

# Lift

**The Mori Hosseini  
Student Union is sleek,  
functional and officially  
open for business**

# THE NEW UNION

PAGE 10





FROM THE PRESIDENT



You may imagine John Paul Riddle as a dashing barnstormer in his Jenny biplane. You would be right. He was one of many who supported his passion for flying by performing stunts over fields and fairgrounds across America. Some of these early flyers, such as Charles Lindbergh, Wiley Post and Ruth Law, went on to become aviation legends.

With the support of T. Higbee Embry, a flying student who became his partner, Riddle chose to pioneer the business of aviation. [For more, see Page 6.] The pair went to work, overhauling engines, selling aircraft and landing one of the first federal airmail contracts. Riddle went on to train the workforce for the first package express business and later trained military pilots for World War II. He opened a charter seaplane service. He established a technical aviation school for the Brazilian Air Ministry.

We continue the twin legacy of flight and business. I think both Embry and Riddle would be pleased — but not surprised — that a nationally respected business leader gave his name to our David B. O'Maley College of Business this year.

Riddle's love affair with all things aviation lasted a lifetime. He would be intrigued by the data analytics and technical research going on at our campuses and proud of projects based at the MicaPlex that will advance the manufacture and performance of manned and unmanned aircraft.

He would want to hear from students who are acting as consultants to airlines and airports and striking out as entrepreneurs.

At the dedication of the Mori Hosseini Student Union at the Daytona Beach Campus in October, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao acknowledged the contribution Embry-Riddle makes to the country: "American genius for innovation continues to refresh the industry and create exciting new possibilities for the future." [See related story on Page 10.]

That was true in 1926. It is true now. We will continue to be a part of that American genius for years to come. The aviation business is in our DNA, thanks to T. Higbee Embry and John Paul Riddle. As alumni, you can take pride in our role in defining the industry — past, present and future.

Sincerely,

P. Barry Butler, Ph.D.  
President  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University



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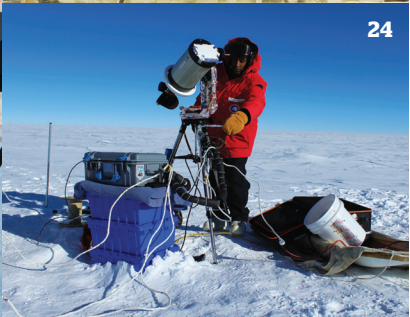
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## A New Lease

Business savvy, hard work and 'secret sauce' fuel aircraft leasing startup



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**ON THE COVER:** The Daytona Beach Campus community joined together in October 2018 to celebrate the opening of the Mori Hosseini Student Union. Photo by Daryl LaBello.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: DAVID MASSEY, GREGORY CAMPBELL, JAMES MCENTEE, EMBRY-RIDDLE ARCHIVES, MICHAEL LEGATT

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# CHATTER

## ALTIMETER: HIGH POINTS AT EMBRY-RIDDLE

The **Worldwide Campus** was ranked No. 1 Best Online Bachelor's Degree Program for 2019 and No. 1 Best Online Bachelor's Program for Veterans by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Softball Head Coach **Kelsi Dunne** at the Daytona Beach Campus was inducted into the Florida High School Athletic Association's Hall of Fame for her softball career at Spruce Creek High School. She was a three-time All-State honoree and two-time First Team High School Softball All-American.

**Angela Masson**, an instructor for Embry-Riddle's Gaetz Aerospace Institute in St. Johns County, Florida, was inducted into the California Aviation Hall of Fame. She was the second female pilot to be hired by American Airlines and the first woman rated to fly a Boeing 747.

The **Prescott Campus** was ranked No. 1 Best Undergraduate Aerospace/Aeronautical/Astronautical Engineering Program (among schools not offering a Ph.D.) for 2019 by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The **Daytona Beach Campus' accounting program** was endorsed by the Institute of Management Accountants for its Certified Management Accountant curriculum.



Amelia Cassidy was part of a team of Embry-Riddle students who helped bring SkyWest Airlines to Prescott.

## New Passenger Jet Service Touches Down in Prescott

Visitors to Prescott, Arizona, have access to a new jet service operating from Prescott Regional Airport (PRC), thanks in part to a team of Embry-Riddle students.

In August 2018, SkyWest Airlines, flying under the United Express banner, began offering flights from PRC to Los Angeles and Denver, with connections available to dozens of United Airlines destinations nationally and internationally.

Prescott Campus School of Business students collaborated with City of Prescott officials to explore the viability of soliciting the new air service. They evaluated local leisure and business travel patterns, the airport facility, passenger needs and concerns, and the needs of prospective air carriers as part of the students' "signature" capstone business-consulting experience.

"Along the pathway to our improved air service, the city has greatly benefited from the impressive airport and airline-focused research and foundational relationship-building efforts undertaken by the Embry-Riddle business students," says Robin Sobotta, City of Prescott airport director.

### Eagle Consulting

The Eagle Consulting program, led by Associate Professor Rick Gibson, provides business students a unique opportunity to serve as consultants to private and public sector partners.

"This was one of my favorite projects as a student at Embry-Riddle," says Amelia

Cassidy ('17), who graduated with bachelor's degrees in aeronautics and aviation business administration from the Prescott Campus. "Our job was to develop a market analysis to see how many people were driving or taking a shuttle to Phoenix, as opposed to flying directly out of PRC. We also wanted to determine the amount of community interest."

Cassidy's work on the project ultimately helped her land a full-time job. She now works as a network planning and scheduling analyst at United Airlines. Given her role with the project, she was invited to be a passenger on the inaugural SkyWest flight to PRC. "I think this is really unique to my situation because I had the opportunity to work on this project as a student, and as a professional, I had the opportunity to see that project go through and become reality," Cassidy says.

### Win-Win Program

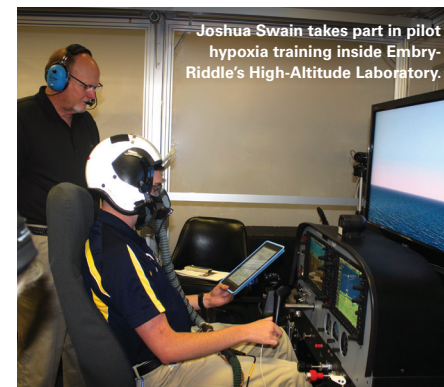
Sobotta particularly credits one fall 2017 student team for bringing the airline service to fruition through its outreach with corporate representatives. "It was through these efforts that the students helped airport staff establish a stronger foundation with SkyWest Airlines — the carrier ultimately selected by the U.S. Department of Transportation to provide air service at Prescott Airport," she says. "Clearly, the opportunity for students to engage in actual industry consulting is a win-win."

— Jason Kadah

CONNOR MCSHANE

## Tackling Aeromedical Challenges

Researchers investigate hypoxia remedy for Navy and Air Force pilots



Joshua Swain takes part in pilot hypoxia training inside Embry-Riddle's High-Altitude Laboratory.

Helping pilots swiftly recognize and respond to the first signs of deadly oxygen deficiency, or hypoxia, is the focus of two Embry-Riddle research projects that contributed to a U.S. Navy project that won a 2018 Innovation Award from the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division.

The separate projects are led by Assistant Professor of Aeronautical Science Janet K. Marnane and Associate Professor of Human Factors Joseph R. Keebler.

### Studying Pressure-on-Demand Air Device

The goal of Marnane's project is to assess the impacts of the On-Demand Mask-On Hypoxia-Training device developed by Lynntech Inc., a Texas-based company. While most hypoxia-training devices deliver a continuous flow of air, the Lynntech device delivers pressure-on-demand air without exposing the pilot to air starvation when breathing becomes heavier, Marnane explains.

As part of the research, 30 research subjects have so far participated in simulated flights in Embry-Riddle's High-Altitude Normobaric Chamber.

### Assessing Lifestyle Factors

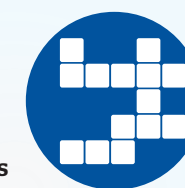
For his project, Keebler is looking at the relationship between symptoms of hypoxia, demographic variables and lifestyle factors among pilots — from their body mass index and flight hours to their caffeine and alcohol consumption, as well as whether or not they have previously experienced hypoxia.

Graduate students including Richard Simonson ('17), Emily Anania ('17) and Christopher Rarick have played a key role in Keebler's research. They have visited naval bases to collect data on some 100 pilots who performed tasks inside hypoxia training facilities.

— Ginger Pinholster



EAGLE  
WORDSMITH  
Aero + Business



Put your aviation and industry know-how to the test. This digital crossword puzzle was created by Faculty Emeritus Alexander Wells, for your mind-stretching pleasure.  
[lift.erau.edu/word-spring19](http://lift.erau.edu/word-spring19)

## Preparing the Unmanned Pilots of Tomorrow

Embry-Riddle earns TOP AUVSI certification for unmanned flight instruction



TOP: GLENN HARMON; BOTTOM: JOE CERRETA

Embry-Riddle is the first academic institution in the world to receive the Trusted Operator Program (TOP) certification from the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI).

Students who complete the required TOP courses will be certified to handle many unmanned aircraft systems' (UAS) flying scenarios, from wedding photography to more dangerous situations, says Embry-Riddle Worldwide Campus Chancellor John R. Watret. "AUVSI has determined that our UAS curriculum is rigorous enough to prepare students for safe flights, even in the most challenging environments such as near chemicals, oil, gas, nuclear [power plants] or mining facilities."

This program coordinates the most important applicable standards — including Federal Aviation Administration and local regulations and industry standards — to maximize safety, reliability and

professionalism in the commercial use of UAS. "We leveraged existing UAS core curricula to meet the learning objectives necessary for TOP certification," says Joseph Cerreta, Embry-Riddle Worldwide Campus assistant professor.

Because Embry-Riddle will be certified at the highest level, TOP Level 3, these students can be certified as TOP Remote Pilots or TOP Remote Pilot Instructors. "We believe it will have such a positive influence on the UAS industry and flight safety," Cerreta says. "Embry-Riddle students with TOP certification will stand out compared to graduates from other academic institutions and have an increased opportunity for getting jobs."

TOP certification courses will initially be taught through Embry-Riddle's Worldwide Campus. It will then be implemented at the Daytona Beach and Prescott campuses.

— Ginger Pinholster



# FEEDBACK



## FROM THE EDITOR

We heard from a handful of readers who expressed concern with the cover text (fall 2018): “Eyes on the Sky: How Dennis Jones became the NTSB’s first African-American managing director.” Specifically, they took issue with the reference to race. While we acknowledge their concern — that is, in this seemingly more enlightened, color/gender blind

era, race should not be a part of the conversation when it comes to great achievement — the reality of our industry tells a different story.

It’s a well-known fact that African-Americans are underrepresented in the aviation and aerospace industries. According to Data USA, in 2016, 92.3 percent of aircraft pilots and flight engineers were Caucasian. It’s fair to speculate that the number of whites in aviation administration and safety mirrors this statistical imbalance. It’s people like Dennis who put aviation safety on the career map for African-Americans.

In the words of student Sekou Baraka, who commented on the Alumni Facebook page, Dennis’ story gives African-Americans a “dose of ‘just keep going.’”

He continued: “It’s an inspiration to see someone who LOOKS like me. ... The ugly truth is that there are still ‘1sts’ that will be forthcoming.”

At Embry-Riddle, we *Lift* each other up. Part of that is celebrating our alumni who break through barriers — racial and otherwise. Let us know what you think: [liftmag@erau.edu](mailto:liftmag@erau.edu).

— SARA WITHROW, EDITOR

## Two, Not One

I just want to point out [fall 2018: *40 Years of Ascent*, Page 7] that there were two security guards at the Prescott Campus in 1979. One was Andy and the other was Jim Rafter. Jim took me into his home

for dinner the day I arrived in Prescott. I will never forget his generosity.

**Jim Gordon ('82)**  
B.S. Aeronautical Science



## Looking for Former Teammates

I was enrolled in the airframe and powerplant program (1966-68) and then in the aviation management program (1968-72). After graduation, I basically spent my life in South Florida, owning a maintenance company for 38 years, non-aviation. Now I’m retired and living in Cocoa Beach, Florida, and Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. I was a member of the first baseball team in 1967. I’m in the back row, fourth from right [see photo]. Anyone who played on the team or recognizes my name from attending classes or going to the Beachcomber, feel free to contact me at [bandcbuddies@aol.com](mailto:bandcbuddies@aol.com).

**William “Bill” Wurster ('68, '71, '72)**  
Airframe & Powerplant Certificate  
B.S. Aviation Maintenance Management  
B.S. Aviation Management

## Remembering ‘Mack’

I am an alumnus of the class of '61 and remember “Mack” Mackaoui very well [fall 2018: *Gift from the Heart*, Page 25]. I recall that he curled up in pain several times in class and refused to go to the doctor. A few of us offered to take him, but he wouldn’t go. When he finally did go, it was too late, and his appendix ruptured. He passed a few days later. I just want to say that he was one of the nicest friends that I had while attending ERAU. Thank you for the memories.

**Anthony Sluzenski ('61)**  
Aviation Maintenance Technology Certificate

## The ‘City’s University’

Great issue [fall 2018]. What’s missing in the Prescott Campus story [40 Years of Ascent, Page 7] are comments from local citizens. It used to be that ERAU-Prescott was thought of as “that little school where they trained pilots.” Now, it is considered the “city’s university” and it generates a lot of pride and support from among the locals.

