

Lift



RETURN TO HOME BASE

**Alumni share
inspiring
stories at
annual
reunions**

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a common
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classroom to
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promising
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FROM THE PRESIDENT



In this issue of *Lift*, you will find many stories of alumni who have returned “home” to reconnect with the faculty and friends who have helped shape their lives. Their stories of personal and professional success are a testament to that special connection that happens when a university and its alumni come together to celebrate lifelong dreams made real.

That bond between the university and its alumni is one of the things that makes Embry-Riddle special. Both our university and alumni have a unique and deep connection with one another: we are bound by a shared sense of purpose to make a difference in the world of aviation and aerospace.

Embry-Riddle is making that difference every day, working tirelessly to serve our students, our alumni and our industry. On every campus, at every level, we are building the future progress and prosperity for all in the Embry-Riddle family:

At **Daytona Beach**, we are adding Ph.D. programs, building world-class facilities and making good progress on our Aerospace Research and Technology Park.

At **Prescott**, we are adding innovative programs in cyber intelligence and security, astronomy and software engineering, with plans to launch a Master of Science in Security and Intelligence Studies beginning in the fall of 2014.

At **Worldwide**, we just established a new College of Business to meet the growing education demands from the aviation, aerospace and related industries around the globe.

These are just a few examples of how we are addressing the evolving needs of our students, our alumni and our industry. For alumni in particular, we are also enhancing our communications with the new *Lift* design you see here. Its bold images and clean lines aptly represent our clear-eyed commitment to keep you informed about—and inspired by—the amazing things your university and fellow alumni are doing.

I don't think there has ever been a more exciting time to be a part of the Embry-Riddle family. I hope you will share my enthusiasm for our future as you read these pages and join our efforts to write the next great chapter in Embry-Riddle's history.

Warm regards,

John P. Johnson, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT AND CEO



Volume 9, No. 1

Lift, the alumni magazine of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, is published twice annually (spring and fall).

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Florida/Arizona/Worldwide
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Daytona Beach, Fla. 32114
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**READ
LIFT
ONLINE!**

ON THE COVER: Jody (Fisher) Davis ('03, PC), NASA aerospace engineer, at the Prescott Campus.

CHATTER



An actress/reporter discusses the progress of construction at 'Starship City.'

Airlines, Embry-Riddle Examine Projected Pilot Shortage

Representatives of 14 major U.S. airlines and regional carriers joined Embry-Riddle faculty and staff for a one-day Pilot Supply Summit on Nov. 8 at the Daytona Beach Campus.

"The need for qualified pilots in sufficient numbers has never been greater in this country," says Cape Air President and Chief Operating Officer Dave Bushy.

Recent reports, including one by Boeing, forecast nearly 460,000 pilots and more than 600,000 aircraft maintenance technicians will be needed globally during the next 20 years. In the meantime, Congress has mandated more stringent standards for pilots; namely, that first officers will hold an Airline Transport Pilot certificate, which requires 1,500 hours of flight time, as opposed to the current requirement—a commercial pilot certificate that requires only 250 flight hours. The proposed rule has yet to be finalized by the Federal Aviation Administration.

"The new rules regarding first officer qualifications make it imperative that Embry-Riddle, as the leader in professional pilot education, join the leaders of the airline industry in finding joint solutions to the pilot supply problem," says Tim Brady, dean of Embry-Riddle's College of Aviation at the Daytona Beach Campus.

According to Brady, Embry-Riddle is part of a stakeholders group that is pursuing all means to mitigate the impending pilot shortage. Members of the group recently traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and with representatives of the Aviation Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives. "We've asked the GAO to conduct a study to determine the dimensions of the problem and to suggest some solutions," Brady says.



National Exposure

Daytona Beach Campus cast as 'Starship City, USA'

Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach Campus provides the setting for Starship City, USA—and its students, faculty and staff serve as extras—in National Geographic channel's *Evacuate Earth*, which aired nationally in December. The speculative science program portrays a neutron star explosion that threatens life on Earth, and explores the possibility of creating a giant spacecraft to save the human race.

Produced by Atlas Media, the show highlights Embry-Riddle laboratories and campus landmarks, such as the Jim Henderson Administration and Welcome Center, which was under construction at the time (pictured above).

Jason Kring, assistant professor of human factors and systems, is featured as an expert source throughout the two-hour special. According to Kring, the show's general premise is sound. "If we detected a stellar remnant on a collision course with Earth and we had 50 to 100 years to plan, it's likely we could build a vessel that could save a percentage of the population," he says.

The show generates a sense of urgency for continued space exploration, Kring notes. "As they say, 'Necessity is the mother of invention.'"

ALTIMETER: HIGH POINTS AT EMBRY-RIDDLE

For the 13th consecutive year, the annual "Best Colleges" guide published by *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Embry-Riddle's undergraduate aerospace engineering program **No. 1 in the nation**.

The men's and women's soccer teams at the Prescott Campus—first-year rookies in the California Pacific Conference—both won **2012 Cal Pac Championships**.

Under an agreement with the Canaveral Council of Technical Societies, Embry-Riddle will digitize and catalog a **unique archive of space-focused technical papers** from more than 40 years of annual Florida Space Congress conferences dating back to 1966.

PARTNERSHIP CREATES ONE-STOP SHOP FOR RESEARCH



John Maris

Embry-Riddle and Advanced Aerospace Solutions (AdvAero) have taken a long-standing relationship to the next level with the signing of a partnership agreement in October.

Embry-Riddle President and CEO John P. Johnson says the collaboration represents a milestone for Embry-Riddle in attracting high-tech, high-profile companies to work with the university and help grow its developing aerospace research and technology park, located adjacent to the Daytona Beach Campus.

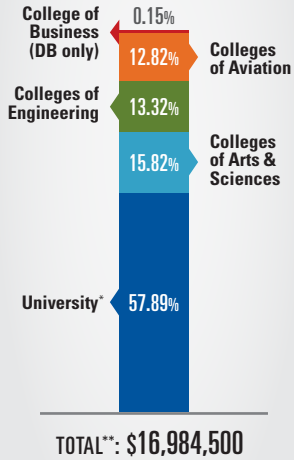
"What we are doing here is bringing together the best of both of our sets of capabilities in order to provide a unique, one-stop shop for aerospace and defense companies who need to realize their aerospace ideas and products on-time and within budget," says John Maris ('83, DB), CEO of Marinvent Corporation, a founding partner of AdvAero.

AdvAero has committed its Flying Avionics Test Bed and Research Simulator to the venture.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funded Research

Revenue from private and public sources supporting research at the university has more than doubled in the last six years.



*INCLUDES FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION FLORIDA NEXTGEN TEST BED ADMINISTRATION AND WORLDWIDE CAMPUS.
 **TOTAL REFLECTS FUNDS RECEIVED BY ALL THREE CAMPUSES, JULY 1, 2011 TO JUNE 30, 2012.

WORLDWIDE CAMPUS ADDS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Embry-Riddle President and CEO John P. Johnson and John Watret, chancellor of the Worldwide Campus, announced in October the establishment of the Embry-Riddle Worldwide College of Business to replace the current Worldwide Department of Business Administration. Kees Rietsema, former chair of the Department of Business Administration, is the dean of the new college.

Business programs at Worldwide currently serve more than 4,000 undergraduate and 2,500 graduate students in eight degree programs.

"As business degree programs, faculty and the overall academic footprint continue to expand at Embry-Riddle Worldwide, we are responding by creating a more formal structure to provide quality support for this growth," says Watret.



'One of our most serious challenges'

Prescott Campus hosts a national symposium on cyber security threats

The Eighth Annual National Security & Intelligence Symposium held Oct. 25-26 at Embry-Riddle's campus in Prescott, Ariz., brought together leaders from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Federal Bureau of Investigation and Arizona InfraGard to discuss issues of cyber security.

In her keynote address, CIA Director of Security Mary Rose McCaffrey admitted that while anything related to maintaining people's safety is her No. 1 concern, cyber security keeps her up at night. President Obama has acknowledged cyber threats as "one of our most serious challenges," says McCaffrey, who is the first female security director at any U.S. government intelligence agency.

The CIA director maintains the best defense is to understand the offense—through the ongoing collection and examination of human intelligence. "We have to focus on people; because in the end, it's the people who put the keystrokes," McCaffrey says.

To view C-Span coverage of McCaffrey's address, visit www.c-spanvideo.org/program/309069-1.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS NEEDED According to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, an estimated 40,000 intelligence jobs currently exist with large corporations, and another 84,000 new intelligence-related jobs are projected in the next several years. To fulfill this need, the Prescott Campus will launch this fall undergraduate degrees in Cyber Intelligence and Security and Software Engineering with an emphasis in Cyber Security. A Master of Science in Security and Intelligence Studies will be offered beginning fall 2014.

ALTIMETER (CONTINUED)

Employees **Ken Fukayama** ('06, PC) and **Allen Hedgepeth** were named Flight Instructor of the Year and Maintenance Technician of the Year, respectively, by the Federal Aviation Administration for the state of Arizona.

The **Study Abroad Air Traffic Management program** offered through the Daytona Beach Campus was recognized with The Institute of International Education's 2013 Heiskell Award Special Recognition: Internationalizing the Professions.

Embry-Riddle President and CEO **John P. Johnson** was honored with the Community Foundation of Volusia and Flagler Counties' 2013 Herbert M. Davidson Memorial Award for Outstanding Community Service.

Jonathan Snively, assistant professor of engineering physics at the Daytona Beach Campus, received the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development grant. The five-year award will support his continued research on gravity waves and their effect on the earth's upper atmosphere.

Aerospace engineering professor **Richard "Pat" Anderson** was named the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching 2012 Florida Professor of the Year.

FEEDBACK

FROM THE EDITOR

You spoke and we listened! Thanks to the comments and suggestions from an alumni focus group and a 2012 readership survey sent to 6,300 subscribers, the *Lift* magazine you're reading represents an exciting new direction for our flagship publication. With eight additional pages and several new departments, the new *Lift* is designed to accent your pride in being "Forever an Eagle." It also includes an opportunity to share your *feedback* (this page)—which we hope you will do often. In fact, why not help kick off the department by letting us know what you think of the new design?

We hope the new *Lift* gives you a greater sense of pride in your alma mater and strengthens your connection with the university and the global Eagle Network. Let us know how we're doing: email liftmag@erau.edu.

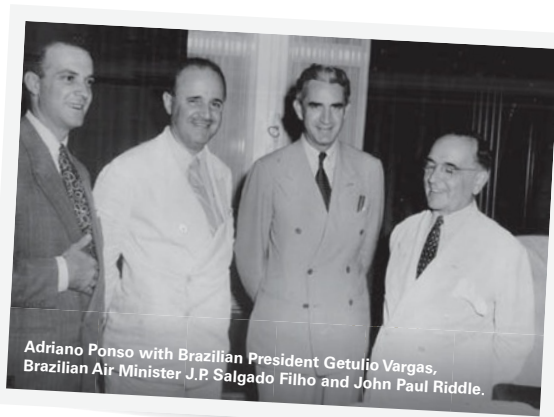
— SARA WITHROW, EDITOR

It's a small Embry-Riddle world

I am from Brazil, so "Wings of Legacy: The Brazil Connection" [fall 2012] caught my eye. I would be curious to know if Adriano Ponso came up while you were digging into the history of the school in Brazil. He was my great-uncle and was good friends with John Paul Riddle in the 1940s. My father had a picture of the two of them with the president of Brazil, while they were putting the school together. My dad said he gave the pictures to Embry-Riddle back in 1998. It is because of my uncle that I ended up at ERAU.

Mikhael Ponso ('03, '12, DB)
B.S. Aeronautical Science; M.S. Aeronautics

EDITOR'S NOTE: Several photos of Adriano Ponso are displayed in Embry-Riddle's online archive. The one you refer to is pictured here. For more: www.eraualumni.org/archives.



Adriano Ponso with Brazilian President Getulio Vargas, Brazilian Air Minister J.P. Salgado Filho and John Paul Riddle.

Ode to Eagle Baseball

Twenty-five years of Embry Riddle athletics—wow! Back in my day (1983–1985), prior to ERAU's inclusion as an NAIA member, the baseball team was technically a student club. We bought our uniforms and provided our own transportation to our few self-scheduled road games. We enjoyed such lavish club benefits as 30 free photocopies per month, and we were allowed to hoist a giant paper banner inside the University Center any week we had a home game. Once, we pushed the envelope a bit, painting a jockstrap on our banner with the slogan: We Need Supporters. Our humorous attempt to attract a larger audience earned us a stern verbal warning, and our meager privileges were put on probation.

Back in the mid-80s, we practiced and played many of our games on sandlot ball fields near Runway 16 by the airport

terminal. I have a special place in my heart for those fields, and the memory is usually triggered after wolfing down a bowl of chili. Somehow heartburn stimulates the same part of my gray matter that recollects fire ant bites.

Here's wishing the ERAU Eagles a successful 2013 season. Make us proud, and beware of the fire ants.

Mark L. Berry ('85, DB)
B.S. Aeronautical Science

First or second largest drone

I'm not sure that the crash landing of a 727-212 aircraft ["Flight Path: Picture-

Perfect Crash," fall 2012] can be described as the world's largest successful drone flight. In December 1984 NASA and the FAA conducted a controlled crash of a 720 aircraft (weight at crash approximately 200,000 pounds). It was remotely controlled from take-off through crash, whereas it appears that the 727-212 was manually flown for much of its flight. The program is documented in FAA report DOT/FAA/CT-87/10 9 available online at ntrs.nasa.gov.

I do not know the weight of the 727-212 aircraft at impact, but I suspect it is probably less than that of the FAA 720 aircraft.

Ian Whalley ('03, WW)
M.S. Aeronautical Science

TALK TO US

We invite your feedback on *Lift* content or topics related to the university. Letters may be edited for style, length and clarity. Submission does not guarantee publication.

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WRITE: *Lift* Editor
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Daytona Beach, FL 32114



A Soulful Presence

In memory of Father Kenan Morris,
Embry-Riddle Chaplain Emeritus
June 24, 1922–Nov. 30, 2011

BY ROBERT LECKY ('88, DB)

It was my honor and pleasure to bring the U.S. flag presented at Father Morris' funeral back to Embry-Riddle for his memorial service this past October. My friends and I often spoke about his time there with us and of the guidance and peace that he brought to our lives.

Very few people knew of his days in Vietnam as a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force and the dangers he faced while looking for downed pilots with Special Forces rescue teams. He witnessed an enemy sniper kill a young soldier who was heading home after his tour of duty. The soldier was shot just as he was boarding his flight and Fr. Morris was there to hear his final confession. Very few people knew of the \$50,000 price that the North Vietnamese army placed on Fr. Morris' head for his work with Catholic nuns who were helping build orphanages for Amerasian babies. When we would talk about his sacrifice over a meal at the University Center, Fr. Morris would brush off anything that sounded like praise and say that the bishop in the same region was imprisoned in an underground cell for years and never once complained to his captors. Suddenly, my problems in this world seemed minor and I became a little more grateful for what God had given me.

I remember heading out with friends to the Dorm II parking lot on a Friday evening following a grueling week of studying and flying, only to hear a deep, knowing voice boom from the balcony above reminding us all to "Be good!" Father was the watchful conscience, friend and example to the students, urging us to do no harm to ourselves or others. His Sunday homilies were especially on target and left us in deep reflection, long after we left the mass. I especially enjoyed the reactions



IN MEMORIAM

Join others touched by the life and ministry of Fr. Morris with a contribution to benefit the Campus Ministry and Interfaith Chapel at the Daytona Beach Campus. Contact Kathleen.Hennessy@erau.edu for information or make a gift at givingto.erau.edu.

of visiting parents, who marveled at the frankness of his age-appropriate lectures and the ease with which their sons and daughters attended.

