AIAA FOUNDATION

2014 Scholarship and Award Winners
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Cary Spitzer Digital Avionics Scholarship

Recipient: Arjun Krishnan, Georgia Institute of Technology
Email: krishnan.arjun@gatech.edu

I am a junior in the Aerospace Engineering Honors Program at Georgia Tech. I have been passionate about all things mechanical from a young age. That passion morphed into aeronautics by high school, where I would spend my time off in my garage, dreaming up and building the next revolutionary radio controlled aircraft. The excitement of ideating a new aircraft, the pleasure of building it in real life, and the thrill of watching it take to the skies is what made me want to be an Aerospace Engineer.

I have been an active member of Georgia Tech’s AIAA Design Build Fly team since day one. I am also a member of Georgia Tech’s Sigma Gamma Tau Chapter. My current research focus is on fluidic control using bleed air. I intend to pursue a graduate degree in Aeronautics.
David and Catherine Thompson Scholarship

Recipient: Bryan Sonneveldt, Arizona State University
Email: bsonneve@asu.edu

I was born and raised in Monroe, WA. Going into senior year as an aerospace engineering student, with plans to be involved with spacecraft design, my goal was to become an astronaut. I spent the summer of 2013 doing satellite research at the AggieSat Lab at Texas A&M University. I am the Vice President of Sun Devil Satellite Laboratory on campus at ASU, working on different space-oriented projects. I am a former ASU football player, 2013 PAC-12 South Champions. Upon graduation, I will be attending graduate school or joining the military as an officer to become a pilot.
Nicolas Spoentgen was born and raised in Lafayette, Indiana. He will be entering his senior year in aeronautical engineering at Purdue University with a concentration in propulsion and design. During the spring of 2013, Nicolas studied abroad at the Ecole Supérieure des Techniques Aéronautiques et de Construction Automobile (ESTACA) in Paris, France. He plans on attending graduate school immediately following his undergraduate studies with a potential focus on supersonic flight.
Dr. James Rankin Digital Avionics Scholarship

Recipient: Ashwin Krishnan, Georgia Institute of Technology
Email: krishnan.ashwin@gatech.edu

I was born in Rochester, MN and have since moved to 6 cities in 2 countries around the world, finally ending up in Atlanta, GA to pursue a Bachelor Degree in Aerospace Engineering at Georgia Tech. Needless to say, air transportation has played a big role in my life. My passion for aerospace was seeded at an early age by my grandfather, who is an Aerospace Engineer himself. Along with my undergraduate degree, I am researching pioneering ways to control aircraft with flexible wing structures. I am also an active member of Georgia Tech’s award winning Design Build Fly Team. I intend to pursue a graduate degree in Aerospace engineering and I strive to help redefine what is possible with aircraft.
Ellis F. Hitt Digital Avionics Scholarship

Recipient: Jackson Morris, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
Email: jamorris4@crimson.ua.edu

Jackson Morris is a junior studying aerospace engineering at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. In his two years at the school, he has been an active member in the university’s Design/Build/Fly team as well as Sigma Gamma Tau. This past semester, he was part of a team researching micro air vehicles. Outside of aviation, Jackson is a principal bassist of the Huxford Symphony Orchestra and president of the university’s engineering theatre group. After graduating, he hopes to work in the aerospace industry in the areas of structures or aerodynamics.
Leatrice Gregory Pendray Scholarship

Recipient: Abigail Spohn, University of Dayton
Email: spohna1@udayton.edu

My name is Abigail M. Spohn. I am currently a senior at the University of Dayton, in Dayton, OH. I am pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering. This summer I am exploring Southern California while I complete my third co-op term with UTC Aerospace Systems learning about Landing Systems. I am passionate about space and aspire to work in Mission Control at NASA one day. Go Flyers!
Liquid Propulsion TC Scholarship

The Liquid Propulsion Technical Committee Scholarship was established in 1999 by the LPTC with the opportunity for students pursuing an interest in the field of liquid propulsion to continue their research.

