

**LIFT**

The alumni magazine of  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

A first look at  
Embry-Riddle's  
first family

←  
Michael DeGiglio  
(’76, DB) talks  
about his  
'growing' career

←  
One longtime  
supporter who  
does things by  
the book

His own diagnosis  
hasn't stopped  
Jerry Phan (’06, PC)  
from helping other  
cancer patients with his

# Flight Hope of



**Octoberwest Weekend - Prescott, AZ**

<b>Oct 4</b>	9 am - 4pm	Industry Expo – Activity Center
	6 - 9 pm	Senior / Alumni / Industry Reception – Hassayampa Inn
<b>Oct 5</b>	8 am	Alumni Golf Tournament Contact Larry Stephan, director of Athletics, at (928) 777-3791 or at stephan@erau.edu
	6 pm	Alumni Party at Spruance House
<b>Oct 6</b>	8 am	Arizona Skyfest 2007 – Love Field Airport Visit <a href="http://www.prescottairfair.com">www.prescottairfair.com</a> for up-to-date information and to purchase online tickets

**Homecoming Weekend - Daytona Beach, FL**

<b>Nov 7</b>	10 am - 3 pm	Industry Expo – ICI Center
	3 - 5 pm	Networking Social – ICI Center
	7 - 9 pm	Homecoming Kick-Off – Red Tails Bar & Grill
<b>Nov 8</b>	8 - 10 pm	Movie on the Lawn – West Lawn on Campus
	10 am - 3 pm	Industry Expo – ICI Center
	5 - 9 pm	Alumni Dinner and Dance – The Shores Resort & Spa
<b>Nov 9</b>	3 - 5 pm	Homecoming Parade – on campus
	5 - 7 pm	Tailgate Party – ICI Center parking lot
	7 pm	ERAU Men's Basketball Game – ICI Center
	8 - 11 pm	Alumni / Development Reception – Crotty Tennis Courts
<b>Nov 10</b>	11 am - 3 pm	Alumni Campus Tours
	11 am - 3 pm	Fly-In Welcome – DAB Riddle Ramp
	6 - 8 pm	Hangar Party – Maintenance Hangar
<b>Nov 11</b>	8 - 10 am	Fly-In Breakfast – College of Aviation (COA) Atrium
	11 am - 12 pm	Veteran's Day Remembrance – ROTC Building

Please note that these event schedules are subject to change.  
Visit the eaglesNEST at [www.ERAUalumni.org/homecoming](http://www.ERAUalumni.org/homecoming) for up-to-date information and to register to attend.  
These events are free to alumni and their guests.



# Lift

The alumni magazine of  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University



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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



OVER THE COURSE OF MY 20-city Welcome Tour, I had an opportunity to experience firsthand the passion and dedication of our alumni from all over the country. It is truly exciting to meet and speak with so many of you who share the goal of keeping Embry-Riddle at the forefront of aviation and aerospace education.

Beginning my second year as president, I am thrilled to see our progress as we work toward making this great university even better. Your university remains financially sound, and we have enjoyed strong enrollments in the past year. We also just closed the books on the most successful fundraising year in our history, raising more than \$10 million in gifts and pledges toward the \$75 million *To Soar Campaign*. Alumni have answered the call like never before, with giving rates for both residential campuses at all-time highs.

Alumni are answering the call in other ways too. Our cover story in this issue shows how one alumnus, Jerry Phan ('06, PC), has turned his own personal battle with cancer into an opportunity to help others who are also fighting the disease. The fact that he uses his love of aviation to make a difference is an inspiring illustration

of the power of aviation to change lives on both the personal and communal levels.

Michael DeGiglio ('76, DB), who credits the discipline he learned at Embry-Riddle with transforming him from an average high school student to a naval aviator, also understands the power of an Embry-Riddle education, as it has helped guide him through his many successful business ventures.

As you read these stories and others in this issue, you can be proud that every day, in a variety of ways, Embry-Riddle alumni and friends are hard at work making a profound difference in the world. It is an honor for me to lead such an institution, and I look forward to making this another banner year of achievement for Embry-Riddle.

Warmest regards!

John P. Johnson, Ph.D.  
President

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Vice President, Institutional Advancement: Dan Montplaisir • Director, Campaign Operations: Anthony Brown • Communications Specialist, Alumni Relations and Development: Ashlee (Fiser) Ilg ('03, DB)

Lift Editorial Board: Steven Bobinsky, Sarah Fogle, Christina Frederick-Recascino, Wayne Munson, Lindajean Western

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To advertise in Lift, contact Anthony Brown at (386) 323-5071 or Anthony.Brown@erau.edu

## Aviation inspiration

### *Embry-Riddle sponsors aerobatic performer Matt Chapman*

In its effort to inspire the next generation of young pilots, Embry-Riddle is sponsoring award-winning aerobatic pilot Matt Chapman, a 20-year veteran of the airshow circuit.

“As a captain for American Airlines and an exhilarating aerobatic performer, Matt is a great role model who gets kids excited about aviation,” says Embry-Riddle President Dr. John P. Johnson.

Chapman’s aircraft, a CAP 580 with a custom-modified 330-horsepower Lycoming engine, can reach speeds in excess of 240 mph, pull up to 10 G’s, and roll at a rate of 400 degrees per second—all within a few feet of the ground.

“I’m proud to be associated with Embry-Riddle,” Chapman says. “Its reputation in aviation and aerospace higher education and in the industry is unmatched.” For more information, visit [www.mattchapman.com](http://www.mattchapman.com).



## Rocket launch is a blast!

A team of Aerospace Engineering students from Embry-Riddle made history on March 22 when they successfully launched their two-stage Icarus rocket from NASA Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. The rocket set an altitude record for a student-built vehicle—37.8 miles—and became the first two-stage student sounding rocket to launch from a NASA facility.



MIKE STACKPOLE

“The Embry-Riddle student-designed rocket was the most complex student project we have supported to date,” said Phil Eberspecker, chief of NASA’s Sounding Rockets Program Office. “NASA subjects these student rockets to the same scrutiny as a NASA sounding rocket to ensure the flight can be conducted in a safe manner.”

Student Mike Stackpole founded Project Icarus in 2003 with assistance from other students in the Embry-Riddle Future Space Explorers and Developers Society, and has led the effort ever since.

“The mission of Project Icarus is to promote student rocket projects at Embry-Riddle, combining classroom knowledge with hands-on experience in rocket design and construction,” Stackpole says. “Icarus is the first in what will hopefully be a long line of vehicles, each pushing the envelope slightly more. The eventual goal is to create a rocket that reaches space.”

## Designed for winning

### ALTIMETER

• A team of seven Aerospace Engineering students from Embry-Riddle Daytona Beach recently took second place in the open class category of the 2007 Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Aero Design East competition and won the Best Report/Presentation Award.

A hybrid race car designed and built by Embry-Riddle students won the Most Innovative Design Award and the Daimler-Chrysler Award for Hybrid Systems Engineering at the inaugural Formula Hybrid International Competition.

“One of the judges commented that it was clear from the outset that the Embry-Riddle team was well prepared, with all the students fully involved in the task and ready to compete,” says Embry-Riddle Engineering Physics Professor Jack McKisson. He and Mechanical Engineering Professor Darris White served as the team’s faculty advisors.

The Embry-Riddle car—dubbed “Shredder”—also came in first overall among U.S. competitors, which included Colorado State University, Dartmouth College, Drexel University, Florida Institute of Technology, Illinois Institute of Technology and Yale University.



## Worldwide Campus expands reach through teamwork

Embry-Riddle's Worldwide Campus is reaching out to more students by teaming up with institutions that offer degrees in aviation and aerospace-related disciplines (see list below for partners).