I remember watching the Space Shuttle Challenger explode as I was walking to class on that cold January day in 1986, and the shock and disbelief that immobilized our campus. Fr. Morris immediately set up an interfaith healing service and life resumed again on campus.

Embry-Riddle always held a special place in Fr. Morris' heart. I was with him when the local parish closed and he appealed eloquently to the Franciscan Friars Provincial Administration in New York (in 1995) to remain in retirement in Ormond Beach and continue his campus ministry. His first concern was never for his own comfort, but instead for the students who depended on his spiritual leader-

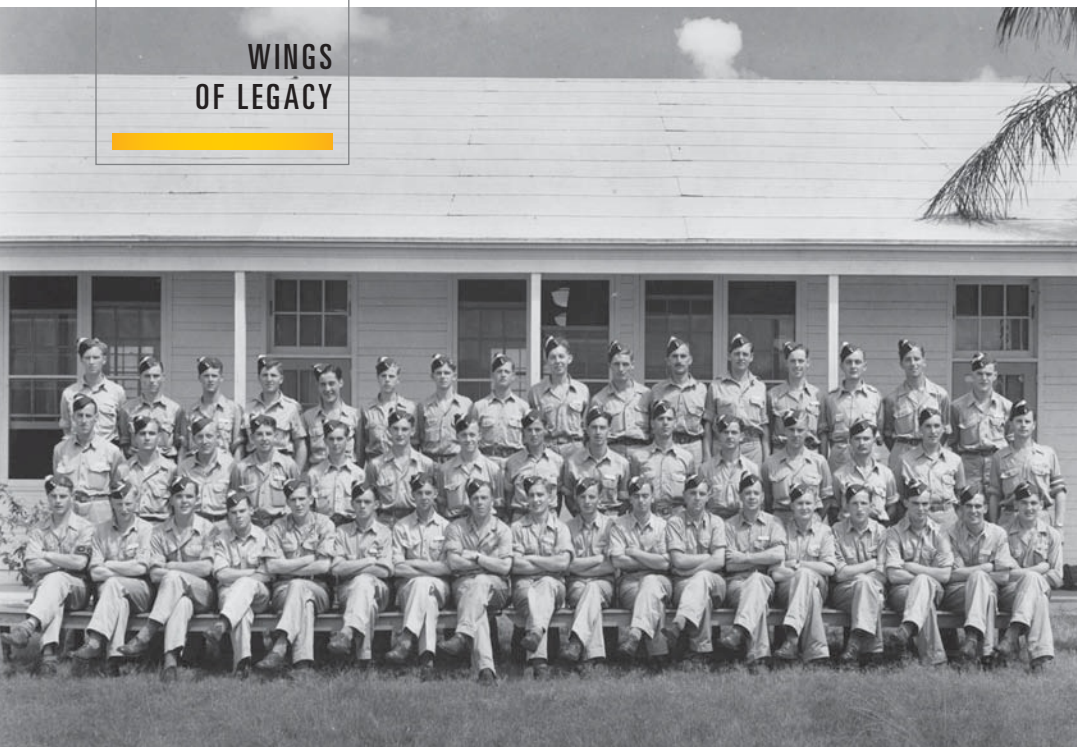
ship. His plea went unheeded and Fr. Morris reluctantly relocated to the Franciscan Friars Retirement Residence in Boston, Mass.

It was a proud moment when I flew back with him to Embry-Riddle in early 2005 to witness the university honor him as Chaplain Emeritus for his role in making the Interfaith Chapel a reality. This public recognition of the importance of our multi-faith campus and the need for a stable ministry was one of his proudest moments.

He led a life that would have made St. Francis proud. It is a life that continues to inspire my family. 🙏

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Lecky earned a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle. He is a client services representative for Jet Aviation Holdings at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey. A memorial service for Fr. Morris, a Franciscan friar and Catholic priest who served the Embry-Riddle Daytona Beach Campus for 16 years, was held on Oct. 13, 2012, at the Interfaith Chapel he helped establish.*

SEND US YOUR STORY *In Other Words* gives you the opportunity to share your industry-related or personal perspective with *Lift* readers. Email submissions/proposals to liftmag@erau.edu.



Riddle Field

Chance meeting revives memories of No. 5 British Flying Training School

BY SARA WITHROW

David Smith ('45, BFTS) of Litchfield, Conn., and Ronald McDonald of Tampa, Fla., are miles and years apart, literally. David, 87, is a retired horticulturalist. Ronald is 30 years his junior and makes a living as an aircraft mechanic. Before 2012, the two men had never met. But when they came face to face on Oct. 13 at Embry-Riddle's Alumni Weekend in Daytona Beach, they discovered a common heritage that dates back to the 1940s and Embry-Riddle's No. 5 British Flying Training School (BFTS).

In 1941, Embry-Riddle started training military pilots at Carlstrom Field, in Arcadia, Fla., for the U.S. Army Air Corps and the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force (RAF). In 1942, the training of RAF cadets moved from Carlstrom Field to the newly constructed Riddle Field in Clewiston, Fla., known as No. 5 BFTS. An official training site for RAF pilots during World War II, the school was operated by Riddle-McKay Aero College, one of Embry-Riddle's six divisions at the time.

'Mac' McDonald

It's at No. 5 BFTS where David and Ronald's stories parallel. While Ronald was not yet born, his late father, Raymond Bankston "Mac" McDonald, came to Riddle Field in the spring of 1943 to train pilots for the war. On June 17, 1943, Mac was officially inducted into the U.S. Army's Air Corps Enlisted Reserve to be an instructor and squadron commander at No. 5 BFTS.

"My Dad's diary talked about his move to Florida," Ronald says. "He recalled vividly the scent of Florida orange blossoms. He said you could smell them from the air." Prior to his move, Mac was instructing Army Air Corps pilots at Cannon Airport in Charlotte, N.C., under the U.S. Civilian Pilot Training program.

RAF Cadet

David earned his RAF Wings and an officer's commission at Embry-Riddle's No. 5 BFTS. He began pilot training in late August 1944, but does not recall having Mac as an instructor. "We had a swimming pool, canteen, flying control tower and barracks for 200 to 300 people," he says of the facilities.

One of David's fondest memories was a week-long break over the Christmas holiday, which followed his completion of primary flight school. "Two of us hitchhiked from Clewiston to Tampa, Fla., and stayed in one of the nicer hotels there," he says. Their trip included stops in St. Petersburg, Orlando, Daytona Beach and Miami.

"We were in North Miami on New Year's Eve. The people in the street below our hotel room were tipping over cars celebrating. In the morning, the news boys were talking about *the Funnies* in the paper. And at the same time, The Battle of the Bulge was at its worst. I'll never forget that," he says.

Left, David Smith is pictured with RAF cadets enrolled in the No. 5 BFTS Course 22, circa 1944-45; top, Raymond 'Mac' McDonald, center, takes a break with fellow BFTS instructors; bottom, Ronald McDonald, left, and David Smith reminisce at Embry-Riddle's Alumni Weekend with photos of Ronald's father.

Closure

No. 5 BFTS closed at the end of the war in 1945. Mac was discharged from the Army Air Corps in July 1945 and took a job with National Airlines (acquired by Pan Am in 1980). David returned to England in April 1945, but was immediately made redundant, due to a reduced demand for pilots. He became a physical fitness officer for the RAF Central Flying School, and was discharged in 1947. In 1949, he joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve; he flew training missions for the reserve until it was phased out in 1952. Pursuing a love of gardening, David worked for a large English nursery, and in 1954, moved to Connecticut to become director of horticulture for White Flower Farm. He retired in 1989, but continues to lecture and consult on horticultural matters and is a dedicated member and past president of the Connecticut Horticultural Society.

The Twist

Unfortunately, Mac never got the chance to share his memories of No. 5 BFTS with his son, Ronald. In 1960, the single-engine Piper Tri-Pacer, in which he was a passenger, disappeared over the jungles of Costa Rica. "He was missing and presumed dead for 20 years," Ronald says. "We never heard another word from him."

Amidst rumors of foul play and hostage theories, Ronald, 4 years old at the time, his twin brother and two older sisters moved with their mother from

Miami to Arcadia, Fla. "We grew up with that, not knowing what happened to Dad," he says. "It was a huge mystery in Costa Rica. They even dropped leaflets in the jungle."

In August 1980, Ronald finally learned of his father's fate. "I got a call from my brother saying a Pan Am worker had phoned and told him the wreckage had been found."

Mac, who in 1960 was a check pilot for National Airlines, had traveled to Costa Rica to pick up a repaired DC-4. "Believe it or not, they were outsourcing back then," Ronald says. "Dad was waiting for them to fix an oil leak on the plane and had a two-day layover in San Jose [Costa Rica]."

Piecing together the details, Ronald says his father and a co-worker, Leon Blanks, were invited on Sept. 8, 1960, to fly to a plantation on the coast with two American businessmen living in Costa Rica, Merrill Hire and George Brundage. Signs from the wreckage indicated that the aircraft ran out of fuel before crashing.

"We went down to Costa Rica on Sept. 8, 1980, 20 years to the day that Dad went missing. We drove up into the mountains and hiked for four hours into the jungle to the wreckage," Ronald says. Mac's shoes, credit cards, dental work and pocket watch were recovered. "The watch was still in good shape after 20 years in the jungle."

Longing for the time with his father that he will never have, Ronald continues to seek out others who may have known him. It's this quest that led him to Embry-Riddle and to David Smith. 🐦

EDITOR'S NOTE: In 1945, Britain awarded Embry-Riddle's founder John Paul Riddle and business partner John McKay, who became Embry-Riddle's president in September 1944, with the Member of the British Empire medal for their contributions to the training of pilots during World War II.



NO. 5 BFTS BY THE NUMBERS

1942 opened 1945 closed

2,500-acre site near Clewiston, Fla.

\$2 million cost to build

1 of 7 British Flying Training Schools in the United States during World War II

60 aircraft fleet at opening

20 Stearman PT-17s

20 Vultee BT-13s

20 AT-6A Texans

1,800 Royal Air Force (RAF) cadets trained

1,325 RAF cadets graduated

23 RAF cadets died during training

SOURCE: Craft, S.G. & Bender, A.R. *Wings of Legacy: The History of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University*, 2010.

Are you an Embry-Riddle history buff ?

Then here's your chance to show us your stuff! Enter our **Mystery History Contest** for a chance to win a copy of *Forever an Eagle*, a pictorial history of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

TO WIN: Search the University Archives online (www.eraualumni.org/archives) for the correct answer. Send your answer to the email link on the page and your correct response will be entered into a random drawing held after April 20.

Jonathan Prohaska ('01, DB) of New Hampshire is the winner of the fall 2012 Mystery History Contest. Prohaska correctly identified the name of the starlet, Elizabeth Taylor, and boy, Emelio Salgado, in the 1944 photograph.

Embry-Riddle's University Archives department is dedicated to preserving the memories and artifacts belonging to the university's rich history. Explore Embry-Riddle's past at www.eraualumni.org/archives.



At which Embry-Riddle facility was the flag in this picture displayed? Also provide the name of at least one person in the photograph.

BY REBECCA DOUGLAS

Carl Newman ('11, WW) has a wide variety of accomplishments to his credit: playing college football, working for the Phoenix Police Department and coaching women's fast-pitch softball for the Junior Olympics, to name a few. But he ranks earning a Master of Aeronautical Science degree from Embry-Riddle at the top of his long list.

"It's one of the best things I ever did," he reflects enthusiastically. "It was hard work—really hard—but so worth it."

Newman attended classes at the Embry-Riddle Worldwide Campus at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, where he worked in facilities and airside operations before being promoted to assistant aviation director of the city's multi-airport aviation department.

"Getting a master's degree is something I always knew I should do, and something I *wanted* to do," he notes. "But life gets in the way. Embry-Riddle

Higher Learning

Carl Newman ('11, WW) expands Embry-Riddle's reach through airport-based campus



made it convenient to fit [postgraduate work] into everything else I had going on with my family and job."

After more than 30 years at Sky Harbor, Newman ascended in 2012 to an even bigger job: general manager at George Bush Intercontinental in Houston (IAH). "I left one wonderful airport for another wonderful airport," he explains. His graduate work at Embry-Riddle, he adds, was invaluable for the transition. IAH is among the top 10 busiest airports in North America, based on passenger enplanements,



serving more than 19 million passengers per year. Newman's responsibilities span five terminals, five runways, 17 passenger airlines, 11 cargo airlines and more than 700 daily departures. And just as it did at Sky Harbor, his graduate degree is

proving its worth at IAH.

"The curriculum translates very well into the 'real world,'" he relates. "Asset management is a big focus here in Houston: determining life cycles for facilities, establishing replacement intervals for major systems. I wouldn't have had a clue about it, if we hadn't covered the subject so well at Embry-Riddle."

Coursework addressing reliability maintenance—balancing standard manufacturer guidelines with field data about actual usage and conditions—has

PHOTOS BY NATHAN LINDSTROM

Carl Newman was instrumental in initiating the Embry-Riddle Management Development Program at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. He hopes to bring a similar program to George Bush Intercontinental in Houston (IAH), where he serves as general manager. He is pictured here at IAH.

been particularly beneficial. “We use the concepts covered in class literally every day to manage and optimize the airport’s two trains, and other systems, too,” he says. “The knowledge I gained is applicable across the entire airport.”

Education Evangelist

Given the high value Newman places on his own Embry-Riddle degree, his determination to offer similar assets to employees makes perfect sense. While at Sky Harbor, he personally championed the Management Development Program, an Embry-Riddle curriculum designed especially for airport employees that also qualifies for the city’s generous tuition reimbursement program. The 15-month, 18-credit program covers six main areas: aviation legislation, aviation law, airport development and operations, airport management, airport planning and design, and airport administration and finance.

The program helps build professionalism among the Sky Harbor workforce. “In airports, people know their specific jobs in their specific silos, but they often don’t know about the larger organization or industry,” Newman explains. “They have a good understanding of their role, but little about why they do what they do, or how it helps achieve broader objectives.”

The program also creates opportunities for career advancement. The unique mix of students—everyone from frontline staff to division heads—is what makes the coursework so special, Newman says. “They all learn about the industry and each other. By working on projects together for class, they form relationships and friendships that translate to the workplace later. The program builds real esprit de corps.”

To date, more than 120 Sky Harbor employees have completed the program since its inception in 2002. More than 30 have also earned Certified Member designation from the American Association of Airport Executives. Still others have enrolled at Embry-Riddle to earn full bachelor’s or master’s degrees.

Nancy Zeman, director of academic support at Embry-Riddle’s Phoenix Sky Harbor campus and originator of the Embry-Riddle Worldwide Airport Management Certificate of Completion, says she appreciates the personal touch Newman brought to the program. “He always spoke at the orientation



“We use the concepts covered in class literally every day to manage and optimize the airport’s two trains, and other systems, too. The knowledge I gained is applicable across the entire airport.”

sessions and graduations, and often visited the classes. He knew everyone by name and encouraged them personally to continue their education.”

