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For more information about the Greater Huntsville Section, visit our website at www.hsv-aiaa.org or email distribution@hsv-aiaa.org. For suggestions or tips for future issues of Telemetry, or to volunteer to help work on the newsletter, contact the editor Gabe Xu (gabe.xu@uah.edu). Also, if you want to know what the Section is doing or just want to drop us suggestions, you can follow us on Twitter @AIAAHuntsville or 'like' us on Facebook at facebook.com/GreaterHSV.AIAA. Click on the icons to the right to go to the pages.

**Lead editor:** Gabe Xu  
**Contributors in this issue:** Roy Hartfield, Arloe Mayne, Nishanth Goli, Ken Philippart, Jacob Clark, Carlos Montalvo, Naveen Vetcha, Chris Crumbly, Kelli Pomeroy, Lisa Schibelius

**Upcoming Section Events**

Oct 19 – Astronomy Day 2019

Oct 23 – October Monthly Luncheon

Oct 29 – Section Monthly Council Meeting

Nov 19 – Section Monthly Council Meeting

Dec 11 – AIAA GHS at Galaxy of Lights
Letter from the Chair

Greetings GHS AIAA members! I am excited to be your Chair this year and we are off to a great start. A number of activities have already occurred which you can read about later in this newsletter. There will be many more upcoming events as we prepare for the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Landing and more throughout the year. I encourage everyone to attend the events when able, support the Section and be an active advocate/recruiter for AIAA and our aerospace profession. I want to congratulate our members for electing a dynamic council and they are dedicated to providing great support to the Section over this next council year. Please let us know your feedback and which activities are most beneficial. Thanks again and I look forward to serving you this council year!

Greg Simpson, Chair

Letter from the Editor

The summer is almost over, and for us in academia, the students will be soon returning. My family and I got to attend some of the Apollo 11 anniversary events and enjoyed them greatly. I’d like to thank all the AIAA member, community members, sponsors, and the USSRC who help make it all possible. I look forward to a new school year with new faces and the new events in the Section. As always, if you have an idea for the newsletter or would like to contribute, please let me know at gabe.xu@uah.edu. I hope you enjoy reading this issue of your newsletter, Telemetry.

Gabe Xu, Editor

Greater Huntsville AIAA Section 2019 Annual Awards Dinner

Dr. Arloe Mayne
Images courtesy of Arloe Mayne

The Greater Huntsville AIAA Section held its 67th Annual Awards Dinner on May 17, 2019, at the Jackson Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The event was conducted by the Section’s 2018-2019 Vice-Chairman LTC Greg Simpson. After LTC Simpson’s welcome, the flags of the United States and the State of Alabama were posted by the Bob Jones High School AFJROTC, followed by the playing of the National Anthem. An invocation by Mrs. Lisa Philippart preceded dinner.

Bob Jones High School AFJROTC Color Guard

Incoming Chairman LTC Simpson presenting speaker Mr. Joe Vallely with book “American Moonshot: John F. Kennedy and the Great Space Race” by Douglas Brinkley, an AIAA reading club book

The invited speaker for the evening was Mr. Joe Vallely, Vice President, External Affairs, US Space and Rocket Center (USSRC). Mr. Vallely gave an overview of the Space and Rocket Center and Space Camp, and spoke about the USSRC’s planned activities for the upcoming 50th anniversary of the first
manned landing on the Moon. He noted that the launch of Apollo 10 occurred 50 years ago on the day after the Awards Dinner. Mr. Vallely went on to discuss the recent visit of Vice-President Pence to the USSRC for a meeting of the National Space Council. He concluded with remarks on future opportunities in space, which he referred to as New Space. Mr. Vallely’s background includes serving as Lockheed Martin’s Government Relations Director and as a broadcast journalist in Huntsville and on special assignment for several national and international broadcasters.

Following Mr. Vallely’s talk, LTC Simpson began the awards program with the recognition of the recipients of the Alabama Science and Engineering Fair awards sponsored by the Section: 7th grader Mr. Arjun Iyer, 8th grader Mr. Samuel Nameniuk, and 9th grader Miss Victoria Whitehead. Section award winners in the North Alabama Regional Science and Engineering Fair were then recognized: 6th grader Miss Makaila Simone Jennings, 9th grader Miss Sarah-Kate Drown, and 11th grader Mr. Jeremiah Davis. (Mr. Davis was the recipient of multiple Science Fair awards by the Section last year!)

Miss Katelyn McGinnis, Chair of the UAH AIAA Student Branch, was presented with an Exceptional Service Award certificate for leading the Section’s participation in its 2019 Paper Airplane Challenge.

Mr. Ryan Dunn of Madison, AL, was awarded this year’s $1,000 Greater Huntsville Section Robert L. Sackheim Engineering & Science Scholarship. He plans to major in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Forty-two scholarships totaling $45,000 have been awarded by the Section since 2002.

The Michael L. Tinker Engineering and Science Scholarship of $2000 was awarded to Ms. Abigail Vanderslice, a graduate of Bob Jones High School in Madison, AL. This scholarship is named for the late MSFC Chief Technology Officer and Section member Mr. Mike Tinker. Ms. Vanderslice plans to attend the University of Alabama, majoring in Chemical and Biological Engineering, while also pursuing a STEM Master in Business degree. MAJ Jehle was joined in presenting the award by the Tinker family, Mrs. Regina Tinker, Mr. Nathan Tinker, and Ms. Jodie Tinker.

Incoming Chairman LTC Simpson then recognized the Section’s AIAA members who attained the grade of Associate Fellow in 2019. The grade of Associate Fellow recognizes individuals “who have accomplished or been in charge of important engineering or scientific work, or who have done original work of outstanding merit, or who have otherwise made outstanding contributions to the arts, sciences, or technology of aeronautics or astronautics.”
Members of the Greater Huntsville Section in the 2019 class of Associate Fellows are:

Mr. Mike Bangham - Bangham Engineering Inc.
Ms. Allison Cash - PeopleTec, Inc.
Mr. Robert Champion - NASA MSFC
Mr. Scott Claflin - Aerojet Rocketdyne
Mr. Jeffery King - Teledyne Brown Engineering, Inc.
Dr. Lisa Monaco - Jacobs Tidewater Operations Group
Mr. Peter Paceley - Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Inc.
Dr. Ernest Wu - Engineering, Research, and Consulting, Inc.

