



AEROCONTACT

A E R O S P A C E E N G I N E E R I N G

A newsletter for
alumni and friends of
the Department of
Aerospace Engineering

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Advanced Robotics Development Lab Opens

With the dedication of the new Jeong H. Kim Engineering Building a year ago, the Engineering School opened a 2,000 square foot Advanced Robotics Development Laboratory (ARDL). The ARDL houses the Department's Space Systems Laboratory robotics development efforts.

This state-of-the-art complex is used to support the design, development, testing, and delivery of advanced integrated systems for use in space flight, deep submergence, or other challenging environments. The main area (shown in photo above) houses two class 100,000 clean assembly and checkout bays for the parallel development of NASA Small Explorer-class (180–250 kg) space payloads as well as a robotic test stand for the development and testing of advanced robotic systems.

Around the perimeter are workbenches and robotic sub-system test areas, a thermal chamber, a thermal vacuum chamber, and a laminar-flow bench for components with higher cleanliness requirements. Overhead is a 2-ton crane and in the rear, a large



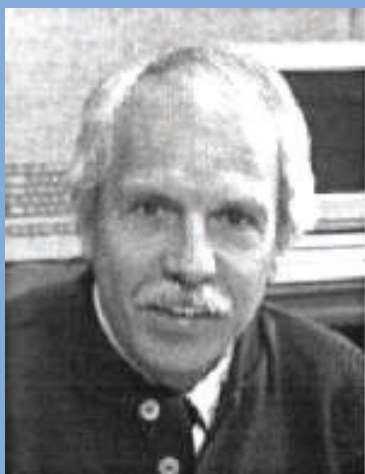
Students, faculty, and staff work in the Advanced Robotics Development Laboratory. The SSL-developed Ranger Dexterous Robotic System is being tested in the front of the room, while a rover is being evaluated on the floor just below Ranger's elbow to the left. **Photo by Prakash Patel**

overhead door provides direct access for shipping completed spacecraft to the launch site.

The ARDL's Electronics Development and Test Laboratory is a dedicated electronics fabrication and test facility located on the first floor of the Kim Building. In addition to standard electronics testing and evaluation equipment, the facility has a "rapid prototype" machine that allows for the in-house production of prototype printed circuit boards.

The ARDL's Inspection Facility contains standard metrology equipment including a coordinate measuring machine (CMM) and a portable CMM allowing for 100% dimensional inspection of parts

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Message From the Chair William L. Fournery

I hope that you will enjoy reading this newsletter. I am pleased to report that the department continues to do well.

We are in the midst of a record year from many different aspects. We will be graduating 78 students with their Bachelor of Science

degrees over this past year. This is up by a factor of two over what we were doing 5 years ago. We will also graduate 11 students with the PhD, 38 students with the MS, and 9 students with the Masters of Engineering degree.

At the same time our enrollments continue to stay at an all-time high level with 365 undergraduate students and 165 graduate students. It also appears that our research expenditures over this current year will slightly surpass the \$17.5 million in research that the faculty accomplished last year.

In faculty news, this spring semester Dr. Ella Atkins announced that she will be leaving our campus to join the faculty at the University of Michigan. Ella, Ben Shapiro, and Chris Cadou were all promoted to Associate Professor in the spring, so it is disappointing that we have lost Ella after six years of watching her develop and mature. She has degrees in both Aerospace Engineering and in Computer Engineering, and these are skills we need represented on our faculty. We therefore will be looking for a faculty member who has similar skills and interests as Ella.

Dr. Lewis is finishing up his second year as the Chief Scientist of the Air Force and they have requested to retain him for one more year. Dr. Pines will rejoin the faculty in the fall, having spent three years at DARPA as a Program Manager. We currently stand at 18 tenured faculty members. With the loss of Dr. Atkins, we are now searching for three new faculty members.

I am pleased to say that our department's Honors Program is working very well. Because of this program, and the fact that about one-third of our undergraduate students work in our research lab (for pay), between forty and forty five percent of our students are going directly into graduate school once they finish their Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering.

This spring semester more than 20 of our students, mostly undergraduate, presented papers at the Regional AIAA student conference at Penn State in State College, Pennsylvania. One of the requirements for our Honors Program is that the students must work one-on-one with a faculty member on an aerospace research project, write a paper covering their results, and then present it at a conference. The total number of papers from Maryland students overwhelmed student conference, with about two-thirds of those submitted being from our students. Following the paper presentations, our students were awarded all three prizes in the undergraduate category. In fact, third place was a tie between two Maryland students. All of this was the result of our successful Honors Program and the large number of undergraduates conducting research in our labs. More details on this competition will be given in the Fall Newsletter.