Newman is especially proud of the balance the program strikes between academic breadth and practical applications. Each class is punctuated with a field trip—often at Sky Harbor, but also to other airports. “They study a topic in class, then they see it in action on the field or in the terminal,” he explains. “We visit fixed-based operators, have them spend time with domestic and international carriers, expose them to the law enforcement and aircraft rescue and firefighting side, have them tour a cargo hauler. ... We do everything we can to show them the bigger picture.”

Sending students to other airports, Newman says, helps broaden their horizons. “They come to really understand the saying: ‘You’ve seen one airport, you’ve seen one airport.’ That’s a great perspective for any employee.”

Newman is so passionate about the Management Development Program at Sky Harbor that he started plans for a similar program at Houston Intercontinental just months after he arrived there.

Once again, he sees Embry-Riddle as the ideal partner. “They make it so easy by bringing great instructors right into the airport,” he notes. “I can’t say enough about how great they are to work with.” 🐦

INTERESTED IN AIRPORT MANAGEMENT?

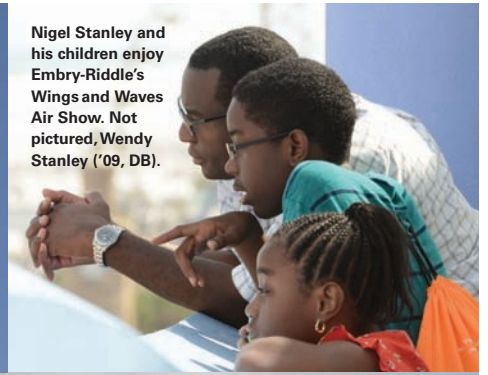
For more information about the Embry-Riddle Worldwide Airport Management Certificate of Completion, visit www.worldwide.erau.edu; select “Degrees & Programs”; “Certificate Programs”; and then “Undergraduate Certificates.”



Fred Laemmerhirt ('85, DB) still proudly carries his Embry-Riddle student identification card.



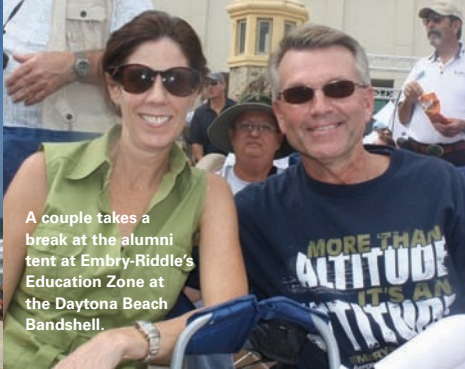
The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds light up the Daytona Beach sky.



Nigel Stanley and his children enjoy Embry-Riddle's Wings and Waves Air Show. Not pictured, Wendy Stanley ('09, DB).



Embry-Riddle's Wings and Waves Air Show attracted large crowds.



A couple takes a break at the alumni tent at Embry-Riddle's Education Zone at the Daytona Beach Bandshell.



Cheryl Steams ('78, '85, WW), 23-time U.S. Women's Parachuting Champion, opens the air show with a spectacular display of the American flag.

An Extra-Special Alumni Weekend

Graduates from across the country came "home" to the Daytona Beach Campus on Oct. 12-14 for an exciting series of events and Embry-Riddle's Wings and Waves Air Show.



Embry-Riddle students joined alumni, faculty and staff at EagleNIGHT.



Jim Huntoon ('93, DB; '10, WW) posts his picture on the alumni photo board.

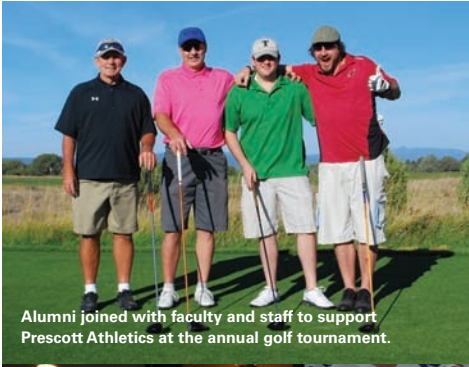


Wings and Waves Air Show performers included a number of Embry-Riddle alumni. Pictured from left, front: Matt Chapman, Lt. Col. Christian Lawlor, Tech. Sgt. Joseph Maestre ('08, WW), Capt. Ryan Riley ('11, WW), Maj. Tom Cervini ('98, DB), Lt. Col. Jason Koltes ('02, WW), Steve Salmirs ('80, DB). From left, rear: Tech. Sgt. Don Smith, Capt. Lucas "Luke" Buckley ('10, WW), Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Roehm, and Maj. J.R. Williams ('01, PC)



David Rodriguez ('12, DB) and Jennifer Pavone ('12, DB) mingle at EagleNIGHT.

2012 PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Alumni joined with faculty and staff to support Prescott Athletics at the annual golf tournament.

The Embry-Riddle Jet Dragster driven by Marisha Falk ('08, '10, DB) was a crowd-pleaser at the fly-in and static display event.



EagleNIGHT was a hit at the Fire House Kitchen restaurant in Prescott.



Stephen Blanchette ('86, PC) and Michelle Day ('91, PC)



A memorial service honored two alumni who died in 2012 serving their country: former Petty Officer/Navy Seal Glen Doherty ('06, WW) and Chief Warrant Officer Suresh Krause ('06, PC).



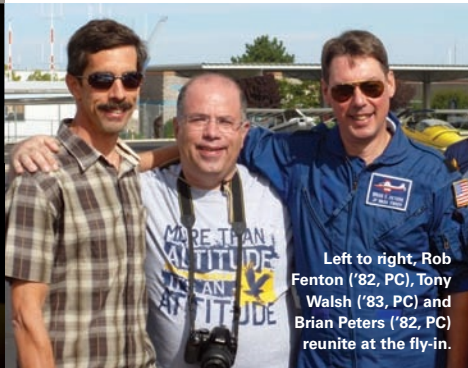
David Gustafson ('90, PC), a program manager for MD Helicopters, brought a company aircraft to the static display.

Where the Heart Is

Alumni of all ages returned to their roots for a three-day October West celebration held Oct. 4-6 at the Prescott Campus.



Left, Golden Eagles flight team Coach Thad Short ('09, PC) and assistant professor and flight team adviser Jack Panosian ('79, '82, DB). The flight team received its NIFA SAFECON championship rings during OctoberWest.



Left to right, Rob Fenton ('82, PC), Tony Walsh ('83, PC) and Brian Peters ('82, PC) reunite at the fly-in.



Students and alumni celebrate at EagleNIGHT.

NAVIGATING HOME

ALUMNI SHARE PERSONAL
JOURNEYS OF CHALLENGE AND
SUCCESS AT ANNUAL REUNIONS

The stories in this section highlight the personal and professional journeys of four of our alumni who attended either the 2012 Homecoming/Alumni Weekend in Daytona Beach, Fla., or OctoberWest in Prescott, Ariz. For some of them, this was their first visit to campus since graduation; for others, the pilgrimage “home” is an annual tradition. All alumni are encouraged to attend homecoming activities this year on Oct. 3–5 in Prescott and Nov. 7–9 in Daytona Beach. For more information visit the eaglesNEST: www.eraualumni.org/homecoming.

BY SARA WITHROW



DOMINO EFFECT

Aerospace engineer Jody Davis
(’03, PC) falls into place at NASA

▶ Jody (Fisher) Davis (’03, PC) liked to draw triangle-shaped houses as a child. By the third grade, she was drawing floor plans. “I loved design,” she says. When she turned 13, a new infatuation was born. “I saw the movie *Apollo 13* six or seven times in the theater,” Davis says. “I developed an obsession with space and NASA.”

A family friend, commercial airline pilot Lisa Wagner (’94, ’02, PC), now deceased, introduced Davis to Embry-Riddle and helped her discover the perfect marriage of both her passions: aerospace engineering. The epiphany set her on the path to a lucrative and fulfilling career. Now a flight mechanics technical lead for another project at NASA Langley, Davis was an integral member of the entry, descent and landing team for the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL)/Curiosity rover. At 10:32 p.m. on Aug. 5, 2012 PDT, it was Davis who announced “Tango Delta Nominal” from the war room at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology—the first of three final steps confirming Curiosity’s touchdown on the surface of Mars.

“I was nervous and super excited,” she says of the “seven minutes of terror,” a phrase coined by NASA representing the time it would take Curiosity to enter

PHOTO BY A STORYBOOK MOMENT PHOTOGRAPHY

Jody Davis visited NASA's retired F-104N Starfighter at the Prescott Campus last October.



Mars' atmosphere and descend to the planet's surface. "It almost felt like a wedding day. You've planned and planned down to the hors d'oeuvres on the table and the candles, so that it's just right," she says.

Following verification of the landing, Davis says the war room and nearby mission control center exploded with shouts of joy, handshakes and hugs. "I worked on MSL for seven years, which is a long time to me; but you see these other guys who worked on it from the beginning, when they were drawing the design on a napkin, and they were just sobbing."

Perfect Progression

The road to Curiosity's Mars landing wasn't traveled overnight, but for Davis the journey followed a relatively straight line. Graduating cum laude from Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus with a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering in 2003, the Minnesota native applied and was accepted into the National Institute of Aerospace (NIA) Rising Star Fellowship program at NASA Langley Research Center. The fellowship allowed Davis to complete a Master of Science in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering from the University of Virginia, while earning a stipend and hands-on experience as a graduate assistant at NASA Langley.

Davis says the experience was invaluable and resulted in her attaining employment with NASA's Atmospheric Flight and Entry Systems Branch immediately after completing her graduate degree in 2005. It was a logical next step for the aerospace engineer and for NASA. After all, her graduate work had prepared her for the challenge. The focus of Davis' thesis was Cassini-Huygens, a collaborative mission

between NASA and the European and Italian space agencies that launched an orbiter and probe to Titan, Saturn's largest moon. The probe landed on Titan in January 2005. "It sent images back to Earth of pools of methane. The theory is that Titan is in the beginning stages of where Earth was before life began," she says. Davis was recognized with an achievement award by the NASA Engineering and Safety Center for her contribution to the modeling of the entry, descent and landing of the Huygens Probe on Titan.

Ron Madler, dean and professor for the College of Engineering at Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus, says Davis' accomplishments are no shock to him. "She was that model student who you like to teach—the

“You work on it so long, that it’s almost surreal when it happens. You’re thinking, ‘Did we really do this?’ You feel the team effort and you appreciate everyone that worked on it.”

kind that listens, works hard, asks questions when she needs to and is there to learn," he says.

According to Davis, it was Madler who opened her eyes to space mechanics and to the NIA fellowship program. "I consider him my Embry-Riddle mentor," she says. "Dr. Madler encouraged me to apply for the fellowship, which led to my job at NASA, my involvement with Curiosity and my marriage to Brian. My life has really been a domino effect that started at Embry-Riddle." Davis' husband was also an NIA Rising Star Fellow; he works for NASA as a structural engineer.

Madler says one of the most rewarding parts of being an educator is when graduates like Davis return to campus to share their knowledge and success. "It makes us feel good about our jobs, because we're helping to make a difference in our profession," he says. "As a young person, she's doing exactly what I wanted to do. We're living vicariously through our students."

Space Advocate

Davis has traveled back to her alma mater at least twice since graduation. Each time, she has taken the opportunity to speak with and inspire Embry-Riddle students. In 2005, she and Jeremy Shidner ('04, PC), an NIA Rising Star Fellow who also worked on Curiosity's entry, descent and landing team, gave an in-depth presentation to the preliminary design classes about their work at NASA. "It's great to see alumni giving back to their alma mater in this way," Madler says.

As for the future, Davis says she will be involved in reconstructing Curiosity's entry, descent and landing, in order to improve the flight mechanics simulation for additional missions. She also plans to be a spokesperson for NASA as a member of its community outreach program.

"I'm an advocate for exploration. I will be happy if I'm always an advocate for exploration and NASA," Davis says.

'TANGO DELTA NOMINAL'

LISTEN to Jody Davis make her historic announcement reporting Curiosity's touchdown on Mars: tinyurl.com/a7v2sqb.

LEARN more about the team's challenges during the "seven minutes of terror": tinyurl.com/6obbkou.



Kelly and Allison Austin enjoy Embry-Riddle's 2012 Wings and Waves Air Show with their sons, Aiden and Ethan.

"Higher education is a vehicle for greater opportunity," he says. "For me, it's a vocation of helping others to find whatever they want out of life."

Already making a difference at Penn State Schuylkill, Austin has tripled the school's scholarship dollars; attained a "military friendly" status from *G.I. Jobs* magazine—a designation enjoyed by the top 15 percent of 12,000 Veterans Affairs-approved schools (including Embry-Riddle); and restored the annual homecoming celebration after a hiatus of more than 10 years.

First Generation

When Austin's classmates started considering college, he did too. His mother and stepfather were supportive, but because no one in the family had attended college before, they had no frame of reference with which to guide him toward his educational goals. "I had no idea how I would go, or how I would afford it," Austin says.

When he arrived at Slippery Rock State University in Pennsylvania, Austin says he felt like the proverbial fish out of water and his financial situation hit him full force. "The first six weeks I didn't have money for textbooks or toiletries. I'd borrow books from my classmates and retype the chapters. I kept thinking they were going to pull me out and say, 'You can't afford this,'" he says.

With the help of grants, loans, on- and off-campus jobs and the "toughness and relentless work ethic" that he cultivated in his teens, Austin completed his undergraduate degree in business administration in 1998. He earned a master's degree three years later, and

shortly thereafter accepted his first professional job at Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach Campus as assistant director of student activities and adviser to the Student Government Association.

During a five-year period at the university, Austin was promoted to education specialist/academic adviser for First Year Programs and then to coordinator of the First Generation Student Program, which he developed to enhance achievement for first generation college students like himself.

"Kelly was instrumental in putting together a proposal to the Boeing Corporation, which provided a two-year \$30,000 grant that helped launch the program," says Richard Nicols, executive director of student academic support at Embry-Riddle. "He acted

BOOTSTRAPPING ACCOMPLISHMENT

First generation college student Kelly Austin ('04, DB) beats the odds, becomes one of nation's youngest university chancellors

► Raised in an economically challenged neighborhood on the outskirts of East Pittsburgh, Pa., Kelly Austin ('04, DB) says he learned as an adolescent that hard work could open doors of possibility and diminish the pains of poverty. At age 12, he got a newspaper route. By 14, he got a job at Joe's Butcher Shop and kept it until he graduated from high school. "Joe had an eye for detail and an outstanding work ethic," Austin recalls. "He would buy me shoes when I needed them. He was just one of those people in life that you don't forget."

Now chancellor at Pennsylvania State University at Schuylkill, Austin applies the lessons he learned from Joe and others to positively impact those within his sphere of influence.

as the First Generation Student Club's first adviser and was integral to its early success, due in no small part to his passion for the program and its students."

The program continues to flourish, Nicols adds. "In fact, it's been recognized as one of the strongest retention initiatives on campus."

While at Embry-Riddle, Austin also completed a Master of Business Administration-Aviation degree and served as an adjunct faculty member. In 2006, he accepted a director of student union/student activities post at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. By 2008, he had worked his way up to vice president of finance and administration. Austin was named chancellor of Penn State Schuylkill in January 2012 and officially took the helm in May.

Acknowledging his fast track to success, the 35-year-old advises those climbing the career ladder to "be ready for your moment."

Developing a strong professional network is also important, he says. Over the years, Austin stayed connected with Embry-Riddle through the Alumni Association and relationships with colleagues, including Mike Williams ('85, '88, DB), dean of Embry-Riddle's College of Business. A mentor and former professor of Austin's, Williams served on the dissertation committee for his Ph.D. in Administrative and Policy Studies, which Austin earned in 2011.

