About the Author

Von L. Burton, a 23-year veteran of the Marshall Space Flight Center, is responsible for the reduction of data generated by payloads that fly onboard the space shuttle. In addition he is an adjunct professor of statistics at Athens State College, Alabama, where he received an Outstanding Teaching Award in 1982.

Burton's work experience has involved such projects as: optimizing the flight trajectory of the Saturn V moon rocket; planning advanced space vehicles, satellites and payloads; performing mission operations analysis on payloads; and developing payload requirements for a space platform.

Recognized by NASA with two Outstanding Achievement Awards and a Sustained Superior Performance Award, Burton received a Space Concept Development Team Award for his initial conceptual creations in the origination of Spacelab and an IUS Failure Investigation and Anomaly Recovery Team Award.

Burton holds a B.A. in mathematics from Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia; an M.B.A. from Alabama A & M University, Huntsville; and a D.Sc. in computer sciences and systems, specializing in data communications from Southeastern Institute of Technology, Huntsville, Alabama.