

LIFT

The alumni magazine of
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

100,000 STRONG

Embry-Riddle's
Class of 2011
marks a major
milestone for the
university's alumni

**First female grads
recall early years**

PAGE 6

**Cooking
for a cause**

PAGE 8

**Thunderbirds
in flight**

PAGE 10

Join us at OctoberWest and Homecoming 2011!



OctoberWest 2011 • Prescott, Ariz.

Thursday, Oct. 6

Industry/Career Expo
EagleNight Alumni Reception

Friday, Oct. 7

Alumni Golf Tournament
New Alumni Center Open House
Light the Night Alumni Dinner
Alumni Women's Volleyball
Bruce McDonald – Hypnotist

Saturday, Oct. 8

Alumni & Alumni Affinity Group
Breakfast – Flight Line
Alumni Fly-In and Static Display
with demonstrations by Matt
Chapman and ERAU Jet Dragster
OctoberWest Festival
Women's and Men's Soccer Game
Entertainment & Fireworks



Homecoming 2011 • Daytona Beach, Fla.

Thursday, Nov. 3

Alumni Return to Classes

Friday, Nov. 4

Alumni Return to Classes
Golf Tournament
Alumni Dinner/Dance

Saturday, Nov. 5

Alumni Symposium
Homecoming Parade
Basketball Game
EagleNight Alumni Celebration



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FOREVER AN EAGLE

For complete information about these events and to register to attend, go to www.ERAUalumni.org/homecoming

Lift

FALL 2011



14

Tony Giese Photography



10

A Storybook Moment Photography



3



6

2 **LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**
With a milestone achieved, we move forward—100,000 strong.

3 **CHATTER**
New Aviation Complex opens • Space station stint nearly complete • Tennis coach of the year • Aviation pioneer recognized nationally • Alumni “Home away from home”

5 **BOUNDLESS**
Partnership expands high-performance vehicle research
A new agreement puts Embry-Riddle students in the heart of a motorsports operation.

6 **WINGS OF LEGACY**
Leading ladies
Two of Embry-Riddle’s first female graduates recall early coed years.

8 **FLIGHT PATH**
5-star philanthropist
Surya Ramjali ('05, PC) uses his gourmet cooking skills to boost educational opportunities for children in his native Nepal.

10 **Birds of a feather**
Alumni serve their country as “Ambassadors in Blue.”

14 **We made it happen in 2011!**
Graduating class brings alumni to 100,000 strong.

20 **GIVING TO EMBRY-RIDDLE**
A winning combination
Bob and Bobbi Coleman turn their philosophy of giving into opportunities for Embry-Riddle student-athletes.

22 **ALUMNI IN ACTION**
Blue sky landing
Lisa Kollar ('97, '09, DB) proves that “Embry-Riddle degrees aren’t just for pilots.”

23 **ALUMNI NEWS**
Message from the Executive Director • Etiquette Dinner • The infamous “Riddle Runaround” • Cuban native, American hero • Honoring aviation leaders • Veterans Appreciation Day • President visits California • Biplane gathering • Paris Air Show

27 **CLASS NOTES**
Find out what your fellow Embry-Riddle alumni are up to now.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations to the Class of 2011 and all Embry-Riddle alumni—the *100,000 Strong*—who represent this great institution and its heritage and future in the aviation and aerospace industries. This issue celebrates this milestone achievement with a special section featuring 10 recent graduates and highlights from commencement ceremonies that pushed Embry-Riddle beyond the 100,000 alumni benchmark.

This accomplishment is something that all alumni and friends of the university should be proud of. It signifies Embry-Riddle's longevity and success in educating professionals—not only in the United States but also in 11 different countries around the world. And our alumni are leaders in their respective fields.

Take, for example, Zane Rowe ('91, DB) and Norman Knight ('90, PC), who returned to their Embry-Riddle campuses this past May to deliver commencement addresses. A member of the Embry-Riddle Board of Trustees and Business College Industry Advisory Committee, Rowe is the executive vice president and chief financial officer of United Continental Holdings. He was named one of corporate America's outstanding financial executives under the age of 40 by *Treasury & Risk* magazine (2009), as well as one of America's best airline CFOs by *Institutional Investor* magazine. Knight, an award-winning member of the NASA team that helped oversee the building of the International Space Station, is deputy chief of the Flight Director Office at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Four more of our alumni are currently serving on the U.S. Air Force's elite Thunderbird team (see page 10); another alumnus is using his talent in the kitchen

to support education in his home country of Nepal (see page 8); while yet another is helping Embry-Riddle students and alumni find their career paths (see page 22).

MOVING FORWARD

Embry-Riddle recently celebrated the Grand Opening of three additional buildings to its James Hagedorn

Aviation Complex at the Daytona Beach Campus. These showcase facilities serve students seeking degrees or certificates in seven different programs. We are grateful to those who supported these brick-and-mortar projects as they move our programs into the future and empower the university's continued success in educating the leaders of today and tomorrow. Construction of the new Jim W. Henderson Administration and Welcome Center has also begun at the Daytona Beach Campus (slated for completion in 2012), while renovation projects at the Prescott Campus recently created new offices and meeting space for the Alumni Association and expanded the Fitness Center.

Embry-Riddle is definitely an institution on the move—and with 100,000 alumni, there's no doubt we'll be reaching new heights.

Warmest regards,

JOHN P. JOHNSON, PH.D.
PRESIDENT AND CEO

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ALTIMETER

More news and events at Embry-Riddle:

The late Jack R. Hunt, president of Embry-Riddle from 1963–1984, was inducted in May into the **Florida Aviation Hall of Fame** at the Florida Air Museum in Lakeland. In 1957, Hunt commanded the Navy blimp ZPG-2 “Snow Bird” on the longest unrefueled, trans-Atlantic flight in history (9,448 miles).

Dave Paschal, tennis coach at the Daytona Beach Campus, was named **National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics women’s Coach of the Year** and men’s South Region Coach of the Year. The women’s team achieved the highest national ranking in program history (No. 2), advancing to the national semifinals for the first time; the men’s team finished the season as **National Runner-Up** in its finals debut.



BUILDING UP

The topography is changing at the Embry-Riddle Daytona Beach Campus

On Sept. 9, university officials, supporters and friends participated in a ribbon-cutting event celebrating the opening of three new buildings for the James Hagedorn Aviation Complex. The buildings account for 99,500 square feet of additional instructional and operational space. They include the Sam Goldman Fleet Maintenance Hangar, the Emil Buehler Aviation Maintenance Science Building and a new Flight Operations Building (yet to be named).

“This world-class aviation complex will ensure that Embry-Riddle students have the best instruction and technology our industry requires,” says John P. Johnson,

Ph.D., university president and CEO.

Construction of the \$22 million complex began in January 2009 with the demolition of the 37-year-old Gill Robb Wilson Flight Training Center. An open-air plaza containing a monumental

stainless-steel sculpture depicting *Pathways to the Sky*, by Orlando, Fla., artist Peter Forster serves as the focal point of the complex. In an effort to join Embry-Riddle’s past with its future, the sculpture’s base was created from bricks saved from the original Gill Robb Wilson building; donors to the Dean’s Scholarship Fund can have their name(s) engraved on a brick for posterity.

In all, the Aviation Complex consists of seven buildings, which support more than 2,000 students seeking degrees in Aeronautical Science, Aviation Maintenance Science, Meteorology, Homeland Security, Air Traffic Management, and Safety Science, and certification in FAA Airframe and Powerplant. Major donors for the complex include Hagedorn (*79, DB), a member of the Embry-Riddle Board of Trustees, and his wife, Karli; Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust; Sam Goldman Family; and Helen Wessel.

SIX MONTHS IN SPACE

Embry-Riddle alumnus finishes ISS mission

Col. Ronald J. Garan Jr. (*94, WW) completes a six-month tour aboard the International Space Station (ISS) this September.

The 49-year-old and two Russian Cosmonauts left Earth on April 4 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. A retired U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter pilot, Garan has served as flight engineer for the mission, assisting with two Space Shuttle missions (STS-134 and STS-135) and removing a large module from the ISS for return to Earth.

This is his second time in space. In 2008, he was a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery, logging more than 20 spacwalk hours while installing the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency’s Kibo laboratory at the ISS. Another Embry-Riddle alumnus, Lt. Cmdr. Daniel C. Burbank (*91, WW), is scheduled to begin a six-month tour of duty at the ISS this fall.



Col. Garan prepares for his 2008 mission on the Space Shuttle Discovery.

NASA

Fore! Prescott Campus adds golf program

Embry-Riddle’s Prescott Campus is driving its athletics program forward with the addition of an intercollegiate golf program for men and women that debuts this academic year (2011–12).

“The men’s and women’s golf programs are an exciting new addition to the campus,” says Dr. Frank Ayers, Ed.D., executive vice president and chief academic officer for the Prescott Campus.

The campus’s first-ever men’s and women’s golf program is part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

“We’re thrilled to be expanding the athletics program with the addition of golf,” says Ted Blake, athletics director. Beyond adding another sport to the Prescott Campus, the program should appeal to prospective female scholars-athletes. This aligns with a university-wide goal of increasing female enrollment, he says.

Kim Haddow, a member of the National Golf Coaches Association and an LPGA Class A Golf Instructor, is coaching both the men’s and women’s teams.



AVIATION PIONEER ACCEPTS AWARD

Trustee Emeritus inducted into National Aviation Hall of Fame

ALTIMETER

More news and events at Embry-Riddle:

C. Jeffrey Knittel ('80, DB) and David L. McKay ('77, DB) were honored in March with Embry-Riddle **Eagle of Excellence Awards**. Knittel is president of CIT Transportation Finance; McKay is president and chief operating officer for U.S. Aviation Underwriters Inc. and serves on the Industry Advisory Board for the Aeronautical Science program at Daytona Beach and Prescott.

Katy McCormick-Meyer, women's volleyball coach and associate athletic director at the Prescott Campus, was selected to represent the United States as a referee for the **Fédération Internationale de Volleyball**.

Alan Bender, Ph.D., professor of Aeronautics for the Worldwide Portland, Ore., Campus, was elected **president of the Transportation Research Forum**.

Embry-Riddle Trustee Emeritus S. Harry Robertson, Ph.D., ('72, Hon.) is one of the newest members of the National Aviation Hall of Fame (NAHF).

On July 16, during the 50th Hall of Fame Enshrinement Dinner and Ceremony in Dayton, Ohio, Robertson joined the ranks of fellow enshrinees and legendary aviation pioneers such as Orville and Wilbur Wright, John Glenn Jr., and Charles and Anne Lindbergh.

"Harry Robertson's lifelong work in the area of fuel and fire safety, especially in the discipline of helicopter flight, has saved lives and set an example of how engineering and flight safety coincide to make a difference," says Dr. Frank Ayers, Ed.D., executive vice president and chief academic officer for the Embry-Riddle Prescott Campus. "Additionally, his establishment of the Robertson Safety Center at the Prescott Campus has ensured a permanent home for the type of safety-design innovation he has pioneered. We at Embry-Riddle are all very proud of our friend Harry Robertson."

Known as the "Father of the Crashworthy Fuel System," Robertson served on the Embry-Riddle Board of Trustees for 18 years before stepping down in 2009 and being named an emeritus. He was a longtime supporter of the university, and three buildings on the Prescott Campus bear his name: the Robertson Aviation Safety Center I and II, and the David L. and S. Harry Robertson Flight Simulation Center.

In a 2009 issue of *Lift* magazine, Robertson indicated his interest in aviation safety may have been sparked from having witnessed several fatal crashes during his youth and young adulthood.

"Some have said that seeing those crashes forced me to do my research," he says. "I don't know if



that's true or not. But I do know this—there's no reason for someone to survive a crash and then die in a fire."

A former B-47 pilot for the U.S. Air Force, Robertson in 1960

began designing fuel systems that would reduce the chance of impact-related fires. His work proved successful. In 1970, at the height of the Vietnam War, the U.S. Army mandated Army helicopters be installed with Robertson's fuel system; the move effectively reduced Vietnam War post-impact fatalities by 99.9 percent. Robertson established his own company in 1976, Robertson Aviation (now Robertson Fuel Systems LLC), and remains CEO.