"Kelly was noticeable as both a student and a member of the adjunct faculty," Williams says. "He was very energetic and positive, and a natural teacher in the classroom." Williams attributes his former student's high level of professional achievement—at such a young age—to his outgoing personality and passion for learning. "To be a chancellor at his age is really a big deal," he says.

Giving Back

Austin credits his accomplishments in part to the encouragement he received along the way. "I was very fortunate to have people support and help me in my life when they didn't have to. At any time, the difference they were making could have been the make-or-break point that allowed me to continue to the next step."

Austin's wife, Allison, whom he met while attending Slippery Rock State University, was one of these influential people. "Allison has stood by me throughout most of my educational and professional journey," he says. "She has pushed me to realize goals that once seemed impractical. She is and continues to be the foundation of any success that I achieve."

Having benefited directly from the generosity of others as well as from social programs as a child, Austin says giving back is very important to him. "It's fully integrated into my everyday thinking," he says.

Austin and his family are active in their church and volunteer for a number of nonprofit organizations, local food banks and retirement homes. Taking his spirit of volunteerism one step further, he recently established a weeklong observance at Penn State Schuylkill, during which students, faculty and staff are urged to join in one of 10 university-sponsored community service projects.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Alumni Association named Austin its 2012 Outstanding Young Alumnus (see related article on page 31). He accepted the award on Oct. 12 during Wings and Waves/Alumni Weekend in Daytona Beach. Kelly, Allison and their sons, Aiden, 7, and Ethan, 5, reside in Orwigsburg, Pa.*

NAVIGATING HOME

"I had holes in my shoes and we didn't always have food. I got a paper route so I'd be able to buy my own clothes, which allowed me to fit in."

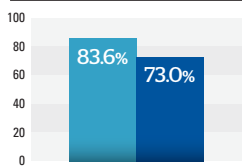


Empowering Achievement

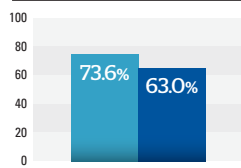
THE FIRST GENERATION STUDENT PROGRAM AT EMBRY-RIDDLE

RETENTION RATES*

1 Year after entering ERAU
[Fall 2006 - Fall 2010 Cohorts]

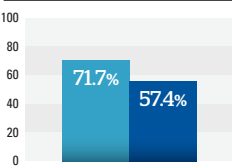


2 Years after entering ERAU
[Fall 2006 - Fall 2010 Cohorts]



GRADUATION RATES*

[Fall 2006 Cohort]



■ Active First Generation Program students ■ All other students

*Retention rates include student cohorts that entered the program/university in fall 2006 through fall 2010. Data for graduation rates is typically reported based on the percentage of students graduating within a six-year period, so this data only reflects the fall 2006 student cohort.

TWISTING FATE

Mark Dickey ('90, PC) turns obstacles into achievements in the air and on the land

▶ Mark Dickey ('90, PC) knows tragedy as well as triumph.

In 1986, he survived an automobile accident that took the life of his high school sweetheart Michelle (Shelly) Lynn. "My girlfriend was driving my car when we hit unmarked construction," he says. "The car flipped and I got pitched out of the moon roof. ... Shelly died five or six minutes later holding my hand."

A freshman at Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus at the time and a new member of the Golden Eagles Flight Team, Dickey suffered a broken neck and a crippled spirit from the wreck. But neither kept him down for long.

"At first, I didn't want to go back to school; but when my flight team coach and professor Ben Beagle called me several weeks later, just to see if I was OK, I thought, 'If I have a professor and a coach that cares that much about me, there's something special about this school and I need to be there,'" Dickey says. Returning to campus mid-semester, he threw himself into his studies. "The excellent faculty, excellent staff and the best friends you could ever have helped me pull through."

Gabriel Navarrete ('88, PC), a former college roommate of Dickey's and a fellow member of the Golden Eagles, says his friend was a "focused and driven" student. "When we became roommates in the fall of 1987, Mark opened up about the accident," Navarrete says. "He recalled the details of the crash quite vividly; it was a very traumatic experience. I know Mark had a lot of pain, but he hid it well."

Nearly 12 years later, in 1998, disaster struck again when Dickey fell and hit his head on concrete in a freak accident. "When I could finally start talking, the doctor said, 'You'll never walk again, you'll never drive and you'll never fly,'" he says. "I needed that. He told me I couldn't, so I did. When someone tells me I can't do something, I say, 'Watch me.'"

When the doctors advised him that his head injury could require up to 20 months of hospital care, Dickey took it as a personal challenge. "I was out in less than three months," he says.

On the positive side, the incident revealed a thyroid gland issue. Treatment resulted in a growth spurt for Dickey. "It sounds wrong to say this, but falling down and hitting his head was the best thing that could have happened to him," says Navarrete with a chuckle. "When I knew him at Prescott, he passed for a 12-year-old at the movie theater."

Golden Eagles

Raised in rural Kansas by a father who was one part farmer and one part air show boss, flight was a positive outlet for Dickey from a young age. He earned his private pilot's license in high school, learned aerobatic flying from the renowned Duane Cole, and spent summers flying agriculture aircraft and performing in air shows.

Not surprisingly, the pilot's time at Embry-Riddle was defined by his involvement with the Golden Eagles. "My junior year [1989], when the flight team won third place in nationals, was probably more important to me than getting a diploma, because that was our lives. We lived it every day," he says.

The flight team was a support system for its members, Navarrete says. "We were our family away from our family. For Mark, the flight team was his therapy."

Flight Plan

Dickey has woven a patchwork-like career, but there's been one constant thread: aviation. For the past 20-plus years he has owned and operated Mike-Delta Aviation, an aircraft design, assembly and testing business;

and until three years ago, he was still performing aerobatics. In 2009, Dickey transferred his business acumen from wings to wheels, literally, becoming manager and partner of The Hub Bicycle Shop in Hays, Kan. "After all, the Wright Brothers owned a bike shop," he says.

Recently, he started a new endeavor.

He moved back to Prescott to become lead salesperson for InMotion Simulation, owned by fellow Embry-Riddle alumnus Mark Barry ('90, PC). This spring, Dickey and Barry joined with Dustin Mosher ('12, PC) to create Blue Eagle Flight Simulation, an offshoot of InMotion that will design and produce full motion and static flight simulators.

Dickey is known for his aerobatic feats, but his academic accomplishments are equally commendable. Pursuing a lifelong interest in the workings of the mind, he earned a master's degree in clinical psychology in 2010. His research includes a study correlating friendship quality and self-esteem, a subject with which he has had firsthand experience. Dickey credits the lifetime friendships that started at Embry-Riddle with his ability to overcome an intense period of grief and self-examination that followed his girlfriend's death.

Supported by his Embry-Riddle friends, Dickey funneled his can-do attitude into achieving progressively greater heights, despite his personal loss. "I gave 125 percent to whatever I was doing. I wasn't happy with doing as good as everyone else; I had to do better than everyone else," he says.

Navarrete says he admires his friend's perseverance. "I think most people in Mark's situation would have hung it up and gone home, but he didn't," Navarrete says. "I'm really proud of what he's done."

NAVIGATING
HOME

"I never seem to do things the easy way. If it's easy, it's just not right."



Fun times: Gabriel Navarrete gives college roommate and fellow Golden Eagle teammate Mark Dickey a lift at OctoberWest 2012.



BRING ON THE THUNDER

Maj. J.R. Williams ('01, PC) perseveres through storm, turns dream into reality

▶ What does airsickness have in common with being a successful fighter pilot? The answer: U.S. Air Force Maj. J.R. Williams ('01, PC). Oddly, the Embry-Riddle alumnus overcame his propensity to become airsick not before, but after he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and selected for a pilot slot. It was during pilot training at Sheppard Air Force Base (AFB) in Texas that he finally conquered his body's "urge to purge" in flight.

According to Williams, it was touch and go for the first several months of training. "I was getting airsick every day," he says. "I was one flight away from going before the medical review board and basically being told that it may not be in the best interest of the Air Force for me to be a pilot."

Fortunately, the Behavioral Airsick Management program he was participating in started to take effect. Administered by John Pittner, a clinical neuropsychologist, the program involved daily motion therapy sessions. "Had it not been for him, I would not have gotten my wings at all," Williams says.

The physiological control techniques he learned at Sheppard AFB stuck. To date, Williams has enjoyed a 12-year career with the Air Force piloting F-15s and F-16s. Highlights include two combat tours, a two-year stint with the Thunderbirds that ended in 2012 and the accumulation of more than 2,000 flight hours.

NAVIGATING HOME

While his time with the Thunderbirds has "exceeded every expectation I've ever had," Williams says his combat service was the most memorable. Stationed at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, he flew an F-15E in support of ground troops for nearly five months during Operation Enduring Freedom. "We were there as a presence," Williams says. "Occasionally, the troops would get pinned down in a firefight and we would fly the jets over as a show of force. That was usually enough to get the fighting to stop."

The aircrew's proximity to ground operations provided a notable psychological benefit for the troops, as well. "Just us talking to them over the radio would help calm them down," Williams says. "It's about hearing their voice when you check in and gunfire is going off in the background; and then hearing their voice when you're done and it's all quiet. It was really rewarding to me, and really humbling at the same time."

Homecoming

Williams returned to his alma mater last October for Embry-Riddle's 2012 Wings and Waves Air Show in Daytona Beach, Fla.—one of his last performances as a Thunderbird. Although he completed his degree at the Prescott Campus, he says the Florida university feels like home, too. "You see all these students looking skyward, and that's still me," he says. During his visit, Williams took time to meet with members of the Embry-Riddle Student Alumni Association and the U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

The pilot says youth outreach is one of his favorite parts of being an Ambassador in Blue.



At Embry-Riddle, student questions ranged from what to expect at Air Force Pilot Training to Williams' combat experiences and how he landed a slot on the Thunderbird team.

Becoming a Thunderbird was never a part of his plan, Williams says. If fellow Embry-Riddle alumnus Maj. Aaron Jelinek ('01, PC) hadn't suggested it, he says he would not have applied for the post. The college friends reconnected in 2010 at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, where Jelinek was assigned to the

..... **"The biggest single thing that I experienced at Embry-Riddle was that everyone was looking up, just like I was."**

Thunderbirds, and Williams was flying the F-15C as an aggressor pilot.

"Aaron explained the Thunderbirds' mission and how they represent the best in the Air Force and all that's good in it," Williams says. "It's hard not to want to be a part of that. ... To find the best in yourself is very rewarding."

By 2011, Williams and Jelinek were performing together at air shows across the country and around the world as opposing solo No. 6 and lead solo No. 5, respectively. When Jelinek completed his two-year tour with the Thunderbirds in 2011, Williams moved to the lead solo position.

Code for Sacrifice

Williams knew he wanted to be a pilot, but the ROTC scholarship he needed to fund his education at Embry-Riddle had openings for computer science majors—not aeronautical science. Choosing

to sacrifice his passion in the short term for a long-term payoff, he rerouted his focus. "School is work and I wanted to fly airplanes. I didn't want to write computer code," he says. In time, however, he learned to compartmentalize his desire to fly. "I was able to concentrate on a goal of not only earning a degree from an amazing institution, but doing well enough to earn a pilot slot," he says.

College friends, including Jelinek, who could commiserate with his situation, helped him persevere. "By going to Embry-Riddle, I surrounded myself with people who had similar interests, goals and aspirations as myself," Williams says. "There's no way I would have even finished college had I not had a group of people pushing and egging me along."

The boy from Marfa, Texas, who as a child took Dramamine to avoid getting sick on flights in his father's single-engine Bonanza, has admittedly come a long way.

"I knew if I didn't try to fly fast, upside down, I'd always wonder if I could have done it," Williams says of his once dream of becoming a fighter pilot. He's not wondering anymore.

New Horizon

In April, Williams separated from active duty with the Air Force to spend more time with his wife, Kara, and their daughter, Danielle, 2. He plans to continue to serve his country in the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard, and to transition to civilian employment. He already has one job offer: working this summer for his wife's family business, the Diamond D Ranch in Stanley, Idaho. "I had to consider what was going to matter to me in 20 or 30 years from now. The opportunity to be there year-round with my family was my first priority," he says. 🦅

Left to right, Maj. J.R. Williams, lead solo No. 5, performs the reflection pass with Capt. Blaine Jones, opposing solo No. 6; Williams meets a young fan following an air show performance in the United Kingdom; Williams' smile shows he is 'at home' on campus.

Riding on Real Estate

Mike ('86, DB) and Joyce ('81, DB) Pepin transfer MBA-A knowledge to home sales

BY SARA WITHROW

When Mike ('86, DB) and Joyce ('81, DB) Pepin sell a home, they don't exchange high-fives or fist bumps. They simply share a knowing smile and pass the check around the table. "I like to see the check," Mike says. "Each sale represents countless hours of effort."

Mike and Joyce, who each hold a Master in Business Administration—Aviation, agree that the real estate profession is a nontraditional track for most Embry-Riddle graduates, even those with degrees from the College of Business. However, they say that their current

He convinced Joyce to join him in 2003, first as his assistant and ultimately as a buyer's agent and the broker for their company, Pepin Realty Inc., which opened in 2008.

The husband-wife team has developed a proven formula based on complementing each other's strengths. "We're opposites," Joyce says. "I'm a numbers person and Mike is a true marketing guy."

Mike says strict time management and professional coaching also contribute to their success. Early on, he aligned himself with the Mike Ferry Organization, a real estate consulting firm. Mike believes the ongoing assessment, advice and accountability the firm provides give him an edge over the competition. "There's no secret, I just work," he says.

The couple also took some pointers from their individual experiences at General Electric, where Joyce was a manager trainee, program administrator and finance manager for 19 years, and Mike worked for two years in product support and contract administration. Their time at the global manufacturing leader ingrained in them a solid business sense and instinct for best practices.

"You don't design and build simulators and not know what you're doing," Mike says. "The efficiencies at GE are excellent, and we've carried that example into our real estate company."

Eagle Advocates

The Pepins' business survived the recent economic recession, which hit Florida markets in 2008—the

The Pepins are also unofficial spokespersons for the university. When Joyce takes prospective clients on tours of the community, she never fails to introduce Embry-Riddle.

success is directly attributable to the management and entrepreneurial principles they learned at Embry-Riddle and honed in previous careers in the aerospace industry. Based on sales volume, Mike consistently performs among the top 1 percent of the highest real estate producers in the country.

Power Couple

Recognizing his talent for sales and marketing, Mike took the leap into real estate in 1990, becoming an agent for Hayward Brown in Daytona Beach, Fla. (now operating as Adams Cameron and Company).

