

James Liao, '00, is a senior aeronautical engineer with Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in Fort Worth, Texas. Previously, he worked for Goodrich Sensor Systems in Burnsville, Minnesota. He is a member of the air data group within Stability and Control that works on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Michael Luman, '02, MS '06, works for Boeing Commercial Airplanes in the Loads and Dynamics group.

Isabella Sajewicz, '06, works for Frasca International in Urbana as an aeronautical engineer.

Scott Tashakkor, '06, is pursuing a master's degree at the University of Alabama, Huntsville. He is working as a graduate research assistant on computational fluid dynamics, numerical methods, and acoustics. He reports that he is an engineer-in-training in Illinois; he recently passed his FE exam.

Kevin Zhou, '06, received the 2006 Great Lakes Region Award of Sigma Gamma Tau, the national honor society for aerospace engineering. This award recognized Zhou as one of the top eight seniors in aerospace engineering in the country, based on academic, service, and extracurricular accomplishments.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Barbara Reed, AE's Former Alumni Relations Coordinator

Barbara Reed, who worked for the Department of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering from 1978 until she retired in 1994, died on November 18, 2006, at Heritage Nursing Home in Urbana. She was 78. Reed worked in the department as a secretary and became a coordinator of alumni relations and Graduate Extramural Program in 1990.

Reed was born in Freeport on January 8, 1928, a daughter of Wilbur and Bernita Davies Long. She married Richard Johnson in 1949. He preceded her in death. She later married Kym Reed in 1957 in Orlando, Florida. Survivors include a daughter, Sara Reed of Boulder, Colorado, and a grandchild. She was preceded in death by a son and a daughter.

She attended Leal Elementary School and graduated from Urbana High School in 1945. She attended the University of Illinois and received a bachelor's degree in 1949 and a master's degree in 1962. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi, Mortar Board and Phi Beta Kappa scholastic honorary. She had completed all but dissertation requirements for a doctorate in the Interdisciplinary Program in Graduate Education in the College of Education.

Reed was a teaching assistant in the Department of Recreation and Park Resources. She was a university center program director at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb from 1964 to 1965 and a program director at the UI Illini Union from 1965 to 1969. She was a volunteer for the Compeer Program of Champaign County and a member of Urbana First Presbyterian Church and NAMI-IL.

Memorials may be made to the Compeer Program, 202 W. Park St., Champaign, IL 61820; or Centerpoint, 1801 Fox Drive, Champaign, IL 61824.



New Center Welcomes All Visiting Alumni... If you're in Urbana for a football or basketball game, take a detour and visit ALUMNI CENTRAL. It's the new Alice Campbell Alumni Center at 601 S. Lincoln Avenue, Urbana. The center is open during the football and basketball seasons for alumni to drop in at will. Watch an away game on the wide-screen plasma TVs in the Bresee Lounge or take a tour of the center. Parking is free at nearby campus lots, and the popcorn is free. Visitors can also buy food and beverages at the center. Go to www.uiaa.org/urbana for the hours of operation. Or call the Alumni Service Center at (800) 355-2586 for more information.

FACULTY NEWS

Mike Bragg ('76, MS '77) appeared in the fall 2005 Incomplete List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their students. Other faculty members on the list included **Bruce Conway**, **Gregory Elliott**, **Eric Loth**, and **John Prussing**.

John Buckmaster was honored for his contributions to the Department of Aerospace Engineering and to the University of Illinois with a symposium and dinner on March 13, 2006 to mark his retirement. Special guest speakers at the symposium included Prof. Ashwani Kapila of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Prof. David Kassoy of the University of Colorado, Associate Prof. Joseph Powers of Notre Dame, and Prof. David Mikolaitis of the University of Florida. Speakers at the recognition program during the dinner included his son Simon Buckmaster, former graduate student **Ganesh Vedarajan** (MS '96, PhD '98 ME), and several faculty colleagues from the University.

Buckmaster, who was trained in fluid dynamics and applied mathematics, worked in theoretical combustion for over 25 years. He co-authored two books on combustion and co-edited five books on fluid mechanics and combustion. He was recognized with a Senior U.S. Scientist Award from Germany's Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, the United Kingdom's Institute of Physics, and the J.S. Guggenheim Foundation.

Bruce Conway received the Everitt Award for Teaching Excellence at the 2006 College of Engineering's Honor

Awards Convocation. The award recognizes a faculty member for outstanding undergraduate teaching.