**Ray and Patty Newton**  
Prescott Campus Board of Visitors

## 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.

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

TOP RIGHT: EMBRY-RIDDLE ARCHIVES

## IN OTHER WORDS

# Follow Your Dreams

BY FACULTY EMERITUS ALEXANDER T. WELLS

I never planned on being a teacher. I worked for 12 years — the first six as an aviation underwriter for the Royal-Globe Insurance Companies in their New York City and Chicago offices. This was followed by three years as an economic planner for United Airlines and finally a large insurance brokerage firm in Chicago handling the United Airlines account.

I earned a master’s degree in economics from DePaul University and began teaching part time at local colleges in Chicago. Around this time, I met Dan Sain, academic dean at Embry-Riddle, at a University Aviation Association meeting. In March of 1972, I ventured south from wintry Chicago to my interview with Lowell Chrisman (and the aviation management staff) at the small school in Daytona Beach that many still considered a fixed-base operator. I remember staying at the old dormitory and walking along the dirt shoulder adjacent to Clyde Morris Boulevard to my interview. I was hired and started that fall.

My wife, Mary, and two children followed me to our new Florida home, which had an added benefit: It was closer to our retired parents. I had left a job in Chicago paying \$19,500 a year to teach at Embry-Riddle as an assistant professor for \$11,000.

Teaching three or four economics courses each term, my primary job was to develop aviation management courses in airline management, airport planning and management, general aviation marketing and aviation insurance. I looked upon my move to Daytona Beach as a tremendous challenge. Until then, a typical college management program was all that was available for those interested in aviation business. My first charge was to create course outlines, handouts and reference materials. There were no textbooks in these areas.

I loved my four years on the Daytona Beach Campus, working with Jack Hunt and the few faculty members who were there at that time. We were all like one family. In 1973, I helped start Embry-Riddle’s first graduate program — the M.S. in Aviation Management — through a partnership with Biscayne College in Miami. Relocating to South Florida in 1976, I became the graduate program director.

In 1978, I accepted a position with Broward Community College (BCC), heading up its aviation program. During my 20 years at BCC, I developed an airframe and powerplant program and managed to author or co-author nine textbooks in aviation

Alex and Mary Wells continue to support Embry-Riddle as Legacy Society members.



management. All of these have been turned over to younger professors and are now in their seventh and eighth editions. I also served as an adjunct professor in the Miami and Fort

Lauderdale area, and for 19 years I went to Europe every summer teaching Embry-Riddle courses for the Worldwide Campus.

As I approached retirement, I turned over my books to co-authors who eventually took over full authorship. These included Embry-Riddle faculty Seth Young, John Wensveen, Clarence Rodrigues and Bruce Chadbourne. Bruce and I authored the third editions of the general aviation and insurance books. We also collaborated with the Aviation Insurance Association (AIA) to develop a certification course for AIA members. We presented seminars around the country to prepare practitioners for the certification test.

Retiring in 1998, Mary and I moved to Deland, Florida, where I continued teaching at the Daytona Beach and Worldwide campuses until 2012. For 40 years I had been associated with Embry-Riddle. What started out as an aviation career turned into a fulfilling life of teaching and touching the lives of hundreds of students across the country and internationally, who used the books I wrote and co-wrote as a foundation for their aviation management programs. Awards from the University Aviation Association and AIA were flattering but even more important was the satisfaction and joy I received in following my dreams.

Mary and I will continue to support Embry-Riddle through a gift to the university in our estate. I truly feel blessed and proud to be a member of the Embry-Riddle Legacy Society, where my contribution can be used to provide scholarships to needy students aspiring careers in aviation.

**SEND US YOUR STORY** *In Other Words* gives you the opportunity to share your industry-related or personal perspective with *Lift* readers. Email submissions/proposals to [liftmag@erau.edu](mailto:liftmag@erau.edu).



# The Riddle of T. Higbee Embry

A spotlight on the life and times of  
Embry-Riddle's enigmatic co-founder

BY WILLIAM R. "BILL" GOEBEL ('82)



The Embry-Riddle Company employees, circa 1926. Pictured center, left (bow tie) is T. Higbee Embry; and to his direct left is John Paul Riddle.

Alumnus Bill Goebel spent six months combing the social pages of digital newspaper archives, and scanning census reports, ancestry websites, court records and other public sources to compile the following treatise on Embry-Riddle's little-known namesake, co-founder and financier Talton Higbee "T. Higbee" Embry.

**D**o you ever have random thoughts? I do. I recently pondered: Wouldn't it be novel to fly from one Embry-Riddle founder's gravesite (John Paul Riddle) to the other's (T. Higbee Embry)? I wondered how long a flight that would be.

With help from the internet, I discovered that portions of John Paul Riddle's ashes were at various locations, including scattered over the Atlantic Ocean and at a graveyard in Arcadia, Florida — down the road from Embry-Riddle's former World War II flight training facility at Carlstrom Field.

The burial marker in Arcadia would make a good enough starting point for Riddle. One down, one to go.

I entered "T. Higbee Embry grave" into my internet search engine. Nothing. Nada. Zip. Many online entries uniformly summarize T. Higbee as a "successful businessman who co-founded the Embry-Riddle companies." Period. Not only could I find nothing regarding his burial plot, I also couldn't find much of anything on the man himself.

I dug deeper and found some information on Talton Embry, T. Higbee's father. A point of clarification: The Embry family apparently liked the name Talton, a lot. I'm pretty sure there was a Talton Embry for at least six generations of the family. To avoid confusion, I'll refer to our Embry-Riddle founder as T. Higbee, and to his father as Talton.

## The Embry Family Empire

Talton originally hailed from Kentucky and established himself in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area as a livestock merchant. He had interests in numerous stockyards in the United States, as well as in Cuba and Brazil, and was regarded as one of the "best authorities" on livestock in the United States. In addition, he established numerous business ventures such as banks and hotels. Talton was also one of the first Americans to conduct sugar refining in Mexico, where he owned several plantations.

Talton married Susan Higbee of Fort Worth, Texas, in April of 1895. Two years later, T. Higbee, our founder, was born in Cincinnati on May 17, 1897.

The Embry family was among the financial royalty of Cincinnati. Groomed to assume the reins of his father's livestock trading empire, T. Higbee received the finest education of the time. He attended Asheville School in North Carolina, a private college-preparatory boarding school for grades 9-12, and graduated in June 1916.

And then, his world fell apart.

## Tragedy Times Two

On July 9, 1916, Talton passed away at home at the age of 56. Shortly thereafter, his estate was divided between his wife, Susan, his son, T. Higbee, and numerous nieces and nephews to varying levels. When the dust settled, 19-year-old T. Higbee had inherited a trust held in his name worth more than \$250,000 (adjusting for inflation, that's nearly \$6 million in 2018). The trust stipulated lump payments be parsed to T. Higbee as he reached the ages of 21, 25, 30 and 35.

T. Higbee continued working at his father's livestock firm, Greene, Embry & Company, but in December 1916 (just five months later), tragedy struck again.

T. Higbee was involved in a nighttime automobile accident that killed a 10-year-old girl and injured another young girl. Court filings from February 1917 document that charges and exemplary damages in excess of \$45,000 were considered against T. Higbee. And, because he was not of "legal majority," age 21 for Ohio, the vehicle owner and responsible party, his mother, Susan Embry, was also sued for another \$40,000.



This image and below, right: T. Higbee Embry is pictured at the Embry-Riddle Company headquarters at Lunken Field, Cincinnati, Ohio, circa 1928. Right: Later in life, John Paul Riddle visited T. Higbee Embry's Kentucky grave.



After just one flight with John Paul Riddle, T. Higbee Embry was hooked. This was the beginning of a relationship that gained T. Higbee his flying credentials and led to the eventual joining of the Embry and Riddle names.

At the time, T. Higbee was only 19; he did not yet have access to his trust fund. The outcome of the lawsuit is unclear. I can only assume that T. Higbee's mother paid the damages and fines. I'd like to think that a conversation followed, where she encouraged her son to "grow up and get out of Cincinnati while this whole mess cools down."

I do not know if military service was a condition of the legal settlement, but in August 1917, T. Higbee mustered into the Ohio National Guard's 37th Division, 136th Field Artillery, Battery E. In September, he started training at Camp Sheridan in Alabama.

### Call to Duty

In June 1918, he traveled to New York for embarkation to France, to fight in the Great War. Once there, he manned 155mm Schneider Howitzer guns with a maximum range of 7 miles. T. Higbee was manning his gun on Nov. 11, 1918, when at 11 a.m., the guns were ordered silenced and he was witness to an eerie but welcome quiet: the armistice.

In a letter penned to his alma mater, published in *The Asheville School Review* in February 1919, he wrote:

... [On] October 29th we pulled out at night (when most artillery moves) and went to the highest point on the western front, Bois Thilot, which is south of Verdun. There we stayed and fired in barrage fires, for the defense of the

*American Infantry, until November 11th, and on the exact hour and minute all guns shut down. The noise ceased and not a shot was fired for the first time in almost five years. But many Americans lost their lives during the last few minutes of the World War. My luck was with me and I was not touched, although exposed to shell fire and gas more than once."*

T. Higbee returned stateside in March 1919. He was discharged as a private first class the next month in Cincinnati.

In June 1919, T. Higbee married Mary Elizabeth Bennett from Cincinnati, and they settled in the Hyde Park area. The following year, their son was born. That's right, Talton Higbee Embry Jr. He would go by the name Tally.

### Aviation Disruption

From 1919 to 1923, the family enjoyed an occasional garden party, trip to the opera and visits to the family's summer cottage in Michigan. In 1923, disruption hit. Something startling came out of the clear blue sky, literally — that something was John Paul Riddle.

Prior to 1925, most of the flying in Cincinnati took place at Grisard Field, which was 8 to 10 miles from downtown. It was here that T. Higbee met Riddle. Riddle had been flying across the northeast United States, barnstorming after the war and offering rides in his Curtiss Jenny.

After just one flight with Riddle, T. Higbee was hooked. This was the beginning of a relationship that gained T. Higbee his flying credentials and led to the eventual joining of the Embry and Riddle names.

From 1923 to 1925, Riddle taught T. Higbee how to fly. In addition, the two became friends and threw their energies into all things aeronautical.

While Grisard Field offered decent flying facilities, it was deemed by Cincinnati's aviation set to be too far from downtown to support the growing aviation industry. A low-lying flat area called Turkey Bottoms, just east of Cincinnati, caught the eye of our founders and Eshelby Lunken, who was part owner of Grisard Field. Lunken purchased the land from the Cincinnati Polo Club in 1925, and a new airport was created: Lunken Field. The Lunken family later deeded the airfield to the city of Cincinnati.

The principal point in mentioning the airfield is that in December 1925, it became home to the newly formed Embry-Riddle Company. These were exciting times.

Business plans, aircraft procurement and flying consumed T. Higbee's days — all of this while still maintaining some semblance of a role at Greene, Embry & Company. With this tempo something had to give.

In April 1926, Mary Bennett Embry was granted a divorce and received full custody of their son, Tally.

### Airspeed Ahead

In 1926, the Embry-Riddle Company was expanding into all facets of aviation: flight training, aerial photography, passenger flights and aircraft sales. In addition, the company sponsored a free Air Circus for the citizens of Cincinnati, with T. Higbee as one of the featured pilots performing parachutist drops and aerobatics.

Also in 1926, the Embry-Riddle Company sponsored the Ford Reliability Tour on its stopover in Cincinnati. As a Waco aircraft dealer, the company entered a Waco in the tour. Riddle was the pilot and none other than T. Higbee's mother was the passenger. She was the first woman to be flown in the tour. In 1927, Riddle competed, again in a Waco, in Ford's National Air Tour. He came in seventh place.

In February 1927, T. Higbee married Ruth Miller, but this didn't slow his business activities. Later that year, the Embry-Riddle Company was awarded the CAM 24 airmail route, which allowed its aircraft to carry passengers and mail from Cincinnati to Chicago.

In September 1928, the company published its first issue of *Sky Traffic*, a company newsletter, to help promote its aviation businesses. T. Higbee had a column in each issue. Note: *Sky Traffic* can be accessed online at [lift.erau.edu/t-higbee](http://lift.erau.edu/t-higbee).

### Sold Out

In April 1929, the Embry-Riddle Company was sold to the Aviation Corporation (AVCO) conglomerate. Timing is everything. The stock market crash occurred in October.

T. Higbee and Riddle remained officers of the Embry-Riddle Aviation Corporation division at AVCO until 1932, when AVCO combined its assets under the American Airways moniker (the predecessor of American Airlines).

Now, at age 35, T. Higbee's active run in the aviation business had come to an end and his passion for the livestock business had long since passed. His mother had previously moved to Los Angeles. With no binding attachments to the Cincinnati area, he followed her there in 1932.

Sadly, a year later, Susan Higbee Embry died in Los Angeles during a medical procedure.

### Trading the Air for the Sea

It didn't take long for T. Higbee to become involved in the Los Angeles-area country club set and to trade his penchant for air travel for that of the sea. In 1934, he purchased a 75-foot motor yacht and was named Commodore of the Balboa Yacht Club in Corona del Mar, California. He held this position for two years. He also sponsored the Embry Trophy, aka Southern California Power Boat Trophy (400-mile race).

T. Higbee divorced his second wife, Ruth, in 1938, and in 1940, he married wife No. 3, Gertrude Anderson from Dayton, Ohio.

At about this same time (1939), Riddle revived the Embry-Riddle Company in Miami, Florida. T. Higbee reportedly gave Riddle permission to use his name but was otherwise uninvolved in the venture. In October 1939, Riddle partnered with attorney John McKay and established the Embry-Riddle Seaplane Base and flight training facility. This is where our university's modern history begins.

It's important to note that T. Higbee and Riddle were cut from different cloths. T. Higbee was a businessman who learned to fly. Riddle was a flyer who learned how to run a business. Without combining forces, though, neither of these individuals would have built the organization and legacy that is Embry-Riddle.

