



Dr. Edward Cheung



The man who made Aruba part of the NASA space program

Many Arubans have gone out into the world to make a name for themselves, some are creating a big splash in the fashion world, sports, and other arenas that put them in the spotlight. Perhaps the name Dr. Ed Cheung does not come to the minds of many so readily, but without this native son of Aruba, the Hubble Space Telescope would have long ago been a defunct part of the NASA space program. Because of the ingenuity and brilliance of Ed, who is the Principle Engineer of the Hubble Space Telescope Service Project, and his team, a fault in the original construction was remedied and the telescope saved from certain destruction. In March of 2002, when it was discovered that the cooling system was failing, Dr. Cheung and his crew devised the ASCS/NCS Relay Unit Breaker Assembly, or better known in the acronyms so popular in the tech world, A.R.U.B.A., in homage to his beloved homeland.

Since 2006 Ed has been working on a new camera for the telescope that will bring in images of space for study that have never been recorded before. The mission is scheduled for the summer of 2008, and Ed will be there for the launching at Cape Kennedy, and then for several months supervising the mission out of Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Throughout the mission, he will be supervising the installation of the new camera and repair of another. Ed acquired a PH.D in Electrical Engineering from Yale University, with his specialty is robotics thanks to a scholarship from Phillips Electronics and NASA. Aside from his work on the Hubble telescope, he holds the patents for other robotic electrical inventions.

Ed and his wife Agnes, both from Aruba, reside in Maryland with their two children Stephanie and Christopher, close to the Goddard Space Center, where maintenance and new equipment for the Hubble is constructed. They travel annually to Aruba to spend the Christmas holidays with their family and on a number of occasions, during his times spent on the island. Ed has visited local schools to lecture to the students about the Hubble project and to inspire them to apply themselves to their studies and "reach for the stars." Dr. Cheung confesses that he devised the acronym to excite and stimulate interest in space and engineering amongst young students back on his home island. All Arubans watched with great emotion as the ARUBA Box mission was telecast worldwide, and Dr. Ed Cheung sent Aruba into outer space! In the summer of 2005, a science lab constructed in what is now a middle school in San Nicolas, but was the kindergarten he attended when he was four years old, was dedicated in his name, in the island's response to his bringing pride and honor to his homeland.