Congratulations to these members on their recognition.

Each year an Awards Committee determines the recipients for the Section’s awards which are presented at the annual dinner. This year’s awards were presented by Outgoing Chairman MAJ Alex Jehle and Honors and Awards Director Dr. Joseph Majdalani.

Outgoing Chairman MAJ Alex Jehle (L) with Professional of the Year Award recipient Mr. Chris Crumbly and Dr. Majdalani

Mr. Chris Crumbly was the recipient of the Earl Pearce Professional of the Year Award. This award is named for Mr. Earl Pearce who was on the Section Council and served as Supernumerary for many years. Mr. Crumbly received Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Aerospace Engineering from Auburn University and remains very active in his support of the university. He had a 25-year career with NASA, after which he entered the business community. Mr. Crumbly is an AIAA Associate Fellow and the 2019 AIAA Von Braun awardee for Excellence in Space Program Management.

Outgoing Chairman MAJ Jehle (L) with Educator of the Year Award recipient Dr. Speakman, and Dr. Majdalani

The recipient of the Ed Pruett Young Professional of the Year Award was Ms. Lauren Badia. Ms. Badia is employed at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, specializing in Vehicle Structures Design. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. Ms. Badia has been an AIAA member for 10 years, and is now a lifetime and senior member. She has served on the Section Council, and has been involved in many Section activities.

Outgoing Chairman MAJ Jehle, presenter Mr. Kenny Mitchell, Educator of the Year Award recipient Dr. Speakman, and Dr. Majdalani

The Konrad Dannenberg Educator of the Year Award recipient was Dr. Norman O. Speakman. The award is named for Mr. Konrad Dannenberg, a German-American rocket pioneer who was an avid proponent of education, an active member of the AIAA and an inspiration to the aerospace community. Dr. Speakman’s selection as the Award’s recipient was announced by Mr. Kenny Mitchell, a charter member of NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center and a co-worker of Mr. Dannenberg. Dr. Speakman received his BS and MS degrees in
Aerospace Engineering from Auburn University, and a PhD degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Florida. His professional career spans more than forty-five years in the military, federal government, the aerospace industry, and academia. He is currently on the faculty of the Aerospace Engineering Department at Auburn University.

The recipient of the Undergraduate Student of the Year Award for 2019 was Ms. Kelly Burnham. She is a senior in Aerospace Engineering at Auburn University. She plans to work in the hypersonics field, including earning a doctorate in hypersonics. She is a Student Member of the AIAA, and has served as the editor of the Section’s newsletter.

The recipient of the Graduate Student of the Year Award for 2019 was Mr. Langston Williams, a doctoral student in the Department of Aerospace Engineering at Auburn University. Mr. Williams is a member of the Auburn AIAA student branch, and was the 2018 recipient of the Abe M. Zarem Award for Distinguished Achievement from the AIAA.

The Martin Schilling Award is presented to a Section member in recognition of outstanding service to the Section, such as major contributions to its growth, technical programs, or administrative functions. The award is named for the Section’s founding president, Dr. Martin Schilling. The 2019 recipient of the Schilling Award was MAJ Alex Jehle. MAJ Jehle received BS degrees in Aerospace Engineering and in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Arizona, and a Masters of Aeronautical Science in Aerospace Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He has been accepted to the Colorado School of Mines as a PhD candidate in the Space Resources Program, beginning this August. He is a Senior Member of the AIAA, and has been very active in the Section, including serving as the 2018-2019 Chairman.

The Holger Toftoy Award is presented to a Section member in recognition of outstanding technical management in the fields of aeronautics and astronautics. The 2019 recipient of...
The Toftoy Award was Mr. Robert Champion. He received a BS degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Auburn in 1986. He is a 32-year NASA veteran where he is the Associate Director of the Propulsion Systems Department at Marshall Space Flight Center. Mr. Champion has received numerous NASA awards, and is an Associate Fellow of the AIAA.

The Hermann Oberth Award is presented to a Section member in recognition of outstanding individual scientific achievement in the field of astronautics or for the promotion and advancement of the aeronautical sciences. This year’s recipient of the Oberth Award was Dr. Rani Sullivan. Dr. Sullivan holds BS, MS and PhD degrees in Aerospace Engineering from Mississippi State University where she is a Professor of Aerospace Engineering and holder of the Richard H. Johnson Endowed Chair. She is an Associate Fellow of the AIAA, and is a member of the AIAA Structures Technical Committee.

Following the Awards portion of the program, 2018-2019 Chairman MAJ Jehle recognized the past year’s Council members and provided a summary of the Section’s activities for the past year.

MAJ Jehle then recognized the incoming Chairman LTC Greg Simpson by presenting him with the Chairman’s Plaque which is held by each year’s chair. The Section’s Officers and Directors for 2019-2020 were then recognized and LTC Simpson provided remarks on his vision for the upcoming year. The dinner was adjourned by LTC Simpson after the retrieval of the colors by the Bob Jones High School AFJROTC.
Are you ready for the AIAA GHS Fourth Annual Next Gen Technical Symposium?

Nishanth Goli

Do you like to present technical work to your peers in the industry and receive feedback? Do you like to hear from distinguished personalities from the aerospace industry? Do you like to receive mentorship and ask questions to leaders in the community? Do you like to listen to technical discussions on latest technologies? Do you like to participate in short courses on latest technologies? Do you like to socialize with your peers in the industry?

If you answered "YES" more than once, then you must attend the Fourth Annual Next Gen Technical Symposium from September 9-10 at the LogiCore Conference Facility in Cummings Research Park, Huntsville, AL. This two-day local aerospace conference brings together the important innovators, researchers, and engineers – such as yourself – from all across the Southeastern United States, and shines a light on the technical challenges we all work to surmount each day.

Over 30 attendees at Blue Pants Brewery on June 12 to participate in the Nerd Trivia supporting the Next Gen Technical Symposium (Pic Courtesy – Nishanth Goli)

We are seeking presenters in over 15 subject areas. Abstracts are due July 19th! Getting clearance to present requires roughly a month at most places so act now! To participate in this symposium or to learn more about the symposium, please visit our website (https://aiaanextgen.org/). Tickets to the Symposium are priced at only $55 for AIAA members and $65 for non-members. Early-bird pricing, valid till August 9th, is $50 for AIAA members and $55 for non-members. So act fast!!

