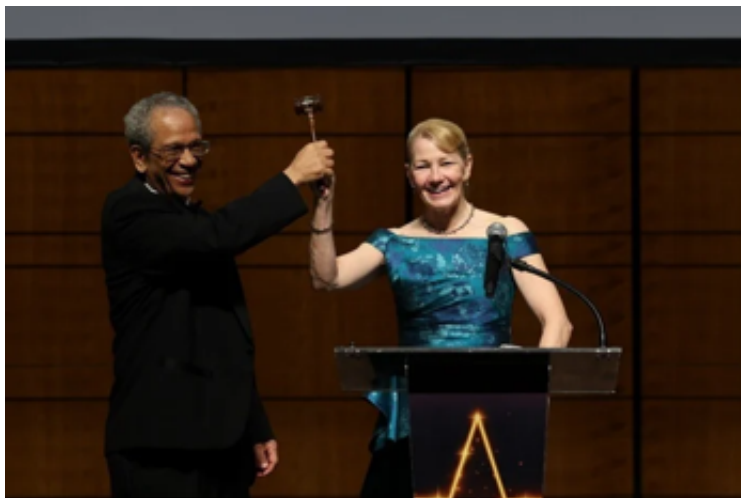FROM DAN'S DESK

Dear AIAA Member,

During the month of May, we get the opportunity to interact and engage with so many AIAA members, to strategize the future of the Institute, celebrate career accomplishments, get inspired about the future, and so much more. It's been invigorating to be part of these events and spend time together with the AIAA community. AIAA student members and young professionals continually reinforce optimism for the future of the aerospace community. We discussed this in the column, "Inspired By The Next Generation," in the June issue of *Aerospace America* (available online 1 June).

We celebrated member accomplishments during the 2024 AIAA Awards Gala in Washington, DC, when we presented Premier Awards and celebrated members achieving the rank of AIAA Fellow and AIAA Honorary Fellow. The sold-out evening was an extraordinary gathering of the aerospace community. ICYMI: Enjoy the photo album from the evening **here**.

Spring is the Season for AIAA Business Meetings

Leaders from the AIAA Board of Trustees, Council of Directors, Board Directed Committee Chairs, and our Domain Leads met to strategize and move the Institute forward. We witnessed the official transition of leadership to our newly elected leaders, as well as welcoming Dan Hastings as AIAA President, Dan Jenson as AIAA Chair of the Council of Directors, and Laura McGill as AIAA Foundation President. We also have begun hosting a virtual Town Hall Meeting for the extended group of volunteer leaders in the weeks immediately following Board Meetings. Thank you all for your commitment to shaping the future of aerospace.

Congratulations Graduates!

The Class of 2024 has been showing its AIAA pride wearing the official AIAA stole – check out these smiling faces! Please send us your graduation photos and we'll continue sharing on the AIAA social media accounts.

Regional Student Conferences Highlight Student Research

This year's AIAA Regional Student Conferences showcased the research of our university members in Regions I–VI with more than 90 universities represented. (The Region VII Conference is held in November.) I enjoy attending this annual event and interacting with our student members. There were 268 papers presented across all the conferences. All were top quality, reflecting the high caliber of the students and their academic programs. They will be published on Aerospace Research Central (ARC) in the coming months. We are fortunate that accomplished professors are preparing the next generation of aerospace professionals by enabling challenging research and vigorous technical exchanges. Check out the photos in the **Flickr album**.

Anticipation Building Around AVIATION Forum + ASCEND

The Early Bird Registration Deadline is 10 June for two of our signature events – **2024 AIAA AVIATION Forum** and **2024 ASCEND**. Make your plans to attend now. Review the **technical programs and many high-level sessions** as the agendas are being finalized. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there.

On the Horizon

- **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**

We hope everyone had a chance during the Memorial Day holiday weekend to take a moment and express gratitude for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and way of life. Each year we take the time to say thank you. I am

always amazed at how quiet – literally you can hear a pin drop – when 400,000 people at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway spend a solemn moment during the pre-race playing of "Taps." Thank you to those who have paid the ultimate price and those who have served our nation, its citizens, and free people around the world.

All the Best,

Dan

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