

# Lift



## EYES ON THE SKY

How Dennis Jones  
became the NTSB's  
first African-American  
managing director

PAGE 10





## FROM THE PRESIDENT



“Your wings already exist.  
All you have to do is fly.”  
A feather featured prominently  
in the design of our 2018  
commencement programs.  
Feathers seem delicate — but a  
feather is both light and strong.

Bald eagles have about 7,000 feathers in layers that channel airflow and insulate them. The shape and spread of an eagle's primary feathers control lift and direction in flight. Tail feathers stabilize movement.

Eagles fly smart. They climb high in a thermal, then glide down to catch the next updraft. When they soar through a thermal in a home flock, they are described as a kettle of eagles. Our 2018 graduates now soar with a kettle of Eagles.

We also move forward with great friends and supporters. We recently honored former Congressman John Mica with the Sky King Award, in gratitude for his service to Embry-Riddle. The award itself is a smaller replica of the bronze eagle sculpture that stands in the lobby of the Jim W. Henderson Administration and Welcome Center at the Daytona Beach Campus.

I remind new graduates that they benefit, by association, from your success. Your achievements enhance our reputation. In appreciation, we are working to increase your return on investment in an Embry-Riddle education. As we enrich student experience with research and entrepreneurship, our graduates become more sought after and your alma mater is more respected.

Our board recently approved a strategic plan that set objectives to increase our enrollment; support student success; expand globally; and

promote research-driven education and entrepreneurship. The plan identifies steps to grow our culture of philanthropy, but our goals go beyond encouraging giving. We want to build lifelong relationships by recognizing your contributions, offering career development resources and cultivating volunteerism that invites alumni to join forces with faculty and students.

What we will do matters. So does who we are. I am reaffirming our identity through a simple statement of our values, mission and vision:

**Our Values:** We embrace collaboration and teamwork, ethical and responsible behavior, and a culture of research and discovery that mirrors the professions we serve.

**Our Mission:** We teach the science, practice and business necessary to prepare students for productive careers in aviation, aerospace and other technologically driven industries.

**Our Vision:** We will be a global source for innovation and excellence in aerospace education and research.

As alumni, you continue to inspire us by how high you fly.

Sincerely,

P. Barry Butler, Ph.D.

President

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University



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## 16 Airborne

Asia's aviation industry is experiencing rapid growth, and Embry-Riddle is in the thick of it



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[lift.erau.edu](http://lift.erau.edu)

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ON THE COVER: Dennis Jones ('80) is managing director of the National Transportation Safety Board. Photo by Howard Korn.



# CHATTER

## ALTIMETER: HIGH POINTS AT EMBRY-RIDDLE

Embry-Riddle's Worldwide Campus was honored by IDG Communications with the 2018 CIO 100, an annual award recognizing organizations that exemplify excellence in information technology.

The Prescott Campus' Aerospace/Aeronautical/Astronomical Engineering program was ranked No. 1 in the nation among undergraduate institutions in the 2018 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Colleges guide.

The Prescott Campus Golden Eagles Flight Team won its 12th National Intercollegiate Flying Association Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference championship in May. The win marks the team's first three-peat (three consecutive national championships). The Daytona Beach Eagles Flight Team placed fourth.

Daytona Beach Campus Head Women's Basketball Coach Lisa Nuxol-Wilson was featured in the May 2018 edition of *My Coast* magazine as one of "25 people who are making a difference" in Volusia and Flagler counties, Florida.

A Daytona Beach Campus student team placed first and a team from the Prescott Campus placed third in the 2nd annual Collegiate Drone Racing Championship held April 14.



## JFK Is 'Forever an Eagle'

President John F. Kennedy learned to fly at an Embry-Riddle seaplane base in 1944



Documents have come to light that confirm that President John F. Kennedy learned to fly at an Embry-Riddle seaplane base in Miami during World War II. The training took place over 10 days in May 1944.

The findings, verified by Embry-Riddle Archivist Kevin Montgomery, have been corroborated by presidential historian Douglas Brinkley.

"JFK was staying in Palm Beach at his father's home during the same weeks shown in his logbook," says Brinkley, co-author of *JFK: A Vision for America*, which was published in 2017. "He had a love of aviation and coastal areas, so it all makes sense. I would call it a fact that JFK trained to fly with Embry-Riddle in Miami."

### Mining History for Clues

Knowledge of Kennedy's flight training at Embry-Riddle in Miami started with a personal anecdote. In 2004, Dean Emeritus Bob Rockett, then dean of the university's Heritage Project, spoke with Helen Hassey ('42), who had been a flight instructor at the seaplane base in the 1940s.

"She told me about the day Kennedy appeared at the base in Miami for flight lessons," Rockett says.

Hassey's recollection was unsubstantiated until 2016, when images of a flight log signed by Kennedy were found on a website for the Shapell Manuscript Foundation. Based in Israel, the foundation researches and collects original manuscripts and historical documents, including those of American presidents.

"The flights recorded in the log took place in Miami, in Piper Cub seaplanes, the same type of aircraft used at the seaplane base," Montgomery says. But without a record of the seaplane base's fleet (with tail numbers), the training site was inconclusive.

### Social Media Connection

A chance Facebook message in spring 2017 to the Embry-Riddle Alumni group from Bambi Miller at the Piper Pilot Shop in Vero Beach, Florida, led to the final puzzle piece.

"Bambi had a customer who had told her she had trained at our seaplane base," says Alan Cesar, an employee at Embry-Riddle and a writer for *Lift*.

Cesar and Montgomery subsequently met with 98-year-old Corinne Smith, who learned to fly at the seaplane base in the 1940s and worked there, first as a secretary and later as a flight instructor and head of the flight simulation department. A story about Smith was published in the fall 2017 edition of *Lift*.

Earlier this year, Smith gifted a copy of her flight log from May 1944 to the Embry-Riddle archives.

"Two of the tail numbers recorded in Corrine's logbook matched those in Kennedy's flight log, and in one instance, she flew the same aircraft on the same day as JFK," Montgomery says. "With this new evidence, the legend was finally confirmed." — *James Roddey*

**DO YOU HAVE A CAMPUS LEGEND** for us to investigate? Email it to [liftmag@erau.edu](mailto:liftmag@erau.edu).



WATCH

View a documentary about the JFK-Embry-Riddle connection at: [lift.erau.edu/videos-fall-2018](http://lift.erau.edu/videos-fall-2018).



## New Faces at the Top

University fills four key leadership positions

Embry-Riddle recently welcomed Sally Mason, Ph.D., as the newest member to its Board of Trustees, and three new executives to its senior administrative team.

Named to the Embry-Riddle Board in March, Mason served as the 20th president of the University of Iowa (UI) from 2007 to 2015. A president emerita of UI, Mason retired in 2016 as a tenured faculty member of the UI biology department. While there, she oversaw a historic era of campus transformation.

"Dr. Mason is a visionary leader with deep knowledge of higher-education challenges and an exemplary track record for making good things happen," says Embry-Riddle Board Chair Mori Hosseini (HonDoc '13; '78, '79, '82).

### Senior Leadership

Three new executives also recently joined the university. Lon D. Moeller is now senior vice president for academic affairs and provost; Marc Archambault is senior vice president of philanthropy and alumni engagement; and Anne Broderick Botteri is vice president of marketing and communications.

Read more about Embry-Riddle's senior leadership at [lift.erau.edu/new-faces](http://lift.erau.edu/new-faces).

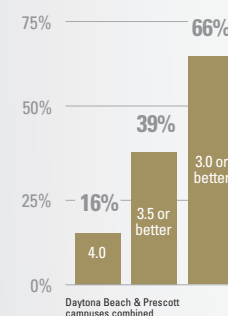
— *Ginger Pinholster*



From top left, clockwise: Sally Mason, Lon D. Moeller, Anne Broderick Botteri and Marc Archambault.

## BY THE NUMBERS: Student Athletes Soar in the Classroom

Student Athlete GPA Results  
Spring 2018



Top 5 Team GPAs\*  
\*2017-18 spring or fall

- 1 Tie: 3.72 Women's Soccer (DB and PC)
- 2 3.68 Women's Outdoor Track and Field (PC)
- 3 3.62 Men's Golf (PC)
- 4 Tie: 3.57 Women's Basketball (DB) and Men's Basketball (PC)
- 5 3.56 Women's Cross Country (PC)

## Fulfilling Pilot Demand in Asia

International partnership provides flight training to Asia Campus students



As the Asia-Pacific region faces an estimated need for more than 250,000 new pilots over the next 20 years, Embry-Riddle has teamed with Singapore Airlines to provide a one-of-a-kind, joint-campus, two-continent degree program.

The new flight minor, which launched in June, provides flight training to Embry-Riddle Asia Campus students and establishes a pathway to potential commercial pilot jobs at Singapore Airlines.

Students will fulfill academic requirements for a B.S. in Aeronautics at the Asia Campus in Singapore, and then spend their final year at Embry-Riddle's campus in Daytona Beach, Florida, as part of an accelerated flight training program.

Upon completion of flight training and possession of a commercial pilot certificate with instrument and multi-engine ratings, the students will return to Singapore to complete the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore licensing requirements and to interview for potential employment with Singapore Airlines.

— *Melanie Hanns*

## ALTIMETER (CONTINUED)

Professor of Homeland Security (DB) William J. "Bill" Lahnen, Assistant Professor in the College of Aeronautics (WW) Narcrisha Norman and Professor of Aviation Finance (DB) Vedapuri Sunder Raghavan received 2018-19 U.S. Fulbright Scholar Awards.

The 2018 Daytona Beach Campus baseball team hit 66 home runs this past season, breaking the team's previous single season, home run record of 44 set in 1998.

Daytona Beach Campus Assistant Professor Snorri Gudmundsson was the chief aerodynamicist on a team that jointly designed the Cirrus SF50 Vision® Jet, which received the 2017 Robert J. Collier Trophy.

Prescott Campus Athletics Director Jaime Long was named Athletic Director of the Year for the California Pacific Conference. The Prescott Campus was also awarded its fourth consecutive Commissioner's Cup for overall athletic achievement.

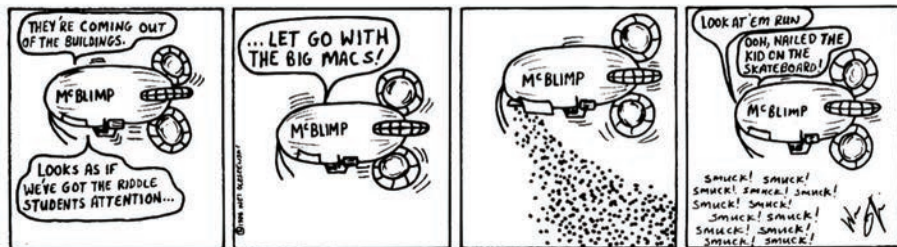


# FEEDBACK

## FROM THE EDITOR

We asked and you responded. Thank you, to all who completed the recent *Lift* Readership Survey online. You told us you prefer to read *Lift* in print (57 percent); you're interested/very interested in reading about science, technology and engineering (78 percent); and you're least interested in religion or faith-based issues (39 percent). You also said that *Lift* helps strengthen your personal connection to Embry-Riddle (81 percent). We think that's a good thing. View a summary of the survey results at [lift.erau.edu/2018survey](http://lift.erau.edu/2018survey), and let us know what you think: [liftmag@erau.edu](mailto:liftmag@erau.edu).

—SARA WITHROW, EDITOR



### Re: *The Aviator Ant* [spring 2018]

#### 'McBlimp! McBlimp!'

My favorite *Klyde Morris* strip was back in 1986, when I was a Daytona Beach Campus student and Riddle was somewhat of a monastery (male-female ratio of about 20-to-1). They had Miss USA or another beauty queen do an appearance at the UC. The place was packed with guys, naturally. Then word started filtering through the crowd that the McBlimp (back when McDonald's had a blimp) was flying over, and the place practically emptied out. Everyone wanted to get a glimpse of the airship. The incident perfectly summed up ERAU air-geekery. Wes [Oleszewski] did a strip on it, and it was almost perfectly true to life, except he had someone in the crowd yelling "McBlimp! McBlimp!"