### Resting Place Found

On April 17, 1946, T. Higbee passed away at the age of 49.

Oh, and I did locate his final resting place. T. Higbee is buried in the Lexington Cemetery in Lexington, Kentucky, right next to his parents, and his son, Tally, who died April 24, 1993.

Let's see now ... a flight from Arcadia Municipal Airport, Florida (X06), to Lexington, Kentucky (KLEX), is only 665 nautical miles. That's not too bad a trip in a Cessna. 🌟

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The author is a 1982 graduate of the Daytona Beach Campus and the Federal Aviation Administration Organization Designation Authorization Certification Projects Manager for Airbus Helicopter, based in Grand Prairie, Texas.



### DID YOU KNOW?

➔ T. Higbee Embry's late son, Tally Embry, established the Tally Embry advertising agency in Coral Gables, Florida. His agency is credited with designing the original Coppertone girl character and ad campaign for Coppertone tanning cream.



The 178,000-square-foot Mori Hosseini Student Union sits at the heart of the Daytona Beach Campus.

DARYL LABELLO



# GRAND OPENING

Eagles and government officials celebrated the opening and dedication of the Mori Hosseini Student Union

**A** longtime champion of the new Student Union at the Daytona Beach Campus, Board of Trustees Chairman Mori Hosseini (HonDoc '13, '79, '82) is now also its namesake. Hosseini expressed his gratitude at the honor during a dedication ceremony on Oct. 25, 2018.

"I could not have imagined [when I was a student] that I would be standing here tonight within the walls of this magnificent new building," he said, before an audience that included U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao and Florida Gov. Rick Scott. "Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University runs through my veins and lives in my heart, and my commitment to the success of this university is something I will never let go of."

Hosseini added, "This is not about me — this is about our children. This is about our students, and this is about the future of our country."

Embry-Riddle President P. Barry Butler lauded Hosseini's efforts to secure more than \$60 million in grants for the university throughout his time on the board. "I have never known one person to make such a profound difference in an institution and to give so much of their time and treasure to one place," Butler said.

Located at the heart of campus, the building offers unique opportunities for students to collaborate. A towering, triple-height commons anchors and integrates the collaborative social and learning interiors.

Wrapping this space are lounges and study rooms, dining options and quiet corners, as well as the Jack Hunt Memorial Library. An outdoor terrace provides a view of aircraft on final approach to Daytona Beach International Airport's runway 25R-7L, and even rocket launches from Cape Canaveral.

"It is the students' union, first and foremost," Butler said, noting that Embry-Riddle students have committed to supporting half the cost of the \$75 million building. "It is an open-hearted and welcoming space for our alumni, friends, families and community. We thank everyone who has been a part of this monumental project, and we hope everyone in the community will stop by and visit the Mori Hosseini Student Union." 🦅

**"It is an open-hearted and welcoming space for our alumni, friends, families and community."**

— P. BARRY BUTLER, EMBRY-RIDDLE PRESIDENT

**WATCH** Alumni react to the new Union: [lift.erau.edu/videos-spring-2019](http://lift.erau.edu/videos-spring-2019)



DARYL LABELLO

Government officials celebrated the dedication of the new building, along with its namesake, Mori Hosseini, center, and members of the Embry-Riddle Board of Trustees.



## The Union

- At 178,000 square feet, the Mori Hosseini Student Union is the most significant addition (in size and scope) to the Daytona Beach Campus in its 50-year history.
- More than 6,100 pieces of structural steel anchor the building.
- A 360-foot, 250-ton capacity crane placed the exposed steel beams that support the exterior superstructure.
- The beams were fabricated in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, at a plant that makes structural steel for the largest bridges in the United States.
- A special ceramic coating on the 300-foot-long skylight protects the interior from heat and sun.
- The events space can accommodate gatherings of up to 900 people.
- The building won a Design Award for Excellence from the Society of Registered American Architects.

For more: [studentunion.erau.edu](http://studentunion.erau.edu)



# LIGHT SPORT: BIG BUSINESS



When a Brazilian aircraft maker asked Embry-Riddle for business insights, more than 100 students leaned into an initiative that could bring up to 80 new jobs to Florida

BY GINGER PINHOLSTER

Students who researched the U.S. light-sport market for the SeaMax M-22 experienced the aircraft up close at DeLand Municipal Airport, Florida.



The plan is bold and the stakes are high: SeaMax, a light-sport aircraft company based in Brazil, is launching operations in the United States. Known for producing the award-winning M-22, the company is transitioning to an all-composite model: the M-42. The vision, says SeaMax CEO Gilberto Cunha Trivelato, is to market a safe amphibious aircraft, with or without foldable wings, and a computer platform that allows users to load their own applications.

To succeed, the former executive at Mectron Odebrecht and systems engineer at Embraer

**“It was valuable work experience for me. When I was applying for internships, interviewers wanted to know if I had worked on any practical, real-world projects. I was able to say, ‘Yes.’”**

— MENGYUAN LU

knew he would need deep insights to the U.S. light-sport aircraft market. For 20 years, Trivelato says, he had dreamed of working with the world’s premier aviation institution, Embry-Riddle. In 2017, he brought the company’s research and development department to Embry-Riddle’s Research Park in Daytona Beach, Florida. He also reached out to the David B. O’Maley College of Business.

In response, Embry-Riddle faculty members Dawna Rhoades, Janet Tinoco and John Longshore (’81, ’84) assigned some 100 students in five different classes to prepare comprehensive business assessments for SeaMax, at no cost to the company. The analyses encompassed the SeaMax business plan for U.S. operations, including project management, competition, customer base, value proposition, supply chain logistics, importing and exporting challenges, and product quality and performance.

If Trivelato’s plan to sell a “flying business platform” with its new M-42 model takes off, it could ultimately create 80 new jobs in Florida, says Shalom Confessor, executive director for the company’s U.S. headquarters. The company is in the advanced stage of prototype development and new technologies testing for the aircraft. “We expect to start test flights by September 2019,” Confessor says. The plan, now, is to do final assembly in the United States and then gradually transfer the entire production to the states, he adds.

## Marketing for Sport or Business

Customer service will be a critical selling point as SeaMax ramps up to market an aircraft with customizable software modules to various businesses — from search-and-rescue operations to air taxis, says Longshore, an associate professor of management. The company will also need to look for and leverage product differentiators such as ISO-9000 certification, a set of global standards for quality assurance, adds Longshore, who earned a bachelor’s degree in management and an MBA – Aviation from Embry-Riddle.

Improved manufacturing efficiency is another key goal for SeaMax, which is why the M-42 will be based on composite rather than metal fabrication, says Miguel Rosario, the company’s chief operating officer and head designer. “We’ve developed the molds for the composite manufacturing of a family of aircraft,” Rosario explains. “That will allow us to create a reconfigurable and higher quality product based on new processes, which will be faster than metal fabrication done by hand.”

Rhoades, professor of strategy and chair of the department of management, marketing and operations, says patenting that unique composite manufacturing process will help keep SeaMax a step ahead of its competitors. The company’s M-22 model had a market advantage because it was among the first designs to meet U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards for light-sport aircraft, she notes.

## Imagining New Solutions

Nidhi Trambadia (’18), president of the National Association of Women MBAs, was among the army of Embry-Riddle graduate students who dove deep into the SeaMax business plan. In particular, she and her classmates used Lean Six Sigma, a technique for modeling and improving business efficiency and capabilities, to evaluate customer versus company priorities.

Mengyuan Lu (’18), currently an intern with the Airports Council International – North America, says she worked with a dozen students and faculty to analyze the U.S. market environment for light-sport aircraft sales for the project.

“It was valuable work experience for me,” Lu says. “When I was applying for internships, interviewers wanted to know if I had worked on any practical, real-world projects. I was able to say, ‘Yes.’”

The SeaMax project helped students develop problem-solving skills, as well as learn how to deal with ambiguity and work with a client, says Tinoco, associate professor of management and marketing: “They didn’t have all of the information sitting right there. They had to be entrepreneurial in seeking out the answers.”

## Win-Win

Confessor says the students’ work is already paying dividends for SeaMax. “Their research helped us position the price of the M-22 based on its performance, range and useful load, compared to our competitors; and to better understand the light-sport amphibious market demographics in the U.S. and the need to make minor modifications to the aircraft to achieve maximum success.”

For SeaMax, the partnership with Embry-Riddle continues to provide business and technical insight — and critical additional support, especially valuable given Trivelato’s ambitious goal to someday market an unmanned version of his aircraft. “By working together,” Trivelato says, “we can imagine new solutions for the future.” 🌟



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# A NEW LEAS E

Business savvy,  
hard work and  
'secret sauce'  
fuel aircraft  
leasing startup

BY SARA WITHROW





**I**n 2018, a trio of Embry-Riddle alumni accomplished a previously unheard of aviation business feat. Over a 90-day period ending Oct. 9, they stood up a new aircraft leasing company, solidified a purchase agreement for 21 commercial aircraft and raised about \$800 million in debt and equity that included an asset-backed securitization (ABS).

"That was a big deal," says Damon D'Agostino ('94), president, CEO and co-founder of Zephyrus Aviation Capital. "We were investment-grade rated by S&P and Kroll. That [ABS] had never been done before by a startup aircraft leasing company."

But Zephyrus is no ordinary startup.

"These guys have been around. You add up the years of experience that they've had ... and it's a bit difficult to call it a startup, per se," says Michael Halaby, the head of aviation debt origination at Deutsche Bank in London, which issued the ABS for the company.

"I think their success speaks for itself," Halaby says. "They were able to access the ABS market in the same year that they started their company. There's a lot of faith and respect that the market has for that management team." [To learn more about the ABS market, see sidebar, Page 19.]

Collectively, D'Agostino and non-executive chairman Tony Diaz ('80) have more than 50 years of aircraft leasing experience. The company's other two founders, Richard Genge ('09, '13), vice president, and Robert Meade, chief commercial officer, together have another 20-plus years of experience in the business. Meade, an Air Force veteran, is the sole non-Embry-Riddle alumnus on the management team.

#### Aviation Business Foundation

All four founders of Zephyrus Aviation Capital are "alumni" of CIT Group's Aerospace Division. It was at CIT that they earned their aircraft leasing chops. In fact, Diaz and fellow Embry-Riddle alumnus

C. Jeffrey Knittel ('80), now chairman and CEO of Airbus Americas, built the aircraft leasing business at CIT from the ground up.

"[In 1987] when Jeff hired me, the CIT aviation group consisted of Jeff and myself. The last thing I thought was that I would be there for 30 years," Diaz says.

Avolon Holdings Limited acquired CIT Group's aircraft leasing business in April 2017 for \$10.38 billion. The CIT Aerospace management team essentially performed itself out of jobs. An international aircraft leasing company, Avolon already had an executive staff.

At the time of the acquisition, Diaz was the president of CIT Aerospace, D'Agostino was the chief commercial officer, Genge was the assistant vice president for marketing and asset sales, and Meade was the director of marketing strategy and asset sales. The foursome started searching for their next big opportunities, individually.

#### A Startup Takes Flight

At an informal meeting at the end of summer 2017, the four former colleagues had an epiphany. "We were all thinking the same thing," D'Agostino says. "That there is space for a mid- to late-life aircraft leasing company. [And] we realized that together we could make a really great team."

First, they took stock of the industry. "Fuel price was low (2017) and forecasted to stay relatively low for the foreseeable future," D'Agostino says. "As we dug into the market further, our analysis showed that there were about 8,000 aircraft at that time that fell into our age and equipment sweet spot. The older aircraft require a lot more 'metal' knowledge — meaning it isn't just a financial transaction. You need to understand the inherent value and nuances of the aircraft, down to scrap value. This played to our strengths."

Because mid- to late-life aircraft require more "high touch" and expertise on the part of the lessor, the barriers to entry in that segment are greater, Diaz says. This creates an environment that is less crowded, he adds. "We saw an opportunity in that sector."

#### DID YOU KNOW?

→ In 2016, Embry-Riddle launched the nation's first Ph.D. in Aviation Business Administration.

Learn more:  
[erau.edu/aba](http://erau.edu/aba)

**"THESE** guys have been around. You add up the years of experience that they've had ... and it's a bit difficult to call it a startup, per se. I think their success speaks for itself."



**“WE didn’t try to have a bias for Embry-Riddle, but that’s frankly where we found the best qualified candidates. The secret sauce was that they had an affinity for aviation. ... Embry-Riddle was fertile ground.”**

To bring the plan to fruition, Diaz leveraged his existing relationships with Virgo Investment Group and Seabury Capital, now the majority and minority owners of Zephyrus, respectively. The company name came from a smaller, pre-existing aircraft leasing entity operated by Virgo.

“It took about 12 months to form up,” Diaz says. “We had the equity and the management team. What we needed was aircraft.”

Their history at CIT Aerospace (now owned by Avolon) and insight into its fleet assets made Avolon an ideal prospect for the aircraft acquisition. “[Avolon] liked the idea of selling former CIT aircraft that were not core [to its business plan] to the former CIT management team,” Diaz says.

The aircraft, primarily A320s and Boeing 737s, are all presently leased to major commercial airlines. The Zephyrus management team constructed each of these leases while working for CIT. “The thought was that since we were familiar with the aircraft and airlines, the novation [lease transfer] process with the airlines would go smoother,” Diaz explains.

And it has. As of the end of December, Zephyrus had closed on three-quarters of the aircraft. “The novation process is the hardest part. It takes a little time,” Diaz says. He expects all 21 aircraft will be novated by March 31, 2019.

### The Embry-Riddle Formula

Diaz and D’Agostino say their shared Embry-Riddle roots — but even more, their passion for aviation — is what makes their team work. It’s also the basis of a successful hiring formula that started at CIT Aerospace and continues to this day.

