Kyle Zittle – Chair Nominee

Membership in AIAA has played an important role in my undergraduate, graduate and early professional career. I hope that in this next year the section will continue to grow, not only in membership, but also in professionals interested in building a strong and robust program for our members. Despite the many challenges that 2020 posed, the section council grew from six to twelve members and starting hosting at least one AIAA event most months, focusing on diversity and inclusion, career and professional development, technical programming, and social events.

I’d like to build on our momentum from last year, ramping up new membership and outreach initiatives while also focusing on improving our methods of communicating with our membership. I’m excited to have the opportunity to continue leading the Mid-Atlantic Section.

Biography

I earned a B.S. and M.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Maryland in 2014 and 2016, respectively. In 2020, I completed a graduate certificate in Astrodynamics and Satellite Navigation from the University of Colorado Boulder. Professionally, I am employed by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory as a guidance, navigation, and control (GNC) engineer within the Air & Missile Defense Sector. I primarily work on guidance and control algorithm development as well as GNC trade studies. I have also supported GNC analysis for the Parker Solar Probe and the Double Asteroid Redirect Test missions that APL is leading for NASA. Within APL I am very active with recruiting and mentoring efforts for student interns and young professionals.

AIAA Activities and Honors

I joined the AIAA student branch at the University of Maryland in 2009 and during that time served as a class liaison for two-years and as the vice-chair for one-year. Once I arrived at APL, I learned that much of the leadership for the then dormant Mid-Atlantic Section were APL employees and worked with them and other young professionals to revitalize the section. For the past two years, I have served as the Chair of the Mid-Atlantic Section and have watched the section grow more active, host monthly events, and begin hosting the annual Young Professionals, Students, and Educators conference once again. Recently, I have joined the Networking and Professional Development Committee for the AIAA Young Professionals Group and will be involved in the planning and execution of Rising Leaders in Aerospace events at various AIAA forums in addition to other activities.
Sharon Maguire – Vice Chair Nominee

I’m honored to be running for Vice Chair of the Mid-Atlantic Section. I graduated from Johns Hopkins University with my BS in Mechanical Engineering, and am currently in my last semester of my MS also in Mechanical Engineering through the Johns Hopkins Engineering for Professionals Program. I was excited to join the AIAA Mid-Atlantic Section Council last year, and have greatly enjoyed serving as the Diversity and Inclusion Chair since then. I’ve learned so much from participating on this council already, and look forward to growing as a leader and team member this coming year. As Vice Chair, I would like to prioritize supporting the committees by helping organize events and recruiting committee members to support the chairs of these committees.

Jobin Kokkat – Treasurer Nominee

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Treasurer and look forward to the continued growth of the AIAA Mid-Atlantic Section. I currently work as an engineer in the Johns Hopkins University - Applied Physics Lab and previously received my Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Illinois and the Georgia Institute of Technology, respectively. I have been a member of the section for the last couple years working as the chair for technical programs. I hope to support our section’s efforts by documenting, planning, and disbursing funds, as well as submitting tax, audit, budget, and related expenditure records. I am also excited to continue supporting the Young Professionals, Students and Educators (YPSE) Conference hosted by the Mid-Atlantic section.
Daniel Dembner - Secretary Nominee

I am honored to be nominated to continue my tenure as Secretary of the Mid-Atlantic Section. I graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a BS/MS degree in Mechanical Engineering and a concentration in Aerospace. Over the past two years we have been making great progress in hosting events to revitalize the section. I am excited by the success of the YPSE conference as well as many of our virtual technical events we have hosted. This year I would like to continue working with the council to open more opportunities for section membership to get involved and host events catered toward section membership interests.