Leading up to the symposium are several fundraisers to spread the word. The first this year was held at Farmburger and brought in almost double of what was collected in the previous year. A trivia night was just held at the local Blue Pants Brewery which hosted over 30 local members. In the time remaining before the symposium two more fundraisers are planned: a wine and painting night at Spirited Art, and a "brews to benefit" event at the Straight to Ale Brewery. ■

Professor Majdalani named John Leland Atwood educator of the year

Roy Hartfield

Dr. Joseph C. (Joe) Majdalani, professor and Francis chair of excellence in aerospace engineering at Auburn University, has received the J. Leland Atwood award and medallion at the 2019 Science and Technology Forum (SciTech). SciTech dates back to 1963 and, with over 4000 attendees, constitutes the most diverse gathering of aerospace professionals worldwide. Administered by the American Society for Engineering Education, the Atwood award is considered one of the most prestigious educator recognitions in the field of aerospace engineering; it is also cosponsored by Rockwell Collins (now Collins Aerospace) and AIAA. It is bestowed each year upon an educator with outstanding contributions to the field of aerospace engineering. Past recipients include teacher-scholars such as Gordon C. Oates, John L. Junkins, John D. Anderson, Joseph A. Schetz, and John Valasek.

Established in 1985, the Atwood award was named after a distinguished engineer and president of North American Aviation (now part of Boeing), who played a significant role in the development of aviation and aerospace technologies for more than 50 years. Atwood entered aviation during its infancy, i.e., when it was considered just a “little more than experimentation in a daring sport.” Yet his firm belief and strong passion for this new field have helped to reshape and transform aeronautics and astronautics into cornerstones of national security, transportation, and global commerce.

Left-to-right: Carlos Cesnik (Aerospace Design and Structures Director), Joe Majdalani (Auburn professor), and Nancy Andersen (Integration and Outreach Division Chief) at SciTech’19 in San Diego, CA, Jan 10, 2019.
Majdalani was nominated by his colleague, emeritus professor Winfred A. (Butch) Foster, Jr, for his “technical achievements in the field of propulsion and memorable student development experiences.” He was also supported by several faculty members, professional associates, and former students from Marquette University, the University of Tennessee, and Auburn University.

“The Lee Atwood Award is a crowning achievement in Dr. Majdalani’s already movingly illustrious career as a premier leader of learning in engineering,” said Roy Hartfield, the Wolotsz Professor and assistant chair of aerospace engineering. “His intrinsic ability to distill complex concepts into crystal clear ideas is truly exceptional.”

Majdalani had mentored ten doctoral students who were later named “Outstanding Graduate Research/Teaching Assistants.” These include Tony Saad (2007), Sean Fischbach (2008), Joshua Batterson (2009), Brian Maicke (2010), Michel Akiki (2011), Robert Watson (2016), Timothy Marquardt (2016), Orie Cecil (2017), Paul Kovacic (2018), and Langston Williams (2019). Cecil, Kovacic, and Williams were each named the most outstanding “graduate student of the year” within the Greater Huntsville Section of the AIAA. Moreover, Langston Williams and Charles Haddad captured the national Zarem Award for Distinguished Achievement in Astronautics at the national stage, and Langston was sent to represent the United States at the International Astronautical Congress in September 2018 in Adelaide, Australia. His graduate students have also garnered several recognitions including sixteen “Best Paper” awards in the past eight years along with fifteen “Best Poster” awards in the past six years both locally and internationally.

Serving as an educator since 1990, Majdalani has attracted several distinctions for his teaching and mentorship. These include the 2015 “Outstanding Aerospace Engineering Faculty Member” at Auburn, NASA’s 2002 Higher Education Award, and the 1999 and 2000 Outstanding Teaching Awards at Marquette University. His other education-based accomplishments include both 2013 and 2018 Abe M. Zarem Educator Awards in Astronautics, the 2016 Sustained Service Award, the 2015 National Faculty Advisor Award, and the 2014 Konrad Dannenberg Educator Award. In Tennessee, he had similarly received the 2013 AIAA Special Award and, from SAE International, the 2007 Ralph R. Teetor Educational Award in Aerospace Mobility. Early in his career, Majdalani was recognized for being the first faculty member at Marquette University to receive an engineering CAREER grant from the National Science Foundation. Majdalani started teaching in 1990, while serving as a graduate student, and then advanced from assistant professor in January 1997 to a named full professor in August 2003, within five-and-a-half years.

After 10 years of service as a professor and chair of excellence at the University of Tennessee, Dr. Majdalani joined Auburn in 2013 as the Auburn Alumni Engineering Council Endowed Professor and Chair. In 2016, he was appointed the Hugh and Loeda Francis Chair of Excellence. He presently conducts research aimed at enhancing the stability and performance of rocket engines. He also serves as a principal investigator on a grant from the National Science Foundation as well as two contracts from NASA and Sierra Nevada Corporation. These programs focus on the development of upper-stage swirl-driven, cyclonic rocket engines as well as the NEXUS class of deep-space Nuclear-Thermal Propulsion systems.

AIAA Members Win 2018 Jacobs Space Exploration Group Awards
Ken Philippart
Images courtesy of Sarah Lincoln

Two Greater Huntsville Section members were recently recognized with prestigious awards from the Jacobs Space Exploration Group (JSEG) contract group at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC). Jill Brown received the 2018 JSEG Apogee Award and Theresa Jehle was named the 2018 Volunteer of the Year. Both members received their awards during a ceremony on March 25, 2019.

AIAA Senior Member Jill Brown received the Apogee Award, the JSEG’s highest technical honor. The award is given in recognition of outstanding specific accomplishments which significantly exceed normal performance standards and exhibit exemplary ethical and professional practices consistent with the JSEG philosophy. Additional criteria considered in the selection are efforts to support professional societies, and service to the community. Jill’s nomination cited her as “the linchpin of MSFC’s efforts to integrate the [RL10] engine into the Space Launch System upper stage.” Her engineering expertise and facilitating skills were crucial to addressing interface challenges on the Space Launch System and to reaching consensus between NASA engineering elements and the booster and upper stage engine contractor. Jill’s involvement in AIAA was also a key selection factor. Her nomination read,
“Jill approaches service to others in a very personal and passionate manner” and cited instances of her AIAA activities.