As part of its global expansion initiative, the Worldwide Campus is targeting students who have earned associate's degrees and want a seamless transition into Embry-Riddle's baccalaureate programs. The university has also partnered with Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona to offer a joint master's degree in Aeronautical Management.

For Chancellor Marty Smith, the move is part of Embry-Riddle Worldwide's effort to help set the pace for advancing the aviation and aerospace industry through education.

"If we are to maintain our leadership position in the aviation and aerospace world, then we need to even more aggressively extend our expertise to new partners to reinforce the solid foundation and innovation demonstrated by the Embry-Riddle brand," Smith says.

### Embry-Riddle Worldwide's new partners:

- Brevard Community College (aerospace technology students)
- Central New Mexico Community College (aerospace technology students)
- Edmonds Community College (materials science technology students)
- Greenville Technical College (aircraft maintenance students)
- Valencia Community College (business administration pre-major students)
- San Bernardino Valley College
- Savannah Technical College
- Tallahassee Community College
- Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (joint master's degree in Aeronautical Management)



### ALTIMETER

- A student team from Embry-Riddle's Aviation Maintenance Science (AMS) Department took **third place** in the Professional Aviation Maintenance Association (PAMA) Olympics.

- Embry-Riddle public relations students, who **designed a marketing plan to promote math and science to high school students**, earned **first prize** in the NASA Means Business Competition.



## All-around excellence

### Embry-Riddle Athletics wins Commissioner's Cup

For an unprecedented eighth season in a row, the Embry-Riddle Daytona Beach athletic program captured the Florida Sun Conference Commissioner's Cup, a trophy recognizing the league's most successful all-around athletic program.

Embry-Riddle posted top-three finishes in 11 of the 13 conference-recognized sports it sponsors, including championships in men's and women's cross country, men's soccer, women's golf, men's track and field, and men's tennis.

Total flight hours that Col. Jon "Motley" Mott ('95, WW) of the 104th Fighter Wing of the Massachusetts Air National Guard achieved in the A-10 Thunderbolt II after his historic flight on March 30, 2007—a new record.

4,572

631

Number of alumni who have made a gift to Embry-Riddle for the first time.

Place, respectively, of Embry-Riddle's Prescott Golden Eagles and Daytona Beach Eagles Flight teams at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) competition.

1st, 3rd



## ROUNDTABLE

Increasingly, aviation professionals looking to get ahead are looking online for their education. At Embry-Riddle's Worldwide Campus, more than 27,000 students pursue degrees or certificates in any given year—a good number of them, in whole or in part, are logging on to “hit the books.” With more professionals jumping on the “bandwidth wagon” each day, we asked three experts from Embry-Riddle–Worldwide to look down the runway and tell us...

# What is the future of online education in the aviation industry?



**Linda Dammer,**  
Associate Dean,  
Advising, Enrollment  
and Recruiting for  
Embry-Riddle–  
Worldwide Online

➤ **For those** already in the industry who want to advance their careers or for those trying to get into the industry, online education will be the way to go for many years to come. One reason is flexibility. Online education is a win-win situation for people working long hours, those with family obligations or even those with regular schedules. They can take online classes from anywhere, at the time of day that is best for them.

Online education also offers students a psychological advantage over the more traditional student. They aren't dreading the drive to class, trying to schedule a classroom course around their work schedule or sitting in a classroom after a long day at work. They can study in the comfort of their own home, which is a very attractive option to the working aviation professional.

### Is online education here to stay?

Let us know what you think.  
Send your letters to:  
**Editor, Lift Magazine**  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
ERAU  
600 S. Clyde Morris Blvd.  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
Or email us at:  
[Liftmag@erau.edu](mailto:Liftmag@erau.edu)



**Dr. Thomas B. Cavanagh,**  
Director, Online Course  
Design and Production  
for Embry-Riddle–  
Worldwide Online

➤ **The use** of cutting-edge, highly interactive media may be the future of online education in the aviation industry. Right now at Embry-Riddle–Worldwide Online, we are developing a virtual lab for our graduate Aircraft Accident Investigation course that allows online students to experience a crash site by “taking a virtual walk” through a crash scene and selecting items for further analysis.

While an online course will never be able to teach a student to fly an aircraft, it can support the actual flight instruction through

reinforcement, simulation and related knowledge acquisition. For example, with simulations and other tools, students can determine if there is enough runway for a safe takeoff, given a set of key atmospheric and meteorological variables. As with an expensive, fixed-location simulator, students can practice—and make mistakes—in a safe, consequence-free online environment.

As educational technologies continue to advance, so will the possibilities for online students in the aviation industry.



**Dr. Martha Hollis,**  
Dean,  
Embry-Riddle–  
Worldwide  
Online

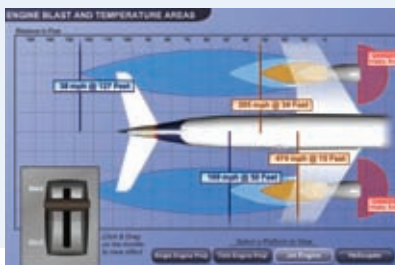
➤ **Partnerships between** online university programs and aviation-related corporations promise to fuel the geometrically growing boom in Internet-based education. Cohorts from particular companies, often in different locations, are working together online. Other cohorts of classes mix employees from many different kinds of companies, creating strong networks of shared knowledge.

Companies are also now sharing digital media with the education world. Cross-sectional designs of engines or training multimedia are easily transferred to Web-based classes. Then there's the dissemination of human expertise. Aviation

and aerospace companies are sharing their know-how and talent with universities to give students a richer educational experience.

Embry-Riddle–Worldwide Online is a major beneficiary of this phenomenon. The education we provide using industry expertise pushes scholarly work right to the pragmatic edge. It is not unusual for Embry-Riddle–Worldwide Online to have a Ph.D.

in Astrophysics from NASA teaching a physics class. Our students get to apply their learning to their careers, enriching the experience. It is truly more fun to design parts of a new functioning airport than to take a true/false exam.



# Never walk away

An Embry-Riddle degree taught **Michael A. DeGiglio ('76, DB)** the value of discipline while growing a career—and two multimillion-dollar companies

**M**ichael A. DeGiglio ('76, DB) has never been big on planning, but he knows an opportunity when he sees it. And he's seen a lot of them over his career.

"I knew what I wanted but I never really planned my career path," he explains. "I just thought, 'Here's an opportunity, let me try it.'"

DeGiglio has "tried" many things, most of which end up with the same result: a rousing success. From enrolling in classes at Embry-Riddle, to flying A-4s, S-3s and C-9s as a commanding officer for an active C-9 squadron in the Navy, to running the most successful greenhouse produce company in North America, DeGiglio has cultivated a stunning track record of personal and professional achievements.

While it might seem he's led a charmed life, the reality is more down to earth. "I've learned that to be successful, there are no shortcuts—you have to go through the process," DeGiglio says.

## GROWTH PROCESS

For DeGiglio, the process began with his dream of being a Navy pilot. "I always wanted to fly as a kid, but I never really knew how it would be possible," he says. "When I told my high school guidance counselor that I wanted to fly, she told me that Embry-Riddle would be the best place for me to go for college."

But, as DeGiglio learned quickly, with every opportunity comes obstacles. "Growing up in a middle-class family and being the first one to go to college, I didn't have the background or family history like a lot of the other student pilots at Embry-Riddle. I worked a job to help pay for my education and my mother returned to work to help support me," he says.

Earning his degree in Aeronautical Studies was a transformational time for DeGiglio, both professionally and personally. "My education at Embry-Riddle helped me transition from high school—where I was just an average student who had an interest in aviation—to becoming a naval aviator," DeGiglio says. "I learned a lot about discipline there, and it really had an impact on me."

