

A Note from the Editor

With numerous international launches occurring last year, space exploration has renewed its promise to expand human knowledge past earthen boundaries. Recent missions to uncover the secrets of Mars would have been unthinkable only decades ago, when the first scientists and astronauts led humanity into uncharted skies. One of these early innovators, Mr. Richard (Dick) Covey, brought his unique experiences and hope for the future of space exploration to Purdue Honors College, as speaker for the Spring 2021 session of the Visiting Scholars Series.

Mr. Dick Covey is best known for his involvement with NASA since 1979, when he first became an astronaut. During his first major mission, he piloted the STS-51I craft and helped repair the SYNCO M IV-3 satellite in 1985. Mr. Covey also played a large role in another repair mission, serving as the commander of the STS-61 to service the Hubble telescope in 1993. Between these launches, Covey piloted the STS-26 for NASA's "Return to Space" initiative, following the Challenger disaster. He has since retired from space travel, but his work continues: from 2007-2010, Mr. Covey led the United Space Alliance as its Chief Executive Officer. He has received numerous awards for his service in the Airforce and NASA, including two Defense Distinguished Service Medals, the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement, and the NASA Distinguished Service Medal. Another fact about Mr. Covey that will be of great interest to some readers: he is a Purdue alumnus from the class of 1969.

The history of space travel is one of faith in mankind, courage beyond measure, and willingness to persevere forward. Mr. Covey knows a thing or two about pushing through adverse, seemingly impossible odds. His example shows us that hard work should not be avoided and that it feels lighter when common humanity works together.

About the Editor

Jannine Huby is an undergraduate student at Purdue University, where she is dual majoring in Political Science and Global Studies with a minor in Professional Writing. She is an active member of Purdue's Honors College and a representative for the College of Liberal Arts on the Honors Leadership Council (HLC). Around campus, Jannine can also be seen performing her duties as a Resident Assistant and as a member of Student English Association (SEA).