“Why Texas A&M Aerospace Engineering” Video Contest

We want you to create a fun, upbeat, and informative video that showcases your experiences in the Aerospace Engineering program. Video length is up to you, but we are looking for short videos that have a big impact (no more than 5 minutes). You can showcase your day to day life as an AERO student, what class is like, extracurricular activities that focus on AERO, research projects/demos, late hours in the computer lab, etc. We want to show what the program is like and how much fun our students have.

Don’t have a camera? The undergraduate office will have two flip HD cameras available for check out.

Prizes: A Grand Prize will be given to the video entry that the judges deem the best at illustrating the department.

Eligibility: The contest is open to all current degree-seeking Aerospace Engineering Texas A&M University students who are 18 years of age or older at the time of entry. There is no entry fee.

Deadline: Contest entries will be accepted starting January 17, 2011. All entries must be submitted by March 11, 2011.

Contact Laura Olivarez for more information @ laura.olivarez@tamu.edu or stop by HRBB 750

Updates will be sent via the listserv! Start brainstorming!

Don’t know what classes to take next spring?

Try using Degree Evaluation! Degree Evaluation is located in the HOWDY portal under your Spring 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.

Please join us for the Fall BBQ on Friday, October 29.

Faculty will be cooking up hamburgers and hotdogs for all AERO students to enjoy.

The festivities begin at 11 am on the HRBB “Back Porch”.

Questions?
Talk to an Undergrad!

HRBB 754
Monday
12:30 –2:00pm
Tuesday
2:00-4:00pm
Wednesday
1:00-3:00pm
Thursday
9:00-11:00am
2:00-4:00pm
Congratulations!

Outstanding Senior Award

Last May, the Larry Anderson Award was awarded to Danielle Fitch ‘10. The award honors a graduating senior who has exhibited the qualities of Larry Anderson, a former student. These qualities are exuberance for aerospace engineering, demonstration of leadership within the department, and service to the program and its students. Danielle served as AIAA president from 09-10 and is currently pursuing her master’s in Aerospace Engineer with Dr. Hyland, focusing on imaging.

Congratulations, to Frans!

Sigma Gamma Tau awarded Frans Ebersohn ‘10 with the 2010 SGT Outstanding Senior award. As the winner, Frans was also chosen to represent the Texas A&M chapter at the national level competition. Students who receive this award demonstrate strong academic, service, and extracurricular accomplishments. Frans was also the first student to graduate with a B.S. Aerospace Engineering with Honors. He is currently working on his masters with Dr. Girimaji in the area of Space Propulsion.

2010-2011 Scholarship Winners

Joanne & Pete Aldridge ‘60
Brandon Baker  Michael Ballard
Justin Compton  Mitchell Pace
Kyle Benson  Tyler Savell
Spencer Hawkins  Trevor Bennett
Scott Palasota

Michael Ebanks Memorial
Sarah Canterbury
Mary Ann & Gordon Gibson
Michael Kim
Patrick A. & Carol Gibson
Tim Roorda

Benjamin R. & Deanna J. Smith
Caroline Buser  Keegan Colbert
Kristina Loftin  Nallely Davila
Travis & Rachel Joiner Memorial
Jason Monschke

Lowy Award Winner

Storm AERO is the Spring 2010 Lowy Award winner. Lowy, professor emeritus of Aerospace Engineering, endowed the award, which is presented to a student airplane design team for “innovation, technical expertise, and teamwork”. Storm created an eco-friendly medium range passenger transport aircraft. Team members included Marvin Dutton, Pravin Gunasekera, Eric Haney, Michael Massicotte, Neil Matula, Joshua Osterhout; and Matthew Whitaker. The Green Goose can be seen hanging in the hallway outside of Dr. Strganac’s office, HRBB 743C.

Kristina Loftin ‘13 and Colby Smith ‘13 were two of the ten students chosen from A&M to view the launch of space shuttle Atlantis on May 14, 2010. It was Atlantis’ final mission.

Dr. Thomas Strganac was honored by the undergraduates by being selected as a Fish Camp namesake for 2010.
This July, 17 Texas A&M Aerospace Engineering students and eight Electrical and Computer Engineering students studied abroad in Brazil. These undergraduate students from Texas A&M as well as students from the University of Campinas - São Paulo studied together and experienced not only the language, economy, and culture of Brazil, but also aerospace engineering courses in a collaborative environment. This is the first year that Texas A&M’s Aerospace Engineering department and the University of Campinas - São Paulo have partnered to offer their students this unique and impactful study abroad program.

The five week study abroad experience included two aerospace engineering courses, AERO 306 and AERO 351, as well as seminars on Brazilian history, economy, government, culture, and the Portuguese language. Two Texas A&M faculty members joined the students and instructed classes, as well as two Texas A&M aerospace graduate students. The group stayed on campus at the University of Campinas and took various trips to other locations throughout the country, including a nanotechnology center and particle accelerator in Campinas, Embraer aircraft manufacturer, the Brazilian Synchrotron Light Laboratory (LNLS), Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo points of interest, the Aeronautical School of San Carlos, the premier Brazilian Institute for Aeronautics (ITA), rafting, and more.

Interested in Study Abroad? Aerospace currently plans to offer AERO 419 and AERO 404 during the first summer session, May 16th-July 3rd.