According to Ron Kaplan, enshrinement director for the NAHF, Robertson's crashworthy fuel systems, known as "Robbie Tanks," are installed on nearly every U.S. combat helicopter today, as well as military ground vehicles, police cars and high-performance race cars.

New Alumni Relations office opens at Prescott Campus; Fitness Center expands

The Alumni Association and visiting Embry-Riddle graduates have a new home in Prescott, Ariz. Situated in the heart of the Prescott Campus, Building 37 was remodeled this summer and opened mid-July for staff and alumni. The new facility houses Alumni Relations and Development offices.

According to Michéle Berg, executive director of Alumni Relations, the project addresses the changing needs of the Alumni Association for office space and visiting alumni. The building design was created to make alumni feel welcome.

"The lounge area, complete with computer/Internet access and satellite TV, offers alumni a place to relax, visit and telecommute, if necessary, while visiting their alma mater," says Bill Thompson ('87, PC), director of Alumni Relations



at Prescott. A grand opening and open house will be held Oct. 7, during OctoberWest.

ATHLETICS REMODEL

The Athletics Complex at the Prescott Campus was recently transformed; 1,400 square feet of space and 21 new pieces of equipment were added to the Cardio Room, and 10 new offices were created. This is the first phase of a planned five-phase renovation, expected to be complete by August 2014.

Harry Robertson photo by Jeff Newton

Partnership expands research in high-performance vehicles

Chris and Elaine Larsen of Larsen Motorsports have partnered with Embry-Riddle for the past eight years, promoting the university with their exhibition jet car racing team. This year, that partnership grows to include a cooperative agreement that puts Embry-Riddle students in the midst of the Larsens' racing operation.

Key to the joint endeavor is the creation of a state-of-the-art facility at Embry-Riddle's Research and Technology Park near the Daytona Beach Campus. The 12,000-square-foot facility will become home to Larsen Motorsports High-Performance Vehicles Research and Development Center, and will be the Research Park's first official tenant. Construction is expected to be complete in early 2012.

ONE-STOP SHOP

Designed to train Embry-Riddle students, while also offering a cost-effective option for the advanced research and

"Aerospace and motorsports go hand-in-hand. The technologies are almost exactly meshed. There are a ton of different disciplines at Embry-Riddle that fit in this huge business."

development of high-performance vehicles, turbine engines and thrust augmentation systems, the facility will be a "one-stop shop."

"We will not need to outsource anything [except paint]. The cars will go from concept to racetrack in this facility," says Chris Larsen.

According to Christina Frederick-Recascino, Ph.D., vice president for academics and research at Embry-Riddle and the driving force behind the development of the Research and Technology Park, the agreement with

Larsen Motorsports is a "win-win" for all involved.

"Our positive and productive relationship with Larsen Motorsports set the stage for their move into the Research Park," she says. "We believe that our College of Engineering working with Larsen Motorsports will advance research in high-performance vehicles and jet propulsion systems."

Larsen sees the partnership providing internship and hands-on training opportunities for students in multiple fields of study to include human factors, meteorology, airframe/power plant, mechanical and aerospace engineering, and business.

"Aerospace and motorsports go hand-in-hand," says Larsen, who left a 17-year career working in airframe and power plant at Cessna in 2002 to pursue his passion for racing full time. "The technologies are almost exactly meshed. There are a ton of different disciplines at Embry-Riddle that fit in this huge business we call motorsports."

FUELING SUCCESS

Students and Embry-Riddle professors will also be involved in Larsen Motorsports' ongoing research for the development of advanced turbine engine alternative fuels.

According to Larsen, a subsidiary goal for the facility is to increase awareness, interest and ultimately growth of the jet car racing industry.



Chris Larsen (center, right) works with students involved in the construction of the first student designed-built-operated jet car at the Prescott Campus. Larsen serves as an advisor of this student team.

Elaine Larsen, co-owner and chief driver for Larsen Motorsports, says the facility's location should enhance its success in this area.

"Daytona International Speedway, which has nearly year-round activity and has been a crucial part of the growth of the Daytona Beach area, is in the line of sight of the Research Center. The research and development opportunities for other motorsports teams are endless," she says.

"It's for the Larsens, it's for Embry-Riddle, but by and large it's for the students," adds Chris Larsen. "This is our way to give back."

The Larsens' Embry-Riddle Race Team has won several Best Engineered awards for its vehicles and is among the leading exhibition teams in the nation. Chris Larsen also advises a group of students at Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus, which is developing the first student-designed, -built and -operated jet car. The projected date of completion for the car is December 2012.



Far left: Linda (Larsen) Colgan ('71, DB) greets radio broadcaster Paul Harvey with a handshake in 1969 as he arrives to celebrate Gill Robb Wilson Day. Left: The staff of *The Informer*, the Embry-Riddle student newspaper (photo published in the 1968-69 *Phoenix*), includes Linda (Larsen) Colgan ('71, DB), front, center; Trish (Redmond) Nowicki ('70, DB), behind Colgan; Bonnie Brant, third row, center; and Tony Colgan, top row, far right.

Leading ladies

Two of Embry-Riddle's first female graduates recall early coed years

BY SARA WITHROW

In 1967, Embry-Riddle was a half-step away from transforming its institute into a university (1970). It was also struggling financially. Then-President Jack Hunt allegedly described the 1966-67 academic year as “the most difficult year in the life of Embry-Riddle.” Politically, the country was in the midst of the Vietnam War. Opinions regarding U.S. involvement in Vietnam varied widely among Embry-Riddle students. Those who were older and veterans tended to support the war, while others held peace rallies. It was in this environment that the institute officially opened to women.

Two of its first women graduates, Linda (Larsen) Colgan ('71, DB) and Patricia “Trish” (Redmond) Nowicki ('70, DB), recently shared their experiences of this interesting time.

LINDA COLGAN

Colgan was a copygirl at the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* with aspirations

of becoming a journalist, when Hunt announced the opening of Embry-Riddle to women. The announcement was big news at the *News-Journal*. Shortly thereafter, Colgan's friends urged her to apply. She arrived on campus in August 1967 to pursue a degree in aviation management and discovered the school had failed to achieve its stated goal for female enrollment.

“They said there would be 100 women. But on my first day of school, I showed up and I didn't see any girls,” Colgan says. “There were only four girls that first semester.”

The women were not warmly received by most of their male counterparts. “They called us ‘The Females,’” Colgan says. “We were the infiltrators. They really didn't know what to do with us.”

Disparaging comments and sexist insinuations were commonplace. “We'd get remarks like, ‘You're just here to get a husband.’ They were very suspicious,” she recalls.

Undaunted, Colgan gravitated to what she knew best—writing and reporting—and the male disgruntlement gradually changed to acceptance. By the end of her first semester she transformed the then-student newsletter, *The Informer*, into a full-blown student newspaper and was named editor. By the second semester, she had a staff of 30. Under Colgan's leadership, the newspaper was renamed *Avion*, a title that is still produced weekly at Embry-Riddle.

Colgan was even able to interview a celebrity for *Avion*—popular radio broadcaster Paul Harvey, who visited the campus in honor of Gill Robb Wilson Day in 1969. “I remember I met him at the Daytona track. We went in the pace car together. After a lap we got out, but he surprised everyone by getting back in the car and taking off by himself. He terrorized everyone,” she says.

Colgan also founded a literary magazine at Embry-Riddle, *The Mainframe*. Despite her natural propensity for writing (she went on to earn an M.S. in writing from West Chester University), she insists it was aviation that drew her to the school.

“I went to an aviation college because it interested me. I didn't just go there as a lark. I went there because I really did fully intend to go into the field,” she says. “There's something different at Embry-Riddle. At other schools you walk around looking down all the time, but at Embry-Riddle you've got the whole sky for your campus. ... It made the school bigger. It was just full of wonder all the time. I

WOMEN'S INITIATIVE Supporting its female students and enhancing female enrollment remain priorities at Embry-Riddle. The Women's Initiative program has a goal to reach young girls in grades 6-8, encourage them to excel in math and science, and broaden their horizons by showing them the possibilities and opportunities in the aviation and aerospace industries. “Together

with Mrs. Maurie Johnson and Christina Frederick-Recascino, Ph.D., who head up a committee of dedicated female employees at Embry-Riddle, I believe we can make a difference in increasing the percentage of female students on all of our campuses,” says Michèle Berg, executive director of the Alumni Association and member of the Women's Initiative Committee.

knew when I left it, I would never have that experience again, and I haven't."

During her four years there, Colgan marveled at the school's progress. New dormitories were built as well as a \$1.4 million Academic Complex; the school was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as a "special purpose institution"; its enrollment and faculty complement more than tripled; and it officially became a "university" in June 1970.

"It was amazing what they accomplished," Colgan says. "Embry-Riddle always achieved its goals, although with women it took a little longer. ... When I graduated I think there were 12 girls. It never got to 100."

While at Embry-Riddle, she met and married her husband, John "Tony" Colgan, who attended through his senior year but left to join the family business, Ballymore Co., just prior to graduating. Her life took some turns away from aviation, but Colgan used the concepts she gained from her education. For more than 20 years she was involved in the operation of Brandywine Ballet Company of West Chester, Pa. She was the lead coordinator for a national poetry conference for West Chester University before retiring in 2003, and served as president of the nonprofit Mordecai Land Trust.

TRISH NOWICKI

Nowicki learned of Embry-Riddle's push to attract female students from her stepfather, the late Charles Caswell, who chaired the school's Division of Aircraft Maintenance Technology. Despite her familial connection, her reception at Embry-Riddle was no warmer than Colgan's.

She describes registration day in August 1967 as "quite alarming."

"There were no other girls in sight and plenty of hostile stares from the opposite sex," she says. "It was an era where women were expected to stay in a certain place, namely where society had put us. The men felt it [aviation] was their terrain and they didn't want women in it."

Not all of the instructors at Embry-Riddle were welcoming either. "Sometimes they would make cutting

remarks in class. It was uncalled for, but it was just their era. I look back now and I think, 'Why did you put up with that?'" Nowicki says.

An advocate for the women students emerged in an unlikely place: the office of Dean of Men John Spears.

"A cigar-chomping former Vietnam Green Beret ... we knew we had him from 'hello,'" Nowicki says. "He was really gruff, but he was a marshmallow inside. He would patiently listen to our various travails and problem-solved many issues for us."

Colgan and Nowicki became fast friends, along with the two other female crusaders that first semester, Patricia "Penny" Chovanec ('69, A.S.; '70, B.S.) and Bonnie Brant, who attended through 1970. Colgan and Chovanec lived in the "dorm," which was initially just a room in a local hotel rented by the institute.

The women quickly joined Colgan on the staff of the student newspaper. According to Nowicki, Colgan was quite the force to be reckoned with as editor. Her editorials addressed unequal treatment and double standards for women, as well as campuswide concerns.

She recalls one issue in particular that raised Colgan's ire: "The guys could come and go from their dorm with no signing in or out; but for the girls, they built a special door that closed and locked at a certain time each night. Their intentions were good, but looking at the way the boys were treated, it wasn't fair."

Music was another outlet for the women's frustrations. "There were times we got singled out as females for whatever we were doing that was considered 'bad,'" Nowicki says. "Linda [who played guitar] wrote songs of protest. We would sing them in the *Avion* building ... and we'd all go, 'Yeah!'"

Nowicki worked for American Airlines as a secretary for a couple of summers, but after graduating with a degree in aviation management she transitioned to hospital administration. While working for a hospital in California, she met her husband, Steve, an Air Force veteran who became a

commercial pilot for Delta Air Lines. Nowicki went on to earn a master's degree in speech therapy and work as a speech therapist in public schools. She recently retired from the Volusia County School District in Florida.

"I think it's colored my life," Nowicki says of her experience at Embry-Riddle. "I have a huge love of aviation, and I've enjoyed the benefit of being an ancillary person to the aviation world [as a pilot's wife]."