Greater Huntsville Section Membership Director Theresa Jehle was named the JSEG Volunteer of the Year for 2018. The Volunteer of the Year award recognizes outstanding specific contributions by an individual or team to the community. Such contributions are made on personal time to serve others and to enhance the goodwill stature of JSEG.

Theresa was selected based on her extensive volunteer involvement within the Huntsville community. She is active within AIAA, the JSEG Futures young professionals group, the Jacobs Women’s Network, the National Space Club and the Space & Missile Defense Command Family Readiness Group. She also teaches ‘English as a Second Language’ courses and serves as a Space Launch System Ambassador to promote aerospace careers. Theresa has been an active member of the AIAA Greater Huntsville Section for over two years and is currently serving as the section’s Membership Director. She previously served on the Young Professional/NextGen Symposium Committee.

Congratulations Jill and Theresa. Thank you for your service to the Greater Huntsville Section and our community!

Theresa Jehle (center) receives the Volunteer of the Year Award from Jacobs Space Exploration Group Deputy Program Manager Jeff Haars (left) and Program Manager Randy Lycans (right).


Nishanth Goli
Images courtesy of Arloe Mayne and Nishanth Goli

Jill Brown (center) receives the Apogee Award from Jacobs Space Exploration Group Deputy Program Manager Jeff Haars (left) and Program Manager Randy Lycans (right).

AIAA GHS Vice-Chair, Nishanth Goli, presenting the section coin to Brian Odom for his presentation during the June Luncheon

The AIAA Greater Huntsville Section conducts monthly lunch and learn session for its members, their guests and non-members. The section invites accomplished individuals to
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For the June luncheon, the council wanted to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11. While the stories of the development of the Saturn V and the success of Apollo 11 are well known, the deeper context of Apollo in Huntsville is often overlooked. Brian Odom, NASA Marshall Historian, was invited as a speaker to the luncheon on June 19th. His presentation examined Huntsville’s contributions to the Moon landing through the broader lens of federal development in the Tennessee Valley, German immigration and knowledge transfer, the Cold War, and the civil rights movement - forces which have all left a dramatic imprint on the region’s economy, politics, and larger society.

Kord Technologies of Huntsville, AL, graciously offered their meeting room as the venue for the luncheon. The luncheon was well attended with over 25 participants that included AIAA professional members, student members and non-members and Kord employees. Kathleen catering provided catering services.

For the July luncheon of the AIAA GHS, the council wanted to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11 by looking at what the next 50 years of Human missions to Moon, Mars and beyond would look like. To learn about these topics, the section leadership invited Bobby Watkins who graciously accepted to speak at the luncheon. Bobby Watkins currently serves as the director of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) Human Exploration Development and Operations (HEDO) Office, managing all human exploration and operations program work except the Space Launch System.

AIAA GHS July Luncheon with Bobby Watkins, NASA Director of Human Exploration Development and Operations (HEDO) - Artemis: Forward to the Moon by 2024

Nishanth Goli
Images courtesy of Nishanth Goli

The AIAA Greater Huntsville Section conducts monthly lunch and learn session for its members, their guests and non-members. The section invites accomplished individuals to speak on interesting topics that cater to the interest of AIAA members and non-members.

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AIAA GHS Chair, Greg Simpson, presenting the section coin to Bobby Watkins for his presentation during the July Luncheon

Bobby Watkins, NASA Director of Human Exploration Development and Operations (HEDO) presenting during the AIAA GHS July Luncheon
NASA is executing a plan to land American astronauts, including the first woman, on the Moon by 2024. This is an ambitious goal but the Agency is poised to achieve it through the Artemis program. Mr. Watkins presentation provided information on the Artemis program and how it sets the framework for taking us not only to the Moon, but to Mars and deep space. He spoke about the goals, and the phases of exploration and answered questions from many of the attendees.

Kord Technologies of Huntsville, AL, graciously offered their meeting room as the venue for the luncheon. The luncheon was well attended with over 40 participants that included AIAA professional members, student members and non-members and Kord employees. Kathleen catering provided catering services for members who purchased lunch.

Historic C-47 That’s All Brother Visits Birmingham
Ken Philippart
Images courtesy of Lisa Philippart

That’s All Brother, the historic C-47 that was the lead aircraft of 800 to drop paratroopers in the World War II invasion of Normandy, visited Birmingham from April 12 – 14, 2019. The stop was part of the aircraft’s Spring Tour en route to its return to Normandy to participate in events commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day on June 6.

That’s All Brother is owned and operated by the Commemorative Air Force Central Texas Wing and was invited to visit Birmingham by the Southern Museum of Flight. The aircraft was the centerpiece of the museum’s educational programs to inform students and adults alike on the history of World War II, D-Day and the aircraft that led the largest aerial invasion in history. During the operation, the aircraft was piloted by then-Lt Col John Donalson, a Birmingham native who ultimately rose to the grade of Major General and was the first commanding general of the Alabama National Guard.

Paratrooper seats were not designed for comfort.

Rides were available for those wanting to experience history by flying in the C-47. I took advantage of this opportunity on April 13. Climbing into the aircraft, I was struck by its spartan nature. Hard metal, pan seats lined each side of the fuselage. A wire cable ran the length of the aircraft where paratroopers hooked up their statis lines before jumping. Like most military aircraft, That’s All Brother was noisy, hot and uncomfortable with no creature comforts. Today, we can only imagine what it must have been like for the young men who flew in this aircraft in darkness, coming under intense anti-aircraft fire on their way to the drop zones, or the thoughts running through their heads as they prepared to jump into the killing fields on that day. The word “courage” seems inadequate to describe what they did. At the end of our flight, the pilot flew over the cemetery where John Donalson was buried, an appropriate salute to an American hero.
As part of the weekend’s events, the Southern Museum of Flight hosted a World War II Victory Dance complete with Big Band music, food, drink and dancing. That’s All Brother provided a fitting backdrop for the evening and attendees were allowed to tour the aircraft. Keynote remarks were provided by Col. Scott Grant, Commander of the 117 Air Refueling Wing in Birmingham. Major General Donalson’s grandchildren attended and told stories about their grandfather to cap the weekend’s commemoration of the D-Day invasion and aircraft along with honoring the men who made history and liberated Europe.

