On May 29 the Greater Huntsville Section held its annual Awards Dinner at the Jackson Center in Huntsville. Vice-Chair Dr. Kurt Polzin welcomed the attendees and led a toast to the occasion. The Butler High School AFJROTC presented the colors, followed by the National Anthem and an invocation.

Invited speaker Dr. Richard De Fatta, Acting Director, Technical Center – USASMDC/ARSTRAT, spoke on “Current and Future SMDC Technical Center Efforts”.

Dr. Polzin recognized Essay Contest winners Ben Calvert (8th grade) and Isaac Haynes (7th grade), and Science Fair awardees Hunter Phillips (12th grade), Michael Prevost (11th grade), Hayden Burch (9th grade), Kennedy MacDonald (11th grade), and Maya Cassady (8th grade). Paul Last was recognized as this year’s recipient of the Robert L. Sackheim Engineering and Science Scholarship. Mr. Neal Allgood and Mr. Michael Dunning were presented AIAA Special Service Citations. An AIAA Sustained Service Award was presented to Dr. Arloe W. Mayne, and Section member Dr. William Emrich was recognized as the AIAA Engineer of the Year.

Mr. Kenneth Philippart, 2014-2015 Section Chairman, conducted the presentation of the Section’s annual awards to recipients chosen by the Awards Committee. These awards and their recipients are: Ed Pruett Young Professional of the Year Award to Mr. Neal Algood; Earl Pearce Professional of the Year Award to Mr. Richard Jozefiak; Konrad Dannenberg Educator of the Year Award to Professor Brian Thurow; Martin Schilling Award for outstanding section service to Mr. Kenneth Philippart; Holger Toftoy Technical Management Award to LTG (ret) Joseph Cosumano, Jr.; and the Section’s premiere award, the Hermann Oberth award for outstanding scientific achievement in the fields of astronautics and space sciences, to Mr. Thomas J. “Jack” Lee.

The dinner was preceded by a reception and poster session at which well over 30 Young Professionals, students from several colleges in the Section’s area, and two of the Science Fair awardees had the opportunity to showcase their work on a variety of aerospace projects.

Mr. Philippart acknowledged the members of the 2014-2015 Section Council and reviewed the Section’s activities for the past year, including lunch meetings with a wide variety of distinguished speakers, plant and museum tours, the annual Paper Air Plane Contest, and others. He also recognized the Section’s newly-elected Council for the upcoming year, and presented the Chairperson’s Plaque to incoming Chair Dr. Polzin.

The Greater Huntsville Section is among AIAA’s oldest and is one of the largest sections with almost 1000 professional members across Alabama and Mississippi.

(Photos by Arloe Mayne)