Diaz explains: “When we were at CIT in the early days, CIT would hire a lot of people out of college or interns. They tended, however, to come from finance schools.”

Although they were high-caliber employees, there was an unintended result for the aerospace group: high turnover. The new hires were hungry to learn all aspects of finance and the various industries served at CIT, so they would only stay a month or six weeks in the aircraft leasing sector, Diaz says.

One day, he recalls, “the lightbulb went off.” Diaz suggested the group try to hire new graduates who had an affinity for aviation. One of the first people hired under that program was D’Agostino, who spent the next 23 years in the CIT Aerospace division.

“Our success rate in keeping people went from almost zero to nearly 90 percent. That was one of the

best decisions we made,” Diaz says.

With their firsthand knowledge — as alumni — and the university’s reputation as a leader in aviation business education, Embry-Riddle graduates became top prospects for internships and jobs at CIT Aerospace.

“We didn’t try to have a bias for Embry-Riddle, but that’s frankly where we found the best qualified candidates,” Diaz says. “The secret sauce was that they had an affinity for aviation. ... Embry-Riddle was fertile ground.”

D’Agostino, who in 2009 hired Zephyrus co-founder and fellow Eagle, Richard Genge, at CIT, agrees. “Embry-Riddle brings graduates with a solid foundation of a top-tier business education, along with the passion for aviation that we all have in this industry. It’s a home run for us.”

Zephyrus is now in full-growth mode and is poised to add another Embry-Riddle alumnus to its team. “At CIT, we had a lot of Embry-Riddle graduates, and I’d like to think that we were very successful. So, I see no reason why we shouldn’t do the same thing again,” D’Agostino says.

### Financing the Future

D’Agostino and Diaz see only blue skies ahead for the aviation industry — and the operating lease business. And why wouldn’t they? “Back in 1987, when I first started with Jeff [Knittel] at CIT, operating leasing was 1 to 2 percent of the market. Today it’s about 45 percent of the market,” Diaz says.

All indications are that the leasing sector will continue to grow, D’Agostino affirms. “Passenger demand continues to increase, and historically, air travel has doubled in size roughly every 15 years. There doesn’t seem to be any slowdown in sight when looking at long-term trends. That means the number of aircraft that need to be financed will continue to grow.”

With the expertise of its management team and a name like Zephyrus — the Greek god of the west wind and the messenger of spring — this startup will likely bloom. 🌸

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** D’Agostino holds a B.S. in Aviation Business Administration, Diaz has a B.S. in Aeronautical Studies, and Genge has a B.S. in Aviation Business Administration and an MBA – Aviation, all from Embry-Riddle. D’Agostino also holds an MBA – International Business from the University of Miami and is a member of Embry-Riddle’s David B. O’Maley College of Business Industry Advisory Board.



From left: Richard Genge, Tony Diaz and Damon D’Agostino.

LEAP  
FROGGING  
THE BANK  
MARKETS

JAMES MCENTEE

## Team Zephyrus gains finance advantage with ABS

Michael Halaby, the head of aviation debt origination at Deutsche Bank in London, says it is rare for a new aircraft leasing business to secure financing through asset-backed securitization (ABS). A debt finance alternative, the ABS market teams businesses with a select group of investing institutions, pension funds, insurance companies, asset managers and other sophisticated investors, he explains.

The business is then obligated to repay interest and principal on a collateralized loan to this group of investors. “It’s just a different form of secured financing outside of the bank market,” Halaby says.

When Zephyrus Aviation Capital first approached Halaby about finance options for the startup, he says it became evident that ABS would be the optimal route. The ABS market offered several benefits, including a higher loan-to-value ratio. There was just one problem: “The ABS market is historically for companies that have been around for a while, and Zephyrus was only incorporated last year,” Halaby says.

Despite this, ABS investors signed on. “In

a way, [Zephyrus] somewhat leapfrogged the markets by going straight to ABS,” Halaby says.

An ABS market strengthened by the recent and rapid growth of the aviation industry and worldwide demand for passenger aircraft helped, but the real dealmaker was the expertise and reputation of the Zephyrus management team.

“If it were a true startup, with inexperienced management, it would not go to the ABS market. ABS investors would likely want to see a successful track record first,” Halaby says.

To start an aircraft leasing company, basically, four things are needed, Halaby explains. “You need the equity to come in; you need the debt to come in; you need a management team that you trust and support; and you need someone to sell you the aircraft. For some market participants it’s a vicious circle, because you can’t get one without having the other three. It’s very difficult to break in.

“We were able to take what could be a vicious circle for folks and helped make it a virtuous one,” Halaby says. “We are very proud to have helped get Zephyrus off the ground.”



## WATCH

Lift, Off the Page:  
The Business of  
Aviation and More  
An interactive  
discussion  
7 p.m. EDT  
Monday, April 8

Lemerand  
Auditorium,  
Daytona Beach  
Campus and  
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# A Human Factors Remedy

Steve Powell and his company, Synensys, are using aviation safety science to combat fatal medical mishaps

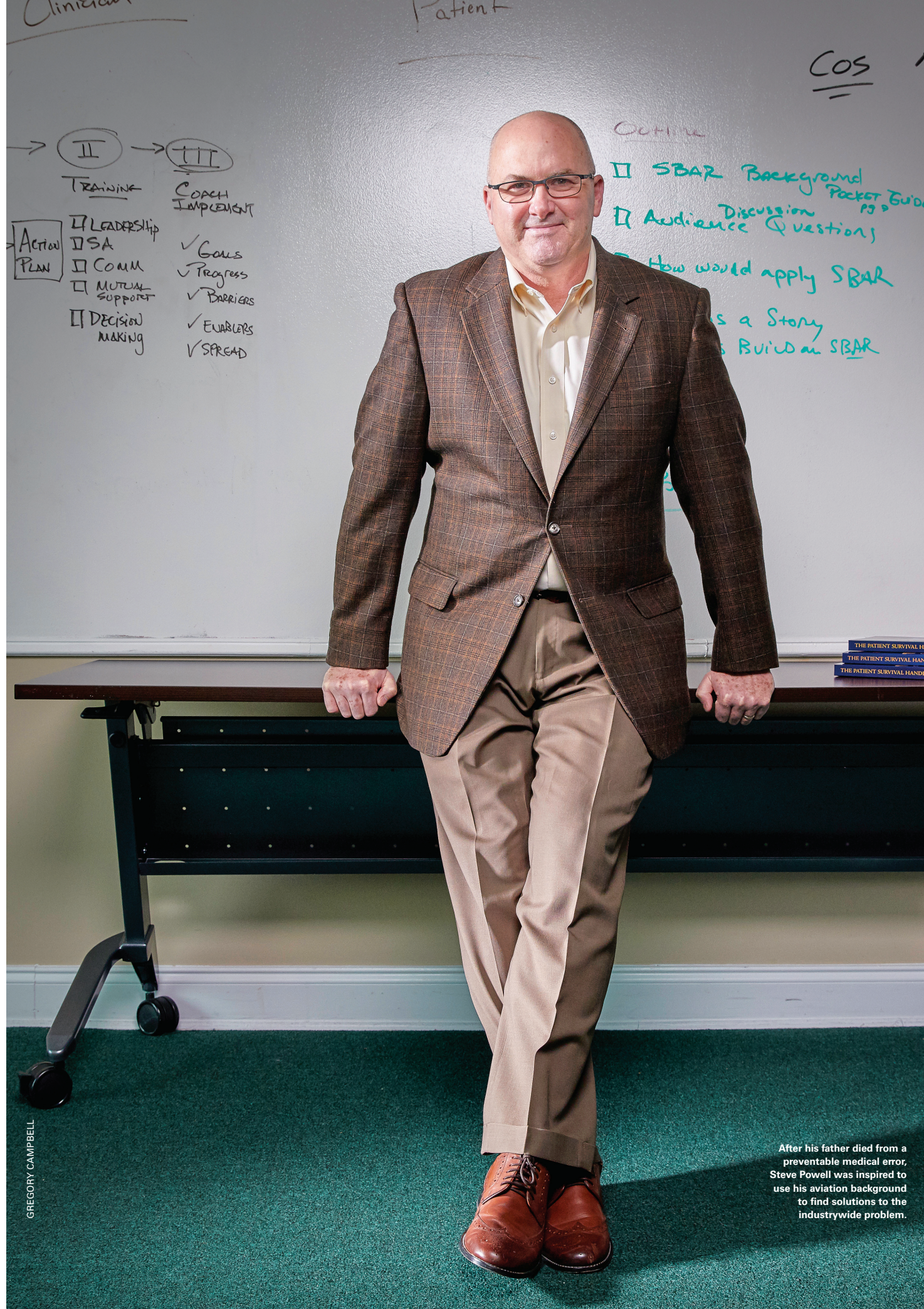
BY ALAN MARCOS PINTO CESAR

Imagine a Boeing 777 crashing every day, with no survivors. In 1999, that's how Steve Powell ('08) visualized the estimated 98,000 Americans who died each year due to medical errors, according to a report in that same year from the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

Around that time, Powell was by his father's side for two years of treatments, procedures and hospital stays in a struggle against lung cancer. That struggle ended suddenly in 2002 — after a routine treatment went wrong. His father's death was emblematic of the common, preventable medical errors outlined in the IOM report, and Powell was determined to change it.

"What I saw was a really broken system," Powell says, "where there was very little coordination, little cohesiveness between the care teams, little cooperation, communication — all the 'C' words were just not there. You weren't the quarterback, you were the football, and you were getting kicked around from one place to another with no one in charge."

Powell considers the IOM report a seminal industry moment, in the same way that fatal airline accidents led to crew resource management (CRM) training starting in the early '80s. With nearly two decades of safety and flight experience in the U.S. Navy and Delta Air Lines, his father's death spurred him to look beyond aviation to see if he could apply his experience to the world of healthcare.



GREGORY CAMPBELL

After his father died from a preventable medical error, Steve Powell was inspired to use his aviation background to find solutions to the industrywide problem.

## Mission Readiness Model

While still working as a pilot at Delta, Powell opened his medical training and consulting business, Synensys, in 2004 and began pursuing a master's degree in human factors from Embry-Riddle's Worldwide Campus in Atlanta.

Powell looked to a high-reliability organization in a high-risk environment for a model to apply to healthcare. "How could someplace that's so dangerous — an aircraft carrier flight deck — be so safe, when the average age of a person working the flight deck is 19 years old? Very few have advanced degrees and programming. And yet they recover and launch airplanes 24/7, all over the world," Powell says. "It comes down to mission readiness."

Synensys found a kindred spirit in the military medical system, where it earned some of its first contracts. "They could see the readiness benefits right away," Powell says.

## Applied Aviation Science

Seeing the evolution of aviation error management gave Powell perspective on the healthcare industry.

"What's interesting is that the same factors that were causing aircraft accidents prior to CRM were causing medical errors as well, with communication being No. 1. You can't take away the root causes, but training can mitigate and manage them."

While still at Embry-Riddle, Powell's graduate studies helped expand his product offerings. "I took electives on learning science, learning technology and training. The degree wasn't just human factors; it was everything that I needed to develop a portfolio of services for our clients."

By 2010, Synensys had a comprehensive safety software solution and training programs available in English, Japanese and Arabic. It also had an office in Qatar.

But Powell says, "The elephant in the room is that the same mandate that's there for aviation isn't there for healthcare." To "sell" safety, he has to appeal to the industry from a cost basis. "You have to reach for things like, how much it might cost the hospital if there's a malpractice claim. We use that to incentivize healthcare organizations to do CRM, implement a safety culture and perform safety audits."

In 2015, Powell took his knowledge to consumers. He co-authored *The Patient Survival Handbook*, a book that promotes patient awareness and self-advocacy to prevent medical mishaps.

Now in his 28th year as a pilot at Delta and his 15th year as CEO of Synensys, Powell is still honing his craft. "I'm just finishing up a Ph.D. program in healthcare administration. It's helping me better understand healthcare leadership and move our organization into its next season," he says. 🌱

## WATCH

Join Steve Powell and other Eagle business leaders at 7 p.m. EDT Monday, April 8, for **Lift, Off the Page: The Business of Aviation and More**, an interactive discussion; Lemerand Auditorium, Daytona Beach Campus and livestreamed around the world: [alumni.erau.edu/lifftalks](http://alumni.erau.edu/lifftalks)



# A Simple Charge

Trustee David O'Maley pays forward a special gift he received as a young man

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM



David and Karen O'Maley

Embry-Riddle Board member David O'Maley recalls a time when he was a young man with a passion for aviation and someone helped him finance his flight training.

"He left me with a simple charge. And that was, if you are able at some point in your life, the charge to you, young man, is that you will do things to help other young people achieve their grade and success," says O'Maley, a nationally prominent insurance executive

who recently made a significant gift to support the Daytona Beach Campus' College of Business.

University leadership, faculty, staff and students turned out to welcome and honor O'Maley and his wife, Karen, at a Nov. 13, 2018, naming ceremony for the David B. O'Maley College of Business.

O'Maley says he intends for his gift to enable the creation of a new generation of aviation business leaders. "We see this gift as a unique and powerful way to leverage aviation and business education into the future," he says.

With O'Maley's generous gift, Embry-Riddle will be able to elevate its College of Business — already widely regarded as offering the best aviation business administration program in the world — to even greater heights, says university President P. Barry Butler. He describes the gift as "a key moment for business education at Embry-Riddle that helps us expand the reach and more closely integrate business education into our other areas of focus — engineering and aviation — as we move into the future."