The symposium provided an opportunity for professionals and academia (post-graduate and above) to deliver a technical presentation to a group of peers and promoted opportunities for interaction (technical and non-technical) with senior professionals in attendance. As travel to national and international conferences tends to be difficult for Young Professionals (YPs), this was a unique opportunity for YPs in academia, industry, and government to present their work and identify opportunities for alignment and collaboration in a more local setting.

The symposium saw 96 participants that included 58 young professionals, 30 judges and mentors and 8 speakers. Prior to the symposium, five fundraiser/publicity events were held from June through September that saw a combined attendance of around 200 members. About 30 authors presented their research work on Space Exploration and Environments; Guidance, Navigation and Control; Propulsion Systems and Architectures; Aerodynamics and Aeroacoustics; and Systems Engineering.

Similar to last year, the AIAA GHS worked together with the American Astronomical Society and NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. This collaboration led to the symposium attendees getting invited to a joint reception with the attendees of the Wernher von Braun Memorial Symposium (VBS) on the evening of October 24th at the Huntsville Museum of Art. Just prior to the joint reception, the symposium had an opening keynote address by Robert Lightfoot, LSINC President and former NASA acting Administrator.
former NASA acting Administrator, where Mr. Lightfoot shared with the audiences his lessons from leading NASA.

Next-Gen Manufacturing Panel Discussion by William West, as the panel coordinator and Mike Clark, Stephen Crow, and Judith Schneider (L-R)

On day one, October 25th, of the symposium, a lunch keynote address was given by Julie Schumacher, KODA Technologies CEO/President and former Deputy to the Commanding General USASMDC/ARSTRAT, on Leadership and Career Translation. A Next-Gen Manufacturing Panel was also organized with William West, Economic Development Project Director at Huntsville/Madison County Chamber, as the panel coordinator and Mike Clark, General Manager Manufacturing, Engineering, Maintenance at Toyota North America; Stephen Crow, Director of Mechanical Engineering at United Launch Alliance (ULA); and Judith Schneider, Professor at University of Alabama in Huntsville; as the panel speakers. The panel discussed the next generation of manufacturing that is changing how the industry operates and encouraged the young professionals in the audience to look forward to the future opportunities.

Day two of the symposium began with a morning Keynote address by Daniel L. Dumbacher, Executive Director of AIAA, on ‘Fail to Succeed’. Later that morning, Dr. Ryan Weber, Associate Professor and Director of Business and Technical Writing at UAH, conducted a workshop on ‘Writing a Conference/Journal Paper’. The workshop discussed differences between a conference and journal paper, enlightened the audience about common writing mistakes, and understanding the reviewers’ mind. Participants also completed interactive exercises to sharpen their writing skills. The lunch keynote address was given by Col.(Ret) Bill Marks, II, Geocent, LLC - Vice President, Huntsville Operations & former Garrison Commander of Redstone Arsenal, on Values based Professionalism. The symposium was concluded by the Speed Mentoring Event where attendees could visit any of the eight tables for half hour each. Each table had leaders from various organizations who provided mentorship on Innovation, Professional Societies, Advanced Concepts, Technical Leadership, Early Product Development, Professional Development, Commercial Space and Defense. After the symposium, the attendees later met at Inner Space Brewery for a closing social reception.

The symposium provided a single venue that offered members an opportunity to participate in mentorship events, skill-development workshops, technical panel discussions, social receptions and listen to prominent leaders in addition to presenting technical presentations to their peers. The symposium combines these six different opportunities into one event which makes it truly an outstanding event. This hugely successful event was possible only due to the dedication of over 20 volunteers and their fundraising efforts and sponsorships from local companies. The symposium committee and the section council thank Jacobs, Teledyne Brown Engineering, RadioBro Corporation and The University of Alabama in Huntsville for the kind sponsorships.

2019 Armed Forces Celebration Luncheon
Ken Philippart
Image courtesy of Naveen Vetcha

The Greater Huntsville Section participated in the 2019 Armed Forces Celebration Luncheon at the Von Braun Center on June 26. The luncheon was part of the Huntsville community’s week long commemoration of Armed Forces Week. The Section returned to the event after last year’s absence, marking the Section’s third time participating in the festivities.

This year’s luncheon commemorated the 75th anniversary of the World War II D-Day invasion. Four WWII veterans attended, including one who participated in the invasion by transporting troops ashore at Normandy in Higgins boats. The
veterans received a standing ovation from the audience after their introduction.

Over 500 people attended the luncheon, hosted annually by the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce (CoC). Ms. Kim Lewis, CoC Chair, emceed the event. Dignitaries included Mayors Tommy Battle and Paul Findlay, Alabama congressional representatives, and General Gustave Perna, Commanding General of US Army Materiel Command (AMC).

General Perna gave the keynote address. He talked about the purposes of the US military and the need to always be prepared to defend the nation. He reviewed times in our history when the US was not prepared and lamented the lives lost because of the failure to prepare. He rededicated Redstone Arsenal to keeping the Army strong and thanked the active duty military members and veterans in attendance for their service.

AIAA was represented by section Chair LTC Greg Simpson and former chairs Dr. Naveen Vetch and Lt Col (retired) Ken Philippart. The Greater Huntsville Section salutes our military members and their families!

Section Leaders Attend Non Profit University 2019
Ken Philippart
Images courtesy of Lisa Philippart

Members of the Greater Huntsville Section attended the 6th annual Non Profit University (NPU) at the Von Braun Center on June 18. An initiative of the Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville, NPU brought together non-profit organizations from across the region to train, share best practices, strengthen collaboration, and strategize for growth. Educational sessions and tailored tracks focused on different strategic and functional efforts to help non-profits thrive. This was the sixth year NPU was in Huntsville and representatives from over 1,100 non-profit organizations have attended over the years. This year, 525 representatives from 237 organizations, including the Greater Huntsville Section, attended. Madison Mayor Paul Finley welcomed the attendees. Ms. Allison Black Cornelius, Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Birmingham Humane Society, delivered the keynote address.