Nowicki says she didn't recognize the significance of her degree, from a female standpoint, until years later.

"At the time, I didn't think of it as being a trailblazer [for women]. I was just surviving and learning the whole college experience. I think we just happened to be in a generation that was kind of a changing of the guard," she says.



Top to bottom: Trish Nowicki ('70, DB), Linda Colgan ('71, DB) and Bonnie Brant at an *Avion* Reunion in 2005.



MYSTERY HISTORY CONTEST
What current airline shares its roots with Embry-Riddle?

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 *Embry-Riddle at War*, signed by author Stephen G. Craft.

TO WIN: Search the University Archives online for the correct answer. To access the archives, visit www.eraualumni.org and click "Archives." Send in the correct answer to the email link on the page. Your correct entry will be entered into a random drawing held after Sept. 20.

Robin Colwell ('10, WW) of Memphis is the winner of the Spring 2011 Mystery History Contest. Colwell was one of five people who correctly answered the question, "What is the nickname of the operation to move Embry-Riddle from Miami to Daytona Beach?"—Operation Bootstrap.

Embry-Riddle's University Archives department is dedicated to preserving the memories and artifacts belonging to the university's rich history. To view thousands of historical photos from Embry-Riddle's past, visit www.eraualumni.org and click "Archives."



5-STAR PHILANTHROPIST

SURYA RAMJALI ('05, PC) uses his gourmet cooking skills to boost educational opportunities for children in his native Nepal

Aerospace engineer by day, personal chef by night, Surya Ramjali ('05, PC) has a definite Superman/Clark Kent vibe about him. Because he designs aircraft systems in Cessna's new product development department, Ramjali can't divulge much about his current assignments. He can, however, offer details about his philanthropic efforts after work.

Earlier this year, Ramjali began moonlighting as the One Night Chef, serving dishes such as lamb panang, portobello risotto and banana flambé. For a modest fee (from \$30 for one person to \$60 for four), he cooks three-course gourmet meals in the comfort of clients' homes, then donates all gratuities he receives to charity.

His first benefactor is the only school in Wakhet, Nepal, the small village where he was born. Currently, the school ends at sixth grade, but Ramjali hopes to help extend its curriculum to include high school courses.

Ramjali started attending boarding school in Katmandu at age 5 and enrolled at Embry-Riddle after that, so he highly values the education his parents provided him. Now, he wants to improve local options for other Nepalese children.

"It's a big deal to graduate 10th grade there," he says, noting that the village lacked even dirt roads until 2006. "I was very fortunate to have a good education; I know how important it is. One Night Chef is a great opportunity to support young, deserving kids. They shouldn't have to travel to another village for higher education."

\$1,500 AND COUNTING

After just 11 bookings, Ramjali raised more than \$1,500 for the school, an amount he says will go a long way toward improvements. He also garnered a perfect record of five-star ratings from clients. "The food was nothing short of fantastic!" wrote one; "... some of the best I have ever tasted," said another.

Beyond the quality of the cuisine, the idea of enjoying gourmet food at home while supporting a charitable cause has proved compelling.

With his initial \$1,500 goal already met, Ramjali has no plans to retire his cutlery and cookware.



weeks after finishing his degree, he began work at Cessna.

Ramjali credits the university's Career Services department for helping him land a coveted position so quickly after graduation. "Cessna came to campus, I talked with a recruiter and they flew me to Wichita for an interview," he recalls. "After that, it all happened very fast."

His current assignment in advance design systems was preceded by a four-year stint in structural design, focusing on fuselage loads for the CJ4 light jet and The Ten, Cessna's mid-sized jet launched last fall. Ramjali also worked for about nine months as an airworthiness engineer, helping achieve foreign and domestic certification for the smaller CJ1+ and the Citation Mustang very light jet.

"Embry-Riddle lets you enter the real world with exposure to a lot of different fields within your degree," he notes. His CATIA V5 senior design project experience was applicable to the advanced systems work he's completing at his current post.

He also honed his culinary skills at Embry-Riddle while working as a resident assistant in Roadrunner Hall and the Village apartments. "College kids are always interested in free food, so I used cooking as a way to bring people together," he recalls. "The smell of the spices would bring them out of their rooms, and we'd have unannounced get-togethers."

Momo, a snack Ramjali describes as Nepalese ravioli, was particularly popular with the students. These days, he dresses it up with a fusion of peanut and broiled tomato as an appetizer course.

Although his current creations are adorned with capers, truffle oil and edible flowers to appeal to upscale foodies, he fondly remembers scruffy college students wiping the sweat from each other's heads as they discovered his Nepalese and Thai curries. So it was no surprise when fellow Embry-Riddle alumni also working at Cessna supported his food-centric venture. Lance Kimbrough ('07, PC) designed the website for One Night Chef; Ben de Putter ('05, PC) shot the photographs for it, and Daniel Warren ('11, DB) provided copywriting services.

"It's great to be able to combine good food and community service," Ramjali adds. "And it's wonderful to have the help and support of so many friends."

"I hope that One Night Chef touches everybody and anybody in need wherever they may be. Helping others in need is one of the purest gifts an individual can give to society."

Instead, he's busy soliciting input about the next charity he will benefit. In May, the front-runner was a girls' school in Nepal, but he was hoping clients and friends would recommend causes they are impassioned about—in Nepal or elsewhere.

"I hope that One Night Chef touches everybody and anybody in need wherever they may be," he says. "Helping others in need is one of the purest gifts an individual can give to society, and whatever form of giving it may be, I find myself easily gravitating toward it. Maybe that's why I donate blood every time I'm eligible or participate in runs for nonprofit organizations."

IDEAL LAUNCHING PAD

Embry-Riddle fueled both of Ramjali's passions.

"I wanted to be a pilot, but my mom didn't think that was a good idea; so we compromised with aerospace engineering," he says. Just two

Reservations Required

To book an evening with the One Night Chef or make a donation to his current cause, visit www.onenightchef.org. You can also follow Surya Ramjali ('05, PC) on www.facebook.com/ChefRamjali.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

ALUMNI SERVE COUNTRY AS 'AMBASSADORS IN BLUE'



Majs. Aaron Jelinek ('01, PC) and J.R. Williams ('01, PC) perform an Opposing Knife Edge Pass procedure in the skies over Romania in June. Photo courtesy of SSgt. Larry Reid Jr., USAF.

hey all wear blue, and they all have a love of country and a passion for aviation. But four members of the Air Force's elite demonstration team—the Thunderbirds—have something else in common. They are all alumni of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and credit their education, along with good measures of hard work and determination, for their career success.

Tech. Sgt. Amber Alumpe ('10, WW), Maj. Aaron Jelinek ('01, PC), Maj. Jason Moore ('00, DB), and Maj. J.R. Williams ('01, PC) are among the 12 officers and 120 enlisted personnel on the 2011 team. As America's "Ambassadors in Blue," the Thunderbirds' mission is to demonstrate the capabilities of modern war fighting aircraft, as well as the precision, skill and teamwork performed daily by nearly 700,000 active duty and civilian airmen and women in the U.S. Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.

In February 2011, the four alumni and the entire Thunderbird team visited Daytona Beach for a flyover at the Daytona 500 NASCAR race—and Embry-Riddle was there to show its support.

"You could feel the collective pride and excitement across campus," says Michéle Berg, executive director of Alumni Relations. "It was wonderful to see the Thunderbirds in action, and to visit with our alumni on the tarmac. They are such professionals, and we are so proud to call them our own."

HIGH-FLYING REUNION

Working together for the Thunderbirds is a reunion of sorts for Jelinek, who is the lead solo pilot of the No. 5 jet; and Williams, the opposing solo pilot of the No. 6 jet. The two first met as students and members of the Air Force ROTC at the Embry-Riddle Prescott Campus. Both recipients of Air Force scholarships, Jelinek, of Clarkston, Wash., and

Williams, of Marfa, Texas, bonded quickly as friends and ROTC teammates.

"We met each other after about a month at school," recalls Williams. "We pushed each other, whether it was in grades, physical fitness or pilot training. But it was never a competition; it was 'how can we be better together?'"

Williams and Jelinek are still pushing each other—just at a higher rate of speed. While Williams was geographically closer to the Thunderbirds, serving at Nellis Air Force Base (AFB) in Las Vegas as an F-15C aggressor pilot, Jelinek, who was previously stationed at Luke AFB in Arizona as an F-16C evaluator and functional check flight pilot, beat him to the team by one year. Both have logged more than 1,600

flight hours since their commissioning at Prescott Campus in 2001, and have 230 combat flight hours each (earned in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom).

Their career success didn't just happen. It took a lot of hard work, sometimes in the face of seemingly impossible odds. According to Jelinek, a candid discussion with the Embry-Riddle ROTC commander at Prescott Campus was an eye-opener but also served to motivate him.

"When I came to Embry-Riddle, there were 200 ROTC cadets," he says. "The commander told us, 'Nineteen of you guys will get pilot slots.' Looking at the ratio, you want to give up, but I said to myself, 'That's what I want to do, so what's the

"WE PUSHED
EACH OTHER ... IT
WAS 'HOW CAN
WE BE BETTER
TOGETHER?'"





1) From left, Maj. Aaron Jelinek, Jason Moore and J.R. Williams in Daytona Beach, Fla. Photo by Chris Carta. 2) Maj. J.R. Williams, left, and Aaron Jelinek visit with a young fan in Bulgaria in June. Photo by SSgt. Larry Reid Jr., USAF. 3) The F-16 Fighting Falcon. Photo courtesy of USAF. 4) Maj. Jason Moore reviews maintenance forms during preflight inspections in Great Britain in July. Photo by SSgt. Larry Reid Jr., USAF. 5) Tech. Sgt. Amber Alumpé prepares a member of the media for a ride in a Thunderbird F-16 in April. Photo by SSgt. Larry Reid Jr., USAF.

next step?’ ... The best advice I can give is, don’t let anybody tell you you can’t do something.”

According to Williams, who had his private and instrument ratings before entering college, Embry-Riddle’s engineering physics and aviation safety classes were most helpful for him.

“[The classwork] really opened my eyes and made me a better pilot from day one,” he says.

But more important than the knowledge he gained were the connections he made on campus.

“When you surround yourself with people who have similar goals as you, you can help each other through the process,” Williams says. “I found an awesome group of people I still refer to as my best friends. They made all the difference for me, and I met those people at Embry-Riddle.”

SAFETY FIRST

A noncommissioned officer with Aircrew Flight Equipment, Alumpé is charged with maintaining all lifesaving and life-sustaining aircrew flight equipment for the Thunderbirds. The native of Simi Valley, Calif., began her Air Force career in 2003

at Cannon AFB in Clovis, N.M. Before joining the Thunderbirds, she provided aircrew flight equipment assistance for students and instructors flying six different aircraft at the Weapons School at Nellis AFB.

“I enjoy the pride, the positive attitudes and the motivation level of the team,” she says. “The military is already a team atmosphere, but the teamwork here brings it to another level.”

Alumpé’s fascination with the demonstration squadron began in 2006, after watching it perform. In fact, if it hadn’t been for her youngest child, Owen, now 4, she would have applied then for the team. “I was a new mother and I wasn’t really fit to travel at the time,” she explains.

Shortly after completing her bachelor’s degree from Embry-Riddle Worldwide in May 2010, the job opened up again. This time, Alumpé jumped at the chance.

“I didn’t want to spend the rest of my career regretting not applying for what could be the position of a lifetime,” she says.

According to Alumpé, the coursework she took for her bachelor’s degree in professional

ALL IN THE NAME

Activated on May 25, 1953, at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona (six years after the U.S. Air Force became its own military branch), the Air Force’s official air demonstration team was first referred to as the 3600th Air Demonstration Unit. Influenced by the American Indian culture and folklore of the Southwest, it wasn’t long before the unit adopted the name Thunderbirds. Indian legends speak of the Thunderbird as a giant eagle or hawk with eyes that shot bolts of lightning and wings that created thunder in flight. The Thunderbird was a creature that evoked great respect and fear, much like the Air Force’s Thunderbirds of today.

