



## Edward Cheung

Principal Engineer  
Jackson & Tull

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Ed was born on the Caribbean island of Aruba. As a young child, he knew he would become an electrical engineer on the day he dropped his transistor radio, and the back fell off. Seeing the tiny components inside that performed all the magic, he decided right then to pursue the field of electronics. Later, he also recalls being awakened in the middle of the night to see the first humans walk on the Moon, and marveled at the wonder of it all. He was quite certain that electronics played a big role in the effort, and concluded that he could work both in the business of space travel and electronics.

Ed's career at NASA started in 1991 when another NASA engineer attended a session of his doctoral dissertation at a robotics conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. After obtaining his Ph.D. from Yale, Ed leveraged this contact to join the robotics lab at Goddard. Within a few years, he transferred to the *Hubble* program, where he now works. Ed's expertise in electronics was applied to help design both the diode box controller, which is used to control *Hubble's* power system, and the Near Infrared Camera Multi-Object Spectrometer (NICMOS) cooling system, which revived the NICMOS science instrument after it lost the ability to stay cryogenically cold. Speaking of this latter effort, Ed says: "I've had the wonderful opportunity to see the development of a system from its initial concept through the design phase and into a fully tested system that is ready for space. Even more thrilling was seeing it fastened into the Space Shuttle for the ride into space, and watching the astronauts install it into *Hubble*. It's very rewarding to know that your work now directly contributes to the advance of man's scientific knowledge."

Ed frequently returns to Aruba, and enjoys giving lectures to school children about *Hubble* and its many accomplishments. Over the years, he has had the honor of being named "1998 Aruba Man of the Year," being inducted as a member of the Aruba Hall of Fame, and even having his kindergarten classroom named in his honor!

Outside work, Ed enjoys inline skating with his children. They usually skate together five or more hours per week. He also collects pinball machines. Of the five he owns, his pride is a 1985 Williams "Space Shuttle" machine that he personally restored. Parts of this machine were signed by such famous space luminaries as astronaut John Grunsfeld and *Apollo 13* Flight Director Gene Kranz.