

## SPACEFLIGHT PARTICIPANT CHARLES SIMONYI



Charles Simonyi was born in Budapest, Hungary. He left his homeland at 17 to work as a computer programmer in Copenhagen, Denmark. He moved to the United States in 1968 and earned his B.S. in engineering and mathematics from the University of California at Berkeley and his doctorate in computer science from Stanford University. From 1972 to 1980, he worked at Xerox Corp.'s Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), where he created the first WYSIWYG (what-you-see-is-what-you-get) text editor, called Bravo.

In 1981, Simonyi joined a start-up company called Microsoft where he developed software. In his 20 years there, Simonyi held the titles of director of application development, chief architect, and distinguished engineer. He led the teams that developed Microsoft Word, Microsoft

Excel, and other successful software applications.

Simonyi left Microsoft in August 2002 to found Intentional Software Corp., a software engineering firm. The company is based in Bellevue, Wash.

Simonyi gained his American citizenship in 1982.

His boyhood interest in space resulted in his selection as Hungary's Jr. Astronaut at age 13, for which he won a trip to Moscow and met one of the first cosmonauts, Pavel Popovich. He is a trained pilot in multi-engine aircraft with current licenses in jets and helicopters and more than 2,000 hours of flying time.

As a software pioneer and aviator, Simonyi brings his passion for flight and engineering to the upcoming 2007 Orbital Spaceflight Scientific Mission. His goals for his mission are to advance civilian space flight, assist space station research, and involve the world's youth in the science of space travel. He is convinced that one day, humans will travel and live comfortably in space.