

AIAA Science Fair Participation

By Alan Lowrey, Science Fair Coordinator

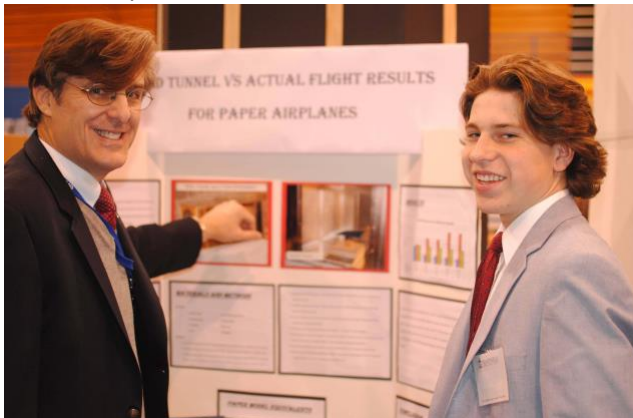
Each year the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) is host to the North Alabama Regional Science and Engineering Fair (NARSEF is generally during the first week in March) and the follow-up Alabama Science and Engineering Fair (ASEF is generally during the first week in April). Both events attract hundreds of people (students, parents, teachers, volunteers), and it is extremely satisfying to be a participant, whether as a student presenting a project or as a professional donating time as a project judge. And judging is an all-day activity. Along with projects being judged in various categories (e.g. elementary division in physical sciences, or junior division in chemistry, or senior division in microbiology) for first, second or third place awards, several professional organizations sponsor special awards that recognize students presenting notable projects in the organization's area of interest. The AIAA is one such organization.



Greater Huntsville Section Judges with Science Fair Entrant

For many years the AIAA Greater Huntsville Section has sent special award judges to NARSEF and ASEF, looking to recognize notable projects that are focused on aerospace subjects (be it in the aerospace sciences or engineering) or have a potential aerospace application. Our judges are volunteers, giving to an event that they personally feel is important and worthy of their time. Indeed, some of them were once student participants in science fairs. And it's a lot of fun to meet and talk to students who are so interested in their project's subject.

Judging for the 2016 NARSEF took place on March 9th, and our AIAA Special Award judges were Ms. Dawn Phillips, Dr. Arloe Mayne, Mr. Paul Zomkowski, and Mr. Alan Lowrey. This year's award recipient was recognized with a certificate and cash award from the Section Chair, Dr. Kurt Polzin. Judging for the 2016 ASEF took place on April 1st, and our AIAA Special Award judges were Mr. Paul Zomkowski, and Mr. Alan Lowrey. Special award recipients at ASEF also received a certificate and cash award. And all of the award recipients are invited to attend our annual AIAA Greater Huntsville Section Awards and



Judge Alan Lowrey with Science Fair Entrant

Installation Dinner. This year's dinner will be on May 27.

At NARSEF, AIAA recognized Mr. Pranav Ramesh of Columbia Elementary School (5th grade) in Madison. At ASEF, AIAA recognized Ms. Sydney Hamilton of JF Drake Middle School (6th grade) in Auburn, Mr. Hamza Khan of the Alabama School of Fine Arts (12th grade) in Birmingham, and Mr. Adam He of the Alabama School of Fine Arts (12th grade) in Birmingham. Congratulations to the 2016 AIAA Special Award winners!