

Report on Interactive Talk on “To Infinity and Beyond: Introduction to NASA and Its Mission”

Date of the event	05/11/2024
Title of the Event	Interactive Talk on “To Infinity and Beyond: Introduction to NASA and Its Mission”
Name of the Resource Speaker	Mr. Gabe Gabrielle, NASA contractor, Kennedy space centre
No. of Participants	134
Venue	Rajalakshmi Seminar Hall

The interactive talk on "*To Infinity and Beyond: Introduction to NASA and Its Mission*" was held at Rajalakshmi seminar hall on **November 5, 2024**, between **04.00 PM and 05.30 PM**. Organized by the astronomy club in association with the department of Aeronautical and Aerospace engineering for the **134 student participants**, the event aimed to give an overview among students about NASA, its vision, and its significant contributions to space exploration. Pathways to NASA: A Guide. Insights into the various career paths and qualifications necessary to pursue a career at NASA. NASA missions and key specifications, a detailed examination of major NASA missions, their objectives, and the technological innovations involved. Conclusion and human workflow at NASA. A summary of NASA's achievements and a discussion on the collaborative workflow that drives success within the organization.

About the Guest:

Mr. Gabe Gabrielle is a dedicated NASA contractor with an impressive 17-year track record at the Kennedy space centre. Gabe has been instrumental in securing vital infrastructure funding for NASA and has championed inclusivity through the disability awareness and action working group. In addition to his crucial work, he has been a captivating speaker at NASA's speakers bureau for over 10 years, sharing fascinating stories about space exploration, including missions to the moon and mars. Gabe's passion for education extends beyond his work at NASA. He has actively engaged with schools, inspiring students to pursue careers in STEAM fields. He emphasises the importance

of setting goals and encouraging young minds to develop a positive outlook and unwavering self-belief. He inspires children to dream big and reach for the stars with his infectious enthusiasm. Gabe has visited 350 schools throughout the US, speaking to over 55,000 students. In 2014, he was requested by the American embassy in Qatar to support a weeklong community outreach on the 10th anniversary of Mars rovers. He has visited 185 schools in Norway, Denmark, Germany, Trinidad, Qatar, and Brazil, speaking with 33,000 students. Also, visited South Africa and spoke to over 8,000 students while supporting both NASA and American embassy outreach. Gabe visited around 50 schools and institutions across India in 2019, 2022 and 2023 and interacted with over 15,000 students. A 2016 recipient of the Central Florida Aerospace Academy Ray Lien Award for excellence in aerospace education. He is also a sighted guide for a triathlete who is blind.

About the Guest Lecture:

The event commenced with a warm welcome to Mr. Gabe Gabrielle by Dr. A C Niranjanappa, Dean of Research, warmly welcomed the guest with a flower bouquet.



Fig 1: (From Left) Dr. A C Niranjanappa, Mr. Gabe Gabrielle and Dr. Vinu M Kuriakose.

Mr. Gabe Gabrielle provided a comprehensive overview among students about NASA.

- **NASA's Vision and Contributions:** Mr. Gabrielle shared NASA's purpose and core mission to explore and understand the universe.
- **Pathways and Careers at NASA:** He offered detailed insights into the qualifications, skills, and experiences that can help individuals pursue a career at NASA, emphasizing the importance of STEAM fields (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics).

- **NASA Missions:** Mr. Gabrielle highlighted NASA's major space exploration projects, including Moon and Mars missions, explaining the technologies that make these missions possible.
- **Human Workflow at NASA:** He discussed the collaborative and inclusive culture at NASA, which encourages teamwork and diversity in achieving groundbreaking advancements.
- **Inspiring Stories:** Gabe shared personal stories and mission experiences, which captivated the audience and made NASA's work relatable.
- **Inspirational Impact:** Many students expressed that the talk inspired them to consider careers in the aerospace field and to pursue STEAM subjects with renewed motivation.
- **Encouragement and Motivation:** Mr. Gabrielle's talk motivated aspiring scientists and engineers, stressing the importance of self-belief and goal setting.



Fig 2: Mr. Gabe Gabrielle engaged the audience with his research insights and thoughts.



Fig 3: Mr. Gabe Gabrielle engaged the audience with his research insights and thoughts.

Following the lecture, students actively participated in a Q&A session, clarifying doubts and seeking advice from the expert. Mr. Gabrielle actively engaged with the audience, answering questions about NASA's projects, career advice, and future missions. Students were encouraged to ask questions and participate, creating a lively and interactive atmosphere. The 134 undergraduate students attending were highly engaged, asking questions and participating in discussions. Many students expressed that the talk inspired them to consider careers in the aerospace field and to pursue STEAM subjects with renewed motivation.



Picture 4: Students clarifying doubts and seeking advice from the expert.

Outcome of the Event:

The interactive talk on " *To Infinity and Beyond: Introduction to NASA and Its Mission* " proved to be highly informative and inspirational for both students and faculty alike. It provided valuable insights into the workings of NASA and its mission to explore the universe. Participants got a deeper understanding of the career opportunities available in the aerospace field and how to pursue them. Additionally, engaging with an experienced speaker provides inspiration and motivation for aspiring scientists and engineers, highlighting the importance of teamwork and innovation in achieving groundbreaking advancements in space exploration. Students gained valuable knowledge on how to navigate educational and career paths to pursue opportunities at NASA or in aerospace.

Dr. A C Niranjanappa, Dean of Research, expressed gratitude to Mr. Gabrielle for his inspiring session.

Club Coordinator

Head of the Department

[Dr. P. MANIKANDAN]