Dan Shoemaker ('88)  
B.S. Aeronautical Studies

### Re: *Pilot Shortage* [spring 2017] and related *Feedback* [fall 2017]

#### Skilled Pilots Don't Want 'Peanuts'

The airline industry is behind and close-minded in their "candidate process." I am a retired USAF instructor pilot and evaluator. When I retired from the USAF, the shortage had not hit the major airlines yet and was only a forecast. At that time NO ONE as a T-6 instructor pilot was given a job by a major airline, regardless of their jet time from a major weapon system.

I took a T-1 sim instructor job with the assumption that I would get hired. After two years and no motion, I took a job as an instructor at Boeing. Now there are several, newly retired, or just out active-duty pilots who teach sims while looking for better jobs. One can do the job, explain the how and why, and the rules daily; but to the airlines, if it is not multi-engine and 100 hours in the past year, it does not count.

So why would I leave my job, pay and benefits, and attempt to support my family on a regional salary, with the hope of getting to start over at a major airline? When I retired from the AF, that would have meant a pay cut of three-fourths of my military pay.

There is a pool of qualified pilots. There is not a pool of qualified pilots willing to force their family to live on peanuts.

The airlines have been and still are using the same formula that worked for them when there was an abundance of pilots. I see they have made no changes to their model. What does your business school teach about a business that does not make changes or explore other options when they are faced with a crisis?

Donovan "Scott" Dunn ('96)  
Master of Aeronautical Science

#### Kudos to the Golden Eagles

Congrats to Prescott's Golden Eagles [Page 2, fall 2017]. They have represented ERAU with excellence and portray our great school as an educational institution devoted to continuous individual and team development, commanding performance and leadership.

Ed Carroll ('74)  
B.S. Aeronautical Studies

### Re: *In Memoriam* [spring 2018]



#### Editor's Clarification

*In Memoriam* [Page 37, spring 2018] incorrectly identified the late James A. Henderson ('71)

as the first chief pilot for the Daytona Beach Campus. According to flight department records, Faculty Emeritus A.C. Tacker pictured, left, who is retired and lives in Central Florida, was the campus's first chief pilot.

#### TALK TO US

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

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## IN OTHER WORDS

# 'The Long Gold Line'

## Challenge, survival and success define the flight team's story

BY MARK OVERLEY ('81)

In high school, I was the kid who kept to myself. Being on a flight team or helping start and run one wasn't part of who the "high school me" was. But the Prescott Campus was a magical place. We were all new students, with no upperclassmen to pick on us. I knew this was a new start for me and a time to take on new challenges.

During the fall of 1978, then Dean of Students Dan Reece attempted to start a flight team. Dan was retired Air Force and had a lot of experience with the National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA). When Dan asked me to help run it, I was a bit intimidated, but I said, "Yes."

We soon learned that the university wasn't going to support us financially, not even with airplanes. We were considered to be "unprofessional" and "weekend warriors." Those were then President Jack Hunt's words. That left us with two choices: figure it out or fold. You know the choice we made.

We had many conversations about money and how we were going to get it. We sold donuts at the flight line, held car washes and cut wood. We held the first dance on campus and many more after that.

We found an old mirror ball on campus with many mirrors missing. Our solution was to break mirrors that we "found" around campus and glue the shards of glass to the ball. The mirror ball hung proudly from the ceiling at all of our dances.

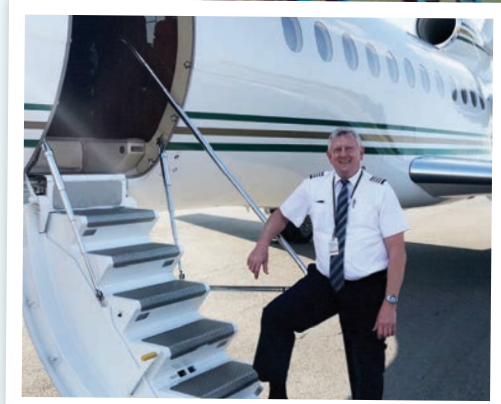
Adding to our challenges, on March 15, 1979, all of the flight instructors walked off the job, and Dan Reece, our founding adviser, left the university. It was a very uncertain time. Wayne Hanks, who was in charge of safety at the university, stepped up to be our adviser, and he helped us get to the regionals in Deer Valley that year.

For that first competition we used rented airplanes. We expected to camp at a KOA, but when we discovered it was paved and wasn't set up for tents, we elected to stay at a Best Western.

We were competitive and surprised a few teams with how well we did that year. Our success motivated us to work harder.

The next two seasons, 1979-80 and 1980-81, Ben Beagle came on board as our faculty adviser, another pivotal moment in our history. Ben's calm nature, even temper and wisdom guided us then and future teams for about 10 years.

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Above, Mark Overley, left, is pictured with fellow student Bill Tabbert at the Golden Eagles' first regional competition in 1979; and below, as a captain for Cintas Corporation.

One new development was the university allowed us to use the Grumman Tigers, which looked great sitting on the ramp at regionals. It was our first step toward support from the university, and we were knocking on the door of placing for nationals. In our third regionals, spring of 1981, we tied for third but lost the tiebreaker.

I graduated in December 1981, but the team has continued to achieve, as I hoped and knew in my heart that it would. I always imagined the university would properly support the team. It has since 1987-88, and it has allowed the team to operate independently.

As of May 2018, the Golden Eagles have won 34 regional titles (31 consecutive) and 12 national championships.

I believe that how we started 40 years ago began the long Gold line that connects us today. And that the struggles and challenges we faced made us better — and were maybe even necessary. They gave us a common cause of survival and success.

This thread of motivation and dedication — and maybe a little defiance — has been passed from team to team. The team today has the responsibility to future teams to pass on this spirit as only it can. Your legacy will be written by the teams that come after you are gone, because of what you passed on.

Forever a Golden Eagle!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Excerpted from a speech delivered at the 40th anniversary reunion of the Golden Eagles Flight Team, held Feb. 23, 2018. Overley earned a B.S. in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus and was the first president of the Golden Eagles Flight Team (1978-79). Today, he is a senior captain on the Falcon 900EX Easy and Cessna Citation Sovereign, at Cintas Corporation in Cincinnati, Ohio. Read more of Overley's story: [lift.erau.edu/long-gold-line](http://lift.erau.edu/long-gold-line)





WINGS OF  
LEGACY

# 40 Years of Ascent

The Prescott Campus  
celebrates its past while  
growing toward the future

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM & ALAN MARCOS PINTO CESAR  
ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE DALTON COWAN

When Embry-Riddle President Jack Hunt visited the former Prescott College property in the late 1970s, his vision to create a western aviation school found a home. In 1978, the university penned a deal to purchase the 500-plus acres located just north of Prescott, Arizona.

**Wilbur A. Middleton**, the first provost of Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus, described the scene in his memoir, "Genesis of Prescott College." Middleton writes:

*"Jack sent Hugh Manson, who was a vice president of Embry-Riddle, out to Prescott to reclaim the facility from the desert. In discussions with Hugh, it appeared that a neutron bomb had landed on the campus, disintegrated all the people, but left the grounds and buildings totally intact. [Apparently] just a few days before Christmas in 1975, the Prescott College president told all of its employees and students that the college had gone bankrupt and that he was locking the gates at noon. ... In one of the five faculty residences on campus, a pizza was found still in the oven."*

Manson also reported finding Christmas trees still erected in the buildings and dormitories, and coffee cups sitting on desks.

## Early Years

Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus opened in September 1978 with 240 students and two majors — aeronautical science and aeronautics. The area's 300-plus sunny days a year were promoted heavily to prospective flight students.

**Trustee Emeritus John C. "Jay" Adams (HonDoc '08)** says: "We had so many flight students coming to Daytona that we told them: 'You can register for aeronautical science, but you won't be able to fly until January; however, if you go to Prescott, you'll be able to fly immediately.' That's how it really started."



# Creating Campus Icons

## Aviation power couple kick off 'Prescott Campus Renaissance'

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM



The Library and Learning Center was made possible by a historic gift from Steven and Christine Udvar-Hazy.



Growing up in 1950s communist Hungary, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy (HonDoc '98) recalled his childhood library as a small wooden building that was formerly a barn. "We had maybe a couple hundred books that dated back to the pre-World War II days and a few communist doctrine books," says the aviation entrepreneur.

That memory spurred Steven and his wife, Christine, to make a historic gift in 2002 to help construct two of the Prescott Campus' landmarks: the Library and Learning Center and the Academic Complex building (AC1).

"I look at this library as a fountain of knowledge where students can gather to satisfy their curiosity, interact with one another, hatch new ideas and think in a whole new dimension," said Steven at the 2008 dedication of the Christine and Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Library and Learning Center.

"We're very proud of it," Christine added. "This dramatic building is a remarkable testament to what this university is about: a place for knowledge gathering and personalized education."

The couple's generosity launched a new era of campus growth that became known as the "Prescott Campus Renaissance."

"Christine and Steven Udvar-Hazy shared our campus commitment to a real hands-on, project-based learning community," says Prescott Campus Chancellor Frank Ayers ('87). "The library and AC1 continue to be vibrant hubs for student learning on campus."

"It looked like a ghost town," recalls **John Jenkins**, who was hired in 1978 as the first Prescott Campus faculty member. "We had all of eight faculty."

**Larry Stephan**, now dean of students, came sight unseen in 1979 to be the director of athletics. The "Fitness Center" consisted of one bench and two 25-pound plastic weights with one bar, and the sports field had not been watered in years, he recalls.

"The first Safety Center we had was made by moving the horses out of the corral and turning the stables into the Center for Aviation Safety Education. We put a couple wrecked airplane sites in the area that was the corral and started the program," says **Paul Daly**, who served as provost from 1981 to 1995.

### First off the Bus

"It was a bit like the Wild West," says **Mark Overley ('81)**, a flight student who arrived in September 1978. "Not much structure; one pay phone; one security person, Andy. The protocol for an emergency was to make your way to the pay phone and call someone. My parents left me here, so they must have been OK with it."

**Sherrie (Graybill) Laurie ('81)**, who was one of only about 20 female students that first fall semester, says she and the other women all lived in the same dorm and became fast friends. "I absolutely loved it," she says. "It was so small that you knew all the students and teachers. It was kind of like we were all pioneering together."

Laurie became a bit of a celebrity the following year, when her photo was used on the cover of the 1979-80 campus catalog.

**Rob Fenton ('82)**, originally of Long Island, New York, says he experienced some culture shock when he first arrived. But so did the Prescott community.

"Right after the school opened, the local newspaper ran an article with the headline: 'Small western town invaded by New Jersey,'" Fenton says. The locals weren't that happy with all the new faces and northeastern accents, he explains.

### Taking Flight

Though **Dan Carrell** would go on to become chancellor in 2000, he first arrived in 1986 as chair of the flight department. Carrell worked to increase support for the Golden Eagles Flight Team, culminating in their first national championship in 1993.

"We were able to come up with a couple of dedicated aircraft for them and also provided opportunity for some of the staff to have time to work with them. It was an opportunity to step up and get some national attention."

In the mid-1990s the university considered several tough options for the Prescott Campus, including moving it to Phoenix, says **Stephen Kahne**, who was named chancellor in 1995. The Board of Trustees ultimately voted to keep the campus in Prescott, which was a catalyst that allowed for more investment and improvements to occur, he says.

### The Prescott Renaissance

As chancellor, Carrell presided over what became known as the "Prescott Renaissance," a time of significant growth in facilities and degree programs. Money was tight, at first, he explains. "[So] we had to be ingenious.

"The first Safety Center we had was made by moving the horses out of the corral and turning the stables into the Center for Aviation Safety Education."

— PAUL DALY, PROVOST FROM 1981 TO 1995

We didn't have a track or field for any kind of sports, so one summer we asked the [Arizona Army] National Guard [258th Engineer Company] to work with us. We paid for the gas to get them up here and they helped with constructing that field."

Carrell worked to gain support from then University President George Ebbs and to secure funds from major donors to push the campus to the next level. [See sidebar *Creating Campus Icons*.] The first large-scale construction project he oversaw was a new Academic Complex (AC1).

"AC1 just got the ball rolling. It became a centerpiece for us. Over the years we were able to add more facilities, including student services. Now the facilities are beautiful," Carrell says.

**Ron Madler** started teaching engineering at Prescott in 1994. Dean of the College of Engineering since 2010, he says that in the early days the students relied on equipment that faculty and staff had built. The Aerospace Experimentation and Fabrication (AXFAB) facility changed that in 2006.