Within a few months of graduation from Embry-Riddle, DeGiglio was commissioned into the U.S. Navy. "I was really happy at that time because I was doing what I had always dreamed of doing."

But after a six-year active duty commitment, DeGiglio was ready for a career change. Although a commercial airline job was virtually guaranteed, he jumped into the business arena with both feet, forming his own company, Agro Dynamics, Inc. "I knew that if there was ever going to be a chance in my life that I could try something to be successful, it was then," he recalls. "I wanted to see how far I could go and find out if I really had what it took to go to the top."

## A BUDDING CAREER

Within a few short years, DeGiglio had his answer. In less than a decade, Agro Dynamics helped revolutionize the high-tech agriculture industry in the United States and grew from a company earning \$180,000 in first-year sales to one grossing \$25 million.

But DeGiglio didn't stop there. Seeing a vast opportunity in the greenhouse produce industry, he partnered with a businessman in the Netherlands to form Village Farms, a grower and marketer of hydroponic produce.

"At that point, my life was pretty crazy," DeGiglio laughs. "I was maintaining an eight-day commitment with the largest air wing in the Navy for 15 years, I was running Agro Dynamics with about 30 employees, I was the CEO of a biotechnology company in the NASDAQ stock market, and now I had Village Farms."

DeGiglio lightened the load by selling Agro Dynamics. "When I sold my company, it was my first real 'break' and a really exciting time, since I had no real background in business," he says.

Even with one company sold, DeGiglio remembers the daily challenges of trying to balance his remaining commitments. By 1999, he was still commanding an active squadron of 280 people flying C-9s worldwide 365 days a year, as well as leading Village Farms—which was by then publicly traded, turning \$150 million in revenue and employing about 1,400 people—as president and CEO. "There were many tough times," he recalls. "I've just learned that you never walk away and things will turn around."

By Ashlee (Fiser) Ilg ('03, DB) • Photograph by Mark Hall





→ **Michael A. DeGiglio ('76, DB)**

- Was one of 460—out of a total of 350,000 flight training applicants—to earn his pilot's wings in 1977.
- His company, Village Farms—the largest grower and marketer of hydroponic-grown produce in North America—has been listed in multiple issues of *Inc. 500* magazine as one of the fastest-growing private companies in the U.S.
- Village Farms owns nine greenhouse facilities in the U.S. and Canada and three in Mexico, covering more than 350 acres.

DeGiglio credits professors at Embry-Riddle for instilling in him the discipline to stick out the hard times. “I had a lot of retired-military professors who were tough and didn’t take any excuses,” he says. “Being exposed to these professors reminded me to appreciate how good I had it. I wasn’t going to blow my chance at succeeding.”

Today, at the helm of the largest grower and marketer of greenhouse-grown produce in North America, DeGiglio can rest easy that he didn’t disappoint. “There is a lot more stability in my life today,” he chuckles.

While his life may be more stable, DeGiglio has no intention of passing up the next great opportunity that comes along, wherever it might be.

“I wouldn’t be surprised if I got back into aviation,” he muses. “And this time, I’ll own my own jet.”

Like the four men who came before him, Dr. John P. Johnson is bold, forward-thinking and likes to be in charge—whether that’s at the controls of a Cessna 172 or at the helm of the world leader in aviation and aerospace education.

Since becoming Embry-Riddle’s fifth president on Aug. 8, 2006, Johnson has been helping to launch an exciting new era in leadership for Embry-Riddle.

To find out what’s ahead for the university and to get acquainted with Embry-Riddle’s newest first family, we sat down with the president and his wife, Maurie, at their former home in Ormond Beach, Fla., to talk about all things Embry-Riddle—from the joys of flight to an ambitious plan designed to take the university to an unprecedented level of excellence.

# Meet By Anthony Brown



# Embry-

## Tell us a little about your flying lessons.

**Dr. Johnson:** I have always had a strong interest in aviation, even as a child. My father was a career Army officer, and he developed an aircraft cargo extraction system for heavy equipment delivery. One uncle was an Air Force pilot and another was a rocket systems engineer who worked at Cape Kennedy. I have a strong family background in the military, aviation and space.

I took flying lessons because I basically wanted to learn what our students go through and to better understand our core business. Well, now that I have started flying, I am really developing a love for it. I am rediscovering and getting back into something I loved as a young man. It is a real blast and a physical and mental challenge. I enjoy the freedom of moving in three dimensions.



# - Riddle's first family

**How about you, Mrs. Johnson? Are you ready to fly yet?**

**Mrs. Johnson:** My dad was a paratrooper, and I have done bungee jumping and hang gliding, and John and I are going to fly gliders this weekend. I am not sure I will earn a pilot's license, but I definitely want to take lessons, so if something happens that I have to land the plane, I want to be able to do it.

**Have your flying lessons changed your appreciation for leading Embry-Riddle?**

**Dr. Johnson:** I think I have always understood that aviation and aerospace are our core disciplines. But there is a difference in knowing it conceptually and knowing it at a visceral level. It changes your appreciation for what the students go through: They go fly and then

President Johnson is leading Embry-Riddle's "aggressive building effort" at all three campuses.



MICHAEL MERTZ



ERIC LARSON

have to get right back into class and study hard. Our students have a tremendous load, whether in flight or in other areas. Flying has expanded my knowledge and made me appreciate our students more.

**What is it about aviation that inspires such passion?**

**Dr. Johnson:** There are not that many people in the world who get an opportunity to fly an airplane. There is a feeling of freedom, power and, at the same time, control that you'll never get in any other environment. When you're up there, it's incredibly freeing.

**Mrs. Johnson:** Those who fly defy the norm. They rise above regular circumstances. It's inspiring.

**What is your greatest strength as president of Embry-Riddle?**

**Dr. Johnson:** My ability to work effectively with people. I hold people in high regard, and I want to give them the resources to do the job. I believe that they know that I support them and want them to do well. I treat them as colleagues and stakeholders in the university. That translates into people working harder for Embry-Riddle.

The other thing is the understanding of the academy. I have been in leadership roles in higher education for 32 years at six different universities. I understand how to run a university and I know what makes it successful.

**Maurie, what do you think is your husband's greatest strength?**

**Mrs. Johnson:** The first time I met him I knew he had something very special going on. He just has this gift. He respects people and knows how to pull them together. He treats people like he wants to be treated. But he doesn't take himself too seriously. He has always been very relaxed and works well with people to build consensus.

**How do you see your role as Embry-Riddle's First Lady?**

**Mrs. Johnson:** I don't want to just show up and smile, I want to have a purpose, and I want to take a role.

I am currently trying to assist in the Vision 2015 goal to increase the number of women in faculty and leadership positions to 25 percent. I also want to increase the female student enrollment. By 2015 the board said they would love to have an enrollment of 25 percent women, and I want to accelerate—even exceed—that.

I am also working with some of our faculty and staff to help promote programs to encourage young women and at-risk students to pursue studies in math, science and aviation. The hope

is that these students will discover that these subjects are not too hard and they will pursue degrees that make Embry-Riddle an attractive choice.

**What excites you about Embry-Riddle's future?**

**Dr. Johnson:** There is no doubt that we are the world's best in aviation and aerospace education. However, we need to continue our efforts to strengthen our colleges. We have an aggressive building effort under way that includes a second aviation building and flight line, a College of Business building and a new residence hall. We are planning a new library for our Prescott Campus and a new headquarters building for our Worldwide Campus. We will strengthen our graduate programs in Engineering and Business and look to develop a Ph.D. program over the next few years. We will continue to expand our Worldwide Campus and extend our global presence. In addition, we will increase our research activity and become the place where our industry turns to seek solutions to real-world problems.