Please enjoy the information contained in this newsletter and if you are by the campus, stop by and say hello.

ARDL story from front page

continued from page 1

machined in the SSL's machine shop or by outside machine shops. The facility also has a cataloged bonded storage area for maintaining control and tracking of components.

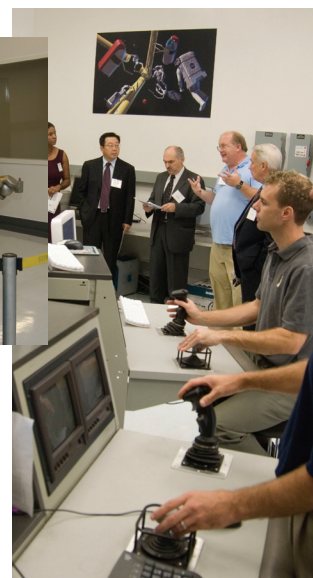
This new facility allows researchers from across the University of System of Maryland to bid as a prime integrator of space hardware, rather than subcontracting to aerospace corporations. This ability offers more opportunities for student involvement in "real-world" engineering.

The cross-disciplinary Jeong H. Kim Engineering Building was dedicated on September 19, 2005 as an advanced engineering research and education center. In the Kim Building, state-of-the-art laboratories are shared across departments to encourage cross-disciplinary work, a "window-wall" design fosters a spirit of openness, and building systems and construction components serve as teaching tools.

Anyone interested in visiting the ARDL facility may contact Dr. Dave Akin, Director of SSL, at 301.405.1138 or dakin@ssl.umd.edu or Brian Roberts at 301.405.2059 or broberts@ssl.umd.edu.



During the Kim Building dedication, visitors to the ARDL were given a tour and were able to operate Ranger's dexterous arms.





Department Celebrates First Maryland-NIA Graduate

In December 2005, **Paige Thomas** became the first University of Maryland student to graduate from the National Institute in Aerospace (NIA) program. The NIA is an unique graduate program to educate the

next generation of scientists and engineers by providing them the opportunity to be supervised by eminent professors from six universities and work side-by-side with NASA Langley researchers.

Paige's Masters thesis was "The Great Mars Mystery," under the advisement of Dr. Robert Tolson. After graduation, she began employment with a.i. solutions, Inc. in Lanham, MD working on GPS and observation satellites.



Griffin Presents Plan for NASA's Future

Clark School alumnus and NASA Administrator Michael D. Griffin, Ph.D. '77 aerospace engineering, returned to campus on October 5th. He shared his vision for the space agency and its plans to return to the moon and beyond with the campus community. President Bush nominated Dr. Griffin to lead NASA in March and the U.S. Senate confirmed him for the position in April.

Dr. Griffin is one of many engineering alumni who have maintained close ties with the Clark School after achieving greatness. He gave his talk in the new Jeong H. Kim Engineering Building. Prior to Dr. Griffin's talk, the aerospace engineering department and the School of Engineering hosted a reception for him. In attendance were Dr. John Anderson and Dr. Everett Jones, professors emeritus, and Dr. Jewel Barlow, director of the Glenn L. Martin Wind Tunnel, who were all members of Dr. Griffin's doctoral dissertation committee in 1977.

Dr. Griffin has remained active with the Clark School since earning his degree here. He served on the advisory board for the Department of Aerospace Engineering for several years, providing guidance and support for the department's programs. Aerospace engineering's Academy of Distinguished Alumni inducted Dr. Griffin in 1999 and he was named the Clark School's Distinguished Engineering Alumni in 2000.

The archived video of Dr. Griffin's talk is available to watch online, in addition to his PowerPoint presentation at: <http://richmedia.umd.edu/mediasite/viewer/> and clicking on 'NASA.'

Above: Following his lecture, Dr. Griffin (center, gray suit) met with officers of AIAA and Sigma Gamma Tau. **Photo by L. Helfert**



Rita Wooddell, Accounting Clerk for the Aerospace Engineering Department, has taken an Accounting Associate position in the Chemistry/Biochemistry Department. Rita was a dedicated member of the aerospace administrative staff for 4 years. She is a 1981 graduate of the University of Maryland with a degree in

Family Studies and is currently working on a second degree in History and Humanities. We wish her luck in her new post and with her studies!