Recipient: Pavan Chinta, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Email: cpavankumar93@yahoo.com

On the Christmas Eve of 2012, I disembarked on a journey to the “Sin City”. While the “Doom’s day” itself passed without incident, I got “resurrected” during this journey; I was physically unhurt but mentally completely transformed. The mishap made me grateful for every moment from then on and morphed me into an intrepid individual. Listening to my heart ever since and perceiving all the cues from nature, I transferred to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Florida. Despite taking full load of classes every semester since the transfer, I have been able to maintain a 4.0 GPA. I am currently involved in a project to test the university’s Cessna 172 engine mufflers that can potentially save the university thousands of dollars, if successful. In the future, I aspire to study and disentangle the enigma of ‘Hypersonic Flow’.
Space Transportation TC Scholarship

Recipient: Christopher Nie, University of Colorado at Boulder
Email: christopher.nie@colorado.edu

Chris Nie is a graduate student studying Aerospace Engineering Sciences with a focus in Bioastronautics at the University of Colorado, Boulder. In the past he has interned at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Johnson Space Center, working in systems engineering, spacecraft habitability, and robotics. Currently, he is a research assistant developing and operating scientific payloads for use on the International Space Station with BioServe Space Technologies, a center within the Aerospace Engineering and Sciences Department at CU.
Vicki and George Muellner Scholarship for Aerospace Engineering

Recipient: Braden Hancock, Brigham Young University
Email: Hancock.Braden@gmail.com

Braden is a senior at Brigham Young University, majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Mathematics. His interest in aeronautics stemmed from visiting the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base as a child, where he later had the opportunity to work as a co-op for four summers developing design methods for turbine airfoils. His research with the Air Force has led to a pending U.S. patent, 1st Place in the 2013 AIAA Foundation International Student Conference, and a first-author publication in the AIAA Journal of Turbomachinery. After graduation, Braden will earn a PhD and return to academia to mentor and learn from the next generation of engineers.
**Guidance, Navigation and Control Graduate Award**

The AIAA Guidance, Navigation, and Control Graduate Award was established in 1998 by the GNC Technical Committee to promote the areas of guidance, navigation and control.

**Recipient: James Paulos, University of Pennsylvania**
**Email: jPaulos@alumni.caltech.edu**

James Paulos is pursuing a PhD in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics at the University of Pennsylvania. He is advised by Professor Mark Yim, and is a member of the General Robotics, Automation, Perception, and Sensing Laboratory (GRASP) and the Modular Robotics Laboratory (ModLab). His research focuses on the control and design of novel, minimally actuated micro air vehicles. James previously received an M.Eng, from Cornell University under the supervision of Professor Ephrahim Garcia and a B.S. from Caltech. In his spare time he enjoys Frisbee and badminton as well as hiking and biking along Pennsylvania’s Schuylkill River Trail.
John Leland Atwood Graduate Award

The John Leland Atwood Graduate Award, sponsored by endowments from Rockwell and Boeing North American, Inc., the Atwood Graduate Award memorializes John Leland “Lee” Atwood (1904-1999), former chief Executive Officer of Rockwell North American. Atwood, was thought of by many as the “dean of aerospace,” was instrumental in the development of such landmark projects as the P-51, the F-100, the X-15, the B-1 Bomber and the Space Shuttle.

Recipient: Sydney Do, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Email: sydneydo@mit.edu

Sydney Do is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He received his B.E. degree in Aerospace Engineering in 2008 from the University of Sydney, Australia, and a S.M. in Aeronautics and Astronautics in 2011 from MIT. His past research has been in the areas of fuel-efficient satellite formation flight, land-landings of returning capsule-shaped crewed spacecraft, and the crowdsourcing of engineering ideation and innovation. He is currently the lead researcher in space habitation and life support within the Strategic Engineering Research Group at MIT.
Orville and Wilbur Wright Graduate Award

Recipient: Fanny Besem, Duke University
Email: fb46@duke.edu

Fanny Besem was born and raised in Belgium, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and Physics from the University of Liege. After graduation, she took part in the first batch of the THRUST international Master’s program. She received an education at the frontier between industry and academia that raised her awareness of real-life issues in engine design. She graduated from the Royal Institute of Technology in 2011 with a Master’s of Science, and graduated a year later from Duke University with a Masters of Engineering.

Fanny is now pursuing a Ph.D. in aeroelasticity at Duke University, advised by Dr. Robert Kielb. Her research focuses on developing design guidelines for safer and more efficient jet engines.
Orville and Wilbur Wright Graduate Award

Recipient: Giuseppe Cataldo, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Email: giuseppe.cataldo@torrescalla.it

I grew up in Italy in a village on the Mediterranean Sea. I pursued my undergraduate and part of my graduate studies in Milan, before moving to France for a triple master’s degree program. I joined NASA in 2009 as one of the two European students selected for the NASA Academy. I have since been involved in materials modeling and the design and optimization of space systems for astronomy. I will graduate with a PhD from MIT in this field by the summer of 2015.