EYES ON THE SKY

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

PAGE 10
Bald eagles have about 7000 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. Tal feathers stabilize movement. Eagles fly high. 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 honored former Congressman John Mica. The shape and spread of an eagle’s primary feathers control lift and direction in flight. We recently honored former Congressman John Mica.

What do we do. 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

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

“Our 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.

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**Airborne**

Asia’s aviation industry is experiencing rapid growth, and Embry-Riddle is in the thick of it.
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-semester degree program.

The new flight minor, which launched in June, provides flight training to Embry-Riddle Alumni 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.

Open 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 Fanns

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 (HorDoc ‘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 Botten is vice president of marketing and communications.

Read more about Embry-Riddle’s senior leadership at lift-erau.edu/new-faces.

— Ginger Pinholster

By the Numbers: Student Athletes Soar in the Classroom

Student Athlete GPA Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>GPA Results</th>
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<tr>
<td>Track and Field (PC)</td>
<td>3.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer (PC)</td>
<td>3.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball (PC)</td>
<td>3.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Cross Country (PC)</td>
<td>3.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Golf (PC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Basketball (PC)</td>
<td>3.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Basketball (PC)</td>
<td>3.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Track and Field (PC)</td>
<td>3.83</td>
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</tbody>
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Top 5 Team GPAs* (2018-19)

1. 3.83 Women’s Soccer (DB and PC)
2. 3.83 Women’s Basketball (PC)
3. 3.80 Men’s Golf (PC)
4. 3.75 Men’s Basketball (PC)
5. 3.75 Women’s Cross Country (PC)

DO YOU HAVE A CAMPUS LEGEND? For us to investigate? Email it to lift@erau.edu.

NEWSEUM: HIGH POINTS AT EMBRY-RIDDLE

Embry-Riddle’s Worldwide Campus was honored by IDG Communications with the 2018 250 100, an annual award recognizing organizations that exemplify excellence in information technology.

The Prescott Campus’ Aerospace/Aeronautical/ Astronautical 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 competition held in May. The win marks the team’s third consecutive national championship.

The Daytona Beach Eagles Flight Team placed fourth.

Daytona Beach Campus Head Women’s Basketball Coach Lisa Novél 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 2017 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 Hassev (’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.

Hassev’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 96-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 Corinne’s log 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

“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 (HorDoc ‘13, ’78, ’79, ’82).

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READ MORE ABOUT EMBRY-RIDDLE’S SENIOR LEADERSHIP AT LIFT.ERAU.EDU/NEW-FACES.

— Ginger Pinholster

ALUMNI.ERAU.EDU

FALL 2018

NEWS & NOTES

DO YOU HAVE A CAMPUS LEGEND? For us to investigate? Email it to lift@erau.edu.
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 I considered myself to be. But the Prescott Campus was a magical place. We were all new students, with no upperclassmen to pick us on. I knew this was a new start for me and a time to take on new challenges. During the fall of 1979, 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 on our own. 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, fired up our own food and cut corners. We held the first dance on campus and played our own set of music to the music. 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 were laid off. Our founding adviser Dan Reece left the university. It was a very uncertain time. Wayne Heide, 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 we headed for the Motel 6. 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 in as the new adviser. He went to Embry-Riddle’s Prescott Campus and was the first president of the Golden Eagles Flight Team, held Feb. 23, 1980. From there, Ben went on to become the assistant chairman of the National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) and is currently the publisher of the Golden Eagles Flight Team newsletter. He also ran the Golden Eagles Flight Team from 1979-79. Today, he is a principal at Turner Construction in Olympia, Washington.

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One new development was the university allowed us to use the Grumman T1A Screencat, 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.

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. Distinctly that we started 40 years ago began the long Gold Line that connects us today. 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 distance—has been passed from team to team. The team today has the responsibility to future teams to pass on this spirit as only we know how to do. And the thread of motivation and dedication carries on, as we considered ourselves to be "unprofessional" and "weekend warriors." Those were the words then-Presidential Jack Hunt’s words. They left us with two choices: figure it out on our own. You know the choice we made.

