

RENOWNED SPACE JOURNALIST

A BLAST

It has to do with rocket science

BY JIM QUIGG, STAFF WRITER

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PHOTOS BY JAMES QUIGG, DAILY PRESS
HISTORIAN SPEAKS:
Science journalist and space historian Andrew
Chaikin speaks with Academy for Academic
Excellence students Wednesday during his visit to
the school.



APPLE VALLEY

- Space journalist Andrew Chaikin's job is to write about events in space that are truly "out of this world."



On Wednesday he shared a few of those tales with students at the Lewis Center for Educational Research.

A favorite was about astronaut Bill Anders' first sight of the moon on Apollo 8, the first manned mission to orbit the moon.

"He could see more stars than he had ever seen before, except this black round shape in the stars, like a hole in the stars," Chaikin said. "Then he realized this hole in the stars was the moon. As they came on it and knew it was big, it was close, and if they were off target they would hit it."

"Anders said it was eerie — the hair on the back of his neck stood up. Then he said to himself, 'Come on, Anders, you're not supposed to feel this way,' and got back to his assigned tasks.

JAMES QUIGG, DAILY PRESS

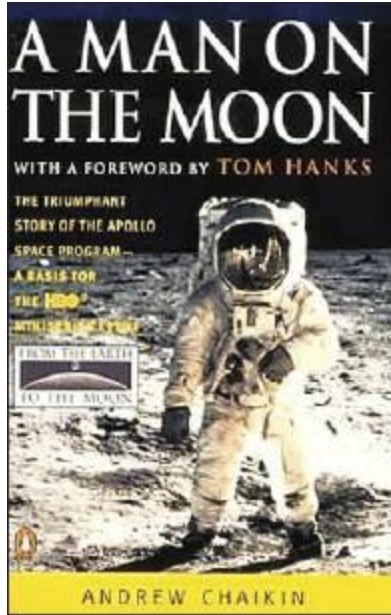
AMBASSADOR: One of the Academy of Academic Excellence Ambassadors listens to Andrew Chaikin's discussion with the small group of students. Chaikin's visited the campus to help motivate them for their next NASA associated research project.

“That, to me, was gold,” Chaikin said . “That’s what I wanted to say with this book.”

Chaikin is best known for writing “A Man on the Moon: The Triumphant Story of the Apollo Space Program,” about those who made moon missions possible.

Chaikin’s visit to the school was part of preparations for the school’s participation in NASA’s LCROSS mission to the moon. The school will be participating in the mission and Chaikin’s role was to motivate the students.

“I’ve had great questions from these kids,” Chaikin said. “It’s been great to get them fired up about the opportunities they have to participate in this program.”



His latest book is “A Passion for Mars: Intrepid Explorers of the Red Planet.”

More information about Chaikin can be found at www.AndrewChaikin.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREWCHAIKIN.COM
Andrew Chaikin's book, 'A Man on the Moon.'