AIAA Mobile Chapter Apollo 11 Anniversary Celebration at the Exploreum
Lisa Schibelius
Image courtesy of Dan Domenzain

On Saturday, July 20, 2019, the AIAA Mobile Chapter partnered with the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the NASA Apollo 11 Moon Landing. AIAA members joined together at the Exploreum to
teach aerospace enthusiasts young and old about rocket science and aircraft principles, with the use of wooden balsa gliders, straw rocket launches and a large water bottle rocket demonstration. AIAA involvement included student and graduate student members from the University of South Alabama Launch Society and Design Build Fly team, as well as professional members from local aerospace industry at Airbus, and elementary and college-level educators. The Exploreum also featured a presentation from NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador Jamie Ellis on “To Apollo and Beyond: Back to the Moon, Onward to Mars.” About 12 AIAA members and 8 non-members participated and they spoke to almost 50 museum visitors about AIAA and Aerospace. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported our AIAA Mobile Chapter event kick-off of the year.

UAH Student Branch
Jacob Clark

This Spring, The University of Alabama in Huntsville AIAA Student Branch started the semester by hosting a popcorn and cookies professional social, where students had a chance to meet AIAA professionals and learned about the benefits of being an AIAA member. We also attended the UAH Student Organizations fair, where we talked to students about joining AIAA. These events were great opportunities to gain new members.

In February, UAH AIAA hosted Jerry Hendrix, the Director of Unmanned Aerial Systems Programs at UAH, who presented on the use of drones in disaster relief scenarios. UAH AIAA also helped the Greater Huntsville Section with the Great Paper Airplane Contest. The UAH Branch booked the venue, helped advertise, and had several members volunteer to judge the different competitions and to help clean up at the end.

UAH AIAA Outreach held several events with Holy Family Catholic School this Spring. The first lab of the spring involved using putty to design a wire charger holder. These designs were then taken by our outreach coordinator and approximated in a CAD software, and 3-D printed using the 3-D printer located on site. Our outreach coordinator also organized and approved an arrangement between a joint Mechanical and Aerospace class to be able to present their semester project to the students at Holy Family. This gave UAH students the opportunity to practice their presentation skills and let them teach younger kids about STEM fields and education.

The UAH AIAA branch attended the 2019 Region II Student Conference in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Before the conference, Greater Huntsville Section AIAA professionals came and critiqued student presentations giving the students a chance to make corrections and improve their presentations before the conference. Students had the opportunity to meet members of other AIAA student Branches, and talk with recruiters from multiple aerospace companies and organizations. We had multiple members present their papers, with one team placing 3rd in the teams category, and UAH AIAA placing 3rd in community outreach.

Drone Race
Carlos Montalvo

The First annual student First Person View (FPV) indoor drone race was held on March 4th, 2019 at 1:00PM. The competition was organized and conducted by the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics as a fund raiser for the Chapter. A course was set up in a classroom to challenge participants’ drone flying capabilities. Drones were provided for contestants and given 5 minutes to run through chairs and hoops inside the classroom. The best time won a free drone. This activity was the kickoff event for Space Week, which was sponsored by the Tau Beta Pi honor society. Space Week included many activities associated with the Alabama Space Program including a visit by Astronaut Larry DeLucas. AIAA hopes to put this contest on every year to raise awareness about aerospace engineering and drone racing.
AIAA Greater Huntsville Section organizes a private planetarium show
Naveen Vetcha

On Friday, March 29th, the Greater Huntsville Section organized a private planetarium show for AIAA members and guests at the Wernher Von Braun Planetarium located in Monte Sano State Park in Huntsville AL. Section subsidized the planetarium entry fee so that members can attend the show for $1. Event announcement got a tremendous response and sold out 24 hours before the registration deadline. 64 members and guests attended the show. Some student members came from as far as Tuscaloosa. Section Chair, Alex Jehle welcomed everyone to the show, thanked all the members for supporting section’s activities and introduced the speaker, Dr. Naveen Vetcha. Naveen started the show by playing a short video about the history of the Von Braun Astronomical Society (VBAS) and Dr. Von Braun’s role in establishing the society. He then spoke about the asteroids, consequences of their impacts and planetary protection strategies from future impacts. Following this, he projected the night sky over Huntsville on to the planetarium dome and pointed various constellations that are visible during this time of the year. Attendees were also given the opportunity to touch and feel the meteorite collection available at VBAS. Weather conditions were not favorable for observing through the telescopes. VBAS volunteers gave a tour of Swanson observatory which houses a 21-inch telescope. AIAA Greater Huntsville Section thanks VBAS for accommodating this private show.

Section Supports NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge
Kelli Pomeroy
Images courtesy of NASA/MSFC and Kelli Pomeroy

On April 12 and 13, the AIAA Greater Huntsville Section once again supported NASA’s annual Human Exploration Rover Challenge. Although it was a rainy weekend, the event was a great success with lots of excitement from the many teams who attended from all over the world. The Greater Huntsville Section sponsored five awards again this year: the Neil Armstrong Best Design Award (college and high school), the AIAA Best Report Award (college and high school), and the AIAA Telemetry Award. With 45 total entries, the judging was as difficult as ever, with some of the teams winning their category by just one point. The Neil Armstrong Best Design Award winners were Parish Episcopal High School (a repeat winner in an incredibly tight race) and KIET Group of Institutions (the first group from India to win the award). The judges were especially impressed with both teams’ scientific approach to the design.

The Neil Armstrong Design Award was not the only award Parish took home; they also received the AIAA Best Report Award in the high school division, while the University of Memphis took home the award for the college division with nearly perfect scores.

The winner of the AIAA Telemetry Award was Universidad Nacional de Ingenieria (Peru), who received a particularly impressive report score total. Congratulations to all of the competitors for their ingenuity, teamwork, and dedication in completing their rovers.

Parish Episcopal High School
Neil Armstrong Best Design Award Winner and AIAA Best Report Award Winner (High School Category)
AIAA’s participation in this event would not have been possible without the dedication of our member volunteers. Thank you to the following: Naveen Vetcha, Brittani Searcy, Jill Brown, Tamara Statham, Nishanth Goli, Peter Schmick, Scott Prichard, Lynn Koehler, Allan Lang, Eric Jackson, Erik Nielsen, Richard Boxwell, John Dankanich, Joseph Huwaldt, Theresa Jehle, Andes Hoyt, Lauren Badia, Patrick Dees, Alex Byers, Leonard Petnga, and Alex Jehle.

