



Alamo Chapter AEF Has Successful Year

The Alamo Chapter Aerospace Education Foundation had a busy and successful year in 2009. In the “what have you done for Airmen lately” category, there is quite an extensive list of people the AEF feels most fortunate to have been able to help. Since the founder, Dr. Kaye Biggar, created this foundation, the emphasis has been focused heavily on “Supporting Airmen.” In 2009, the AEF was fortunate to have fund-raising successes. As a direct result, the AEF was able to kick it up a couple of notches and do more for Air Education and Training Command Airmen, junior ROTC units, college ROTC units and other organizations. In 2009, the AEF was able to provide over \$30,000 of support for scholarships to members of: Air Force Junior ROTC Units, Alamo Chapter family scholarships, Arnold Air Society, Randolph AFB and Lackland AFB Community College of the Air Force programs, Robert D. Gaylor NCO Academy, Texas A&M University, Texas State University, the University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

The way ahead for 2010 looks even better. The AEF looks to increase our support, particularly in scholarship donations and direct support for Airmen and family scholarships. The AEF values the Air Force family for all of the support it gives to the mission. In turn, the AEF will continue to support the mission of the Air Force Association: Educate, Advocate, Support.

AFA and Microsoft Announce Software for *CyberPatriot*

In conjunction with the Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS), the Air Force Association announced Microsoft’s support for *CyberPatriot*, a one-of-a-kind nationwide high school cyber defense competition.

CyberPatriot is uniquely accessible to hundreds of high schools and likely the largest simultaneous high school cyber defense competition ever conducted. The scope of the competition is possible because the preparation and initial competitive phases are conducted entirely over the Internet. This year, teams from more than 200 high schools competed.

Microsoft will support the completion of this multi-stage computer security competition by providing software, including Windows Server, at no cost for all of the teachers and students participating. Students will then use the Microsoft software for learning, preparing, and competing in the event.

AFA’s *CyberPatriot* program has been ambitiously expanded in just its second year to offer this hands-on learning experience to as many students as possible, currently more than 1,000 students in teams of up to five from each school, and has room to continue

growing next year. Limited to Air Force Junior ROTC and Civil Air Patrol high school students this year, the program will be offered to non-JROTC high schools beginning this spring. This AFA initiative promotes student career interest in cyber security and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics career fields, in keeping with AFA's chartered mission to promote aerospace education.

The competition began November 7, narrowing the field in three successive rounds to the "elite eight" teams, who will compete in the championship round February 19 in Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with AFA's annual Air Warfare Symposium at the Rosen Shingle Creek Convention Center. Teams in the finals are from Arizona, California, Florida, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New York (2), and Utah. The winner in Orlando will attend the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition in April and serve on the control team.

"We are extremely grateful for Microsoft's generous support of this exciting project," said S. Sanford Schlitt, AFA's Vice Chairman for Aerospace Education. "This software will greatly enrich the learning experience for all of our future *CyberPatriot* teams."

For more information on *CyberPatriot II* see [CyberPatriot II](#), especially: [CyberPatriot II Video](#).

Sandy Schlitt Sends a Newsletter Message to Teachers

As the New Year begins, the school year enters its second half and AFA begins its awards and recognition cycle for the year. "Teacher of the Year" is a special program recognizing STEM oriented classroom innovations and initiatives at the local, state and national level. At the local level, each chapter has the opportunity to identify and select a teacher in its surrounding community(ies). The Chapter Teacher of the Year receives a \$250 cash award, an AFA tote bag and AFA certificate. The Chapter winners are then eligible to compete for the \$500 State Teacher of the Year Award. And, the State winners are eligible for the National Aerospace Teacher of the Year award, which includes a \$3,000 award and trip to Washington, DC.

In 2009 William L. Austin, a dedicated teacher at Pocalla Springs Elementary School in Sumter, South Carolina, became the 24th recipient of the prestigious National Aerospace Teacher of the Year Award. The \$3,000 cash award was presented at AFA's Air and Space Conference. Also, earning cash awards of \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively for second and third place were Dr. Myra Halpern of South Carolina and Matthew Smith of Utah.

Mr. Austin strongly believes in the importance of education, particularly the need for quality science and math education, that is the underpinning of aerospace development and many other professions. In a 15-year teaching career, he has instilled a love of learning and science in many students. He also shares his practical knowledge with other upcoming science teachers as an adjunct professor at the College of Charleston and formerly at the Citadel Military College.

In 2004, the 19th annual winner was Dan Caron of New Hampshire. He developed an outstanding Computer Engineering program at Kingswood High School, requiring all

students to participate in public outreach within the community. He also developed an E-mentor program which involves the student and an individual from the aerospace industry. He teaches a comprehensive model rocketry unit in which students build their own model rocket while learning about Newton's Three Laws of Motion. His dedication and determination in teaching students about science and the importance of aerospace education were key to his selection as Teacher of the Year.

Patrick A. Welsh, a teacher at D.W. Daniel High School in Central, South Carolina, was the 20th recipient of the award. Welsh developed both an AP physics class and a TP physics program. The entire AP physics curriculum deals with Newtonian Mechanics and the TP program devotes about two-thirds of the program to motion. Aerospace topics are liberally incorporated into each of the courses. In the AP Physics class, simple harmonic motion and exponential growth and decay are covered and the class finishes with a unit on gravitation and the physics of spaceflight. The TP class covers units on electrostatics, DC circuits, waves and sound. He is a truly "rounded" teacher who excels in the teaching profession and contributes to his community through programs such as the Habitat for Humanity.

