**Computer Lab Update!**

Slowly but surely the 6th floor computer lab is being updated. You will notice that there are many new computers, and we have moved to a new server. All upper-level students with access to the computer lab will need to request a new account. To request an account, you will need to complete a new form located at http://aero.tamu.edu/current-students/computing-information. Also be on the look out for some remodeling in the lab. This semester we hope to expand our computer resources!

Happy Computing!

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**FALL CAREER FAIR**

SEC's Fall 2011 Engineering Career Fair is the premier recruiting event for the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University. The career fair is planned, organized, and staffed by the Student Engineers' Council and is one of the largest student-run engineering career fairs in the nation. Historically, over 320 companies and 4,000 engineering students attend the career fair during the fall semester.

**Career Fair will be held in Reed Arena from 9 am - 5 pm on Tuesday, September 13th, and from 9 am - 4 pm on Wednesday, September 14th.**

**TIPS for the Career Fair:**
- **Dress is Business Casual.**
- **Update your resume and have the Career Center review it!** For more information regarding resume tips and Career Center help, please visit careercenter.tamu.edu.
  
  **Walk-in Resume Review (Advising) Hours:**
  Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 11:00 am or 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm, or you can call to schedule an appointment 979-845-5139

- **Make sure you have your student ID on you.**
- **If you would like to attend the Welcome Dinner, you will need to register online at sec.tamu.edu.**
- **Companies will be looking for full time, co-ops and internship applicants.**
Congratulations and Acknowledgements

2011-2012 Scholarship Winners

Benjamin R. and Deanna J. Smith
David Lerohl

Pat and Carol Gibson
Tim Woodbury
Patrick Whalen

Michael Ebanks Memorial Scholarship
Douglas Haby

Charles R. Overly ‘46 Memorial Scholarship
Sam Gonzalez

Aldridge ‘60 Endowed Scholarship
Trevor Bennett
Steven Anderson
Michael Ballard
Brandon Baker
Randall Reams
Will Scholten
John Illisevic
Tyler Savell
Justin Compton
Sai Patel
Santos Ramirez
Andrew Leidy
Taylor Yeary

Gordon and Mary Ann Gibson ‘55
Hannah DeGray
Scott Palasota
Leland Snow Memorial Scholarship
Julian McVay

Travis and Rachel Joiner Memorial Scholarship
Jim Henrickson

Rockwell Collins
Mitchell Pace

The Larry Anderson Award was awarded to Anton Kolomiets. The award honors a graduating senior who exhibits the qualities of Larry Anderson, a former student. During Anton's time in the Department, he demonstrated exuberance for the field, leadership within the Department and service to the AERO program and its students. Anton served as AIAA president in 2010-2011 and is currently working as a composite Structures Design Engineer at United Launch Alliance.

Sigma Gamma Tau awarded Grant Atkinson ‘11 with the 2011 SGT Outstanding Senior award. Students who receive this award demonstrate strong academic, service, and extracurricular accomplishments. Grant plans to continue his education at A&M this fall by working with Dr. Lagoudas and Dr. Valasek in human factors in space flight.

Colonel Lutz was honored at the AIAA Banquet last May with the Thomas U. McElmurry Teaching Excellence Award given by Sigma Gamma Tau.

Congrats to Element Aerospace on their Spring 2011 Lowy Award. The Lowy award is awarded each semester to a student airplane design team for “innovation, technical expertise and teamwork.” Unfortunately, the plane went down in a blaze of glory. Team members include Spencer Hawkins, Thomas Kennedy, Jason Monschke, Sarah Nelson, Rex Rosandich, Zachary Sunberg, and Bradley Taylor.
2011 Student Research Week Winners

Congrats to Alejandro Azocar for winning both session and overall subject poster areas at Student Research Week in March 2011. Second place went to Nikhil Bhatnagar, Matt Leinbaugh and Jared Staha.

Great work and keep up the good work!

Way to go Class of 2011!
Congrats to our May Graduates!

Fall 2011 Graduates, make sure you complete the following.
All graduating seniors must complete a senior exit survey. Yes, we know it’s another survey, but these are used to help the department in the accreditation process.

Senior exit interviews with Dr. Lagoudas are typically held every semester the day before graduation. Attendance is highly recommended but not required.

355 astronauts. 135 missions. Now it’s YOUR turn.

The space shuttle flight simulator is still on schedule to begin the disassembly process at NASA Johnson starting September 1, 2011, and is scheduled to arrive at TAMU for re-assembly on June 1, 2012!