## Catalyst for Change

O'Maley's gift will lead the university's effort to advance its business curriculum, which includes developing a robust focus on aviation risk management and insurance, adding an interdisciplinary certificate program for engineers, and devising a combination of certificates and executive education to support preparation of chief pilots for corporations.

Michael Williams, dean of the College of Business, says the O'Maley family's gift will support breakthroughs in industry operations and safety and manufacturing through transformative ideas and technologies.

"It will allow our students to turn research into new business opportunities, moving their discoveries from our labs into the Micplex Engineering and Innovation Complex as startups, and then out into the real world," Williams says.

The College of Business was renamed the David B. O'Maley College of Business to honor his service and contributions to Embry-Riddle.



College of Business student Maddie Dietrich says the O'Maleys' gift sends a powerful message about the importance of philanthropy. "The O'Maleys' transformative gift not only impacts the future of Embry-Riddle, but serves as an inspirational example of charitable giving that will influence the way my fellow Eagles and I view the importance of personal philanthropy for the rest of our lives," Dietrich says.

**With O'Maley's generous gift, Embry-Riddle will be able to elevate its College of Business — already widely regarded as offering the best aviation business administration program in the world — to even greater heights.**

O'Maley has served on Embry-Riddle's Board of Trustees since 2014, and is currently a member of the development and finance committees. He is also chair for the board's committee on business initiatives and was appointed by President Butler to chair a special committee that's reviewing the strategy and direction of the College of Business.

## Leading Through Business

A national business leader and innovator, O'Maley is currently lead director on the board of directors for U.S. Bank. O'Maley retired in 2012 from Ohio National Financial Services, a leading provider of competitive individual life and annuity products through more than 40,000 distributors nationwide. Through his leadership as CEO and president, the company grew from \$4.1 billion assets under management in 1993 to more than \$27 billion in 2010. He was elected chairman emeritus in recognition of his significant accomplishments.

In addition to his passion for business, O'Maley is an active pilot and aviation enthusiast, as well as a founder of the Tri-State Warbird Museum in Batavia, Ohio. The museum is dedicated to honoring America's rich aviation history and features one of the largest collections of flyable World War II aircraft.



This gift is not the family's first to Embry-Riddle. In 2013, they established the O'Maley Family Endowed Scholarship Fund to support students at the college.

Embry-Riddle's College of Business, established in 2003 and with a history dating to 1966, offers a variety of degree programs, from the bachelor's to the Ph.D. level. Students get not just the textbook knowledge, but also the practical knowledge about what's going on in the aviation business industry, says Norbert J. Zarb, chair of the department of accounting, economics, finance, and information sciences.

O'Maley says he believes all students, regardless of program of study, need some grounding in business — so they can become leaders in the industry.

"I've always said that nothing happens until somebody ... provides some direction and takes the initiative to move things forward," O'Maley says. "Together, with the outstanding leadership at Embry-Riddle, we can innovate, grow and watch the business college move forward to a dimension it has never seen before." 🦅



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# Science at the South Pole

U.S. Air Force Capt. Michael Nayak is chasing clues to Jupiter's evolution to better understand our solar system and support national security

BY GINGER PINHOLSTER

In 2018, an Embry-Riddle alumnus installed the only optical telescope currently at the South Pole to better understand how our solar system evolved and, in particular, why Jupiter orbits in an icy realm beyond the asteroid belt. The knowledge gained could overturn popular scientific theory and narrow the search for extraterrestrial life forms.

"What we learn through this project could change the way we think about our solar system," says Capt. Michael "Mikey" Nayak, Ph.D., a scientist with the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL).

In many other solar systems, explains Nayak ('10), hot Jupiter-like planets spin closely around their stars. "They're fairly common in all of the exosystems we've studied so far," he notes. That begs the question: Why is our own solar system so different?

Nayak's mission to set up the Long-Duration Antarctic Day and Night Imaging Telescope (LANDIT) promises to provide new clues to this fundamental mystery of planetary science. In addition, observational methods developed for the project — supported by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School and the National Science Foundation (NSF) — might someday suggest a way to peek inside human-made satellites in space, including non-U.S. satellites that could pose a threat to national security.



## A Marriage of Science and Engineering

The effort sprang from a unique agreement, signed by the heads of the Air Force and the NSF, to marry scientific and engineering basic research. With a bachelor's and master's degree in aerospace engineering from Embry-Riddle and two Earth and planetary science degrees from the University of California, Santa Cruz, Nayak's expertise and military background were perfect for the mission. Co-directing the project with Nayak is astronomer Ryan Swindle, Ph.D., an AFRL research physicist.

During the Antarctic summer in November and December 2018, Nayak flew to the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station to install a small prototype telescope, make measurements of the atmosphere, and practice observing Jupiter, as well as Saturn, during continuous daylight hours. The only active military member resident at the South Pole during the 2018-19 season, he will return next December with a seven-person team to test-drive a larger telescope during Antarctic days and nights.

If all goes well, Nayak and Swindle's Ph.D. student, Embry-Riddle alumnus Cody Shaw ('15), a space physicist, will return in 2020 to capture the first-ever 100-day set of long-term, or "seismic," signals from Jupiter and Saturn. These signals — minute changes in reflected light, uninterrupted by the rising sun — are only possible to observe from Antarctica.

## Harmonic Vibrations

Using those signals, researchers can glean what's inside Jupiter and Saturn, and how they have changed over time. If the signals remain uninterrupted, the background noise should be low enough to determine the acoustic modes that continuously vibrate around and through planets. These "spherical harmonics" are a kind of gravitational song that can be mathematically expressed to reveal the shape of a planet. After they identify a planet's song at the surface, researchers can better understand its interior. Interior shapes such as lumps can be imagined as musical notes that tell a story about the planet's formation and evolution. The approach is an adaptation of a field known as helioseismology.

The key question is whether Jupiter evolved closer to the Sun in ancient times, but then hurtled into its current position after engaging in a game of gravitational tug-of-war with Saturn, Nayak says. If it evolved closer to the sun — a popular theory — its



Michael Nayak, far left, tests the remote automation functions of the LANDIT telescope at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Maui, Hawaii, prior to deploying to the South Pole. LANDIT must run remotely in 2019 for 100 days during the winter, with ambient temperatures of -90 degrees C (-130 F). Co-directing the project with Nayak is astronomer Ryan Swindle, pictured left, with Nayak.

core and mantle would be shaped very differently than if it formed farther out in the solar system, under much lower temperatures.

"What we learn could provide insights to the past and future evolution of our solar system," Nayak says.

## Extraterrestrial Life

Understanding Jupiter's ancient origins might also help narrow the search for life on distant moons, says Nayak's former teacher, satellite expert Bogdan Udrea, associate professor of aerospace engineering at Embry-Riddle. Europa — a moon, or natural satellite of Jupiter — is covered with ice, but some researchers think it may harbor water, and thus, microbial or other life forms.

"Once we know how Europa evolved around Jupiter, we want to extrapolate from that model to look for other moons that might harbor life," says Udrea, who received a 2017 AFRL Summer Faculty Fellowship that supported this research.

## Commercial Space Application

The potential for other applications for this science also exists. If researchers can model the interior of Jupiter using seismic signals detected by LANDIT and the resulting mathematical data, similar models might gauge how much fuel is left in the tanks of human-made satellites in orbit, Udrea says. His undergraduate students Zachary Henry and Graham Fox are working to model how the light reflected by a small satellite changes due to fuel sloshing in its tanks.

Nayak cites Stacie Williams, Ph.D., the project officer who runs the remote-sensing initiatives for the AFOSR, as an "inspirational human being" and a key champion of the LANDIT mission.

He also credits his Embry-Riddle education. "To make something work over the winter at the South Pole, when it can reach negative 90 degrees Celsius — it's a whole other level of engineering," Nayak says. 🌟

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In January 2019, Nayak started training at U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School. He expects to graduate in December as an experimental flight test engineer.

**"What we learn through this project could change the way we think about our solar system."**

—CAPT. MICHAEL NAYAK

U.S. Air Force Capt. Michael Nayak installs the only optical telescope currently at the South Pole to begin studying Jupiter and Saturn.



OPPOSITE PAGE: MICHAEL LEGATT; THIS PAGE: COURTESY OF AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**“Being brother and sister means  
being there for each other.”**

— AUTHOR UNKNOWN

The Eagle bond is strong. It’s exemplified in the pride, friendships, business connections, shared passions, brotherhood and sisterhood that all Eagles share. When our alumni come together, this bond is especially prevalent. I’ve had the recent privilege of witnessing this collective Eagle spirit firsthand:

- ➔ At the second annual Black Alumni Network Reunion, industry leaders told stories of hardship, persistence and success to a roomful of attentive students — and bonded together to establish a Black Alumni Scholarship fund.
- ➔ At the 25-year reunion celebrating the founding of the WIKD radio station at the Daytona Beach Campus, Eagle DJs expressed their shared love of connecting fellow students through music.
- ➔ At the Hockey Club reunion, a group of 25 alumni and friends reminisced about the bond they built over ice, sweat, beer and blood.
- ➔ At a Lacrosse Club reunion, former teammates celebrated the friendships they formed through bruises, teamwork and banter. [See story, Page 29]
- ➔ At the NIFA Golden Eagles Reunion, aviators from the Prescott Campus reunited over their shared dedication to team, school and a winning legacy.
- ➔ And, at 150-plus other alumni gatherings held across the globe in 2018, Eagles shared their stories, laughter and support for their alma mater and each other.

As graduates, we are driven to excel in our professions on an individual basis, but we also help our own. Every week, I hear of an alumnus who was hired by, guided to or learned of an opportunity from a fellow graduate that advanced their career. An example of this is Zephyrus Aviation Capital [See story, Page 14]. Three of the founding members of this startup aircraft leasing company are Embry-Riddle alumni. And the company is poised to hire another Eagle, as its business grows.

It is amazing how often I hear stories of relationships that started with the statement: “You graduated from Riddle, too?” It isn’t about campus or program. It’s about shared experiences — and offering a helping hand.

As the years pass so quickly, we often take our relationships for granted, but I encourage all Eagles to reach out to one another, reconnect, say “hello,” “thank you” and “how can I help you?” In addition, reach out to your unit, team, club, sorority or fraternity and come back as a group for a reunion. The office of alumni engagement will gladly assist.

Our campuses proudly sport the best resources and facilities, but you — our alumni — are the bricks and mortar: the bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood that have shaped who we are today as a university. Please continue to build and strengthen your Eagle bond, because the rewards are infinite.

God bless you, and remember, you are *Forever an Eagle*.

Bill Thompson ('87)  
Executive Director

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## Alumni Homecoming Weekend DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA | OCT. 11-13, 2018

Alumni joined students, faculty and staff for the Grand Opening of the Mori Hosseini Student Union.



## OctoberWest & Wings Out West PRESCOTT, ARIZONA | OCT. 4-6, 2018

The Eagle community celebrated the campus' 40th Anniversary.





# Standout Celebration

Prescott Campus Chancellor inducts three Hall-of-Famers and names two honorary alumni

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM



Top row, from left: Jamie Patterson-Simes, Nancy Martin-Belitz and Mark Overley. Bottom row: David Robertson and Tonia Fortner.

One of the first students enrolled at Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus in 1978, Capt. Mark Overley ('81) never imagined the fledgling Golden Eagles Flight Team he helped found would become one of the top collegiate flight teams in the nation.

"We always knew the team would grow to be competitive but never dreamed they would grow into the exceptional team they became over these 40 years," says Overley, now a senior captain at the Cintas Corporation Flight Department and a mentor/judge to the Golden Eagles. For more about his involvement with the Golden Eagles, go to: [lift.erau.edu/flight-team-story](http://lift.erau.edu/flight-team-story).

Overley, along with two other Prescott Campus alumni — Capt. Nancy Martin-Belitz ('85) and Jamie Patterson-Simes ('09) — were inducted into the Chancellor's Alumni Hall of Fame during an awards reception and dinner held Oct. 5, 2018, during OctoberWest. The awards were established by Prescott Campus Chancellor Frank Ayers ('87) to recognize alumni who have made significant contributions to their profession, their industry and community, and the university.

Martin-Belitz, a standards check airman at Southwest Airlines and a pilot since age 16, was recognized for her accomplishments and exceptional service to others.

"This award is special, because I believe the chancellor and Embry-Riddle are honoring not just what I've achieved, but how I've given back along the way," she says.

Martin-Belitz helped start Southwest Airlines' Adopt-A-Pilot Program and has mentored thousands of students. Additionally, through Southwest, she volunteers at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Ronald McDonald House and The Salvation Army.

Patterson-Simes is the founder and owner of SkyTrek Alaska Flight Training, which was designated the 2017 National Best Flight School by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Flight Training Experience Survey and Awards. She spent most of her time as a full-time student at the Prescott Campus (1989-1992).

"When I opened my flight school in 2014, I never dreamed that AOPA would name it No. 1 in the nation in 2017," says Patterson-Simes, who is one of only four Master Flight Instructors in Alaska, as designated by the National Association of Flight Instructors. "It was an amazing experience to realize that my education and training helped get me to this place."

Patterson-Simes is actively involved in Alaska's aviation community, serving on numerous boards related to airport development. SkyTrek Alaska is based at Merrill Field in Anchorage.

## Honorary Alumni

Also at the awards reception and dinner, David Robertson and Tonia Fortner were named honorary alumni.

Robertson is a member of the Embry-Riddle Board of Trustees and a longtime supporter of the university. As a professional pilot for more than 30 years, Robertson's piloting experience has ranged from gliders to jet airliners. Through the Robertson family's support, the Prescott Campus established the Robertson Safety Institute and the Robertson Aircraft Crash Investigation Laboratory. He and his wife also established the David and Andrea Robertson Endowed Scholarship in 2006. Robertson currently serves as chairman of the Embry-Riddle Board's Flight Safety and Education Committee.