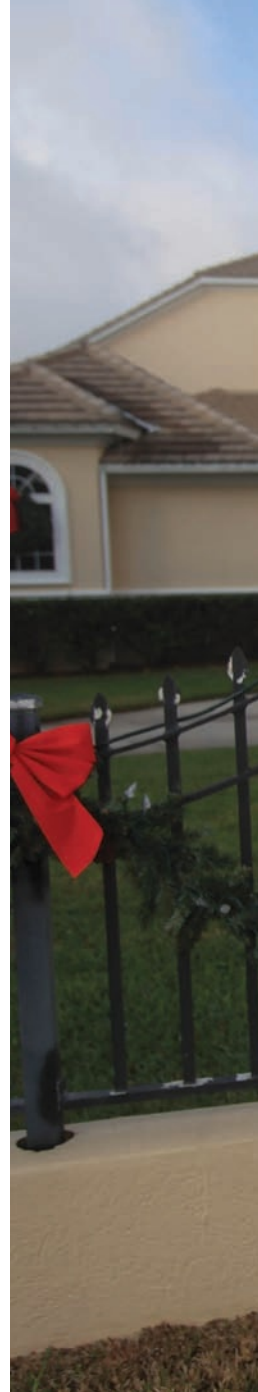


PHOTO BY DGMASSEY PHOTOGRAPHY



year they launched Pepin Realty— thanks in part to their business savvy and a substantial savings account. “It was tough there; we were living on a prayer and a wish and worked harder than ever,” Joyce says. On the bright side, she says she believes the local real estate market has “bottomed out” and demand and prices are beginning to climb in some areas.

Continual education is an important element in the Pepins’ professional toolbox. Joyce is an Accredited Buyer’s Representative, and Mike, a Certified Residential Specialist, holds 75 percent of professional designations available to Realtors. “Having the MBA is a big plus,” Joyce adds. “I always want to be more qualified than anyone else in my field.”

The Pepins attribute their business success and ability to survive challenges in the real estate market to their education, industry background and hard work. The couple leads the Embry-Riddle Daytona Beach Alumni Chapter.

After a postgraduation hiatus, during which they raised their two children, Mike and Joyce reconnected with their alma mater. They began attending alumni and athletics events and offering their services to relocating faculty and staff. The couple are co-leaders of the Daytona Beach Alumni Chapter and members of the Eagles Athletic Association; and Mike is a member of the Alumni Advisory Council.

The Pepins are also unofficial spokespersons for the university. When Joyce takes prospective clients on tours of the community, she never fails to introduce Embry-Riddle. “I get to drive them by Embry-Riddle and tell them it’s the greatest aeronautical university in the world,” she says. “That makes me proud.” 🦅

Doctors' Remedy

Drs. Chuck and Beth Duva help revitalize community with fellowship gift



BY KELLY CUCULIANSKY PRATT

Intrigued by the sights and sounds of a flight school located near his childhood home in Miami, it would be nearly a half-century later before Charles "Chuck" Duva, M.D., would cement his connection with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

As a teenager in South Florida, Chuck wanted to learn to fly, but couldn't afford flight lessons. When he and his family moved to Daytona Beach, Fla., in 1964, he put his goal of becoming a pilot to rest. As fate would have it, the then Embry-

Riddle Aeronautical Institute followed him to Daytona Beach just one year later. Chuck went on to pursue a career in medicine, but continued to watch from the sidelines as the school flourished and became a world-class university.

Now a successful business and medical leader, he and his wife, Elizabeth "Beth" Duva, who holds a Ph.D. in holistic nutrition, solidified their relationship with Embry-Riddle in 2012 by establishing the first aerospace engineering fellowship to support doctoral students. For the Duvas, the \$400,000 gift will not only help students reach the top level of their field, it's also an investment in their hometown.

"We're strong supporters of education and we really want to see our local community thrive," Chuck says.

College of Engineering Dean Maj Mirmirani says Embry-Riddle's new Ph.D. in Aeronautical Engineering is among the catalysts spurring new growth at the university. "The Duvas see how fast the university is growing and they want to be a part of this exciting enterprise," Mirmirani says. "Education is their passion and, of course, education has an impact on economic growth."

The doctorate in aerospace engineering, which debuts fall 2013, aligns with Embry-Riddle's emphasis on becoming an entrepreneurial university and a solutions-provider for industry. Student researchers

will work hand in hand with leading aerospace companies, many of which will ultimately take up residence at Embry-Riddle's developing 90-acre-plus Aerospace Research and Technology Park, Mirmirani says.

"When it comes to the technology park, I think the opportunities are limitless," Chuck says. "Once one organization comes, I think many more will follow and it will be a huge boon to the area."

Meeting the Need

The Drs. Charles and Elizabeth Duva Endowed Fellowship in Aerospace Engineering will support living stipends for two Ph.D. candidates per year. "The fellowship will provide much-needed financial support

HONORING THEIR SUPPORT

The Jim W. Henderson Administration & Welcome Center Banquet Hall at the Daytona Beach Campus was named in honor of Drs. Beth and Chuck Duva, in recognition of their support of graduate level research and education at Embry-Riddle.

PHOTO BY TONY GIESE PHOTOGRAPHY



to allow students to devote the necessary time to their studies without having to worry about how to make ends meet," Mirmirani says. Doctoral candidates can expect a research workload as rigorous as a full-time job, he adds.

Recognizing how fortunate she and her husband have been, Beth says establishing the fellowship is an opportunity to help others achieve their career aspirations. "We were very blessed with being able to work, take out loans and pay for our school," she says. "It wasn't always stress-free, so it is our hope that maybe someone else will have an easier time."

'You Can't Have Too Much Education'

The investment in higher education reflects the Duvas' own academic pursuits. "Based on just looking at both of us, you really can't have too much education," Chuck says.

In addition to having her doctorate, Beth is a registered nurse, holds bachelor's degrees in special education and sociology and a master's degree in teaching. For 15 years, the North Carolina native worked as a special education language arts teacher in Tennessee, before relocating to Florida.

After completing a bachelor's degree in biology, Chuck earned a Doctor of Medicine degree. As a medical doctor and fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians, he practiced emergency

medicine for 20 years, until he was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident. Transitioning to administration, he completed a graduate degree in medical management from Tulane University in 1997, and established DuvaSawko, a medical coding, billing, accounts receivable management and software development company, with business partner William Sawko, M.D.

The Duvas' investment in the community starts with DuvaSawko, which employs about 250 people in Daytona Beach and conducts business for doctors' practices in 10 states. Chuck is also a former vice president and co-owner of Fish Hospital in Deland, Fla., and has ownership interests in Emergency Medicine Professionals, a physician staffing company to support emergency departments, and PrimeCare Urgent Care Centers, a walk-in clinic with two locations in the Daytona Beach area. This spring, he plans to launch a new business, Edge Physician Services, a physician recruiting company.

Leaving Their Mark

As education advocates with no children, Beth says she and Chuck often asked themselves what their legacy should be. "We said, 'Where would the need be? Where could we be helpful?' We talked about it for a long time and this was something we really wanted to do: contribute and give back," she says.

They also view their involvement with Embry-Riddle as a way to support an industry that's captivated their interest for almost as long as healthcare. In fact, Beth might have pursued a career in aviation, had she not met Chuck. In between jobs in the mid-1990s, she was waiting to hear back about a flight attendant position with Delta Air Lines, when Chuck hired her as a health educator at a wellness center he owned. Beth's background in education, weight management and competitive body building made her a great fit for the job, he says.

While education and business success have driven the couple, so has adventure outside the classroom and workplace. Both Chuck and Beth are avid mountaineers. While Chuck typically climbs to altitudes of roughly 11,000 feet or less, Beth pushes the envelope a bit higher. Having already conquered the Andes, her latest exploit is reaching the 19,340-foot summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa.

When asked what's next, the Duvas say new heights of another sort may be in store for them—possibly in the pilot training that piqued Chuck's interest so long ago. 🦋

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"We talked about it for a long time and this was something we really wanted to do: contribute and give back."

Drs. Beth and Chuck Duva's gift to the university supports the creation of two fellowships for students enrolled in the new Ph.D. in Aeronautical Engineering program. They are pictured outside the Lehman Engineering and Technology Center/College of Engineering building on the Daytona Beach Campus.



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Giving to Embry-Riddle is now on Facebook! Just visit www.facebook.com/GivingToEmbryRiddle.



Helping Eagles Fly

Jim Huntoon ('93, DB; '10, WW) shares knowledge and opportunities with students

BY KELLY CUCULIANSKY PRATT

Jim Huntoon ('93, DB; '10, WW) is not a teacher in the traditional sense, but in January he visited eight Embry-Riddle classrooms in one day, imparting life lessons to help fellow Eagles advance in their careers.

A member of the Maintenance Committee for the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA), Huntoon had the same agenda he did the first time he spoke to Embry-Riddle classes in 2012. He expects students and

alumni to make another sweeping grab for the 35 awards distributed annually through NBAA's Maintenance Technical Reward and Career Scholarship (TRACS) program.

In response to Huntoon's 2012 classroom presentations, Embry-Riddle students submitted a record-setting 17 applications and won 10 scholarships valued at more than \$100,000—the most for any one school. The awards provide funding for model-specific aircraft engine and avionics training courses.

Part of the Culture

Huntoon's classroom visits are just one way he supports his alma mater and its graduates. He is a member of Embry-Riddle's Alumni Advisory Council and a past participant in Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK), a program that originated in the 1990s to assist in recruiting talented students to Embry-Riddle.

Helping Eagles achieve their career aspirations is part of the Embry-Riddle culture, whether it's providing

Jim Huntoon is pictured with six of the 10 Embry-Riddle NBAA 2012 TRACS award recipients. Counterclockwise are Michael Deeb ('13, DB), Mark Repanshek Jr. ('11, '12, DB), Christopher Piccone ('11, DB), Huntoon, Casee Penrod ('14, DB), James Sullivan ('14, DB) and Cody Hopp ('13, DB).

a job or a training lead, being a mentor, or encouraging a high school student to continue his or her education at Embry-Riddle, Huntoon says. It's a philosophy that comes from firsthand experience.

"The reason I've had a successful career is because of my foundation at Riddle, but also because of alumni who reached out and helped open doors for me. That's what we do," says Huntoon, who has worked in corporate aviation maintenance and service sales for 20 years, and in December joined Aircell-GoGo, an inflight telecommunications and broadband company.

Thanks to a networking relationship built through the Embry-Riddle Dallas Alumni Chapter, Huntoon received a job interview in 1999 at Gulfstream Aerospace. Shortly thereafter, he moved from CAE SimuFlite, where he had worked for seven years as regional sales manager, to a maintenance sales position at Gulfstream. Later, he expanded his work experience as vice president of sales at Comlux-The Aviation Group, and most recently at Dallas Airmotive, where he specialized in representing Rolls-Royce Spey and Tay engine products and several other engine lines.

A beneficiary of Eagle goodwill himself, Huntoon says he is honored to be in a position where he can help Embry-Riddle students and alumni achieve their career goals. "These [TRACS] scholarships can change lives," says Huntoon, who resides with his wife and two children in Deland, Fla.

Cody Hopp, who plans to graduate this May, is quick to agree. Hopp learned about the NBAA TRACS opportunities through Huntoon and took home the largest single award in 2012—a \$40,000 scholarship to attend the Gulfstream G550 Initial Maintenance Course.

"When I got the news, I was just elated," says Hopp, a veteran Army sergeant who is earning a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics with a minor in avionics line maintenance.

Hopp plans to attend the Gulfstream course this summer, and believes the training will set him on the path to his dream job as a corporate aircraft mechanic at Gulfstream. "Rather than a company having to pay for me to go to that school, I'll already have the experience," he says. "It definitely puts me a leg above anyone else graduating at the same time."

Like others in Embry-Riddle's Aviation Maintenance Science program, he wasn't familiar with NBAA and thought he had exhausted his scholarship search. "I had looked for scholarships; however, most of them weren't available to me because I was getting VA [Veterans Affairs] benefits. When Mr. Huntoon came in and spoke to our class about NBAA and their scholarships, it really opened my eyes," Hopp says.

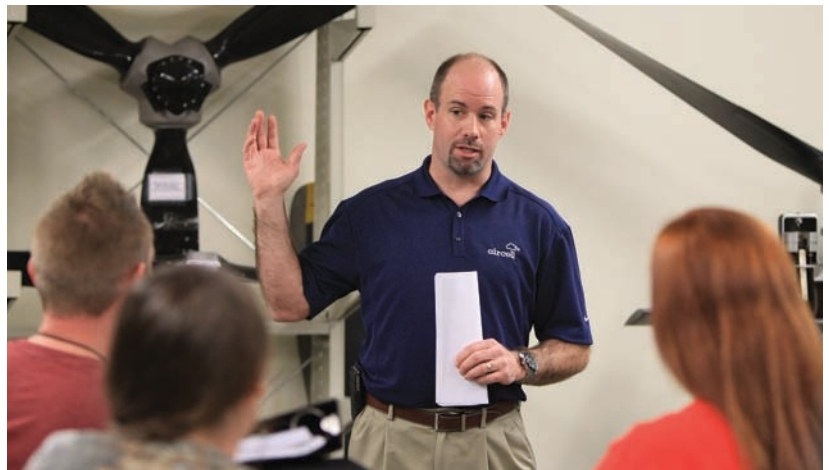
Huntoon also offered him advice on how to submit a strong application, and he has remained in touch with Hopp and several other scholarship applicants ever since.

Encouraging the Next Generation

Huntoon's enthusiasm for helping students isn't new. As an ASK program participant in the 1990s, he was a frequent volunteer at high school college fairs, encouraging prospective students to consider Embry-Riddle. He is looking forward to interacting with potential students again, when a revised version of ASK is launched later this year.

Huntoon fondly recalls one of his success stories: a teenager he connected with in 1997, while volunteering for ASK at a college fair in Fort Worth, Texas. Sensing the teen's enthusiasm for aviation, Huntoon offered him a flight in a Level D simulator at SimuFlite, where he worked at the time. Eleven years later, the young man contacted Huntoon through a social media website to thank him for showing an interest in his future. Huntoon saved the note, which reads: "You gave a certain youngster his first taste of what it would be like to fly a Cessna Citation and the Hawker, and it was a dream fulfilled. That youngster

Jim Huntoon's classroom presentations in 2012 inspired students to apply for and earn scholarships that totaled more than \$100,000. Below: In January, he revisited Embry-Riddle to encourage students to apply for 2013 awards.



..... **"The reason I've had a successful career is because of my foundation at Riddle, but also because of alumni who reached out and helped open doors for me. That's what we do."**

went on to your old alma mater [Embry-Riddle] and got a job as a 135 freight dispatcher. And that youngster was indeed me."

It is a message Huntoon won't soon forget.

"Eagles have a camaraderie that opens doors, and it's my hope that the next generation continues that reciprocity," he says.

It's a guiding principle that he is working to instill in new graduates. So when Hopp and other NBAA-TRACS winners say things like, "How can I thank you?" Huntoon has an answer at the ready: "Once you get established and get going in your career, you can do it, too. Give back and open that door for someone else." 🐦

ALUMNI NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

I am excited to be leading the Embry-Riddle Alumni Association as its newly named executive director. We have a great team in place and a number of alumni events and activities already scheduled for the coming year. For up-to-date information, visit the eaglesNEST at www.eraualumni.org/events.

If we have never met, I would like to introduce myself. I am a 1987 graduate of the Prescott Campus, and for the past three years, I have served as Prescott's director of Alumni Relations. In all, I have worked for Embry-Riddle for more than 18 years. During that time, I've worn a lot of hats, including director of Admissions and Enrollment, director of external/community relations, and in my early years, assistant director of Alumni Relations. Essentially, I've progressed from searching the world over for some of the best student talent for recruitment purposes, to searching for Embry-Riddle alumni so that I can reconnect them with their alma mater and share their success stories with others.

Please contact me with your suggestions at William.Thompson@erau.edu.

I also have a background in the aerospace industry. After graduating with a degree in aviation business administration, I worked for Northrop Aerospace Company in El Segundo, Calif. I was also a small business manager/owner for a few years, before I returned to Embry-Riddle in 1994.

