

Section Supports NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge

By Kelli Pomeroy



*Parish Episcopal High School
Neil Armstrong Best Design Award Winner and
AIAA Best Report Award Winner (High School Category)
Photo by NASA/MSFC*

On April 12th-13th, the AIAA Greater Huntsville Section once again supported NASA's annual Human Exploration Rover Challenge. Although it was a rainy weekend, the event was a great success with lots of excitement from the many teams who attended from all over the world. AIAA Greater Huntsville Section sponsored five awards again this year: Neil Armstrong Best Design Award (college and high school), AIAA Best Report Award (college and high school), and AIAA Telemetry Award. With 45 total award entries, the judging was as difficult as ever, with some of the teams winning their category by just one point. The Neil Armstrong Best Design Award winners were Parish Episcopal High School (a repeat winner in an incredibly tight race) and KIET Group of Institutions (the first group from India to win the award). The judges were especially impressed with both teams' scientific approach to design.



*KIET Group of Institutions
Neil Armstrong Best Design Award Winner (College Category)
Photo by NASAMSFC*

The Neil Armstrong Design Award wasn't the only award Parish took home; they also received the AIAA Best Report Award in the high school division, while the University of Memphis took home the award for the college division with nearly perfect scores.



*University of Memphis
AIAA Best Report Award Winner (College Category)
Photo by NASA/MSFC*

The winner of the AIAA Telemetry Award was Universidad Nacional de Ingenieria (Peru), who received a particularly impressive report score total. Congratulations are due to all of the competitors for their ingenuity, team work, and dedication in completing their rovers.



*Universidad Nacional de Ingenieria
AIAA Telemetry Award Winner
Photo by Kelli Pomeroy*

AIAA's participation in this event would not be possible without the dedication of our member volunteers, so thank you to the following: Naveen Vetcha, Brittani Searcy, Jill Brown, Tamara Statham, Nishanth Goli, Peter Schmick, Scott Prichard, Lynn Koehler, Allan Lang, Eric Jackson, Erik Nielsen, Richard Boxwell, John Dankanich, Joseph Huwaldt, Theresa Jehle, Andes Hoyt, Lauren Badia, Patrick Dees, Alex Byers, Leonard Petnga, and Alex Jehle.