**Dr. Johnson, what do you hope your legacy will be as president of Embry-Riddle?**

**Dr. Johnson:** There are two things I would like to be remembered for. First, as a president who helped advance the academic reputation of the institution, and second, as a president who put the institution in strong financial shape and allowed it to provide real global leadership through innovation and applied research. We can elevate the reputation of Embry-Riddle by advancing our research agenda and growing our endowment. Both goals are attainable within the next five to 10 years, and I look forward to making it happen.

**What's the one thing you'd like to say to Embry-Riddle alumni?**

**Mrs. Johnson:** I would tell them to come back and visit with us. They are family. I would love to see our graduates return to campus often and find ways to get involved in the life of the university. I want them to stay connected.

**Dr. Johnson:** I want to thank alumni for choosing Embry-Riddle and for what they're doing professionally to represent the university. A big part of our reputation is how great a job our graduates do. They are the most highly sought-after professionals in the industry, and I'm so proud of the wonderful work they do. It is because of our alumni that we are the world leader in aviation and aerospace education.

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# Launching Hope

Not even his own cancer diagnosis can stop this Embry-Riddle alumnus from making a difference in the lives of cancer patients

By Rebecca Douglas | Photography By Ian White

Jerry Phan ('06, PC) was just a teenager when he was diagnosed with cancer.

He still remembers how difficult it was for his parents to take him to treatment—12 miles away. But he also knows that many cancer patients—especially those in rural areas—have it even harder.

“In Prescott, people were 100, 200, 300 miles from the nearest treatment centers,” Phan says. “They were taking taxis for \$500 a trip.”

This fact motivated Phan’s desire to fly. “It’s what kept me up studying until 4 a.m., chugging energy drinks,” he says.

Today, Phan is the reason many cancer patients have gotten to their treatments through an organization he founded, called Flight Hope, an Arizona-wide version of Angel Flight.

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Jerry Phan transferred to Embry-Riddle for its Global Security and Intelligence Studies program. "I wanted to do something more patriotic for the U.S.," Phan recalls. "Going into 'intel' just seemed to have bigger purpose than communication arts."



### A FOCUS ON HELPING

Phan's roommate remembers his hectic Embry-Riddle days schedule. "Between school and flight training and him helping coach volleyball, we wouldn't see each other for days," recalls Eric Yost ('06, PC). "When Jerry set his mind to something, he was very determined and smart about how he did it. He was always focused on helping other people."

Doris Banas, a 69-year-old breast cancer survivor from Prescott Valley, was one of Phan's first Flight Hope passengers in 2006. Phan met Banas at a cancer support group, and he immediately wanted to help make her trips for checkups at the Northern Arizona Tumor Institute in Sedona (about 70 miles away) faster and easier.

"He was so gung-ho to help, and so optimistic," Banas says. "He's done more in his young life than most people will even think about doing."

Whenever Phan met other patients in need, he'd work to arrange Flight Hope trips for them, too, and amassed approximately \$5,000 in donations to cover operating costs. Airports would often waive tie-down fees and car rental agencies would sometimes provide free ground transportation. One private operator even loaned Phan his Cessna 182 to save rental costs.

"A lot of people have been very generous and supportive," Phan stresses.

### A NETWORK OF FRIENDS

Susan Mongeon ('06, PC) was not at all surprised when Phan began developing plans for Flight Hope during their senior year at Embry-Riddle. "Jerry's a wonderful, wonderful

person," Mongeon explains. "He's always focused on making someone else happy; he always makes sure everyone else is OK."

The two met when Phan helped coach the Embry-Riddle Prescott women's volleyball team. When Phan volunteered to fly a terminal patient and his wife back to Catalina Island, Calif., where they first met, Mongeon knew she wanted to support the emerging organization.

"Every one of the flights is special in its own way," Phan explains. "They're all meaningful for different reasons, and usually pretty emotional. Each one made me want to do more."

That's not to say they were all trouble-free. When a local reporter came to cover one of Flight Hope's first takeoffs, weather grounded Phan and Yost, whom he had recruited as a backup pilot. Filing for nonprofit status so Phan could provide receipts to donors proved to be a tedious, lengthy process, but it and other troublesome issues were resolved when people saw Flight Hope's pure intentions.

### TEMPORARILY GROUNDED

Phan's biggest obstacle came last summer, shortly after he finished an in-court internship for the Yavapai County Attorney's Office and completed his Global Security and Intelligence Studies degree at Embry-Riddle. That's when doctors discovered that his cancer, an extremely rare form known as paraganglioma, had spread to his shoulder, lung, liver and hip. The circumstances were eerily similar to his original diagnosis at age 19, just after Phan graduated from high school with a volleyball scholarship



to Loyola Marymount University. This time, however, the cancer was terminal.

"I know what it's like to have your whole life ahead of you on the right course and have it all suddenly taken away," Phan explains. "I know how hard it is to wait for test results to tell you the whole story. That's why I think it's important for me to fly whomever I can to their treatment. It's sometimes easier for them to talk to me rather than a psychologist."

After about 15 Flight Hope trips, Phan had to suspend operations to begin his own treatment. In classic Phan fashion, he doesn't dwell on his rediagnosis. Instead, he focuses on not losing his arm to amputation, as doctors originally thought would be necessary, and recently being taken off the terminal list.

"Once I get better, I'd like to start making Flight Hope trips again," Phan notes. "Until then, I have to focus on getting better."

## The Rest of the Crew

Jerry Phan ('06, PC) is quick to credit others' contributions to Flight Hope, the nonprofit organization he founded to fly cancer patients to treatment centers throughout Arizona.

"So many people helped: My sister raised funds from a lot of different companies in different countries," he says. "Dr. Vu taught me how to talk with cancer patients effectively, and the Yavapai Attorney's Office was great about giving me time off work to take flights."

Here's the latest on two fellow Embry-Riddle alumni who originally helped Phan get Flight Hope off the ground:

**Susan Mongeon ('06, PC)** is relishing a yearlong internship at FedEx in Memphis that she secured with the help of an Embry-Riddle career advisor. "It's a great company, and I'm making lots of good contacts," Mongeon reports. "Working in Flight Coordination with an overnight operation is valuable experience."



She also works as a flight instructor at General DeWitt Spain Airport and flies a King Air for a private aircraft operator about once a week. "I'm either working, flying or sleeping," she laughs. "There's not much time for anything else, but I'm loving it. When I have the funds, I'd like to support Flight Hope again."

After graduating with a Global Security and Intelligence Studies degree last spring, **Eric Yost ('06, PC)** began work in undercover security for a retail grocery chain in Phoenix, nabbing his first shoplifter just two hours into his initial shift.

Yost hopes to combine his love of flight and security work in the Flight Service Station program at Lockheed Martin.

Even after Phan was rediagnosed with a rare form of cancer, he was invited to train with the men's U.S. national volleyball team as it prepared for 2008 Olympics in Beijing. To help raise funds for Flight Hope, he urged clients who hired him for private volleyball instruction to make a donation to his charitable organization rather than paying a regular hourly fee.



# Cultivating a Love of Learning

Gertrude Worthington has spent more than 40 years helping grow Embry-Riddle from a 'one-hangar building' into a world leader in aviation and aerospace education

By Ashlee (Fiser) Ilg ('03, DB) • Photograph by Chris Stanford



You wouldn't necessarily think that an avid gardener would have a natural affinity for a world leader in aviation and aerospace education, but Gertrude Worthington is no ordinary cultivator. Although she's no longer tending to her own gardens and greenhouses, Worthington continues to sow seeds of progress at Embry-Riddle because, she says, "I believe in the school and what they do."

