

AIAA Greater Huntsville Section Awards Dinner

By Tracie Prater

The AIAA Greater Huntsville Section hosted an awards dinner honoring three years of awardees on May 22nd, 2022 at Huntsville Botanical Garden. The keynote speaker for the evening was Robert Stewart, former NASA astronaut and retired Brigadier General. Catering was provided by Mason Dixon Bistro. Almost 100 section members attended the event. While we lost power due to storms in the area and had to proceed without any audio or visual equipment, we persevered in continuing our program and recognizing over 30 award recipients. Many thanks to our sponsors for making this event possible. Sponsors include: Jacobs, Dynetics, Victory Solutions, ERC, Dr. Bob Tramel, and Dr. Terri Tramel. CFDRC also purchased a corporate table. All photos courtesy of Alan Lowrey.



Keynote speaker Robert Stewart

The full program for the awards dinner with bios of recipients is available [here](#).

Recipients of our section awards are listed below.

The Hermann Oberth Award is presented to a section member in recognition of outstanding scientific achievement in the field of astronautics or for the promotion and advancement of the aeronautical sciences. A bust of Professor Hermann Oberth is presented to the recipient.

2022- David Hitt

2021 – Paul Gradl

2020 – Dr. Phil Ligrani

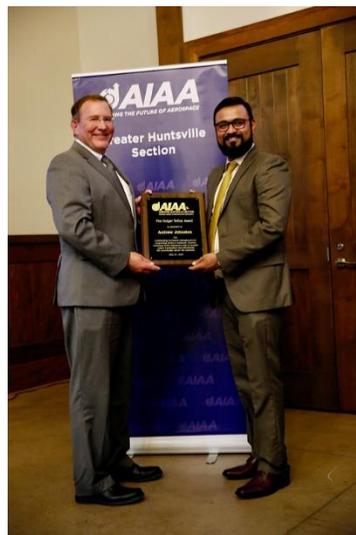


(L-R) Dr. Phil Ligrani, Paul Gradl, and David Hitt receive the 2020, 2021, and 2022 Oberth awards at the Greater Huntsville Section awards dinner. The award was presented by former astronaut and retired Brigadier General Robert Stewart (also a former Oberth award recipient and the evening’s keynote speaker).

The Holger Toftoy Award is presented to a section member in recognition of outstanding technical management in the fields of aeronautics and astronautics. An engraved plaque is presented to the recipient.

2022 – Thomas Williams

2021 – Andy Johnston



Andy Johnston and Past Chair (2020-2021) Nishanth Goli.

2020 – Mark Miller

The Konrad Dannenberg Educator of the Year Award is presented to a section member in recognition of outstanding service to education and promotion of math and science within the community. The award is named in recognition of Konrad Dannenberg, a German-American rocket pioneer who was an avid proponent of education, an active member of AIAA and an inspiration to the aerospace community. This award is presented by Jackie Dannenberg.

2022 – Dr. Mohammed J. Khan

2021 – Sherrie Frady



Sherrie Frady (award presented by Jackie Dannenberg).

2020 – Tom Hannigan

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.

2022 – Dr. Tracie Prater

2021 – Nishanth Goli

2020 – Greg Simpson



L: Dr. Tracie Prater (award presented by former section chair Nishanth Goli), R: Nishanth Goli (award presented by former honors and awards director Dr. Joe Majdalani)

The Earl Pearce Professional of the Year Award is presented to a section member in recognition of extraordinary dedication, creativity, and leadership while engaged in professional work or activity within the aerospace community. The award is named in recognition of Earl Pearce who was on the Section’s Board of Directors and served as supernumerary for many years. An engraved plaque is presented to the recipient.

2022 – William Knuth

2021 – Dr. John Blevins

2020 – Sami Habchi



L: William Knuth (presented by section chair Theresa Jehle). M: Dr. John Blevins (presented by former section chair Nishanth Goli). R: Sami Habchi (presented by former honors and awards director Joe Majdalani).

The Ed Pruett Young Professional of the Year Award is presented to a section member 35 years of age or younger who has demonstrated extraordinary technical skill and dedication to the practice of the aerospace engineering profession. The award is named in recognition of Ed Pruett who was on the section board of directors and served the section for many years. An engraved plaque is presented to the recipient.

2022 – Dr. Paul Kovacic

2021 – Tyler Lamb

2020 – Dr. Matthew Hitt



L: Dr. Paul Kovacic (presented by Theresa Jehle). M: Tyler Lamb (presented by Nishanth Goli). R: Dr. Matthew Hitt (presented by Dr. Joe Majdalani).

The student of the year (undergraduate) is presented to a section undergraduate student member in recognition of notable technical accomplishments, active engineering research, outstanding service to AIAA student section, or active STEM outreach in the local community. An engraved plaque is presented to the recipient.

2022 – Sean Bowerfind

2021 – Darcey D’Amato

2020 – Anna Grace Miller



Anna Grace Miller (presented by former honors and awards director Joe Majdalani)

The student of the year award (graduate) is presented to a section graduate student member in recognition of notable technical accomplishments, active engineering research, outstanding service to an AIAA student section, or active STEM outreach in the local community.

2022 – Gaurav Sharma

2021 – Saroj Kumar

2020 – Dr. Timothy Marquardt



L: Gaurav Sharma (presented by Theresa Jehle). M: Saroj Kumar (presented by Nishanth Goli). R: Dr. Timothy Marquardt (presented by Dr. Joe Majdalani)

The Robert L. Sackheim Scholarship promotes careers in the aerospace industry by encouraging students to pursue a related engineering or science degree. Candidates must be high school seniors living within the Greater Huntsville Section area (comprising of the State of Alabama and most counties in Mississippi), entering an accredited university in the Greater Huntsville Section area, and pursuing a degree in engineering, the sciences, or mathematics, to bolster the future of the aeronautics and astronautics industries.

2021 – Zachary Barbre

2020 – William Matthew Hill



L: Zachary Barbre. R: William Matthew Hill (awards presented by section chair Theresa Jehle).

Other awardees recognized including the following national award recipients:

2022 Engineer of the Year – Paul Gradl



Paul Gradl (award presented by Theresa Jehle)

2022 Losey Atmospheric Sciences Award – Dr. Fred Proctor



Dr. Fred Proctor (presented by Theresa Jehle)

2021 Wyld Propulsion Award – Dr. Dan Dorney

2021 Sustained Service Award – Dr. Mohammed J. Khan and Dr. James Keenan

2020 Associate Fellows – Dr. Ragini Acharya and Paul Lambertson (an associate fellow recognition event was held in December 2021 – associate fellows recognized here are those who did not receive their certificate at this event).



Paul Lambertson (presented by Theresa Jehle)

We would also like to thank our outgoing 2021-2022 AIAA GHS council, who helped plan this event and nearly 50 other activities over the course of the 2021-2022 council year.



AIAA GHS Council members at section awards dinner. L-R: immediate past chair Nishanth Goli, Liaison to Student branches Dr. Gabe Xu, Public Policy Chair Dr. Naveen Vetcha, Treasurer Joe Huwaldt, Section Chair Theresa Jehle, Section Vice-Chair Dr. Tracie Prater, Liaison to Professional Societies April Potter.