LaVita Williams has joined the Department as Accounting Clerk. LaVita grew up in the Ft. Meade, MD area, currently resides in Lanham, and is a single mother of two. She attended Prince George's Community College pursuing coursework in Accounting. Prior to coming to the University of Maryland, she was employed by the Prince George's County Public School Board as a Nutritional Assistant. We welcome LaVita to the Aerospace family!

Bachelor of Science

August 2005

Bourne, Richard Pasterfield
 Koszyk, Michael James ●
 Kim, Dan Heum
 Krishnamoorthy, Shivkumar
 Manion, Maura Mo Croi
 Medley, Rahkiya Elizabeth ●
 Ulrich, Evan Robert
 Walthour, Scott Joshua ●
 Woods, Benjarmin★
 Zelman, Daniel★

December 2005

Adkins, Phillip Wayne
 Chinn, Michael William
 Cohen, Ian Ravi ★♦
 Diottavio, James John ★
 McCulley, Daren James
 Theodoros, Brouk
 Wardell, Douglas Michael



- ★ *Aerospace Engineering Honors*
- ♦ *cum Laude*
- *College Park Scholars*



December 2005

Master of Science

August 2005

Caner Cooperrider
 Supratik Datta
 Adam Dissel
 Vishnu Iyengar
 Justin Kearns
 Robin Preator

Meghan Baker
 Daniel Barkmeyer
 Assaf Barnoy
 Jonathan Benatar
 Anne Marie Brindejone
 Paulstephen Chierico
 Joseph Conroy
 Jonathan Day
 Nathan Dektor
 Kiran Dellimore
 Daniel Everson

Benjamin Hein
 Janisa Henry
 Arun Jose
 Adam Krause
 Jeffrey Palmer
 Eric Parsons
 Deborah Sigel
 Jason Smith
 Mark Staley
 Benjamin Stein
 Matthew Strube
 Paige Thomas

Commencement

December 21 & 22, 2005



The Clark School's fall commencement ceremonies took place on December 22 in the university's Cole Student Activities Building. BGE President and CEO Kenneth W. DeFontes Jr., served as commencement speaker and talked about the engineering problems energy issues present and how engineers from all disciplines have a part to play in solving them. Of the more than 400 graduates, 207 received bachelor's degrees, 146 received Master's degrees and 65 received doctoral degrees.

After the graduation ceremony, the Clark School hosted the first ever commencement reception for all graduates and their families in the rotunda of the Kim Engineering Building. The reception was sponsored by the Engineering Alumni Chapter and all of the Clark School's departments.

Doctor of Philosophy

August 2005

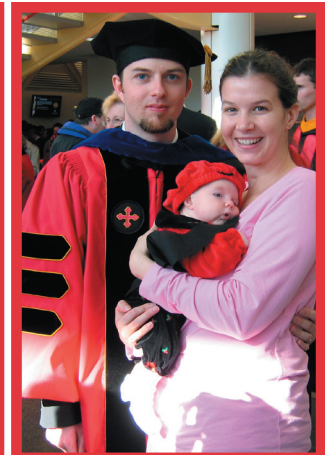
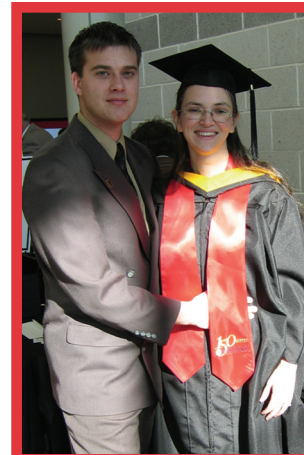
Keejoo Lee - *A Ceramic Damage Model for Analyses of Multi-Layered Ceramic-Core Sandwich Panels under Blast Wave Pressure Loading* - Advisor: Dr. Sung Lee

December 2005

Vinit Gupta - *Quad Tilt Rotor Simulations in Helicopter Mode Using Computational Fluid Dynamics* - Advisor: Dr. James Baeder

Wei Hu - *Development of Magnetor Fluid Elastomeric Dampers for Helicopter Stability Augmentation* - Advisor: Dr. Norman Wereley

Suneel Sheikh - *The Use of Variable Celestial X-Ray Sources for Spacecraft Navigation* - Advisor: Dr. Darryll Pines



Students Aid Katrina Victims



Ten Maryland students, including eight Clark School engineering students and Tau Beta Pi members, visited the Mississippi Gulf Coast over winter break to help Hands On USA, a disaster relief organization. The

Aerospace Engineering Department and the Clark School helped fund the students' trip to the region.