For more than 40 years, Worthington has been helping Embry-Riddle grow in ways both large and small. From something as basic as reporting on the "pretty sad state" of landscaping in the early days (ever the gardener), to the establishment and enhancement of the libraries at Embry-Riddle's two residential campuses, Worthington has had a green thumb when it comes to growing Embry-Riddle.

"I've enjoyed every aspect of the work being done on Embry-Riddle's campuses, and am always thrilled to watch them grow," she says.

## A FRIENDSHIP TAKES ROOT

Worthington's lifelong affair with Embry-Riddle began shortly after Embry-Riddle appeared at Daytona Beach in 1965. "I've been in love with the school since it was moved from Miami," she says.

After that legendary move, Jack R. Hunt, the school's president at the time, met with Worthington and her husband, the late Howard Dayton. With Hunt's infectious enthusiasm and Worthington's love of education, their friendship quickly took root. It wasn't very long before Hunt invited Worthington to serve on the university's Board of Visitors, and eventually on the Board of Trustees.

"We were all having Thanksgiving dinner together when [Jack] invited me to serve on the Board of Trustees," she remembers. "I was a little surprised, but pleased." For the next 20 years, she served on both boards and was involved with many decisions that have been significant in shaping Embry-Riddle's future.

Worthington points to the hiring of Dr. Steve Sliwa as one of those moments that helped transform Embry-Riddle. "I think being involved with the interview and decision to hire Steve Sliwa as president was pivotal," she says. "His non-military background of Silicon Valley brought desktop computers to campus, along with several other changes. I remember it being an interesting interview, and it turned out just as it should."

## GETTING A READ ON SUCCESS

Worthington also played a vital role in developing the academic heart of the Daytona Beach Campus: the Jack R. Hunt Library.



library is a physical reminder of what is most important to her—reading, learning and providing students with the highest quality of education.”

And like any good gardener, Worthington was not about to “plant” the library on campus and forget it. To ensure that the library could continue to grow to meet the educational needs of its students, she established the Gertrude V. Worthington Library Endowment to enhance it for years to come.

“Gertrude Worthington’s ongoing support of our libraries and students is a testament to her commitment to education,” says Dr. John P. Johnson, university president.

True to form, Worthington’s passion for libraries progressed to include Embry-Riddle’s Prescott Campus. In 2006, she made a substantial gift to the Chris and Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Library and Learning Center to name the Gertrude V. Worthington Reading Room.

#### HELPING REBUILD

Mother Nature drew Worthington’s attention back to the Daytona Beach Campus when a tornado ripped through its center on Christmas Day 2006. After hearing about the extensive damage to the campus, Worthington didn’t wait long to act, contributing almost immediately to the rebuilding fund.

“One of the first envelopes I opened after the tornado was a check and handwritten note from Ms. Gertrude Worthington,” recalls Pat Ramsey, the interim vice president of University Development at the time of the tornado recovery. “The university has always been able to count on her to step up to the plate when we are in need.”

“Gertrude Worthington is a longtime friend of Embry-Riddle,” says President Johnson. “Her many years of energetic leadership and support have played an instrumental role in the physical and academic transformation of our university and community.”

#### BLUE SKIES AHEAD

Today, as Worthington observes how far Embry-Riddle has come, she turns, not surprisingly, to her love of gardening to describe her feelings.

“To me, it is a pleasure just watching a blade of grass grow,” she says. “And like that blade of grass that came from a tiny seed, Embry-Riddle started from nothing more than one hangar building and is now a world-class university.”

A large part of the reason for that transformation, according to Worthington, is Embry-Riddle’s dedication to students in the classroom—and beyond. “I am so pleased that [Embry-Riddle has] gotten into the fields of business and technology,” she says, “and the new president’s return to the basics is very inspiring.”

For Worthington, getting back to basics is a simple formula: “Do your best to provide young students with a good education, teach them morals and have fun along the way.”

By continuing to follow this formula, believes Worthington, Embry-Riddle can expect a bright future. “I see only blue skies ahead,” she says.

“I believe libraries are a wonderful way to influence young people. They open the door for young people to have access to reading and learning,” she says.

But establishing a library at Embry-Riddle wasn’t going to happen overnight. Worthington spent many years working on other library projects in the community before taking on the challenge of an Embry-Riddle library. “My involvement with libraries has been progressive—the more I learn about them and stay involved with them, the more passion I develop for them,” she explains.

After her involvement with the Cornelia Young Library Board in 1956, Worthington led a challenging but successful campaign to build a new library for Daytona Beach residents, today named the Library Center on City Island. The accomplishment earned her the Florida Library Friends and Trustees Award in 1981, and in 1990, she received the Outstanding Citizen Award from the Florida Library Association.

After the Library Center on City Island, the Jack R. Hunt Library was a natural progression for Worthington. Her dedicated efforts and leading financial support helped build the library in 1989. Today, it remains a lasting legacy of learning for students and the university community.

“Gertrude Worthington has created a legacy here at Embry-Riddle,” says Bob Rockett, dean of the Heritage Project. “The



## Blue & Gold Gala tops \$100,000

Embry-Riddle Athletics set a new standard with its annual Blue & Gold Gala. With a record 300-plus attendees, the Gala raised more than \$100,000 to support its athletics program. For the third year in a row, Daytona Mitsubishi, owned by alumnus Richard Nisbett ('86, DB), served as presenting sponsor, with 58 total sponsors generously contributing to the record-breaking success.



PLANNED GIVING

• Did you know that you might still be able to make a tax-free donation from your traditional IRA until Dec. 31, 2007? To find out more, contact Jamie Belongia, Director of Gift Planning, at (386) 226-7205.

## The Mendonca effect

*One gift can transform many lives*

George Mendonca has always believed that a single event can transform a life. "If you change one thing in your life," he says, "you can change everything."

For him, the event was the tragic loss of his father in a logging truck accident. Mendonca was only 10 at the time, but the incident changed the trajectory of his life forever. Anticipating that he'd follow his father into the lumber industry, Mendonca never expected to become a pilot, but after the accident, he turned to his love of aviation with a new determination.

"I decided then that I'd like to get into aviation somehow, especially as a pilot," he recalls.

That early decision is a huge part of the reason Mendonca has established the *George Mendonca Endowed Scholarship Fund* for aviation students at Embry-Riddle Prescott.

As someone who recently retired from a 29-year "dream career" as a pilot for United Airlines, Mendonca wanted to do something that would help young people turn their love of aviation into a learning and career opportunity. He already knew how enthusiastic support could make a difference in young lives. As a volunteer for the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles Program, he has taken 1,210 young people on their first flight.

"I wish I'd had that program when I was a kid," Mendonca says.

But inspiring children to love flight was only the first step in his plan. He spent a few years looking for the right place to make an impact—and then he found Embry-Riddle.

"I had looked in a lot of places that offered flight training," he recalls, "but Embry-Riddle offered students the opportunity to get a degree, something I wanted them to do, because I never did end up getting one myself."

Mendonca was able to meet two of the first four Mendonca Scholars to see firsthand how his decision to create a scholarship has changed lives for the better.

"It was very gratifying," he says. "I'm glad to give back to aviation what it's given me."

## New fundraising leader

*Montplaisir joins Embry-Riddle as vice president for Institutional Advancement*



Daniel E. Montplaisir joined Embry-Riddle as vice president for Institutional Advancement in March 2007. In this role, he will assume the controls of Embry-Riddle's ongoing comprehensive capital campaign, *To Soar*.

"I'm pleased to have Dan leading our external relations and fundraising efforts across the University," says Dr. John P. Johnson, presi-

dent of Embry-Riddle. "He brings a wealth of development experience from two strong universities."