The simulator will remain fully operational while at A&M and will be used for research and educational purposes for many years to come!

For updates, you can like “NASA Space Shuttle Simulator at Texas A&M” on Facebook.

AERO Design Places Sixth!

The 2011 AERO Design team took sixth place in the International SAE AERO Design competition and first place in the oral presentation portion of the competition. This is the highest the team has placed in its three years of participating in this competition. A major accomplishment was met when in the last round the plane successfully flew with its design payload, meeting the team’s design expectations.
Welcome Dr. Jonathan D. Rogers!

We are excited to announce that Dr. Rogers from Georgia Institute of Technology has joined the AERO faculty this fall semester. He received his Bachelor's degree in Physics from Georgetown University in 2006 and received his PhD from Georgia Tech in Aerospace Engineering in 2009. Vehicle design, flight mechanics and control of unmanned vehicles are his current research interests. Dr. Rogers has worked extensively with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory and other government and industry partners in the design of smart weapons systems and unmanned vehicle concepts over the past five years. This new addition to our faculty brings with him great expertise in rotorcraft design, in which the Department hopes to establish courses in the near future.

Don’t know what classes to take next spring?

Try using Degree Evaluation! Degree Evaluation is located in the HOWDY portal under your MyRecord tab. Follow the prompts, and you are on your way to seeing what you have credit for and what you still lack. If you are designated AERL, you can do a WHAT IF ANALYSIS and promote yourself temporarily to AERO. Changing your major will allow you to see where all the classes you have taken will apply.

November 17 - December 6 Preregistration for Spring 2012

The Aerospace Scholarship Application will now be connected to the University Scholarship application. The application for continuing students opens October 15, 2011 and will close on February 1, 2012.

Spring 2012 Technical Elective Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AERO 405</td>
<td>Aerospace Structural Design</td>
<td>AERO 306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERO 420</td>
<td>Aeroelasticity</td>
<td>AERO 303, 306, 310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERO 422</td>
<td>Active Controls for Aerospace Vehicles</td>
<td>AERO 421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERO 440</td>
<td>Cockpit Systems and Displays</td>
<td>421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERO 489</td>
<td>Rotorcraft Design</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course descriptions can be found at aero.tamu.edu.

Spring 2012 - Airplanes & Satellites

Fall 2012 - Airplanes & Rockets
FAST TRACK – Get Started on your Graduate Degree

The Fast Track program allows high-achieving undergraduate students to move further into advanced studies. Students who wish to pursue a graduate degree will be able to take specific courses that can count as part of both the student's undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Academically qualified undergraduate students can earn up to 9 hours of graduate credit to apply to both their BS and graduate degree. For more information, check out the undergraduate website or talk to an undergraduate advisor.

Requirements:
- At least a 3.5. GPA
- Committed to graduate studies at A&M in AERO
- Application to Fast Track completed before AERO 401

Advantages:
- Participate earlier in graduate studies
- Identify research opportunities in your chosen discipline earlier
- Reduce the total credit hours for BS and graduate degrees up to 9 hours

Student Advisory Board

The AERO Student Advisory Board is a group of AERO students that meet with Aerospace students, industry representatives and faculty to resolve student or faculty concerns and improve the department overall. They are here to provide a better relationship between the students and the Department, and their aim is to provide a better educational atmosphere for everyone.

The new updated lounge in the 6th floor computer lab was organized by SAB, and they hope to have some more improvements completed this semester.

SAB is currently looking for new members, preferably freshmen or sophomores. Applications are now available in the Undergraduate Advising Office and online at aero.tamu.edu.

SGT Mentoring Office and Test Reviews

Questions about AERO?

Sigma Gamma Tau, the Aerospace honors society offers study help as well as advice on professors, classes and generally anything to do with Aerospace Engineering.

The Mentoring Office is located in HR Bright 753. Office hours will start the week of September 5th.

Test Reviews will be conducted for certain AERO courses throughout the fall semester.

Stay tuned to the AERO ListServ for more details!

Summer Research with REU/USRG

The REU and USRG programs spanned a ten week period this summer and involved 23 students from the Aerospace Engineering Department, as well as students from other colleges and universities. This year, participating universities included Baylor University, Texas Southern University, Texas Tech University, University of Massachusetts–Amherst, Purdue University, University of Houston, Northwestern College, and the University of Puerto Rico.

Interested in Summer 2012 research?

