

SECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

Outstanding Section Award

Outstanding Activity Award

The Annual Report is the Business Report for the Section and must be received before a Section can receive its rebate for the next year. It covers activities from June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018. Although any member can aid in filling out the report, submission can only be made by the serving chair of the section year listed above. Supporting materials such as newsletters, programs, advertising, etc. may be attached, but the total pages should be no more than 12 (**excluding** the outstanding section and activity awards which can be two pages each), and must all be in one document (it may mean that the entire report is submitted in pdf format). Larger or extra pieces of supporting material, such as newsletters, multiple flyers, banquet programs, etc. should be archived on the section's SharePoint site with links in the report document as needed. This report must be submitted by **June 4, 2018** in order to be considered for any section awards.

Section Name: Greater Huntsville

Section Size Category: Very Large__

Section Organization

1. List the names of the Section Officers and any additional members of the section council.

Section Officers:

Chair	Naveen Vetcha
Vice Chair	Alex Jehle
Secretary	Shannon Stump
Treasurer	Lauren Badia

Section Directors:

Vice Chair, Mobile	Bob Coke
Communications	Erin Walker
Education	Felix Ewere
Honors & Awards	Joe Majdalani
Immediate Past Chair	Brandon Stiltner
Liaison to Prof. Societies	Nishanth Goli
Liaison to student branches	Brittani Searcy
Membership	Candice Dalton
Public Policy	Chris Crumbly
Special Projects	Tracie Prater
YP & Career Enhancement	Tamara Statham
Wbmaster	Arloe Mayne

2. Number of council/officer meetings held during the year: 9 Average attendance:
3. Percentage of membership voting in last election of Section Officers: 95 votes /783 prof. members = 12%
4. List any activities targeted at officer training or development including attendance at the Regional Leadership Conference:

At the beginning of the Section year, the Chair put an emphasis on new officer/director training for the section. In particular, the Chair met individually with all incoming officers and directors. During these meetings, incoming officers were provided with their roles and responsibilities on the Council. This one-on-one setting provided an opportunity to answer any questions that the incoming council members had. We also ensured that the incoming and outgoing council members were connected. In this way, the outgoing council members could help answer position-specific questions. And finally, a social meeting was held for both outgoing and incoming council members to meet, socialize, and network with one another. Again, this was done to allow for collaboration between the incoming and outgoing council members.

5. Estimated membership located within 1 hour of the meetings: 730 professional members
6. Number of Chapters within the Section: 1 Chapter Names: Mobile
7. Describe how your section supports members outside the main local area (if any):

The Greater Huntsville Section has one chapter, the Mobile Chapter in south Alabama, established in September, 2014. A new position was created on our council called the Vice Chair – Mobile, which is a two year elected seat on the council. Bob Coke was the Vice-Chair Mobile for 2017-18 council year. Having an elected position on the council provides the Mobile Chapter voting rights on Council business. Funds are allocated in the budget to support events in the Mobile area. We have helped arrange a chapter luncheon with district's congressman Bradley Byrne.

We setup booth at Wings over Columbus event in Mississippi, some of the section members from MS area actively volunteered at the booth. We also had several section members outside the main local area act as judges for our essay contests, Rover challenge reports, and annual awards nominations.

Meetings, Programs and Events

1. Describe the Section's general meetings. Include date, meeting type (e.g. dinner meeting, field trip, lunch and learn, etc.), speaker, organization, topic, location, and attendance. You may further break down your attendance if you would like (AIAA members, nonmembers, students, etc). Also include the focus (young professional, public policy, technical, workforce development, STEM K-12, etc. or just general), any publicity used for the event, and if it was jointly sponsored and if so, by whom.