"We designed the AXFAB building around a machine shop and light fabrication suites, and put labs for testing around it. It would build on our reputation for providing a hands-on education ... I attribute our steady, sometimes explosive, growth to our AXFAB building and its great labs."

### A Decade of New Growth

Among the campus's staunchest advocates over the last decade is **Frank Ayers ('87)**. He transitioned from flight training department

chair at the Daytona Beach Campus to chancellor at the Prescott Campus in 2009.

"The first thing that stood out was the commitment and dedication of our faculty and staff to the university and each other, and especially to the success of our students," he says.

Ayers centralized and streamlined the campus budget, held a tight line on expenses and grew enrollments, which allowed for additional facilities and programs.

"We made it a goal to increase diversity, which we've done dramatically. Last year we reached 25 percent female enrollments, up from 17 percent in 2009. Along the way, we added 10 degree programs. We've grown half again in enrollment, from 1,673 students the day I got here to 2,663, and most of that came in the last five to six years."

Ayers also changed the campus landscape, adding a host of new buildings. "We opened a new facility every year of the last four years, and it's all been enrollment-driven. We built a new residence hall because we were busting at the seams, and we'll open another new residence hall this August."

Athletics programs have also been a priority. "Joining the Cal-Pac conference was a big moment for us," Ayers says. "We had four great sports; we added seven more, and there are more coming."

Under Ayers' direction, the campus established the nation's first College of Security and Intelligence in 2014; and it recently created a formal School of Business.

In 2017, the STEM Education Center and Jim and Linda Lee Planetarium opened. The Planetarium hosts programs for school children and the general public, as well as the campus. More than 10,000 guests have already passed through its doors.

Beyond the visible changes to the campus, the community perception of Embry-Riddle has come a long way since 1978, Ayers says.

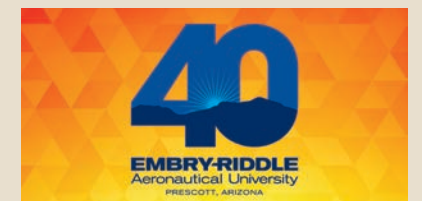
"We have a culture on the campus that I think is pretty unbeatable. Students have an amazing reputation, and the mayors in the area routinely attend the commencement ceremonies. Our graduation rates and retention rates are really, really high, and that's because of our culture." 🌟

Contributor: Kevin Montgomery, University Archivist



### 3D WEB EXCLUSIVE

Experience the history of the Prescott Campus in 3D at: [erau.edu/pc40](http://erau.edu/pc40). Get a free pair of 3D glasses! Request them at: [erau.edu/3Dglasses](http://erau.edu/3Dglasses)



CONNOR MCSHANE

## VISION REALIZED

BY PRESCOTT CAMPUS CHANCELLOR FRANK AYERS ('87)

The success of the Prescott Campus realized University President Jack Hunt's vision for a robust university system with two residential campuses – one in the East and one in the West – and a truly Worldwide Campus that encompasses the globe. Students can receive the same high-quality education through a variety of means and close to their homes.

The greater Prescott community has adopted the campus and clearly sees it as one of the key strategic pillars to its success. As high-tech businesses begin to come to Northern Arizona,

it will increase opportunities for Embry-Riddle students and graduates, and the campus will continue to grow along with the community.

At the heart of all this is Embry-Riddle's commitment to the community, its amazing faculty and staff, and its remarkable students. They benefit from a world-class education in a personal and hands-on learning environment, surrounded by faculty and staff who care deeply about their success.

This is the reality of the Prescott Campus today, and into a very bright future.



# Eyes on the Sky

How a kid from Long Island became the NTSB's first African-American managing director

BY JENNY QUILL

It's 10:30 a.m. on a Friday and Dennis Jones ('80), the managing director of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), has already put in half a day's work, having clocked in before most people have gotten out of bed. There's a small crowd gathered outside his office, waiting for him to wrap up our phone conversation so he can get back to the day-to-day operations of the NTSB.

Most days, that translates to interfacing with Congress and NTSB board members, meeting with staff and working with the Coast Guard, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Railroad Administration. "There's never a dull moment," Jones says. "I have a very fulfilling job, and as long as my days are, they go by quick."

## Getting Up in the Air

As a kid growing up on Long Island, Jones always had his eyes on the sky. He would sit in his backyard watching airplanes from a nearby airport fly overhead, dreaming of someday being behind the controls. Money was tight, so Jones washed planes and cut grass at the airport in exchange for flying lessons.

His first lesson, at the controls of a Cessna 150, was his first time on an airplane, period. To complicate matters, he was scared of heights. But once in the sky, his fears faded away. He got his pilot's certificate at the age of 17 and began taking solo flights to airports throughout the Northeast, where he was often greeted with a mix of curiosity and surprise. "I got a lot of attention," he says. "Back then, it was rare to see African-American folks flying."

Around that time, a magazine advertisement for Embry-Riddle caught his eye. He applied and was accepted, working all

summer to save up the money to attend. He flipped through the course catalog and picked the first course his finger landed on — aviation maintenance.

The program required an airframe and powerplant maintenance certificate, so he worked on his A&P license in the morning and took core academic classes at night. "The A&P was fascinating," Jones says. "Prior to that, I didn't think I was mechanically inclined. I knew how to fly a plane, but I didn't know what was going on beneath me."

## In the Field

Jones began his NTSB career as an intern in 1979 and was hired on full time as a field-investigator trainee in 1980. His first major investigation was the August 1987 crash of Northwest Airlines Flight 255 out of Detroit, which killed everyone on board except one little girl.

"I was always concerned about how I was going to respond to the scenes and the victims of crashes," Jones says. "That aspect of the job was very surreal. During that trainee period, I realized I could handle it." All told, Jones has investigated approximately 1,300 aviation accidents in his nearly 40-year career.

## Going Global

In the late 1990s, Jones began traveling to Africa to investigate plane crashes. During that time, he kept hearing about Safe Skies for Africa, a Department of Transportation (DOT) initiative focused on bringing the continent's aviation safety and security practices up to accepted world standards.

Jones' work was a natural fit, so an interagency agreement between the NTSB and DOT was formed. Jones found himself not just leading accident investigations, but also helping African countries launch and improve their investigation programs, implementing safety procedures and providing on-the-job training. His work in Africa propelled him onto the international stage, giving him the opportunity to conduct safety workshops in Sudan, Singapore, Iraq and Russia. "Working with folks in that part of the world has been fulfilling," Jones says.

## Piloting the NTSB into the Future

In January 2017, Jones was called back to Washington to serve as the NTSB's acting managing director, with the assumption that he would remain for a few months, then return to his work abroad. But at the request of then-acting NTSB Chairman Robert Sumwalt ('14), Jones accepted the full-time position and was confirmed in September 2017, becoming the agency's first African-American managing director.

"Dennis has street cred," Sumwalt says. "He's done the job, he's been an investigator. He's got the piloting knowledge, the technical knowledge, the intellect and, most importantly, the people skills."

Jones will need to call upon those skills as he helps the NTSB navigate a rapidly changing transportation landscape, with autonomous vehicles, new recording technologies, solar-powered planes and hyperspeed rail all becoming increasingly prevalent. And as ever, Jones will be looking to the skies. "A lot of these emergent technologies have been present in planes, so what I learned in aviation is now applying to other modes of transportation." 🌟

HOWARD KORN



Dennis Jones

"Dennis has street cred. He's done the job, he's been an investigator. He's got the piloting knowledge, the technical knowledge, the intellect and, most importantly, the people skills."

— ROBERT SUMWALT, NTSB CHAIRMAN

## INVESTIGATING AVIATION'S GREATEST MYSTERY

Dennis Jones ('80) has investigated dozens of headline-making international airplane crashes, but perhaps the most mysterious is Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which disappeared on March 8, 2014, while flying from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing, China, with 239 people aboard.

Serving as a U.S. accredited representative, Jones and a team of U.S. investigators traveled to Malaysia to assist with the multinational search. "This was not my first time dealing with a missing plane," Jones says. "But this was certainly the first of this magnitude. We had in mind that it would be found by the time we got there but that didn't manifest."

The team worked in Malaysia for nearly two months. When it became obvious the airplane would not be found, they returned to the

United States and continued to assist remotely. "I've been to the scenes of a whole lot of crashes all over the world," Jones says. "But this was a very odd case. There was no crash site. It's the first of its kind involving a commercial airliner and everything was different."

To date, the aircraft has not been recovered, though several pieces of debris have been found. The governments of Malaysia, China and Australia called off the nearly three-year official search in January 2017. It was the largest and most expensive search operation in aviation history, costing approximately \$160 million.

In January 2018, the Malaysian government announced that it had sanctioned a new search by Ocean Infinity, a private American underwater technology company. In May, the company's search officially concluded, with no sign of the aircraft.





After studying in Jordan, Morocco and Beirut as an Embry-Riddle student, Kevin Moss is now a Foreign Service officer for the U.S. Department of State.

SUBMITTED

# GOING GLOBAL

Study abroad experience helps students in careers and life

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM

Kevin Moss ('14) is an advocate of study abroad programs for obvious reasons. A Foreign Service officer at the U.S. Embassy in Haiti, he says his international experiences were critical to realizing his dream of working for the U.S. Department of State.

"I'm constantly learning and using my language skills every day to navigate my personal and professional world," Moss says. "There are just as many ups and downs in this career as there were in studying abroad; however, my past experiences taught me how to cope with that and how to be resilient."

International study programs benefit students of all fields, not just those interested in living and working abroad, says Sue A. Macchiarella, director of global engagement at the Daytona Beach Campus. Studying in a foreign country gives them opportunities for personal growth and helps build their confidence, problem-solving skills and creativity, she says.

Lending support to her claims is a 2017 Institute of International Education report titled, *Gaining an Employment Edge: The Impact of Study Abroad on 21st Century Skills & Career Prospects*. The report found that study abroad programs promote multicultural understanding and teamwork, both key soft skills in today's global business environment. It also pointed to high employability of graduates with study abroad experiences, and not just for first jobs, but for subsequent job offers throughout their careers.

"Many companies are international, and being able to work across cultures is critical," agrees Kelly O'Brien, director of study abroad and global engagement at the Prescott Campus. "They want someone who understands another language and can navigate another culture."

In a recent employer survey conducted by Macchiarella's office, 86 percent of company respondents said they value graduates with international experience.

While surveys and studies provide a general measure of success, they only tell half the story. At the individual level, the study abroad program has helped change the lives of several enterprising Embry-Riddle alumni, providing unforgettable experiences while preparing them for career challenges that come their way.



## Did You Know?

Embry-Riddle's Office of Alumni Engagement offers opportunities for alumni to travel and experience international cultures through its Eagle Explorers program. In 2018, Eagle Explorers visited the Bavaria region of Germany and Austria; in 2017, an Explorers group visited the Tuscany region of Italy. See photos from these trips and find out more at: [alumni.erau.edu/explorers](http://alumni.erau.edu/explorers).

### Engineering Across Cultures

Ethan Higgins ('17) says his time studying in Germany helped him get a job as a flight controller at mission control at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

"As part of the requirements for the position, knowing a European language is a huge plus because of all the international collaboration on the International Space Station," he says.

During a yearlong program (2016-17) in Germany, Higgins received intensive German language instruction, took classes at the Hamburg University of Technology and was involved in the university's research for Airbus.

"That was probably the best year of my life," says Higgins, who went on to complete a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. "Not only did I make lifelong friends, but I learned unquantifiable things about myself and my ability to succeed in a completely foreign and sometimes uncomfortable environment."

Kris Field ('12, '13), who earned a B.S. and an M.S. in Aerospace Engineering, says his study abroad experience in Paris, France, prepared him to be a NASA flight controller, also supporting the International Space Station.

"I was in the dual-degree program at the EPF Graduate School of Engineering in Sceaux, France," Field says. "The program consisted of studying in France for my junior year, returning to Embry-Riddle for my senior year, and then going back to France for a semester in grad school."

There were tough times, he recalls, such as sitting in a three-hour lecture on thermodynamics, conducted entirely in French, while he was still learning the language.

"Still, to this day, one of the coolest memories of my life is the first time I dreamed in French," Field says.

In the end, he learned not only engineering, but also a new language and culture. He also learned how to adapt. "In my career today, there are stressful challenges that pop up. But when I start to worry about them, I reflect on how I was able to learn a new language and pass my engineering classes, and I am confident things will work out," Field says.

