



University of Dayton and Air Force Institute of Technology
Student Branches
Dayton-Cincinnati Section

Dinner Meeting 12 April 2022



All Welcome!

Time

6:00 PM Social (Cash Bar)
6:30 PM Dinner
7:30 PM Presentation

Location

University of Dayton
Kennedy Union (KU)
Torch Lounge
Dayton, OH 45324

Reservations

RSVP by April 4th to
Scott Chriss
chriss1@udayton.edu

Dinner Menu

Buffet Style

House salad, Caesar salad, Oven-Baked Chicken, Lemon Pepper Tilapia, Mashed Potatoes, Buttered Linguini, Sweet Corn, Green Beans, Carrot Cake, Apple Pie

\$25.00 Professionals
\$10.00 Students

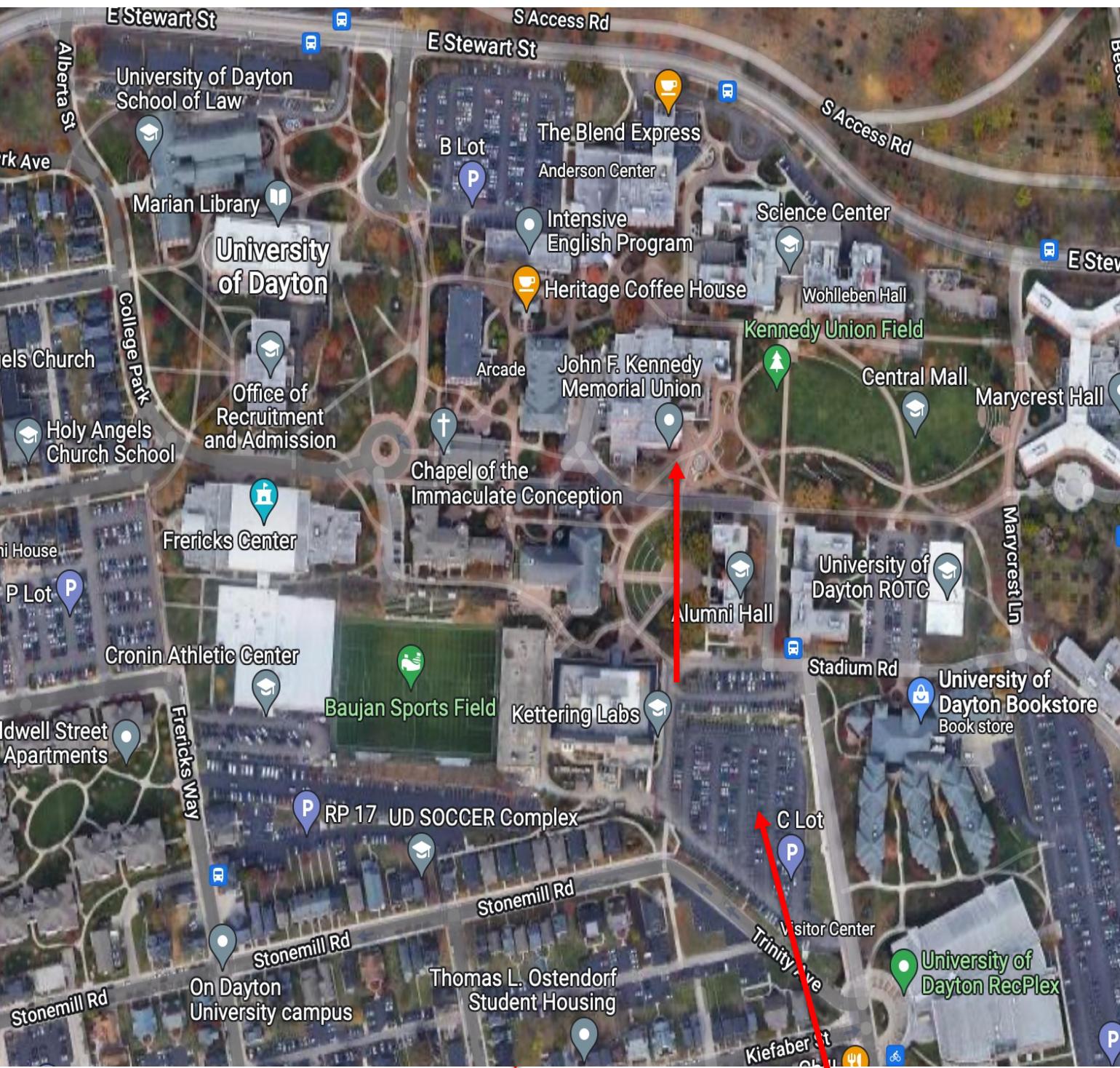
Guest Speaker: Walter Gordon

Project Gemini: Unsung Hero of Neil Armstrong's One Small Step

Abstract: Think of Project Mercury and what comes to mind? Alan Shepard, the first American in space, and John Glenn, the first to orbit the Earth. Probably *The Right Stuff*. How about the Apollo program? Apollo 11, of course. Neil Armstrong. "One small step for a man..." Apollo 13. "Houston, we've had a problem." But how about Project Gemini, the U.S. space program between Mercury and Apollo? When did it take place? Who flew on Gemini and what did it accomplish? In fact, 10 of the 12 men that eventually walked on the moon during Apollo flew Gemini first, and the other two were Gemini backup crew. Even though its first launch was only three years after John Glenn's five-hour orbital flight in Friendship 7, Project Gemini demonstrated technologies and techniques critical to the Apollo program and was key to fulfilling President Kennedy's pledge, "...before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the Earth." This talk will discuss the ten Gemini missions from March 1965 to November 1966 and how they paved the way for Apollo.

Background: Walter Gordon worked as an engineer in Western New York from 1979 to 2020 at four different aerospace firms, retiring recently as a business development manager in the Moog Space and Defense Group. He is also retired from a parallel 30-year career in the Air Force Reserve, serving as commander of the 328th Airlift Squadron and 914th Airlift Wing in Niagara Falls, New York. Colonel Gordon is a veteran of Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom and has over 2,000 hours flying time in the C-130. Colonel Gordon has a long time interest in aerospace and aerospace history, joining AIAA at age 17 and currently serving as chairman of the Niagara Frontier Section and deputy chair of the History Committee. He is also the chairman of the Niagara Frontier Aviation and Space Hall of Fame nominating committee and a past president of the Niagara Aerospace Museum and Aero Club of Buffalo. Colonel Gordon has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Aerospace Engineering from the University at Buffalo and an M.S. in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Air Force Air War College.

Non-Members that join AIAA that evening will be admitted for only \$5.00



Park in C lot, follow red arrow to Kennedy Union, go up one flight of stairs to Torch Lounge.