The Greater Huntsville Section held monthly luncheons from July 2017 through March 2018. These luncheons occurred on weekdays 11:30-1PM, and featured a keynote presentation given by a speaker on topics of interest to our membership. Typically given by senior professionals, these presentations are typically 45 minutes, with a 15minute Q&A period at the end. Many of our luncheon speakers are technical in focus, however, a few of this year's luncheons focused in other areas. In particular, our July luncheon focused on Great American Solar Eclipse, and our December luncheon focused on Space Shuttle's history. Our Luncheons are held in Huntsville at Dynetics, Inc, and average attendance is roughly 35 members/guests. Flyers for all the luncheons are available at this [link](#).

The section held [two luncheon](#) meetings this year with congress men. The Huntsville area held the luncheon on Oct 31 with Congressman Mo Brooks at Dynetics conference facility. About 50 members/guests attended this luncheon. Mobile area held a luncheon with Congressman Bradley Byrne during the Engineers' week. Twenty professional/student members attended this luncheon. Airbus provided sponsorship for this luncheon.

The section also held its [66th Annual Awards Dinner](#) in May, 2018. During this event, the section honors several section award winners, scholarship recipient, and essay contest winners. Nearly 100 members and guests attended the evening event and heard from keynote speaker and AIAA Executive Director Mr. Dan Dumbacher.

For the fourth year in a row, members of the section also participated in the annual [Pumpkin Blast competition](#). This event is a *punkin-chunkin* style competition, where teams compete by designing large machines to throw pumpkins at target located 100 yards away. This event provides a great learning experience and is particularly attractive by our YP members. The Section's team – the aptly named AIAA Pumpkinauts – began meeting in July to design this year's machine. While the event is only one day, the actual involvement in this effort is much longer. Teammates typically give up evenings and weekends to work on their machine. This project requires true dedication by the members. There were six team members overall. The AIAA Pumpkinauts took 3rd place honors this year. After seeing our team's teamwork and on-the-spot problem solving, the judges awarded our team people's choice award.

In November 2017, section organized a tour of ULA's Decatur Rocket Facility. Twnety five section members took part in this tour which lasted for 2 hours. The tour included and showing of hardware along the assembly line path.

Membership Activities

1. Describe any membership recruitment/retention activities (this section may be copied as needed for use in the Membership Award Form).

Several of our events were targeted to recruit and retain membership. In particular, we held the [second annual YP Symposium](#). This event drew 130 attendees from industry, government, and academia. The two-day symposium featured 29 presentations in 7 technical tracks by young professionals. Technical areas included space exploration and environments, structures and materials, modeling and simulation, GN&C, aerodynamics and aeroacoustics, propulsion systems, and systems engineering. The event also featured three keynote speakers and two panel discussions. The event was planned, organized, and ran by a committee of eleven YP members. Of those, four of them had only occasional involved within the section prior to their role on the committee. Currently, a new committee of YP members is planning

and organizing the Symposium in 2018. This event provided a great way for those members to take on leadership roles within the Section without fully committing to a council position.

The Section also had booths at several events throughout the year. In each case, the booth staffers discuss the benefits of membership, and encourage people to sign-up to be included as non-members on our email distribution. Events where members staffed a booth were the NASA/Redstone in the Park, SMD Symposium, US Space and Rocket Center's Biergarten, VBAS Astronomy Day, and Wings Over Columbus open house.

AIAA was the featured non-profit for one of the Biergarten evenings at US Space and Rocket Center. Section setup a recruiting table at the event. Section also received above \$500 from Space and Rocket Center from the sales. The estimated attendance was 400 people.

In order to get to know the council and fellow members we have organized [AIAA's 55th Birthday celebration](#) at a local restaurant. About 30 people participated in the event. AIAA was also the featured non-profit for that night at the restaurant and received portion of the sales.

In December, section helped Huntsville Botanical Gardens with running the [Galaxy of Lights event](#). Thirty volunteers who are section members and their family members participated and helped Botanical Gardens in raising \$1400 through entrance tickets. It was a fun holiday night event and all the participants enjoyed it. It was the first time section participated.

