“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 potential students 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: Top prizes include a textbook scholarship and combat flying time in the flight simulator with a few of your closest friends!

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 beginning February 2011. All entries must be submitted by April 22, 2011. Winner(s) will be honored at the AIAA banquet on May 4, 2011.

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

2011-2012 Aerospace Scholarship

It’s that time again! Departmental scholarships are now available! Aerospace will be awarding numerous scholarships this spring. The application is now posted, and by completing just one application, you will be eligible for all available AERO scholarships, including the new AIAA outstanding member scholarship. Each scholarship has its own criteria, including financial need, scholastic achievement, and extra-curricular activities. If you are selected for a scholarship, you must attend the Scholarship Recognition Ceremony held in conjunction with the AIAA banquet on May 4, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact the Aerospace Undergraduate Advising Office.

The application is posted at aero.tamu.edu. All applications are due by 5pm, February 25 to HRBB 750.

“AEO BBQ!”

Please join us for the Spring BBQ on Friday, April 15.

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

Parents are welcome!

The festivities begin at 11 am on the HRBB “Back Porch.”
Congratulations to Kristin Nichols ‘12! Kristin is the recipient of the DeCluitt Family President’s Endowed Scholarship. Thanks to the DeCluitt family’s generosity, students can focus on their studies rather than the financial burden of a college education. After graduation Kristin plans to work for NASA. She just returned from her first co-op term there this fall.

Hylands Provide Gifts to Aerospace Engineering

The Department of Aerospace Engineering would like to thank Dr. David Hyland and his wife, Claudia Hyland, for their generous contributions to the department. Their recent “Hypersonic” level gift will be used to support research efforts related to space, specifically projects on asteroid exploration and mitigation, as well as support for undergraduate lab enhancements in these areas.

“As we try to organize our fund raising activities in the Aerospace Engineering Department and support scholarships, upgrade our laboratories and support our various academic functions, Professor Hyland's gift has given us a momentum forward with our space initiatives and will have a profound impact on students for years to come,” said Dr. Dimitris Lagoudas, Aerospace Engineering Department Head.

Dr. Hyland has been a professor with the department since 2003. He is the director of Space Science and Space Engineering Research, a professor of aerospace engineering and physics, and is the holder of the Wisenbaker Chair of Engineering. His current research areas include development of novel electro-optical methods of fine resolution imaging, dynamics and control of spacecraft formations, and the study of hazardous near-earth objects. Dr. Hyland currently teaches AERO 426, AERO 428, and AERO 401- Space Design.

2010 Larry Anderson Award Nominations

The Larry Anderson Award honors a graduating senior who has exhibited the qualities of Larry Anderson. These qualities include:
1: Exuberance for Aerospace Engineering.
2: Demonstrated Leadership within the department.
3. Service to the Aerospace Engineering program and its students.

Nominations will be accepted in April, and the winner(s) will be announced at the AIAA banquet. Watch the listserv and bulletin boards for more details.

SGT Inducts New Members!

Sigma Gamma Tau is the honor society for Aerospace Engineering. It seeks to identify and recognize achievement and excellence in the Aerospace field. Members offer mentoring, tutoring, and community service opportunities.

Keith Ballard
Kyle Coughlen
Richard Emery
Joshua Frink
Andrew Leidy
Mitchell Pace
Sai Patel
Nicole Resweber
Timothy Roorda
Jordan Schwartz
Benjamin Wilcox
Steven Anderson
Paul Braden

Dean Ellis
James Garton
Diego Hernandez
Bradley Taylor
Robert Brown
Danielle Fitch
Raymond Fontenot
William Hafer
Nathan Jones
Reza Karimi
Douglas Kutz
Neil Matula
Christopher Roscoe
Don’t know what classes to take next fall?

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.

Requirements for May 2010 Grads

Senior Exit Surveys and Interviews

Mark your calendars! Exit interviews with our industry advisory board will be held on Thursday, May 5th, in the morning. This is a required event for May 2011 grads, and we will be sending out more details as the time gets closer.

Also, 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.

Please be sure to plan for the May 2011 Graduation Celebration, which will start at 4 pm on May 13, 2011. You and your family are invited to join the department for dinner and a recognition ceremony to honor your graduation. All festivities will be held on the first floor of HRBB. Hope to see you there!

April 14-27 Preregistration for Summer and Fall 2011

Mentoring Office Hours

SGT Office Hours are now in session! Located in HR Bright 753, we are here to provide information/advice on anything AERO: classes, professors, internships, study abroad, homework help, past tests, etc.!

