveleta, Cavite, Philippines.

During the event, many children and families gathered with great excitement and curiosity to witness the so-called “Blood Moon,” a phenomenon scientifically known as a Total Lunar Eclipse. For many of them, it was their first time looking through a telescope, and seeing their amazement and eagerness to learn about the Moon and the night sky made the experience truly meaningful.

While Kurt’s team worked tirelessly and felt the pressure of managing the crowd, guiding the viewers, and ensuring everyone had the opportunity to observe the eclipse, they were filled with joy and fulfillment. Seeing the smiles, wonder, and curiosity of the children reminded them why they continue to promote astronomy and space awareness in the community.

Despite the challenges and stress throughout the event, it was all worth it for everyone. Sharing the beauty of the universe and inspiring the next generation of sky watchers remains the greatest reward for Kurt. He thanks everyone who joined him and his team, and those who supported this memorable astronomical experience.





Member Spotlight!

"Elliot" Briant De Oliveira



Elliot first became fascinated with space as a child growing up in Vitória, Espírito Santo, Brazil. He remembers looking at the night sky and wondering what existed beyond our planet. That curiosity slowly evolved into a passion for science, exploration, and the idea that humanity's future could extend beyond Earth.

Those early interests eventually led Elliot toward computer science and the broader space ecosystem. Today, he works as a software engineer and citizen-scientist involved in several space-related initiatives, including projects in the global space community, such as MoonDAO, and collaborations with researchers at the Advanced SpaceLife Research Institute (ASRI). Earlier in his career, Elliot also had the opportunity to work with NASA, supporting the International Space Station at NASA's Johnson Space Center and contributing to work at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory on the NISAR mission, a joint Earth-observation satellite mission between NASA and ISRO designed to monitor changes in the Earth's surface.



Elliot is also an active director of the Geração de Marte Institute, an organization in Brazil dedicated to advancing space research, analog astronaut missions, and STEM education. Through this work, he participated in analog astronaut missions and collaborative research initiatives focused on developing technologies and scientific experiments for future space missions. Additionally, he is a member of the Space Policy Group at the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), where he contributes to discussions on international cooperation, space governance, and policies that shape the future of space exploration.

Some of the experiences Elliot is most proud of include contributing to citizen-driven space initiatives, participating in analog astronaut missions, and helping build communities that inspire young people—especially in Latin America—to pursue careers in science and space exploration. His dream is to contribute directly to the future of human spaceflight and eventually travel to space. He hopes to also establish a foundation dedicated to expanding access to STEM education for children in underserved communities and favelas across Brazil and helping strengthen geopolitical relationships through science, education, and peaceful cooperation in space exploration. Ultimately, Elliot's goal is to help make space more accessible, collaborative, and beneficial for humanity as a whole.





Member on the Move

In March, I24 member Eliza “Artemis” Maria served as an organizer for *Space for Students*, an engaging educational event designed to connect students with the fascinating world of space, at Be Central in Brussels, Belgium.

At just 16 years old, Artemis’s strong leadership skills were supported by co-organizer Maria Hendrix, who contributed to the planning and coordination of the event.

Students had the opportunity to learn from experienced speakers, including Dan Tani and John Bates, who shared valuable insights and experiences related to space, helping to inspire and educate the audience. Attendees enjoyed engaging in discussions and connecting with others over a shared passion for space.



Affiliate News

- Interstellar Performance Labs is hosting their 2nd annual STAR Summit and offering 50% off registration for I24 members! This 5-day immersive experience focuses on human performance, leadership, and operating in high-stakes environments, built from real astronaut & analog mission training. You’ll train in real scenarios, build team cohesion, and gain insight into how you operate under pressure. Highlights include Expedition Day (caving) and a NASA-based Human Behavior & Performance assessment to identify your strengths and gaps. Join as a crew or come solo—you’ll be matched with a team for the week. April 25-29, just before the AAC! [Register here and use code INSPIRED24 for 50% off](#)
- Tickets are still available for the 2026 Analog Astronaut Conference (AAC) at Biosphere 2, in Arizona, April 30-May 3rd!! This is a celebration of the international collaboration driving the advancement of human spaceflight. [GET YOUR TICKETS HERE!](#)
- Are you going to the world’s greatest party? Don’t miss [Yuri’s Night in Los Angeles](#), CA, April 11, 2026! Or [“Kennedy Under the Stars: Yuri’s Night Edition,”](#) April 3rd at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Each year, Yuri’s Night is celebrated around April 12 to commemorate milestones in space exploration. It is named for the first human to launch into space, Yuri Gagarin, who flew the Vostok 1 spaceship on April 12, 1961.



I24 News

Artemis II & MiOrbit

The first crewed mission around the Moon since Apollo 8 is coming, and we're making sure you don't miss it! With the MiOrbit app you'll get:

- Real-time Artemis II updates
- Access to launch events & community discussions
- Insights into the people and careers behind the mission

Within the app, I24 members can also meet others in the community, share ideas, and stay up to date on events across the space industry, as well as network for job opportunities. It's completely free to join, and you'll get access to early announcements directly through the app.