The duties the students performed included sorting donated materials, gutting houses to be rebuilt, assisting the Humane Society in caring for the many abandoned pets of evacuees, and sifting through the debris at a historic mansion in search of lost artifacts. The students slept in tents in temperatures that went down as low as 28 degrees at night, and shared three showers with 180 volunteers.

"It was unbelievable to see how much debris still covers the Biloxi community," the students wrote in their journal. "Katrina hit four months ago, but the neighborhoods are still nothing but abandoned homes, waiting to be demolished or gutted, and streets and yards filled with trash and rubble."

The group returned to campus on January 10, 2006. Ashley Korzun wrote in her journal that day, "Our trip is over, and while our pictures don't even begin to tell the story of the devastation we saw in Mississippi, the memories we have and the impact we had working with Hands On USA in the greater Biloxi community to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina begin to rebuild will last for a long, long time."

UMCP Students who participated stand outside of Hands On USA headquarters (l to r): **Jackie Refo** (English literature and journalism), **Jamie Meeroff**, (aerospace engineering), **Amon Ducao** (electrical and computer engineering), **Ashley Korzun** (organizer of trip, aerospace engineering), **Sajjad Husain** (aerospace engineering), **Fang Xu** (biological sciences), **Dean Bawek** (aerospace engineering), **Mark Treadwell** (Institute for Systems Research graduate student), **George Chacko** (chemical and biomolecular engineering), and **Andrew Churchill** (aerospace alumni and civil and environmental engineering graduate student)



(left top) George Chacko and Jamie Meeroff spend time walking some of the abandoned pets being cared for at the Humane Society.



(left bottom) A typical scene in the Biloxi community - houses previously underwater and mounds of debris. All the debris cleared out of this house by volunteers sits by the roadway before it was gutted by the Interiors crew. Unlike most of the other houses in the neighborhood, this house is able to be rebuilt after being gutted and demolded.

studentNOTES



2005-06
UMCP
scholars at
the ARCS
ceremony
and
reception

Nicholas Rosenfeld, MS '04, Ph.D. student (far left), was selected as the BooziAllenHamilton ARCS Scholar for 2005-06. Each ARCS corporate sponsor, foundation, or individual who make a contribution of \$15,000 or more to the ARCS Scholarship Fund has the opportunity to "Name" a scholar. In October, Nick and fellow aerospace graduate student Patrick Downey (far right), were presented with a medallion at a special ceremony held in Washington, D.C. at the National Academy of Science, and hosted by the ARCS Foundation.

Sean Farrell, aerospace engineering freshman, received the Eagle Scout Court of Honor Award in November of 2005. This is Scouting's highest honor, that of the rank of Eagle Scout. Sean is a member of Troop 109 out of East Brunswick, New Jersey. To be eligible for this honor, he constructed a brick path for the convent at St. Bartholomew's Parish in East Brunswick.



St. Bartholomew's Church where Sean is a member

Aerospace graduate students **Nick Scott (BSEE '03)** and **Mike Naylor (BSAE '04)** won first place at the Infotech@Aerospace video competition in the "Most Innovative Other Vehicle or System" category with a cash prize of \$1,000. Mike and Nick presented their work on vision systems and autonomy in the video competition. The Infotech@Aerospace Video Competition offers members of the unmanned and intelligent systems communities a chance to capture and display their work in action. This competition seeks to recognize and reward outstanding original video submissions of any unmanned or intelligent system, past or present, for their merit, impact, and content. A version of their video showing the 1-g testing and the neutral buoyancy testing is available for viewing online at: <http://robotics.ssl.umd.edu/>



First place winners Nick and Mike stand in front of the Neutral Buoyancy Tank

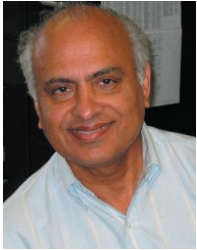


Sandeep with the UMCP Huey helicopter during Maryland Day

Sandeep Gupta, was named a Dean's Dissertation Fellows for the spring 2006 semester. A total of 14 students across the university were awarded one-semester \$10,000 dissertation fellowships. Sandeep's dissertation is titled "Development of a Time-Accurate Viscous Vortex Wake Model for Wind Turbines," and his faculty advisor is Dr. J. Gordon Leishman. Sandeep graduated from the Indian

Institute of Technology Kharagpur in 2000, and from Rutgers University in 2002.

