2015 Scholarship & Award Winners
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Recipient: Alexander D. Strange
University: University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Alexander D. Strange is a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, studying Engineering Mechanics and Astronautics. Apart from his studies, he participates in Space Grant rocket competitions and conduct undergraduate research for the Fusion Technology Institute. These experiences have enabled Alexander to further enrich his education beyond the classroom. After college, he plans to pursue a PhD in Aerospace Engineering in hopes of one day contributing to the future of aerospace.
David and Catherine Thompson Scholarship

Recipient: Samantha Rawlins
University: California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

Samantha Rawlins will be entering her final year at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where she will be graduating with a Bachelors of Science in Aerospace Engineering with a concentration in Astronautics. Throughout her undergraduate career she has been proud to attend multiple internships between the NASA Propulsion Academy at Marshall Space Flight Center, the Langley Aerospace Research Student Scholars (LARSS) program at NASA Langley Research Center, two summers as a System and Production Engineer at SpaceX, and a co-op at Orbital ATK as a Test Engineer. These experiences have allowed her the opportunity to strengthen and develop her passion for space exploration and innovation. In the future, Samantha plans to pursue her Master’s degree in Aerospace Engineering with a focus in Advanced Propulsion.
**Recipients**: Top 10
dr. amy r. pritchett digital
avionics scholarship

**Recipient**: Nicole Whiting
**University**: Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Nicole Whiting is a sophomore at the Ohio State University, majoring in Aerospace Engineering. Since her junior year of high school, her passion for the aerospace industry has led her to pursue continuous summer internships at NASA Glenn Research Center. She hopes to find a permanent position within NASA Glenn after graduation. She is also very involved with the Women in Engineering program at Ohio State as well as volunteering in the community.
Dr. James Rankin Digital Avionics Scholarship

Recipient: McKenzie Kinzbach
University: University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

McKenzie Kinzbach is a sophomore at the University of Cincinnati, pursuing a degree in Aerospace Engineering. In her spare time, she participates as the UC Rocketry Club Secretary and is the Secretary and Company Recruitment Chair for the Engineering and Applied Science Tribunal. During the summers of 2013 and 2014 McKenzie interned at the NASA Glenn Research Center. She looks forward to her internship at SpaceX this coming fall. After college, her goal is to enable human space exploration to Mars and beyond.
**Ellis F. Hitt Digital Avionics Scholarship**

**Recipient:** Stephen Higgins  
**University:** University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

Stephen Higgins is currently studying Aerospace Engineering with a minor in Mathematics at the University of Cincinnati. In the fall of 2015, he will be entering his final undergraduate year. Some of Stephen's most impressive accomplishments include, participating in UC's honors program, maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout his undergraduate studies, and presenting a paper at this year's AIAA SciTech conference in Kissimmee, FL. His paper covered his undergraduate research on UAV search strategies. As a student at UC, Stephen has gained significant work experience through the University's cooperative education program. He spent three semesters working full time with Quartus Engineering Inc., in San Diego, CA. He primarily performed finite element analyses, and is currently expanding his skills working with FEA during his second semester at Kinetic Vision in Cincinnati, OH. Stephen's future includes an immediate transition into graduate school where he plans to pursue his Masters of Science in Aerospace Engineering, specializing in either solids and structural mechanics or dynamics and controls.
Leatrice Gregory Pendray Scholarship

Recipient: Abigail M. Spohn
University: University of Dayton, Dayton, OH

Abigail M. Spohn is a senior at the University of Dayton in pursuit of a degree in Mechanical Engineering. This summer Abigail is co-oping in the Structures Department of UTC Aerospace Systems for her 4th Co-Op term. She is passionate about space and aspires to work as an astronaut, or as the CEO of an engineering company. Go Flyers!
Liquid Propulsion TC Scholarship

Recipient: Erik Ballesteros  
University: University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Erik Ballesteros was born and raised in Spring, TX. Growing up, Erik had a deep interest in technology and advances into the future of space exploration. His ambitions include; becoming an Astronaut for NASA and becoming the first person to step foot on Mars. He also wants to put his academic, creative, and professional talents to use by aiding in the front lines of aerospace research and development, merely bridging the gap between science fiction and reality. Currently, Erik is a co-op student for the Johnson Space Center where he works in various groups throughout the center.
Space Transportation TC Scholarship

Recipient: Aadil Pappa
University: The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

As an aerospace engineering student at The University of Texas at Austin, Aadil Pappa has developed a passion for studying structural mechanics and computational fluid dynamics so as to identify means of reducing the cost of deep space travel. His long-term plans include becoming one of the first astronauts to step foot on Mars, and thanks to the patronage of the Space Transportation Committee Aadil is one step closer to getting there!
Vicki and George Muellner Scholarship for Aerospace Engineering