### Flying High Abroad

Some students fear studying abroad will delay graduation, Macchiarella says, but most programs contribute toward needed credit hours and requirements, especially during the sophomore and junior years.

Alex Damon ('17), who earned a B.S. in Aeronautical Science, completed several study abroad courses during his time as a student, including a semester in Hong Kong — and still completed his flight training on schedule. Today, he is a first officer at Republic Airline.

"I saw you could schedule a lot of requirements with programs abroad, so why not experience it in real life?" he says. "I got all these classes done and, in some cases, it was cheaper to go abroad."



Mindy Corbitt Lindheim, left, flew a Diamond DA-20 during her semester in New Zealand.

In the summer of 2013, he completed the Aviation Appreciation program, during which he traveled to the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Austria; and in 2014, he did a summer program in Italy and completed all of his humanities requirements. He spent spring 2015 studying in Hong Kong, and in the summer of 2016, he did a program in Greece that included a mini-internship with Aegean Airlines.

Mindy Corbitt Lindheim ('14), who also earned a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science, had the opportunity to pilot an airplane in New Zealand during a semester studying at Massey University.

"One of my favorite memories was getting to fly a Diamond DA-20 with the university's flight program around New Zealand for a day. The landscape from the ground in New Zealand is spectacular but seeing it from the air is just breathtaking," she says.

Lindheim, who is a regional sales director and demo pilot for Textron Aviation's piston aircraft, says her experience made her more independent, confident and adventurous.

### Funding for Study Abroad

The costs of study abroad programs vary, says Macchiarella, but there are some scholarships available — especially for programs located in areas of the world with less commonly taught languages and regions critical to U.S. interests.

Ryan Marr ('15), a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, who earned a B.S. in Global Security and Intelligence Studies (GSIS), was awarded a David L. Boren Scholarship in 2015 to study KiSwahili in Tanzania.

"I decided to apply to study in Tanzania because of the dynamic nature of security concerns within East Africa," Marr says.

As part of his study, he interned at a local hospital, assisting the resident surgeon. The internship allowed him to practice his KiSwahili and put into practice the trauma care training he received while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The love and generosity of the local community was the most powerful thing I have yet encountered," says Marr, who is now a graduate student at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina.

### State Department Aspirations

For Moss, who also studied GSIS, but with a focus on the Middle East, living and working in a foreign country was always part of his long-term plan. As a kid, he frequently traveled overseas to visit his father, who was in the U.S. Air Force. After visiting his dad in Turkey, he became fascinated with the Middle East.

In high school, Moss spent a semester in Cairo, Egypt. As an Embry-Riddle student, he studied in Jordan for a summer, Morocco for a semester and at the American University of Beirut for a summer.

"I grew up knowing that I wanted to represent the U.S. abroad," he says. "However, I always thought I would do that in the military. Through my experience with Army ROTC and an internship with the State Department at our Consulate General in Frankfurt, Germany, I set my sights on the State Department."

Moss completed an M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University in 2016, and in August of that year, his dream came true. He was hired as a Foreign Service officer at the U.S. Department of State and started working in Haiti.

Moss recently learned his next assignment will bring him back to a region he loves. In May, he was assigned to be a political officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul, Turkey.

"My study abroad experiences continue to shape who I am today and have prepared me for what I do for a living," he says. 🌱

**"My study abroad experiences continue to shape who I am today and prepared me for what I do for a living."**

— KEVIN MOSS, FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE



Ryan Marr interned at a local hospital during his study abroad program in Tanzania.



Alex Damon completed several study abroad programs, including one in Greece that involved a mini-internship with Aegean Airlines.

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### SCHOLARSHIPS NEEDED

Help students expand their horizons with a gift that supports study abroad programs at Embry-Riddle: [givingto.erau.edu/global](http://givingto.erau.edu/global).





# AIRBORNE

Asia's aviation industry is experiencing rapid growth, and Embry-Riddle is in the thick of it

BY SARA WITHROW

BRYAN VAN DER BEEK

Embry-Riddle Asia Campus graduates, from left, Alex Ong, Laphang Chung and Dian Adnan at Singapore's Changi Airport.



Singapore's Changi Airport, pictured here, is growing to meet industry forecasts that predict an additional 1.9 billion air passengers for the Asia-Pacific region by 2036. Embry-Riddle graduates will help lead the industry surge.



Commercial aviation in Singapore is thriving — and nowhere is that more evident than at the city-state's Changi International Airport. Take a stroll through any of its four terminals (with a fifth on the way) and you find symbolic reminders of an industry in full bloom. There are lush gardens featuring sunflowers, orchids and butterflies; a kinetic rain sculpture; and in the ultimate expression of growth and connectivity, a nearly 27-foot-tall digital social tree sculpture. This interactive art installation allows passengers to display their photos and videos on a panel of high-definition screens that form the tree's "crown."

But for Alex Ong, who grew up in Singapore watching the aviation industry transform his country and the surrounding region, the real barometer of growth sits just outside those terminals: airplanes.

"Regionally, I have seen the proliferation of destinations and the improvement of connectivity, with emerging markets in Indonesia and Vietnam witnessing exponential growth," says Ong, a recent graduate of Embry-Riddle's Asia Campus. "[But] the

starkest reflection of the aviation industry boom is the ever-increasing fleet size of the airlines in the region."

In the past decade, Asian airline jet fleets have increased from 3,600 to 7,000 aircraft, with 250 airlines (up from 200) now operating jet fleets, according to The Boeing Company's *Current Market Outlook 2017-2036*. The report predicts that by 2036, approximately 40 percent of all new aircraft will be delivered to airlines operating in Asia.

Ong wants to pilot one of those airliners.

In July, he began flight training at Singapore Flying College, through a partnership with Singapore Airlines. Upon completing the program and attaining proper licensure through the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, he will be eligible to apply for pilot opportunities with the airline. Embry-Riddle recently started offering an accelerated flight training program to Asia Campus students who are able to travel and study at its Daytona Beach, Florida, facility. [See related story, Page 3.]

"I love my country, and I would like to make a difference and play a part in Singapore's aviation industry," Ong says.

BRYAN VAN DER BEEK

## Asia Campus: A (Brief) History



Chancellor John R. Watret, right, and Yap Ong Heng, former director general at CAAS, at the 2011 launch ceremony.

### 2010

Embry-Riddle signs memorandums of understanding with the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore to begin offering a Master of Business Administration in Aviation program through the Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA) and undergraduate programs through the Singapore Institute of Management University (UniSIM).

### January 2011

The new Embry-Riddle Asia Campus opens its doors to 29 undergraduate and 22 graduate students.

### 2013

The campus starts offering its undergraduate programs independently, under Singapore's Council of Private Education program. Its operating agreement with UniSIM ends, but it continues to partner with SAA to offer its graduate programs.

### 2016

The Asia Campus gains approval from Singapore's EduTrust to enroll international students.

### Feb. 19, 2016

The Asia Campus and Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge sign a memorandum of understanding to collaboratively develop professional education opportunities in aviation corporate scholarship and research to benefit the aviation workforce of India.

### March 2017

Embry-Riddle Asia launches a professional education and training program to bring affordable aviation-related seminars and short courses to Asia through local partnerships.

### December 2017

The Asia Campus celebrates 112 new graduates, its largest graduating class to date.

## WHY SINGAPORE?

Regional economic development, a growing middle class with newfound spending power and the expansion of low-cost carrier airlines have contributed to Asia's burgeoning aviation market. In the mid-2000s, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) projected annual average growth rates ranging from 7 to over 14 percent for international air passenger and air freight transport for the Asia-Pacific region and China.

Embry-Riddle's Worldwide Campus Chancellor John R. Watret took note, and in 2007, he started talking with the Singapore Economic Development Board about bringing Embry-Riddle's aviation programs there.

An English-speaking city-state, Singapore's strong aviation sector and its high value on education, with nearly 25 percent of its annual budget invested in education, made it attractive for Embry-Riddle, Watret says.

It was also strategically located.

"You take a five-hour flying radius from Singapore, essentially the distance from Boston to Los Angeles, and you capture 3.2 billion people. More than half the world's population lives there. We knew that China was an open market. Singapore as an access point to Asia was a natural choice."

**"You take a five-hour flying radius from Singapore ... and you capture 3.2 billion people. ... Singapore as an access point to Asia was a natural choice."**

— JOHN R. WATRET, WORLDWIDE CAMPUS CHANCELLOR

## LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Watret enlisted the help of Graham Hunt, now vice chancellor and head of the Asia Campus, to lay the foundation for Embry-Riddle's Asian presence. As the dean of aviation at a state university in New Zealand, Hunt had established an online Bachelor of Aviation Management program at the Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA). While there, he also created the world's first degree that integrated academic requirements and recognized pilot license qualifications.

Hunt's experience in aviation education and his previous work in the region were assets, Watret says. But the city-state's bureaucracy remained a challenge, as did its geographic distance from Embry-Riddle's headquarters in Daytona Beach.

"It took two years to get all of the approvals," he says.

In January 2011, the new Embry-Riddle Asia Campus opened its doors to 29 undergraduate and 22 graduate students.

Asia Campus programs are offered through partnerships with SAA (graduate programs) and formerly with the Singapore Institute of Management University (undergraduate programs), but all of the degrees bear the Embry-Riddle seal. And, Embry-Riddle faculty teach all of the coursework.



# Pioneer Spirit

Students create campus life in Singapore high-rise



When Dian Adnan ('15) enrolled at Embry-Riddle's Asia Campus in Singapore in 2013 there were no student clubs and very little, if any, campus life, per se.

"I was part of the pioneer batch of full-time students at Embry-Riddle Asia," she says. "At that time, there were not many facilities or programs available to us. However, that made it more valuable when we would organize out-of-class activities ourselves for students to enjoy and bond with one another; and the school was very receptive and supportive of the ideas."

Now a flight operations coordinator for ExecuJet Aviation Group, a private aviation jet company, Adnan says she formed a tightknit group of friends at Embry-Riddle, despite its setting: a high-rise building in the midst of Singapore's financial district.

Asia Campus Vice Chancellor Graham Hunt says in many ways the campus is much like any other undergraduate university. More than 85 percent of its students are "traditional," pursuing their degrees in a classroom setting, on a full-time basis, he says. It departs from U.S. norms in that it offers no residence halls and its three leased classrooms are in a building that also leases space to several other non-local educational institutions. The building also houses a fitness center, a library and a lounge area, which are shared by all of the students.

Alex Ong ('18) says that when he started his Embry-Riddle education in 2015, he noticed something was missing.

"Because we do not technically have a physical campus, many students would find themselves simply coming to class, returning home, completing assignments and then repeating the same routine the next day, with no real college experience," he says.

Ong set out to change this.

In spring 2016, he campaigned and was elected president of the newly instituted Asia Campus Student Government Association (SGA). He and his party – three fellow students who would serve as vice president, secretary and treasurer – campaigned largely on creating student engagement opportunities.

One of their first tasks was to expand the existing one-day freshman orientation to a two-night, off-campus experience. "We organized many activities for the camp that bonded students from all demographics and classes, even alumni. For many of us, the camp gave us the first feeling of a true college experience," Ong says.

Under Ong's leadership, the new SGA also established a Women in Aviation Chapter, a scuba diving club, a flight simulator club and an intramural football (soccer) team. They also hosted student industry field trips to Airbus, The Boeing Company and others.

Worldwide Campus Chancellor John R. Watret attributes the Asia Campus' success in large part to its students' can-do attitudes and their shared passion for aviation.

"The thing that's neat about it, is because it's new and because it's small, they're building traditions right away. They're starting and growing up and coming together," he says.

"They're getting an Embry-Riddle education. Their degree is the same as our students are getting in the states," Watret says. "It's a smaller community, which means there's typically more engagement between the faculty and students and staff, because they all know each other. That in itself is special to them."

In 2016, the Asia Campus started accepting international students with approval from Singapore's EduTrust program. "Now, we have 94 international students from the surrounding regions: Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, China, Korea, a whole sundry," Watret says.

## GROWING THE EAGLE NATION

Asia Campus alumni are now a growing force in the region. To date, the campus has conferred 371 degrees. It offers two master's degrees and three bachelor's degrees, and its annual enrollment hovers around 540.

