

GREATER HUNTSVILLE AIAA SECTION 2017 ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Article and photos by Dr. Arloe Mayne

The Greater Huntsville AIAA Section held its 65th Annual Awards Dinner on May 12, 2017 at the Jackson Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The event was conducted by Dr. Naveen Vetcha, the Section's 2016-2017 Vice-Chairman and the 2017-2018 Chairman-Elect.



Bob Jones High School AFJROTC Color Guard

After Dr. Vetcha'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 and a toast by Dr. Vetcha preceded the evening's dinner.



Dr. Vetcha welcomes attendees

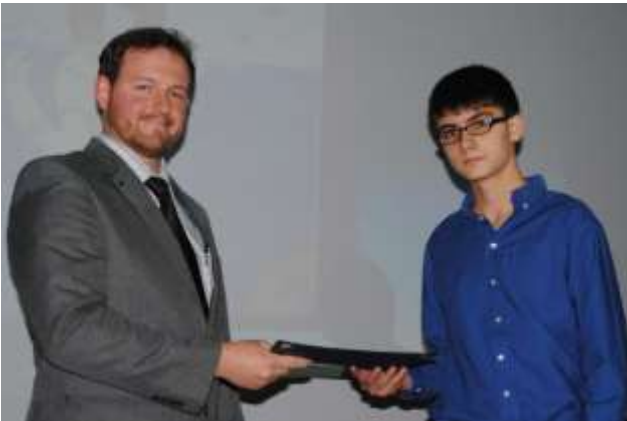
The invited speaker for the evening was AIAA Executive Director Dr. Sandra H. Magnus. She discussed the role of the Institute and its benefits. Dr. Magnus flew in space on the STS-112 shuttle mission in 2002, and on the final shuttle flight, STS-135, in 2011. She also served for four and one-half months as flight engineer and science officer on the International Space Station's Expedition 18 crew.



AIAA Executive Director Dr. Magnus speaking

Following Dr. Magnus's talk, Dr. Vetcha began the awards program with the recognition of 7th grader Mr. Riley Jordan, the recipient of an award by the Section at the Alabama Science and Engineering Fair. 9th grader Miss Madison Werkheiser, and 10th grader Mr. Tucker Honeycutt were then recognized for receiving awards by the Section at the North Alabama Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

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 NASA's Juno spacecraft and its exploration of Jupiter. Winners from the Section's area were 8th grader Mr. Ryan Haque and 7th grader Miss Taylor Honeycutt, who were presented certificates from the Section for their accomplishments. Miss Honeycutt was also presented a certificate by Dr. Magnus for being the national 7th grade winner of the essay contest.



2016-2017 Chairman Stiltner presenting certificate to Mr. Ryan Haque



2016-2017 Chairman Stiltner presenting certificate to Miss Taylor Honeycutt



2016-2017 Chairman Stiltner presenting certificate to Mr. Jason Farmer

Mr. Jason Dale Farmer of Huntsville was awarded this year's \$1,000 Greater Huntsville Section Robert L. Sackheim Engineering & Science Scholarship. He plans to major in computer engineering at Mississippi State University. Forty-one scholarships totaling \$43,000 have been awarded by the Section since 2002.



Chairman Stiltner and Dr. Davis

Dr. Jan Davis was presented a certificate from the Section recognizing her selection this year as an AIAA Fellow. AIAA confers the distinction of Fellow upon individuals in recognition of their notable and valuable contributions to the arts, sciences or technology of aeronautics and astronautics.

Mr. Randal Lycans was recognized for having been selected as an AIAA Associate Fellow this year. He received BS and MS degrees from the University of Akron, and is the General Manager of Jacobs ESSSA Group.



Chairman Stiltner and Mr. Lycans

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 Chairman Brandon Stiltner and Honors and Awards Director Dr. Joseph Majdalani.



*Honors and Awards Chairman Dr. Majdalani and Chairman Stiltner
With Undergraduate Student of the Year Miss Jessica Dedeaux*

The recipient of the Undergraduate Student of the Year Award for 2017 was Miss Jessica Lillian Dedeaux. She is a Presidential Scholar at Tuskegee University majoring in Aerospace Science Engineering. This summer she will be interning at the Boeing Company in Huntsville on the Load Dynamics Team, and she is a member of the Tuskegee AIAA Student Branch.

The recipient of the Graduate Student of the Year Award for 2017 was Mr. Orié Cecil, a doctoral student in the Department of Aerospace Engineering at Auburn University. Mr. Cecil is a member of the Auburn AIAA student branch.



Dr. Majdalani and Chairman Stiltner with Graduate Student of the Year Mr. Orié Cecil

The Ed Pruett Young Professional of the Year Award was presented to Mrs. Tamara Lee Statham by Mr. Ed Pruett, the award's namesake. Mr. Pruett was on the Section Council and served the Section for



many years. Mrs. Statham received a BS in mechanical engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and an MS in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is employed at Jacobs ESSA, and has been active in the Greater Huntsville AIAA Section as the secretary and as the Young Professional director.

