

AIAA GHS E-week 2019 – Feb 17th- 23rd

Feb 21st – E-Week Awards Banquet

By Theresa Jehle

“Engineers: Invent Amazing” was the theme at this year’s 2019 Huntsville E-Week Awards Banquet. Here, local engineers are recognized for their accomplishments and scholarships are presented to deserving students—all while highlighting technological advancements and capabilities throughout the community. After supporting E-week activities, several organizations joined in this celebration and the AIAA Greater Huntsville section had the pleasure of recognizing members who recently attained Associate Fellow status for their exceptional contributions to science and engineering. On average, only one in approximately 150 members attain this honor each year. Eight members from our section attained this status in 2019. Section council members Ms. Theresa Jehle (Membership Director), and Dr. Naveen Vetcha (Immediate Past Chair), recognized three of them at the E-week banquet, Mr. Robert Champion (Deputy Director of the Propulsion Systems Department at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center), Mr. Jeff King (leader of an interdisciplinary team of scientists and engineers at Teledyne Brown Engineering), and Dr. Lisa Monaco (Vice President and Deputy General Manager of Jacobs’ Tidewater Operations Group). Congratulations to all the section members who attained the Associate Fellow status this year.



Attendees at the AIAA table (L to R): Mr. Jeff King, Mr. Kevin Monaco, Dr. Lisa Monaco, Ms. Theresa Jehle, Dr. Naveen Vetcha, Mr. Robert Champion, and Ms. Beth Champion.

(Pic Courtesy Beth Champion)



Class of 2019 Associate Fellows recognized at the dinner (L to R): Dr. Lisa Monaco, Mr. Robert Champion, and Mr. Jeff King.

(Pic Courtesy Beth Champion)

Feb 22nd ULA Decatur Factory Tour

By Greg Simpson and Nishanth Goli

On Feb 22, 2019 a group of 34 fortunate AIAA members toured the ULA Factory in Decatur, AL. This tour was arranged during E-week to provide an opportunity for members to look at the amazing engineering facilities at the ULA factory. The facility is impressive and our tour guides, Bradley and Katy, did an excellent job highlighting all the fascinating work that is performed there. We were walked through each phase of the rockets fabrication and they graciously answered all questions. We saw their Atlas, Delta and Vulcan rockets in various stages of completion. We all had a wonderful experience and greatly appreciated the tour. The section appreciates the effort that went into planning the event and the excellent job of our ULA hosts. The section thanks Stephen Crow for inviting the section to tour their facility and Kelly McGhee who helped with registration.



Figure 1. AIAA GHS Tour of ULA Decatur Factory (Pic Courtesy Michael Sampson)

Feb 22nd – AIAA GHS Great Paper Plane Contest

By Nishanth Goli

The Great Airplane Contest was traditionally organized during the E-week to introduce K-12 students to the aerospace world. After a two-year hiatus, the Great Paper Plane Contest is back. The AIAA Greater Huntsville Section collaborated with the AIAA student club at UAH to co-organize the Great Paper Airplane Contest. The event was organized inside the Exhibit Hall at the UAH Conference Training Center. More than ten UAH student AIAA members volunteered along with five AIAA professional members to organize this event. The competition was open to all ages. Attendees built paper planes and competed in various categories like Time of Flight, Distance, Accuracy, Artistic and Aerobatics. The event saw participation of around fifteen people including two five-year-old children. Everyone, including the volunteers, enjoyed making planes and competing with each other. Prizes were distributed to the first, second and third highest scores in each category. These prizes included books related to science and engineering to K-12 students who participated. Children and adults also received certificates. The section thanks the student and professional member volunteers and organizers for their efforts. The organizing committee looks forward for next year's event after the success of this event.



Figure 2. AIAA GHS Great Paper Airplane Contest at UAH Exhibit Hall on Feb 22nd, 2019 (Pic Courtesy Nishanth Goli)

Feb 22nd – UAB Professional Mixer

On February 22nd the Greater Huntsville Section's newest student branch, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, held a mixer for students and professionals at UAB's Alumni House. Six AIAA GHS leadership members attended the event. Jordan Whitson (Chair of the UAB Branch) and the branch council arranged dinner for attendees with presentations from three professors to highlight some of the great work being done in UAB engineering. Presentations included: Dr. David McDaniel "Overview of HPCMP CREATE AV Kestrel", Dr. Habin Ning "Carbon fiber composite in aeronautic application", and Dr. Lee Moradi "UAB in Space". The UAB students are excited to begin their involvement in AIAA with goals of participating in DBF, student conferences, and holding more professional/student activities.



Attendees at the AIAA UAB Professional Mixer (Pic Courtesy Brittani Searcy)

Feb 23rd – YP Mentorship Brunch with Dr. Jan Davis

By Nishanth Goli

E-week also called out for some mentorship experience to Young Professionals of the section. Ten Young professionals met Dr. Jan Davis for brunch at Cantina Laredo on Saturday, Feb 23rd. Dr. Davis shared with everyone her experiences of being an astronaut. Dr. Davis gracefully answered to everyone's questions and expressed her appreciation to the section for giving an opportunity to mentor young professionals. After Dr. Davis left, the members stayed for almost another hour and socialized among themselves. Young professionals attending the brunch gave their appreciation to the section for providing an opportunity to interact with Dr. Davis and expressed their interest in attending mentorship events in the future.



Figure 3. AIAA GHS YP Mentorship Brunch with Dr. Jan Davis at Cantina Laredo on Feb 23rd, 2019 (Pic Courtesy Nishanth Goli)