"We want to grow enrollment to 1,000 steady-state," Watret says. A lofty goal, but one that's necessary to help fill the demand for aviation professionals in Asia.

IATA's 20-year industry forecast predicts that by 2036, an additional 1.9 billion annual passengers will be transported to, from and within Asia Pacific, giving it an overall market size of 3.2 billion.

"The Asian aviation industry requires many more qualified aviation professionals than what are available today. The main threat to the industry is a workforce

## Embry-Riddle Asia: BY THE NUMBERS

48

Faculty

(3 full time; 45 part time or adjunct)

543

Current Students

371

Degrees Conferred (to date)

3

Undergraduate Programs

(B.S. Aeronautics; B.S. Aeronautics, Engineering Fundamentals Track; and B.S. Aviation Business Administration)

2

Graduate Programs

(M.S. Aeronautics and MBA in Aviation)

that cannot catch up with the unprecedented rate of growth," says Laphang Chung ('13), who manages airfield/airside operations at Singapore's Changi Airport.

Chung, who earned an MBA-Aviation from the Asia Campus, says his Embry-Riddle experience uniquely prepared him for his current role, where he oversees a 50-person, 24/7 operations team.

"My MBA cohort consisted of professionals from many parts of the aviation industry throughout Asia. Very often, learning was not confined to the curriculum, but rather, through the collective sharing of real-life experiences and problems from various sectors of the Asian aviation industry. This, to me, was invaluable."

## AN INDUSTRY MODEL

Hunt says Chung represents a new professional model for the aviation industry in Singapore and the greater region.

"Asia has now acknowledged the reality that aviation in the 21st century cannot be like it had been in the 20th century, and that the need for the 'professionalization' of aviation education can only be achieved within the context of a university program working closely with ICAO and national regulatory authorities," Hunt explains. "Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is one of the very few institutions in the world that can meet these challenges of the 21st century." ✈️



Alex Ong, a recent graduate of Embry-Riddle's Asia Campus, helped shape campus life as the inaugural president of the Student Government Association.

SUBMITTED

BRYAN VAN DER BEEK



# Tinkering with the Master Control System

Laura Tyler Perryman engineers pain and disease management technology for human good

BY ALAN MARCOS PINTO CESAR

**R**ockets, amusement parks and the human body share a common element, says Laura Tyler Perryman ('88). They can all be broken down into control systems.

Her work today focuses on giving people who suffer from diabetes a better quality of life. Through her efforts to do this, she co-developed a groundbreaking device to help those who struggle with chronic pain.

Perryman is the CEO and co-founder of Stimwave, and co-inventor of the company's nerve stimulator device, which she says can "help block pain signals from reaching the brain" when properly deployed. The Stimwave system is innovative not in what it does, but in how it does it. It's a micro-sized implant powered by a small controller worn outside the body.

"Other companies that existed before us have a very large device that's about three or four times the size of a pacemaker, and has a battery in it. You have to implant it in the body through surgery, and you have to undergo general anesthesia for that to take place. Our device is so disruptive and unique because it fits through a needle, and slides in under local [anesthetic]. We leverage nanotechnology to create a very small device."

The Food and Drug Administration approved the device for use in humans in early 2016 — just five years after Perryman co-founded the company with Patrick Larson, its vice president of research and development.

The stimulator operates totally passively; it has no internal energy source and does not require surgery. Given its passive nature, it has even been approved for use by active-duty military personnel, Perryman says. "We were the first neuromodulation company to have a DoD [Department of Defense] contract because of the safety profile of the device."

Laura Tyler Perryman is using her background in control systems to create technology that helps those who struggle with chronic pain.

DONNA VICTOR

## Head Start

An academic prodigy of sorts, Perryman graduated high school at 16 and started studying aeronautical engineering at Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus. As a young woman under the legal drinking age, she found few opportunities to socialize. She focused on her studies instead, took plenty of summer classes, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree at 19.

"I went to Rocketdyne to work on control systems for their rocket engines, which is about the highest honor I could've received [upon graduation]. The Embry-Riddle curriculum gave me all the tools to succeed in every segment, starting there," Perryman says. "The thing about an Embry-Riddle education is that it encourages innovation and thinking outside the box for solving complex, system-level problems."

She went on to work at Walt Disney Imagineering and Rockwell Semiconductors in engineering and project management roles, and after 10 years working for Fortune 500 companies, migrated to more entrepreneurial environments with successful business startups and mergers. Perryman retired from industry work just 20 years after graduating from Embry-Riddle. It freed her up to focus on something that had been troubling her since her father passed away in 1987 from advanced-stage type 2 diabetes.

"The problem with diabetes is that it comes on rapidly. He deteriorated very fast," she says. "There are a lot better medications now than in 1985-86, and earlier detection. People live longer than they used to, but it's definitely not a good quality of life. That's why I was looking into ways to help the body regulate its own insulin."

## Bodies as Machines

Examining closed-loop insulin control systems during her Ph.D. studies triggered her passion for determining how to change a machine's response to an input. "It goes all the way back, even to my undergrad at Embry-Riddle. I was always focused on control systems," Perryman says.

She was able to use the knowledge she gained throughout her career to develop with Larson a tiny dipole antenna that could receive electrical power wirelessly from an external control unit to generate desired neural responses.

Though managing diabetes was her motivation, a tactical change was necessary in order to create a viable product. "We saw that pain management had the largest number of users of electrical energy intervention. We thought this would be the fastest and easiest road map to get this device on the market," Perryman says.

Pragmatism won the day, but Perryman still sees a lot of potential on the horizon for their technology. "We want to get this established as the standard in the industry. Then we'll go on to research modalities like thyroid control that are less far along in solutions."

Her advice to others searching for their professional niche: "The most important thing is to realize that you don't have to be pigeonholed for an entire career with what you started out learning. You should learn something you're super interested in, even though you might take that knowledge and apply it in a different way. You just have to be passionate about what you're doing at the time that you're doing it." 🌱

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In 2017, Perryman was inducted into the Prescott Campus Chancellor's Alumni Hall of Fame.



# Double the Impact

Prescott Campus alumnus vows to match gifts to Doryland Aerospace Engineering Endowment

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM

**P**antelis Vassiliou ('86) recently established the Nancy and Tracy Doryland Aerospace Engineering Faculty Support Endowment at Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus.

"This gift will help us maintain and improve a world-class undergraduate wind tunnel facility and enable our students and faculty to achieve even greater advances in aerospace education and undergraduate research," says Mark Sensmeier, chair of the campus's department of aerospace engineering.

An aerospace engineering graduate, Vassiliou has further offered to match any gift given by others to the endowment — up to a total of \$50,000 a year over the next three years. "Embry-Riddle, and especially the Prescott Campus, will always hold a very special place in my heart," Vassiliou says. "A special part of those memories was Tracy Doryland and his dedication and work in establishing the aerospace engineering program there."

Vassiliou's gift followed the Feb. 20, 2018, rededication of the Nancy and Tracy Doryland Wind

Tunnel, which kicked off National Engineers Week activities at the Prescott Campus.

The Dorylands were like surrogate parents for many Embry-Riddle students, providing guidance and stability to generations of aspiring engineers, says Peg Billson ('84), who attended the rededication ceremony.

"We had [students] over for dinner and all kinds of stuff, because that's just what we felt we should do," Tracy Doryland recalls. "It was a really small campus, very personal — and by the time they graduated, most of these kids were our friends. And still are."

Vassiliou's gift is unique in that it also allows other donors to double the impact of their contributions, says Steve Bobinsky, executive director of philanthropy. "This is an unprecedented opportunity to put our generosity to work to benefit future aerospace engineers at the Prescott Campus."



## DOUBLE YOUR GIFT

To donate, go to: [crowdfunding.erau.edu/doryland](https://crowdfunding.erau.edu/doryland).



Tracy and Nancy Doryland, left, provided support and guidance to generations of aspiring engineering students at the Prescott Campus. Above, students test a project in the Nancy and Tracy Doryland Wind Tunnel laboratory.

DAVID MASSEY; INSET: CONNOR MCSHANE



## GIFT FROM THE HEART

Miami Campus alumnus honors roommate with memorial gift

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM

**G**rowing up in a small town in Massachusetts, Sid Mann ('61) discovered a whole new world as an Embry-Riddle student in the 1960s.

"I was dropped in the big city of Miami," he recalls. "I found myself living with students from Lebanon and Greece. It was kind of a mini-United Nations."

Fifty years later, Mann has fond memories of his time as a student, but one tragic event haunts him.

While at Embry-Riddle, a flight student from Lebanon, whom Mann knew as Eddie, shared a house with Mann and another student for five months. After the Christmas break, they all found other housing arrangements, but Mann heard Eddie was sick and visited him in a Miami hospital.

Shortly thereafter, he was shocked to learn that Eddie had died on Jan. 29, 1961, of a misdiagnosed ruptured appendix.

"Eddie was such a nice guy, and he had a quick smile," Mann recalls.

Mann completed his airframe and powerplant training and worked as an

aircraft mechanic, before returning to Massachusetts. He became manager of his family's lumberyard and eventually retired to Sarasota, Florida.

But he always remembered Eddie. With the help of a Sarasota librarian, he recently found Eddie's proper Arabic name: Adnan Mohamad Mackaoui. That discovery led to records revealing where Mackaoui was buried in Lebanon and an address for his family. Unfortunately, there was no longer a house at that address, Mann says.

His research inspired him to make a gift to the Daytona Beach Campus Patron's Scholarship Fund, in memory of Mackaoui, to help current international students.

"I thought the donation might help a foreign student here now, who has no network or family nearby to help them," Mann says.

There's one more thing he hopes to do in honor of his onetime friend: "I would like to decorate his grave in Lebanon with flowers and the flags of our countries," Mann says. "It may be 56 years late, but better late than never."

## Athletes Rally for Alma Mater

Inaugural Varsity Club Day of Giving raises \$74,000

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM

**F**rom Kazakhstan to Florida, more than 200 Embry-Riddle student-athlete alumni rallied to raise \$74,000 on March 1, 2018, for the inaugural Daytona Beach Eagles' Varsity Club Day of Giving.

"I've been humbled by the support of our former Embry-Riddle student athletes," says John Phillips ('90, '92), director of athletics at the Daytona Beach Campus. "It's a testimony to the relationships that our coaches and staff have built with our players over the years and a great indication of the connection that our student athletes have with their alma mater."

In all, 232 donors representing 35 states and 18 countries contributed during the 24-hour period.

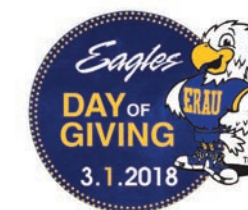
Men's soccer was the top team participant, with more than 50 former student athletes contributing. Baseball and women's soccer came in second and third, respectively, in the unofficial team giving contest.

Relaunched on the Daytona Beach Campus in 1989, Embry-Riddle's men's soccer program will celebrate its 30th anniversary this fall, with plans to host an alumni celebration in April 2019, says Dave Gregson, head men's soccer coach.

Gregson says he is proud of the soccer alumni for taking a lead in the philanthropic effort. "Part of their own life story was shaped by their experiences here, and they want current players to enjoy the same wonderful memories and lasting friendships they had," he says.

Sarah Brisson ('08), a soccer team alumna, would agree. The Athletics Day of Giving prompted her to create a scholarship for female soccer players.

"Living life with a giving spirit makes you more successful both personally and professionally," Brisson says. "That's just one of many life-long principles that Embry-Riddle athletics taught me, and it's an honor to give back to the program that instilled those values."







Capt. Mike Cox ('09), a KC-135 pilot at MacDill Air Force Base, shows then Air Force ROTC Cadet Sarah Osborne his aircraft during a base visit he hosted in winter 2016. Osborne commissioned in May 2017 and is currently at pilot training.

# Direct Connections

Capt. Nikki Yogi's ACE program pairs Air Force ROTC Det. 157 cadets with Embry-Riddle Det. 157 alumni for mentorship opportunities and an in-depth look at active-duty life

BY SAM MITTELSTEADT

Imagine having to make a career-defining decision without ever visiting your future worksite or meeting your co-workers. Many U.S. Air Force cadets found themselves in that exact position after federal budget cuts eliminated professional development training (PDT) and funding for base visits, which had offered in-depth looks at the operations on bases.