SOURCE: THUNDERBIRDS.AIRFORCE.COM



INSIDE THE F-16 FIGHTING FALCON

FIRST FLIGHT: December 1976 (F-16A)	WEIGHT: 19,700 pounds (without fuel)
FORCE: Up to 9 Gs	RANGE: More than 1,740 nautical miles
SPEED: Mach 2 (1,500 mph)	PAYLOAD: Two 2,000-pound bombs, two AIM-9 and 1,040-gallon external tanks
CEILING: Above 50,000 feet	CREW: F-16 A/C: one; F-16B/D: one or two
AVIONICS: Highly accurate global positioning and inertial navigation systems (EGI)	UNIT COST: F-16C/D \$18.8 million (FY 98)
THRUST: 27,000 pounds (F-16C/D)	INVENTORY: Total force F-16C/D, 1,280
WINGSPAN: 32 feet, 8 inches	
LENGTH: 49 feet, 5 inches	
HEIGHT: 16 feet	

The F-16 was built through a consortium agreement between the United States, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway; Portugal recently joined the consortium

SOURCE: AFMIL/INFORMATION/FACTSHEETS

aeronautics with minors in aviation safety and aviation management applies directly to the safety, accident investigation and human factors of her job. She is one of two Aircrew Flight Equipment personnel charged with the protection and safety of those flying the F-16s at Mach 2 every day.

“Before they take off, we preflight every bit of equipment they wear. Each job I take very seriously,” she says. “I wouldn’t put a crew member in equipment I wouldn’t put my own child in.”

She adds, “It’s a lot of pressure and it never fades. Someone’s life is in your hands.”

AVIATION EDGE

Like Jelinek and Williams, Moore came to Embry-Riddle with the idea of becoming a pilot. He earned a bachelor’s degree in aeronautical science at Embry-Riddle’s Daytona Beach Campus and completed his private, instrument and commercial ratings.

“I always wanted to fly,” he says. “My dad flew in the 1970s and my grandpa was a flier.”

Originally from Doylestown, Pa., Moore ultimately decided to join the Air Force as a maintenance officer after graduating from Embry-Riddle in 2000. He has worked at bases in Delaware, Oklahoma, Virginia, Florida and now Las Vegas. In addition to maintenance officer, Moore has served as a project manager, officer in charge and a flight commander. Currently, he is responsible for 90 personnel and the maintenance of 11 Block 52 F-16 aircraft for the Thunderbirds.

Moore calls his present assignment a “once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.” He adds, “Working with a team of such consummate professionals and representing the Air Force is an honor and privilege.”

Moore’s background as a civilian-rated pilot has given him a marked advantage when it comes to communicating with airmen and airwomen, particularly with regard to aircraft failures and needs. His minor in aviation safety has also been helpful.

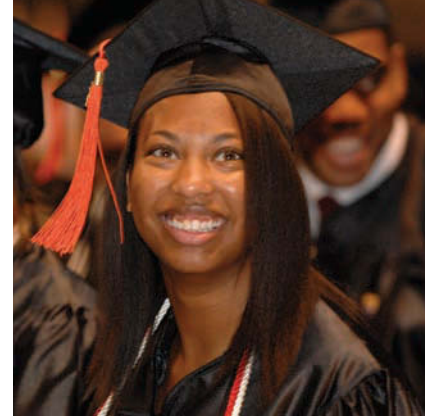
“A lot of what I learned at Embry-Riddle is applicable,” he says. “I didn’t realize it then, but I still carry that knowledge with me today.”

As Thunderbirds and Embry-Riddle alumni, Alumpé, Jelinek, Moore and Williams represent the best in their fields for the U.S. Air Force, and the educational excellence of their alma mater. As they travel to more than 70 air show venues this year, they also represent the United States of America and its people.

A trip by the team to Puerto Rico this past April enlightened Alumpé to this broader significance.

“The crowd’s support for the military—for us—was just phenomenal,” she recalls. “Even though it was raining, and the weather wasn’t optimal, they were still out there supporting us, waving flags and thanking us for our service. It made me realize in a different way how we represent the country as a whole.”

Mary Van Buren and Jill Fontaine contributed to this article.



GRADUATING CLASS BRINGS ALUMNI TO **100,000 STRONG**

We Made It Happen



HOW WE GOT THERE

Reaching 100,000

DECADE	ALUMNI*
1920s	11
1940s	781
1950s	428
1960s	736
1970s	4,118
1980s	17,756
1990s	32,061
2000s	42,451
2010s	8,264**
Total	106,606

* "On record" with the university
 ** and counting ...

Clockwise from top: Joseph Kenney ('11, WW) signs the commemorative '100,000 Strong' banner at the Long Beach ceremony; A group of students and Dr. Frank Ayers, executive vice president and CAO, celebrate at Prescott Campus; Rayna Thompson is all smiles at the Daytona Beach graduation; Stan Weber, left, pins the rank on his son, Matthew Weber, at the NROTC Commissioning at Daytona Beach; A group of Worldwide Campus alumni celebrate at a U.S. Army installation in Afghanistan; and European students participate in a Regional Worldwide Campus commencement at Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

BY SARA WITHROW

The graduating class of 2011 tipped the scale for Embry-Riddle, moving the 85-year-old educational institution into a greater sphere of influence with 100,000 alumni. Nearly 1,000 Daytona Beach and Prescott campus graduates received degrees at May commencement ceremonies; meanwhile, more than 2,000 Worldwide Campus graduates celebrated their academic achievements at locations across the United States and abroad.

"That's 100,000 graduates, alumni, peers, co-workers, friends and — like you — Eagles. That's about one-eighth the size of today's entire aerospace industry. It's a staggering number," said Senior Class President Charlie Harrison ('11, DB) at the Daytona Beach commencement.

"These alumni share a lifelong connection that reaches across generations, personalities, geographic regions and cultures," says

Richard Heist, Ph.D., executive vice president and chief academic officer (CAO) for the Daytona Beach Campus.

Kevin Montgomery, university archivist, agrees, but with a caveat. According to Montgomery, Embry-Riddle actually has more than 100,000 alumni. However, the complexity of maintaining accurate records, particularly during World War II when a significant number of military cadets were trained for the United States, Royal Air Force and several other countries, makes it impossible to determine the exact number. The 100,000 figure includes all alumni *on record* who earned a diploma, certificate of completion or degree from any of Embry-Riddle's three university campuses (Daytona Beach, Prescott and Worldwide), or its flight schools and institute that operated prior to the university's creation in 1970.

"We are all extremely proud to be '100,000 Strong,'" Heist says. "But what makes this

To view in-depth articles for each commencement ceremony, photos and video, visit www.eraualumni.org/100kalbumnistrong.

Daytona Beach: Tony Giese Photography; Long Beach: Bill Thompson; Prescott: A Storybook Moment Photography; Afghanistan: Sidiane Ramsay; Ramstein Air Base: Bob Scare; Opposite page: Norman Knight photo courtesy of Gradimages; Lane Rowe photo by Tony Giese Photography.

“Embry-Riddle’s 100,000 alumni effect positive change wherever they go. Our reputation as a university is reflected in the professionalism and excellence of these alumni and those who will follow.” —JOHN P. JOHNSON, Ph.D., PRESIDENT AND CEO

even more significant is the fact that so many of our ‘100,000 Strong’ are recognized leaders in their chosen professions. I am particularly proud of the fact that Embry-Riddle educates and graduates leaders—global leaders—who are helping to set the agenda for tomorrow’s world.”

in 2011!

Alumni and new graduates are celebrating the milestone achievement with contributions to the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship. The need-based scholarship was established with an initial gift from the Atlanta and New York alumni chapters, and reached the minimum level of endowment in June with a \$2,000 donation from the 2011 Senior Class (Daytona Beach). The goal is to raise \$100,000 for the endowed fund, and provide partial tuition support to students representing all three Embry-Riddle campuses. For more information, visit www.alumnifidelity.com/ERAU100KStrong.html.

“Supporting the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship is an ideal way for graduates to celebrate being part of Embry-Riddle’s 100,000 Strong milestone and assist our future alumni,” says Michéle Berg, executive director of Alumni Relations.

DAYTONA BEACH CAMPUS

Zane Rowe ('91, DB), executive vice president and chief financial officer of United Continental Holdings, delivered the commencement address at the May 15 Daytona Beach commencement. A member of the Embry-Riddle Board of Trustees and Business College Industry

Advisory Committee, Rowe spoke of the common threads that tie Embry-Riddle alumni together—a passion for aviation and their alma mater, and a spirit of teamwork.

“As a child, instead of staring at the grass on the baseball field, you were the one staring up at the 747 while the baseball flew right past you. ... As a teenager, you were the one reading *Flying* magazine. ... You’re in awe at the virtues of 188,000 pounds of thrust pushing 660,000 pounds of aircraft 36,000 feet in the air for 8,000 miles,” he said. “[And] you’re very lucky to have a passion for an industry that you’ll have an opportunity to work in. Many people would pay to do what you’ll be getting paid to do.”

PRESCOTT CAMPUS

Frank Ayers, Ed.D., executive vice president and CAO for the Prescott Campus, congratulated the class of 2011 on their accomplishments as individuals—and collectively, in helping the university surpass the 100,000 alumni benchmark at the May 7 commencement.

“Do you think T. Higbee Embry and John Paul Riddle would have ever dreamed in 1926 that they would have 100,000 alumni? They had a dream and they kept after it—just as you had a dream and have achieved it,” he said. “Today, we are celebrating all of you.”

Highlighting the ceremony was an address from Norman Knight ('90, PC), deputy chief of the Flight Director Office at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Knight discussed the importance of perseverance and positive attitude.

He recalled the obstacles he experienced, beginning with the dashing of his dream to become a fighter pilot, because of his eyesight; and later, situations at the Space Center that at the time appeared to be professional setbacks. Knight acknowledged that these “hurdles,” and the life and work detours they prompted, were actually “blessings in disguise.”

“What I have found is that hindsight is nearly always 20/20, but foresight is not always clear,” he said. “Some of the best advice I ever received was to ask yourself the question: ‘Are you the best in the position you are in? Are you the go-to person? If yes, then keep your head down and the right folks will notice. If no, then do what it takes to get there.’”



Top: Zane Rowe ('91, DB) addresses graduates at Daytona Beach; Below: Norman Knight ('90, PC) speaks at the Prescott commencement.

WORLDWIDE CAMPUS

In May and June, Worldwide Campus graduates from all over the United States and several countries celebrated their accomplishments at joint and individual campus commencement ceremonies held across the country and globe. Because of the flexible format and design of Worldwide Campus programs, students complete their education

at different times throughout the year. More than 4,000 students earned a Worldwide degree from one of its more than 150 campuses this past academic year, July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011.

“Our ‘100,000 Strong’ graduates are testimony to the depth and breadth of Embry-Riddle’s historical support of the aviation industry,” said John Watret, Ph.D., executive vice president and CAO for Embry-Riddle Worldwide. “We look forward to our next 100,000 Embry-Riddle graduates continuing to shape the global aviation industry of the future.”

William R. Voss, president and CEO for Flight Safety Foundation and former director of the Air Navigation Bureau for the International Civil Aviation Organization, was the commencement speaker for the event.



Follow select Embry-Riddle Worldwide graduates through their 2011 commencement experiences. View compiled, edited videos of their firsthand accounts on the Worldwide Campus Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EmbryRiddleWorldwide.

Meet 10 new members of Embry-Riddle's

Matthew Bender

WHIDBEY ISLAND, WASH.

► B.S. Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering ('11, PC)

Five years ago, Matt Bender came to Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus looking to get his hands dirty in its state-of-the-art laboratories. He succeeded. One of the first official graduates of the Mechanical Engineering program, Bender was named "Outstanding Graduate" in May by both the Mechanical Engineering and Aerospace Engineering programs—largely due to his involvement in hands-on research at the university.

Q | What was your secret to success at Embry-Riddle?