Study Abroad will complete your ICD requirements and help you complete the International Engineering Certificate.
Congratulations, and best of luck to our May Graduates!

Graduating Seniors (or soon to be)! Make sure to check your degree evaluation in HOWDY! AERO 430 may be applying to your technical electives and not your math section. Double check and make sure your classes are applying to the right location. If you have any questions, please contact Kristi or Laura.

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. We appreciate your assistance!

Summer Research Opportunities with REU and USRG!

Eleven undergraduate students from Texas A&M University and San Jose State University spent their summer in the lab conducting nanotechnology and materials systems research.

Three departments in the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University — the Department of Aerospace Engineering, the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering — hosted the students who took part in Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)/Undergraduate Student Research Grant (USRG). Six Texas A&M students and one San Jose State University aerospace engineering student participated in the nanomaterials REU, which was funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Four more students were involved with the USRG, which was funded by the Look College.

The REU and the USRG aim to increase interest in research and continuing on to graduate studies in portions of the undergraduate population that may not be considering it. The program typically spans 10 weeks in the summer and involves students from Texas A&M as well as students from other colleges and universities. Each student works closely with graduate students and faculty members on current research projects, attends presentation skills workshops, makes a formal poster presentation of their research experience at the end of the program, and submits a final written report describing the results of their research. Students are given a stipend for their time in REU, as well as a housing allowance and tuition for one credit hour of an independent study.

One of the goals for the REU program is to reach out to students that may have never been exposed to the academic research process. Under-represented minorities and women in the engineering field are also strongly encouraged to participate in REU. Students experience the excitement of cutting-edge academic research in state-of-the-art national aerospace facilities to develop their interests in aerospace engineering sciences. The aerospace engineering students are integrated into the nanomaterials related research groups in cutting-edge projects to generate enthusiasm for advanced studies in these areas.

More than half of the students that have participated in REU in the past four years have gone on to graduate school, and nine journal and conference publications have resulted from the research in which the REU students have been involved.

For more details regarding this summer’s program and the students research topics please visit http://aero.tamu.edu/research/undergraduate/research-experience-undergraduates. Applications for Summer 2011 will be posted on the website late fall.

Texas A&M aerospace engineering majors Nate Miller and Kyle Benson research improving performance of unmanned aerial vehicles through the use of advanced 3-D modeling, state-of-the-art composite materials, and new cost effective means of fabrication. These students are mentored by Texas A&M faculty member, Dr. John Whitcomb.
When the space shuttle Discovery launched April 5, 2010, two graduates of Texas A&M University’s Department of Aerospace Engineering were directing the mission from the ground.

Richard Jones ’90 was the lead space shuttle flight director for STS-131 and has been a NASA flight director since 2005. A native of El Paso, Texas, he earned a bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering from Texas A&M. He previously served as a flight director overseeing two shuttle launches and four landings.

Also serving as flight director on the STS-131 mission was Ron Spencer ’89, who has been a flight director since 2006. He is a native of Decatur, Ill., and also earned a bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering from Texas A&M. Before becoming a flight director, he helped develop the assembly sequence used to build the space station.

Discovery’s flight, one of only four remaining space shuttle missions, carried a logistics module packed with eight tons of cargo to the station. The mission also included three spacewalks to replace a tank assembly on the station’s backbone that provides ammonia for use in the complex’s cooling system.

Did you know?

Aerospace Named one of the 10 Best Paying College Majors

TAMU Aerospace grad breaks world record

New Lecturer Joins the Department!

Wayne Lutz ’72 has recently joined the Texas A&M University Aerospace Engineering department as a lecturer. Mr. Lutz, who retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel and worked in industry for The Boeing Company for over 14 years, is currently serving as an instructor for the first semester of the Capstone Design airplane sequence, AERO 401. Mr. Lutz received his undergraduate degree from Texas A&M in Aerospace Engineering and his master’s degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California in 1984. Mr. Lutz wanted to “share [his] experience in flight testing, engineering, and managing resources in quality student programs activities at Texas A&M University.”

Please join the department in welcoming Mr. Lutz!
Mark Your Calendars....

October Events
- 18: Mid-Term Grades Due
- 23: Discover Engineering Event
- 29: AERO BBQ!
- 30: FE Exam

November Events
- 5: Q-drop Deadline at 5:00 pm
- 18: Preregistration begins
- 18: Bonfire 1999 Remembrance Day
- 25-26: Thanksgiving holiday

December Events
- 6: Redefined Day—Attend Friday classes
- 7: Redefined Day—Attend Thursday classes
- 8-9: Reading day
- 8: CDR
- 9: Advisory Board
- 10, 13-15: Finals!!
- 17-18: Graduation
- 21: Force Request and Provisional Applications Due

January Events
- 18: First day of Spring classes
- 28: Last day to apply for May Degrees

If you or your student organization have 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, 2010: Admissions and Financial Aid Applications Open for Fall 2011! admissions.tamu.edu
January 15, 2011: Last Day to Apply for Fall 2011 Admission
October 15, 2010: Last Day to Apply for Spring 2011 for Transfer Students
January 1, 2011: Transfer Applications for Summer/Fall 2011 Open
February 19, 2011: Aggieland Saturday—University Open House http://www.tamu.edu/aggiesaturday