The 3rd Wednesday of March is a special day for AIAA and our members. This is the one day set aside for Congressional Visits Day (CVD) each year. CVD is a day-long event for AIAA Sections to visit each of their respective congressional delegations of US Senators and US Representatives. Over the past few years, approximately 200 AIAA members from across the country have traveled to Washington DC to participate in CVD. Your Greater Huntsville Section has been well represented in the past and we expect to continue in this great tradition of spreading the message of the importance of our aerospace sector to the economic success of our country. GHS members have visited all US Representatives and US Senators for Alabama and Mississippi for the last several years. In fact, GHS has won the Public Policy Chapter of the Year (Very Large Category) for two years running on account of our substantial participation in CVD and other public policy events.

GHS can continue to support AIAA by sending more section members to CVD. This is a great experience to get to know your Washington DC delegation and other AIAA members from across the county. We need more Senior members to attend. Our student participation has been outstanding and has become a resume enhancing experience.
Thanks to Mississippi State University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville the GHS section has been represented by at least six student members in the past two years. Participation is easy. In fact, AIAA holds a training webinar weeks prior to the event and a face-to-face reception and training session the day prior. To encourage members to attend, the AIAA National Office offers a subsidy of up to $500 per person subject to application and description of need. Our GHS section has also budgeted a small amount to supplement the subsidy. I encourage each GHS member to participate. It is important to AIAA, important to our aerospace sector, and will be a fulfilling experience for you. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Crumbly at chris@spaceroc.com and I will be happy to help. Let’s be sure to support our new Public Policy Director, Alix Villanueva as she prepares for the next CVD scheduled for March 18, 2020.

During the same evening, section in partnership with USSRC organized a pass the torch lecture with AIAA distinguished speaker, Mr. Robert Zimmerman. According to USSRC website, “Pass the Torch features innovative, influential and interesting professionals from industry, academia and government speaking about their work in space, aeronautics, engineering, science research and other related fields. The Pass the Torch series is open to the public and is a great way to reconnect with history, learn more about specialized topics, or even catch a glimpse of an exciting future, Pass the Torch inspires and educates young and old alike.” Bob Zimmerman is an award-winning science journalist and historian who has written six books and more than a hundred articles on science, engineering, and the history of space exploration and technology. He also reports on space and science news at his website, Behind the Black (http://behindtheblack.com). Bob’s talk was titled “How Apollo 8 won the 1960s space race and changed the world.” Section Chair, Greg Simpson provided an overview of AIAA GHS and introduced the speaker. Bob took audience to 1960s through his narration of various events that made astronauts Frank Borman, Jim Lovell, and Bill Anders first humans to journey to another world. He talked about how Apollo 8 mission probably exerted a much greater influence on human history (as compared to Apollo 11), coming as it did during Christmas week 1968 at the end of what had been an ugly and violent year. Bob interviewed all the three astronauts who flew on Apollo 8. He described the events from their personal perspectives. At the end of the talk, section did a raffle and gave away seven books (6 copies of “The Universe In a Mirror,” and 1 copy of “Leaving Earth”) that are authored by the speaker. Bob interacted with the winners and signed the copies.

AIAA Greater Huntsville Section at Biergarten

Naveen Vetcha

AIAA Greater Huntsville Section (GHS) was the featured non-profit at the US Space & Rocket Center’s Biergarten (https://rocketcenter.com/Biergarten) on Thursday, July 25th. Biergarten is a family friendly event hosted by Space and Rocket Center every Thursday evening (between spring to late fall). Visitors can enjoy authentic German food, drinks, and listen to live music while dining under Saturn V. To support local community, Space and Rocket Center (SRC) features a local non-profit organization each week at the Biergarten, and a portion of food sales that evening will be donated to the organization. Featured non-profit also gets an opportunity to setup a table at the event to interact with the visitors and inform them about the organization’s mission. Section Vice-Chair, Nishanth Goli sought volunteers to staff the table and coordinated section’s participation.

Section volunteers with the speaker, Bob Zimmerman (center)
Section Chair, Greg Simpson speaking about AIAA before Pass the Torch Lecture

Speaker and Author, Bob Zimmerman signing the books

Section thanks Space and Rocket Center for featuring AIAA Greater Huntsville Section at the Biergarten and partnering with us to host Pass the Torch lecture. Thanks also to section members who attended the event and supported the section. Special thanks to following volunteers who made this participation successful: Patrick Dees, Alex Buyers, Tammy Statham, Alan Lowrey, Ragini Acharya, Greg Simpson, Nishanth Goli, and Naveen Vetcha.

Building upon previous years’ successes and lessons learned, the section continued to innovate and improve its processes, exhibit and results. Led by Vice Chair Nishanth Goli, the section promoted the Top Ten Benefits of Volunteering and divided the volunteer schedule into easily manageable 2.5-hour blocks. The membership responded to the call, with 18 members volunteering to work the table. The phenomenal turnout ensured that the exhibit was staffed by a minimum of two members, and often three, throughout the symposium, allowing volunteers to take breaks and wander the exhibit themselves during slow periods.

A Volunteer Handbook containing the shift schedule, volunteer contact information, general instructions, Frequently Asked Questions, and a list of benefits of AIAA membership was provided to all volunteers. The Handbook enabled a seamless transition between volunteers, served as a ready reference and standardized the section’s message so all volunteers spoke with one voice.

AIAA Exhibit at the 2019 Space & Missile Defense Symposium
Ken Philipp
Images courtesy of Greg Simpson and Ken Philipp

The Greater Huntsville Section was an exhibitor at the 2019 Space & Missile Defense Symposium from August 6 – 8, 2019 at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama. This was the section’s fifth year exhibiting at Huntsville’s largest annual technical forum. Participation in the symposium was part of Greater Huntsville’s outreach to its Department of Defense constituents.

A visitor looks over AIAA upcoming events while John Lassiter looks on.
The exhibit included a business card drop to encourage visitors to leave their contact information. One business card was drawn after the event and the lucky winner received a free ticket to the Greater Huntsville Section’s August luncheon. Congratulations to James Buford for winning the business card drawing.