Members also came together to participate in the [3rd annual Carts4Hearts 5k race](#) to raise money and donations for the Downtown Rescue Mission. This is section's 2nd time participating in this event. This event is a 5k race that takes place in the streets of downtown Huntsville. The event benefits the Downton Rescue Mission, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides food, clothing, shelter and other services to the homeless in the Huntsville area. The race, themed after the famous Iditarod, has teams of six pulling or pushing a shopping cart throughout the race. Teams collected donations of money and food prior to and during the race and competed for various awards. Each team was required to select a theme for their cart and mushers and to decorate accordingly. Young Professional Director Tammy Statham modified the last year's Greater Huntsville's Space Shuttle theme to represent both the aeronautics and astronautics sides of the industry, symbolizing the blending of aeronautics and astronautics. AIAA received 1st prize in the amount of food collected. This event was a truly collaborative effort between our members.

To appreciate the efforts of volunteers, we organized a volunteer social. About 15 people attended this event. Section Chair, Naveen Vetcha and past chair, Ken Philippart paid for the drinks and pizza. In order to engage the Young Professionals further, our YP director conducted two brunches with leaders in the aerospace. A space trivia night was also organized.

This year, we also emphasized the importance of member recognition. We recognized the recent class of Associate Fellows at the E-week awards banquet. Section presented the certificates to six Associate Fellows in the presence of members from other technical societies. We presented appreciation certificate to Mike Pessin who celebrated 50th anniversary of his AIAA membership. We also presented an exception service certificate to Brittani Searcy, a YP member for leading section's participation at the NASA's rover challenge. We also organized Solar eclipse photo contest for members only and presented awards to winners at various luncheons.

Due to our efforts we saw a net gain in the membership over the year in each category (gained 7 Professional members, 73 Student members, and 24 Educator Associates). This is the **first time** it happened since 2010 (that is as far back as the data is available).

Education

1. List the student branches within the section and describe any section activities related to these branches.

The Greater Huntsville Section has several student branches within its Section. In Alabama, student branches included the University of Alabama in Huntsville, University of Alabama, Auburn University, Tuskegee University, and

the University of South Alabama. In Mississippi, student branches include Mississippi State and Ole Miss Universities. Due to the close proximity, the Section holds numbers activities that attract student members from UAH. However, the Section also makes attempts to reach out to our other student branches. Our Liaison to Student Branches, Brittani Searcy visited University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and spoke about importance of AIAA membership in school and after graduation.

Section worked with UAH student branch for the 2nd annual YP symposium, Astronomy Day, and NASA in the park events. Section Chair, Naveen Vetcha and past Chair Ken Philippart spoke to UAH students about careers in Aerospace. About 60 students attended this lecture.

2. Describe actions taken to establish new student branches.

This is year we worked with University of Alabama in Birmingham to establish the student chapter. Section members Brittani Searcy, Ken Philippart visited UAB and spoke to students about importance of belonging to AIAA. Region director, Kurt Polzin also made a separate visit and emphasized the importance of AIAA membership. We helped them with the paper work needed and officially submitted the paper work to start the branch. The application is with AIAA national office.

3. Describe involvement of the section with the Region Student Conference.

This year, [region II student conference](#) was held at University of South Alabama, which falls within the section. Section provided funds to support the conference. Several members of the section attended the conference, some of them acted as judges for various sessions. Section members, Lisa Monaco, David Hitt, Bob Coke (Vice-Chair, Mobile chapter), Naveen Vetcha (Chair) staffed the recruiting booths of the various conference sponsors. Region II director, Kurt Polzin presented section coins to student members who were part of the organizing committee. Section member, David Trent gave the keynote speech during the lunch on day 1 of the conference.

4. Describe any professional continuing education programs (this section may be copied as needed for use in the Career and Workforce Development Award Form).

Along with 9 monthly luncheons on various topics, section also organized four [hands-on courses](#) this year. Two courses were about Drone making. These courses were half day long. Retired members, senior professionals, YPs, Student members, and Educator Associates participated in these courses. Participants learned about the basics of drones in the first half of the course. In the second half of the course they assembled the drones and tested them for vertical flight. A professional course trainer who is also a section member taught these courses. Section also organized courses on soldering and cable/harness. We partnered with a local company to provide these courses.