Dr. Majdalani, Mr. Pruett, Mrs. Statham, and Chairman Stiltner as Mrs. Statham receives the Young Professional of the Year Award

Mr. Alan Lowrey was the recipient of the Earl Pearce Professional of the Year Award. The award was presented by Mr. Pearce's granddaughter Mrs. Rebecca Smolin. This award is named for Mr. Earl Pearce



who was on the Section Council and served as Supernumerary for many years. Mr. Lowrey received BAE and MS degrees in Aerospace Engineering from Auburn University and an MS degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Tennessee. He is employed by Jacobs ESSA, and he has served the Section and the AIAA in a variety of positions.

Dr. Majdalani, Mrs. Smolin, Professional of the Year Recipient Mr. Lowrey, and Chairman Stiltner

The Konrad Dannenberg Educator of the Year Award recipient was Dr. Anwar Ahmed. 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. Ahmed's selection as the Award's recipient was announced by Mr. Dannenberg's widow, Mrs. Jacquelyn Dannenberg. Dr. Ahmed is an AIAA Associate Fellow who received MS and PHD degrees from Wichita State University. He is currently on the faculty at Auburn University.



*Mrs. Dannenberg, Dr. Majdalani, and Chairman Stiltner.
(Educator of the Year Award recipient Dr. Anwar Ahmed was unable to attend the dinner)*



Chairman Stiltner receives Schilling Award from Dr. Majdalani

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 2017 recipient of the Schilling Year Award was Mr. Brandon Stiltner, who received BS and MS degrees from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He is a Senior Member of the AIAA, and was the 2016-2017 Chairman of the Greater Huntsville Section.

Mr. Stiltner was also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Section for his service as 2016-2017 Chairman. Mr. Ken Philippart, 2014-2015 Chairman, along with all of the previous Section Chairmen in attendance, presented an appreciation coin to Chairman Stiltner.



Chairman Stiltner and previous Chairmen presenting appreciation coin
Mr. Todd Honeycutt, 1999-2000; Mr. John Lassiter, 1995-1996; Dr. Kurt Polzin, 2015-2016; Mr. Brandon Stiltner, 2016-2017;
Mr. Ken Philippart, 2014-2015; Mr. Alan Lowrey, 1995-1996 and 2001-2002; Dr. Arloe Mayne, 2002-2003

The Holger Toftoy Award is presented to a Section member in recognition of outstanding technical management in the fields of aeronautics and astronautics. The 2017 recipient of the Toftoy Award was Mr. Chris Crumbly. He received BS and MS degrees in aerospace engineering from Auburn University, and is now employed at Teledyne Brown Engineering after a 25-year career at NASA. He is an Associate Fellow of the AIAA.



Dr. Majdalani, Mr. Crumbly with Toftoy Award, and Chairman Stiltner

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



Dr. Majdalani, Dr. Cochran with Oberth Award, and Chairman Stiltner

aeronautical sciences. This year's recipient of the Oberth Award was Dr. John Cochran, Jr. Dr. Cochran received BS and MS degrees from Auburn University and a PHD from the University of Texas in Austin. He is currently Professor Emeritus of the Department of Aerospace Engineering at Auburn University, and is a Fellow of the AIAA.



Before the Dinner



Astronauts Dr. Davis and Dr Magnus

Following the Awards portion of the program, the Section's past year was reviewed, and a look was taken toward the 2017-2018 year.

2016-2017 Chairman Mr. Stiltner recognized the past year's Council members and provided a review of the Section's activities for the year.



The Section's Officers and Directors for 2017-2018 were then recognized and incoming Chairman Dr. Vetcha provided remarks on his vision for the upcoming year. The Dinner was adjourned by Dr. Vetcha after the retrieval of the colors by the Bob Jones High School AFJROTC.

2017-2018 Chairman Dr. Vetcha receiving Chairman's plaque from 2016-2017 Chairman Mr. Stiltner

The Section extends its thanks to the corporate sponsors of the Awards Dinner:

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2017-2018 Section Officers and Directors

2016-2017 Chairman Mr. Brandon Stiltner; 2017-2018 Chairman Dr. Naveen Vetcha; Liaison to Professional Societies Director Mr. Nishanth Goli; Education Director Dr. Felix Ewere; Young Professionals Director Mrs. Tamara Statham; Webmaster Dr. Arloe Mayne; Secretary Ms. Shannon Stump; Liaison to Student Branches Director Ms. Brittani Searcy; Public Policy Director Mr. Chris Crumbly; Vice-Chairman Major Alex Jehle; Honors and Awards Director Dr. Joe Majdalani; Treasurer Ms. Lauren Badia Membership Director Ms. Candice Dalton; Special Projects Director Dr. Tracie Prater; Newsletter Editor Ms. Kelly Burnham