For more than 20 years, the Embry-Riddle family has been my family. In May, my daughter, Chelsea, will join our growing alumni network. Am I proud? You bet!

Our excellent Alumni Relations staff, which includes fellow Eagles **Edmund Odartey** ('04, '10, DB), director of Alumni Relations at Daytona Beach, and **Keith Deaton** ('05, '12, DB), associate director of outreach for Alumni Relations, is at your service. We look forward to working with our Alumni Advisory Council—and all of you—as we continue to enhance our programs and services and engage alumni all over the United States and the world.

Forever an Eagle!

Bill Thompson ('87, PC)
Executive Director

 [facebook.com/ERAUAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/ERAUAlumni)

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 Search Embry-Riddle
Aeronautical University
Official Alumni Group

 "Join the Nest":
www.ERAUalumni.org



Eagles Rally for One of Their Own

'We Are 1 Run' supports
alumna's fight against cancer

BY TORI CARTA

Members of the Phi Gamma Delta International Fraternity (FIJI) and the Embry-Riddle community took turns this January biking and running a 200-mile stretch of road to support **Kate (Schwikert) Waidmann** ('02, DB) in her fight against cancer.

Described as a "once in a lifetime experience" by several of the participants, the "We Are 1 Run" started at 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 25, at the Embry-Riddle Daytona Beach Campus and ended at noon the following day at Northwood University in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Waidmann, who played for the Eagles' women's soccer team in 1999 and 2000, was diagnosed with Stage III colon cancer in September 2012. She endured

PHOTOS BY CANDACE ADKISON



Alumna Kate (Schwikert) Waidmann is running the race of her life: a battle against Stage III colon cancer. Embry-Riddle Athletics, FIJI fraternity members, faculty, staff and students participated in a fundraising run in January to help offset her medical costs.

an aggressive chemotherapy treatment last fall and invasive surgery on Jan. 30.

"You would never know in talking to her the depth of what she has been through and what she will be going through in the future," says Sam Bohon, Embry-Riddle women's soccer coach. "I definitely see an athlete mentality in Kate and an impressive competitive drive to overcome this challenge."

"We Are 1 Run" participants were divided into three groups, with each covering 60-80 miles of the route that largely followed U.S. Hwy. 1. All three groups joined together for the last half mile to the entrance of Northwood University chanting "We Are One" in unison. Waidmann was there to take in the scene, feel the energy and receive a check in the amount of \$4,500 to assist with her medical expenses. The check was presented by Corbin McKeon, president of Embry-Riddle's newly established FIJI fraternity.

Waidmann, an aeronautical science graduate and pilot, says the "We Are 1 Run," organized by FIJI and Embry-Riddle Athletics, couldn't have come at a better time. Already looking forward to the next Embry-Riddle gathering, she says she hopes to attend the Daytona Beach Campus Women's Soccer Alumni Weekend on April 19-21. Waidmann and her husband, Greg, reside in Delray Beach, Fla.



'We Are 1 Run' participants stride to the finish line at Northwood University in West Palm Beach, Fla., chanting 'We are one.'



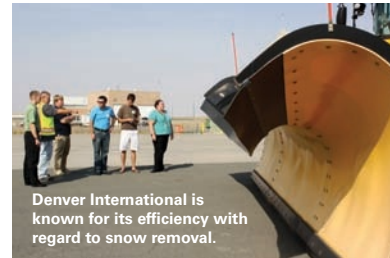
Steven Hennigan demonstrates the firefighting equipment at Denver International Airport.

Airport Exclusive

Chapter enjoys behind-the-scenes tour of Denver International

The Alumni Chapter in Denver gathered for a tour of and behind-the-scenes look at the Denver International Airport (DEN) on Sunday, Sept. 23, 2012. The outing included a briefing on the Denver Fire Department Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting equipment, new multifunction snow equipment, and a general tour of the non-movement area. Chapter leader **Steve Hennigan** ('97, PC), airport aviation operations manager at DEN, organized the activity.

"Steve did an amazing job putting this event together. The alumni enjoyed every second of the tour," says **Keith Deaton** ('05, '12, DB), associate director of outreach for the Alumni Association. "Not only did we learn that DEN is the fastest in the nation at removing snow, but we also got to take aim with the fire hose and take a ride 100 feet into the air in the fire truck bucket."



Denver International is known for its efficiency with regard to snow removal.

Celebrating in Style

RECENT GRADUATES JOIN ALUMNI AND FRIENDS FOR PUGET SOUND CRUISE

New graduates of the Embry-Riddle Worldwide Campus in Seattle, Wash., joined alumni and friends on Sept. 30, 2012, for a cruise across the Puget Sound. The newly minted graduates joined the alumni network just one day earlier at their commencement ceremony, held at Seattle's Museum of Flight.

Thomas Brown ('10, WW), who was on board with companion Pam Murray, says the cruise provided a great networking opportunity with a scenic backdrop. "Pam and I hope to attend many future Embry-Riddle alumni events, as this was a day to be remembered," says Brown, president of Dragoda, a global telecommunications company.



Zack and Corrinne (Borsman) McKenna

Four years later on Oct. 16, 2012, Corrinne opened her first wedding anniversary card from Zach. A note

Where It All Started

Bench commemorates couple's meeting place at Embry-Riddle

BY KELLY CUCULIANSKY PRATT

A week after their first wedding anniversary, **Corrinne (Borsman)** ('09, DB) and **Zachary "Zach" McKenna** ('10, DB) returned to the Embry-Riddle Daytona Beach Campus in search of the exact bench where their love story began on a summer day during their sophomore year in 2007.

"We met in front of Alphabet Soup—right in front of the A building," Zach says, referring to the Lindbergh Academic Complex that was demolished in April 2012 to make way for a new College of Arts and Sciences building. "We had an aviation history class together that semester. I had seen her in class during the first week and I knew I wanted to get to know her a little better."

A mutual friend introduced the couple. Corrinne, a member of Tri Sigma, was sitting with their friend at the black metal bench wearing her sorority jersey, when Zach approached in his Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps uniform.

inside informed her of his plan to retrieve "their bench" and bring it back to their apartment in Pensacola, Fla. "I thought it was the coolest gift ever," says Corrinne, who will add an associate degree in graphic design to her resume this spring.

After learning that the Alphabet Soup classrooms were slated for demolition, Zach contacted Embry-Riddle about the bench and began arranging the surprise nearly six months before their anniversary. Considered no longer in usable condition and awaiting disposal, staff members were happy to give the bench to the couple. A handful of old benches, each identical to the next, awaited their choice at a storage site, where Corrinne and Zach jokingly took a seat on a few in an attempt to identify *their* bench from the others. "This one feels right," says Corrinne, eliciting a smile from Zach.

The bench is now proudly displayed on the couple's patio. Corrinne says it makes a great conversation piece and shows the softer side of Zach, a first lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps who is training to fly a TH-57 helicopter at Naval Air Station Whiting Field and will soon be training on the C-12 King Air and V-22 Osprey.

"I love bragging about it any chance I get," Corrinne says. "With Zach being in the Marines, we meet new people all the time. When we have people over for dinner and make our way outside, our guests will sit down, realize what they're sitting on and say, 'Whoa.'"

For Zach, the bench is a significant piece of the couple's history. It's fun to share the story with new friends who are curious about the odd piece of furniture, he says. He also looks forward to sharing it with future McKenna family members.

"It will be great to tell our kids the story; and they will have a tangible piece of what brought their parents together," he says.



PHOTO BY KELLY CUCULIANSKY PRATT



Guest Speaker Richard Zaher, CEO of Paramount Business Jets, right, Oscar Garcia ('04, DB), left, and Jeffrey Gutowski ('85, WW)



Boris Tonev ('03, WW), left, and Amyr Qureshi ('85, '86, DB)



Samantha Wilson visits with Erik Dielschneider ('03, DB), center, and another guest at the alumni reception.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Embry-Riddle's 2013 Industry/Career Expos

Oct. 3

Embry-Riddle Prescott Campus, Ariz.

Oct. 9

Embry-Riddle Daytona Beach Campus, Fla.

Select candidates may be asked to return to campus for an interview the day after the Industry/Career Expos. For additional information and job resources visit: <http://careers.erau.edu>.

Industry leaders, alumni gather for NBAA 2012

Key industry leaders gathered in October for one of the biggest aviation events of the year. Held in Orlando, Fla., the National Business Aviation Association's (NBAA) 65th Annual Meeting & Convention attracted more than 25,000 attendees, Oct. 30 through Nov. 1. Kicking off the convention, Embry-Riddle shared news of a milestone partnership finalized with Advanced Aerospace Solutions (AdvAero) (see related article page 2).

After a full day at the convention, approximately 125 alumni and friends gathered on Oct. 31 at the nearby Rosen Centre for a Halloween-themed reception hosted by the

Alumni Association. Guests had the opportunity to meet representatives from the Embry-Riddle Student Alumni Association and the NBAA Official Student Group from the Daytona Beach Campus.

Featured speaker **Richard Zaher** ('99, DB), CEO of Paramount Business Jets, discussed the importance of persistence in a challenging aviation industry, and how he successfully launched his company in 2005 with the help of 25 Embry-Riddle students. Zaher received the Embry-Riddle Eagle of Excellence award during the reception for his contributions to the Alumni Association and the aviation industry.



Tyler Grinnell ('08, DB), launch engineer for SpaceX, visits with an Embry-Riddle student at a recent Industry/Career Expo at the Daytona Beach Campus.



EVENTS ON THE RADAR

Meet with fellow Eagles and representatives of your Alumni Association at these upcoming events. Visit the eaglesNEST at www.eraualumni.org/events for additional details, updates and a full list of networking opportunities.

APRIL 9-14

SUN 'n FUN, Lakeland, Fla.

APRIL 16

Embry-Riddle's Fifth Annual Veterans Appreciation Day, featuring **Maj. Gen. Margaret Woodward** ('97, WW) and retired **Brig. Gen. Daniel Woodward** ('80, DB), Daytona Beach Campus, Fla.

MAY 4

Worldwide Campus Commencement, Daytona Beach Campus, Fla.; and Prescott and Worldwide Campuses Commencement, Prescott Campus, Ariz.

MAY 7

Daytona Beach Campus Commencement, Daytona Beach, Fla.

MAY 19-22

American Association of Airport Executives Conference & Exposition, Reno, Nev.

JUNE 17-23

Paris Air Show at Le Bourget, Paris, France

JULY 29-AUG. 4

Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture, Oshkosh, Wis.

AUG. 12-15

Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International Conference, Washington, D.C.

SEPT. 28

Worldwide Seattle Campus Commencement, Seattle, Wash.

SEPT. 29

Seattle Alumni Network and friends Puget Sound cruise, Seattle, Wash.

OCT. 3-5

Embry-Riddle's OctoberWest/Wings Out West Air Show and

kickoff for the year-long 25th anniversary celebration of the Women in Aviation International Conference, Prescott, Ariz.

OCT. 18

Alumni Network International Eagle Day - community service events, worldwide locations

OCT. 22-24

National Business Aviation Association's Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition, Las Vegas, Nev.

NOV. 7-9

Embry-Riddle's Alumni Weekend, Daytona Beach Campus, Fla.

Celebrating Excellence

Alumni standouts recognized

CALLING ALL ALUMNI

Do you know an outstanding graduate of Embry-Riddle?

The Alumni Association is accepting nominations for its 2013 Alumni Awards through July 31. For information, visit: www.eraualumni.org/awards.

The Alumni Association hosted its biennial celebration of outstanding alumni achievement on Oct. 5 during homecoming festivities at OctoberWest in Prescott, Ariz., and on Oct. 12 during Alumni Weekend in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Alumni award recipients are nominated by their peers and university representatives and selected by a committee consisting of members of the Alumni Advisory Council, alumni at-large and university staff.

Several Alumni Chapters and their leaders were also recognized for their consistent efforts throughout the year at strengthening the Eagle Alumni Network. They include: Atlanta Chapter, led by Jonathan ('03, DB) and Lindsay ('03, DB, Non-degree) Seitz; Washington, D.C. Chapter, led by Angie Hernandez ('05, DB), Ron Baker ('01, DB) and Roberta Zimmerman ('02, DB; '11, WW); and the Houston Chapter, led by Steve ('04, '09, DB) and Jackie ('06, '08, DB) Abreu-Hill. Mary Catherine Tennant ('88, PC) was honored as well, for her volunteerism and leadership of the Prescott Area Alumni Chapter from 2008 to 2012.



Left to right, Alumni chapter leaders Lindsay and Jonathan Seitz (Atlanta); Roberta Zimmerman (Washington, D.C.); and Jackie and Steve Abreu-Hill (Houston)



Mary Catherine Tennant



D. Keith Mosing and Alice Mosing



Capt. Lou Németh and family

Additionally, at the Oct. 12 event, the inaugural Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship award was presented to Alejandra Restrepo, a junior studying aeronautics at the Daytona Beach Campus. A scholarship fund created in 2011 with initial contributions from the Atlanta and New York chapters, the fund grew to

endowment level last year with gifts from the Daytona Beach Campus Senior Class Council and the Council of 100, an alumni giving club dedicated to building the scholarship fund. Members of the Council of 100 were also honored at the award ceremonies. Congratulations to all of our award winners!

Philanthropy Award

D. Keith Mosing ('97, WW)

B.S. Professional Aeronautics
Chairman and CEO of Frank's International, Frank's Casing Crew and Rental Tools, Antelope Oil Tools and Western Airways

Recognized for his *high level of commitment to the university through philanthropic contributions and involvement in the direction of these gifts*, Mosing is a U.S. Army veteran, a 2003 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year and a strong believer in the power of education. Along with his wife, Alice, he created two student scholarships at Embry-Riddle: The D. Keith Mosing Family Scholarship and the D. Keith Mosing Business and Management Fellowship Fund. The couple are also members of the Legacy Society at Embry-Riddle, having included a gift for the university in their estate.

Alumni Achievement Award

Capt. Lou Németh ('76, DB)

B.S. Aviation Management
Vice President of Training Services and Chief Safety Officer for CAE; Founder and Managing Member of Training Innovations Group, LLC; and Embry-Riddle Trustee

Recognized for his *exceptional commitment to the aviation and aerospace industry through his personal and professional success*, Németh has led a storied career. Prior to his involvement at CAE, he worked for 27 years for US Airways. Career highlights also include: five years as director of flight operations for Flight International, during which time the business grew from seven to 60 aircraft; adviser to the FlightSafety Academy; and chairman and co-founder of KIVALO, Inc. A former practitioner trustee for the Council on Aviation Accreditation, and committee member for the Air Transport Association and the Federal Aviation Administration, Németh currently serves as

a chairman and co-chairman, respectively, for two international and U.S. Congressional Committees on Aviation Safety. He is also a noted industry author and speaker.

Alumni Volunteer Award

Xavier Samuels ('96, DB)

B.S. Aeronautical Science
First Officer, Continental Airlines

Recognized for his *contributions to the aviation/aerospace industry and his community at-large through the volunteering of his time and talents*, Samuels created the Pilots and Professionals in Schools program at Continental Airlines. The award-winning program coordinates classroom visits of pilots and business professionals, who speak with students about their experiences and the importance of education. Over the last seven years, the program has touched more than 50,000 students. As a member of the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals, Samuels also helps organize student events and summer camps, where youth are introduced to

careers in aviation. The nine-year veteran of the U.S. Navy is also credited with founding the Tau Gamma Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity at Embry-Riddle.