To fill the gap for cadets at Embry-Riddle's Detachment 157 in Daytona Beach, Florida, Capt. Nikki Yogi ('12) spearheaded the Alumni and Cadet Engagement (ACE) program. The program pairs cadets with Det. 157 alumni to give them an inside look at military life and to open doors for senior/junior mentorships. Over the past three years, active-duty Embry-Riddle alumni have hosted 28 cadets for week-end tours of what work and life are like at their bases of interest.

SUBMITTED

## Under the Wire

"Ever since I was little, I've known I wanted to fly," Yogi says. "However, I knew nothing about the military. I always thought I would fly for a major airline." Her destiny changed the summer before her senior year of high school, when she met her great-aunt and great-uncle, who had both retired as chiefs after 30 years of service in the Air Force. They encouraged her to look into joining the ROTC and fly for the Air Force. Yogi's mother, a teacher, asked around about universities with flight programs, and Embry-Riddle came highly recommended.

Yogi enrolled in 2008, and during her freshman year she made base visits to Moody and Robins Air Force Bases. "These base visits were often the only chance students like me would have to lay eyes on what life is like on the other side of their training," she says. "As soon as I stepped foot on the base, I was able to see how everyone worked together and how there was a team concept in every shop we went into. I remember thinking, 'This is where I need to be.'"

Yogi considers herself fortunate to have made those trips, because the funding for PDTs was soon eliminated. "Then, during my senior year, Chuck Graf, a retired Air Force colonel and Embry-Riddle graduate, and his wife, Liz, offered to host all of the cadets who were commissioning at their home and talk about pilot life and what to expect upon entering active duty. It was a tremendous resource."

## The Plan Takes Flight

After graduating with a degree in aeronautical science in 2012, Yogi was commissioned into the Air Force and began undergraduate pilot training at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma. Subsequent assignments have taken her to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona, to fly the A-10; a deployment to support Operation



Front row: 2nd Lts. Kevin Montes Gregsamer, Garrett Frazell and Jake Sonzogni. Back row: Retired Col. Chuck Graf, Capt. Nikki Yogi and 2nd Lt. Sarah Osborne. Yogi has hosted all four cadets pictured at her duty stations.



Capt. Juan Rodriguez ('14), second from right, hosts then Cadet Ryan Pieton ('18), far right, at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming this past winter. Also pictured: Maj. Drew Ackles, far left, and Master Sgt. Gregory Patton.

Inherent Resolve over Iraq and Syria; and, earlier this year, she was assigned to Luke Air Force Base outside Phoenix to fly F-35s in the 63rd Fighter Squadron.

Meanwhile, in 2013, Graf ('75) and two cadets, Abby Hall ('12) and Nik Martini ('13), founded the AFROTC Det. 157 Alumni and Cadet Association, a network that supports both cadets and alumni in their careers, offering everything from emergency relief funds to financial planning seminars. Yogi sat on the association's board for one year and realized she could piggyback on the startup to kick-start an ad-hoc mentoring program that would substitute for and improve upon the now-defunct PDT. And thus, the Det. 157 ACE program was born.

The first year, she found 19 alumni who were willing to host, but only four cadets expressed interest — and two of them wanted to stay local. Only one match occurred.

"That summer, I got together with the alumni association and said, 'We need to have a calendar and a game plan.' Since then, we've had a steady flow of matches." There have been 28 matches in three years, with six more in summer 2018.

## Playing Host

"If I can take an hour out of my week and link up a few cadets with alumni, it's rewarding for me," Yogi says. The logistics, however, can be daunting. Alumni schedules can be volatile because of temporary duty and deployments, and while many cadets express an interest in visiting fighter bases, a limited number of mentorships are available, so students are prioritized by graduation dates.

Yogi not only coordinates the all-volunteer program, but she also hosts cadets at her base. "I take them out to the flight line first, so I can hook 'em with how awesome the A-10 is — and then walk around from shop to shop to convey that, yes, we fly, but we also have another job, too."

"Nikki epitomizes the best in what every successful organization hopes for in its membership — dedication, commitment and professionalism," Graf says. "She's the type of leader that others want to follow, and she makes a difference every day, especially as a role model and mentor in the Det. 157 family."

Yogi's hope is that one day ACE is a household name among cadets and alumni. "Right now, it still requires a lot of communication about what the program is. We're getting close to that point, though — cadets who did ACE the first time around are now lieutenants, ready to play the role of hosts." 🦅

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Yogi started her F-35 transition course on July 10 at Luke AFB.



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**A**s I reflect on the activities and events held since the last issue of *Lift* magazine, I am reminded of this quote by Aristotle: "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

In the past fiscal year, your Alumni Relations Office, which is now appropriately renamed the Office of Alumni Engagement, facilitated more than 150 events. When you add them up, they amount to *One* exceptional year — because of the thousands of Eagles who joined, organized, participated or were involved with your alma mater.

In the past six months, we have participated in graduation celebrations where Eagles came together for a photograph to "Lift Off" as *One* commencement class united for the future.

I have proudly observed the Golden Eagles Flight Team represent *One* incredible legacy of championships by winning its third consecutive national title, and celebrating as *One* the 12 earlier championships won by previous Embry-Riddle teams during a February reunion.

I have sadly observed a memorial where *One* fallen Eagle was mourned by more than *One* thousand Eagles standing together, while his father talked about the shortened life of his only son.

I have witnessed the transformation during commissioning from cadet to officer or ensign, where ROTC graduates become *One* of our newest military leaders.

I have also seen the frustration of a student, who needed *One* more point to get an "A" to sustain a perfect 4.00. He told me he wished that he had studied for *One* more hour and missed *One* fewer class.

All of us Eagles have a strong memory that involves at least *One* class, professor, college friend, campus building, test, check ride, kiss, hug or hand that helped shape who we are today.

In addition, we all have *One* name that brings us together.



We are *One* Eagle family. While our campuses may have been different, our goals and passions are similar, and we are now greater by the sum of *One*.

As I think of each of you and our collective Eagle Nation, I hope that you will accept our invitation to return to the *One* place that helped mold your lives.

Alumni from all of our campuses (Florida, Arizona, Worldwide/Online, Asia and Miami) will come home this October for OctoberWest/Wings Out West at the Prescott Campus and/or for Alumni Homecoming Weekend at the Daytona Beach Campus. Please join them. And, remember, be proud: We are Eagles and we are *One*.

*Forever an Eagle,*

Bill Thompson ('87)  
Executive Director

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## SPRING 2018 COMMENCEMENT



To see more spring 2018 commencement photos visit: [lift.erau.edu/message-alumni-fall18](https://lift.erau.edu/message-alumni-fall18)



DEGREES AWARDED (TOTAL)\*

# 1,297

Doctoral degrees: **3**  
Master's degrees: **295**  
Bachelor's degrees: **961**  
Associate degrees: **38**

GRADUATING WITH  
ACADEMIC HONORS

# 35%

GRADUATES RANGED  
IN AGE FROM

# 20 TO 65

FEMALE GRADUATES

# 24%

MALE GRADUATES

# 76%

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES  
REPRESENTED

# 58

\*Includes all May 2018 graduation ceremonies (DB, PC, WW)

PRESCOTT: CONNOR MCSHANE; DAYTONA BEACH: DAVID MASSEY



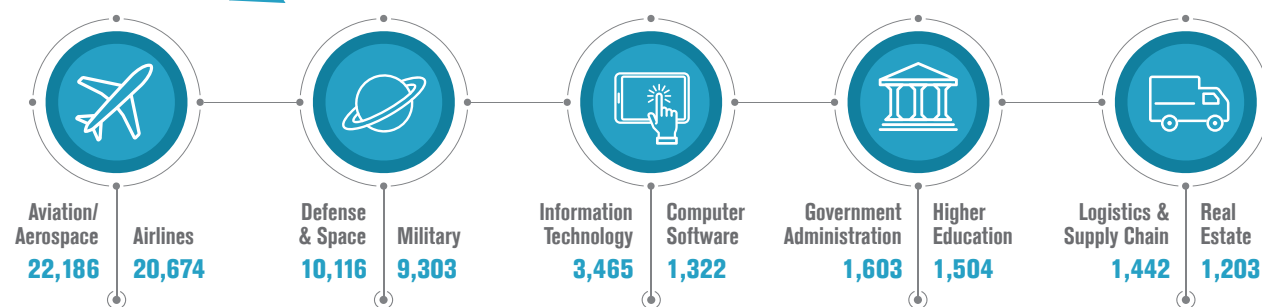
# EMBRY-RIDDLE ALUMNI ARE EVERYWHERE!

From the most densely populated areas to the most remote locations, the **130,000+** Embry-Riddle Eagle alumni can be found in **151 countries** across the globe.

## Alumni Population Hubs



## Top 10 Eagle Industries\*



\*Not comprehensive of all alumni. Totals are based on current employment in LinkedIn accounts that list Embry-Riddle as an alma mater. Industry categories are direct from LinkedIn.

## WHERE ARE YOU?

Update your information with Embry-Riddle's Office of Alumni Engagement  
[alumni.erau.edu/update-my-info](http://alumni.erau.edu/update-my-info)

## CAREER CORNER

### Upcoming Industry/ Career Expos

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 7**  
Seattle, Washington

**THURSDAY, OCT. 4**  
Prescott, Arizona

**THURSDAY, OCT. 11**  
Daytona Beach, Florida

**THURSDAY, FEB. 28, 2019**  
Daytona Beach, Florida



For additional information and job resources, visit [careerservices.erau.edu](http://careerservices.erau.edu).

## EVENTS ON THE RADAR

**SEPT. 8-9**  
**Frontiers in Flight:**  
**McConnell Air Force Base**  
**Open House & Air Show**  
Wichita, Kansas

**SEPT. 8**  
**Worldwide Campus**  
**Commencement**  
Seattle, Washington  
*Lift Off Reception, Sept. 7*

**SEPT. 14**  
**Worldwide Campus**  
**Commencement**  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**SEPT. 30-OCT. 3**  
**Air Traffic Control Association**  
**Conference and Exposition**  
National Harbor, Maryland  
*Alumni Reception, Oct. 1*

**OCT. 1-5**  
**Human Factors and**  
**Ergonomics Society**  
**International Annual Meeting**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
*Alumni Reception, Oct. 2*

**OCT. 16-18**  
**NBAA-BACE**  
Orlando, Florida  
*Alumni Reception, Oct. 1*

**OCT. 18-20**  
**Society of Women Engineers**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
*Alumni Reception, Oct. 19*

**OCT. 20-21**  
**Wings Over Houston Air Show**  
Houston, Texas

**NOV. 7-11**  
**Society of Hispanic**  
**Professional Engineers**  
Cleveland, Ohio  
*Alumni Reception, Nov. 9*

**DEC. 1**  
**Worldwide Campus**  
**Commencement**  
Dallas, Texas

**DEC. 7**  
**Asia Campus**  
**Commencement**  
Singapore

**DEC. 15**  
**Prescott Campus**  
**Commencement**  
Prescott, Arizona

**DEC. 17**  
**Daytona Beach**  
**Commencement**  
Daytona Beach, Florida

**JAN. 19-22, 2019**  
**National Gay Pilots Association**  
Palm Springs, California

**MARCH 4-7, 2019**  
**Helicopter Association**  
**International Heli-Expo**  
Atlanta, Georgia

**MARCH 14-16, 2019**  
**Women in Aviation International**  
Long Beach, California

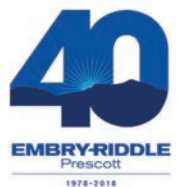
**MARCH 27-29, 2019**  
**45th National Society of**  
**Black Engineers Convention**  
Detroit, Michigan

**APRIL 2-7, 2019**  
**Sun 'n Fun Fly-In & Expo**  
Lakeland, Florida  
*Alumni Reception, April 3*

**APRIL 9-11, 2019**  
**Aviation Week's MRO America**  
Atlanta, Georgia  
*Alumni Reception, April 9*

For the most up-to-date  
list of events, visit  
[alumni.erau.edu/events](http://alumni.erau.edu/events).

## MAKE CONTRAILS TO CAMPUS THIS FALL!



### OctoberWest and Wings Out West Air Show

**PRESCOTT, ARIZONA**  
**Oct. 4-6, 2018**

It's our 40th anniversary.  
Celebrate it!  
#PrescottProud



### Alumni Homecoming Weekend

**DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA**  
**Oct. 11-13, 2018**

Experience the  
new four-story,  
177,000-square-foot  
student union building.