Bruce Conway, **Gregory Elliott**, **Philippe Geubelle**, and **John Prussing** were cited as excellent teachers in the spring 2006 Incomplete List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent.

Philippe Geubelle was promoted to full professor. He joined the department in January 1995. Geubelle also received a Xerox Award for Faculty Research at this year's college awards convocation, one of four given to associate professors, honoring them for the quality of their academic research.

John Prussing, **Victoria Coverstone** and graduate student Thierry Botter attended the 2006 AAS/AIAA Space Flight Mechanics meeting in January 2006 in Tampa, Florida. Alumni attending included **Bob Cesarone** (MS '77) of JPL, **Todd Cerven** ('97, MS '99, PhD '03) of Aerospace Corp., and **Aaron Trask** (BS '98, MS '00, PhD '02) of the Naval Research Lab. Coverstone and Cerven each chaired a session and attended a technical committee meeting.

Scott White was named a University Scholar earlier this year. He was one of six professors at the Urbana-Champaign campus to receive this honor. The University Scholars program identifies and helps to retain the university's most talented faculty members. In April, White was invested as Aerospace Engineering's first Donald Biggar Willett Professor (*see story in this issue*).

Donald Leo ('90) has been attached for the past year to DARPA's Defense Sciences Office, where he is a program manager. Leo's secondment will last another year, after which he will return to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in Blacksburg, where he is a professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and associate director of CIMMS (Center for Intelligent Materials).

At DARPA, Leo's primary area of interest is the development of autonomous material systems that incorporate the ability to change their intrinsic properties through controlled reactivity. He is also the program manager for MOLDICE (Engineered

Bio-Molecular Nano-Devices/Systems) Program, which focuses on developing devices based on ion channels that can utilize stochastic sensing for analyte identification. At Virginia Tech, Leo's research focuses on the synthesis, modeling, and control of active material systems.

He currently serves as the secretary of the American Society of Mechanical Engineering (ASME) Adaptive Structures Technical Committee. He has also served as the technical chair (2003) and general chair (2004) of the Adaptive Structures and Materials Symposium at the ASME winter annual meeting. (*Editor's note: Leo received AE's Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award in 2004.*)

Greetings from Your Alumni Board President

This is my first opportunity to contribute to the Department's newsletter so I have been looking through some of the past newsletters to get some sense of what I could contribute that would be useful to you, the readers — I hope you will benefit from this brief note. I have served on the Alumni Board since 1988 when Professor Harry Hilton was the Department Head, and I have watched with satisfaction the evolution of the Department over the succeeding years. Those of you who are currently students can take some encouragement that the education you are receiving will serve you well in today's aerospace industry; those of you who are already practicing your trade can take pride in the soon-to-be alumni who are following you.

I am encouraged to see the continued activity in design competitions. The AE Department has a long tradition of competing in and winning design contests, going back at least as far as the 1978 first place entry in the AIAA design competition for which I was the team leader. But these efforts have a more important purpose in that they provide those participating with valuable practical experience in a team effort that they can take into their first job. If you are participating in these activities, be sure to emphasize this fact as you interview; if you are considering participating in future teams, don't hesitate to get involved (*see related story, p. 11*).

A trend that we spent some time discussing at the most recent Alumni Board meeting is the growing need for systems engineers. Systems engineering practice has existed for a number of years but the scope of this discipline has evolved rapidly as the understanding of its utility has matured and the specialty engineering that supports it makes its own advances. The NASA Administrator (Michael Griffin) has commented several times that his organization needs now and will have a growing appetite for systems engineers as the Vision for Space Exploration takes shape and is brought into existence over the next quarter century. Professor Bragg has been working on a program to address this need and the Alumni Board will be actively supporting this effort.

I encourage Aerospace Engineering alumni to help in the development of our Department. Please feel free to contact me with questions or comments regarding the Aerospace Alumni Advisory Board (**stephen.j.hoffman@saic.com**), and in particular let us know if you are interested in becoming a member of this board. And finally, please be sure to respond generously to the requests for contributions for the Department.

—Stephen Hoffman, '78, MS '80, PhD '84

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Donors to Aerospace Engineering for 2005

It was gratifying to note that many alumni remembered Aerospace Engineering in their giving in 2005, the 60th anniversary of the department's founding. Your contributions will go far towards enriching AE's mission and the educational experience it offers its undergraduate and graduate students. Thank you.

Please note that when you specify "Aerospace Engineering" in your donation, this money will then be earmarked for this department. Note also that degree years after alumni names reflect AE degrees only.

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