

GREATER HUNTSVILLE SECTION AWARDS & INSTALLATION DINNER

Dr. Arloe Mayne

On May 30 the Greater Huntsville Section held its 62nd Annual Awards and Installation Dinner. AIAA Past President Dr. Mike Griffin gave opening remarks on the value of professional societies and individual participation, and presented AIAA Sustained Service Awards to Section members Thomas Hancock and John Lassiter.

Dr. Ram Ramachandran, 2013-2014 Section Chairman, presented the Section's annual awards. The awards were: Ed Pruett Young Professional of the Year Award presented to John Wall; Earl Pearce Professional of the Year Award presented to John Dankanich; Konrad Dannenberg Educator of the Year Award presented to Professor Joseph Majdalani; Martin Schilling Award for outstanding section service presented to Sheree Gay; Holger Toftoy Technical Management Award to James Chilton; and the Hermann Oberth award for outstanding scientific achievement in the fields of astronautics and space sciences awarded to Gordon Woodcock.

The section announced that its annual Engineering and Science Scholarship has been renamed in honor of the late Robert L. Sackheim. Bob Sackheim was an internationally recognized rocket propulsion authority, and a past Chairman of the Section. Under his leadership the Section held several conferences and symposiums which provided the funding to start the scholarship program. This year's scholarship winner was Eric Farmer, shown in Figure 1 receiving his certificate from Mrs. Babette Sackheim and Ms. Megan Beattie, Pre-College Outreach Director.

Huntsville-area students were key participants in the dinner. The Butler High School Air Force JROTC posted the flags of the United States and Alabama to begin the evening, accompanied by the singing of the National Anthem. North Alabama Science Fair winners attended as guests of the section and were recognized for their achievements. The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) Student Branch and the Huntsville Area Rocketry Association provided displays of rocketry hardware. UAH also installed its Branch Officers for the 2014-2015 year, a first for the Greater Huntsville Section Awards Dinner program. Matthew Hitt, outgoing Branch Chair presided.

Dr. Richard Hallion, an AIAA Distinguished Lecturer, spoke on "The High Speed Revolution", describing the phases in the development of ever-faster flight regimes.

Dr. Ramachandran reviewed the Section's activities for the past year, including lunch meetings with a wide variety of distinguished speakers, plant tours, and the annual Paper Airplane Contest.

Finally, the Section's newly-elected officers and directors, shown in Figure 2, were installed for the upcoming year.

New Chair Ken Philippart outlined his theme for the year: unity and growth. He encouraged all section members to come together, get involved and help grow the section's numbers as well as the number and types of programs to benefit the section's diverse demographics.

The Greater Huntsville Section is among AIAA's oldest and is the second largest section with almost 1000 professional members across Alabama and Mississippi.



Figure 1 Eric Farmer, left, receives the inaugural Robert L. Sackheim Engineering & Science Scholarship from Mrs. Babette Sackheim and Ms. Megan Beattie (Image Credit: Arloe Mayne)



Figure 2 2014-2015 Officers and Directors: (Left to Right) Tia Ferguson, Darby Cooper, John Lassiter, Ken Philippart, Carla Shackelford, Kurt Polzin, Megan Beattie, Neal Allgood, Cody Crofford (Image Credit: Arloe Mayne)