**Events subject to**  
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**information: alumni.**  
[erau.edu/homecoming](http://erau.edu/homecoming)

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# CLASS NOTES

Share your Class Notes with *Lift* and your fellow alumni. Email announcements to [eralumni@erau.edu](mailto:eralumni@erau.edu); or go to: [lift.erau.edu/submit-class-note](http://lift.erau.edu/submit-class-note).

## Career News

### 1970s

**Mori Hosseini (HonDoc '13; '78, '79, '82)**, chair of Embry-Riddle's Board of Trustees, was elected chairman of the University of Florida Board of Trustees on March 23, 2018. Hosseini is founder, chairman and CEO of ICI Homes, one of Florida's largest residential homebuilder/developers. Prior to joining UF's Board of Trustees in 2016, Hosseini chaired the Board of Governors for the State University System, which provides oversight and direction for 12 Florida public universities.

**Keith Shelburn ('79)** is the incoming vice president of aviation at Satcom Direct. Shelburn came to Satcom from DuPont, where he began working in 1981 as a pilot and served 11 years as aviation director.

### 1980s

**Kurt Godwin ('84)** is managing owner of Mosquito Joe of Baltimore and Annapolis, Maryland. A story about him and his business was featured in the April 2018 edition of *Entrepreneur* magazine. Previously, Godwin spent 31 years in the aviation industry as a pilot. In 2013, he and his wife started their own Mosquito Joe business.

The Godwins were named the inaugural Franchisee of the Year for their system in 2016. Godwin also serves on the Franchise Advisory Council for Mosquito Joe.

**Narendra H. Patel ('84)** was named senior adviser to the president for institutional effectiveness and compliance at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida.

**Steve Whitlock ('88)** was appointed chief commercial officer at Molecular Matrix, a biotechnology company that's developing tissue regeneration technology for orthopedic applications. Whitlock has more than 25 years of orthopedics industry experience.

**Roland Buskirk ('89)** is supporting the U.S. Custom and Border Protection Program for Aeronautical Remote Video Surveillance System and SME guidance to the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Homeland Security and Transportation Security Administration in Washington, D.C.

**Russ Leighton ('89)** received the Butler Watch Company's Pillar of Aviation distinction, which recognizes outstanding and committed individuals in the aviation industry. Leighton has been a pilot for more than 25 years and flies a Boeing 767 internationally. He currently serves as the director of safety for the Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations and as the aviation



safety coordinator for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Airline Division. Previously, Leighton worked as an air safety investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board, serving as investigator-in-charge on more than 50 aircraft accidents.

### 1990s

**Vivek Lall ('91)** joined Lockheed Martin as vice president for strategy and business development, and in July he was named to the Department of Transportation's NextGen Advisory Committee. Lall was previously chief executive of U.S. and international strategic development at General Atomics. Before that, he was the president and CEO of India-based petroleum and petrochemical products manufacturing company Reliance Industries. During his 14-year career at The Boeing Company, he served as vice president and India country head within the company's defense, space and security segment.

**Mike Parsley ('92)** is senior vice president of distribution with Tailored Brands, a U.S.-based retail holding company for Men's Wearhouse, JoS. A. Bank and other men's apparel brands.

**Cedric Rockamore ('92, '96)** was included in *Black Enterprise* magazine's list of the most powerful executives in corporate America. Rockamore is vice

president of American Airlines' Dallas/Fort Worth Hub Operations. The list featured 300 top African-American executives who hold senior management positions at publicly traded or privately held corporations.

**Mary Johnson ('93)** was appointed director of the Evening MBA Program at the Kelley School of Business on the Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis campus.

**Chris Rondeau ('93)** was promoted to principal engineer for T55 Engines at Honeywell International AMS in Greer, South Carolina. He has been employed with Honeywell AMS for 13 years.

**Matt Thurber ('93)** is the new editor-in-chief of AIN Publications. Previously, he served as senior editor. Thurber has worked for AIN for 17 years. He is an award-winning aviation journalist, a pilot with multiple jet type ratings and a qualified airframe and powerplant aircraft mechanic.

**Richard J. Greenwood ('94)** was promoted to director of pilot standards at FlightSafety International's Orlando Learning Center.

**William B. Nelson ('94)** was promoted to the first tier of the Senior Executive Service — a federal civilian position equivalent to that of a one-star general — at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/

Army Forces Strategic Command at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama. Nelson is the USASMDC/ARSTRAT Technical Center's director for programs and technology. In this position, he directs research, development and test programs for space, missile defense, cyber, directed energy and hypersonic weapon technologies. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, retiring after 20 years of combined active duty and reserve service.

**Bradley Heydt ('95)** is a first officer at Delta Air Lines and is qualified for the Boeing 757/767 domestic and international flying.

**Tom Stoudt ('95)** was appointed executive director of the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority in Pennsylvania. Stoudt has worked at the authority for 22 years, beginning as a baggage handler and an intern. He is also on the board of directors for the Aviation Council of Pennsylvania.

**U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jeffrey Woolford ('95)** is a qualified pilot-physician stationed at the Ministry of Defence Boscombe Down in Wiltshire, England, assisting British allies. Woolford earned his Doctor of Medicine in 2008 from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland.

**Kevin Kuhn ('96, '02)** was promoted to senior vice president of the Aerospace Solutions group at MW Industries, a specialty spring and fastener manufacturer. Kuhn joined MW Industries earlier this year as vice president and general manager of Helical Products. Prior to joining MW Industries, Kuhn was president of Sunbank and served in various management roles with Eaton Corporation.

**Bryant Francis ('98)**, director of Oakland International Airport, was appointed to a four-year term on the American Association of Airport Executives Policy Review Committee.

**Laure Flasseur ('99)** was nominated as head of business development for Airbus Helicopters.

### 2000s

**Michael O'Donnell ('00)** was named president of the Aviation Practice Group at SterlingRisk Insurance, based in Destin, Florida. Joining SterlingRisk in 2011, O'Donnell most recently served as executive vice president of the Aviation Practice Group.

**Alan Marshall ('00)** is president at Coram Deo Academy, a private school in Texas. Marshall served in the U.S. Air Force for more than two decades and was an assistant professor and course director at the Air Force Academy. He retired in 2014 as a colonel and the director of safety in Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia.

**Christopher Phebus ('00)** is vice president of engineering at Ocean Power Technologies. Previously, he worked at the General Electric Company for 16 years, most recently as head of global engineering and technology for the Flow and Process Technology and Reciprocating Compression division at GE Oil & Gas.

**Tim Holt ('01, '06)** was appointed dean of Embry-Riddle's College of Aviation at the Prescott Campus. He had been serving as the college's interim dean

since September 2017. Prior to coming to Embry-Riddle in 2007, he served a 22-year career in the U.S. Navy, retiring as a chief petty officer.

**Master Sgt. Timothy Bynum ('02)** retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2004. He has worked as a program manager for a wire and wire harness manufacturer and is currently working as a program manager for an in-flight entertainment equipment manufacturer.

**Joshua Assayag ('03)**, a first officer on a United Airlines 787, is on active duty with the U.S. Air National Guard and is a reserve deputy with the Orange County Sheriff's Department in California, where he works patrol and air support, and is the newest K-9 handler.

**Jeffrey Curry ('03)** is now director of technical services for Mayo Aviation in Colorado. Curry has more than 30 years of experience in the aviation industry and served eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

**Charles M. Hopkins ('04)** is the acting air traffic manager at Ann Arbor Air Traffic Control Tower in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Previously, he worked 10 years with the Federal Aviation Administration at Detroit Terminal Radar Approach Control, with five years

as a controller and five as an operations supervisor. He is pictured with his two sons, Grayson, 5, and Braxton, 8.

**Dean King ('04)** was named the U.S. European Command region director for SRC, a not-for-profit research and development company. King comes to SRC after a 26-year Air Force career as a B-1B weapon systems officer. He has served in a variety of U.S. Department of Defense capacities, including chief of the Electronic Warfare Division at the Pentagon; commander of the 16th Electronic Warfare Squadron; capabilities division chief of U.S. European Command; and most recently, chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation at the U.S. Embassy in Brussels, Belgium.

**Lt. Col. Matt Clausen ('08)** is commander of the 99th Airlift Squadron, a part of the 89th Airlift Wing at Joint Base Andrews outside Washington, D.C. The squadron flies Air Force Two, which is the vice president's plane, and transports other high-ranking officials on governmental trips worldwide.

**Corey Dobridnia ('09)** was awarded Public Information Officer (PIO) of the Year by the Florida Association of Public Information Officers on Jan. 19, 2018. The achievement fell on the heels of yet another PIO distinction. In October 2017, Dobridnia was named PIO of the



NELSON: CARRIE DAVID CAMPBELL (SMDC/ARSTRAT)



## EAGLE AUTHORS ON THE BOOKSHELF

**Haydee Cuevas ('14), Jonathan Velázquez ('16) and Andrew Dattel ('95)** co-authored *Human Factors in Practice: Concepts and Applications*, published in 2017 by CRC Press. Cuevas and Dattel are both assistant professors of graduate studies at the Daytona Beach Campus. Velázquez earned a Ph.D. in Aviation from Embry-Riddle and is an associate professor at Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Bayamon Campus, School of Aeronautics.

**Dennis Klein ('75)** authored *Normandy, 75 Years Later*, a hardcover, coffee-table book, published in 2018 by Booklogix. A photographic journey to commemorate the 75-year anniversary (June 6, 2019) of the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, the book includes roughly 300 color photographs that Klein took himself "to show that time does help heal most wounds." A retired Delta Air Lines pilot, Klein earned a B.S. in Aviation Maintenance Management from Embry-Riddle.

**Shem Malmquist ('99)** and Roger Rapoport co-authored *Angle of Attack: Air France 447 and the Future of Aviation Safety*, published in August 2017 by Curt Lewis Aviation Books, an imprint of Lexographic Press. The authors conducted more than 300 interviews to tell the story of how an Airbus 330, en route from Rio de Janeiro to Paris in 2009, went from cruising altitude to the bottom of the South Atlantic Ocean in just over four minutes. Malmquist is a B-777 captain, a fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and a member of the International Society of Air Safety Investigators.

**Retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Art Meikel ('84)** authored and self-published a memoir, *Mike 84*, in 2016. A factual recounting of a year in Vietnam (1969-70), the book's title derives from Meikel's call sign as a forward air controller flying the Cessna O-1 Bird Dog during the war. "The book is the unfiltered version of what we really did and how things were actually conducted during our unit's tour," says Meikel, who holds a Master of Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle.

**John Moktadier ('92)** authored *Airbus 330: The Ultimate Guide for Pilots*, published in 2017 by Zeta Publishing. He previously authored *Boeing 727 Flight Master* (2004), also a pilot guidebook. Moktadier is a captain at Qatar Airways. He has been flying for the past 35 years and holds both Gold Seal Flight Instructor and Advanced Ground Instructor certificates from the Federal Aviation Administration. He earned a B.S. in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle.

**Mark Ozeroff ('87)** authored *In the Weeds*, published in September 2017. In this, his second novel, Ozeroff weaves humor, history and aviation together in a fictional story of the Vietnam War and the post-war 1970s. "My novel is an homage to light aircraft and to 1920s flyer Slats Rodgers, a contemporary of T. Higbee Embry and John Paul Riddle," says Ozeroff, who earned an MBA – Aviation from Embry-Riddle.

**Donna Roberts ('10)** authored *Learning Styles. A Critical Analysis of the Varied Approaches to Learning Preferences*, published in 2017 by Verlag Dr. Kovac. The book is a review of both the construct of learning styles and various popular assessment instruments. Roberts is an associate professor and chair of the social sciences and economics department and undergraduate research at the Worldwide Campus College of Arts & Sciences in Germany. She holds an MBA – Aviation and a Master of Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle.

### ARE YOU AN AUTHOR?

*Eagle Authors* features traditionally and self-published books authored by Embry-Riddle alumni and faculty. To have your book considered, email [liftmag@erau.edu](mailto:liftmag@erau.edu).

Year at the Florida Law Enforcement Public Information Officers Association conference. PIO for the Walton County Sheriff's Office in Florida, Dobridnia holds a B.S. in Communications from Embry-Riddle and a master's degree from Florida State University in corporate and public communication. Before becoming a PIO, she was a weekend anchor for WMBB News 13 in Panama City.