A. Tenacity. What you're willing to do is more important than what you have done or what you know. A lot of people tend to give up on things that

they start. You can't do that. You have to stick through it.

Q | Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

A. I hope I'm working on walking robotic systems like those in the movie, *I, Robot*—full humanoid-style robots. We're on the brink of a robot revolution, as some researchers have called it. In the next 10 years, robots will do what computers have done in the last 10 years. Computers used to be these giant machines that you had to have specialized technicians working with, and now we have personal computers. Robots will make that same sort of transition, and I want to be on the front end of that.



Kelsie O'Bryan

BENTON, KY.

► B.S. Aeronautics; minor in Air Traffic Control ('11, DB)

Kelsie O'Bryan caught the proverbial air traffic control bug at Embry-Riddle; she recently joined the ranks of those awaiting a call from the Federal Aviation Administration. O'Bryan earned her private and instrument ratings before changing her degree to Aeronautics her junior year. She plans to pursue a master's degree.

Q | Why did you choose Embry-Riddle for your education?

A. I realized on my 17th birthday that I wanted to become a pilot. My mom (Shawne O'Daniel) took me on a discovery flight. I loved the feeling of freedom. I found out Embry-Riddle was one of the best colleges in the country for aviation, so during a fall break we checked out the school.



2nd Lt. Kaleigh Sides

SIDNEY, ILL.

► B.S. Aviation Business Administration ('10, DB)
► M.S. Business Administration; emphasis in Human Resource Management ('11, DB)

Raised in a rural area, Kaleigh Sides developed a strong work ethic early on. Her father, Dan, put in long hours on the family farm tending corn and soy beans, while her mother, Julie, worked outside the home to supplement the family income. On the fast track since her mid-teens, Sides earned more than 30 hours of college credit in high school (not dual enrollment). She finished her bachelor's degree in only three years, and completed her MBA in just one year's time. Sides was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force on May 14 and assigned to Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Q | Why the rush? What prompted you to complete your degrees so quickly?

A. I've always loved to learn, and I figured the more I could get done, the faster, the better off I'd be. For my

master's degree, the Air Force told me I would commission in May 2011, whether I was finished or not. I didn't want to take any chances, so I made a plan to finish in one year.

Q | Why did you choose Embry-Riddle?

A. In the eighth grade, I read a book about Capt. Scott O'Grady ('89, PC), who was shot down over Bosnia, and it mentioned Embry-Riddle. I sent off for application materials and information. I knew I wanted to do something in aviation and I realized that Embry-Riddle would be a good fit—it's a small university with an extreme focus.

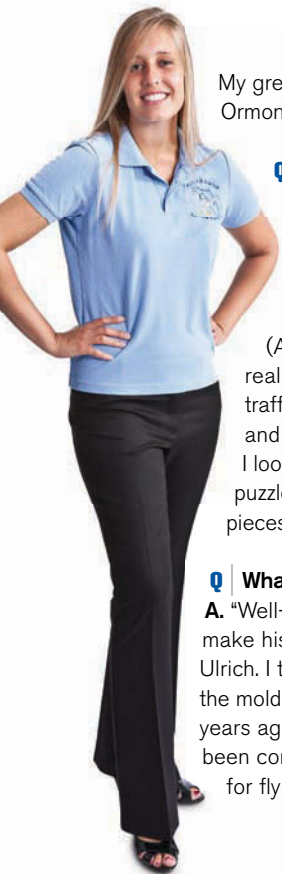
Q | Why a business degree?

A. I originally wanted to be an airport manager, but after I joined the ROTC my first year, I decided to switch to business. I had some really great professors and they showed me the many opportunities you have with a business degree. It doesn't limit you, like some other fields.

Q | What inspires/motivates you to achieve?

A. My mom. She works really hard. When I was a teenager, she worked three jobs. She's so hard-working that I just want to make her proud.

'100,000 Strong'



My great-aunt also lives in Ormond Beach, which was nice.

Q | What prompted your change in degree?

A. I realized my junior year that I didn't want to be a professional pilot. I took an Air Traffic course (AT-305) and it made me realize that I really love air traffic control. It's very spatial and intelligence related. ... I look at every situation like a puzzle; you just have to fit the pieces together.

Q | What is your favorite quote?

A. "Well-behaved women rarely make history," by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich. I think you have to break the mold and do new things. Thirty years ago, women would have been considered "misbehaving" for flying an airplane.

Master Sgt. Edward "Eddie" McClanahan

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

- ▶ B.S. Professional Aeronautics; minor in Aviation Safety ('03, WW)
- ▶ M.S. Aeronautical Science; emphasis in Aeronautics ('11, WW)

Eddie McClanahan has travelled the world since enlisting in the U.S. Air Force at the age of 17 with parental consent. He is currently stationed at Aviano Air Base in Italy, where he serves as an F-16 maintainer for the 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. A huge fan of private aero clubs, he spent his weekends and off hours earning his private, and then commercial and flight instructor ratings at clubs around the world.

Q | What were the benefits and challenges related to your education?

A. It was quite challenging because of the operational tempo. I did a mix of online



and classroom work. When I was home, I preferred the classroom setting, because of the interaction. There was a real mix of talent and specialized skill sets among the students, which I don't think you'd get at another school. The hardest thing was getting past my thesis. I started my master's degree in 2004, but in between I married (Beate) and had two beautiful kids, Lilly, 1, and Heidi, 3. Life has a way of telling you to slow down.

Q | What do you enjoy most about your job?

A. I get to find solutions to problems, particularly with avionics systems. Troubleshooting aircraft and repairing them, that's what I do.

Q | Why did you choose a career in the U.S. Air Force?

A. I wanted to serve my country and be part of a great organization. The Air Force is a great team. There are certainly sacrifices you have to make. You really work a lot of hours ... but it's one of the last fair jobs in our country. You do 20 years of work and receive a good pension/benefits.

Stephanie Lengyel

FALCON, COLO.

- ▶ B.S. Aerospace Engineering; minors in Electrical Engineering and Mathematics ('11, PC)

Stephanie Lengyel was attracted to Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus initially for its engineering program, and secondly for its intimate learning environment (small classes and hometown feel). She recently joined Raytheon in Springfield, Va., as an assistant engineer for a satellite mission control program.

Q | You were honored with the Ed King Community Service Award at commencement. What did you do to serve the community?



A. I volunteered with the local symphony (oboist, Prescott POPS), and worked in a third-grade classroom. On my last day in the classroom, the kids were saying, "I want to be an aerospace engineer when I grow up." It was fun to help get them excited about math and science.

Q | Would you go into space if you had the opportunity?

A. No. I like having both feet on the ground and watching. Mission control is what excites me.

Q | What would be your dream job?

A. There are so many different opportunities, it's hard to pinpoint one. I'm just totally torn. I want to do everything.

To view additional Q&A and more extensive biography information, visit www.eraualumni.org/100kalumnistrong.

Chief Petty Officer John D'Arcy

STODDARD, N.H.

- ▶ B.S. Professional Aeronautics ('01, WW)
- ▶ M.S. Aeronautical Science ('11, WW)

During his 21-year career in the U.S. Navy, John D'Arcy has lived and worked in places like Diego Garcia, a small island in the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, Puerto Rico, California and now, Meridian, Miss. He holds three FAA Air Traffic Control Tower Operator certificates, as well as FAA Control Tower Operator Examiner, Carrier Air Traffic Control Center Supervisor and Watch Officer designations. He is also qualified as a Navy F/A-18 backseater (R1/RP1) and a T-45 Goshawk backseater, and as an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist and Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist.

Q | What is your favorite quote?

A. "When elephants fight, the grass suffers." – Air Traffic Control Master Chief Gordon Carlon, August 2006. This means that when you are in a leadership position (elephants) and you fight with other leaders, the only people who suffer are subordinates; in this case, junior sailors.

Q | Why did you choose an online degree and why an online degree through Embry-Riddle?

A. Embry-Riddle online was a perfect fit for me! Although I much prefer a collegiate atmosphere, pursuing an online master's degree was the most effective way for me to ensure that I could continue my career in the military, while also ensuring that my employment prospects



"post-military" will be where I need them to be in an extremely competitive workforce.

Q | What area of your education was most pertinent to your profession/future?

A. The most important part of the Master of Aeronautical Science program was that of critical thinking and the sharing of thoughts with classmates and peers. Using Embry-Riddle's Blackboard system, we were able to discuss with one another very specific aspects of the aviation industry. It was refreshing to get feedback that was germane to the course studies.

Q | What benefits and challenges did you experience with an online education?

A. I found it challenging during course studies when I would travel. During one of my courses, I actually completed the assignment while I was travelling in Europe on vacation.

Daytona Beach: Daryl Labelle; Prescott: A Storybook Moment Photography; Worldwide: Daryl Labelle (U.S.) and Bob Score (Europe)



Kevin Bailey

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CALIF.

- ▶ B.S. Aeronautical Science; minor in Psychology ('11, DB)

Ever since he was a young boy, Kevin Bailey wanted to be a pilot—and now he is. A three-year recipient of the Achievement Scholarship Award, Bailey holds multi-engine and instrument ratings and will soon complete his commercial rating. Active in his fraternity, Bailey also served as an ambassador/officer for the Student Alumni Association (SAA), and was a member of the Flight Professional Conduct Board.

Q | What excites you most about aviation?

A. I really like the idea of flying when no one else is around, when it's just you and the airplane ... Just being in the plane and enjoying flying for flying.

Q | Becoming an airline pilot can take a lot of time and money, what's your game plan?

A. My plan is to work to get an instructor's license, get the hours and experience there, and then start actively looking for Part 135 (Charter) or Part 141 (airline operations) jobs.

Q | What prompted your involvement with SAA?

A. I just happened to stumble into the Alumni Relations office one day. It was my last year here and I was asking myself, "What does Embry-Riddle really offer, what else can I get from this school?" At first, I got involved in the mentorship program, and this segued into SAA. It was a great way to get more involved on campus.

Q | What's your favorite Embry-Riddle tradition?

A. It may sound funny, but when you hear a plane on campus, I'm the first to look. Of course, I understand the aerodynamics behind it all, but it's still like magic to me that this huge machine can fly. It's amazing.

Brittany Murillo

YAKIMA, WASH.

- ▶ B.S. Global Security and Intelligence Studies; minor in History ('11, PC)

Brittany Murillo's plan to work in the intelligence field has come to fruition, thanks to her Global Security and Intelligence Studies (GSIS) degree. Now an employee of the Department of Defense, she begins a master's degree at Johns Hopkins University in January 2012, courtesy of her new employer. Honored with the President's Award at the May commencement, Murillo played soccer all four years at Embry-Riddle and captained the team for two years.

Q | How/why did you pick Embry-Riddle for your education?

A. An alumnus came to my junior high, and they gave a presentation on the university and the GSIS program. The program was relatively new, but when you're 14 or 15 years old and someone tells you you can be a spy, you get kind of interested. I scheduled a visit the next summer.

Meghan Elizabeth Werkman

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

- ▶ B.S. Professional Aeronautics; minors in Safety and Management ('07, WW)
- ▶ M.S. Aeronautical Science; emphases in Aviation Safety and Aviation/Airport Management ('11, WW)

Werkman's name, which is Dutch for workman or laborer, encapsulates her professional philosophy that hard work pays off. Werkman worked her way up from the bottom of the aviation industry, from emptying lavatories and loading luggage for Jetstream, to becoming an international flight/trip planner for Jeppesen. She earned her pilot's license in high school and holds both private and instrument ratings.



Q | How has your Embry-Riddle education impacted your career?

A. The wide variety of classes I took through both my degrees allowed me to gain a diverse knowledge base. Aviation Weather and Pilot Ground School taught me how to analyze aircraft performance and basic flight planning. Classes in international foreign policy, international business and international relations provided insight into how other countries and their governments operate.

Q | What has been your secret to success in your education/profession?

