



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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***From Here to There and Making Astronauts: Bucks County to the Moon* exhibits open at the Mercer Museum on Friday, May 31, 2019**

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. – The Mercer Museum is pleased to announce two concurrent exhibits opening in the Martin & Warwick Foundation Galleries from Friday, May 31, 2019 – September 8, 2019, *From Here to There* and *Making Astronauts: Bucks County to the Moon*.

From Here to There is a hands-on, family exhibit that explores the science of how things move from place to place. Twelve different educational interactive stations provide an engaging opportunity to learn about gravity, friction and the laws of motion and physics. The 1,500 square foot exhibition is color-coded and divided into three main categories: transportation by land, sea and air.

Guests can ride a hovercraft to experience how air pressure works, turn up the heat to launch a hot air balloon, experiment with pneumatics, pulleys, hydraulics and levers to see what kind of mechanical advantage works best in each environment.

The Rochester Museum & Science Center of Rochester, NY and the Sciencenter of Ithaca, NY developed *From Here to There* as part of the **Traveling Exhibits At Museums of Science (TEAMS)** collaborative. Funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, *From Here to There* is sponsored locally by Marv and Dee Ann Woodall.

The second exhibit, *Making Astronauts: Bucks County to the Moon*, is an original Mercer Museum exhibit created in collaboration with the Johnsville Centrifuge and Science Museum. This exhibit highlights the extraordinary role of the Warminster-based Naval Air Development Center (NADC)-Johnsville in America's early space program. From Mercury to Apollo, the NADC

helped train the astronauts who ultimately achieved putting a man on the moon by the end of the 1960s.

“This is an exhibit that may surprise our community, as many may be unaware that in order to get to the moon our earliest astronauts first had to come through Bucks County,” says Mercer Museum Vice President of Collections and Interpretation Cory Amsler. “As the 50th anniversary of America’s first moon landing approaches on July 20, *Making Astronauts: Bucks County to the Moon* is a relevant and timely exhibit to showcase at the Mercer Museum.”

Training at the NADC centered on the Aviation Medical Acceleration Laboratory and its giant human centrifuge – then the world’s largest – in which scientists, engineers and astronauts learned how to prepare for and manage the rigors of space flight. No astronaut journeyed into space, or stepped onto the moon, without first riding the Johnsville centrifuge.

The many historic artifacts, images and multimedia components in this exhibit, most on view for the first time, include period film clips, a replica spacecraft, Navy flight clothing and interactive opportunities.

“The Johnsville Centrifuge and Science Museum is excited to partner with the Mercer Museum on this original exhibit to showcase the science and technology that changed history and catapulted the U.S. space program,” added Vice President of the Johnsville Centrifuge and Science Museum Mark Calhoun.

The Mercer Museum will host a wide array of community programs throughout the summer related to the *Making Astronauts: Bucks County to the Moon* exhibit, including special behind-the-scenes tours, space-themed kids crafting days, and an exciting family celebration on the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing on Saturday, July 20, 2019.

Making Astronauts: Bucks County to the Moon is sponsored by Visit Bucks County, Bucks County Foundation, Dynasty Advisors, LLC, Susan E. Kane, Cascade Foundation, Lisa Kristin Soren, Dr. Christine McGinn of Papillon Center, and Brian and Louise McLeod.

Admission to both exhibits is included with general museum admission. The Mercer Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. For pricing and additional information, please visit mercermuseum.org.

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About the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle

Located in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are historic castles celebrating the legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), American archaeologist, anthropologist, ceramicist and scholar. Both sites are operated by the Bucks County Historical Society.

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier cultural attractions and a Smithsonian affiliate, features both local and national seasonal exhibits as well as a core museum collection of over 50,000 pre-Industrial tools. This permanent collection offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America through sixty different crafts and trades, and is one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of American material culture. The museum also features a research library that is a center for local history related to Bucks County and the surrounding region, with its roots dating back to the founding of the Bucks County Historical Society in 1880.

The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street in Doylestown, PA and is open year-round. For up-to-date schedule and admission information, please visit mercermuseum.org or call 215-345-0210.

For additional information, please contact:

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