5. Describe any precollege outreach programs instituted/continued this year (this section may be copied as needed for use in the STEM-K12 Award Form).

To commemorate the first flight, section organized an essay contest partnering with local Experimental Aircraft Chapter. Two students who are children of section members were recognized for winning this contest. The first prize winner was given a free first flying training by local EAA chapter. The first prize winner also received the book titled "Women in Science: 50 fearless pioneers who changed the world." The second prize winner received a LEGO set of Space Shuttle Explorer.

Also during the Annual Awards Dinner, the Section presented certificates to the winners of the Space Systems Technical Committee essay contest. Each year the Space Systems Technical Committee sponsors essay contests for 7th and for 8th grade students. The subject of this year's contest was impact of Astronauts on NASA, future of United States, and international partnerships. Winner from the Section's area were 8th grader Miss Taylor Honeycutt, who was presented certificates from the Section for her accomplishments. Miss Honeycutt was also

recognized for winning the 2nd prize in the national 8th grade category. Miss Honeycutt and her teacher also received an award and recognition at the national level for winning the essay contest.

The City of Huntsville hosts a public event downtown called NASA/Redstone in the Park, and it usually attracts hundreds of families with kids of all ages. This event promotes possible STEM applications in the classroom. The Greater Huntsville Section set up a [booth](#) partnering with [FlyQuest](#). We setup a flight simulator using which kids could understand how an aircraft operates. Staffing the booth were senior members, YP members, Student members. This offered a great opportunity to tell the community about AIAA, and to interact with some of our student members.

In October, section participated in the annual [astronomy day](#) organized by local Astronomical Society. We partnered with a local startup called Trac9. Section setup a booth where kids were taught how to assemble propeller aircraft (made out of hard paper). Trac9 brought the full scale BB8 droid that they have created. They completely disassemble the droid and explained how it works. They also demonstrated it by operating it all over the field. Overall kids had fun throwing the propeller aircrafts and interacting with the BB8 droid.

We supported the NASA Rover Challenge again, which was two days' worth of judging for the AIAA GHSV section. We sponsored three awards: Telemetry Award, Best Design Award, and Best Report Award. This year's race involved over 700 students from about 80 universities and high schools that came from all over the United States, Puerto Rico, Germany, Russia, India, Lithuania, Brazil, Bangladesh, and Mexico. We honestly couldn't have completed the judging for all three awards without the amazing help from our members.

NARSEF and ASEF are two science fairs held locally in Huntsville, AL. Long time member and former section chair Alan Lowrey coordinated section's participation at these fairs. Several section members volunteered as judges at both science fairs.

6. Does your section have a scholarship fund? Describe how funds are raised, and how scholarships are awarded.

The AIAA GHS [Robert L. Sackheim Scholarship](#) is awarded to a high school senior from within the Section's geographic region that plans to attend a university in the STEM field that could lead to a career in aeronautics or astronautics. Four of our members helped to decide the winner based on the applicant's essay, grades, and extra-curricular activities. Funds for this scholarship come from the rebate, award money, and sponsorships.

Public Policy (This section may be copied as needed for use in the Public Policy Award Form)

1. Describe activities that inform the public and section members about public policy. Describe activities that provided interaction with government officials.

Section held [two luncheon meetings](#) this year with congress men. The Huntsville area held the luncheon on Oct 31 with Congressman Mo Brooks at Dynetics conference facility. About 50 members/guests attended this luncheon. Mobile area held a luncheon with Congressman Bradley Byrne during the Engineers' week. Twenty professional/student members attended this luncheon. Airbus provided sponsorship for this luncheon. In addition to these two events, our public policy director Chris Crumbly also participated at Alabama aerospace days in February and spoke to state legislators about the importance of aerospace.