Fortner is a member of the Prescott Campus Board of Visitors and a benefactor and advocate for Embry-Riddle since the Prescott Campus opened. Fortner established the Tonia Knight Fortner Women and STEM Endowed Scholarship to assist female students studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at the Prescott Campus. Additionally, she contributed, along with others, to name the Professor Emeritus Fielding McGehee Physics Lab at the STEM Education Center, which opened in 2017 at the Prescott Campus. 🌟

CONNOR MCSHANE; ROBERTSON: DARYL LABELLO



## Teammates Forever

Lacrosse club members return to campus for reunion

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM

Marty Campanella ('89) recalls his teenage daughter teasing him that he was sitting in his armchair too much and needed to do something fun. "So I said, 'I am going to call 10 of my best friends and meet them for a long weekend in Daytona Beach,'" says Campanella, a corporate pilot in Maryland. And he did.

He organized a July 27-28 Lacrosse Club 2018 Summer Reunion, which was attended by more than a dozen of his old teammates at Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach Campus. Thanks to their shared love of aviation, he says he was still in touch with several club members and was able to track down the rest.

"Out of the 14 of us, eight of us are still active pilots," he says. "Aviation is what kept us together."

Lacrosse Club members — many who had not been back to campus in 30 years — toured the campus and were amazed at its growth.

"The new student center was just about completed, and everyone unanimously said it's amazing how far the school has come," Campanella says. "We couldn't believe it. They have a whole athletic center. We had a swimming pool. Now they have a real lacrosse team."

Lacrosse was added to Embry-Riddle's intercollegiate athletics program in 2017-18, when the school transitioned from the NAIA to NCAA-II competition.

## For the Love of the Game

The Lacrosse Club members used to make their own uniforms out of white T-shirts, with ERAU and a number scrawled in black marker on the back, says Chris Watson ('90), who attended the reunion and started a Facebook page for Embry-Riddle Lacrosse Club alumni. The referee wore a white T-shirt striped with black electrical tape.

"We did whatever we could," says Watson, now a pilot for Atlas Air Worldwide living in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

The Lacrosse Club was loosely organized in 1984 by a group of students, most of whom played lacrosse in high school. They arranged the games and drove themselves to competitions at other Florida colleges.

"We would get the other team to put us up and sleep on the floor of the frat house or whatever," Campanella says. "It was an interesting time, before there was any structure or money. We created our own schedule and roster. We didn't have coaches or referees, so we designated a student as a referee."

Lacrosse games were played on a field that the team members lined themselves.

"Someone would bring a pickup truck with a keg of beer and some beach chairs," Campanella recalls. "We didn't have Gatorade, because that was too expensive, so we would drink beer during the game instead."

One of their biggest fundraising events was having members sell snacks at the Daytona 500, Watson says.



**"Out of the 14 of us, eight of us are still active pilots. Aviation is what kept us together."**

— MARTY CAMPANELLA, ORGANIZER OF THE LACROSSE CLUB SUMMER REUNION

"Each of us would get \$400 and get to see the Daytona 500 for free," Watson recalls. "That was our one day of fundraising. You had to sell out your basket to get that cash, but it was fun."

At the reunion this past summer, the former teammates threw the ball around a bit, says Campanella, but the event was more about camaraderie than competition, and there are plans to meet up again in a couple of years.

"We're all in our 50s now, but to start off the reunion, we decided to meet at the Ocean Deck at 5 p.m., like in the old days," Campanella says. "One guy showed up in his jersey that he's had for 30 years. So it was like déjà vu — except we were all ready for bed by 9 p.m." 🌟

LEFT: DARYL LABELLO



## CAREER CORNER

### 2019 Industry/Career Expos

<b>MAY 30</b> Fort Walton Beach, Florida	<b>SEPT. 5</b> Seattle, Washington
<b>JULY 13</b> San Diego, California	<b>SEPT. 13</b> Dallas, Texas
<b>AUG. 22</b> Metro D.C.	<b>OCT. 3</b> Prescott, Arizona
	<b>OCT. 8</b> Daytona Beach, Florida

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



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Join fellow Eagles for the largest reunions of the year!

### OctoberWest & Wings Out West Air Show

PRESOTT, ARIZONA  
Oct. 3-5, 2019

### Alumni Homecoming Weekend

DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA  
Oct. 8-12, 2019

[alumni.erau.edu/homecoming](http://alumni.erau.edu/homecoming)



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## CLASS NOTES

Send us your news! Email your life events to: [eralumni@erau.edu](mailto:eralumni@erau.edu). For guidelines, visit [alumni.erau.edu/notes\\_guidelines](http://alumni.erau.edu/notes_guidelines).

## Career News

### 1970s

**John Alger ('73)** retired from US Airways/American Airlines on Oct. 3, 2018, after more than 30 years as a flight crew training instructor. A Daytona Beach Campus graduate, he also recently stepped down as chairman of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, the youth program of the Navy League of the United States. Alger spent nearly 25 years active and reserve in the U.S. Navy as a pilot and later as a navigator, retiring in 1997 at the rank of commander. He and his wife, Joan, plan to relocate to the Daytona Beach, Florida, area.

**Kenneth F. Wiegand ('75)**, a Worldwide Campus graduate, is a principal of Business Airport

Consulting LLC, which provides airport consulting services to Business Aviation Group clients.

**Jerry LeBarron ('78)**, a Daytona Beach Campus graduate, was inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame on Oct. 20, 2018, at the EAA Aviation Museum in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. LeBarron was aircrew in the U.S. Navy for four years. He worked for Lockheed Aircraft Co., becoming its youngest commercial aircraft engineering manager. Later, he moved to Rockwell International. He founded LeBarron Aviation Inc. at Burbank Airport and offered advanced flight training. In 1987, he joined Northrop Aircraft to work on the B-2 Stealth Bomber program. LeBarron currently lives in Waunakee on the Waunakee Airport with his Taylorcraft F-21B. He remains an active consultant to Northrop Grumman, since retiring from the company in 2008.

**Steven Zehr ('79)** was appointed head of the Airports Division for Cofely Besix Facility Management, a service provider in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. A Daytona Beach Campus graduate, Zehr has more than 25 years of specialized aviation experience in managing and planning.

### 1980s

Daytona Beach Campus graduate **John Maris ('82, '83, '17)** was inducted into the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame at a June 7, 2018, ceremony in Calgary, Alberta. Maris is president of Marinvent Corporation, a Canadian aerospace firm based in Montreal. A Canadian Armed Forces antisubmarine pilot and test pilot, Maris was also a team leader in the Canadian Space Agency and a key person in the development of the robotic arm used on the International Space Station.

**Bob Barton ('83)**, a Daytona Beach Campus graduate who retired in 2017, is a part-time career transition consultant at Lee Hecht Harrison.

**Kemp Hiatt ('88)** is a hardware/software integration engineer, and a search and rescue emergency medical technician team lead for King County in Washington. Hiatt is a Daytona Beach Campus graduate.

**Derry Huff ('88)**, a Worldwide Campus graduate, was promoted to

vice president of sales and marketing at Amerijet International.

**Mike Kienast ('88)**, a Prescott Campus graduate, was named vice president at MEB Management Services in Salt Lake City, Utah. Kienast is a licensed real estate broker.

**David Lincoln ('89)** currently works for Delta Air Lines flying the Boeing 777-200LR. A Daytona Beach Campus graduate, he is based in Los Angeles and resides in Henderson, Nevada.

### 1990s

**NASA Astronaut Capt. Dan Burbank ('91)**, who spent 188 days in space over three missions, retired from the agency on June 29, 2018. A Worldwide Campus graduate, Burbank was selected as an astronaut candidate in 1996 and flew his first mission aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis in 2000. Most recently, he served as chief of the vehicle integration and test office in the Flight Operations Directorate at NASA Johnson.

**Herman Hardebeck ('91)**, a Worldwide Campus graduate, retired after 21 years of Department of Defense civil service and 21 years of U.S. Navy active duty service.

**New York Air National Guard Lt. Col. David Panzera ('92)**, a Daytona Beach Campus graduate, made his final flight as a military pilot on July 17, 2018, after a 33-year career. He is now a pilot for JetBlue Airways.

**Brian Husa ('93)** was hired as regional sales manager at Elliott Aviation, an aviation MRO services company. Husa has nearly 30 years of aviation experience and is a Daytona Beach Campus graduate.

**Retired 1st Sgt. Michael Bateman ('95, '01)**, a Worldwide Campus graduate, is the assistant product manager for the Army Fixed Base Air Traffic Control Office at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama.

**Christopher Martinez ('95)** is developing and teaching criminal justice and homeland security courses as a professor in the City University

## EVENTS ON THE RADAR

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

**APRIL 4**  
**Fort Lauderdale Network – Corporate Run**  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

**APRIL 5**  
**Eagle Alumni Awards**  
Daytona Beach, Florida

**APRIL 8**  
**Lift, Off the Page**  
Daytona Beach, Florida, and Livestreamed  
[alumni.erau.edu/LiftTalks](http://alumni.erau.edu/LiftTalks)

**APRIL 9-11**  
**Aviation Week's MRO America**  
Atlanta, Georgia  
*Alumni Reception, April 10*

**APRIL 14**  
**JFK Rotary Club: JFK Runway Run**  
Queens, New York

**APRIL 17**  
**West Palm Beach Network – Corporate Run**  
West Palm Beach, Florida

**APRIL 25**  
**Miami Network – Corporate Run**  
Miami, Florida

**APRIL 27**  
**Worldwide Campus Commencement**  
Seeheim, Germany

**APRIL 30-MAY 2**  
**Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International XPONENTIAL**  
McCormick Place, Chicago  
*Alumni Reception, May 1*

**MAY 4**  
**Prescott Campus and Worldwide Campus Commencement**  
Prescott, Arizona

**Worldwide Campus Commencement**  
Daytona Beach, Florida

**MAY 6**  
**Daytona Beach Campus Commencement**  
Daytona Beach, Florida

**MAY 25-26**  
**Bethpage Air Show at Jones Beach State Park**  
Wantagh, New York

**JUNE 1**  
**Worldwide Campus Commencement\***  
Pensacola, Florida

**JUNE 2-7**  
**Eagle Explorers 2019: Great Trains & Grand Canyons**  
Sedona, Arizona  
[alumni.erau.edu/explorers](http://alumni.erau.edu/explorers)

**JUNE 16-19**  
**American Association of Airport Executives Conference and Exposition**  
Boston, Massachusetts

**JUNE 30**  
**Worldwide Campus Commencement**  
Okinawa, Japan

**JULY 14**  
**Worldwide Campus Commencement\***  
San Diego, California

**JULY 22-28**  
**EAA AirVenture**  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin  
*Alumni BBQ, July 24*

**JULY 31-AUG. 2**  
**Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals**  
Los Angeles, California  
*Alumni Reception, Aug. 1*

**AUG. 6-8**  
**Space & Missile Defense Symposium**  
Huntsville, Alabama  
*Alumni Reception, Aug. 8*

**AUG. 24**  
**Worldwide Campus Commencement\***  
Quantico, Virginia

**SEPT. 7**  
**Worldwide Campus Commencement\***  
Seattle, Washington

**OCT. 20-23**  
**Air Traffic Control Association Conference and Exposition\***  
National Harbor, Maryland

**OCT. 22-24**  
**NBAA-BACE\***  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**OCT. 28-NOV. 1**  
**Human Factors and Ergonomics Society International Annual Meeting**  
Seattle, Washington

**OCT. 30-NOV. 3**  
**Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers\***  
Phoenix, Arizona

**NOV. 7-9**  
**Society of Women Engineers**  
Anaheim, California

\*Alumni receptions are pending.

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





of New York system. He has also embarked on a Ph.D. program and is expected to graduate in December 2018. The Worldwide Campus graduate has 32 years of federal service.

**Arlando Teller ('95)** was elected state representative for District 7 in the Arizona House Legislature. A Prescott Campus graduate, Teller was deputy division director for the Navajo Division of Transportation. In 2017, he was inducted into the Prescott Campus Chancellor's Hall of Fame.

**Jake Cefolia ('96)** was promoted to senior vice president of worldwide sales at United Airlines. Cefolia has been with United since 2007, most recently serving as vice president of sales for the Americas. A Worldwide Campus graduate, he has also served as vice president of Atlantic and Pacific sales, as managing director of the Global Accounts Division and as managing director for United's Pacific region, based in Hong Kong.

**Xavier Samuels ('96)** recently spoke to students at Yes Prep in Houston, Texas. A Daytona Beach Campus graduate and first officer at United Airlines, he is very involved in the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals.

**Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Brian P. Anderson ('97, '05)** was recognized by Continental Who's Who as a Platinum Lifetime Member in the aerospace and defense field and for his role as director of global business development at Textron Systems.

Anderson is a Prescott and Worldwide campus graduate.

**Rear Adm. Jonathan W. Bailey ('98)** was installed as a member of the Military Officers Association of America Board of Directors. A Worldwide Campus graduate, Bailey completed a 32-year career as a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration commissioned officer in 2012.

**Joe Mondello ('98, '05)** retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves. A graduate of the Daytona Beach and Worldwide campuses, he flies full time for Southwest Airlines.

**Richard Zaher ('99)** is the CEO of Paramount Business Jets (PBJ), which was included in *Inc.* magazine's 2018 list of the 5,000 fastest-growing companies in the United States. PBJ is a private jet charter, jet card membership, and sales and leasing broker. This is PBJ's third appearance in the *Inc.* 5000 list. A Daytona Beach Campus graduate, Zaher founded PBJ in 2005.