Chopra Gives Invited and Keynote Lectures Abroad



Alfred Gessow Professor **Inder Chopra** was invited to give an Invited Lecture at the first US-European Micro-Aerial Vehicle Technology

Demonstration and Assessment, September 2005 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. His lecture was titled "Development of Hovering MAVs."

Dr. Chopra was also invited to give the Keynote Lecture at the Indo-US Workshop on Micro Air Vehicles, Bangalore (India) August 2005, Topic "Integrated MAV Systems: Rotary-Wing and Flapping Wings."

8

Leishman Named Editor-in-Chief



Minta Martin Professor **J. Gordon Leishman** has become Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of the American Helicopter Society*. The AHS Journal is a peer-reviewed technical journal published quarterly (January, April, July and October). The Journal publishes original technical papers dealing with theory and practice of vertical flight and seeks to foster the exchange of significant new ideas and information about helicopters and V/STOL aircraft.

Yu Presented With Outstanding Contribution Award

Associate Professor **Kenneth Yu** received the Outstanding Contribution Award from the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA) for his exceptional contributions for the advancement of KSEA.

Dr. Yu (pictured below, center) is a former Executive Director of KSEA, and was co-chair of the 2005 USA-Korea Conference on Science, Technology, and Entrepreneurship (UKC).



Atkins Honored by AIAA

Assistant Professor **Ella Atkins** was selected as a 2006 Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) at the 44th AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meeting and Exhibit.

Dr. Atkins was one of 161 members honored for upgrade to Associate Fellow, and one of five Baltimore members recognized by the AIAA Associate Fellow Grade Committee.



Tolson named NC State Langley Professor

Dr. Robert H. Tolson was

named Langley Professor in Planetary Atmospheric and Flight Sciences by North Carolina State University. He holds joint appointments in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and the Department of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at NCSU. Previously, Dr. Tolson was the University Maryland NIA Liaison Professor, and spent 32 years with NASA Langley in research and management roles before joining the faculty of George Washington University and the University of Maryland.

Congratulations to the Sanner Family

Associate Professor **Rob Sanner** and his wife Alice, announced the birth of their daughter, Aeryn, in October.

Congratulations to the Sanners and we welcome Aeryn to the University of Maryland's class of 2026!



Female Faculty and Student Fellows Serve as Mentors to *Women in Engineering Summer Program*

Dr. Ella M. Atkins served as one of two engineering faculty mentors to the **RISE: Research Internships in Science and Engineering** coordinated by the Women in Engineering Program. Assisted by Graduate Fellow, Catharine McGhan, and Undergraduate Fellow, Rebecca Besser, Dr. Atkins provided four undergraduate scholars an opportunity to conduct research over the summer of 2005. Their project *Navigation, Actuation, and Mission Management for a Free-Flying Space Simulation Robot*, enabled participants to directly participate in the development and testing of state-of-the-art robotic.



Held annually, the RISE program addresses issues of concern to women in science and engineering fields, and provides information about preparing for graduate school and careers in academia. The concluding event each summer is the RISE Research Symposium where research teams present posters and reports on their team activities and research results which is held in August.



Faculty Recognized at Annual 'Rainmakers' Luncheon

The University honored nearly 60 Clark School faculty, of which six were aerospace engineering faculty, as "Rainmakers" on October 27, 2005. The name 'Rainmakers' is given to those who bring in top research dollars. The annual Rainmakers Luncheon, hosted by the Division of Research, recognizes university faculty who bring in at least \$500,000 in research money in a single fiscal year. Of the 222 professors honored at the 7th annual luncheon, more than 25 percent were Clark School faculty.

Those aerospace faculty honored were **David L. Akin, James D. Baeder, Inderjit Chopra, Alison Flatau, William L. Fourney, and Mark J. Lewis**. Dr. Akin also provided faculty remarks at the luncheon, discussing his research and funding from sources such as NASA.