2. Did your section participate in Congressional Visits Day or All Aerospace Is Local? If so, describe.

Braving the snow, four members from Alabama and four members from Mississippi participated in this year's CVD. Our members from Alabama visited and met with staff of all the representatives from Alabama. In some cases they actually met and spoke directly either to the congressman or the senator. Two section members couldn't make it to DC due to weather, they visited senator Shelby's local office in Huntsville and spoke to the staff.

Honors and Awards

1. Describe any local section awards given to members and supporters. Please note if award is new this year.
2. List members nominated by the section for AIAA or regional honors and awards. Please include nominee, award, and status.

This year, the Section awarded several Section level awards and special awards. In particular, the Section awarded its Exceptional Service award to Ms. Brittani Searcy for leading section's participation at the NASA rover challenge. Section member, Mike Pessin who celebrated his 50th anniversary of AIAA membership was awarded an appreciation certificate for his STEM outreach efforts as docent at Space and Rocket Center.

Six of the class of 2018 Associate Fellows were recognized at annual [E-week awards banquet](#). Section Chair and Vice-Chair presented certificates of recognition to all these Associate Fellows. Attendees at the dinner included members of several other technical societies in the Huntsville area.

Commemorating the 2017 Great American Solar Eclipse, section conducted a photography contest in full, partial, and family categories. Only members were allowed to participate in the competition. Winning contestants received a certificate recognition along with an invitation to section's luncheon. The overall winner also received a gift card to his favorite local restaurant.

During the [Awards Dinner](#) in May, the Section honored its Section Award Winners, which included our Sackheim Scholarship winner, 8th grade SSTC Essay Contest Winner, and our section awards. Those awards include Undergraduate and Graduate Students of the Year, the Ed Pruett Young Professional of the Year, the Earl Pearce Professional of the Year, the Dannenberg Educator of the Year, the Martin Schilling Award for Outstanding Service to the Section, and the Herman Oberth Award for Outstanding Scientific Achievement. Section's council also recognized the past chair, Ken Philippart for mentoring the Young Professionals throughout the year. As Mr. Philippart is an Air Force veteran, council members presented him a statue of Air Force eagle.

This year, section also introduced the [memorial brick program](#) and honored five members we lost since 2016 with bricks under Saturn V at US Space and Rocket Center.

Technical Activities

1. How many local members are members of an AIAA Technical Committee? Describe how they interacted with the local section or local technical committee(s).

About 130 members from the section are on various AIAA Technical committees. Section encouraged young professionals to join technical committees. Several senior members who are members of technical committees helped YPs and guided them to choose an appropriate technical committee.

In February, AIAA's technical committee on the management met in Huntsville. Section Chair, Naveen Vetcha worked with Dr. Surendra Singhal (member of TC on management) and invited fifteen student members to participate in a dinner reception. Student members got an opportunity to meet senior professionals and executives at this reception.

Communications (this section may be copied as needed for use in the Communications Award form)

1. Number of newsletters published this year: What article received the most attention or interest this year?
2. Describe any section publications other than a newsletter, including content, frequency and distribution.
3. How does the section utilize electronic communication, such as email notification, social media (such as Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter), etc?

We published one newsletter this year. Our newsletter has section called interview with the member. Dr. Mike Griffin was interviewed by newsletter editor, Kelly Burnham. This article received positive reviews. Section also frequently publishes articles on the website keeping the members up to date on the activities. At most of the section activities [scrolling slides](#) are displayed before the event begins. On average we sent two emails per week to our section email distribution list to keep our members informed about upcoming activities. We have also actively posted this information on section's facebook and twitter pages.

The following questions are for those sections with active websites.

4. Do you use the AIAA SharePoint site to host your section's homepage? If not, do you host a website elsewhere?
5. How often is the site updated, and do you have a webmaster?
6. What is the most utilized feature of the website?
7. Do you use it to promote upcoming section activities?
8. Describe any new or unique features added this year.