Before Embry-Riddle, Montplaisir managed alumni and development functions at Rollins College for the nationally ranked Crummer Graduate School of Business and at the University of Central Florida.



MARK JOHANN

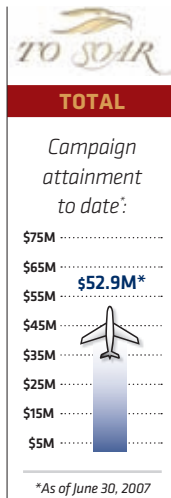
## Honoring a fallen soldier

*New scholarship opportunity for Army ROTC students*

Embry-Riddle and its Army ROTC recently established the *Army ROTC Endowed Scholarship Fund* to honor U.S. Army Capt. Herbert C. Crosby.

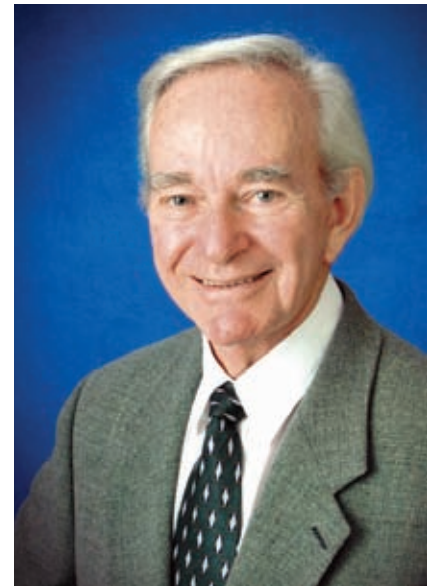
Crosby, who died in a crash while serving as a helicopter pilot with the 1st Aviation Brigade during the Vietnam War, had been listed as missing in action since January 1970. In 2006, Crosby's remains were officially identified and returned to the United States for interment at Arlington National Cemetery in May 2007.

"Contributions to the fund will assist in growing the opportunities for scholarly support to more Army ROTC students at Embry-Riddle," says Wayne Munson, executive director of Alumni Relations.



## Scholarship recognizes Charles Otis for 25 years of service

Professor Emeritus Charles E. Otis has spent most of his life serving his community, profession and country. Now, thanks to generous support of family and friends to establish the *Charles E. Otis Endowed Scholarship*, the Charles E. Otis name will forever be linked with educational opportunity for aviation maintenance students at Embry-Riddle.



The scholarship, which will be annual, will be awarded for the first time this fall to aviation maintenance students. It honors the professor who set the standard for gas turbine aircraft engine maintenance procedures with his definitive textbook, *Aircraft Gas Turbine Powerplants*.

If you would like to support aviation maintenance students by contributing to this scholarship, you can make a gift online at [givingto.erau.edu](http://givingto.erau.edu) or contact Wayne Munson at (386) 226-7600.

## ACSS and Embry-Riddle partner in avionics

Aviation Communication and Surveillance Systems (ACSS) of Phoenix, Ariz., recently partnered with the College of Engineering at Embry-Riddle Prescott to establish the *ACSS Scholarship in Avionics*, an annual \$5,000 award supporting qualified Embry-Riddle Prescott students majoring in electrical or computer engineering with an interest in avionics.

"[ACSS is] an engineering company that relies on the talents of students and future professionals from Embry-Riddle to drive our business in the years to come," says ACSS Communication Manager Steve Henden. "This is a great way to build a relationship with Embry-Riddle."

Professor Chuck Cone (left) and Steve Henden of ACSS (right) present Kyle Bradford with the initial ACSS Scholarship in Avionics award for 2007.



## Message from the Executive Director

It was great to meet so many of you during the Presidential Welcome Tour. This first-ever event marked a new and exciting era in our relationship with you—our alumni.

It's an exciting era for Alumni Groups, too. We've added several new Alumni Groups—from Denver to Paris—and have helped grow New York City, San Diego and Seattle. We've also seeded opportunities for new groups in Chicago and Anchorage.



Alumni Executive Director Wayne Munson presents the Honorary Alumni Award to Pat Ramsey, former interim vice president of University Development.

We're working to support your needs and keep you connected as we near Homecoming season. Don't forget to check the eaglesNEST for updates on OctoberWest and the Homecoming Weekend.

Sincerely,

Wayne Munson, Executive Director of Alumni Relations

## Alumni Groups keep growing

It's easier than ever to stay involved with your alma mater by participating in Alumni Groups (previously called Chapters and Clubs). We have added seven new groups across the globe and launched smaller regional groups in high-population areas.

Alumni interested in leading a group can take advantage of a revised, user-friendly reference guide offering greater flexibility and convenience.

Visit the eaglesNEST at [www.ERAUalumni.org](http://www.ERAUalumni.org) to find an Alumni Group near you, or contact Chris Carta at [Christopher.Carta@erau.edu](mailto:Christopher.Carta@erau.edu) or call (386) 226-6159.

### ALTIMETER

More news and events at Embry-Riddle this quarter:

- Want photos from previous alumni events? Visit the eaglesNEST at [www.ERAUalumni.org](http://www.ERAUalumni.org) and click on the Photo Albums link.

- Do you have a Facebook account? If so, join the Embry-Riddle Alumni group. Go to [erau.facebook.com](http://erau.facebook.com) and search for "ERAU Alumni."

### NEW ALUMNI GROUPS

Cincinnati—Mary Ann Morris ('98, DB)  
 Columbus, Ohio—Marnie Sablan ('89, DB)  
 Dayton, Ohio—Michael Martini ('95, DB) and Megan Clagg ('05, PC)  
 Singapore—Jonathan Hung ('06, DB)  
 Rocky Mountain Area—Heidi Stenger ('06, WW online) and Steven Hennigan ('97, PC)  
 Boston—Matthew Hand ('92, DB)  
 United Kingdom—Daniel Barnett ('06, WW)

### NEW OFFICERS FOR EXISTING ALUMNI GROUPS

Upstate New York—Marsha Hochstadt ('02, DB)  
 New York City—Michael Gialouris ('01, DB)  
 Hawaii—Linda Weiland ('92, '04, WW) and John Picklesimer ('01, DB)  
 Houston—Bryan Hermann ('00, DB)

## Good luck, Greg!



Houston Alumni Group President Greg Naccarato (left) who has stepped down after six years of dedicated service, receives the Alumni Eagle from Alumni Relations Assistant Director Chris Carta.



## Your signature can save them \$4,000

When you recommend bright, talented, motivated high school seniors who would do well at Embry-Riddle, you can save them \$1,000 a year for four years.

The students you refer to Embry-Riddle can automatically receive a **\$1,000 Alumni Endorsement Grant**, renewable annually for up to four years, toward their tuition for full-time undergraduate study at the university's Prescott, Ariz., campus or Daytona Beach, Fla., campus.

All you have to do is sign our Alumni Endorsement Grant form and submit it to us no later than **Jan. 15, 2008** (for students seeking Fall 2008 admission).

The form is available in the Embry-Riddle Application for Freshman Admission. Or you can get the form by:

**PHONE:** 888-409-3728

**E-MAIL:** univadm@erau.edu

**WEB:** www.erau.edu/endorse

**Thanks for helping.**



President Johnson got to know Embry-Riddle alumni from all over the nation during his 20-city tour.

## Presidential Welcome Tour

From seaside Fort Lauderdale to mile-high Denver, the 20-city Presidential Welcome Tour invited alumni and friends to meet Dr. John P. Johnson and hear his vision for the university.

"Alumni who attended the tours were able to see, in person, a change in university leadership," says Kevin Wisneski, president of the Atlanta Alumni Group. "I think this was a great way for Dr. Johnson to introduce himself, especially to those who are not able to visit their campus during Homecoming and other events."