A. Never sell yourself short or limit yourself. For most of my life I only wanted to become a professional pilot. The degree programs I chose allowed me to explore many other facets of the aviation industry, showing me that my career interests went beyond becoming a pilot. This realization

allowed me to take the blinders off and open myself up to more career opportunities. Always keep an open mind—about everything; and network! Networking is your best tool, so use it. The saying, "It is not what you know, but who you know," is undoubtedly true.

Q | What was the biggest challenge for you to completing your education?

A. Finding the self-confidence to complete my master's degree was one of the greatest challenges I faced. In grade school, teachers and school officials told my parents that I would never go to college, and they would be lucky if I graduated high school. That was a large cloud that I carried around for many years. I always felt foolish for even attempting college. Upon completion of my undergraduate degree, I felt a sense of accomplishment and realized that I was smart enough to make something of myself. I then decided to take my education one step further. My parents were surprised to hear that I wanted to pursue a master's degree, but completely supported me.



Q | How did your involvement in athletics benefit you?

A. Athletics are great. People generally want to come to college to develop their intellect, and I think sports really help develop your character. Whether it's from someone breaking you down or building you up, you have to work with a bunch of people who have different strengths and weaknesses. As a result, you learn to respect people who are outspoken and people who are soft spoken. You become well rounded, and you learn how to lead people and how to work with people.

Q | What excites you about GSIS?

A. At first it was just the intrigue of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and covert affairs, but once I got in the program, the idea of being able to protect people and the ideals that I love appealed to me. Protecting your family at home and protecting those fundamentals of America, whatever you believe they are, that really intrigues me. Knowing what I am doing is contributing to national security is definitely a good feeling.

Chief Master Sgt. Mark Samborski

WARNER ROBINS, GA.

- ▶ B.S. Professional Aeronautics; minors in Management and Occupational Safety and Health ('06, WW)
- ▶ M.S. Aeronautical Science; emphasis in Aviation/Aerospace Safety ('11, WW)

A highly decorated airman, Mark Samborski added another achievement in June 2011. He completed his master's degree, participating in the Worldwide Campus' European commencement at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. The U.S. Air Force in Europe's 2A Functional Manager, Samborski is a Black Belt in Six Sigma and holds numerous awards for his military service.

Q | Why did you choose a career in the U.S. Air Force?

A. My dad and his father both served as Air Force Airmen. They

both exhibited strong moral and ethical compasses. Both attributed success in life in large part to their service in the Air Force. Joining was the obvious choice.

Q | What is your secret to success in life?

A. Having faith that Jesus is my Lord and Savior; and every day, hitting the ground running!

Q | What area of your education has been most pertinent to your profession?

A. The minors for my undergraduate degree and specializations for my graduate degree significantly impact the decisions I make every day regarding the U.S. Air Force's manpower, utilization, occupational safety and health, and training of more than 6,200 aircraft maintenance personnel assigned to the European theatre, as well as my oversight of the command's aircraft maintenance policies, plans, programs and analysis.



A winning combination

Bob and Bobbi Coleman turn their philosophy of giving into opportunities for Embry-Riddle student-athletes



Bob and Bobbi Coleman created a charitable gift annuity to benefit student-athletes at Embry-Riddle.

BY ANTHONY BROWN

When it comes to their philosophy of giving, Bob and Bobbi Coleman are as like-minded as their names would suggest.

“God, country, family and community,” Bob says, “That’s our philosophy.” “But not always in that order,” Bobbi points out.

“That’s right,” Bob continues. “It’s not a binary choice, but a combination of those things.”

The couple have spent much of their lives in service to this combination, and Embry-Riddle is one of the most recent beneficiaries of their

generosity, thanks to a charitable gift annuity they established to support student-athletes.

“We wanted to do something for an organization in our community that we feel strongly about,” Bob says.

CHAMPIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

The gift is the culmination of a long-term relationship with Embry-Riddle that began when Bob, a former executive at Florida Power and Light, met Embry-Riddle Athletic Director Steve Ridder and saw the university’s emphasis on performance in the classroom as well as on the field.

“Steve Ridder always talks about the complete student. He never uses the word ‘athlete.’ It’s always ‘student-athlete,’” says Bob.

For Bobbi, who has spent years supporting education in Volusia County working with the FUTURES Foundation, education is the key to a strong community. “It all comes down to academics,” she says. “And that’s what Embry-Riddle is about.”

“I like the way the young people here view their school and their country. These are the kinds of kids you want your kids to be.”

On a more personal level, the Embry-Riddle student-athletes reminded her of Bob when he was attending Florida Institute of Technology and playing on its basketball team. “He was a lot like these student-athletes today,” she recalls. “He was a student and his main objective wasn’t to play basketball, it was to get an electrical engineering degree.”

Choosing to support Embry-Riddle’s student-athletes was an especially easy decision after spending time on campus over the years. “You walk around the campus or through the Student Union and you get a feeling,” Bob says. “These young people are quick, bright and they converse well. They are focused on academics.”

A LOVE OF COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

Another factor in the Colemans’ decision was the university’s close connection to the military.

The Colemans have a deep and abiding affection for America's servicemen and women, partly because of their son who served in the Navy for five years, including a tour in Iraq, and earned his Ph.D. in math courtesy of that same military branch. They also show their appreciation by being active members of Volusia Honor Air and the Navy League.

The Colemans interact often with Embry-Riddle's Navy ROTC program, attending commissioning ceremonies and the spring parade. "We really enjoy those ceremonies," Bobbi says. "I would encourage everyone to attend."

The Colemans are also especially appreciative of the university's role in supporting Volusia Honor Air. Every year, the university provides meeting space for the preflight orientation and helps arrange high-profile speakers for the World War II veterans at their honorary luncheon in Washington, D.C. Twice, Bobbi has provided scholarships for either a midshipman or cadet to serve as a guardian for a flight.

"Dr. Johnson [Embry-Riddle president] really stepped up for Volusia Honor Air," Bob says. "We get a lot of support from Embry-Riddle."

The Colemans' generosity in returning that support to Embry-Riddle is one way they continue their long-standing family tradition of supporting the military—and the United States.

"Education is the underpinning of society," Bob says. "Nothing can be put ahead of education if we hope to be competitive globally."

And according to Bobbi, there's no better place than Embry-Riddle to invest in that education. "I like the way the young people here view their school and their country. These are the kinds of kids you want your kids to be."



From left to right: Garrison Robertson, Jake Cassity, Samuel Richerd, David Riddle, Timothy Mertz, Konrad Harmon (kneeling), James Fernando, Toff Bragg, Matthew Olsen, Professor Chuck Cone, Department Chair, Electrical and Computer Engineering. Forefront: Mr. Lane Wipff and Mrs. Chris Wipff. Not pictured: Martell Davis.

Your Gifts at Work

Wipff endowments help engineering students 'learn and earn'

Two teams of engineering students gained hands-on robotics experience while competing for scholarship awards in the inaugural Wipff Avionics Competition held March 28 on the Embry-Riddle Prescott Campus.

The competition was made possible by an endowment established last year by the family of the late Frank Pershing Wipff, an avionics pioneer, inventor and the founder of Airborne Navigation Corp.

Members of the Wipff family were on hand to watch as the two teams—one team all freshmen and one all juniors—attempted to coax their autonomous robots through a maze in the shortest time.

Lane Wipff, the son of Frank "Persh" Wipff, was especially pleased by the reception they received as spectators of the avionics competition. "We expected to be impressed by

the students' intellectual acumen but were unprepared for their friendliness and willingness to make our time there so special. I'd like to thank the staff and students for sharing their time and thoughts with us."

While the team of juniors ultimately prevailed, with their robot completing the maze on its first run in two minutes, 16 seconds, both teams came out winners. Winning team members received \$800 each in scholarship awards, while the other team received \$400.

"Both teams did really well," says Ed Post, assistant professor of electrical engineering.



Making It Happen with a Charitable Gift Annuity

When Bob and Bobbi Coleman decided to make their gift to support Embry-Riddle student-athletes, they chose a charitable gift annuity because it fit well within their plan to diversify their retirement assets.

While they could have established an annuity with any number of companies, the Colemans realized they also had an opportunity to support something they cared about. "We had this link with

Embry-Riddle already," Bobbi says.

After some initial research and meeting with a financial planner, Bob contacted Embry-Riddle and set it up.

"By creating a charitable gift annuity, Bob and Bobbi were able to create income for themselves over their lifetimes, while also realizing their intentions to support Embry-Riddle in the future," says Bernadine Douglas, associate vice

president for Institutional Advancement. "As part of a diversified retirement plan, a charitable gift annuity can give you predictable income, an immediate charitable deduction and the satisfaction of supporting Embry-Riddle's mission."

For information about establishing a charitable gift annuity or to discuss other giving options, contact Douglas at bernadine.douglas@erau.edu.

BLUE SKY LANDING

LISA KOLLAR ('97, '09, DB) proves that 'Embry-Riddle degrees aren't just for pilots'

Lisa Kollar ('97, '09, DB), director of Career Services at Embry-Riddle, didn't always want to work at a university. In fact, since the age of 13 she dreamed of flying.

Kollar began her college education in 1988 at the Prescott Campus. In 1993, when financial difficulties prevented her from completing her degree (within one flight course of graduating), she returned home and accepted a sales position with Estée Lauder.

"I made great money, got lots of free products and discovered my passion for working with people," Kollar says.

Several years later, after receiving a letter from a former Embry-Riddle classmate who had pursued a career in aviation, Kollar was struck with regret that she had not finished her degree. She decided to return to Embry-Riddle, complete her last flight course and graduate. This time, she enrolled at the Daytona Beach Campus, and was able to keep her management job with Estée Lauder.

NO FEAR

Much had changed in the four years since Kollar last sat in the cockpit of a plane, and her confidence in her abilities was a bit shaky. But as she walked through the parking lot to complete her final check ride, a broken key chain on the ground that said "No Fear" emboldened her.

"It spoke volumes to me," she says. "I hadn't given up. I was ready. I had no fear. I completed and passed my commercial check ride, thus finishing my degree in Aeronautical Science." To this day, Kollar keeps that key chain as a reminder to continue facing challenges with no fear.

Part of her job in Career Services is to encourage others to do the same. One of her most rewarding roles is as an advisor on a team that works with students and alumni who have "broken spirits," those who have given up and are lacking confidence. "For me,

these are the ones that make me realize that I am doing exactly what I am meant to do," Kollar says.

HELPING OTHERS FIND THEIR NICHE

A huge advocate for networking, Kollar champions the adage, "It's not what you know, but who you know that matters." She learned of the opportunity in the Embry-Riddle Career Services office through a contact in her network 13 years ago. During her career, she has been promoted multiple times and become a seasoned leader who enjoys working on the front line.

She advises students and alumni to be flexible in their career choices and to apply the skills and education gained from their Embry-Riddle experience to whatever opportunities come their way. According to Kollar, this is exactly what she did—and it has made all the difference in her life.

"I didn't achieve my goal in the time I thought I had to; and I wasn't flying as a professional pilot at the age of 22," she says. "But so what if I decided to change my career plans? It didn't mean that I was a failure or that I lost my passion; it just meant that I discovered new ones."

Looking forward, Kollar sees a ripe field of jobs opening up for alumni because of a large number of retirements in the industry. "So be ready my friends; be registered with Career Services with a résumé ready to go. There's never been a better time to be in aviation and aerospace," she says.

Need Help Looking for Your Career?

The Career Services website offers a virtual library of job search aids including interview tips, an alumni network, sample résumés and cover letters, and more. In addition to these virtual tools, alumni within one year of graduation have access to in-person career counseling with Career Services staff. Career fairs are also hosted annually at the Daytona Beach and Prescott campuses each fall. To learn more, visit www.erau.edu/career.



Photo by Chris Carita

Message from the Executive Director



Michèle Berg, center, and Terry Mularkey ('94, WW), left, congratulate Angela Primavera ('07, '11, WW) at the May commencement. Primavera is the academic events and curriculum coordinator at the Daytona Beach Campus.

The past couple of months have truly been a celebration in the Alumni Association, as we achieved the "100,000 Alumni Strong" milestone! The buildup to our graduation ceremonies—and the commencements themselves—were an exciting and encouraging time.