Section's [SharePoint site](#) plays a major role in keeping in touch with the members. The website is updated every week with articles about recent activities and information on upcoming activities. Flyers for all the section events are posted on the site regularly. Charts from all the luncheons are posted immediately after the luncheon seminar. The calendar is updated regularly. Council meeting slides and minutes are regularly posted to private section of the site.

Financial Summary (this portion of the report does not satisfy the requirements for an audit report)

Beginning Total Balance of all cash on hand as of June 1, 2017	\$_26446.16_
Checking Account:	\$ 13,167.53
Savings Account:	\$ 12,477.94
Other (please specify):	\$ 800.69 (Paypal)
Section Rebate:	\$ 9249.29_ (Includes rebate and section awards)
Other Income	
(please specify – advertising, etc):	\$ _14100__
Expenses:	\$ _21100_
Estimated Ending Balance as of May 31, 2018	\$_28050_

What corporate donations were received?

YP Symposium \$2000
Awards Dinner \$3000

Were any meetings or functions underwritten or financially supported?

Outstanding Section Award

(Limit to two pages.)

1. Statement of the mission and goals of the section. How is your section functioning within the mission and goals of the AIAA?

This year's vision for our section was to create the sense of belonging. The driving force for this vision was if we make a person feel that (s)he belongs in AIAA, they will stay or join. We conducted dozens of events this year that were focused on this goal. Many of those events are described in detail in the Annual Report, and can also be seen in our Newsletters, articles, and end of year presentation. In particular, we introduced the [memorial brick program](#) to honor the members that we lost. We ordered five bricks to honor members that we lost since 2016. We recognized new class of Associate Fellows among their peers from various societies. We carried the momentum from the previous year and held the second annual AIAA YP Symposium in October, 2017. This was a two day conference for YPs to showcase their work. Since YP members have fewer opportunities to travel to conferences, we decided to bring a conference to them. This event drew over 130 attendees from industry, government, and academia. The two-day symposium featured 29 presentations in 7 technical tracks by young professionals. Technical areas included space exploration and environments, structures and materials, modeling and simulation, GN&C, aerodynamics and aeroacoustics, propulsion systems, and systems engineering. Furthermore, it was planned and conducted by a committee of YP members. This allowed the Section to place responsibilities on our YP members who were not on the council. It also provided recognition of AIAA to YPs in the Huntsville who are not yet members of the organization. We also participated in community outreach activities like Carts4Hearts 5k and Huntsville Botanical Gardens' Galaxy of Lights.

AIAA's mission is to *inspire and advance the future of aerospace for the benefit of humanity*. The future of aerospace is not only advancements in technology and understanding, but is also the development and inspiration of our young members. We must inspire and develop the next generation of aerospace leaders. This is exactly what we've done over the last year in Huntsville. We actively took part in STEM outreach activities and spread AIAA's message in the community. Several senior professionals mentored YPs in various areas such as joining technical community or taking a lead role in section council or activity.

Probably one of the best ways to quantify our efforts is net increase in the membership in each category (professional, students, and educator associates). This is the **first time** it happened since before 2010. We don't have records prior to 2010. The point to note here is that this gain is due to the efforts of past councils also. Past councils slowed down the rate of membership loss and shared the lessons with incoming councils. We are proud to see that section membership showed the sign towards the growth during this year.

2. Statement of philosophy of use of funds (both through rebates and other means). How are financial resources used by the section? How do you think the funds are best utilized?

Each year, the Greater Huntsville Section creates an internal budget, which allocates our yearly allocations among our council. This allows our council members to plan events and spend within their particular directorships. This year, our budget was spread among all council members, with particular emphasis on STEM Outreach Director, Special Projects Director, Honors and Awards director, and our Liaison to Student Branches. Specifically, we budgeted ~45% of our yearly budget toward these 4 directors. Again, this matched our philosophy of retaining, growing, and engaging our members.

We also organized various fund raising activities such as being the featured non-profit at US Space & Rocket Center's Biergarten. Featured non-profit at local restaurants and breweries where part of the sales were donated to the section. These activities served multiple purposes such as enjoying the networking with fellow members while contributing to section's needed funds.