Feel free to stop by during any of the times below.

Monday 2-4pm
Tuesday 8-9am and 2-3:30pm
Wednesday 3-4pm
Thursday 8-9am

Hope to see you there!
The Texas A&M Aero Design Team will be competing at the international SAE Aero Design competition on March 18, 2011. Our team diligently designed the 2011 aircraft during the fall of 2010 in response to SAE’s Request for Proposal for a heavy-lift, remote controlled aircraft. We developed an original and innovative design by selecting the appropriate airplane configuration, designing sound internal structures, and ensuring aircraft stability. This year, our team’s primary focus was to ensure stability and avoid issues of stability that a majority of airplanes have had at previous SAE competitions. The stability of our aircraft does not compromise its lightweight and high performance—it can lift an estimated payload of 25 lbs.

Currently, we have finished the construction of our first airplane! After our first test flight, our pilot reported high controllability, responsiveness, and an overall stable flight. As the plane lifted, we celebrated the hard work and effort we put behind our design. Although we experienced engine failure during some flights, the airplane landed safely. A small amount of damage indicated a need for reinforcement in certain areas. The flight test was a learning experience that allowed us to better prepare for the international competition in March. We are currently building a backup plane for the competition. We are also preparing an oral design presentation to give in front of judges and professional engineers at the SAE competition. We are excited to share our design insight with important members of the industry. For more details, visit http://aeweb.tamu.edu/sae_design/index.html.

We would like to thank the Aerospace Engineering Department, SolidWorks, Swoboda Engineering, Yaggi Engineering, SFTE, Hobby Town USA, Power RC Hobbies, HEB, Freebirds on University, Chuck E Cheese’s, Aggieland Outfitters, McAlister’s, Panda Express, and Firehouse Subs for their support of our student project. Thank You!

The Solar Aircraft group of Society of Flight Test Engineers (SFTE) is currently working towards designing and building an infinite endurance flight vehicle. Over the past semester a full-size 10-ft wingspan plane structure was built and will be used this semester for flight testing. The flight testing team will also be conducting wind tunnel tests later this semester. The structures team has gained much experience in composite material construction and strength versus weight considerations. Progress has also been made towards developing a high school level competition, which will serve to get high school students interested in A&M, aerospace engineering, and alternative energies.

Last semester, the AggieSat team was working on the detailed design of the AggieSat4 (AGS4) spacecraft. This satellite is intended to fly in tandem with a satellite from the University of Texas at Austin as the next step from the cube-satellites that flew in 2009 (AggieSat2/BEVO-1). The team was preparing for the AGS4 Preliminary Design Review (PDR) at Johnson Space Center in December, but it was postponed until the spring semester due to programmatic changes from our partners at NASA.

In January, a new route for the mission was proposed. AGS4 and its partner satellite, BEVO-2, will be launched and deployed together from the International Space Station as a combined unit. After deployment from the ISS, AGS4 will release BEVO-2 and conduct in-orbit operations. These operations feature taking photographs and crosslink communicating with each other. With the changes in the program, the launch date is now expected in late 2013. For more details, visit http://aggiesatweb.tamu.edu/

Written by Becky Sewell ’10

Written by John Guthery ’11

Written by Sam Gonzalez ’11

Written by Becky Sewell ’10
Dr. Haisler has been a professor at A&M for the past 41 years. He is a proud member of the Fightin’ Texas Aggie class of 1967 with his BS in Aerospace Engineering. He also received his MS and PhD from A&M in Aerospace Engineering. Dr. Haisler currently teaches AERO 306 and AERO 209 but has taught ENGR 214, AERO 405, and AERO 320 in the past. He currently serves as Associate Department Head for Undergraduate Programs and Outreach and also served as Department Head from 1985-1995. This semester marks Dr. Haisler’s final semester with the department as he will be retiring at the end of the Spring 2011 term. The Undergraduate Office would like to thank Dr. Haisler for his dedication to this program and always looking out for our undergraduates’ best interest.

Full Name: Walter Ervin Haisler, Ervin was my grandfather’s first name.

Birthday: June 3, 1944

Birthplace/Where are you from: I was born on a farm east of Temple in a town called Oenaville.

Area of Aerospace expertise: I specialize in structure mechanics, finite element analysis, and numerical methods.

Currently teaching: Currently, I am teaching Aero 209 and Aero 306.

