

find out how to resolve these problems,” she said. “Meanwhile, we were still being evaluated on how well we completed our assigned experiments.”

“It was a little stressful and exhausting,” she admitted. “By the end of the day (camp ended at 10 p.m.), we were punch-drunk and all we wanted to do was go to sleep.”

On Day 2, the team climbed into a small booth to experience what astronauts feel when they are taking off or landing in a space shuttle. “We were subjected to 3G force [1G is the normal pull of the Earth’s gravity on the body], and it felt like we were free-falling on a roller-coaster ride.”

Then it was on to the F-16 jet fighter simulator, which they had to “fly” to an assigned destination and track targets. “The F-16 training was not very in-depth and some us became frustrated and bored, so we crash-landed,” she said.

After they built and launched tiny replicas of rockets, they were off to mission control, where Ms. Boyle served as the communications commander and transmitted messages to the shuttle’s astronauts about proper launch sequence, weather updates, instructions for docking with the space station and coordinates to land.

But just as she was relaying the information, “alarms in the space station were going off indicating an array of

Space Camp

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Courtesy of U.S. Space and Rocket Center

On the grounds of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala.



Courtesy of U.S. Space and Rocket Center

The mission complex center.

problems in the shuttle,” she said, which involved checking protocol and transmitting that information to the shuttle commander.

Before the day drew to a close, the team took a simulated moon walk, which “was kind of like walking and jumping, because the moon has one-sixth the gravity of Earth,” she said.

On Day 3, the final leg of the mission, the team played “Space Jeopardy” and was grilled on the highlights of the space program and space history. “Our team lost the game but we won the Best Mission Award for successfully landing the space shuttle, completing the space station experiments and handling the emergencies well,” she said.

While Ms. Boyle has gained a new respect for astronauts, the space camp taught her lessons about the gravity of life.

“Sometimes you don’t try things because you are afraid of failure,” she said, “but you don’t know what you’re capable of until you try. Looking to the future, I won’t be afraid of trying new things.”

For more information about adult space camp, go to www.spacecamp.com.

Radiology Department Extends Patient Hours

South Nassau’s Department of Radiology has extended its outpatient hours. The department is now open for radiology testing Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (516) 632-3921.

Radiology Receives Re-accreditation

South Nassau’s Radiology Department has been re-accredited by the American College of Radiology, a national accrediting organization in Reston, Va. The organization assesses qualifications of the personnel and adequacy of the facility’s equipment. The department was accredited for a three-year term.