

“We met an Astronaut in school today!!!”

The Jerry Waterman Chapter 316 (Tampa, FL) is focusing their aerospace scholarships in support of area schools pursuing “world class” programs in science and technology studies. One example of these programs is at Stewart Middle Magnet School where Principal Baretta Wilson and Lead Teacher Lynn McDaniel (#316 Chapter Teacher of the Year 2008) are building a program that provides a special orientation for students regarding the study of aeronautics and space. In support Chapter members attended a celebration of NASA’s 50th Birthday on 1 October 2008. Highlights of this celebration included a group of students who had excelled in their studies and were selected to become members of the John Glenn Top Gun Academy. In addition to the students, the highlight of the event was a narrated film of one of Astronaut Winston Scott’s space launches. Astronaut Scott provided memorable insights into the challenges and experiences of travel in space and in performing extended space walk operations.



(L-R) Ned Hance, Lynn McDaniel, Winston Scott, Lt Col Cooper, Baretta Wilson (Stewart Middle Magnet School)

Aerospace Education Council Named

Sandy Schlitt, Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education, announced that the AFA Board of Directors has approved the Aerospace Education Council for 2008-09. William D. Croom, Jr. (TX) will be working on the Airpower Awareness Team, Field Programs and Budget. Emil “Max” Friedauer (FL) will be working “*CyberPatriot*” – our concept demonstration for a National High School Cyber Defense Competition, Field Programs and Budget. James Hannam (VA) will serve as the Vice Chairman of the AEC and will also work on the Airpower Awareness Team, Budget, and be the AEC representative to the Strategic Planning Committee. George K. Muellner (CA) will be a special advisor for STEM issues, STEM partnerships, and Special Projects. Michael J. Peters (CA) will be a member of the special initiative on State AE Organizations and work Budget. Paul Schowalter (NC) will work the “HUB” effort. Vic Seavers (MN) will work Field Programs, Scholarship Policy review, and special projects. John Shaud (VA) will continue his work as liaison with Air University and the AEC oversight of the Mitchell Institute. Chuck Zimkas (CO) will be the AEC Representative to the Field Council and work the Budget.

Partnership Formed in Texas

By partnering with First Command Educational Foundation, The Texas Aerospace Education Foundation was able to double the award dollars for their 2009 Earle North Parker Essay Contest. This partnership was approved by First Command Educational Foundation Board in November 2008. The AFA-Texas First Place award winner will now receive \$4,000. The Second Place winner will receive \$2,000. This partnership meets both the North Texas Aerospace Education and First Command Educational Foundations goals and objectives.

Sagle to the Rescue

Susan Mallett thanked Ann Sagle for providing AFA balsa airplanes to decorate banquet tables at the National Conference on Aviation and Space Education (NCASE) held in Washington DC. In the thank you letter, Mallett wrote: "As I told you when I came begging at your exhibit booth during the Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition, I was asked at the last minute to decorate tables for the banquet. While conducting AE sessions during the day, there was just no time to get out of the hotel to find something with which to decorate. You certainly saved the day! I couldn't think of a better organization than AFA to promote to educators at every banquet table."



AFA was prominently represented at the NCASE banquet thanks to the quick thinking of Ann Sagle – Thanks, Ann!

AFA Visions of Exploration Program Educator Awareness Program

Chapters, did you ever wonder how you and your VISIONS teachers and schools can learn more about each other and work together towards mutual benefit? AFA and *USAToday* are embarking on a new AFA Visions of Exploration Program Educator Awareness Program. The goals are to increase sponsorship awareness among educators, parents, and students for AFA's Visions of Exploration Education Program and increase AFA field knowledge of the Visions Program.

The first key element to the program is a monthly e-newsletter, "*AFA Visions E-Newsletter*," from *USAToday* to each VISIONS teacher. The AFA website will be included in each one, and each month will have a different topic intended to inform the teacher(s) about AFA and the sponsoring chapter resources available to them. The first edition will be a "Welcome letter from Sandy Schlitt" encouraging teachers to use this newsletter as a forum for teaching ideas and best practices for the Visions program.

The second key program element is that each *AE Newsletter* will have a parallel article to the *AFA Visions E-Newsletter* for the teachers. In this way you will know what the teachers are “hearing” and be ready to respond to requests from the teacher and students. This allows chapters the opportunity to initiate contact!

A third program element is optional but encouraged. In this program element, the chapter is encouraged to provide a copy of *AIR FORCE* Magazine to the teacher(s) as a classroom resource. Chapters can use their “free 10 copies” or provide copies from members when they finish reading them.

Education Grant Applications Soar!

The 2009 Education Grant has closed for the 2009 period. We received 412 applications, a 62% increase over last year (2008) when we received 254 applications. This is the second year for the online application process, which continues to be greeted with much favor by both teachers and their principals.

AFA Announces 2008 Frank M. Andrews Scholarship Recipient

The Air Force Association announced the selection of James Neat as the 2008 recipient of the \$5,000 Falcon Foundation Scholarship, which honors the memory and extraordinary career of Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews. Neat attends Marion Military Institute in Marion, Alabama, and is originally from Pasadena, Maryland.

Chapter #398 Sponsors Choctaw Teachers Workshop

Ric Soria, Hurlburt AFA and Aerospace Education Committee member, conducted a Teacher Workshop on the Solar System for eleven educators at Choctawhatchee High School’s Aviation Institute. Teachers were provided an assortment of manipulatives that could be used in the classroom and were shown ways to use them to help teach Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) concepts to their students. Lesson areas included a practical exercise exploring the “Solar System and Distances in Space,” a practical exercise involving the earth and moon, and lessons on the “Layers of the Atmosphere and the Space Shuttle.” The teachers also received lessons on the Mars Exploration and a practical exercise on classical Orbital Mechanics. Ms. Megan Tucker, also a Hurlburt Member and educator, was in attendance sporting her new flight suit from her trip to the Huntsville Space Camp. She was on hand to assist and carry out the Space Shuttle lecture. Ms. Jeri Martin, another Hurlburt Chapter member and former Vice President of Aerospace Education, briefed the teachers on the Visions of Exploration Program sponsored by the Air Force Association in conjunction with *USA Today*. The Hurlburt Chapter funded the cost of materials and lunch for the event.

Chapter President Presents Pitsenbarger Award

AFA recently announced the Fall 2008 Pitsenbarger Award winners. This award provides a one-time grant of \$500 to selected top Air Force active duty, Guard and Reserve enlisted personnel graduating from the Community College of the Air Force who plan to pursue a baccalaureate degree. This is the first academic year that the formula for the number of awards to number of graduates is identical for all components, so we should see increased awards to the superb Guard and Reserve Airmen who are such an essential part of our force at war. Master Sergeant Ross Wood, AFA Fort Worth Chapter 272 President, presented the grant to Staff Sergeant Sara Schiel, a member of the 457th Fighter Squadron and 301st Fighter Wing.



Happy Holidays!!! (but the ***AE Newsletter*** needs ***You*** in the New Year!!!)

AE Newsletter will take a break over the holidays, but we need your inputs (now would do – take a break from the Christmas cards) to keep the information flowing. Please send your stories, accomplishments, and great ideas to share with your fellow AFAers out there in the field! Submit an input today to AENewsletter@afa.org.