## Harold Kosola honored for distinguished service

The 2007 Alumni Award for Distinguished Service was presented to Harold A. Kosola ('63, MC), in recognition of his dedication to Embry-Riddle and fellow alumni, as well as his company's distinguished service to the aviation industry.

Since earning his B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering from the Embry-Riddle Institute in Miami, Fla., Kosola has stayed connected with Embry-Riddle—from visiting every airfield Embry-Riddle has used since its inception, to being the president of the first Alumni Group. Most important, Kosola has connected many alumni through his involvement with the No. 5 British Flight Training Squadron, which trained at Clewiston, Fla., during WWII.

His company, Kosola and Associates, Inc., has built or repaired more than 33,000 engine mounts for top companies in the aviation/aerospace industry.

Find out more about the Alumni Awards program at the eaglesNEST at [www.ERAUalumni.org](http://www.ERAUalumni.org).



## Fun in the Sun highlights

Alumni celebrated the 33rd Annual Sun 'N Fun Fly-In on April 21, 2007, at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport with 100 alumni and friends at a Caribbean-style luncheon.

Alumni had an opportunity to meet Matt Chapman, the university's new air show pilot (see story in Chatter on page 3), and also spent time with Elaine Larsen, driver of the Embry-Riddle-sponsored jet dragster.



## Bonjour, alumni!

The Paris Alumni Group held a reception June 21, 2007, at the Paris Aero Club during the Paris Air Show. Guests came from all over the world—from Paris to as far away as Dubai, U.A.E. Michele Berg, associate director of the Office of Alumni Relations, presented an update of alumni events, and Dr. John Watret, vice chancellor of Embry-Riddle Worldwide, delivered a welcome from University President Dr. John P. Johnson. During the event, alumni enjoyed a four-course dinner and established goals for the new Paris Alumni Group. Pictured above, Obaid Hableel is awarded the Alumni Eagle statue at the reception.

## Graduation recap

During the recent spring and summer months, more than 1,000 Embry-Riddle Worldwide graduates walked across the stage at their commencement ceremonies. Representatives from the Office of Alumni Relations congratulated these new alumni

and gave them their alumni portfolio filled with literature and an alumni pin. Following most of the commencements, graduates and their families were invited to a special reception co-hosted by the Office of Alumni Relations.



**Seniors' Night Out** Prescott Campus graduates were welcomed as alumni at an Old West Dinner and Show at the historic Hotel St. Michael in downtown Prescott on April 4, 2007. Pioneer Pepper and the Sunset Pioneers band performed traditional ballads, shared cowboy lore and invited graduates on stage.



**Making a Connection** Daytona Beach graduates celebrate their achievements at the annual Alumni Welcome Reception, hosted by the Alumni-Student Connection at Daytona USA on May 6, 2007.

## Hawaii Seaplane event

More than 60 graduates from the Hawaii Team Campuses celebrated their achievements with festive leis, families and friends on Saturday, June 16. They enjoyed a special commencement address by Lt. Gen. Loyd S. "Chip" Utterback, Commander of the 13th Air Force, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. Just days earlier, local alumni joined the new graduates, Worldwide staff, family and friends for a scenic seaplane tour over the Island of Oahu and relaxed on a floating dock with Pupus, Mai Tai's and island music by the local band Kapulu. The seaplane event was co-hosted by the Alumni-Student Connection program and Worldwide Headquarters.



## Alumni-Student Connection

The Alumni-Student Connection Program links current students with alumni to build stronger affinity groups with future alumni.

Annual events hosted include Etiquette Dinners for sophomores, the Wings Club trip to New York City for upper-level students and Welcome Receptions for graduating seniors.

For more information about the program, please contact Michele Berg, associate director of Alumni Relations, at (800) 727-3728 or e-mail her at [Michele.Berg@erau.edu](mailto:Michele.Berg@erau.edu).



## News to Share?

To be sure your announcements are included in the next issue of *Lift*, become a member of the eaglesNEST (Network for Eagles to Stay in Touch), the FREE online community created exclusively for Embry-Riddle alumni at [www.ERAUalumni.org](http://www.ERAUalumni.org). Members can post their career news, wedding announcements, family updates and more at the eaglesNEST "Class Notes" pages at any time. Please also submit them to Ashlee (Fiser) Ilg ('03, DB) at [ashlee.ilg@erau.edu](mailto:ashlee.ilg@erau.edu) to be included in *Lift* magazine.

## Career News

### 1970s

**Capt. Samir Eleid** ('79, DB) has been an instructor pilot and check airman for Alteon-A Boeing Company, based in Korea since 2000. He also instructs on the B-737NG at Alteon centers in China and Japan. He and his wife live in Athens, Greece.

**Milton "Bud" Walker** ('79, DB) was named the State Flight Detachment Commander for the Maryland Army National Guard and promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 5. Walker flies a C-12 for the National Guard and is a vice president with Sovereign Bank's aircraft finance group. In 2006, Walker received the Embry-Riddle Alumni Award for Distinguished Service.

### 1980s

**Ed Thayres** ('84, PC) is a chief pilot at K-Services, Inc., based in Teterboro, N.J., where he operates a G4-SP. He and his wife, Jodi, have two sons, 16 and 13, and a 9-year-old daughter. They live in Thorofare, N.J. Ed can be contacted at [FL450@aol.com](mailto:FL450@aol.com).

**Timothy P. Hughes** ('87, DB) is the principal attorney at Hughes Law Firm, LLC, located in South St. Paul, Minn. His specialized areas of practice include Employment, Business and Nonprofit Law. He and his wife, Lisa, have two daughters, Brianna (5) and Kylie (3).

**Ken Mudwilder** ('87, DB) is the F119 site manager at Langley AFB, Va. In May 2007,

Ken marked his 20-year anniversary with Pratt & Whitney and has received his MBA from the University of Hartford. He and his wife, Susan,

and two sons, Evan (16) and Allan (15), are moving to Yorktown, Va.

**Robert Hites** ('89, DB) is a consultant with Corporate Performance Solutions, based in Gainesville, Ga. He also serves in the Army National Guard as a captain and has recently re-branched from a signal officer to a Special Forces officer by completing the Army's Special Forces Qualification Course at Fort Bragg, N.C. He and his wife live outside Atlanta.

### 1990s

**Tim O'Krongley** ('91, DB; '94, WW) is an adjunct instructor for the ERAU Randolph Center, where he teaches graduate and undergraduate airport management courses. In March, he was promoted to assistant aviation director at San Antonio International Airport (SAT) after being the Stinson Airport manager for eight years.

**Todd Metts** ('97, WW) is the director of Technical Support at the Airbus Training Center in Miami. He also was instrumental in the recommendation and relocation of the Airbus FBS A320 simulator to Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus. He lives in the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., area with his wife and three children.

**Glenn Barcheski** ('98, DB; '05, WW) is the account manager of airlines within the Airline Business Group at Amadeus North America, where he has been working since 1993.

### 2000s

**Clint Ostler** ('00, PC) is the manager of Market and Fleet Planning for Horizon Air, Alaska Airline's regional partner.

**George Hatzantonis** ('02, DB) is a first officer flying the B-737 for Aegean Airline, based in Athens, Greece.

**1st Lt. David R. Nagle** ('02, DB) is a fighter pilot flying the A-10 Warthog with the 25th Fighter Squadron at the Osan Air Base, South Korea. He married Jayme Olsen on August 20, 2005, in Fort Myers, Fla. They will be stationed at Moody AFB, Ga., after a one-year tour in Korea.

**Jorn Bates** ('03, WW) is the vice president of East Coast Operations for Mesa Air Group, Inc.

**John Grantham** ('03, DB) is the publishing editor of the *Houston Law Review* and has accepted a fall position as a trial attorney at the Houston office of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP. He sat for the Texas Bar Exam in July 2007.