Susan Rippe, a teacher at Olathe Northwest High School located in Olathe, Kansas, was the 21st National Teacher of the Year. Rippe, a teacher with over twenty year's experience, developed an outstanding three-year aerospace and engineering program. The program is unique because it integrates curriculum with hands-on experience which benefits students by preparing them for future careers in engineering and aviation. They have the opportunity to learn the curriculum and then apply it in real-world internships. This allows students to see the value of the high school curriculum by successfully attaining college scholarships to allow them to continue their studies.

Jennifer Sinsel, a fifth grade teacher at Wichita Collegiate School in Wichita, Kansas, was the 22nd National Teacher of the Year named in the honor of educator/astronaut Christa McAuliffe. Sinsel has received numerous awards for her teaching. In addition, she is an accomplished author with four publications to her credit including *Just the Facts: Earth and Space Science—A Teacher's Guide with Standards-Based Activities in Earth and Space Science*. Sinsel is also an active member in several professional organizations including the National Science Teachers Association and the Kansas Association for Teachers of Science.

In 2008, Leo Murphy, a teacher at Choctawhatchee and Crestview High Schools in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, was the 23rd recipient of the prestigious National Aerospace Teacher of the Year Award. Murphy incorporates guest speakers, field trips and hands-on activities to get his students excited about careers in aviation and aerospace. In addition to his teaching, Murphy developed a local, low-cost, college degree completion alternative that allows his students to live at home and attend nearby state junior colleges and universities to obtain an Associates of Science degree in Professional Aeronautics.

Many of YOU are naturals for these awards, and I encourage you to contact your nearest AFA chapter or state leadership to apply. Your local chapter may be the sponsor of your VISIONS program (see: [Visions of Exploration](#)), so give them a call and

join the competition! Details of the competition are found at the AFA website at [Teacher of the Year Awards](#).

Sandy Schlitt, AFA Vice Chairman, Aerospace Education

And Speaking of VISIONS ...

If you haven't checked out the [USA Today Education](#) website in a while, it is probably worth a return visit. You'll find more information on AFA's Visions of Exploration Program, but also a variety of other STEM programs that are available online free and available to anyone.

Florida AFA Sponsors Drill Competition Trophies

Richard Ortega, AFA Florida Vice President for Aerospace Education, reports that AFA Florida and local chapters have pooled their funds to purchase 33 trophies for the 2010 AFA Florida 22nd Annual AFJROTC Drill Competition.

Special commendations are extended to Earnest Webster, AFA Florida Treasurer, for his tireless efforts in maintaining a current and accurate record of all monies received.

The competition will be held Saturday, March 20, 2010 at the University of South Florida (USF), 4202 East Fowler Avenue, in Tampa, Florida.

AFA Member Mentors Chantilly High School STEM Students

Ms. Angela Wallace, AFA Gabriel Chapter member and Principal at Booz Allen Hamilton, kicked off the Chantilly High School – Air Force Association Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) mentorship lectures for this school year on November 4. Ms. Wallace shared her extensive space and satellite communications engineering experiences in a motivational slide show.

Forty math, engineering and physics high school students voluntarily attended during their free period. Ms. Nancy Holincheck and Ms. Karen Malloy (AFA Gabriel Chapter Teacher of the Year) set up the session for the aspiring technicians and engineers. Students asked a variety of questions with topics from their upcoming Science Fair to engineering career queries. The Air Force Association offered mentors for Science Fair Projects and will return with a team to judge the fair in February 2010.

The University of Texas at San Antonio ROTC Unit Ranked Number One

Tom Peterson, Alamo Chapter Secretary, forwarded an article from the San Antonio Express News indicating that the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 842 at UTSA has been ranked by the Air Force as the number one overall large unit in the nation. UTSA garnered the Right of Line Award, the most prestigious honor given to an Air Force ROTC unit. UTSA beat out competitors such as Texas A&M, Purdue and Ohio State.

The Alamo Chapter has a very active role in supporting the UTSA Detachment. Many cadets are members of the Alamo Chapter and participate in numerous recognition programs.

The unit has grown by six percent over the past decade to 226 cadets and is the second-largest unit in the state behind Texas A&M. Last year, UTSA produced 36 commissioned officers for the U.S. Air Force.

2010 Educational Events

For an overview of future AFA educational events see: [Upcoming Educational Events](#).

Aerospace Education Newsletter Editor Feels Like the “Maytag Man”

Buster Horlen is feeling like the forgotten “Maytag Repair Man” because his email inbox sits empty. He knows that chapters are doing great aerospace education things, but they are failing to send him a story. As you can see from this month’s newsletter, he did not even receive one photograph for the publication.

Sandy Schlitt, Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education, has repeatedly invited everyone to send stories and photographs about their Chapter’s great aerospace education endeavors. You do not have to be a great journalist — just compose some paragraphs defining who, what, where, when and why. Include an email photo that editor Buster Horlen (bhorlen@sbcglobal.net) can use in the newsletter and we will do the rest.

Share your successes with other AFA Aerospace enthusiasts! Submit your story today directly to Buster or to AENewsletter@afa.org.