The exhibit displayed a wealth of information about AIAA and the Greater Huntsville Section including Professional Member, Student Member and Educator Associate brochures, section business cards, copies of Aerospace America and announcements of upcoming events. A bowl of candy enticed visitors to stop by the exhibit. By far the most important part of the exhibit was the chance for members to relay their personal experiences and benefits of AIAA membership. Fourteen new contacts were made during the symposium.

The Tuesday evening hospitality social was especially popular with the AIAA volunteers, with many availing themselves of the opportunity to network with colleagues in a fun, relaxing setting with good food, drink and entertainment.

Naveen Vetcha and Vice Chair Nishanth Goli enjoy the networking social.

A big thank you to our volunteers: Dr. Ron Miller, Erik Nielson, Andes Hoyt, Dr. Arloe Mayne, John Lassiter, Ken Philippart, Dr. Naveen Vetcha, Nishanth Goli, Carlton Corbitt, Dr. Gabe Xu, Wayne McCain, Charles Porter, Katherine Brewer, Jill Brown, Alix Villanueva, Dylan Stapp, Saroj Kumar, and Mark Smith. We couldn’t have done it without you! Mark your calendars for August 6 – 7, 2020 for the 2020 Space & Missile Defense Symposium.

Greater Huntsville Section at AirVenture 2019
Ken Philippart
Images courtesy of Lisa Philippart and EAA

Members of the Greater Huntsville Section attended the world’s largest aviation gathering, the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin from July 22 - 28. For the second consecutive year, section members met for pictures and socializing while enjoying all that AirVenture offered. New this year, Greater Huntsville invited the Wisconsin Section to join in on the fun also.

AirVenture celebrated its 50th anniversary in Oshkosh this year. Over 640,000 people made the pilgrimage to Oshkosh in 2019, a new attendance record.

Over 10,000 aircraft ranging from operational military aircraft, homebuilts, vintage warbirds, antique general aviation aircraft, ultralights, unmanned aerial vehicles and powered parachutes converged on Whitman Field for the annual celebration of all things aviation. Daily airshows included military flybys, aerobatics, vintage warbird formations, World War II reenactments, parachuting teams and commemoration of events such as the 70th anniversary of the legendary T-28 trainer and the Year of the Fighter. The Apollo 11 50th anniversary celebration featured a presentation by Apollo 11 Command Module pilot Michael Collins and his long-time friend, X-15 pilot and astronaut Joe Engel. Two evening airshows capped the performances with aircraft equipped with LEDs and fireworks dispensers followed by a fireworks show culminating in AirVenture’s unique Wall of Fire with a new fireball display this year.

(L to R) Tom Brennison, Ken & Lisa Philippart and Wisconsin Section Past Chair Mike Brennison at AirVenture’s iconic Brown Arch.
Aviation legends Dick and Burt Rutan, World War II triple Ace Col Bud Anderson, and Tuskegee Airman Colonel Charles McGee spoke about their experiences, helping aviation history come alive for AirVenture attendees.

Section Members Lisa Philippart and Susan Mallett also participated in WomenVenture, the 12th annual celebration of female aviators and aviation enthusiasts at AirVenture. Activities included a group photo in front of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, the WomenVenture Breakfast and a luncheon with guest speaker Air Force Lt Col and Iraqi War A-10 pilot Kim Campbell.

Greater Huntsville again arranged for a group photo at the iconic AirVenture arch and this year invited Wisconsin Section members to participate. While several members in attendance could not be in the photo due to conflicts, Wisconsin Section Past Chair Mike Brennison and his father Tom met up with Greater Huntsville Section members Ken and Lisa Philippart for the traditional picture. The two sections discussed ways to collaborate on activities at AirVenture in 2020.

There is abundance of things to do at AirVenture but Greater Huntsville Section members again made time to meet at Oshkosh’s historic Roxy Supper Club. Susan Mallett arranged for AIAA members to dine with a diverse group of aviation enthusiasts including 3-time US National Aerobatic Champion and retired Southwest Airline Captain Debbie Rihn-Harvey, Korean War pilot Lt Col Bob Haver and members of the Civil Air Patrol. The stories and passion for flight shared by this group of aviation experts made for an enjoyable evening befitting AirVenture’s moniker as an “aviation family reunion.”

The Greater Huntsville Section enjoyed its second AirVenture adventure. Section members are making plans to return next year. See you in Oshkosh!
Apollo 50th Anniversary
Gabe Xu and Nishanth Goli
Images courtesy of Gabe Xu, Alix Villanueva, and UAH RSESC

50 years ago, Apollo 11 launched from Launch Complex 39 at the Kennedy Space Center on July 16, 13:32 UTC. It was the fifth crewed mission of the Apollo program. Four days later, on July 20 at 20:17 UTC, the Lunar Module Eagle landed in the Sea of Tranquility on the Moon. Thus, humanity’s first steps on another celestial body had been accomplished. Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin spend two hours and 31 minutes exploring the Lunar surface, setting up instruments, and collecting samples for return to Earth. A number of events in the Section were held during and leading up to the week of July 16th.

UAH Salmon Library Special Collection and Archives Open House

The UAH M. Louis Salmon Library held an open house and reception Sunday, July 14th. The library displayed collections related to the space race, Apollo missions, NASA, and Huntsville during the 50’s and 60’s. Original photographs from that time of the town, people, and events were made available for view in the archives. Refreshments from the 1960’s were served including pineapple upside down cake, pigs in a blanket, French onion dip, deviled eggs, Jezebel sauce, and Tang.

Guinness Record Rocket Launch

On the morning of July 16, the US Space and Rocket Center attempted to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the most rockets launched at one time. 5000 Estes rockets were set up in the field behind the Marriott hotel by a crew of volunteers starting bright and early at 5 am. A crowd of hundreds from Alabama and nearby states had gathered for the 8:32 am (UTC 13:32) launch. A pre-launch playlist included music from 1969 and audio recordings from the original Apollo 11 launch. The launch attempt went off a few minutes after 8:32 am and resulted in 4,923 rockets launched. Confirmation from the Guinness Book of World Records is expected in a few weeks. The previous record was 4,231 simultaneous model rockets launched at Teylingen College during a European Space Science Convention in 2018.

AIAA members volunteered in the construction of the rockets and the launch day setup. USSRSC sent a request for volunteers that was also circulated by the AIAA GHS leadership to its members. More than 10 AIAA members volunteered for the rocket launch on behalf of AIAA.