### 2010s

**Aaron P. Hascher ('10)** was promoted to airport safety program manager with the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority at Memphis International Airport.

**Brian McNelly ('10, '12)** was promoted to assistant manager of FlightSafety International's Maintenance Learning Center in Wichita, Kansas. McNelly joined FlightSafety in 2006 as an instructor and most recently served as the regional director of regulatory affairs, maintenance.

**Cmdr. Lena (Buettner) Kaman ('11)** is the executive officer of Helicopter Squadron 8, HT-8 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Florida. A U.S. Navy helicopter pilot, she previously worked at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

**Krislen Keri ('11)** was appointed executive director at the Albanian Civil Aviation Authority.

**Mary Smith ('11)** was elected to the board of directors for the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals. She will serve as treasurer and chair of the finance committee. She joins fellow alumni **Donald Gardner ('07)** and **Xavier Samuels ('96)**, who serve the nonprofit organization as secretary and programs chair, respectively.

**Oluwadamilola "Dami" Coker ('12, '16)**, an Embry-Riddle Prescott Campus flight instructor, was recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration as Flight Instructor of the Year for the state of Arizona. Coker received the award at the



44th annual Arizona Safety Awards Banquet, presented by the Aviation Safety Advisory Group and Scottsdale Flight Standards District Office.

**Brandi Fabel ('14)** was recently accepted into a Ph.D. program for information technology with a focus on cybersecurity at Capella University. She was also promoted to department chair of cybersecurity and information assurance programs at the School of Information Technology at Ivy Tech Community College in Indiana. Fabel served as a cybersecurity faculty fellow at NASA's Glenn Research Center over the summer for a spaceflight missions directorate.

**Alice Qannik Glenn ('14)** is a Momentum Program fellow at the Rasmuson Foundation in Anchorage, Alaska. An Alaska Native Iñupiaq from Utqiagvik, Alaska, Glenn joined the Rasmuson Foundation in August 2017. The Momentum Program prepares professionals from under-represented communities for careers in philanthropy with focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion.

**Kyle Watkins ('14)** is the 2017 Maryland State Police Aviation Command Aviation Mechanic of the Year. Watkins served four years in the U.S. Navy and holds a current airframe and powerplant certificate. He is one of more than 200 members of the Maryland State Police Aviation Command and has been the maintenance technician at the Easton Section (Trooper Six) for more than three years.

**Axel A. García Burgos ('15)**, the founder and CEO of PRatian, won first place at the EO Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA) on April 16, 2018, in Toronto, based on his research and development of Agrobeads, a cost-effective, self-contained, hydration and nutrient bead capable of supporting the growth of an individual plant for up to a year. EO GSEA is an international competition open to students who own and operate a business while attending college or university. García Burgos is presently a Ph.D. researcher at MIT. He founded PRatian to create and commercialize space technologies to solve global issues and benefit society.

**Andrew Goins ('15)** completed Air Force Officer Training School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant on March 9, 2018. He is conducting initial flight training in Pueblo, Colorado.

**George Charles Allen ('17)**, chairman and CEO of AeroVenture, received the Dr. Wendell G. Mohling Outstanding Aerospace Educator Award on March 16, 2018, from the National Science Teachers Association. In addition to being a pilot and instructor, Allen is an aerospace educator, entrepreneur and aviation consultant.

**Aly Bayens ('17)** has joined the weather team at WVIR-TV NBC29 in Charlottesville, Virginia. As a student, she worked as a meteorology intern at WKMG News 6 in Orlando and also spent a semester reporting on tropical weather and writing stories for the *Daytona-Beach News-Journal*.

**Ashanti Berrien ('17)** is a finalist for the 2018 Presidential Management Fellows program administered by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Finalists are eligible for appointment as Presidential Management Fellows. Approximately 6,040 applications were received and 425 applicants were selected as finalists.



**Amy Birdsell ('17)**, an aviation faculty member at Hesston College, was one of 20 Kansas college faculty members chosen to participate in the Kansas Independent College Association's Aspiring Campus Leaders Academy. Birdsell has been teaching at Hesston College since 2005.

**Younkyung Cho ('17)**, one of the founders of Cauldron, has won a SHEntrepreneurship grant from the Kpartnerz Foundation. Cauldron is an online platform that helps student entrepreneurs launch their own businesses. The funding will allow Cho, who is now pursuing her master's degree in business administration, to finish the online platform.

## Family News

### 2000s

**Philip Bonzell ('04)** and his wife, Megan, welcomed their second daughter, Ada, to the family on May 2, 2017. She joins their older daughter, Margaret, who is 2 years old. The family lives in Newport News, Virginia. Bonzell is a primary aerospace patent examiner at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, where he has worked for the past 10 years.

### 2010s

**Rebecca (Zgorski) Claxton ('13)** and her husband, Gregory Claxton, welcomed their son, Emmanuel, on July 2, 2017. The couple owns/operates Infinity Space, which specializes in research, production and education in support of the commercial space industry. The family visited the Daytona Beach Campus in January.

## Other

**Mark Ingemi ('91)** and **Sam Wilson ('04)** met on a recent FedEx flight. "With the increased hiring at FedEx, I am flying with a lot more ERAU graduates," Ingemi says.

**Mike Warzinski ('11)** and **Zack Laser ('11)** recently reconnected. "I got to drag my good buddy and fellow alumnus Zack Laser a couple weeks ago from his Marine F-35C training to Japan with my AF KC-10," says Warzinski, who shared the photo.

**Brian Cuff ('13)**, Melissa Cuff, and their son, Carter, stopped by the Daytona Beach Campus in February. While on campus, they visited the flight line. Carter says he wants to be a pilot one day, just like his dad.



**Zachary M. Capra •**  
April 4, 2018  
Zachary M. Capra ('18), 25, of Thornton, Colorado, died April 4, 2018, in an aircraft accident in Daytona Beach, Florida. John Azma, founder of Azma FLT of Orlando, Florida, also died in the accident. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Capra enlisted in July 2012 and served

through 2016 as an aviation boatswain's mate aboard the *USS Harry S. Truman*, deploying twice to the Persian Gulf.

In August 2016, he started his studies at Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach Campus. Capra was a senior, set to graduate, at the time of his death. He was awarded a posthumous degree of Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics during a memorial service held on April 9. His degree was further certified at the May 7 Daytona Beach Campus commencement ceremony.

A scholarship honoring Capra's life and passion for aviation has been established at Embry-Riddle. **To make a gift, visit: [givingto.erau.edu/honor-zach](http://givingto.erau.edu/honor-zach).**

### U.S. Air Force Maj. Stephen 'Cajun' Del Bagno •

April 4, 2018  
U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds pilot Maj. Stephen "Cajun" Del Bagno ('18), 34, died April 4, 2018, when the F-16 Fighting Falcon he was piloting crashed. Del Bagno was doing training maneuvers at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada when the aircraft crashed at the Nevada Test and Training Range. The cause of the crash is being investigated.

Del Bagno was in his first season as a pilot for the Air Force Air Demonstration team. An Embry-Riddle Worldwide/Online Campus alumnus, he completed his M.S. in Aeronautics degree on March 23, 2018, just weeks before his death. He served as an F-35A evaluator pilot before being selected for the Thunderbirds unit in June 2017.

Del Bagno had been a corporate pilot and civilian flight instructor, and was the first F-35 pilot to serve in the Thunderbirds, according to a U.S. Air Force news release.

### Howard Charles Walls •

March 4, 2018  
Howard Charles Walls ('10, '12), 31, of Las Vegas, Nevada, died March 4, 2018, from injuries sustained in a motorcycle crash. Walls was director of quality control and safety for Allegiant Airlines. Previously, he worked for Spirit Airlines and Continental Airlines. Walls' primary occupation was quality control and safety, but he was also trained as a multi-engine pilot. He received his private single-engine pilot certificate at age 17.

Walls was the first All-American in Embry-Riddle track and field history at the Daytona Beach Campus and set a school record that still stands today. He achieved the status of NAIA All-American High Hurdler for four years.

"Howard was a major part of building our program. He was the first All-American for men's track and field, but more importantly a great man and leader. He will be greatly missed by many," says Michael Rosolino, head coach for track and cross country at the Daytona Beach Campus.

View the touching tribute video that Kira Ball ('13) made in Walls' memory, featuring many of his old Eagle teammates and friends at: [lift.erau.edu/videos-fall-2018](http://lift.erau.edu/videos-fall-2018).

## In Memoriam

### 1940s

**Robert "Bob" Leslie Cecil Lasham ('42)**  
Dec. 10, 2017

**John Jorgenson ('43)**  
January 2016

**Carl A. Pennock ('43)**  
Nov. 20, 2017

**Thomas Masano ('44)**  
Jan. 7, 2016

**Preston Ashford Parham ('48)**  
April 5, 2018

**Reuben C. Oakley Jr. ('49)**  
Jan. 10, 2018

### 1950s

**Frank Heffernan ('54)**  
Jan. 11, 2018

**D.L. "Whitey" Varney ('56)**  
Jan. 17, 2018

### 1960s

**Joseph Tams ('64)**  
March 25, 2018

**Steven Clint Scharstein ('69)**  
April 18, 2018

### 1970s

**Colin Mayers ('70)**  
April 6, 2018

**Howard Thomas Trimble ('73)**  
Dec. 22, 2017

**John R. Schwarz ('74)**  
Feb. 16, 2018

**Charles H. "Sonny" Smith ('74)**  
April 11, 2018

**Brian Fitzgerald Regn ('76)**  
Dec. 25, 2017

**William Clayton ('79, '80)**  
Feb. 11, 2018

### 1980s

**Retired U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick L. Sucharski ('80)**  
Dec. 26, 2017

**Richard W. Goebel ('81)**  
Dec. 12, 2017

**Michael Wayne Corder ('82)**  
Jan. 18, 2018

**Retired U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Burton E. Etheridge III ('82)**  
April 6, 2018

**Talman C. Sharpe ('86)**  
Jan. 31, 2018

**Lawrence C. Bollrud ('88)**  
Feb. 8, 2018

**Peter M. "Pete" Smith ('88)**  
March 26, 2018

**Myron Sommervold ('89)**  
Dec. 27, 2017

### 1990s

**Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Douglas E. Tauscher ('93)**  
March 4, 2018

**Belkys B. Diaz ('95)**  
Feb. 13, 2018

**Leonard "Len" Brazis ('97, '99)**  
April 18, 2018

**Randy P. Malo ('97)**  
Jan. 17, 2018

**U.S. Army Col. Joseph A. Hoecherl ('98)**  
May 2, 2018

### 2000s

**Retired U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Benjamin K. Ross ('01)**  
Dec. 9, 2017

**Tracy James Woolery ('01)**  
(Former Flight Instructor)  
March 6, 2018

**Retired U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Loura Lee Winkels ('07)**  
Nov. 3, 2016

**Joshua Hayes Burris ('08)**  
Dec. 31, 2017

**Ramsey S. Ah-Nee ('08)**  
May 20, 2018

**Lt. Col. Robert T. "Wedge" Sweginnis ('09)**  
Jan. 5, 2018

### 2010s

**James Kevin Plachinski ('13)**  
April 8, 2018

**Michael Staley ('16)**  
Dec. 1, 2017

### OTHER

**Dorothy Mildred "Dottie" Crawford**  
(Former Faculty)  
Feb. 9, 2018

**Robert E. Hannay**  
(Former Member of Board of Visitors)  
May 6, 2018

**Carlin R. Hausmann**  
(Student)  
May 4, 2018

**U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Derik Richard Holley**  
(Student)  
April 3, 2018

**Retired U.S. Navy JAG Officer William "The Judge" Dean Hoover**  
(Former Faculty)  
Feb. 24, 2018

**Sandra T. McDavid**  
(Adjunct Faculty)  
March 5, 2018

**Nandish Patel**  
(Student)  
May 22, 2018



# TAILWINDS

## Prescott Campus Student Life

Do you remember this moment, captured at the Prescott Campus in the early 1990s? Help us fill the gaps in Embry-Riddle's institutional knowledge. Tell us about the story and people in this photo. We'll share the details in our next issue of *Lift*.

Email: [liftmag@erau.edu](mailto:liftmag@erau.edu)



Photo courtesy of the Embry-Riddle Archives