

## **Let Your Voice Be Heard!**

On September 8 at 8 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, the Air Force Association Aerospace Education Council will conduct a 45 minute informational audio conference. The agenda will contain a five minute presentation from headquarters followed by questions and answers submitted by you. You be able to submit questions in advance or during the call via email. Your questions will all be answered during the call or thereafter electronically. Anyone may participate in the call but prior registration by each participant is required. This cross communication effort will be used to judge interest in future audio conferences.

Register to participate by sending an email to [AENewsletter@AFA.Org](mailto:AENewsletter@AFA.Org). Registration will close on August 25. Registrants will receive an email that provides dial up telephone instructions for participation on September 8. If registrations do not meet a certain threshold by August 25, the audio conference will not be held. Don't wait - Register now!

## **National Aerospace Teacher of the Year**

William Austin, a dedicated teacher at Pocalla Springs Elementary School, Sumter, South Carolina, is the 24<sup>th</sup> recipient of the prestigious Air Force Association National Aerospace Teacher of the Year Award. Nominated by Swamp Fox Chapter #298 and the South Carolina AFA, Austin uniquely combines his roles as an elementary teacher, an adjunct college professor and an Air Force veteran, who served 21 years. Austin's teaching career began as a favor to a harried educator who requested he watch over a class for a while in the absence of the substitute teacher. Instead, he discovered his calling.

He strongly believes in the importance of education, particularly the need for quality science and math education that is the underpinning of aerospace development and many other professions. In a 15-year teaching career, he has instilled a love of learning and science in many students. He also shares his practical knowledge with other upcoming science teachers as an adjunct professor at the College of Charleston and formerly at the Citadel Military College.

"Congratulations to William Austin, an excellent teacher. He is AFA's National Aerospace Teacher of the Year," said S. Sanford Schlitt, Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education. "He creates enthusiasm among his



William L. Austin of Pocalla Springs Elementary School, Sumter, SC, is the 24th recipient of AFA's prestigious National Aerospace Teacher of the Year Award

students, generates interest in science and inspires other teachers by his example.”

“William Austin is making a difference in many young lives, and we’re proud to recognize his dedication,” said Mike Dunn, President of AFA. “We appreciate William Austin, the many other fine nominees for this award, and so many good teachers across the country, whose work will influence our nation’s future.”

Austin holds a BA in Education from the University of South Carolina and a Master’s from South Carolina State University. He also studied Aerospace Technology at the Community College of the Air Force.

### **Air University Welcomes General Michael Hayden and Sandy Schlitt**

Retired Air Force General Michael Hayden, a former CIA Director, NSA Director, Deputy Director of National Intelligence and the Air Intelligence Agency joined Sandy Schlitt, AFA Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education, for a two-day speaking tour at Maxwell AFB. General Hayden 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.

Hayden and Schlitt visited classes at Officer Training School and the Senior Non Commissioned Officers Academy. They also met with Air University leadership and leadership at the Air Force Research Institute headed by retired AFA executive director General John Shaud.



ASBC Class 09D Student Leadership Council with General Michael Hayden, fifth from left and Sandy Schlitt, center of photograph.

### **Spring Science Explosion at Fort Walton Beach**

The Hurlburt Field Chapter 398 participated in the Fort Walton Beach Junior League’s Spring Science Explosion on March 28. The annual event provides local children and their families an opportunity to see and experience the excitement of science. Over twenty organizations provided activities for the 200+ children who attended, despite inclement weather and a late move from the Fort Walton Beach Landing to the Hedricks Recreation Center. 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 with a 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. This event was a great opportunity for the Chapter to get young kids excited about science and technology.

## Turczynski Donates Speaker Honorarium

Four hundred people gathered for the Air Force Special Operations Outstanding Airman Banquet at the Emerald Coast Conference Center in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Keynote speaker Ray Turczynski, AFA Florida State President and former National Director, spoke on Operation Eagle Claw, the attempted rescue of 53 American hostages held in Iran in 1980.



From left: Annette Klabuhn; Kristi Klabuhn; Ray Turczynski.

Turczynski donated his speaker honorarium to the Choctawhatchee Aviation Institute (CAI) at Choctawhatchee High School in Fort Walton Beach. The Institute, accredited by Emory Riddle Aviation University in Daytona Beach, Florida, provides aviation related courses of instruction to high school students and prepares them for Aeronautical Engineering and other STEM related college courses. Honorarium funds will be used to provide college tuition assistance to Kristi Klabuhn, a senior at the Institute. Klabuhn will attend the University of Central Florida and major in engineering.