We Sergo and our families for supporting and believing in our team. Forever a Golden Eagle!
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 248 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.”

40 Years of Ascent
The Prescott Campus celebrates its past while growing toward the future

BY MELANIE STANICKI AZAM & ALAN MARCOS PINTO CESAR
ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE DALTON COWAN
“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 Stephens, 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 sport 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 venerated 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 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.”

Sherrill (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 potted 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 Carroll would go on to become chancellor in 2000, he first arrived in 1986 as chair of the flight department. Carroll 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 go out and to work with them. It was an opportunity to step up and get some national attention,” he says.

In the mid-1990s the university considered several tough options for the Prescott Campus — 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, we will increase opportunities for Embry-Riddle students and graduates, and the campus will continue to grow along with them.

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 on 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 fulfilling, I am fulfilled.”

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.

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.”

But once in the sky, his fears faded away. He got his wings and started exploring the world from the air.

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 training period, I realized I could handle it.” At 46, Jones has investigated approximately 1,300 aviation accidents in his nearly 40-year career.

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 December. “Dennis has street cred,” Sumwalt says. “He’s done the job, he’s got the piloting knowledge, the technical knowledge, the intellect and, most importantly, the people skills.”

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.

Investigating Aviation’s Greatest Mystery
Dennis Jones (’80) has investigated dozens of headline-making international airline 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 formally concluded, with no sign of the aircraft.
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.

GOING GLOBAL

Study abroad experience helps students in careers and life

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM

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.
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.”

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.

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.

“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

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 during his study abroad program in Tanzania.

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.

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 sat 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 in mission critical to U.S. interests. 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.
Asia’s aviation industry is experiencing rapid growth, and Embry-Riddle is in the thick of it.

BY SARA WITHROW
ommercial 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 airplanes 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 2017-2038. 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 aircraft. 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 2.)

“I love my country, and I would like to make a difference and play a part in Singapore’s aviation industry,” Ong says.
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 students at Embry-Riddle Asia, “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.

“The thing that’s neat about it, is because it’s new and necessary to help fill the demand for aviation professionals than what are available today. The main threat to the industry is a workforce that cannot catch up with the unprecedented rate of growth,” says Laphang Chung (’13), who manages airfield 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.”

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.”

ATA’s 20-year industry forecast predicts that by 2036, an additional 19 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 that cannot catch up with the unprecedented rate of growth,” says Laphang Chung (’13), who manages airfield 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.

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“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.

“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 Right simulator club and an intramural football (soccer) team. They have regularly attended the Aviation Business Administration.

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

BY ALAN MARCOS PINTO CESAR

Rockets, amusement parks and the human body share a common element, says Laura Tyler Perryman (B.S.). 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 the company 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 anesthesia.”

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The Food and Drug Administration approved use of 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.”

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

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 want to Rodotatynos 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 then,” 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 26 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 more 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 and vision correction. We have to think about how to get this device on the market,” Perryman says.

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

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Laura Tyler Perryman is using her background in control systems to create technology that helps those who struggle with chronic pain.
Prescott Campus alumnus vows to match gifts to Doryland Aerospace Engineering Endowment

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM

P
tientras 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 to students at the Prescott Campus. I’ve always had a quick smile,” Mann recalls. “I found myself living with students from Lebanon and Greece. 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 esteemed 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.’

GFT FROM THE HEART

Miami Campus alumnus honors roommate with memorial gift

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM

rowing up in a small town in Massachusetts, Sid Mann (’11) discovered a whole new world as an Embry-Riddle student in the 1980s.

“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 Mohammad 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 esteemed 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

From 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 our 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 (’15), 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.”

In Total, 232 donors contributed during the inaugural Eagles’ Varsity Club Day of Giving on March 1, 2018.

The Eagles’ Varsity Club Day of Giving on March 1, 2018, raised $74,000.

Award-winning photography by Taylor Head.
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. “Those 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 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 83rd Fighter Squadron. Meanwhile, in 2013, Graf (’75) and two cadets, Abby Hall (’12) and Nik Martin (’13), founded the AROTC 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 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 cadets, ready to play the role of hosts.”