## 2000s

**Peter Biondi ('01)**, a Daytona Beach Campus graduate, received the Airport Ambassador prize from the general manager of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. He was also honored by the airport in April 2018 for his volunteer work. Fluent in Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese, Biondi has served as a volunteer chaplain at the airport for more than seven years.

**Kat Hakola ('01, '14)** recently served as director of risk and opportunity for Leonardo DRS on its Advanced Pilot Training (T-X Trainer) program effort in Crystal City, Virginia. A Daytona Beach Campus graduate, she does consulting work in Colorado.

**Sean Rogers ('01, '02)** was direct commissioned as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve on March 29, 2018. A Daytona Beach Campus graduate, he will serve as a Medical Service Corps officer with the 914th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Base. Rogers was also recently hired by University of Rhode Island as an associate professor of management in the College of Business and will hold the Spachman Professor of Human Resources and Labor Relations endowed chair.

**Michelle Gamble ('02, '05)**, a Worldwide Campus graduate, was named director of jet charter and marketing at Titan Aviation, based at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

**Sam Lazerson ('02)**, a physicist for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) and a Daytona Beach Campus graduate, has won a 2018 Early Career Research Program award, sponsored by the DOE Office of Science. The five-year award will fund PPPL research. Lazerson is lead U.S. collaborator on experiments on the Wendelstein 7-X (W7-X)

stellarator in Greifswald, Germany, the largest stellarator in the world. He joined PPPL in 2010 and has served a yearlong tour of duty at W7-X, in addition to his current long-term assignment in Greifswald.

**Sakeer Sheikh ('02)**, the founder and chairman of Titan Aviation Group, recently expanded his company's presence into the United States, with private jet charter operations in Florida and New Jersey. Sheikh, who is a graduate of the Daytona Beach Campus' former executive MBA program, founded Titan Aviation in 2004 at its global headquarters in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

**Simone Drakes ('03)** is vice president of engineering for Florida-based avionics company Avionica. A Daytona Beach Campus graduate, Drakes serves as the company's engineering representative to the Federal Aviation Administration.

**Michelle Estes ('03)** was promoted on Oct. 1, 2018, to colonel in the U.S. Air Force during a ceremony held at the Division of Military and Naval Affairs Headquarters in Latham, New York. A Worldwide Campus graduate, Estes was assigned to the New York National Guard as its Inspector General.

**Retired U.S. Army Col. Andy Gignilliat ('03)**, a Worldwide Campus graduate, was hired as senior aviation program manager for Tyonek Services Group.

**Capt. Gokhan Ozener ('03)**, a Worldwide Campus graduate, upgraded to flying a Turkish Airlines Airbus A330.

**David Bhola, D.O. ('04)**, who is a primary care and sleep specialist, joined Rockledge Regional Medical Center and Steward Medical Group in Brevard County, Florida. A Daytona Beach Campus graduate, Bhola has worked as a nocturnist at Wellmont Medical Associates in Bristol, Tennessee, and has treated sleep disorders at Larkin Community Hospital in Hialeah, Florida.

**Lt. Col. Brian T. Musselman ('04)**, a Worldwide Campus graduate, was named the 2018 recipient of the Kent K. Gillingham Award at the Aerospace Medical Association Honors Night ceremonies, held May 10, 2018. Musselman is the deputy chief of the U.S. Air Force Human Factors Safety Division at the U.S. Air Force Safety Center at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico.

**Darren P. Tumelson ('05, '15)** and **Jeremiah "Jeremy" Lee ('04, '06)**, both Worldwide Campus graduates, were among a team of Memphis Center air traffic controllers who were awarded the 2018 Archie League Medal of Safety — President's Award — for the Southern Region in October 2018 at the National Air Traffic Controllers Association Communicating for Safety conference in Las Vegas. The award was presented for the team's efforts on Aug. 11, 2017, which assisted a pilot to safely land, despite issues with locked flight controls, autopilot, loss of pitch control and hydraulic failure.

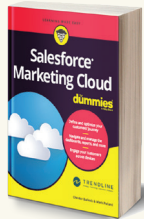
**Kevin M. Ketelaar ('06)** is now a first officer with Spirit Airlines. The Daytona Beach Campus graduate is type rated in Airbus 319, 320 and 321.

**Capt. Ryan Lynch ('06)**, who is a Republic Airways pilot and founder of the Indianapolis Aviation Career Education Academy, was recognized for business and industry achievement by the Center for Leadership Development. A Daytona Beach Campus graduate, Lynch accepted the award during the 38th annual Minority Achievers Awards ceremony at the Indiana Convention Center. Hired by Republic in 2007,

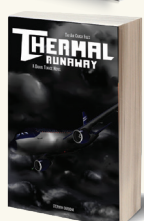
## EAGLE AUTHORS ON THE BOOKSHELF



**Ashley Andrews Lear** authored *The Remarkable Kinship of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Ellen Glasgow*, published by Florida University Press in 2018. The book examines the deep connections between two pioneers of American literature, their friendship and the correspondence that helped sustain them through a time of social upheaval and changing norms in the American South. Lear is an associate professor of humanities and communication at the Daytona Beach Campus.



**Chester Bullock ('94)** and Mark Pollard co-authored *Salesforce® Marketing Cloud for Dummies®*, published in 2018 by John Wiley & Sons. Bullock earned a B.S. in Aviation Business Administration from the Prescott Campus. He is the vice president of Solutions Consulting for Trendline Interactive, an email marketing agency.



**Stephen Carbone ('97, '01)** is the author of *The Air Crash Files* novels, which include *Thermal Runaway* and *Jet Blast*, published in 2016 and 2014, respectively. Carbone earned a B.S. in Professional Aeronautics and a Master of Aeronautical Science from the Worldwide Campus. He currently teaches at the Federal Aviation Administration Academy in Oklahoma City.



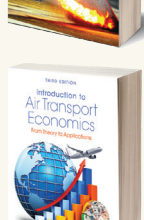
**Brian Delaney ('06)** authored *Barrier Rip*, a science fiction, time travel thriller published in 2017, and *From Within*, a dystopian thriller published in 2016. *From Within* spent several weeks on Amazon's Hot New Release Top 100 Bestsellers list in the dystopian genre, and became an Amazon Top 100 Bestseller in both dystopian and post-apocalyptic genres. Delaney is an air traffic controller at Centennial Airport in Englewood, Colorado. He earned a B.S. in Aeronautics from the Daytona Beach Campus.



**Korry M. Franke ('03)** authored *3 Feet to the Left*, a memoir about his first year as United Airlines youngest captain. He self-published the book in September 2018, and officially launched it in October at the Eagle Authors Showcase at the Daytona Beach Campus Homecoming. In its first week of publication, the book was the No. 1 new release for Amazon's Commercial Aviation category. Franke earned a B.S. in Aeronautical Science from the Daytona Beach Campus.



**John Lowery ('85)** authored *A Pilot's Accident Review*, published by Aviation Supplies and Academics in 2015. "Because we often learn from the mistakes of others, *A Pilot's Accident Review* is an in-depth analysis of aircraft accidents occurring in the various phases of flight. Also addressed are maintenance error and material failure, along with human factors, seaplane and ski-plane accidents, and flying after scuba diving," Lowery says. He previously authored *Professional Pilot*, third edition (2008), and *Anatomy of a Spin*, third edition (1998). He earned a Master of Aeronautical Science from the Worldwide Campus. He also taught aircraft accident investigation and corporate aircraft management courses for 10 years as adjunct faculty for the Worldwide Campus.



**Bijan Vasigh**, professor of aviation business administration, **Ken Fleming**, adjunct faculty, and **Thomas Tacker ('77)**, professor of economics, all at the Daytona Beach Campus, co-authored *Air Transport Economics: From Theory to Applications*, third edition, a textbook published in 2018 by Routledge. The book weaves together the institutional and technical aspects of the aviation industry with economic theory. Tacker earned a B.S. in Management from the Daytona Beach Campus.



Lynch helped launch its Pilot Mentor Program. He is also an active member of the Indianapolis chapter of Pilots For Kids and the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals.

**Anthony Vareha ('06)** is the SpaceX-15 lead flight director and one of the flight directors at NASA in charge of International Space Station (ISS) operations at the Johnson Space Center's Mission Control. A Daytona Beach Campus graduate, he led the team conducting the SpaceX-15 cargo resupply mission, which launched June 29, 2018, to the ISS. Several lead officers for the mission were also fellow Eagles. They included lead robotics officer **Billy Jones ('06)**; robotics analyst **Brian Costello ('04)**; and ground segment lead **Casey Johnson ('11)**, who are all Daytona Beach graduates. Also on the team were lead trajectory officer **Victor Rice ('14)**, who is a Prescott Campus graduate, and lead ground controller **Ronald Moseley ('06)**, a Worldwide Campus graduate. Robotics crew instructor **Mike Ferullo ('07, '18)** was also on the team and is a Daytona Beach and Worldwide campus graduate.

**Luis M. Vega ('07, '14)** was promoted to test manager in the U.S. Air Force Combat Rescue Helicopter HH-60W program. A Worldwide Campus graduate, Vega is a retired Air Force helicopter crew chief and a warfighters' systems acquisition professional.

**Honie Glabach ('08)** marked her 20-year anniversary working for the Department of Defense. She is a Worldwide Campus graduate.

**Casey Pullman ('08, '17)**, a Worldwide Campus graduate, was hired as general manager at Castle & Cooke Aviation in Van Nuys, California.

**Capt. Hunter Barnhill ('09)** won a silver medal and two bronze medals in the Department of Defense Wounded Warrior Games in June 2018 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Mike Edwards ('09)**, a Daytona Beach Campus graduate, joined DigitalGlobe as vice president, senior advisor defense programs.

**Audrey Kiefer ('09)**, a Daytona Beach Campus graduate, founded a tech company for busy pet owners called Heroly, which launched July 2018. She does aviation consulting and brokering for clients on the side.

**Capt. Jeremy Smith ('09)**, a Worldwide Campus graduate, is the new commander of Coast Guard Sector Columbia River, after a change of command ceremony at Air Station Astoria in Oregon.

## 2010s

**Patrick Westmoreland ('10)** was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army. He is stationed at Fort Rucker, Alabama, where he works for the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center as an accident investigator. Westmoreland is also an adjunct assistant professor for the Worldwide Campus' College of Aeronautics.

**Josh Olds ('11, '15)**, who is the vice president of operations and co-founder of the Unmanned Safety Institute, was named the first place winner in the individual Airmanship and Contribution to the UAS Industry category of the XCELLENCE Awards by the Association for Unmanned Vehicles Systems International. A Daytona Beach Campus graduate, Olds was an instructor-operator with Textron Unmanned Systems. He went on to serve as an assistant professor and the Gaetz Aerospace Institute UAS program coordinator at Embry-Riddle. In 2014, he co-founded the Unmanned Safety Institute.

**Beau Tatsumura ('11)** was appointed vice president for maintenance and engineering for Hawaiian Airlines. A Worldwide Campus graduate, he joined Hawaiian in 2014 and most recently served as managing director of maintenance operations.

**Shelbey Hooker ('12)** was promoted to director of client support at Cutter Aviation in Phoenix, Arizona. A Worldwide Campus graduate, she started at Cutter in 2009.

**Aaron Trudell ('12)** is an A&P mechanic inspector at the

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office in Jacksonville, Florida. Trudell is also owner of Danger's Sauce LLC, which he established in 2014, and a Daytona Beach Campus graduate.

**Hemali Virani ('12, '14)** received a 2018 Technology Rising Star award at the 2018 Women of Color STEM Conference in Detroit, Michigan. A Daytona Beach Campus graduate, Virani is an operations analyst at Lockheed Martin.

**Ravi Gondaliya ('13, '16)** presented a Talon Talk at the Daytona Beach Campus' 2018 Homecoming. The topic was based on a TEDx talk that he delivered earlier in the year. A Daytona Beach Campus graduate, Gondaliya is a materials and processes engineer at Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation in Savannah, Georgia.

**Cmdr. William Schomer ('13)**, who is the air operations officer for Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, was recently selected as the U.S. Navy Blue Angels' 2019 executive officer. He is a Worldwide Campus graduate.

**Megan McLellan ('15)** is executive director for the Acadiana Regional Airport in Louisiana. A Worldwide Campus graduate, McLellan has more than 16 years of experience in the aviation industry and has served as the Department of Transportation and Development Aviation program manager.

**Christopher A. Salley ('15)**, who is the sales and marketing manager for National Jets, was named one of *Airport Business* 2018 Top 40 Under 40. A Worldwide Campus graduate, Salley volunteers for the South Florida Business Aviation Association and currently serves as the board's vice president. Other alumni named as *Airport Business* 2018 Top 40 Under 40 include **Scott B. Hill ('09, '11)** and **Zachary D. Oakley ('16)**. A Worldwide Campus graduate, Hill is interim division manager of infrastructure — asset management at Houston Airport System. Oakley, also a Worldwide Campus graduate, is deputy director of operations and planning at Chicago Rockford International Airport.

**Marc Sklar ('15)**, a Worldwide Campus graduate, was named director of communications for the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum. Previously, he spent 16 years with The Boeing Company.

**1st Lt. Jonathan D. Wright ('15)**, son of **Lt. Col. John A. Wright ('84)**, completed training as one of two first-ever U.S. Air Force EA-18G "Growler" pilots. A Daytona Beach graduate, he is assigned to the 390th Electronic Combat Squadron "Wild Boars" at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington, and deployed on his first combat tour.

**Fátima González Carriles ('16)**, a Daytona Beach Campus graduate, is working at Sapphire Viajes, a Madrid, Spain, travel agency she created with her sister. The agency specializes in customized luxury trips around the world, including itineraries for golfers. Carriles played on Embry-Riddle's Women's Golf Team and competed in the Symetra Tour, Santander Tour and NWGA Tour.