REU/USRG Applications are posted at the beginning of the Spring Semester!
What did you do on your summer vacation?

Nick flew a blimp in Zachry Lobby……

A new airship activity was launched this summer in the Aerospace Engineering Department at Texas A&M University. Dr. Rajkumar Pant collaborated with Dr. Sharath Girimaji of the Aerospace Engineering Department and Dr. Christian Brucoleri of the Space Engineering Research Center (SERC) to kick-start research and development activities related to Lighter-Than-Air (LTA) systems at Texas A&M. LTA systems principally generate lift force by using sufficient volume of a lighter-than-air gas, such as helium. Heavier-Than-Air (HTA) systems, on the other hand, generate lift by a relative motion between the wings or rotor blades and ambient air, consuming a large amount of fuel.

Dr. Pant is an Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay where he set up a laboratory in which student teams design, build and fly airships from scratch. This summer, TAMU Aerospace Engineering students became familiar with the airship operation controls with some indoor flying at the SERC’s facility in the University Services Building. The pictured aerostat, measuring 5 feet by 11 feet, will next carry a light payload consisting of a camera, wireless transmitter and a smart phone for a simulation of an “operational” mission. Larger airships with real payloads can contribute to a number of missions including disaster response, homeland security and communications relay, to name a few. Dr. Girimaji plans to build a student team program at TAMU to contribute to both design curricula on the academic side and research into innovative payloads and high altitude airship operations. Any students interested in such activities should contact Dr. Girimaji at girimaji@aero.tamu.edu.

4 students participated in research in India……

Texas A&M University Aerospace Engineering students participated in an exchange program with students from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur this summer. This is the second year for TAMU and IIT Kanpur to facilitate the exchange program.

Three students from IIT Kanpur studied at TAMU in College Station for nine weeks, working with Aerospace Engineering professors and experiencing Texas culture. The students worked on projects in the areas of shape memory alloys, durability of aerospace materials and on-board satellite computers.

This was the first trip to the United States for the exchange students. While here, they also visited the River Walk and Alamo in San Antonio, as well as Houston and NASA Johnson Space Center. Conversely, four students from the Aerospace Engineering Department at Texas A&M University traveled to IIT Kanpur for ten weeks to take part in this exchange program.

“It is a challenge to be working at such a prestigious institution, but it is so rewarding at the same time,” said Paul Braden, an AERO senior student visiting IIT Kanpur.

The TAMU students each studied a different research focus including structures; dynamics and hypersonics, under the guidance of renowned Aerospace Engineering faculty at IIT Kanpur. This was also the first trip to India for most of the TAMU students. On the weekends, they had the opportunity to travel to different parts of India, including Delhi, Agra, Lucknow and cities in the state of Rajasthan.

“It truly has been the experience of a lifetime. We have made some amazing friends during our time here including the students who we hosted last summer,” said Lisa Warren, another TAMU AERO student in Kanpur.

The exchange program has sparked an interest in students from both universities to pursue graduate degrees, and created an avenue for students interested in attending Texas A&M to meet current students and begin relationships before they arrive in the United States. Students interested in participating in the program for the Summer of 2012 can contact Dr. Vikram Kinra at kinra@tamu.edu.
I had no idea what to expect or how I would grow by going on the study abroad program. Having never traveled as a kid, much less ventured outside the United States, this was a very foreign idea to me. But with some convincing arguments from friends (as well as wanting the class credit to help graduate on time) I decided I would dedicate the first two months of precious summertime to Brasil (this is how Brazil is spelled over there).

In the beginning it was very overwhelming for both my parents and myself. We were contemplating funding for the trip, sifting through paperwork, updating shot records, and of course I had to learn Portuguese. I was the unlucky one in the group who had taken a gamble on French in high school; and I was disappointed when I learned that most of the words were derivatives of, if not the same as, Spanish.

Thankfully, we all had the help of four encouraging Brasilian students at Texas A&M coaching us through the language and culture every Friday afternoon. Looking back on our lessons I can see how our knowledge of Brasil had advanced by a gratuitous amount before landing in Sao Paulo, but upon arrival we soon realized we needed some practice.

