

Vol. 2, No. 4 April 2009

Alabama Schools are Flying High!

Montgomery Chapter 102 is supporting ten area elementary schools in the Civil Air Patrol's "Aerospace Connections in Education" (ACE) Program. Through the initiative, the teachers at each school have received grade-level appropriate, national academic standards-based aerospace curriculum guides that promote the three pillars of the ACE Program: Academics, Character Education, and Physical Fitness. Each pillar has an aerospace theme that promotes STEM curricula, leadership and good citizenry, and living a healthy and drug-free lifestyle. Chapter 102 supports the schools with ACE t-shirts for all students and staff, an aerospace essay contest, speakers and other resources, and an AFA Aerospace Day at Maxwell Air Force Base.

The Chapter purchased the ACE mascot, "Cappy, the Eagle," to use at school events. Cappy traveled to the schools to promote the ACE theme of "Making Good Choices Today to Soar Tomorrow." Students received individual pictures with Cappy to remind them of the ACE theme that Montgomery Chapter 102 is helping to promote in schools.

The Chapter 102 Aerospace Education team has also organized teacher orientation airplane flights as a part of the CAP's "Fly-a-Teacher" program, which is a benefit of teacher participation in the ACE program. These flights are inspiring teachers to promote aerospace education in their classrooms in a myriad of directions.

Aerospace Education has the potential to inspire the most reluctant student or energize the most weary teacher; can be integrated throughout the curriculum to enrich the core subjects with relevant applications of important content skills; and is the key to developing the future workforce. Montgomery Chapter 102 is playing an important role in the community by promoting a positive and progressive aerospace enrichment program for 188 teachers and 4,500 students who will lead our country.



Alabama AFA State President Tom Gwaltney with "Cappy the Eagle."

For information about how your chapter can sponsor a teacher for CAP Aerospace Educator Membership or sponsor an "ACE" classroom or school, contact Susan Mallett at smallett@capnhq.gov.

Air University Welcomes F. Whitten Peters and Sandy Schlitt

The Honorable Witt Peters, former Secretary of the Air Force, and Sandy Schlitt, AFA Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education, joined forces at Maxwell AFB on April 9-10. John Shaud, retired Executive Director of AFA and current Director of the Air Force Research Institute, also joined them for portions of the program. They received an Air University mission brief from Lt Gen Al Peck, their host and commander at Air University. The two day event included a tour of Officer Training School and participation at an OTS graduation.

Former Secretary Peters then spoke to Air and Space Basic Course (ASBC) attendees. AFA sponsors the Distinguished Speaker event conducted five times per year at ASBC. All newly commissioned officers from all commissioning sources attend the mandatory course, their first in a series of professional military education courses. The mission and benefits of AFA are explained to the new officers and each is invited and encouraged to become a member – typically, about fifty new officers join from each class. Former AFA sponsored speakers include: Generals Dick Myers, Greg Martin, Paul Hester, Ron Keyes, Tom Hobbins, Bill Looney, and John Bradley.

Alamo Chapter Announces Winning Essay

San Antonio's Alamo Chapter awarded Alicia Abigail Perez, a senior from John Jay Science and Engineering Academy, a \$500 scholarship for her winning essay in the AFA Texas annual Earle North Parker essay contest.

Senior high school students in the Alamo AFA Chapter area were asked to write about what the Air Force core value of integrity means to them. Perez was announced as the local winner over 27 contestants and was recognized at the Annual Awards Banquet in March. Perez's essay will now compete at the AFA Texas level. State level winners receive \$4,000 for first place and \$2,000 for second place.



Left to right. Ollie Crawford and John Politi, former National AFA Chairmen, Perez, and Alamo Chapter President Gary Copsey.

Great Education Web Site for All Professionals and Ages

Max Friedauer, National Director and AFA Aerospace Education Council member, found this great website: <http://www.windows.ucar.edu/>. The site is titled "Windows to the Universe" and offers outstanding hands-on activities and information at the beginner, intermediate and advanced level. Some of the topics included: Space Weather; Myths, Stories and Art; History and People; Earth's Climate; Polar Regions; Space Missions; Images 7 Multimedia; plus much more. Max's review is: "This is an absolutely great web site, and if every teacher and student doesn't already have this

'bookmarked' in their Favorites, they need to look at this site. I am sure they too will be amazed. I especially like the way it's organized. Great for grandparents and grandkids too! Pass it on to your Aerospace Education VPs."

