

## GREATER HUNTSVILLE AIAA SECTION 2019 ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Article and photos by Dr. Arloe Mayne

The Greater Huntsville AIAA Section held its 67<sup>th</sup> 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.



*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*



*Bob Jones High School AFJROTC Color Guard*

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 the evening's dinner.

The invited speaker for the evening was Mr. Joe Vallely, Vice President, External Affairs, US Space and Rocket Center. Mr. Vallely gave an overview of the Space and Rocket Center and Space Camp, and told about the USSRC's planned activities for the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> 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 to conduct a meeting of the National Space Council. He concluded with some remarks on future opportunities in space, which he referred to as *New Space*. Mr. Vallely's background includes serving as Lockheed Martin's



*Speaker, Mr. Joe Vallely*

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 7<sup>th</sup> grader Mr. Arjun Iyer, 8<sup>th</sup> grader Mr. Samuel Nameniuk, and 9<sup>th</sup> grader Miss Victoria Whitehead, the recipients of awards by the Section at the Alabama Science and Engineering Fair. 6<sup>th</sup> grader Miss Makaila Simone Jennings, 9<sup>th</sup> grader Miss Sarah-Kate Drown, and 11<sup>th</sup> grader Mr. Jeremiah Davis were then recognized for receiving awards by the Section at the North Alabama Regional Science and Engineering Fair. (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.

*Miss Katelyn McGinnis receiving Exceptional Service Award from outgoing Chairman MAJ Alex Jehle*

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.



*Outgoing Chairman MAJ Alex Jehle presenting scholarship certificate to Mr. Ryan Dunn*

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.



*(Left to right) Outgoing Chairman MAJ Alex Jehle, Mrs. Regina Tinker, Tinker Scholarship recipient Ms. Vanderslice, 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 Young Professional Award recipient Ms. Lauren Badia 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.

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 Alex Jehle (L) with Professional of the Year Award recipient Mr. Chris Crumbly 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 is an AIAA member who received 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.



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



*Outgoing Chairman MAJ Jehle and Dr. Majdalani with Undergraduate Student of the Year Ms. Kelly Burnham*

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.



*Outgoing Chairman MAJ Jehle and Dr. Majdalani with Graduate Student of the Year Mr. Langston Williams*

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.



*MAJ Jehle receiving Schilling Award from Dr. Majdalani*

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.



*Outgoing Chairman MAJ Jehle, , Mr. Champion with Toftoy Award, and Dr. Majdalani*



*Outgoing Chairman MAJ Jehle, Dr. Sullivan with Oberth Award, and Dr. Majdalani*

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.



*2019-2020 Chairman LTC Simpson (right) receiving Chairman's Plaque from 2018-2019 Chairman MAJ Jehle*

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