Among the programs singled out for bringing in top dollars were the Clark School's Third-Generation Reusable Launch Vehicle Technology (aero-space engineering; \$3 million). In total, the Clark School's rainmakers brought in more than \$76 million for the university in fiscal year 2005.



At the Luncheon, Provost Dr. William Destler informed the attendees that the Rainmakers represented nearly every academic unit on campus. The University of Maryland was recently ranked in the top 25 for federal financed Research and Development expenditures in science and engineering by the National Science Foundation. Dr. Destler also stated that the top five funding sources for fiscal year 2005 were:

- Department of Defense (DoD) - \$57,768,189
- National Science Foundation (NSF) - \$45,067,474
- National Aeronautics & Space Admin (NASA) - \$27,522,301
- State of Maryland - \$23,445,729
- Department of Health & Human Services - \$22,736,579

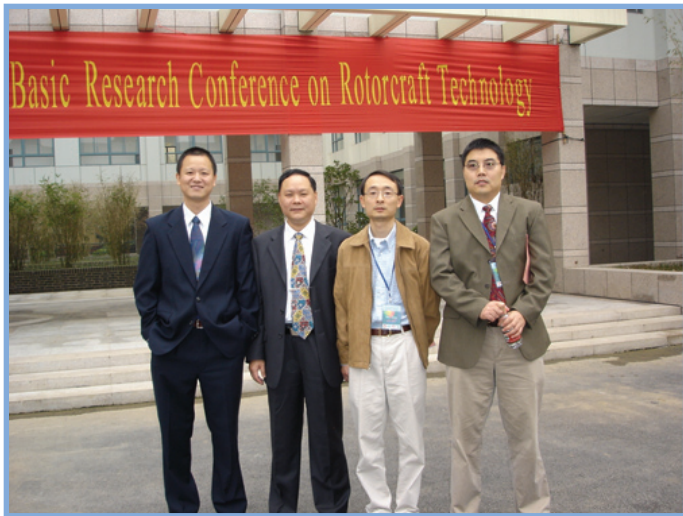
Additionally, the top five academic colleges for fiscal year 2005 research funding were:

- College of Math, Computer & Physical Sciences - \$86,933,073
- A. James Clark School of Engineering - \$76,127,531
- College of Behavioral & Social Sciences - \$53,815,535
- College of Agriculture & Natural Resources - \$20,465,494
- College of Chemical & Life Sciences - \$18,923,672

Dr. Dan Mote, President of the University of Maryland, also thanked the faculty adding "You are building a culture of high achievement and major accomplishment. Congratulations on a job well done."



Julie Blondeau, MS '04 and **Paul Samuel**, PhD '03, MS '99, BS '96, were joined in matrimony in Meux, France on August 26, 2005. After honeymooning in France, the couple returned to the United States to reside in Rockville. Dr. Samuel is an assistant research scientist at the University of Maryland, and Julie is the Managing Editor for the magazine "Via Satellite."



In November 2005 several alumni, faculty, and graduate students attended the 2nd International Basic Research Conference on Rotorcraft Technology, in Nanjing, China. Above, four alumni took time from the conference to have their picture taken.

From right to left are: **Jinwei Shen**, Ph.D. '03 (research scientist, National Institute of Aerospace, Hampton, VA), **Mao Yang**, Ph.D. '03 (associate professor, College of Aerospace Engineering, Northwest Polytechnical University, Xi'an, China), **Renliang Chen** (professor and vice-director, Research Institute of Helicopter Technology, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Nanjing, China; Visiting Scholar at Maryland 1999-2001), and **Jinsong Bao**, Ph.D. '04 (assistant research scientist, University of Maryland).

Miller Receives NRO Honor

Edward A. Miller, BS '50 mechanical engineering was inducted as a Pioneer of Space Reconnaissance at the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). Mr. Miller was presented with a plaque and commemorative coin by Donald M. Kerr, NRO director, and John D. Negroponte, director of national intel-



President Mote and Dr. Dieter award the Innovation Hall of Fame medallion to Edward Miller.

ligence. His citation read: "Edward A. Miller pioneered the design, construction, deployment and operation of the first man-made object recovered from earth orbit, the Corona Satellite Recovery Vehicle."

Mr. Miller was also inducted into the Clark School's Innovation Hall of Fame last fall with fellow alum-

nus James W. Plummer, M.S. '53 electrical engineering, who worked on the Corona Project as well. Both Mr. Miller and Mr. Plummer were recipients of the Draper Prize from the National Academy of Engineering in 2005.