Number of years of teaching experience: Officially, I started teaching in 1970, so I have 41 years of experience, but I started teaching when I was getting my masters here at A&M in 1968. So when I retire, I will have been teaching for 43 years.

How many hours per week on average do you devote to the classes that you teach: Oh man, that’s a loaded question. I probably spend 10 to 15 hours a week on classes, although this is less than it used to be because I have taught these classes so many times. I have taught Aero 306 about 35 times.

What is your favorite memory from college: My favorite memory would be of the Bonfire of 1967, which was the tallest one done with it being 100 plus feet tall. That year A&M went to the Cotton Bowl and beat Alabama, which was coached by Paul “Bear” Bryant, but I had to leave the game in the third quarter because my wife was pregnant.

Family: I have three children, aged 42, 40 and 36, three granddaughters and two grandsons.

Favorite movies: Top Gun and Apollo 13 are my favorite movies, although I think I have watched Apollo 13 about a billion times.

Favorite Food: My favorite food would be Rib Eye Steak, cooked medium, and sweet potato fries.

Favorite hobby: Sailing and photography. I started sailing after I started teaching and sailed with both the Brazos and A&M sailing clubs until 1980. The last time I went sailing was in 1995. I have an 18 foot monohull that I am currently working on, refinishing the hull, and re rigging it. The boat has no name but is number 407- no special meaning, just a hull number.

What was the worst homework excuse you can remember a student giving you: Good question. I am not surprised anymore; there are the regular excuses of left it in a backpack at home to stopped by the train so forgot the homework. The most recent one is they couldn’t do the homework because they had to crack open a pond for the horses to drink water.

Favorite Aggie Tradition: Aggie Muster and watching the half-time show at home football games. Watching the band march hasn't changed in the past 40 years, and it is hard to get that out of an Old Ag’s blood.

Favorite Textbook: It’s got to be the one I spent most of my life on, Introduction to Aerospace Structural Analysis.

Favorite non-textbook: The Bible, it contains a wealth of wisdom and information from many different perspectives.

If you were stuck on a desert island with just one thing, what would it be, and why: My wife would say my BlackBerry. The one thing I would need is my wife, which I will have been married to for 45 years this year. She is the closest thing to my heart.

Favorite memory as a professor: It’s a generic memory, which occurs once or twice a semester. It is the fulfilled feeling when you finish the semester or explaining a concept to a student, and seeing the enthusiasm and excitement for learning displayed by the students beyond the simple motivation of just passing a class or getting out of school. I still receive cards and e-mails from previous students. Some I don’t remember, which tells me that I taught them a lot and they are still using what I taught them. The best part of teaching is being able to give a piece of my life to the students. My e-mail signature, a quote by Lee Lowery, says it best: You will find, when you die, that the part of yourself which you gave to others does not die with you.

What is something you would like the students to know about you: I am really a nice guy, and yes, my exams really are long.

What advice would you like to give to the students: Take advantage of all the things offered at A&M including the faculty and learning opportunities. You will remember these times as the best of your life. The things you are studying now are just stepping stones for down the road, and you must be prepared for the coming challenges. Don’t be afraid of taking a left turn even if it may seem wrong. And don’t be afraid of making mistakes and remember to have fun.
Mark Your Calendars….

February Events
- 19: Aggieland Saturday
- 25: Departmental Scholarship Applications Due

April Events
- 4: Q-drop Deadline at 5:00 pm
- 9: FE Exam
- 14-27: Pre-registration
- 15: Aggie Ring Day
- 15: AERO BBQ-bring your folks!
- 15-17: Parent’s Weekend
- 21: Muster
- 22: Reading Day, No Classes
- 30: Ring Dance

March Events
- 7: Mid-Term Grades Due
- 14-18: Spring Break
- 21-25: Student Research Week
- 26: The BIG Event
- 26: Physics and Engineering Festival

May Events
- 3: Last Day of Classes
- 4: Scholarship Reception and AIAA Banquet
- 4: CDR
- 4-5: Reading day
- 6,9-11: Finals
- 13-14: Graduation

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
January 1, 2011: Transfer Applications for Summer/Fall 2011 Open
February 1, 2011: New Student Conference Registration Opens
February 19, 2011: Aggieland Saturday - University Open House http://www.tamu.edu/aggiesaturday/
March 15, 2011: Application deadline for Transfer Students for Summer/Fall 2011
May 1, 2011: Deadline to accept or decline your offer of admission and register for a New Student Conference
http://newaggie.tamu.edu/