EDITORS NOTE: Yogi started her F35 transition course on July 10 at Luke AFB.
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As 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.”

— BILL THOMPSON

Forever an Eagle,
Bill Thompson (’87)
Executive Director
MAKE CONTRAILS TO CAMPUS THIS FALL!

For the most up-to-date list of events, visit alumni.erau.edu/events.

WHERE ARE YOU?
Update your information with Embry-Riddle’s Office of Alumni Engagement
alumni.erau.edu/update-my-info

For additional information and job resources, visit careerservices.erau.edu.

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

EVENTS ON THE RADAR

SEPT. 9-10
Frontiers in Flight: McConnell Air Force Base Open House & Air Show
Wichita, Kansas

SEPT. 10
Worldwide Campus Commencement
Seattle, Washington
Lift Off Reception, Sept. 10

SEPT. 14
Worldwide Campus Commencement
Honolulu, Hawaii

SEPT. 30-OCt. 3
Air Traffic Control Association Conference and Exhibition
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. 10-12
Society of Women Engineers Minneapolis, Minnesota
Alumni Reception, Oct. 12

OCT. 26-27
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
Women in Aviation International Heli-Expo
Atlanta, Georgia

MARCH 14-16, 2019
Women in Aviation International 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

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View upcoming courses at proed.erau.edu.
The Godwins were named the inaugu- ral Franchisee of the Year for their system in 2016. Godwin also serves on the Board of Directors for Mosquito Joe.

Narendra H. Patel (’86) was named senior advisor 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 orthopedic industry experience.

Roland Basikur (’89) is supporting the U.S. Custom and Border Protection Program for Aeronautical Remote Induced Surveillance System and SAGE guidance to the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Homeland Security, and Transportation Security Administration in Washington, D.C.

Russ Leighton (’90) received the Butler Watch Company’s Flier 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 Airlines Pilot 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.

Vivek Lall (’90) joined lockheed Martin as associate vice president for strategy and business development, and in July he was named to the Department of Transportation’s National Aviation Security 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’ 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 a corporate America. Rockamore is vice president of corporate affairs at 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 (’92) was appointed executive director of the Leigh- Northampton Airport Authority in Pennsylvania. Stout has worked at the authority for 22 years, beginning as a bagpage handler and an intern. He is also on the board of directors for the Aviation Council of Pennsylvania.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jeffery Woolford (’93) was appointed pilot/physician stationed at the Ministry of Defence Brussels Office in Brussels, Belgium, assisting British and international troops. 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 (’93) was appointed as a qualified airframe and powerplant aircraft mechanic.

Michael D’Onnen (’93) was named president of the Aviation Practice Group at Sourcing Risk Insurance, based in Orlando, Florida. Joining Starbucks in 2011, D’Onnen most recently served as executive vice president of the Aviation Practice Group. His responsibilities included leading the company’s aviation practice, with a focus on supporting the aviation industry with a broad range of insurance products and services.

Alan Marshall (’93) is president at Cogent Data, 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 (’93) is a vice president of engineering at Dean 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.

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Tom Stout (’93) was appointed executive director of the Leigh- Northampton Airport Authority in Pennsylvania. Stout has worked at the authority for 22 years, beginning as a bagpage handler and an intern. He is also on the board of directors for the Aviation Council of Pennsylvania.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jeffery Woolford (’93) was appointed pilot/physician stationed at the Ministry of Defence Brussels Office in Brussels, Belgium, assisting British and international troops. 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 (’93) was appointed as a qualified airframe and powerplant aircraft mechanic.

Michael D’Onnen (’93) was named president of the Aviation Practice Group at Sourcing Risk Insurance, based in Orlando, Florida. Joining Starbucks in 2011, D’Onnen most recently served as executive vice president of the Aviation Practice Group. His responsibilities included leading the company’s aviation practice, with a focus on supporting the aviation industry with a broad range of insurance products and services.

