

# E Week: DiscoverE Awards Banquet

*By Ken Philippart*

The Greater Huntsville Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) joined other Huntsville area technical societies to celebrate Engineers Week (E Week) at the annual DiscoverE Awards Banquet. The banquet was postponed from February 26 to March 3 due to a snow storm but the delay didn't dampen the festive atmosphere. AIAA was well represented with the first AIAA table at the event in many years.



*Section members and guests enjoy the evening.*

Representing AIAA were Region II Director Alan Lowrey, Greater Huntsville Chair Ken Philippart, Mrs. Lisa Philippart, Vice Chair Dr. Kurt Polzin, Mrs. Sheri Polzin, Pre-College Outreach Director Megan Beattie and Liquid Propulsion Technical Committee mbr Dr Tom Giel.

The evening began with a social, allowing the AIAA to network with members of other societies such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the Society of Military Engineers, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and the host organization for the evening, the American Society of Civil Engineers.



*Michael Marasa speaks about the sinkhole.*

After a delicious meal, the group enjoyed an informative talk by keynote speaker Mr. Michael Marasa who spoke on his investigation into the sinkhole that opened up under the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky in February 2014. Mr. Marasa, a Professional Engineer and Corvette aficionado, described the circumstances of the collapse, the damage to the vehicles and the subsequent investigation into the causes of the event.

The awards program followed. Two Greater Huntsville Section members received awards. Jim Parsons was named Outstanding Mechanical Engineer of the Year by the ASME-Huntsville Branch. Shreyas Bidadi was named University of Alabama-Huntsville Graduate Student of the Year in Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering. Well done Jim and Shreyas!

The evening was informative, entertaining and an enjoyable way for the section to network with fellow professional societies and celebrate the engineering profession.