

Is this 'a first' for the OM Society? The first UK former pupils' organisation to have one of its fashion accessories – our unisex lapel pin – leave earth and venture into space as ours did?

In March 2011, the very last voyage of the space shuttle "Discovery", which had flown more missions than any other spaceship in history, the pin (and our official OMS tie which stayed in the shuttle) circumnavigated the earth 202 times, covering 5,304,140 million miles at 5 miles a second. The front cover shows the pin outside the capsule, in space, with the arc of the earth below and 200 miles away. In June 2011, the entire crew of 6 came to Millfield and officially returned the accessories. They spent the rest of the day meeting and talking to Millfield pupils at both junior and senior schools, a wonderful 'science in action' interaction with the fortunate youngsters. Millfield was the only independent school in the country to host the crew.



Nicole Stott, with Chris, returns the OMS pin and tie to Rod Speed, Chairman, and John Davies, Secretary

And how did this all come about? Chris Stott's (1982-88; Etonhurst) wife, Nicole, was one of the 6 astronauts, Chris contacting the OMS to make the necessary arrangements. Nicole is one of NASA's most experienced astronauts, a "mission specialist", having flown well over 100 days in space. We are most grateful to both of them.