Florida Teachers and Engineers Connect

The University of Central Florida is starting an initiative to connect K-12 STEM teachers with engineers to further engineering education in and outside Florida classrooms. The goal is to establish a Web-based portal where teachers and engineers can connect. Teachers and engineers will profile their expertise and interests. Teachers would look for engineers to provide activities such as curriculum support, mentoring assistance, classroom visits, and field trip opportunities. Bill Yucuis, Aerospace teacher at Lyman High School in the Seminole County Institute for Engineering Magnet Program and Executive Vice President of AFA Central Florida Chapter 303, is one of the main catalysts for the program.

Aerospace Education Funds for Virginia Academy

Tom Shepherd, Shenandoah Valley Chapter 435 Vice President for Aerospace Education, has diligently pursued grant money for Sacred Heart Academy to accomplish two purposes: (1) obtain stop-watches to improve student abilities to make time measurements during various science experiments (\$250), and (2) purchase equipment to outfit the school's new science classroom (\$3,000). The Chapter is pleased to report that the first grant has already been made and preparations are underway for the second presentation. Shepherd has also solicited speakers from the Chapter to talk to classes at the school about aspects of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in relation to their studies.



On February 6, Chapter 435 VP-AE Tom Shepherd presented a check to Kim Dooley, Sacred Heart Science Teacher. Principal Rebecca McTavish, also shown, later conducted a tour of the newly renovated facility.

Western AFJROTC Competition Held in San Antonio

Ed Garland, AFA National Director, represented AFA leadership at the Western Region Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps drill competition held in San Antonio on March 27-28. Garland observed several hours of competition on Friday and remarked "It was really inspiring to see young men and women from all over the western part of the US. They came from as far away as Palmdale, California; Harvey, Louisiana; Omaha, Nebraska; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Fargo, North Dakota. Forty-eight hours before the Fargo drill team competitors left home, they were piling sandbags on levees and hoping their homes would not be flooded. But they still came because of their dedication. The group from Harvey, Louisiana, came 500 miles in a yellow school bus because they didn't have the money or support from the school district. There were other great stories."

Garland said that as a young man, he spent four years on high school drill teams and four years on college drill teams. As good as he thought his teams performed, Garland felt that these competitors were infinitely better. He stated that he had never seen routines like those performed in San Antonio, even at the college level, male or female.

Garland was the keynote speaker at the awards ceremony and assisted in the presentation of forty trophies. John Jay High School from San Antonio placed first in the competition and Thomas Clark High School from San Antonio placed second.

Fort Walton Beach Junior League Spring Science Explosion

Hurlburt Field Chapter 398 participated in the Ft. Walton Beach Junior League's Spring Science Explosion on March 28. The annual event provided local children and their families an opportunity to see and experience the excitement of science. Over twenty organizations provided activities for the 200+ children in attendance.

Exhibits included a hovercraft chair from the Choctawhatchee Aviation Institute, an Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team and their gear, and the University of West Florida Engineering Department display of small robots.

Kim Moore, Max Friedauer, Dann Mattiza, and John Jogerst manned a display of the Chapter's educational activities, AFA literature, and membership information. A variety of spacecraft and space launcher models were also on display, but the focus was on the Straw Rocket challenge. Jogerst brought two "Ten Dollar Rocket Launchers" that launch rockets made from drinking straws. The challenge was for the children to launch rockets and land them in a 5-gallon bucket. The launchers stayed busy all day. This event was a great opportunity for the Chapter to get young kids excited about science and technology and they succeeded.



Hurlburt Field Chapter 398 display.

Your Story is Urgently Needed!!!

Sandy Schlitt, Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education, would welcome the opportunity to read stories about your Chapter's aerospace education endeavors. You do not have to be a great journalist - just compose some paragraphs defining who, what, where, when and why. Include an email photo that editor Buster Horlen can use in the newsletter and we will do the rest.

Share your successes with other AFA Aerospace enthusiasts! Submit your story today to AENewsletter@afa.org.