Lindenmoyer Named Project Manager at NASA

Alan J. Lindenmoyer, MS '86, was named to head NASA's Commercial Crew/Cargo Project Office. Located at NASA's Johnson Space Center, this office was formed to spur private industry to provide cost-effective access to low-Earth orbit and the international space station in support of the Vision for Space Exploration. The office will manage orbital transportation



capability demonstration projects that may lead to the procurement of commercial cargo and crew transportation services to resupply the space station. Scott Horowitz, associate administrator, NASA's Exploration Systems Mission Directorate, stated that "While NASA must develop its own capabilities for

space exploration, the commercial sector will eventually provide these services when it becomes cost effective. I am very excited to have Alan leading this effort. His skill, enthusiasm and dedication to developing commercial space will be key to enabling this fledgling industry."

Lindenmoyer joined NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD in 1982 as a cooperative education student. He worked there as a flight structures engineer until moving to NASA Headquarters in 1987. At Headquarters, he served as a structural dynamics engineer for the space station Freedom program.

Lindenmoyer moved to Johnson in 1990. He held progressively more responsible positions in the international space station program, most recently including technical integration manager and contracting officer's technical representative.

alumniNOTES

Michael J. Nusca, Ph.D. '97, MS '86, BS '82, was presented with the Best Technical Paper Award for the Tactical Modeling and Systems Analysis session at the 1st JANNAF Liquid Propulsion Subcommittee Meeting. The award was presented in December 2005 at the subsequent conference. His paper was titled "Computational Model of Impinging-Stream/Swirl Injectors in a Hypersonic Gel-Bipropellant Engine." Dr. Nusca is employed as an aerospace engineer at the Army Research Laboratory located at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. In this capacity, Dr. Nusca conducts and leads research in propulsion CFD, creating and utilizing multiphase reacting flow codes to investigate both solid propellant charges for the Army's next generation of gun propulsion systems and hypergolic fuel combustion for the Army's new rocket engines.

Matthew B. MacKusick, BS '03, is now working at Northrop Grumman in El Segundo, California as a Liaison Engineer.

In Memoriam~~~~~

Wayne A. Sanders, BS '72, passed away at the age of 56 on September 16, 2005 at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland due to congestive heart failure. At the time of his death he lived in Adelphi, Maryland. Mr. Sanders spent most of his career as a computer network administrator for EG&G Pressure Science in Prince George's County. In the late 1990's, he worked as an operations support specialist for Electronic Data Systems, a large federal technology contractor until 2001.

Mr. Sanders was born in Cheverly and raised in Riverdale. He was a 1967 graduate of Northwestern High School in Hyattsville. Survivors include a son, Cody R. Sanders of Greenbelt; a sister, Winnie Witten of North Myrtle Beach, S.C.; and a brother, Warren A. Sanders, Jr. of College Park.

~~~~~  
Ensign **Jeffrey Alan Palmer** U.S.N., MS '05, age 23, a resident of College Park, Md., formerly of Two Rivers, died unexpectedly November 29, 2005, in Maryland.

Jeffrey was born Sept. 17, 1982, in Groton, CN, a son of John and Kathleen (Reisinger) Palmer. He was a graduate of Two Rivers Catholic Central Grade School; a 2001 graduate of Two Rivers Washington High School; and a graduate of the United States Naval Academy in May 2005.

Jeff completed his degree requirements for an MS in aerospace engineering from the University of Maryland at the time of his death, and was looking forward to attending flight school in February.

He was an avid runner, and enjoyed bicycling, having competed in many marathons and triathlons.

He is survived by his parents: John and Kathy Palmer, Two Rivers; one brother: Cpl. James Palmer, USMC of Camp Pendleton, Calif.; and his special friend: Tracy LeClair; two sisters: Kristine Palmer and Allison Palmer. He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents; and an uncle: Ken Butrym.

Funeral services were held December 8, 2005, at St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church, Two Rivers. Full military honors were performed by joint members of the U.S. Navy from Great Lakes, Illinois.

*AEROCONTACT* is published several times a year for alumni and friends of the Department of Aerospace Engineering at the A. James Clark School of Engineering.

Your alumni news and comments are welcome. Please send them to:  
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Dr. Mary Bowden



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