Recipient: Miles Bengtson
University: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Dayton Beach, FL

Miles Bengtson is a senior in Engineering Physics with a Spacecraft Systems concentration and a minor in Mathematics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He is involved in researching how to protect spacecraft’s flying within the Van Allen Radiation Belts. Miles is also an Optics Engineer for a student project to build a 6U cube sat. He has also worked as an Engine Health Monitoring intern and Dynamics intern with Rolls-Royce in Indianapolis, IN.
Gordon C. Oates Air Breathing Propulsion Graduate Award

Recipien**: Ciprian Dumitrache
University: Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

Ciprian Dumitrache received his Bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering from University "Politehnica" of Bucharest, Romania, in July of 2010. His undergraduate research topic was the development of a Roe approximate Riemann solver to study the unsteady flow inside a liquid rocket engine. In 2011, Ciprian received a 9-month Fulbright grant from the US Department of State to pursue a Master’s degree at the Georgia Institute of Technology. As a Master’s student, he conducted research at the "Ben T. Zinn" Combustion Laboratory, where he worked on the active control of combustion instabilities in liquid rocket engines. In January of 2013, Ciprian joined Professor Yalin’s group at Colorado State University, where he pursued his PhD. His current research focuses on the development of novel techniques for laser ignition and laser-based diagnostics for combustion.
Guidance, Navigation, and Control Graduate Award

Recipient: Brandon Cook
University: University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

Brandon Cook is currently a 5th year aerospace engineering student at the University of Cincinnati in the Accelerated Engineering Degree Program. During his time as an undergrad, Brandon was a varsity athlete, was heavily involved on campus, participated in undergraduate research, and held several co-op positions with companies including GE Aviation, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, the Air Force Research Laboratory, and NASA Ames Research Center. After completing his MS this summer, Brandon will be returning to UC to pursue a PhD in Aerospace Engineering with a concentration in Intelligent Systems under the advisement of Dr. Kelly Cohen. His research focuses on safely integrating Unmanned Aerial Vehicles into the national airspace using a Fuzzy Logic approach.


John Leland Atwood
Graduate Award

Recipient: Byron W. Patterson
University: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

Byron W. Patterson is a Master’s degree candidate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for Aerospace Engineering. In 2012, he received a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from West Virginia University. Prior to continuing his education, Byron spent two years in the Vertical Lift Division of the Boeing Company. His current research is focused on the design of a controller for the rejection of helicopter vibration throughout the entire flight envelope. He is currently rated as a VFR private pilot and enjoys flying to various locations in New England with his wife and friends.
**Martin Summerfield Propellants and Combustion Graduate Award**

**Recipient:** Robert Fievisohn  
**University:** University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Robert Fievisohn received his Bachelor's degree from Clarkson University in 2008 and commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He then went on to the Air Force Institute of Technology to complete his Master’s degree. Upon completion of his Master’s program, Robert worked at the Air Force Research Laboratory in the Aerospace Systems Directorate. In 2013, he separated from the Air Force as a Captain to pursue his PhD at the University of Maryland.
Orville and Wilbur Wright
Graduate Award

Recipient: Brent Pomeroy
University: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL

Brent Pomeroy is a PhD candidate at the University of Illinois studying Aerodynamics under the direction of Dr. Michael Selig. He received his Bachelors of Science in Aeronautical Engineering from Clarkson University in 2010. In 2012, he completed his Masters of Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While in graduate school, Brent has focused his research on aerodynamic design and analysis with a particular interest in high-lift systems. He has had a variety of internship experiences at the Boeing Company, NASA, and General Electric.
Orville and Wilbur Wright Graduate Award

Recipient: Matthew Reilly
University: Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

Matthew Reilly is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Aerospace Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He has a research assistantship in the Aerospace Systems Design Lab. Matt grew up in Upper Freehold, NJ and received his undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering at Rowan University. He has had four internships, including two of which were with NASA. He is an avid outdoorsman and thrill seeker, with ambitions of becoming an astronaut.
William T. Piper, Sr. General Aviation Systems Graduate Award

Recipient: Imon Chakraborty
University: Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

Imon Chakraborty is a PhD student at the Aerospace Systems Design Lab, School of Aerospace Engineering, Georgia Tech. He received his Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Tech in 2011, and his Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from NIT Tiruchirappalli, India. He hails from the city of Kolkata, India. He has had an interest in aeronautics from an early age, and earned his Private Pilot License through Georgia Tech's Yellow Jacket Flying Club in 2013.