**Diana Dunham ('16, '18)** is an office manager at Tread Corporation in Roanoke, Virginia. A Worldwide Campus graduate, she previously worked in a support role at the Florida NextGen Test Bed at Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach Campus.

**James Avila ('17)**, a Worldwide Campus graduate, was promoted to program subcontracts manager at Northrop Grumman Innovation Systems.

**Joseph Chin ('18)**, a Worldwide Campus graduate, was hired as senior manager and head of supply chain North America for Ceratizit Group in 2018.

## Marriages/ Engagements

## 1980s

**Brian Q. Porter ('85, '96)**, a Daytona Beach Campus graduate, married his partner of 18 years, Rick Howard,

in a ceremony in Key West on Nov. 21, 2017. For more than 18 years, he has been a captain flying for USA Jet Airlines. He served in the U.S. Army from 1987 to 1993.

**Capt. J.J. Garcia ('86)**, who is a Worldwide Campus graduate, and René Burt married March 19, 2016, at a stone chapel in Prospect Plantation, Jamaica. After brief stays in Miami, Florida, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, the Garcias have been

residents since July 2016 of Lantau Island in Hong Kong, where they manage business jets globally for private clients.

## 1990s

**Helmuth Eggeling ('98)** and Loida Gutiérrez are engaged to be married. A Worldwide Campus graduate, Eggeling flew Gutiérrez in a Cessna 182 to the Grand Canyon Airport on

April 15, 2018, and proposed at the South Rim. They planned to wed on Jan. 26, 2019.

## 2000s

**Mirakel G. Mayoral ('06)** is engaged to be married to Andrew E. Goodwin of Houston, Texas. Goodwin proposed on Oct. 31, 2018. They will be married on Dec. 1, 2019, in Houston, Texas.



## Other

**Brian Gamage ('95)** and **Bob Temple ('93)**, who became friends while students at Embry-Riddle, recently met in Seattle, Washington. Gamage, a Daytona Beach Campus graduate, is director of emerging solutions for Global Strategic Partnerships at IBM in Atlanta, Georgia. A Prescott Campus graduate, Temple works for Disney, managing its mobile application development organization. Gamage also recently met with **Fathi Hakam ('95, '97)**, a Daytona Beach Campus graduate, in California. Hakam is a senior vice president of engineering at AirMap in California.

**Stan Kuliavas ('04)** and **Andy Wilson ('12)**, both Daytona Beach Campus graduates and sales representatives for Pilatus Aircraft, hosted a group of Associate Professor Blaise Waguespack's students at the 2018 NBAA-Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition static display at Orlando Executive Airport.

**Capt. John "JC" Christian ('13)**, college relations consultant Lauren Isaacs, first officer **Dane Berger ('18)**, college relations consultant Megan Ley and first officer **Samuel Lee ('18)**, all employees of Republic Airlines, visited the Daytona Beach Campus on Aug. 24, 2018.

**Jorge and Kelly Torres ('13)**, **Chelsea Doerper ('12)**, **Samantha Gillespie ('13)** and **Robert and Rowena Morehead ('11)** traveled across the country to spend a week together in Daytona Beach. The group of alumni stopped at the Daytona Beach Campus' Office of Alumni Engagement during their visit to the area, which was their fourth annual post-graduation reunion.

**Toby Kleff ('13)** and **Gary Knight ('11)** visited Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach Campus on Sept. 10, 2018, to show off the ICON A5 amphibious aircraft.

**Capt. Jean Mbog ('13)** and **Tennessee Garvey ('08)**, who are both active in the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals'



(OBAP) Aerospace Professionals in School program, recently visited five schools in Kingston, Jamaica, to get students excited about the aviation industry. Mbog is a captain for Mesa Airlines in Houston, Texas, and serves as Southwest U.S. Region and Africa Director for OBAP. Garvey is a first officer at JetBlue Airways and is based in Boston, Massachusetts. Mbog and Garvey are pictured in front of Jamaica College.

**Capt. Chris Hutto ('14)** and **First Officer Anders Maxwell ('18)** recently piloted a flight on which their former teacher, Associate Professor of Aeronautical Science **Carolina Anderson ('02, '13)**, was a passenger.

**U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt. Lawrence Duncan ('18)** and **Oriole Le ('15, '17)**, who is an aviation engineer at HNTB, met each other at the Airport Minority Advisory Council's (AMAC) 34th Annual Airport Business Diversity Conference in Seattle. "We ran into each other and thought it was a good opportunity to show some Riddle pride," says Le, a Daytona Beach Campus graduate. Duncan is a Daytona Beach Campus graduate and AMAC intern.

**Max Meintgens ('17)**, **Michelle Buhl ('17)** and **Christian Spann ('16)**, who are all from Frankfurt, Germany, returned to the Daytona Beach Campus for 2018 Homecoming. All three were graduate business students at the Daytona Beach Campus. Now, Buhl is a consultant at Lufthansa Consulting; Meintgens is a senior consultant and Spann is a senior analyst, both at zeroG, a subsidiary of Lufthansa Systems. "Coming back to Daytona feels like coming home every time," Buhl says.

## Daytona Athletics Hall of Fame

Five alumni were inducted into the Daytona Beach Campus' Athletics Hall of Fame in a ceremony held Jan. 18, 2019. Inductees include **Evans Kirwa ('14)**, men's cross country/track; **Kevin Maloney ('13, '16)**, baseball; **LaSha (Moton) Jean-Louis ('99)**, volleyball; **Ryan Rothrock ('02)**, men's basketball; and **Howard Walls ('10, '12)** (posthumously), men's track and field. Walls' award was accepted by his father, Howard Walls Sr.

## TALKING TAILWINDS



## Prescott Campus Student Life

*John Molnar ('89) helps solve the mystery behind this photo, which published in the fall 2018 edition of Lift.*

I was in the 1989 graduating class at Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach Campus. An old classmate, Tara Alexander ('91), contacted me when the fall 2018 edition of *Lift* came out. She spotted me in the *Tailwinds* picture.

I am in the first row, in the middle, lying on the ground and wearing very big glasses (the style at the time). I am wearing short shorts and no shirt (also the style at the time). Oh god! I was about 20 years old. I was at the Prescott Campus in 1986 and 1987. This was taken around August 1987, right before I transferred to the Daytona Beach Campus.

If my memory recalls, we were just finishing up an intramural flag football game. A photographer was there and he asked if we wanted a group photo to remember the day by. As for the others in the photo, their faces look familiar but I cannot remember their names. The gentleman in the second row, wearing big sunglasses, on the left side with his right fist in the air was one of my suite mates. His first name is Jamie, but that is all I remember.

### My Story

After graduating from Embry-Riddle, I went back to Pennsylvania to continue my education at Marywood University in Scranton. I went for a masters in management information systems. While at Marywood University, I started dating a girl by the name of Mary, and we were married in 1993.

In my last semester at Marywood, I was employed by a German software company called SAP. I was with SAP until 1998, when I formed my software company, Integrated Software Solutions Inc.

In 2017, I left the consulting world and went to work full time with The Walt Disney Company in Orlando, Florida, as an integration analyst for Global HR Operations.

I have been married to Mary for 25 fantastic years. We have two sons, Daniel and Joseph, who work for the Cape Canaveral Port Authority and Florida Fish and Wildlife, respectively.

Go Eagles!  
John Molnar ('89)

**Helen Wessel** • July 4, 1925 - Jan. 12, 2019



Artist and educator Helen Wessel (HonDoc '17), of South Daytona, Florida, had a relationship with the university that spanned nearly two decades and left an enduring mark on the Daytona Beach Campus.

"Helen Wessel's generosity to Embry-Riddle encompassed both the arts and sciences. She funded iconic artwork throughout the Daytona Beach Campus and enriched cultural life with an endowment that brings live performances to students," says Embry-Riddle President P. Barry Butler. "[Additionally] her support made our aerospace physiology degree possible."

Growing up in Cincinnati, Wessel studied at the Cincinnati Art Academy in high school and earned degrees in art and education from the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Architecture and Art.

Later, she became one of the first students to earn her master's degree from Harvard University's art education program. She earned a Ph.D. in art education from the University of Cincinnati and then spent 20 years educating art teachers there, eventually becoming head of the department.

One of Wessel's most popular stories to tell was how she and her late husband, Bob, first discovered Embry-Riddle when Bob was flying a Piper Cub out of Lunken Airport in Cincinnati, Ohio — Embry-Riddle's birthplace. She and Embry-Riddle shared the same birth year (1925) and birth city. For more about Wessel, visit: [lift.erau.edu/art-arts-sake](http://lift.erau.edu/art-arts-sake).

## 1950s

**James B. Woodliff ('58)**  
Sept. 14, 2018

**Garland Frederick Withers ('59)**  
Aug. 22, 2018

## 1960s

**Andrew C. Deas ('60)**  
May 15, 2018

**Loren "Jake" A. Jacobson ('60)**  
Sept. 30, 2018

**George B. Sullivan ('60)**  
July 12, 2018

**Daniel Andrew Yaklin ('62)**  
Nov. 17, 2018

**Chester Allen "Al" Stine Jr. ('65)**  
July 9, 2018

**Elmo Torres Jr. ('66)**  
Oct. 10, 2018

## 1970s

**Retired U.S. Army Maj. J. Michael Borland ('74)**  
May 3, 2018

**Tom Harlan Thompson ('74)**  
July 24, 2018

**James "Jim" Ray Garner ('75)**  
Sept. 23, 2018

**George F. "Jeff" Condrey ('76)**  
July 21, 2018

**Fay Jung ('76)**  
July 31, 2018

**Retired U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Carl E. Midkiff ('76)**  
April 24, 2018

**James "Jay" Shannon McCain III ('77)**  
Nov. 17, 2018

## 1980s

**Retired U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Norman George Brander ('81)**  
Nov. 7, 2018

**Alan C. Fisher ('81)**  
July 18, 2018

**Retired Col. Jerry L. Sinclair ('82)**  
June 3, 2018

**Neil Currier ('86)**  
Oct. 2, 2018

**Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Gregory A. Stevens ('87)**  
July 6, 2018

## In Memoriam

**Carl J. Puntureri ('88)**  
Nov. 18, 2018

**David Hall ('89)**  
Nov. 16, 2018

## 1990s

**Kathleen M. Carroll ('90)**  
June 28, 2018

**Benjamin Peter Tibbetts ('91)**  
June 6, 2018

**Clayton Kaoao Forsythe ('92)**  
May 30, 2018

**Benjamin A. Silver ('93)**  
May 9, 2018

**James C. Buck ('94)**  
May 18, 2018

**Jim Cook ('94)**  
Sept. 14, 2018

**Brian Calvin Hooker ('94)**  
July 28, 2018

**United Airlines Capt. Willmore J. Stuart ('95, '11)**  
Aug. 12, 2018

**Vincent Lewis "Vince" Caruana ('97)**  
Aug. 29, 2018

**Gi H. Bae ('98, '01)**  
June 24, 2010

## 2000s

**Brian Michael Blazik ('00)**  
Oct. 16, 2017

**Michael P. LaPlante ('00, '02)**  
Sept. 3, 2018

**Todd Lee McNamee ('00, '04)**  
Nov. 1, 2018

**Retired U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Ronald Allen Bricker ('01)**  
July 23, 2018

**Reagan Kyle "Shaggy" Whitlow ('03)**  
Sept. 26, 2018

**U.S. Army Capt. Charles D. "Chip" Ladd ('05)**  
May 1, 2018

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

**Kathleen Campanaro ('09, '16)**  
Daytona Beach Campus  
Admissions Counselor  
July 14, 2018

## 2010s

**U.S. Marine Capt. Jahmar F. Resilard ('12)**  
Dec. 6, 2018

**Brandon Louis Jones ('13)**  
Aug. 18, 2018

**U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Taylor Galvin ('16)**  
Aug. 20, 2018

## OTHER

**Neil A. Armstrong**  
Former Daytona Beach Campus  
Adjunct Faculty  
Nov. 27, 2018

**Jonathan D. Bahr**  
Prescott Campus Student  
June 9, 2018

**Adam Hostetter Kelly**  
Daytona Beach Campus Student  
Nov. 9, 2018

**U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Joshua L. Kidd**  
Worldwide Campus Student  
Sept. 25, 2018

**Former Naval ROTC Unit Commander Capt. Randall J. Lynch**  
Nov. 16, 2018

**Margaret T. Mishoe**  
Former Daytona Beach Campus Faculty  
Oct. 22, 2018

**U.S. Air Force Sr. Master Sgt. Harold Robert Mosley II**  
Worldwide Campus Student  
Nov. 23, 2018

**Malcolm "Mac" Romeiser**  
Former Prescott Campus Faculty  
Sept. 29, 2018

**Andrew James "Drew" Swenson**  
Daytona Beach Campus Student  
Aug. 25, 2018

**John Paul Wheeler**  
Former Daytona Beach Campus Faculty  
Sept. 26, 2018

**HELP US MEMORIALIZE EMBRY-RIDDLE EAGLES** Notify the alumni engagement office at [eralumni@erau.edu](mailto:eralumni@erau.edu), if you are aware of any classmates who have died. For obituaries and up-to-date death notices, visit [alumni.erau.edu/passings](http://alumni.erau.edu/passings).



# TAILWINDS

## Are You in This Picture?

Do you remember this moment, captured at the John Paul Riddle Student Center at the Daytona Beach Campus? We're guessing this photo was taken at an on-campus concert of some kind, circa 1980s. 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

NOTE: With the construction of the new Student Union, the John Paul Riddle Student Center was demolished in February 2019, to create a multi-purpose green space for students.