Over the years, the Greater Huntsville Section has developed relationships with several industry partners. In doing so, we rely heavily on corporate sponsorships for our key events. This year, we received a total \$5000 for our main events this year: YP Symposium, and our Awards Dinner. These events are made possible by our donations, and without them, we wouldn't be able to offer nearly as many programs to our members. These donations also allow us to subsidize cost to members, often offering our members "at cost" prices or at subsidized rates. Some of those events include our catered luncheons, which we offer at cost to members. One heavily subsidized event is our Congressional Visits Day, where we provide a portion of travel expenses to our members.

3. Please describe any challenges or problems that arose during the year (or that are ongoing) and how the section dealt with them.

The biggest problem we face is an aging membership. In fact, a polling of data maker revealed that 75% of Greater Huntsville professional members are over the age of 40, and 56% of professional members are over the age of 50. With these demographics, it's clear that we have a top heavy organization. This is a significant problem, and the Huntsville Section is making continual efforts to reverse this trend. It is unclear why there are so few YP members of the organization. However, the Section has hosted numerous events this year that appeal to YPs. Just to name a few that are detailed in this report, the YP Symposium, several Social activities, Mentorship brunches, and various STEM activities. These events were not randomly selected, but were undertaken as the result of past experience and membership surveys. For the latter, an YP membership survey was conducted and revealed that our YP members are interested in social events, STEM events, and mentorship. Therefore, we intentionally tailored our events to meet these categories. In order to retain the members we conducted luncheons, tours, Associate Fellow preparation seminar, and short courses.

4. Please describe how your section is responding to its unique circumstances and how it is making a difference. In other words, why should this be an Outstanding Section?

The AIAA *Tagline* is "Shaping the Future of Aerospace", reflecting the belief that AIAA members are continually shaping the future of Aerospace through their creativity, ingenuity, and passion for Aerospace engineering and science. The Greater Huntsville Section understands that *Shaping the Future of Aerospace* is not just about advancements in technology or understanding. It also means fostering the next generation. Our current YP members are literally the *Future of Aerospace*, and if we don't mentor and foster them, there won't be anyone left to hand over the Institute. While YP membership is still not as high as the council would like (currently 18% of professional membership) in the Greater Huntsville Section, our efforts of increasing our YP membership have started to pay off. This year, our council was made up of 10-of-16 YP members, including the Chair and Vice Chair. This year's election added four new YPs to the council, bringing the total up to 10-of-16 YP members on the council. New YPs are going to be in the council next year. In other words, these are YP members who decided to get involved this year based on our activities over the past 4 years. This is a quality metric of our efforts to solve our aging membership problem. While this is a tremendous step in the right direction, we still have a long way to go to increase our YP membership, and our membership as a whole. This year, our section clearly showed the direction towards the growth and we hope other sections can learn from us.

Outstanding Activity Award

Date of Event: October 23-24, 2017

Name of Event: AIAA Greater Huntsville Section's YP symposium

Speaker(s): Multiple (see below)

Ms. Alicia Ryan, CEO, LSINC

Lt. Gen. James H. Dickinson, commanding general of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command and Joint Component Functional Command for Integrated Missile Defense

Ms. Jody Singer, deputy director, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

Meeting type: Conference/Symposium

Attendance: 130

Description of Event:

The [YP symposium](#) was a conference style event put on by young professionals, for young professionals. The intent was to not only provide a platform for young professionals to develop their technical presentation skills, but also serve as a way for young professionals to volunteer for the section without taking on an officer role. Volunteers sought out the venue, speakers, sponsors, and handled day-of logistics. We have 10 active YPs planning this, including section officers. Section held its first symposium in 2016, a team of YPs immediately started planning for the symposium in 2017.

