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Dear AIAA Member,

As I look back at April, it's hard to believe all that we've experienced as a community. The month was really put into perspective when I had the chance to experience the full solar eclipse in Indianapolis, Indiana, with my family. What a mind-bending experience. Sunset all around, animals wondering what was happening, and importantly the general public, who are not normally thinking about the wonders of the universe, were paying close attention.

There are so many AIAA updates from April, and many more events to look forward to in the coming months.

## **Students Gained Hands-On Experience at DBF Competition**

Kudos to the AIAA DBF Organizing Committee who hosted another excellent competition! The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual AIAA Design/Build/Fly Competition was a valuable learning experience – and a whole lot of fun – during a long weekend in April. The event topped the record numbers from last year with nearly 1,100 students and 93 university teams attending the competition. It was thrilling to watch these students

work together within their team and support other universities' teams in need as well. ICYMI, you can read *Aerospace America's* coverage of the event in [a story by Staff Writer Paul Brinkmann](#).

This event is a prime example of the power of AIAA volunteers. We appreciate the vital contributions of our event host and sponsor, Textron Aviation, and the event sponsors: Raytheon, An RTX Business; AIAA Foundation; AeroVironment; General Atomics; and MathWorks. Thank you to everyone who made DBF such a success!



*Students from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University gather around the winning aircraft in the Design/Build/Fly competition. Photo Credit: Paul Brinkmann*

## **2024 AIAA DEFENSE Forum Delivered Valuable Insights**

We were pleased to experience such a successful 2024 AIAA DEFENSE Forum at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland. Attendees discussed the need for rapid adaptation of cutting-edge technology solutions for operators and explored the critical role of the science and technology community in providing innovative and operationally relevant capabilities to dominate the battlespace. There is clearly an appetite for this type of discussion, with about 33% more presentations over last year and 15% more people in attendance. We are grateful to our sponsors and supporters, whose generous contributions enabled AIAA to provide our community with deep knowledge transfer, impressive technology advancement, and countless valuable exchanges.



## Regional Student Conferences Feature Student Research

It's been another exciting season of AIAA Regional Student Conferences. I was pleased to attend the Region V conference at Saint Louis University, meeting all the students there and hearing about their new research across aerospace. I was especially impressed to hear talks on ethics in space. More than 260 papers were presented by university and high school students across six regions, with over 900 students and professionals in attendance. We are thrilled to be publishing the students' papers on [Aerospace Research Central](#) (ARC) later this year. You can hear the first-place winners presenting their papers at the AIAA International Student Conference held in conjunction with the 2025 AIAA SciTech Forum, 6–10 January 2025, in Orlando, Florida. Many thanks to Lockheed Martin, the generous sponsor of these conferences, in addition to the many other regional sponsors, the organizing committees, and the judges. Read more about all the winners in the May AIAA Bulletin within [Aerospace America](#).

## Recognize Members Who Have Made Notable Contributions to the Industry

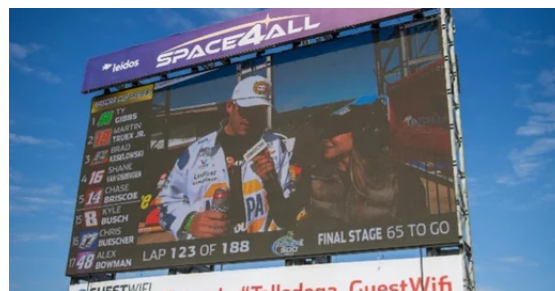
Do you know an AIAA member who has made outstanding contributions to the aerospace industry? Shine a spotlight on their stellar leadership and contributions

by nominating them for [member advancement](#) and elevate them to an elite class of AIAA members. Please note **the new deadline** for nominations for Honorary Fellows and Fellows is **1 June**.

## Space4All Launches, Space Day Coming Up

We are seeing enthusiasm build for the new Space4All national STEM awareness campaign! One of the kickoff events was held during April at the NASCAR Cup Series GEICO 500 at Talladega, Alabama, with AIAA Corporate Member Leidos, as well as 23XI Racing and driver #23 Bubba Wallace. From the press conference to the Talladega Superspeedway billboard, to the #23 car, Space4All was highly visible for the onsite crowd of approximately 100,000 fans and 4.5 million people viewing the broadcast. We were honored to include two powerful spokespeople in the weekend event: Leland Melvin, former NASA Astronaut and 2024 AIAA Public Service Award winner, and Sian Proctor, commercial Inspiration4 astronaut. Leland and Sian shared the inspirational message that there are a multitude of career opportunities in space and STEM fields with a group of young people from the Boys and Girls Club while everyone enjoyed the day at the racetrack.

All AIAA members can get involved in the campaign by using the new hashtag **#Space4All** in your social media interactions and viewing the campaign website: [Space4All.us](https://Space4All.us). To learn more, you can check out the photos in the [Flickr album](#) and watch [this video](#) featuring Sian Proctor sharing the intent and excitement around the campaign.





Join in the campaign this week as we celebrate Space Day on 3 May. Teachers of 4th and 5th grade students can receive a curriculum packet and educational materials to give their students a look into the science and technology that will shape their generation's future – on this planet and beyond. Check out all the details [online](#).

## AIAA AVIATION Forum + ASCEND Coming Up

Two of our signature events are set for one venue – [2024 AIAA AVIATION Forum](#) and [2024 ASCEND](#) during July and August. You can review the [technical programs and many high-level sessions](#) now; stay tuned as speakers and sessions are added. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there.





## Thank You, AIAA Volunteers!

During the month of April, we get to show our appreciation for the incredible hard work of AIAA volunteers. Your work is remarkable. I especially want to thank our Board of Trustees (below from September 2023 meeting) for their dedication to serving AIAA. They are several of the thousands of active AIAA volunteers who work together for the good of our Institute. We look forward to welcoming new members of the Board during our next meeting in May.

Thank you, AIAA volunteers, for all you do to shape the future of aerospace.



## On the Horizon

- [2024 AIAA Awards Gala](#), 15 May, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC
- 2025 AIAA SciTech Forum Call for Content [due 23 May](#)
- [2024 AIAA AVIATION Forum](#), 29 July–2 August, Las Vegas, Nevada
- [2024 ASCEND](#), 30 July–1 August, Las Vegas, Nevada
- 2025 AIAA DEFENSE Forum Call for Presentations [due 15 August](#)

All the Best,

Dan



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