**1 Ronald W. Dvorsky Jr.** ('07, WW) is an Aviation Battalion Command Sergeants Major



in the U.S. Army. He graduated from the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy on Biggs Field in El Paso, Texas, on May 22, 2007, with an assignment to the 10th Mountain Division in Fort Drum, N.Y. He and his wife, Margy, have two sons, Ronald (14) and Thomas (11).

## Weddings & Engagements

### 1950s

**Sam Roose** ('58, '61, MC) and his wife, Earlene, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2007.



### 1990s

**1 Denise Souraj** ('98, DB) and Fared Ramjoh were married on Nov. 25, 2006. Denise is a charter manager for Starflight Aviation and Fared is an air traffic controller.

### CAMPUS LEGEND:

CL	Clewiston Field, Fla.
MC	Miami Campus
RF	Riddle Field
DB	Daytona Beach, Fla.
PC	Prescott, Ariz.
WW	Worldwide Campus (formerly Extended Campus)

**2 Eric Kinney** ('99, DB; '03, WW) married Jenny Murchison on Oct. 14, 2006. Eric is a flight test pilot for the FAA, based in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Dustin May** ('99, PC) and Melissa Kraydich will be married on Oct. 20, 2007. He is a mechanical engineer of Process Systems for Jacobs Engineering, based in Southfield, Mich.



2005, in Panama City, Fla., and then again in Shanghai, China, on June 17, 2006.

**4 Jordan Suvak** ('05, DB) and **Tracey Wegrzyn** ('03, DB) were married July 14, 2007. The couple met as flight instructors on the Daytona Beach Campus and during the 2004 hurricane evacuations. Jordan is a pilot for Atlantic Southeast Airlines, based in Atlanta, and Tracey is an air traffic controller at Atlanta Center.



### 2000s

**3 Patrick Tagert** ('02, '07, DB) is a customer support specialist for Embry-Riddle's IT department. He married Zheng (Janet) Zhang on Dec. 29,

## Family News

### 1990s

**1 Darren Tilman** ('97, DB) and **Kris (Murray) Tilman** ('03, DB) had a daughter, Carolyn Piper, on Aug. 17, 2006. Darren is the general manager for Power Flow Systems, Inc. The family lives in Port Orange, Fla.

**2 Nathaniel Burt** ('98, DB) and his wife, Suzanne, had their first child, Katherine Elaine, on Nov. 8, 2006. Nathaniel is a senior software engineer with Exceptional Software Strategies in Linthicum, Md., and Suzanne is a full-time mother. The family lives in York, Pa.



### 2000s

**3 Kelli (Crews) Baumgartner** ('03, PC) and her husband, Rob, had a baby, Drew Robert, on July 25, 2006.

**4 Master Sergeant Torrence A. Worthy** ('06, WW) and his wife, Deszeré, had their first child, Naysa Iman, on Jan. 31, 2007. Torrence is the Brigade Automation/Communication NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge) of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division out of Fort Hood, Texas, currently deployed in Iraq.



## Retirements

**Dan Carrell** ('90, PC), (Chancellor, Embry-Riddle Prescott) July 1, 2007  
 During his seven years as Prescott's top administrator, Carrell presided over the greatest expansion in the history of the Prescott Campus. Under his tenure, Embry-Riddle Prescott added seven new degree programs, upgraded its fleet, and began a dramatic expansion of the infrastructure to include an Academic Complex, the Aerospace Experimentation and Fabrication Lab, a new Visitors Center, a new main entrance, a soccer field and a track. Also under way are a new library, cafeteria and interfaith chapel.

Though retired, Carrell will remain a faculty member in the College of Aviation and serve as a special assistant to the president.



Dan Carrell and his wife, Cheri, display the new campus entrance road sign honoring his many contributions to the Prescott Campus.

## Emeritus Professors

Embry-Riddle faculty members who have been awarded emeritus for their many years of teaching, research, service and leadership:

- Dr. Robert Brown
- Dr. Thomas Hilburn
- Mr. Donald Hunt
- Dr. Nancy Parker

### 1940s

- Ward Evans ('40, MC).
- Frederick Stanger ('43, TN) March 10, 2007
- Frederick P. Mahler ('49, MC) July 10, 2006

### 1960s

- Theodore P. Armstrong ('68, DB) Feb. 22, 2007

### 1980s

- Michael Klemm ('80, DB) July 10, 2007
- Michael McCray ('83, PC) April 11, 2007
- John David Strenz ('83, DB) Nov. 29, 2004
- Gerald Gollehon ('85, PC) May 29, 2007
- Terri J. Litke ('86, DB) Nov. 5, 2006

### 1990s

- David Foreman ('92, WW) Dec. 31, 2006
- William Gibbs ('94, WW) Feb. 6, 2006
- David Pavilaitis ('95, WW) July 13, 2006
- William Earl Conley ('96, WW) Dec. 2006
- John Green ('97, WW) March 10, 2007

### 2000s

- Holley Foster ('00, PC) May 12, 2007
- Mark Baker ('02, '06, WW) May 12, 2006
- Sgt. Charles Edward Wyckoff, Jr. ('02, PC) June 6, 2007—Operation Enduring Freedom
- Fernando Fernandez ('04, WW)
- Brandon Long ('09, DB) March 12, 2007



#### 1 Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Davis ('96, DB) April, 21, 2007

Lt. Cmdr. Davis passed away during a Blue Angels performance near Beaufort, S.C. Lt. Cmdr. Davis, whose Blue Angels nickname was "Kojak," piloted an F/A-18 Hornet for the elite group. After graduating from Embry-Riddle, he entered officer candidate school at Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla. Before joining the Blue Angels in 2005, his deployments included extended operations in the North Arabian Sea and Arabian Gulf as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

#### 2 CW4 Keith Yoakum ('03, WW) Feb. 2, 2007

CW4 Yoakum was killed in action near Taji, Iraq, while conducting a combat air patrol in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Born in Hemet, Calif., Yoakum received his civilian private pilots license at the age of 19. When he was 21, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a light wheel vehicle mechanic at Fort Campbell, Ky. Since then, he has served in Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Forge, in Albania as a member of Task Force Hawk in support of Operation Allied Force, and in Kosovo as a member of the Task Force Falcon in support of Operation Joint Guardian. Most recently, he served in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with over 300 hours of combat flying time.



#### Eilon Krugman-Kadi ('73, DB) March 16, 2007

Born in Jerusalem, Eilon's love for flying began at an early age. He was in the Israeli Air Force as well as an engineer in the Israeli Navy. He moved to America to go to Embry-Riddle where he graduated *summa cum laude*. In his career, he was a faculty flight instructor for Embry-Riddle and a commercial pilot for both airlines and business jets. In addition, he held multiple certifications in jet and piston aircraft. After graduating from Embry-Riddle, Eilon attended The University of Florida College of Law. At UF, Eilon flew the "Blue Goose," a DC-3 for the Athletic Association. He graduated from UF as a Juris Doctor, and became the president, founder and senior partner of the Law Offices of Eilon Krugman-Kadi, P.A., where he was one of only 31 board-certified aviation lawyers in Florida. The Florida Bar Aviation Law Committee has established an endowed scholarship fund in his name. For more information, contact Wayne Munson at (386) 226-7600.

# We're at an all-time high



## And we're just getting started.

Thanks to nearly 1,700 generous alumni who made a gift to support Embry-Riddle in the last year, our alumni giving rate has never been higher. In the first year of our three-year "Raise the Rate, Just Participate" campaign, Embry-Riddle alumni have risen to the challenge and taken the university to new heights.

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