## Texas Teacher Is Recognized

Amanda Hutson, a McKinney, Texas teacher, was recognized as the AFA Texas Aerospace Teacher of the Year on July 18 at the Texoma Region Convention held at Plano, Texas. Hutson had previously been selected as the Dallas Seidel Chapter Teacher of the Year and won out over twelve other chapter nominees for the coveted AFA Texas Teacher of the Year. Hutson demonstrated exceptional ability to motivate students in the Aerospace disciplines. She established a reputation as a teacher of excellence with the administration, parents and students. Hutson's contagious personality carries over to her teaching. She is absolutely enthusiastic about learning. She always goes out of her way to find creative ways of getting points across to her students. Hutson was presented a check in the amount of \$250 for winning first place in the Seidel Chapter contest and another check in the amount of \$1,000 for the Texas State contest. An interesting side note is that a fellow teacher, Doug Chapman, from McKinney Independent School District won the AFA Texas Aerospace Teacher of the Year in 2008. Coincidentally, Amanda and Doug both teach at Wolford Elementary School in McKinney.



Ric Hammer, Chairman, Texas AFA Aerospace Education Foundation, presents a check to Amanda Hutson, 2009 AFA Texas Teacher of the Year

## **Bais is Arizona Aerospace Teacher of the Year.**

The Air Force Association stresses the importance of public school education, especially in mathematics, physics, astronomy, and other subject valuable to train students capable of contributing to aerospace progress. As part of this effort, all chapters are encouraged to identify and encourage teachers who demonstrate a gift for encouraging and inspiring their students to enjoy and excel in learning the sciences. The Association awards the title of Teacher of the Year, at chapter, state, region, and national levels.

The Executive Committee of the Prescott Goldwater Chapter conducted a search for a teacher in the area that the chapter serves, and discovered Julie Bais, a teacher at Granite Mountain Middle School in Prescott, Arizona. Bais had an exceptional record of inspiring her students in learning the sciences. Julie was selected as the Chapter's nominee for AFA Aerospace Teacher of the Year. Bais was selected by AFA Arizona, and then ultimately, the Southwest Region selected her as Teacher of the Year.

## **Selnick is Florida Aerospace Teacher of the Year**

On July 10, John Brock, President of the Florida Air Force Association, awarded Randy Selnick a check in the amount of \$500, a Certificate of Excellence, a personalized jacket, and a complimentary Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Membership sponsored by CAP. The awards were presented to the Florida AFA Aerospace Teacher of the Year at the awards ceremony held in the Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida.

The nomination describes, in part, that Selnick distinguished himself as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade Magnet Science teacher at Crystal Lake Middle School in Pompano Beach, Florida. He is currently the Squadron Commander of Crystal Lake Middle School FL-811 Cadet Squadron and also the CAP Group 6 Aerospace Education Officer with jurisdiction over 12 CAP Squadrons. He was awarded the CAP Commanders Commendation for the Rocketry Program he designed and implemented in South Florida. He developed and implemented a rocket launcher that uses a keyed ignition switch with a momentary position and push button switches that launches six rockets at the same time. Randy is building a wind tunnel and a flight simulator that will have a computer monitor mounted eye level with controls located so as to make the student feel they are in an aircraft.



From left: Brigadier General Joseph Balskus, Commander, Florida Air National Guard; Tim Brock, President, AFA Florida; Randy Selnick, AFA 2009 Florida State Teacher of the Year; Sandy Schlitt, AFA Vice Chairman of the Board, Aerospace Education.

Selnick also performed with distinction while teaching 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades science classes at Palm Beach Military Academy - a new Charter School during the period of 2005-

2006. He stated “My main focus was Aerospace as we were a CAP program school. From building and launching 9 foot hot air balloons to launching rockets, the school was heavy in Aerospace Education besides the Florida Standards in Sciences. My after school activities included a science club, a rocket club and an environmental club where we tried to find alternate fuels or alternate supplies of energy to power cars, rockets and planes. We worked on Hydrogen cell cars as well as solar fueled aircraft.”

### **Share Your Aerospace Successes With Others!!!**

State Presidents, state Aerospace Education Vice Presidents, chapter Presidents, chapter Aerospace Education Vice Presidents, and any member with an education related story - the AE Newsletter needs to hear from you. Please send a photograph with your story, accomplishment, or great idea to share with your fellow AFA Aerospace Educators in the field! Submit your story today to [AENewsletter@afa.org](mailto:AENewsletter@afa.org).

### **University of Texas Receive Scholarships**

Norm King, President of the AFA Austin Chapter, announced the awarding of two scholarships to cadets at the University of Texas Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp Detachment 825. University of Texas ROTC cadets Ralph Castillo and Shawn Cameron each received \$200 scholarships for the spring semester.



Cadets of UT ROTC Det 825