CARRYING THE TORCH-CHOPIN PROJECT

# Elizabeth Ardoin, #1 and Allison Fusilier, #8

# Space Exploration

**SALLY RIDE**

## THE FIRST AMERICAN WOMEN TO ENTER OUTER SPACE AND THE YOUNGEST AMERICAN TO ENTER OUTER SPACE AT THE TIME

****

Sally Ride was born on May 26, 1951 in Encino, CA. She is the oldest child of Carol Joyce and Dale Burdell Ride. She grew up in Los Angeles and attended collage at Swarthmore College then transferred to Stanford University where she received a degree in English and Physics. She was always interested in science and was also a nationally ranked tennis player.

* Sally Ride was the first American woman and the youngest American ever to enter outer space. In

1983, she was the first woman to explore space, aboard the space shuttle *Challenger*.

* She was one of 8900 people to answer an application to enter the space program. Only 35 people were accepted and 6 were women. This was in the 1970s and there were not many women working in the field of space exploration.
* Sally Ride’s strong determination helped her stick with her goals and accomplish the great things she has today.
* Sally Ride’s accomplishments as an astronaut and a female in her field have paved the way for many others, both men and women, in space exploration. Sally Ride is a great example for others, such as Mae Jemison, another female astronaut. She is the president and CEO of her company, Sally Ride Science which creates entertaining science programs for upper elementary and middle school students, particularly girls. She has co-written five books about space, encouraging children to study space and science. She has received many awards and recognition for her achievements.
* Sally Ride became deeply interested in becoming an astronaut after she decided that she was not good enough at tennis to make it a career. She has been inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame and the Astronaut Hall of Fame. Two elementary schools in the United States have been named after her.

**MAE JEMISON**

**THE FISRT AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN TO TRAVEL IN OUTER SPACE**

Mae Jemison was born on October 17, 1956 in Decatur, AL. Chicago Illinois is where she grew up. Charlie Jemison and Dorothy Green are her parents. She received a degree in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University, which she enrolled in at age 16. She also received her Doctor of Medicine Degree from Cornell Medical College. She was always interested in science, drama, space, traveling, photography, sewing, skiing, collecting African Art, languages, weight training, and reading. Besides English, she can also speak Russian, Japanese, and Swahili. She worked in the Peace Corps from 1983-1985.

****

* Mae Jemison was the first African-American woman to enter outer space. She was aboard the

Space Shuttle *Endeavour* on September 12, 1992.

* She was turned down on her first application to NASA, but in 1987 she was accepted on her second application. She became one of the fifteen candidates accepted from over 2000 applicants. She also faced great discrimination from her professors and peers during her college years.
* After Sally Ride’s accomplishment, Jemison felt that the space program had opened up enough for her to apply. Her inspiration for joining NASA was African American actress Nichelle Nichols, who portrayed Commander Uhura on the TV series Star Trek. She was also inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. She felt that his dream was a call to action. His attitude of audacity and bravery gave her the courage to pursue her dream to enter space.
* She was on a list of 100 Greatest African Americans in 2002. She founded the Company, Jemison Group to research, market, and develop science and technology for use in daily life. She also founded the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence. One of it’s projects is The Earth We Share which is a camp for students 12-16 that work to solve current global problems. Mae Jemison also founded Bioscience Corp and has been working to develop a portable device that allows mobile monitoring of the involuntary nervous system. She is a Professor-at-Large at Cornell University and was a professor of Environmental Studies at Dartmouth College from 1995-2002. She has received a tremendous amount of recognition for her many accomplishments over the years.

* Mae Jemison appeared on an episode of Star Trek: *The New Generation* in 1993. She was the first real astronaut to ever appear on Star Trek. She also appeared in other films over the years.

**\**

**Public Service Announcement**

**This week is national women’s week! Women all across America should take advantage of this day to learn about women just like them who sacrificed much to change the way society looks at women. Brave women over the years have stood up against the social norms to do what they thought was right. These women have set a great example for all young girls and women. Women in the past had to work very hard to earn the rights that women have today. Two important women in history that exceeded the expectations of women at the time are Sally Ride and Mae Jemison. Sally ride was the youngest person at the time to go to outer space. She was also the first American woman to do so. She served as a role model for Mae Jemison. Jemison was the first African American woman to go to outer space. Being African American, she had to face much racial discrimination on her journey to become a success. Being a woman made it even harder. She stuck with her goal and did not give up even through the hardships she faced, even after she was once turned down by NASA. Their efforts, along with many other women, have made life much easier for women today, and we should take this week to recognize and honor them.**

**Citations**

"Astronaut Bio:Mae C. Jemison." NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas. Mar. 1993. Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center. 26 Mar. 2009 <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/jemison-mc.html>.

"Dreamers Who Made a Difference." The Boeing Company. Boeing. 26 Mar. 2009 <http://www.boeing.com/companyoffices/aboutus/wonder\_of\_flight/timeline.html>.

"Engineering Exploration Opportunities." Society of Women Engineers - SWE. 26 Mar. 2009 <http://www.swe.org/regione/OpeningEngineering/engineering\_exploration\_opportunities.htm>.

"Mae Jemison -." Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 7 Mar. 2009. Wikimedia Foundation Inc. 26 Mar. 2009 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mae\_Jemison>.

"Sally Ride -." Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 25 Mar. 2009. Wikimedia Foundation Inc. 26 Mar. 2009 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sally\_Ride>.