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EAGLE AUTHORS
ON THE BOOKSHELF

Haydee Cueva’s (’14), Jonathan Velázquez (’16) and Andrew Dattel (’95) co-authored Human Factors in Practice: Concepts and Applications, published in 2017 by CRC Press. Cueva’s and Dattel are both associate 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, Bayamón Campus, School of Aeronautics.

Dennis Klein (’75) authored Normandy. 75 Years Later, a hardcover, coffee-table book, published in 2017 by BookLogix. A photographic journey to commemorate the 75th-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 heal most wounds.” A retired Delta Air Lines pilot, Klein earned a B.S. in Aviation Maintenance Management from Embry-Riddle.

Shem Mahmolip (’99) and Roger Rapoport co-authored Angle of Attack: Air Force 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. Mahmolip 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 Meikle (’94) authored and self-published a memoir, Mike 44, in 2016, a factual recounting of a year in Vietnam (1969-70), the book’s title derives from Meikle’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 Meikle, 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 Ozanoff (’87) authored In the Webs, published in September 2017. In this, his second novel, Ozanoff 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 small planes,” says Ozanoff, who earned an MBA – Aviation from Embry-Riddle.

Donna Roberts (’98) authored Learning Styles: A Critical Analysis of the Varied Approaches to Learning Preferences. She holds a Master of Arts from Embry-Riddle, a degree she is the executive officer of Black Aerospace Professionals. She was appointed as an instructor and most recently served as the regional director of regulatory affairs, maintenance.

Cond. Lena (Buettner) Kaman (’11) is the executive officer of Helicopter Squadron 11, HQ 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.

Kristen Keri (’11) was appointed executive director at the Albanian Civil Aviation Authority.

Mary Smith (’15) 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 Samuel (’16), who serve the nonprofit organization as secretary and programs chair, respectively.

Oluwadamilare “Dami” Coker (’12, ’14), 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 Scissortail Flight Standards District Office.

Brandi Fabel (’10) 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 mission directorate.

Alice Qannik Glenn (’14) is a Momentum Program fellow at the Reinman Foundation in Anchorage, Alaska. An Alaska Native Inupiaq, from Utqiagvik, Alaska, Glenn joined the Reinman 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 Mechanics of the Year. Watkins served four years in the U.S. Navy, and holds a commercial 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 Eastern Section (Hoover, Sis) for more than three years.

Axel A. García Burgos (’15), an assistant professor at Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Bayamón Campus, was appointed as an assistant professor of graduate studies at the Daytona Beach Campus. García Burgos is presently a Ph.D., researcher at MIT. He founded Patinum to create and commercialize space technologies to solve global issues and benefit society.

Andrew Goins (’17) completed Air Force Officer Training School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant on March 8, 2018. He is conducting initial flight training in F-16s at Sheppard, Colorado.

George Charles Allen (’17), chairman and CEO of Aerion, received the Dr. Wendell G. Mohling Outstanding Aerospace Educator Award on March 18, 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 Bayes (’17) has joined the weather team at WHER-TV WECH in Charleston, South Carolina, after working as a meteorology intern at WAMS 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. Fellows are eligible for appointment as Presidential Management Fellows. Approximately 6,900 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 Cadetron, has won a 60,000-startup-grant from the Kaporos Foundation. Cadetron 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 (‘90) and his wife, Megan, welcomed their second daughter, Asia, 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 (Zegerski) Claxton (‘13) and her husband, Gregory Claxton, welcomed their son, Emmanuel, on July 2, 2017. The couple owns and 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 (‘94) met on a recent FedEx flight. “I got to drag my good buddy and fellow alumnus Zack Laser (‘11) and Mike Warzinski (‘11) down,” Ingemi says.

Mike Warzinski (‘11) and Zack Laser (‘11) recently reconnected. “I got to drag my good buddy and fellow alum Zack Laser a couple weeks ago from his Marine F-35C training to Japan with my AF KC-135,” 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.

In Memoriam

Zachary M. Capra

April 4, 2018


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 giving.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 alum, 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 NCAA All-American High Honors 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 (’10) made in Walls’ memory, featuring many of his old Eagle teammates and friends at lift.erau.edu/videos-fall-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