Some practice was an understatement. In our first attempt to order food at a café not many of us got it completely right. Those individuals who did manage to make an order were taken aback by what they received. I was amazed the most at the tiny cups of espresso; I wondered how they could possibly quench anyone’s thirst, but it didn’t take very long to discover exactly how much stronger Brasilian coffee is made compared to American coffee. As we ventured out of the airport, we got our first look at the bustling city that was filled with a diverse mix of culture. We were acutely aware of our foreignness due to our camera flashes projecting through the crystal clear tour bus windows. For the duration of our stay we traveled through the countryside by bus or flew to our destination on a plane. We had a packed schedule, so with each leg of the trip we attempted to catch up on our sleep.

We had the privilege to visit many different cities and many different companies. Some of the great companies we were able to see included: the GE engine repair facility, in Petropolis; Embraer company headquarters, in the state of Sao Paulo; and the Embraco compressor facility, in the southern state of Santa Catarina. Each of these companies had something exciting to offer on our visits: Dr. Talreja was very pleased when our guide revealed Embraer’s quality control processes on large carbon fiber pieces; Dr. Karpetis hiked us up a 20+% grade to view GE’s turbofan combustor refurbishments; and Embraco walked us through their material testing procedures, as well as, the efficiency measuring devices used on their compressors. The foundations formed in our classrooms made the experiences we gained in our visits to companies that much more influential. Our professors had to hold classes in public and private lecture halls, hotel lobbies, and even airports. Our talented professors were so successful in adapting each lesson to whatever logistical challenge Brasil threw at us.

Meanwhile, we were taking every break we could get our hands on to jumpstart our semi-pro soccer careers, even beating some of the Brasilian locals! Okay so maybe they were taking it easy on us, but only four of us had previously played which pushed the odds clearly to their side. On each campus it was very easy to find us: just go looking for the group of students standing in a circle playing monkey in the middle with the black and yellow Brasil ball. This turned out to be a common ground between ourselves and the local students, and by the trip’s end we played almost 15 games, possessed some new found soccer skills, and understood the culture to a much greater degree. As a last note, the twelve of us would have been lost without our guide Vanessa, a graduate student from Florianopolis, who became our mobile American embassy. She would step in whenever we were unaware of what to say, or eat, or where to go. The country and people were obviously foreign to us, but she bridged the gaps where our knowledge fell short. After being around us for five entire weeks, she may even qualify for a minor in aeronautics! It was a great experience in a culture that is as diverse as our own with many things to offer tourists and students alike. We were lucky enough to be able to experience the sightseeing blended with studies in the best possible way.

Written by Chris Standley ‘12
For more information about next year’s AERO Study Abroad program, contact Dr. Paul Cizmas at cizmas@tamu.edu.

10 students took AERO 404 and AERO 419 in Brazil……
Mark Your Calendars....

September
• 1: Engineering Student Welcome
• 9: Last day to apply for December graduation
• 9: FE Exam registration deadline
• 13-14: Engineering Career Fair
• 16: Academic convocation

October
• 17: Mid-term Grades
• 29: FE Exam

November
• 4: Q-drop deadline at 5:00 pm
• 17: Preregistration begins
• 18: Bonfire 1999 Remembrance Day
• 24-25: Thanksgiving holiday

December
• 5: Redefined day: Attend Friday classes
• 6: Last Day of fall classes Attend Thursday classes
• 7: Critical Design Review
• 7-8: Reading Days
• 9,12-14: Final Exams
• 16-17: Graduation
• 21: Force Requests and Provisional Applications due

January
• 16: Faculty and staff holiday
• 17: First day of spring classes

If you or your student organization has a story for the next newsletter, please contact Laura Olivarez at laura.olivarez@tamu.edu.

Prospective Student Corner

Would you like to visit campus? Contact the Aggieland Visitor Center!
They offer campus tours and teach you about the rich history and traditions at Texas A&M University. Are you interested in meeting with the Admissions office and Financial Aid office? Would you like to take a tour of the residence halls? Anxious to sit in on a class? Are you ready to have your questions answered by an academic advisor? The Aggieland Visitor Center can plan a whole day of activities, and they are just a phone call away! 979-845-5851.

www.tamu.edu/visit

Important Dates

August 1, 2011: Admissions and Financial Aid Applications Open for Fall 2012! admissions.tamu.edu

January 15, 2012: Last Day to Apply for Fall 2012 Admission

October 15, 2011: Last Day to Apply for Spring 2012 for Transfer Students

January 1, 2012: Transfer Applications for Summer/Fall 2012 Open

February 18, 2012: Aggieland Saturday-University Open House http://www.tamu.edu/aggiesaturday


Spring 2012: Discover Engineering http://essap.tamu.edu/de/