Special T-shirts were designed and distributed to our graduates with the words "I made it happen in 2011" across the front and the Embry-Riddle "100,000 Alumni Strong" logo on the back. It brings a smile to my face every time I see graduates wearing their new T-shirts, as I know they share in our pride as a university. Special banners announcing this high point in Embry-Riddle history were created as well, and are now displayed on the Daytona Beach and Prescott campuses. The banners are a visible reminder of our collective accomplishment, and are something all alumni should be proud to see as they drive onto campus!

After doing some calculations with the 100,000 figure, the 2011 Senior Class Council President for the Daytona Beach Campus, Charlie Harrison, said: "That's about one-eighth the size of today's entire aerospace industry. Wow! 100,000 graduates, alumni, peers, co-workers, friends and all of us Eagles." Only a Riddle student would put it that way—it made me proud!

This issue of *Lift* highlights in pictures and stories the excitement of your alma mater reaching 100,000 Alumni! I look forward to welcoming you all back to campus this fall for homecoming, where you, too, can join us in celebrating "100,000 Alumni Strong!"

Sincerely,

MICHÈLE BERG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Search Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Official Alumni Group

To "Join the Nest," visit www.eraualumni.org



Members of Pi Kappa Alpha pose for a photo at the Daytona Beach dinner.

Etiquette important at Embry-Riddle

The Student Alumni Associations (SAA) at Daytona Beach and Prescott held their annual Etiquette Dinners on March 9 and Feb. 10, respectively. Approximately 100 students and staff attended each gathering.

"This has become one of SAA's signature events that all students look forward to in the spring semester," says Edmund Odartey ('04, '10, DB), associate director of Alumni Relations and advisor of SAA for Daytona Beach. The goal of the dinner (now in its seventh year) is to train students on proper dining etiquette.

Bill Thompson ('87, PC), director of Alumni Relations at Prescott Campus, says, "I feel confident that someday during an interview, these students will be more aware of proper dress, dining etiquette, manners and much more, due to their participation in this event." The Daytona Beach dinner was sponsored by both the Alumni Association and the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. The Prescott dinner was co-sponsored by the Alumni Association, Career Services and Student Government Association.

Putting a positive spin on 'Riddle Runaround'

Lisa Anderson Spencer ('99, WW; '03, DB) was honored with the Alumni Association Eagle of Excellence Award on Feb. 27, 2011, at the annual Women in Aviation conference in Reno, Nev.

"Lisa is deserving of the Association's highest honor, in recognition of her continued support and enthusiasm for Embry-Riddle," said Michèle Berg, executive director of the Alumni Association.

Spencer addressed the infamous "Riddle Runaround" at the event, putting a positive spin on the phenomenon typically associated with disappointments related to a student's experience at the university. Creating a new acronym for E-R-A-U (Evaluate; Responsibility; Acceptance; Understand), she challenged students to embrace frustrations as learning

experiences and to view difficulties as exercises in perseverance.

"Disappointments are not isolated events," Spencer said during her acceptance speech. "You will experience them throughout every activity of your life ... You need to remember that they do not define you. What may define you is how you react to and deal with them."

She added, "Take your experiences—all of them—and practice the 'Riddle Runaround' [E-R-A-U] and let's see how far your alma mater can take you!"

Spencer serves on the Embry-Riddle Alumni Advisory Council and is a former adjunct faculty member for the Worldwide Campus. She is an aviation risk management officer for the United Nations peacekeeping mission and World Food Programme in New York City.



Lisa Anderson Spencer, left, is awarded the Eagle of Excellence by Michèle Berg, executive director of the Alumni Association.



Gregory Tarancon ('89, DB), right, 'stands guard' during a recent tour in Afghanistan.

CUBAN NATIVE, AMERICAN HERO

The events of Sept. 11, 2001, inspired many to serve their country with newfound patriotism. But Master Sgt. Gregory Tarancon ('89, DB), a three-star Bronze Medal recipient, has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Since 2001, he has volunteered for eight deployments. His most recent tour with the U.S. Army Special Forces in Afghanistan ended in April 2011.

Tarancon's dedication to his country and the "War Against Terrorism" is personal. His wife, Tami, a flight attendant, was scheduled to be on the flight to Los Angeles that ended up crashing into the World Trade Center. She fortuitously switched flights the morning of Sept. 11, escaping death. But the anxiety of that morning will forever live with Tarancon.

"I decided then that if there was going to be a war, I was going to do my part," he says. "I still have the wings off of my wife's [flight attendant] uniform that I have taken on every tour."

Tarancon's family emigrated from Cuba when he was only 4 years old. It didn't take him long to realize that the best way to give back to his new country was to serve in its military. "I have always felt I owed something to the country that granted me and my family our freedom and U.S. citizenship. Serving in the Army was my way to pay back America for our freedom and a chance for a better life," he says.

Tarancon adds, "To me, being Cuban-American and being

American is one in the same. The one thing that all Cuban Americans have is a great sense of pride and patriotism for the United States of America. This was the country that offered opportunity and a better life as free people."

During his most recent assignment, Tarancon was part of an 18-man Special Forces Operational Detachment responsible for planning and executing various kinetic and nonkinetic operations with the Afghan Commandos in Eastern Afghanistan. His team trained and mentored the Afghan Commando leadership.

According to Tarancon, "[These efforts] helped to establish rapport, foster trust and mutual respect, and demonstrated the interoperability between the United States and Afghan Special Operations Forces."

Tarancon says the best part of the deployment was watching the young noncommissioned officers develop as leaders, and watching the team come together to complete the mission. "The team accomplished much more than anyone expected," he says. "[But] it was hard to see what effects we were having in our operational area until after we had gone."

Tarancon's son, Greg, attends West Point, and his daughter, Alicia, is a graduate student at Georgetown University. As a master sergeant, he is eligible for promotion to E-9 and is looking forward to the challenges of this new rank.

Long Beach event honors aviation leaders

The Los Angeles Worldwide Campus, in collaboration with the Alumni Association, hosted an Open House and Aviation Leadership Awards Day on April 10, 2011, in the AirFlite hangar at the Long Beach Airport. More than 400 people attended the gathering, including alumni, students and members of the aviation industry.

John Watret, Ph.D., executive vice president and chief academic officer for the Embry-Riddle Worldwide Campus, was the headliner for the event. Dr. Watret presented Leadership Awards to members of the Los Angeles-area aviation community who possess "leadership qualities that embody the pioneering spirit of aviation."

"Embry-Riddle represents aviation excellence, so it was only logical that we recognize our local industry leaders who have the passion and ingenuity of our university's founders, T. Higbee Embry and John Paul Riddle," says Rosemarie Adragna-Elliott, director of Academic Support for the Los Angeles Campus. The event was also an opportunity to grow community and industry awareness of Embry-Riddle's presence in Southern California.

The Los Angeles Campus will be working together with the Alumni Association to establish a solid foundation of Embry-Riddle graduates in the Los Angeles area. Because of this event, a Greater Los Angeles Alumni Chapter is being finalized, with smaller L.A.-area Alumni Groups forming in the following areas: Inland Empire, South Orange County, LAX, and possibly a Valley Group, says Adragna-Elliott.

For more information about the Los Angeles Worldwide Campus, call 562-627-5870, or email losangeles@erau.edu.



Top: from left to right, with Ernie the Eagle are: Curt Castagna of Aero-lease Group; Long Beach Airport Director Mario Rodriguez; Retired Maj. Gen. Peter Gravett, former Commander of the 40th Infantry at Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base; Wallace Air Cargo Group President Ned Wallace; Robin Petgrave of Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum; and Dr. John Watret of Embry-Riddle.

Bottom: Ernie the Eagle dreams of being an airliner, as event guests enjoy the view.



PARIS AIR SHOW

The 49th International Paris Air Show held June 20-26 at Le Bourget in France included a strong Embry-Riddle presence. The university was an exhibitor at the air show and hosted an alumni reception on June 22 at Les Salons de l'Aéro-Club de France. Approximately 100 alumni and guests attended the reception, including John Watret, Ph.D., executive vice president and chief academic officer for the Worldwide Campus, and Michèle Berg, executive director of the Alumni Association, who shared news and updates regarding the university and Alumni Association. The Alumni Group in France is led by Pedro Febles ('82, DB).



Historic biplane flight in San Diego

Alumni and students of the Worldwide San Diego Campus took to the skies over Southern California on June 2. The San Diego Alumni Chapter hosted a historic biplane flight and dinner event at Montgomery Field and nearby restaurant Casa Machado. Approximately 50 people attended, with more than 30 enjoying biplane rides provided by Barnstorming Adventures (www.barnstorming.com).

"It was a thrill of a lifetime. Everyone had huge smiles on their faces," says Jesse Clark ('92, PC), San Diego Alumni Chapter leader. Pictured above, left: U.S. Army retired Capt. William L. King, Jr. of Barnstorming Adventures poses with a biplane. King, a mechanic for 1920s biplanes, flew Chinooks, Apaches and Cobras for the Army. He retired after 20 years of military service and worked for McDonnell Douglas for another 11 years.

Pictured center (left to right): Michèle Berg, executive director of Alumni Relations; Theodora Bellinger ('08, WW), associate director of academic support in San Diego; and Oliver Schlottmann ('02, '04, WW), director of academic support in San Diego, took advantage of the biplane rides. Pictured right: A number of Embry-Riddle alumni enjoy the Mexican dinner and gathering at Casa Machado near Montgomery Field.

VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

Presidential pilot captivates audience

Renowned for his service as Presidential Pilot for President George W. Bush, retired Col. Mark Tillman ('95, WW) shared his most memorable experiences at the helm of Air Force One during Embry-Riddle's Veterans Appreciation Day activities April 11–12 at the Daytona Beach Campus.

A special presentation to approximately 200 students, alumni and veterans kicked off the event on April 11. Tillman captivated the crowd with highlights of his Air Force One command (2001–2009), including the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and his storied covert flight into Baghdad in 2003, which allowed President Bush to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with the troops.

"I could get no help from the U.S. military," Tillman said. "The president told me that if anybody knew about it, he wouldn't continue on. He didn't want to risk the lives of any of the troops on the ground."

He added, "Ask me what it's like to bring the Commander [in Chief] of the United States into a war zone. It's the best."

Tillman shared with veterans attending the April 12 ceremony an excerpt from the letter President Bush read to the



Above: Pictured, left to right, at Veterans Appreciation Day activities: Richard Heist, Ph.D., executive vice president and chief academic officer for Daytona Beach; Col. (ret.) Mark Tillman; John Johnson, Ph.D., president and CEO; and Rev. Melynn Rust, university chaplain.

Right: Veterans and members of the Rolling Thunder* group visit at the event.



troops on that Thanksgiving Day in 2003. "We're proud of you and America stands solidly behind you," Tillman read.

With more than 1.4 million men and women actively serving in the U.S. armed forces and approximately 135,000 troops

deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq, the message penned by President Bush remains pertinent today.

According to John Johnson, Ph.D., university president and CEO, it is the personal sacrifice of these dedicated Americans and those who came before them that sparked the creation of Veterans Appreciation Day at Embry-Riddle three years ago.

"We thought it was important to set aside a special day—without the prompt of a national holiday—to recognize our veterans," he said during the April 12 ceremony. "We're calling you [our veterans] together on no special occasion to say we love you and we're very thankful to you."

The Prescott

Campus will celebrate its annual Veterans Appreciation Day closer to the national holiday. Its event is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 8. Highlighting the event will be a performance by the 108th Army Band of the Arizona National Guard.

University president visits California

John P. Johnson, Ph.D., president and CEO, visited Long Beach, San Diego and San Francisco, Calif., on May 3, 4 and 5, 2011, respectively, with his wife, Maurie, as part of his annual Presidential Tour. The Johnsons were joined by Michéle Berg,

executive director of Alumni Relations; Dan Montplaisir, vice president of Institutional Advancement; and members of the university's development team.

