

**May 2020**

## **Essay Contest Winners Announced**

The Cape Canaveral Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) is pleased to announce the section winners of the 2020 AIAA Space Systems Technical Committee (STCC) Student Essay Contest. Zadi Diniz, a student at Gifford Middle School in Indian River County, was selected as the eighth-grade winner. The seventh-grade winner was, Samuel Galvis Varon, a student at Andrew Jackson Middle School in Brevard County.

The annual competition invites students to submit essays on a space related topic. This year the theme was “How advanced can you envision space technology and exploration through the next 50 years? What do we need to do NOW to achieve that?” Zadi’s and Samuel’s essays were selected from entries submitted by seventh and eighth grade students from across the Treasure and Space Coasts of Florida.

The winners each receive \$50 from the section and will go on to represent the Cape Canaveral AIAA in the national essay competition. The national winners will be publicly announced in the September issue of Aerospace America magazine.

## **Aerospace Career Development**

David Fleming  
Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering  
Florida Tech



X-37B at KSC,  
from nasa.gov

One of the great things about being an aerospace engineering faculty member is that students of aerospace engineering are extremely passionate about the field, having grown up on a steady diet of Star Trek, air shows, and

-for those lucky enough to live on the Space Coast-being able to walk out the door and watch historic rocket launches. Better still, Aerospace Engineering is also an outstanding career option. According to the latest data published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(<https://www.bls.gov/OOH/architecture-and-engineering/aerospace-engineers.htm>), the 2019 median pay for aerospace engineers was \$116,500. In the most recent full year of reporting (2018), there were 67,200 employed Aerospace Engineers, with as estimated 35% of these working directly for aerospace product and part manufacturers, 15% employed by the federal government, and the rest in various other subcategories. Current economic uncertainty has



“Launch America on pad, from NASA TV”

certainly given students and working professionals alike significant cause for concern about their careers. But here on the Space Coast we see that aerospace activity is still moving forward. The latest launch of the X-37B spaceplane happened just over a week ago, on May 17, and the “Launch America” first launch of US astronauts on a

SpaceX rocket is coming any day now.

For those seeking employment or considering a change of career, the AIAA Careers page <https://www.aiaa.org/careers> offers a number of tools, including a Career Center that is constantly updated with job openings as well as career advice for people at every stage in their careers.

Also, AIAA Has been running a series of free webinars on Career Options for members, especially student members. The upcoming ones are as follows:

For those interested in academically-oriented career paths AIAA is offering a Member Exclusive Webinar entitled, “Aerospace Career Pathways – Academia” **24 June 2020 1000 - 1100 AM EDT**. Ingo Jahn, deputy

director for the Centre for Hypersonics at the University of Queensland, discusses career pathways to research, academia, publishing and teaching.

[https://www.aiaa.org/events-learning/event/2020/06/24/default-calendar/aerospace-career-pathways-academia-\(member-exclusive-webinar\)](https://www.aiaa.org/events-learning/event/2020/06/24/default-calendar/aerospace-career-pathways-academia-(member-exclusive-webinar))

For those interested in Professional Engineering Aerospace Career Pathways, a Member Exclusive Webinar will be held **24 July 2020 1:30 – 2:30 PM EDT**. Allison Tsay, Associate RF Engineer at Lockheed Martin Skunk Works, discusses career pathways to becoming a professional engineer.

[https://www.aiaa.org/events-learning/event/2020/07/24/default-calendar/aerospace-career-pathways-professional-engineering-\(member-exclusive-webinar\)](https://www.aiaa.org/events-learning/event/2020/07/24/default-calendar/aerospace-career-pathways-professional-engineering-(member-exclusive-webinar))

Regarding Entrepreneurship: “Aerospace Career Pathways – Entrepreneurship (Member Exclusive Webinar)” is coming **18 August 2020 1:30 – 2:30 PM EDT**. Victoria Chibuogu Nneji, Lead Engineer & Innovation Strategist, Edge Case Research, discusses career pathways to entrepreneurship and business leadership.

[https://www.aiaa.org/events-learning/event/2020/08/18/default-calendar/aerospace-career-pathways-entrepreneurship-\(member-exclusive-webinar\)](https://www.aiaa.org/events-learning/event/2020/08/18/default-calendar/aerospace-career-pathways-entrepreneurship-(member-exclusive-webinar))

In addition, earlier in May there was a webinar on Public Service career pathways, which is available on-demand. For this and other archived and upcoming webinars from AIAA please visit: <https://www.aiaa.org/events-learning/aiaa-webinars>

## 2020 AIAA Aviation Forum Moves Online

As announced on the AIAA Website, <https://www.aiaa.org/aviation>, the 2020 AIAA AVIATION Forum will be held as a virtual conference in an online-only format, 15–19 June. The silver lining: the online nature of the forum may allow people who otherwise would have been able to attend to have access to this conference. From the website: “AIAA recognizes that the face-to-face meeting is ideal for sharing research, ideas, and convening the community. Given the current challenges posed by COVID-19, we feel that the virtual forum format provides the best opportunity for the AIAA community to meet and share information. By removing some of the barriers to

traditional forum attendance, including travel costs and time, the virtual forum format will enable greater participation from the aerospace community—traditional and nontraditional. We are excited to use this new format to accomplish AIAA’s mission of helping aerospace professionals and their organizations succeed.”

## Updates on AIAA Events

In an April 2, 2020 Press Release, AIAA announced the addition of virtual component to all AIAA events. As described in the Press Release, AIAA executive director Dan Dumbacher said “This new online solution for attending and sponsoring meetings will spur innovation because it will allow more of our members, as well as those who might not otherwise engage with AIAA, to do so in a convenient and cost-effective way.” The full press release is available at <https://www.aiaa.org/news/news/2020/04/02/aiaa-announces-addition-of-virtual-component-to-all-aiaa-events>

In addition, the 2020 Aerospace Spotlight Awards Gals has been rescheduled for July 17, 2020 in Washington DC, and the 2020 Fellows Dinner has been rescheduled for July 16, 2020 in Crystal City, VA. Full details of these events are available at [www.aiaa.org](http://www.aiaa.org).



If you usually get *Aerospace America* at work at are now working from home, don’t forget to browse the online issue (which has a very timely cover story) at: <https://www.aiaa.org/publications/aerospace-america>



 **AIAA Cape Canaveral is on Social Media and we want to hear from you! Find us @capeaiaa**

Take a minute to follow the AIAA Cape Canaveral Section on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at

username [@capeaiaa](#), or find us on Engage at [engage.aiaa.org/capecanaveral/home](https://engage.aiaa.org/capecanaveral/home)

We want to hear from our members! Tell us what you think. Do you have a question you need answered? Do you need a guest speaker and/or volunteers for your event? Use these tools to ask your fellow section members for their help!

### **Announcements**

#### **Daily Launch**

Want to receive a daily email summary from AIAA about all the latest aerospace news from Newspapers, TV, Radio and Journals? Sign Up for The AIAA Daily Launch. For member access to the AIAA Daily Launch, please log in to [www.aiaa.org/MyAIAA](https://www.aiaa.org/MyAIAA), navigate to "Access Publications & Materials" and select "Daily Launch." The AIAA Daily Launch, distributed to AIAA members each weekday morning, is a digest of the most important aerospace news selected from thousands of sources by the editors of Bulletin Media.

#### **AIAA Career Center**

AIAA is pleased to provide members with a [Career Center](#), with extensive lists of resumes and available positions. A powerful and user-friendly search tool allows you to find the ideal job or candidate.

