

USC Engineer

A Journal for Alumni & Friends
USC Viterbi School of Engineering

Gray Matters

USC Teams with
Israel's Technion to
Investigate Neural
Arithmetic

Postcards from Paris

Viterbi School
Students Discover
the City of Light

Thought for Food

Computer Science
Provides Better
Nutrition

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"It shrank the world from seven days to seven hours for a transatlantic crossing," Adamson says.

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➤ STRAIGHT & to the



A New Frontier: **ASTRONAUTICS AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY DIVISION**

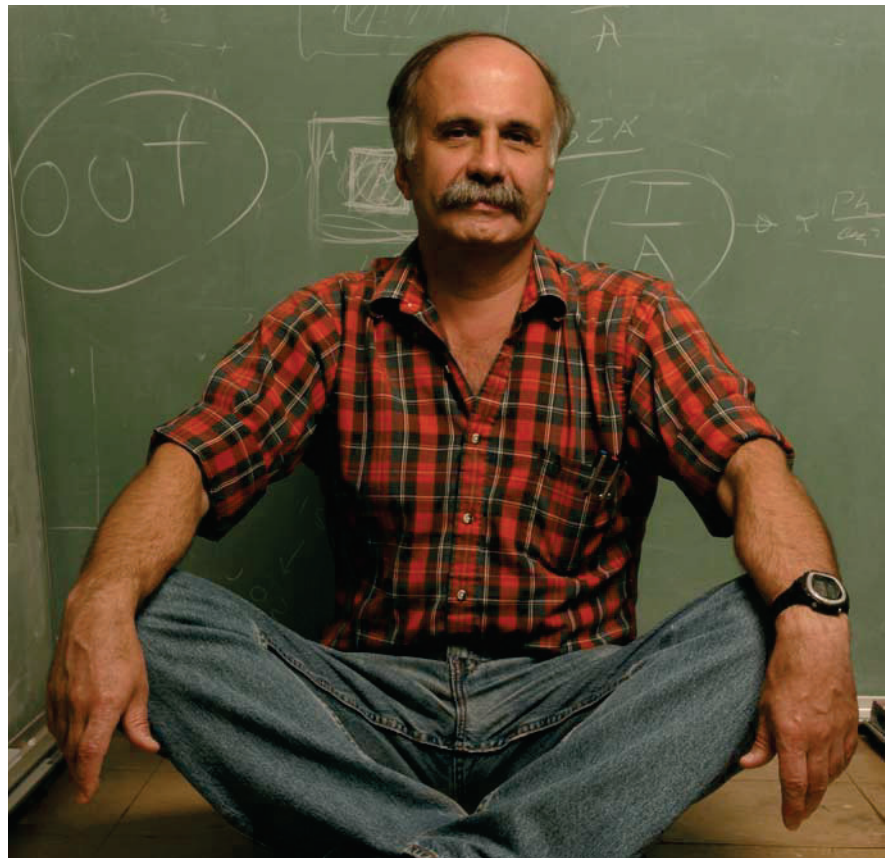
In order to position the USC Viterbi School, to take full advantage of rapidly growing opportunities in space, in August, Dean Nikias announced the creation of a new Astronautics and Space Technology Division (ASTD).

“Following the drastic funding cutbacks in the early 1990s, space technology and astronautics has recently re-emerged as an important sector of economic and engineering activity not only in the Southern California economy but also in the nation as a whole,” he said. “Both defense applications and space exploration projects are driving this resurgence. However, recent congressional studies have warned of a looming shortage of engineers in this area.”

The dean appointed Professor Mike Gruntman as chair of the division. Other faculty are Professors Joseph Kunc and Daniel Erwin. All three will continue to have courtesy appointments in the department of aerospace and mechanical engineering. Secondary ASTD appointments went to Professors Stan Settles, Joseph Sullivan and Peter Will, from the Information Sciences Institute (ISI).

ASTD will be solely responsible for all research and degree programs in astronautics and space technology. It will offer a program in astronautics and space technology concentrating on meeting the educational and research needs of the space and defense industries. The new division has already taken responsibility for 24 courses formerly in the department of aerospace and mechanical engineering.

The division will function as an



Mike Gruntman

independent academic unit within the USC Viterbi School similar to a department. It will be governed by the same rules and policies and the division chair will report directly to the dean. Like departments, the division will establish an advisory board with members from industry, government laboratories and academia.

“For more than a year, the USC Viterbi School of Engineering with strong support from ISI has been engaged in a carefully orchestrated effort to secure major funding in space technology,” said Nikias. “I expect the creation of the new division will help bring these efforts to fruition, and look forward to the continuing close collaboration with ISI.”