Alumni Service Award

Roberta Zimmerman

('02, DB; '11, WW)
B.S. Aeronautical Science;
M.S. Aerospace Science
Senior Multi-Discipline System Engineer at The MITRE Corporation

Recognized for her *selfless commitment and enthusiasm for her alma mater*, Zimmerman is co-leader of the Washington, D.C. Embry-Riddle Alumni Chapter; has co-led the Embry-Riddle Alumni softball team for the past six years, and started a D.C.-area Alumni volleyball team in 2012. She is a member of Women in Aviation, Women in Aerospace, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Society of Aviation and Flight Educators, and Friends of Beacon Field. Zimmerman also volunteers as a docent at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Udvar-Hazy Center.

Military Achievement Award

Col. Gary Anderson ('71, DB)

B.S. Aviation Management
U.S. Marine Corps (retired); Governance Advisor for the U.S. State Department for a Province in Afghanistan

Recognized for his *outstanding success in the military*, Anderson is a retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel with 29 years of distinguished service. Career highlights include: assisting with contingency operations during the 1989 Philippine Coup Crisis at Subic Bay; serving as military liaison officer in 1993 in Mogadishu, Somalia; commanding Camp Hansen in Okinawa, Japan; and serving as a United Nations observer in Lebanon and Israel. Upon retiring from the military, he became the first executive director of the Center for Emerging Threats and Opportunities at Quantico, Va. A member of the Marine Corps Association, he serves on the executive committee of the National Institute for Urban Search and Rescue and on several Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency panels and is a lifelong member of Alpha Eta Rho International Aviation Fraternity. Anderson continues to serve his country as a civilian governance advisor in Afghanistan.

Outstanding Young Alumnus

Kelly Austin ('04, DB)

M.S. Business Administration - Aviation
Chancellor at Pennsylvania State University at Schuylkill

Austin is recognized as a *young graduate (within the past decade) who has excelled in his field of endeavor, achieving professional success above and beyond his peers; and who has served his community selflessly*. At the age of 35, he is one of the youngest university chancellors in the nation. See related article, page 14.



Xavier Samuels



Roberta Zimmerman



Kelly Austin



Col. Gary Anderson

Chancellor Launches Prescott Alumni Hall of Fame

Honoring alumni for their significant contributions to their profession, the community, the Prescott Campus and the university, the first Prescott Chancellor's Hall of Fame awards were presented by Chancellor Frank Ayers on Oct. 5 at the Alumni Awards Dinner held during OctoberWest on the Prescott Campus.

"These inaugural inductees represent the highest caliber of alumni and community representatives of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Prescott Campus," Ayers says. Selected at the chancellor's discretion, the awards acknowledge the leadership roles of graduates involved nationally with successful projects across diverse industries.

Hall of Fame Honorees

Margaret (Peg) S. Billson ('84, PC)
B.S. Aeronautical Engineering
 President, Ontic



Billson began her career at Douglas Aircraft Company, before moving to

Honeywell, where she ascended to vice president and general manager of air frame systems. She moved on to become chief operating officer of Eclipse Aviation and in 2009, she joined Ontic, an arm of BBA Aviation. She serves on the Board of Directors of SkyWest; and has also supported her alma mater as an alumni representative to Embry-Riddle's Board of Trustees, a member of the Prescott Campus Board of

Visitors and a commencement speaker. She also led the fundraising campaign, along with her classmates, to name the wind tunnel lab at the Prescott Campus in honor of professor Tracy Doryland.

Mark G. LaPole, Ph.D. ('84, PC)
B.S. Aeronautical Engineering
 Director Advanced Imaging, Ball Aerospace



At Ball Aerospace, LaPole manages a variety of electro-optical and robotic systems projects for NASA and the intelligence communities; and he led the team that serviced the Hubble Space Telescope. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he worked at Eastern Space and Missile Center, Seatronics

Engineering and Siebe Systems, before joining Ball Aerospace in 1990. He has received numerous honors, including the 2010 Space Foundation Achievement Award; eight NASA Achievement Awards; the NASA Silver Snoopy; and U.S. Air Force Officer of the Year. LaPole is a member of the Prescott Campus Board of Visitors and a strong advocate and supporter of the Tracy Doryland Wind Tunnel naming campaign.

Katie A. Pribyl ('00, PC)
B.S. Aeronautical Science
 Vice President of Communications, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)



Prior to joining AOPA in 2012, Pribyl was director of communications for the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, where she led communications and public affairs initiatives affecting general aviation manufacturers around the world. Communications isn't her only field of expertise. For more than four years, Pribyl was a pilot/first officer for Atlantic Coast Airlines and Independence Air. She is a certified flight instructor; and a member of the Lindbergh Foundation Board, the Board of Senior Advisors to the National Intercollegiate Flying Association, Embry-Riddle's Alumni Advisory Council and the Prescott Campus Board of Visitors.

John W. Markham ('96, PC)
B.S. Electrical Engineering
 Director of Programs, Cobham Avionics-Communications



A U.S. Army veteran, Markham's career includes stints as a computer numerical control

machinist, an organ transplant coordinator, and an electrical engineer and draftsman. In 2002, he joined Wulfsberg Electronics as a senior principal software engineer; and by 2005, he had worked his way up to vice president of engineering. With the integration of Wulfsberg into Cobham Avionics in 2008, Markham became director of programs. He has maintained an ongoing involvement with Embry-Riddle, facilitating intern and scholarship opportunities for students and graduates, and serving as a member of the board of visitors.

Jody (Fisher) Davis ('03, PC)
B.S. Aerospace Engineering
 Aerospace Engineer, NASA Langley Research Center



Davis was a part of the entry, descent and landing team that planned and implemented the safe landing of NASA's Mars Science Laboratory/Curiosity rover on Aug. 5, 2012. See related article, page 12.

To share your Class Notes with *Lift* and your fellow alumni, join **eaglesNEST**, the online community created exclusively for graduates of Embry-Riddle. Visit www.eraualumni.org/join today; or submit your announcements via email to eralumni@erau.edu.

Career News

1970s

Charles McMahon ('72, DB) was featured in a National Geographic special titled, *Inside the Vietnam War*, which aired Dec. 28, 2012. McMahon served as a rifle squad leader for the U.S. Marine Corps in the Vietnam War. He completed his tour of duty and military service in 1968 at the age of 19. Ironically, his name is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. The listing, however, represents a soldier who shared his name and home state (Massachusetts), who was killed in action in 1975.

1980s

Mike McElvaney ('82, PC) is vice president of operations for New Doha International Airport in Qatar.

Capt. Rick Muir ('83, PC) was selected as the Houston, Texas, chief pilot for United Airlines. He has served as a Boeing 737 assistant chief pilot in Houston since 2009; and most recently, as project manager for aircraft redeployment and operational reliability. Muir resides in Kingwood, Texas, with his family.

M.J. Caro ('84, DB) is director of Records and Registration at Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach Campus, effective September 2012. She previously worked as assistant director of

enrollment services at Lehigh Carbon Community College and director of student affairs at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. In addition to her Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Studies, she also earned an Associate of Science in Aviation Management at Embry-Riddle. In the aviation field, she was a dispatcher and flight coordinator for 10 years, and holds a private pilot's license. She also earned a master's degree in business communication/leadership and influence from Jones International University and a bachelor's degree in advertising and graphic design/art history from Moravian College.

J. Bruce Huffman ('87, WW) is a director of The Distinguished Flying Cross Society (DFCS) Board and president and CEO of Flight Assurance, an aircraft operational compliance consulting firm located in Upper Jay, New York.

He and several members of DFCS were honored in September 2012 at The Wings Club in New York. The DFCS is founded on fraternity and fellowship among past and present military flyers from all five U.S. armed services and of all ranks and genders, who have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Debbie Martinez ('87, DB) was among the "Top Hispanics in Computer Science and Computer Engineering" in the spring 2012 issue of *Hispanic Engineer & Information Technology*. Martinez is a deputy project manager for Atmospheric Environment Safety Technologies and System-Wide Safety and Assurance Technologies at NASA's Langley Research Center.

1990s

Brent Carter ('91, DB) published a revised edition of his book on leadership titled, *Untamed Leadership: A Journey Through the Instincts That Shape Us*. Carter, who specializes in the psychology and social dynamics of teams, began writing this book while providing leadership development consulting to the military and corporate institutions. In 2005, he started AspenRed Consulting, a company based in Colorado Springs, Colo., that focuses on creative and divergent-thinking practices.

Shelley Rossell ('94, DB), former ambassador and president of the Embry-Riddle Student Alumni Association, met the organization's current president, Sammi Foy, during the Alumni Awards Dinner at Embry-Riddle's Homecoming festivities in Daytona Beach in October 2012. Rossell is now vice president for technology solutions at TD Bank in Mount Laurel, N.J.

Maj. Pete Reddan ('95, DB), a C-17 pilot at Charleston Air Force Base in South Carolina, wrote a military ballad called "Off to War." A mutual friend connected the songwriter with Nashville, Tenn., producers and songwriters Dave McAfee and Greg Perkins, and the resulting collaboration was recorded by artist Brad Anderson. "Off to War" is a tribute to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who regularly deploy into harm's way. The song is available on iTunes and YouTube.

Veronique Balsa Koken ('96, WW) celebrated her 50th birthday on Aug. 28, 2012, by scaling the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. The summit, named Uhuru Peak in Swahili, which translates to "Freedom Peak," stands at 19,340 feet. Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa and the tallest freestanding mountain in the world. Balsa Koken, president of Aurora Aerospace in Oldsmar, Fla., says it was a fantastic experience. "It's worth every step up that glorious mountain! This is as high as I got so far on my two feet and I still want to get my astronaut wings, so stay posted!"

Andrew Broom ('97, '00, DB) is division director of corporate communications and marketing at Honda Aircraft Company in Greensboro, N.C. Broom



CAMPUS LEGEND

- MC Miami Campus
- DB Daytona Beach, Fla.
- PC Prescott, Ariz.
- WW Worldwide Campus

previously worked for three years as vice president of communications for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. He is co-chair of the Embry-Riddle Alumni Advisory Council.

Johnny Goodrich ('97, DB), a former Embry-Riddle baseball player (1995–96), was named the 2012 MaxPreps National Coach of the Year after leading the Spruce Creek Hawks (Fla.) to their first baseball state championship this past season. Goodrich adds the national honor to three other honors he received in 2012, including the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* Coach of the Year, Florida Dairy Farmers Baseball Coach of the Year and Class 8A Coach of the Year. "What I do is no different than what we did at Embry-Riddle when I was there," Goodrich says. "I had some great influences in Greg and Todd Williams. I try to emulate what they've done, the way they coach, how professional they were, how they treated players, and the respect they had for us as student athletes. If I hadn't had the experience of playing at Embry-Riddle, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Keanan Guillory ('97, PC) works for the Campbell Soup Company. He and his wife, Michelle, live with their five children near Paris, Texas.

Mario Irizarri ('97, DB) was hired through the Delta Air Lines Inc. flight superintendent (aircraft dispatcher) class in August 2012. Irizarri resides with his wife, Josie, in Lawrenceville, Ga.

Javier Quintana ('99, DB) is the owner and chief engineer at Aerospace Designworks, an aircraft interior engineering firm established in 2007 in Dallas, Texas. In 2011, he led his team of engineers in the development of a new aircraft concept, the C87A Liberator. The concept features an ultra-luxurious interior and was highlighted in the September 2012 issue of *Business Jet Interiors International*.

2000s

Brent A. Terwilliger ('00, DB; '05, WW) is a full-time, tenure track, assistant professor of aeronautics, specializing in unmanned aircraft, for the Embry-Riddle Worldwide Campus. He presented a whitepaper, "Effects of Visual Interaction Methods on Simulated Unmanned Aircraft Operator Situational Awareness," at the 2012 Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference in Orlando, Fla., in December 2012.

Maj. Kevin Brown ('01, PC) was awarded the Bronze Star in May 2012 for actions that occurred at U.S. Air Force bases in Iraq and Kuwait from February 2011 through February 2012. The citation applauds Brown's response to a rocket attack on the Joint Base Balad Air Force Theater Hospital, which allowed the hospital to resume full operations within 36 hours. The citation also commends Brown for leading civil engineers during decommissioning of Joint Base Balad and commanding more than 170 airmen in the reopening of a dormant base in Kuwait. The former Embry-Riddle ROTC cadet was commissioned to full-time duty in December 2001. He and his wife, Katie, reside in Stuttgart, Germany, where he serves in the headquarters for U.S. Africa Command.

Capt. Aaron Noble ('02, PC) is part of the Royal Canadian Air Force crews honored on Oct. 23, 2012, with The Guild Award for Gallantry by the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators. Recognized for their courage and devotion to duty in the air, on Oct. 27, 2011, the crews' members rescued two hunters who were stranded off an ice floe near Igoolik, Nunavut, in northern Canada. Aboard a CH-149 Cormorant helicopter, aircraft commander Noble and his first officer completed the 18-hour operation with no crew changes and just three rapid fuel stops. The crews' collective efforts ensured the safe recovery of the hunters, search and rescue divers and a fallen comrade.

Jonathan Webb ('02, PC) completed his Ph.D. in nuclear engineering and recently accepted a job as a nuclear engineer with Areva in Richland, Wash.,

where he will focus on fuel performance and design for light water reactors. He will also continue to serve as a consultant for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Pascual Alvarez ('03, WW) was promoted in June 2012 from manager of airport services to director of administration for American Airlines at the Miami International Airport hub. "Not only am I excited and looking forward to the challenge, but I am extremely thankful for everything that Embry-Riddle has done for my career," he says. "Without the principles, ethics, ambition and most certainly the tenacity that I gained in my years at Riddle, I would not be where I am today."

Michael Croley ('03, DB) is the head coach for the Truett-McConnell College Bears baseball program in Cleveland, Ga. The former Embry-Riddle Eagle baseball player and assistant coach was most recently an assistant coach for Sun Conference member Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Ga. Croley helped the Eagles advance to the Avista-National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics World Series after capturing both the Florida Sun Conference and Region XIV championships in 2003.

Mikhael Ponso ('03, '12, DB) won the intermediate glider category championship at the 2012 U.S. National Aerobatic Championships held at Denison/Sherman, Texas, Sept. 22–28. He flew a Swift S-1 glider and won in the same category in 2010. He is Embry-Riddle's chief test pilot at the Eagle Flight Research Center and president of the university's Eagle Sport Aviation Club at the Daytona Beach Campus.

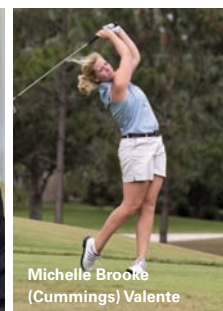
Michelle Brooke (Cummings) Valente ('03, DB) was named head coach of the women's golf program at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., in June 2012. A former team captain for Embry-Riddle women's golf in 2002 and 2003, she led the Eagles to 15 tournament titles and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics conference and regional championship titles. "I could not be more excited to pay forward the knowledge, skills and relationships that have been invested in me to the women's golf program at Samford University," she says. "I've had a longtime mentor in Coach Maria "Loopy" Lopez. She has stood by me through every part of the growing process towards becoming a head golf coach. I am forever grateful to the Embry-Riddle family for setting a high standard of excellence for an athletic department."