President Johnson, Berg and Montplaisir delivered short presentations regarding

news of interest to alumni and members of the community at each of the tour stops. "Embry-Riddle is so progressive and we have many exciting and new things to share with our alumni, parents and friends of the university," Berg says.

President Johnson visits cities around the world each year to meet with alumni personally and to share information and events related to their alma mater.



Far left: Dr. John Johnson, right, visits with Stanton Jones ('73, DB), of Oakland, Calif., at a Presidential Tour reception in San Francisco.

Left: Alumni, faculty and staff from the Long Beach Worldwide Campus enjoy time on the Queen Mary during a visit from President Johnson on his California tour.



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 and "Join the NEST" today; or submit your announcements via email to eralumni@erau.edu.



Lt. Col. (Ret.) Max Corneau



Maj. Gen. Margaret Woodward

David Macko ('96, DB) serves as a First Officer with Emirates Airline in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. He recently finished training to fly the world's largest airliner, the Airbus A380, with his first flight as a pilot on May 11, 2011.

Sean Mulholland ('97, DB) was named manager of safety programs at Texas Aero Engine Services LLC (TAESL), a joint venture between American Airlines and Rolls-Royce plc.

Mike Torres ('97, PC) works for Boeing and has been assigned as the flight test director for the B-787 on airplane number 1. His wife, **Kim Torres** ('98, PC; '10, WW), recently earned her master's degree in Aeronautical Science.

Maj. Gen. Margaret Woodward ('97, WW) commanded the combat air campaign over Libya in March and April, ordering more than 2,100 sorties and 200 cruise-missile strikes to enforce a United-Nations sanctioned no-fly zone ordered by President Obama in an effort to protect Libyan civilians from violence threatened by their president, Moammar Gaddafi. Woodward is the first woman in U.S. history to command a military air campaign.

CAREER NEWS

1980s

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Max Corneau ('85, DB) retired from the Army as a Master Aviator and Intelligence Officer in the IC in 2009 and is now a senior engineer in his hometown of Rockwall, Texas. He is a board member of several international space organizations and a JPL Solar System Ambassador. His photography has appeared in museums, including the Smithsonian. Some of his photography can be seen at www.astrodad.com.

Mark Ozeroff ('87, DB) recently published a historical fiction novel titled *Days of Smoke*. A lifelong pilot, he lives on an airport with aircraft ranging from Sopwith to Learjet.

Paul Jurgens ('89, DB) is the chief flight instructor for glider, multi-engine land and primary flight operations for Sporty's Academy at the Clermont County Airport in Batavia, Ohio. He is also the

vice president of publishing at Sporty's Academy.

Master Sgt. Gregory Tarancon ('89, DB), a native of Cuba, recently served with the U.S. Army Special Forces in Afghanistan, providing training, mentorship and advice to the Afghan forces. He is a three-time Bronze Star Medal recipient. He has a 23-year-old daughter and a 19-year-old son.

1990s

Brian Hirshman ('90, DB) was at the lead of Southwest Airlines' effort to determine the cause and corrective action for the April 2011 incident aboard one of the airline's 737s, during which a hole appeared in the fuselage above the cabin. He currently serves as vice president of maintenance and engineering at Southwest.

Robert Griffin ('91, DB) is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP). He is the western regional manager for Cornerstone Investment

Services with an office in Dallas. He is married and has one son.

Cmdr. George "Brain" M. Perry ('92, DB) is the Executive Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 115 at Naval Air Facility, Atsugi, Japan. He was recognized by the Association of Naval Aviation as the 2000 A.C. Read Navigator of the Year and has authored articles published in *Approach*, *Joint Forces Quarterly* and *Proceedings* magazines.

Washy Tolani ('92, DB) is flying for PT Sriwijaya Air, a private airline in Indonesia with primarily domestic routes that currently operates Boeing 737-200 and 737-300/400, and has a fleet of approximately 27 aircraft, with plans to expand. He also recently joined the Safety and Security Directorate as a Civil Aviation Certified Officer (CASO).

Neil Werner ('94, PC) serves as CEO of KC Camps (Kids Convention Camps) of Richmond, Texas.

CAMPUS LEGEND

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

2000s

Earl Wade ('01, WW) earned his Ph.D. from Northcentral University in Business Management. He also completed the Air Force's Command and Staff College in April 2009, and will soon enroll in the Air Force's Air War College.

Michael C. Hingerberger ('02, WW) was recently named the president of engineering for Piper Aircraft Inc. In this role, he is responsible for all Piper Engineering and new product development activities.

Peter Sobota ('02, WW) joined the law firm of Roetzel & Andress of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He represents clients throughout Florida with business and commercial litigation needs and has developed a niche focus in aerospace and aviation law. He received his law degree from Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center.

Jon Hedger ('04, WW) is the safety officer for Life Link III, an air-medical transportation company based in Minneapolis, Minn. He oversees all processes related to flight, occupational, health and patient safety in this fast-paced industry.

Stan Kuliavas ('04, DB) was appointed director of sales for Pilatus Canada. He is the authorized Pilatus PC-12 dealer in Canada. He recently met with Canadian Forces **Capt. Tom Lawrence** ('04, DB) who was with his CF-18 Hornet on a training mission in Toronto. Lawrence is part of the 425 Tactical Fighter Squadron

based at CFB Bagotville in Saguenay, Quebec.

Rachel Gilmore ('07, DB) currently works at the MSY (New Orleans) airport control tower. She assisted United Flight 497 on April 4, 2011, with an emergency landing due to smoke in the cockpit.

Dalia (Guizar) Rhule ('07, PC) was nominated as Boeing's Most Promising Engineer for the Society of Professional Hispanic Engineers (SPHE).

Thomas Vergo ('07, DB) was promoted to airport manager of the Immokalee Regional Airport in Florida, which is part of the Collier County Airport Authority System.

Jason Baker ('08, DB) was recently honored with the Space Flight Awareness (SFA) Award for his work in support of NASA's Space Shuttle and International Space Station (ISS) programs at Johnson Space Center with Barrios Technology.

FAMILY NEWS

1990s

Mike Senn ('91, DB) and **Renee Williams Senn** ('92, DB) welcomed their second daughter, Rachel Sophia, on March 24, 2010. They reside in Orlando, Fla.

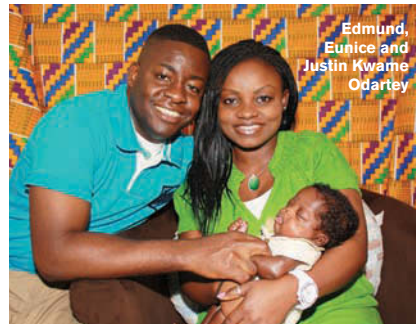
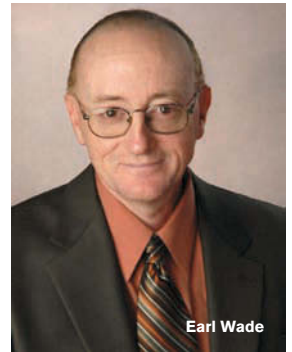
Evan Bogan ('95, DB; '10, WW) and Sarah Bogan welcomed

their first child, Daniel Adam, on March 22, 2011.

2000s

Oscar Garcia ('02, DB), a member of the Alumni Advisory Council, and his wife, Yvette, welcomed their second child, Avienne Skye, on March 18, 2011. They also have a young son named Casper. The family resides in Miami, Fla.

Edmund Odartey ('04, '10, DB) and **Eunice Odartey** ('05, '10, DB) welcomed their first child, Justin Kwame, on March 5, 2011. Edmund currently serves as the associate director of the Embry-Riddle Alumni Association.



MARRIAGES/ ENGAGEMENTS

1990s

Dionne Henry ('97, '01, WW) married **Rasheme Richardson** ('09, WW) on April 15, 2011, in Doral, Fla.

2000s

Bryan Hermann ('00, DB) and Lisa Noll wed on Feb. 20, 2011. They reside in Houston.

Sherry Ortiz ('00, DB) married Alexander Tsetsenkos on Oct. 3, 2010, in Malibu, Calif. She was recently promoted from a claims attorney at U.S. Aviation Underwriters to vice president in airline claims.

Blake Smith ('02, PC) married Meredith Perry in May 2011, in York County, Pa. The couple was featured on *LIVE! With Regis and Kelly* in February 2011, as part of the show's Valentine's Day celebration, "World's Greatest Love Stories." The couple met when both were stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Blake, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was a Marine helicopter pilot, and Meredith was serving as a Navy flight surgeon.

Steve Abreu-Hill ('04, '09, DB) married **Jackie Bennett** ('06, '08, DB) on May 1, 2011, in Tampa, Fla. A Tri-Sigma sister, Jackie met Steve at a Lambda Chi Alpha party in 2004, and they have been together since. Steve currently works as a meteorologist for Impact Weather and Jackie serves as a health safety and environment specialist for Baker Hughes. They reside in Houston.

IN MEMORY



Brig. Gen. Bill Spruance Board of Trustees • Jan. 15, 2011

Embry-Riddle lost an irreplaceable friend and supporter on Jan. 15, 2011, with the passing of Brig. Gen. William "Bill" Spruance.

For decades, Spruance served as a trusted advisor and guiding hand in the university's development. He was Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1972 to 1987, and was named Chairman Emeritus. He also served on the advisory committee of Embry-Riddle's Center for Aerospace Education.

After graduating from Princeton University in 1939, Spruance was commissioned in the Army Air Corps, where he worked for Gen. George Patton. During World War II, he flew 362 missions. In 1946, he became a founding member of the Delaware Air National Guard.

After surviving a near-fatal jet airplane crash in 1961, Spruance committed himself to educating others about surviving serious crashes, delivering more than 3,000 speeches about flight safety and crash survival to military pilots worldwide.

He served on the governing board of the Air Force Association for 30 years and for more than 50 years as a member of the National Guard Association. He was a lifetime member of several pilot organizations, including the Daedalians, Quiet Birdmen, Red River Valley Fighter Pilots and Hump Association.

"Bill Spruance was a true friend of our university," says John P. Johnson, Ph.D., president and CEO of Embry-Riddle. "His influence on the development of Embry-Riddle was substantial. He touched the lives of our faculty, staff and students in ways that strengthened us, and his strong advocacy and support for our Air Force ROTC program certainly contributed to its rise as one of the best in the nation. He will be missed."

1940s

Richard P. Schmidt ('41, No. 5 British Flying Training School) Jan. 8, 2011

1960s

Randolph M. Getchell ('63, MC) January 2011

Frederick C. Mourning ('68, DB) April 22, 2011

Dennis Zemko ('69, DB) Feb. 17, 2010

1970s

Col. Charles D. Fountain ('72, DB) March 9, 2011

Carl L. King, Sr. ('73, DB) Jan. 22, 2011

Floyd Thomas Jacobs ('75, WW) Jan. 31, 2011

Dallas Lee Adams Sr. ('76, DB) Jan. 3, 2011

1980s

Gregory H. Gaze ('85, WW) March 28, 2011

Maj. Edward F. L'Hommedieu ('89, WW) April 10, 2011

Linda L. Robitaille ('80, WW) Jan. 7, 2011

1990s

Betty J. Kjellberg ('90, WW) Dec. 11, 2010

Christian D. Rea ('98, PC) Dec. 18, 2010

2000s

William T. Hilton ('09, '10, WW) Jan. 6, 2010

Others

Eric Carlson (Flight instructor – No. 5 British Flying Training School) 2010

Anne M. Misyko (Friend of the university) Nov. 10, 2010



100,000 Strong.

In May 2011, Embry-Riddle achieved a key milestone in its 85-year history—the university is now 100,000 Alumni Strong.

Alumni and friends are celebrating this achievement with contributions to the newly established Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. This endowed fund brings graduates of all ages and walks of life together to support Embry-Riddle students in need, year after year.

Count yourself in! Join in this momentous effort to show Embry-Riddle's strength in numbers – for the benefit of the next generation of ERAU Eagles.

Make your gift today. Visit Givingto.Erau.Edu and click on the "100,000 Strong" logo.