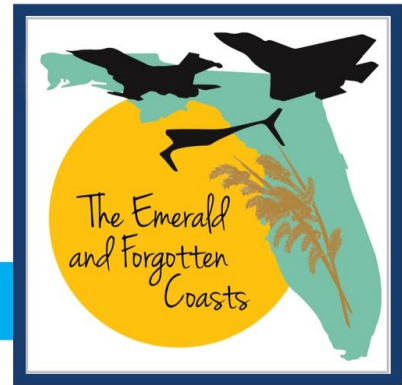




NORTHWEST FLORIDA SECTION



Another Year, Another List of Awards

Not trying to brag or anything, but our AIAA section **just...keeps...winning!** Here's our list of awards for this year:

Outstanding section award: 1st Place

Communication award: 2nd Place

Membership award: 1st Place

Public Policy: 1st Place

STEM K-12: 2nd Place

Section-Student Partnership: 3rd Place

Young Professional: 2nd Place

Fall 2022 Newsletter

Contributors:

Micah Reese, Ryan Sherrill

Micah Reese and Ryan Sherrill, editors

Up Front

Want to be part of the winning team (besides just being outstanding members)? We have vacancies for the Membership Chair and the Communications Chair. Just email us at nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com if you're interested.

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LOCAL ACTIVITY

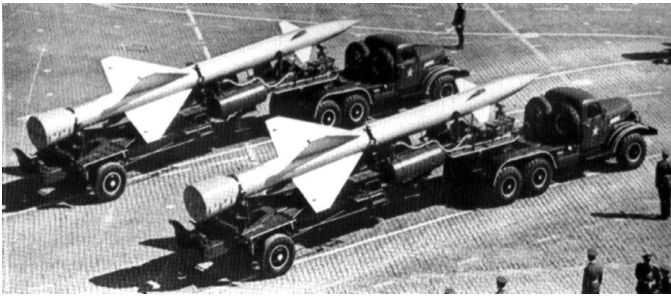
Awards Banquet

The Northwest Florida section honored two professional members and three educator associates during our section's end-of-the-year banquet. On the Educator side, the section honored **Mrs. Sharleen Nunez**, a science teacher at Ruckel Middle School in Niceville. Mrs. Nunez noticed that local students were not participating in the Science Fair and set aside one day a week for several months to help them research, plan, and experiment. She has been diligently working to build up the local robotics programs by writing a grant to start a robotics team for the 3rd-5th graders while also writing several grants to purchase 8 robots and other equipment for the middle school team.

On the professional side, **Mr. Kevin Diggs** won Professional of the Year for his outstanding leadership for the Air Force's Hypersonic Attack Cruise Missile (HACM) Program and service to the local AIAA community. **Dr. Richard "Jeff" McMullan** won the Technical Management award for his outstanding management of AFRL's High Speed Strike Weapon (HSSW) Program to integrate capabilities to increase the speed and reach of disruption and lethality. **Dr. Ryan Sherrill** won the Technical Achievement award for his outstanding technical contributions to the MASTER Nav Seedlings for Disruptive Capability Program to develop, integrate, and transition multiple navigation enablers. Finally, **Mr. Jaime Bestard** won the Achievement award for his sustained contributions to the aerospace community through technical leadership, technical management, and mentoring.



Distinguished Lecture



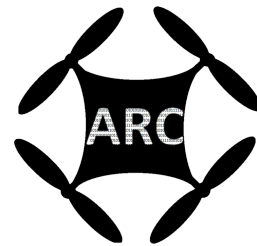
On Tuesday, July 19th, the section hosted Dr. Mike Gruntman who presented his Distinguished Lecture **“Intercept 1961: From Air Defense SA-1 to the Birth of Soviet Missile Defense”**. His talk discussed the origin of missile defense in the former USSR, from its origin in the late 1950s at the Saryshagan test site in Kazakhstan to its eventual development as a powerful political, scientific, and industrial missile defense complex. Dr. Mike Gruntman is a professor and chair of astronautics at the University of Southern California (USC). His life journey took him from a child growing on the Tyuratam (Baikonur) missile and space launch base during the late 1950s and early 1960s to an accomplished space physicist and engineer to joining USC in 1990.

VOLUNTEERING IN STEM EDUCATION

For those who have been keeping track, our last two Lunch and Learn events have been about volunteering in K-12 STEM education.

In September, our speaker was Col Tucker “Cinco” Hamilton who discussed the Aerospace Robotics Competition (ARC), aeroroboticscomp.com. This competition was started in northwest Florida and is

geared towards high school students. Although there are currently no teams in the area currently, both Angela Diggs (VP) and Micah Reese (Sec) expressed interest in starting teams. See the ARC website or contact Angela and Micah (info on last page) if you are interested in helping.



In October, our speaker was Johnny Edwards who discussed the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics program, firstinspires.org. FIRST Robotics is a global competition program designed to teach students problem solving and engineering skills and has different programs that span from Pre-K through 12th grade. Several of our officers and members volunteer as coaches, mentors, and event staff. For information on volunteering, contact stem@doolittleinstitute.org.



Being a volunteer is both fun and rewarding, so please consider using your skills to help grow the next generation of AIAA members!

UPCOMING NATIONAL AIAA EVENTS

[Inventing the Joint Strike Fighter, A Zoom Presentation by Dr. Paul Bevilaqua](#)

9 NOV 2022 1200 - 1300 (PST)

Virtual

[AIAA Aerospace Perspectives Series: On-Orbit Mission Enhancement and Logistics](#)

17 NOV 2022 1400 - 1500 (EST)

Virtual

[DC-X/XA – The Genesis of Fully Reusable Access to Space](#)

12 DEC 2022 1500 - 1915 (PST)

Mahattan Beach, California, USA, and Online

[33rd AAS/AIAA Space Flight Mechanics Meeting](#)

14 JAN - 19 JAN 2023

Austin, Texas, USA

[2023 AIAA Science and Technology Forum and Exposition \(AIAA SciTech Forum\)](#)

23 JAN - 27 JAN 2023

National Harbor, MD & Online

[2023 IEEE Aerospace Conference](#)

4 MAR - 11 MAR 2023

Big Sky, Montana, USA

[2023 Region II Student Conference](#)

27 MAR - 28 MAR 2023

Knoxville, Tennessee, USA

[2023 AIAA Defense and Security Forum \(AIAA DEFENSE Forum\)](#)

11 APR - 13 APR 2023

Laurel, Maryland, USA

[2023 AIAA Awards Gala](#)

18 MAY 2023 1730 - 2130 (EST)

Washington, DC, USA

[See more at the AIAA Events page](#)

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

This is a new section of the newsletter! We recognize that there are many relevant events outside of AIAA. If you know of any and want to spread the word, let us know: nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com

[WECON BRAVO](#)

Spring 2023

NWFL

ABOUT THE SECTION

The Northwest Florida Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc. (AIAA NWFL) is home to 289 members (as of May 2019): 124 professionals, 141 educator associates, and 24 students. The section spans 24 counties across northern Florida from Pensacola to north of Jacksonville. These counties are: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, Hamilton, Suwanee, Lafayette, Columbia, Baker, and Nassau. Most of the aerospace-related activities in the AIAA NWFL section are at military installations in the western panhandle.



Officer/Chair Email:

nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com



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Vacant - looking for volunteers

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Vacant - looking for volunteers