Oscar Garcia ('04, DB) was appointed to the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee for a two-year term by U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. The committee's recommendations enhance the department's regulatory and safety functions, in addition to the competitiveness of the U.S. commercial space transportation industry in the international launch market. Garcia, a member of the Alumni Advisory Council, is chairman and CEO of Interflight Global Corporation and resides with his family in Miami, Fla.

Jesse Romo ('04, DB) was named one of *Airport Business* magazine's Top 40 under 40. He is a manager of state and federal affairs for the Kansas Department of Transportation Aviation Division.

Wesley Allin ('07, '12, WW) and his wife, Kim, created a three-flag display for the Embry-Riddle Worldwide Campus in Kaneohe, Hawaii. The American, U.S. Marine Corps and Embry-Riddle flags featured in the display were flown in a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Allin, a maintenance control chief for the U.S. Marine Corps, received a Master of Aeronautical Science in 2012 and took classes at all six Embry-Riddle Worldwide campuses in Hawaii during his deployment.

Daniel Thurber ('07, DB) and **Terra Shanti Merriman ('07, DB)** recently joined JetBlue's flight crew as first officers thanks to the Gateway Program, a training collaboration with Embry-Riddle, JetBlue Airways, Cape Air and the University of North Dakota.



Heidi De Hoogh ('08, WW) is the director of safety and security and a first officer for the Boeing-737 for Sun Country Airlines. She flies scheduled travel and leisure service and charter operations out of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport and ensures Sun Country operations are safe and adhere to FAA and TSA requirements. "I really like the flexibility that my dual role affords me. Not everyone can make a difference in an office setting and then pick up a flight." She was recently profiled on the STEM-Works website, which is working to increase science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills in America's youth.

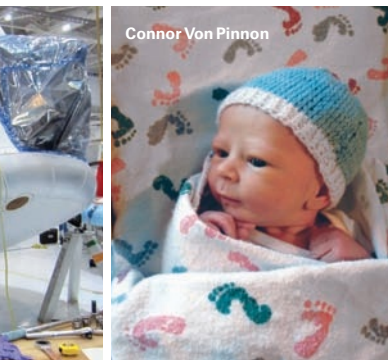
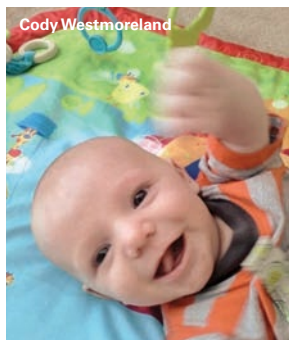
Capt. James Kareis ('08, DB) was publicly applauded for acting as a liaison between a private aircraft in distress and air traffic controllers in Houston this past December. An instructor pilot for the T-6A Texan II in the U.S. Air Force, Kareis was on a routine flight when he intercepted the troubled pilot's communication. Kareis continued to relay the pilot's coordinates to ATC staff throughout the ordeal, which ended with the pilot landing safely in a field.

John Mello ('08, WW) is a senior Hawker pilot at Starbase Aviation.

David Wolfe ('09, DB) is chief mass properties engineer for Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) in Hawthorne, Calif. His job involves developing mass properties for research and production launch vehicles and spacecraft, testing flight and development hardware, and creating estimates for undeveloped hardware in process. Wolfe was one of many engineers instrumental in the successful May 22, 2012, launch of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket and the subsequent berthing of the Dragon spacecraft with the International Space Station. "It is both humbling and extremely exciting to know that I am involved in projects that range from delivering cargo to and from the International Space Station, to eventually transporting people to space aboard an American spacecraft. This experience definitely wouldn't have been possible without the education I received at Embry-Riddle," Wolfe says.

2010s

David Eyerly II ('10, DB) and his brother, Wade Eyerly, co-founded Surf Air, a membership-based private air service that launched in April 2012 to provide cost-effective luxury travel for frequent flyers. Prior to Surf Air, David,



an instrument-rated commercial multi-engine-rated pilot, managed operations and customer relations for Frontier Airlines at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

Nicholas Bartolotta ('11, DB) and **Matthew Falkler** ('11, DB) are domestic pricing analysts for United Airlines in Chicago, where they specialize in setting airfares and developing executive competitive strategies in various markets. Falkler and Bartolotta are pictured holding an Embry-Riddle T-shirt at the Nov. 4 commemoration of Flight 1116, the first commercial flight of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner for United Airlines, which is also the first carrier in the United States to receive the aircraft.

Chelsea Iwig ('11, DB), a graduate student in the Human Factors and Systems department at Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach Campus, served as crew commander of seven other students during a two-week span in January at the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah. The station, which simulates conditions

on Mars, provided the perfect setting for Iwig and her team to perform various research projects. Iwig's research focused on optimizing crew cohesion during long-duration space flights.

Lt. Joseph May ('11, DB), **Lt. Peter Steinmaker** ('11, DB), **Lt. Lazir Ablaza** ('11, DB) and **Lt. Michael Warzinski** ('11, DB) graduated from Air Force pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi on Sept. 7. They are graduates of the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 12-14. After training more than a year together, they went their separate ways. May was assigned to Hurlburt Field in Florida flying the U-28. Steinmaker was assigned to Beale Air Force Base in California to fly the MC-12, and will ultimately transfer to flying the C-17 out of Charleston Air Force Base in South Carolina. Ablaza was assigned to fly the F-16 out of the Tucson Air National Guard Base in Arizona. Warzinski was assigned to fly the KC-10 from the McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey.

Damin Kirk ('11, WW) is a Boeing flight services program management specialist in Renton, Wash. "For years, Boeing was my No. 1 target for employers that I most wanted to work for. Having a master's degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle greatly enhanced my chances of achieving my goal. Thanks Embry-Riddle!"

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Carver ('12, WW), formerly of the 97th Medical Support Squadron at Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma, began Officer Training School at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base in Alabama in January.

Jonathan Oaks ('12, WW) was involved in commercial construction prior to completing a master's degree in aeronautical science. He was hired by Kissimmee Gateway Airport as an airfield coordinator, and recently took an operations specialist position in the commercial airport segment at Orlando International Airport. "The combination of management experience, flight training and general aviation serves me well as I continue with Orlando International," he says.

Taylor Richards ('12, WW) was an airport management intern in the operations department at the Tampa International Airport during the summer of 2012.

Family News

2000s

Cory Von Pinnon ('01, PC) and **Ann Marie (Kelly) Von Pinnon** ('05, PC) welcomed their son, Connor, into the world at 8:07 a.m. on Dec. 22. The couple married on May 28, 2008. Cory is a pilot at Avantair; and Ann Marie is a pilot at Express Jet. The family resides in Littleton, Colo.

Capt. Patrick Westmoreland ('10, WW) and his wife, Shelley, gave birth to a son, Cody, on July 3, 2012. Cody joins his older sister, Hannah, 6. Patrick is a UH-60A/L pilot with the 77 Theatre Aviation Brigade and an associate instructor for Embry-Riddle's Worldwide Campus at the Little Rock, Ark., Air Force Base Learning Center.

Jorge Iribarra ('12, WW) is a product line manager at Kellstrom Industries in Miramar, Fla. His daughter, Miranda Joanne Iribarra, was born April 2, 2012.

Mark L Berry
and Alison Leston



Jorge and
Miranda Joanne
Iribarra

Mikel (Fitterman)
Krochmal and David
Krochmal



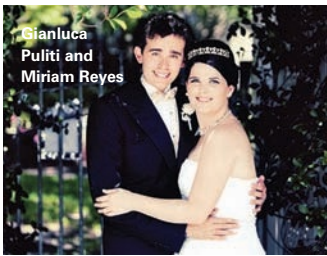
Lindsay Martin and
Robert McLaughlin



Robert Parrish and
Kristine Anthony



Gianluca
Puliti and
Miriam Reyes



Lt. Joseph May, Lt. Peter Steinmaker, Lt. Lazir Ablaza,
and Lt. Michael Warzinski, pictured left to right

Marriages/ Engagements

1980s

Mark Leonard Berry ('85, DB) and Alison Leston, M.D., Ph.D., became engaged on Aug. 18, 2012. Elopement plans are in the works for late 2013. Berry is an MD80 captain for American Airlines and Leston is a neurologist

in St. Louis. She is also the voice of "Lindy" on Berry's audiobook, "Pushing Leaves Towards the Sun," available as a free podcast audiobook on iTunes.

2000s

Gianluca Puliti ('06, DB) and Miriam Reyes were married on June 16, 2012, at St. Paul Catholic Church in Tampa, Fla. Puliti recently received his doctorate in mechanical and aerospace engineering from the University of Notre Dame, and is currently working as a research and development mechanical engineer

for Piramal Critical Care. His duties involve overseeing and advising the research and development of new anesthesia delivery devices. He and his wife live in Orchard Park, N.Y.

David Krochmal ('07, DB) and **Mikel (Fitterman) Krochmal** ('07, DB) met through the Women in Aviation Club while they were students at the Daytona Beach Campus. They were married May 6, 2012, in Tampa, Fla. Mikel is an A320 first officer for Spirit Airlines and David is a C402 captain for Cape Air.

Robert McLaughlin ('08, PC) and **Lindsay Martin** ('09, DB) were married on Nov. 7, 2012. The couple are both employed with Lockheed Martin as flight service specialists.

Kristine Anthony ('10, '12, PC), an instructor pilot at the Embry-Riddle Prescott Campus, and **Robert Parrish** ('10, PC), an engineer with The Boeing Company, were married on Oct. 15, 2012, in South Lake Tahoe, Nev., on the eighth anniversary of their first date in high school.

Other

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Kelley (Sloan) Marcell ('93, DB), U.S. Air Force **Lt. Col. Ann (Bunton) Halle** ('95, WW, '96, DB), U.S. Air Force Reserve **Lt. Col. Katharine (Combs) Yingst** ('96, WW), U.S. Air Force **Retired Capt. Louise (Sabelstrom) Reeves** ('96, WW), U.S. Air Force **Col. Kelly (Neal) Goggin** ('96, WW) and Coast Guard pilot **Susan (Astor) Maitre** ('00, WW) were featured in *Military Fly Moms*, a coffee-table book published in April 2012 by Tannenbaum. The book showcases 71 female military aviators who are also mothers. A portion of the profits from each book sale benefits Girls With Wings Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping girls achieve their aspirations.

Bryan Anderson ('03, DB), **Richie Cormier** ('06, DB), **Steve Ortman** ('11, DB), **Corey Bevis** ('10, DB), **Colin Gray** ('08, DB), **Francis "J.R." Schuhmann** ('07, DB), **Dan D'Antonio** ('04, DB), **Mike Liberatore** ('03, DB), **Cory Davids** ('11, DB), **Ryan Vigue** ('12, DB), **Brad Bauknecht** ('02, DB), **Robbie Ratliff** ('02, DB) and six other former student athletes reunited at the Daytona Beach Campus for an alumni baseball game on Nov. 3, 2012, at Sliwa Baseball Stadium. This was the Blue and Gold team's second baseball reunion since 2010.

In Memoriam

1940s

Donald E. Williams II ('43, MC)
Aug. 29, 2012

1950s

Sherman R. Ellington ('59, MC,
Non-degree)
Dec. 11, 2012

1960s

Frank J. Miller ('66, DB, Non-degree)
Nov. 13, 2012

Frank D. Riley ('68, WW)
July 26, 2012

Wilson A. Thorpe ('68, DB)
Nov. 23, 2012

1970s

Fred R. Cabanas ('74, DB,
Non-degree)
Jan. 15, 2013

William J. Navin Jr. ('74, DB)
Jan. 19, 2012

James M. Newcombe ('75, DB)
Aug. 19, 2012

Dale E. Popik ('75, WW)
July 13, 2012

George E. Bell ('77)
Nov. 6, 2012

Lt. Col. Kenneth G. Nielsen ('77, WW)
Jan. 17, 2013

Reginald N. Smith ('77, DB)
Jan. 13, 2012

Chief Warrant Officer Chester J. Fromm ('78)
Dec. 31, 2012

Joseph H. Marley ('78, DB)
June 26, 2012

Michael K. Van Doren ('78, DB)
Feb. 12, 2012



Gertrude Dayton Worthington

TRUSTEE EMERITA • AUG. 21, 2012

For nearly 40 years, Gertrude Dayton Worthington played a vital role in the progress of Embry-Riddle. As a trustee, member of the board of visitors and longtime contributor, Worthington continuously demonstrated her commitment to lifelong learning and providing students with the highest-quality education.

Over her many years in different leadership roles at Embry-Riddle, she championed the improvement of the university's residential libraries, dedicating hundreds of thousands of dollars to their construction and enhancement. She also contributed to the development of the Interfaith Chapel on the Daytona Beach Campus and regularly supported scholarships and the athletics program.

In a 2007 interview, Worthington, who was an avid gardener, likened her years of involvement with Embry-Riddle to watching a blade of grass sprout and prosper: "... like that blade of grass that came

from a tiny seed, Embry-Riddle started from nothing more than one hangar building. Now [it is] a world-class university."

A graduate of Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, she served as the vice president of Howard Dayton Hotels from 1941 to 1969. She then was a partner in Howard Dayton Enterprises from 1970 to 1987.

Worthington was the recipient of multiple honors and distinctions throughout her career. Highlights include being named a member of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities; and being listed as one of the Two Thousand Women of Achievement in 1970 and in Who's Who of American Women from 1966 to 1974. In 1989, she was honored with the Champions of Higher Independent Education Award from the Independent Universities of Florida.

"Gertrude had a positive effect on the growth of the university," says Embry-Riddle President and CEO John P. Johnson. "Her vision and generosity have left a lasting legacy at Embry-Riddle that can still be felt on our campuses today."

Col. Richard W. Lewis ('84, WW)
Jan. 7, 2012

Judith Hendrickson ('87, DB)
Dec. 4, 2011

1990s

Michael A. Farmer ('90, WW)
June 1, 1998

Senior Master Sgt. William H. Bagwell
('97, WW)
Sept. 14, 2011

Perry F. Vick ('97, WW)
Sept. 5, 2011

Kevin J. Dwyer ('98, '99, WW)
April 17, 2012

James R. Petosa ('98, DB)
Oct. 11, 2011

2000s

Glen A. Doherty ('06, WW)
Sept. 11, 2012

**Chief Warrant Officer 2
Suresh N. Krause** ('06, PC)
Aug. 16, 2012

Robert M. Helton ('10, DB)
July 13, 2012

Others

Shiv Aggarwal (former faculty and chair of the Mathematics and Physical Sciences Department, DB)
Jan. 12, 2013

Ronald N. Borrieci (former faculty, DB)
Jan. 18, 2013

Ann Stokes Hilburn
(friend of the university)
Oct. 2, 2012

Frank W. "Billy" Hulse
(former university trustee)
Sept. 21, 2012

William A. Neese (former faculty, DB)
Oct. 16, 2010

Cmdr. Donald "Don" E. Smith
(professor emeritus, DB)
Jan. 13, 2013

Albert L. Martin ('78, '81, WW)
Feb. 6, 2012

Capt. Lee C. Morris ('80, PC)
Oct. 2, 2012

Alfred C. Williams ('82, WW)
Oct. 1, 2012

1980s

Raymond A. Kuley Jr. ('80, DB, Non-degree)
Oct. 5, 2012

James A. McNair ('81, DB)
March 5, 2012

James L. Delk ('83, DB; former faculty)
Oct. 13, 2012

**Chief Warrant Officer 5
Mary C. Smalley** ('82, '85, WW)
June 14, 2012

Lt. Walter I. Hall ('83, WW)
May 21, 2012

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