

AIAA GHS June Luncheon with Brian Odom, NASA Marshall Historian - Contextualizing Alabama and the Moon Landing

By Nishanth Goli

The AIAA Greater Huntsville Section conducts monthly lunch and learn sessions for its members, their guests and non-members. The section invites accomplished individuals to speak on interesting topics that cater to the interest of AIAA members and non-members.

For the June luncheon of the AIAA GHS, the council wanted to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11. While the stories of Saturn V development and the success of Apollo 11 are well known, the deeper context of Apollo 11 in Huntsville is often overlooked. Brian Odom, NASA Marshall Historian, was invited as a speaker to the luncheon on June 19th. His presentation examined Huntsville's contributions to the Moon landing through the broader lens of federal development in the Tennessee Valley, German immigration and knowledge transfer, the Cold War, and the civil rights movement - forces which have all left a dramatic imprint on the region's economy, politics, and larger society.

Kord Technologies of Huntsville, AL, graciously offered their meeting room as the venue for the luncheon. The luncheon was well attended with over 25 participants that included AIAA professional members, student members and non-members and Kord employees. Kathleen catering provided catering services for members who purchased lunch.



AIAA GHS Vice-Chair, Nishanth Goli, presenting the section coin to Brian Odom for his presentation during the June Luncheon
(Pic Courtesy – Arloe Mayne)



Brian Odom, NASA Marshall Historian, presenting during the AIAA GHS June Luncheon
(Pic Courtesy – Nishanth Goli)