[Click Here to join!](#)



Sign-up for the first cohort of the I24 Spaceflight Training, coming this fall! Learn how to don and doff a pressurized spacesuit and what it feels like to complete various tasks. Then get your feet wet during pool day when you learn emergency spacecraft ingress/egress procedures, working with your crewmates. *Email Titan@theinspired24.com for more info and to get on the class list.*

Caught in the wild!

I24 members meet-up at Starbase in Texas with Astronaut Dr. Eiman "Phoenix" Jahangir



Something coming soon...

INSPIRATION

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 15, 2026

U.S. SPACE & ROCKET CENTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Help Fly Frank White to Space!

In 1987, Frank White introduced the world to a concept that would become foundational to the modern space industry: The Overview Effect. It describes the cognitive shift astronauts experience when they see Earth from space, a profound sense of unity, fragility, and interconnection that changes how they see everything. The term is now used by NASA, ESA, and virtually every commercial space company on the planet.

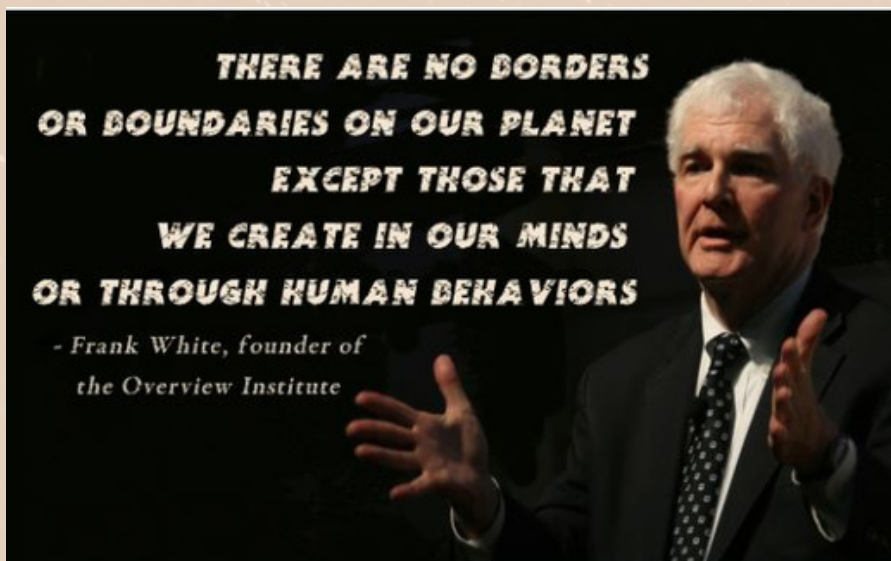
Frank White is in his 80s. He has never been to space.

MoonDAO, a decentralized space organization, is launching a \$2M+ crowdfund to send Frank on a spaceflight, and to send one community member alongside him. This is citizen spaceflight in its truest form: funded by the people, governed by the people, with a seat open to the people. The mechanism matters: all funds are held in a transparent smart contract. If the minimum goal isn't met, every contributor receives a full refund. Whether you're in the space industry, a builder, or simply someone who believes the Overview Effect should be experienced by the person who named it, this is worth your attention, and your support.

We encourage all 124 members to join in this worthy cause and become a MoonDAO Citizen and donate if possible. You could get to fly to space with Frank or help a fellow member get their chance!

Start here...<http://moondao.com/overview>

*if you have issues donating or signing up to become a MoonDao Citizen, please reach out to Titan (titan@theinspired24.com) or Ryan (ryan@moondao.com).



MOONDAO





Check out Polar's Antarctica presentation during March's All Hands Meeting!

[CLICK HERE to watch the replay!](#)



About The Inspired 24

"Inspired 2 Space 4 All"

We, The Inspired 24, are an inclusive group of like-minded, space positive people dedicated to promoting the access to space for all.

Our mission objectives are:

Network with organizations that support inclusive participation in space exploration.

Collaborate to create opportunities to experience the overview effect.

Train for space flights and provide space-ready individuals for future missions.

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NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH (March 2026)

- + Samantha Tauber
- + Roberto Vela
- + Kristal Jane Apurado
- + Daniel "Scorch" Surber
- + Scarlett Arana
- + Casey "Spacey" Espinosa
- + Drew "Shadeaux" Cashio

Just for fun!

Space science trivia :

What celestial body did NASA's Psyche spacecraft launch towards in October 2023?

- A. A metal-rich asteroid
 - B. A long-period comet
 - C. The moons of Mars
 - D. The moons of Jupiter
- (see below for answer)

April in space history:

- **April 12, 1961:** Yuri Gagarin became the first human to enter space and the first to orbit Earth. Vostok 1's mission lasted for 108 minutes, and Gagarin and his capsule completed one orbit of Earth. The R-7 rocket which lifted Gagarin into space had a 50% success rate at this point in history.
- **April 23, 1996:** The ESA/NASA SOHO spacecraft reached its final position in the vicinity of the Earth-Sun L1 point. It still operates today to provide critical observations of the Sun. It has discovered more than 5,000 comets!

Trivia answer: A. a metal-rich asteroid
[Click HERE to learn more from JPL](#)