The team of professional members collaborated with AIAA UAH student branch and held the event at UAH's conference facility. The YP Symposium provided an opportunity for young professionals to give technical presentations to a group of peers and promote opportunities for interaction, both technical and non-technical, with senior professionals in attendance. With 130 attendees, including 81 young professionals, this year's symposium was a huge success. Over 30 young professionals affiliated with 13 organizations spanning government, industry, and academia delivered technical presentations on a wide range of topics over both days. First day's activities ended with an evening networking social sponsored by Jacobs.

In addition to technical presentations, the symposium included panel discussions and keynote speakers alongside professional development and networking opportunities. The first panel this year was on Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). This panel fostered an interesting discussion among UAS technical experts and program managers in the field of UAS. The second panel discussed the benefits of AIAA membership and involvement. It included members of the Greater Huntsville Section who are involved in all aspects of AIAA ranging from the local student section to participation in AIAA Forums as part of a technical committee.

Leaders from the local aerospace and defense community delivered keynote speeches at the symposium. . The first keynote speaker was Ms. Alicia Ryan, CEO of LSINC. Ryan shared insight into the business side of the industry with a room full of engineers who held a more technical focus. The second keynote speaker was Lieutenant General James H. Dickinson, Commanding General of the US Army Space and Missile Defense Command / Army Forces Strategic Command and Joint Component Functional Command for Integrated Missile Defense. Lt. Gen. Dickinson shared his experience directing some of the most cutting edge technology being developed in aerospace. He spoke of the exciting opportunities here in Rocket City insisting that YPs not only have big shoes to fill, but the responsibility of ensuring the next generation is ready to step up.

The final keynote speaker was Ms. Jody Singer. Singer is the Deputy Director of NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. She spoke of the exciting work being done by NASA in preparation for the journey to Mars and emphasized the importance of the next generation STEM workforce. Singer's keynote led directly into a mentorship event, a highly anticipated addition to this year's symposium.

The mentorship event which was sponsored by Aerojet Rocketdyne provided the opportunity for attendees to sit down with senior professionals and learn from their experience. The 11 themed tables focused on various topics such as professional development, executive leadership, women in space, public speaking, entrepreneurship and work/life balance. The mentors for this event included CEOs, Program Managers, Presidents, and Directors representing government, government contracts, and industry partners.

Immediately following the closing of the 2017 AIAA YP Symposium, attendees were invited to attend the Von Braun Symposium welcome reception and student poster contest.



Joint Sponsorship? With what group(s)?

AIAA Greater Huntsville Section was the primary planner for this event. Section partnered with UAH student branch and held the symposium at UAH's conference facility. Section also collaborated with American Astronautical Society (AAS) such that the symposium attendees can take advantage and attend AAS's Wernher Von Braun Memorial Symposium. Further, we received financial sponsorship from companies including: Jacobs and Aerojet Rocketdyne.

Describe any publicity for the event:

This event was advertised over the section's email distribution, Facebook page, and twitter page. Further, we made an announcement on local calendars. Local businesses, like Dynetics and Jacobs advertised to their YP groups along with significant advertising throughout NASA and other government agencies.

What makes this event an outstanding activity?

This is the outstanding activity because it provided a unique opportunity to YPs in the aerospace industry at a level and serves as a recruitment tool for the section. This is the second time section did this activity where we implemented some lessons learned from the previous year.

At an extremely affordable price YPs could give a technical presentation on their work, meet prominent aerospace leaders, and attend socials for networking. As YPs planned this event, it also provided leadership opportunities to our YPs. As a professional development tool, this was a fantastic opportunity for YPs in the section.

This event also served as a recruitment tool because it was not limited to AIAA members. Over 35 attendees were non-AIAA members, and are now on our non-member email distribution list. Some member attendees who weren't that active prior to the symposium are now on the planning committee for next symposium. We believe that events like this show numerous intangible benefits to our non-members. We've seen that it can take time for some members to take on leadership roles in the Section. This time is taken to foster and build relationships, as well as reaching a certain comfort level. In the same way, we believe that this event allows non-members to see what AIAA Greater Huntsville is all about. And while it may not have gained any new members immediately, we expect its effect and impression to pay off over time.