



## NORTHWEST FLORIDA SECTION



## New Look

Hopefully you noticed the new look to the newsletter. Our previous newsletter was using outdated AIAA graphics, so headquarters gave us an upgrade on our graphics to match the national graphic design.

## Feedback Results

In the last newsletter, we mentioned that you could participate in a survey to help the section know what matters to you. That way, we can try to do the activities, meetings, etc that are important to the members. Thankfully, some of you responded



The results were not wholly unexpected: the members want Tech Talks, Lunch & Learns, and other speakers. We're definitely working on those! Due to COVID, we may even be able to get speakers that we normally wouldn't by doing virtual meetings, but HQ is still working on that. We also heard that Digital Engineering is a big topic now and we agree. Look for that topic coming in the future. While most people were from FWB and Niceville, there is interest in Panama City as well. We hear you! If you missed the survey and have ideas or comments, reach out to us:

[nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com](mailto:nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com)

## Fall 2020 Newsletter

Contributors:

Micah Reese, Ryan Sherrill, Alex Straub

Micah Reese and Ryan Sherrill, editors

## Up Front

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## LOCAL ACTIVITY

### 24 September - **Loads, Stresses, Materials, Safety Margin, and Ground Verification Testing**

Ken Blackburn held a Zoom meeting with the students at NWF to give them a presentation about this important topic.

### 29 September - **Lunch & Learn - What is WoAA?**

Since we have the national Chair of the Women of Aeronautics and Astronautics (WoAA) as a new section officer, we took the opportunity to have Alex Straub tell us more about this national committee. As a section, we are also looking for ways to help Alex grow WoAA. For more information about Alex, see page 5.

### 29 October - **Lunch & Learn - Race, Gender, and Inclusion**

Once an organization includes individuals from diverse backgrounds, how do they ensure they're taking advantage of the varied strengths and skills? Inclusion is the key. AFRL/RWM's Division Chief Ms. Segrid Harris discussed her experiences with Dr. Angela Diggs surrounding race, gender, and inclusion.

### 12-November - **Tech Talk - Multi-agent Navigation in GPS-Denied Environments**

This talk discussed recent AFRL and university collaborations enabling cooperative navigation in GPS-denied environments for teams of fixed-wing unmanned air vehicles. Presented by our Technical Chair, Dr. Kevin Brink.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### E-Week is Coming!

Engineers Week is in late February. Look for more information on events coming through Engage and the next newsletter.

## K-12 STEM OUTREACH

The NWF AIAA Chapter was awarded a \$20,000 2020 FIRST® STEM Equity Community Innovation Grant. This grant will help bring robotics into the classroom utilizing FIRST Robotics Class and School Packs. Read more about the packs [here](#) to learn more about them.

### STEM Outreach Volunteer Opportunity



Even in COVID-19 times, the show must go on and FIRST Robotics is no exception! The 2020-2021 robotics season is still a go and volunteers are needed! See the schedule above and go [here](#) to register as a volunteer! Even if you can only volunteer for one event, you can provide a learning opportunity to upcoming scientists and engineers! If you have any questions, please contact the NWF AIAA K-12 Outreach Chair, Judith Sherrill, at [nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com](mailto:nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com).

## **NATIONAL AIAA NEWS**

### **e-Membership Going Away**

If any of our members are registered as an “e-Member”, that membership type is no longer offered and you will need to change your membership to another type (Professional, Educator, Student, Corporate, or Associate) when you renew.

### **Candidates for 2021 AIAA Council of Directors Election**

Elections will open 27 January 2021. Follow the link for the list of candidates.

## **UPCOMING NATIONAL AIAA EVENTS**

### **ASCEND – Accelerating Space Commerce Exploration and New Discovery**

16 NOVEMBER - 18 NOVEMBER 2020  
Online

As we embark on a bold new era of space exploration, AIAA’s ASCEND provides you with something few space events can: a seat at the table.

### **2020 Region VII Student Paper Competition & AIAA Sydney Section Student Conference**

25 NOVEMBER - 26 NOVEMBER 2020  
Sydney, NSW (Australia)

### **International Student Conference**

10 JANUARY - 12 JANUARY 2021  
Nashville, Tennessee

### **2021 AIAA Science and Technology Forum and Exposition (AIAA SciTech Forum)**

11 JANUARY - 15 JANUARY 2021  
Nashville, Tennessee

The AIAA SciTech Forum is the world’s largest event for aerospace research, development, and  
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technology. The 2021 forum will bring together experts to share ideas on Fluid Dynamics; Applied Aerodynamics; Guidance, Navigation, and Control; Structures; and much more.

### **Professional Virtual Career Fair**

26 JANUARY 2021 1800 - 2100 (EST)  
Virtual

Speak directly with recruiters through private, one-on-one online chats.

### **31st AAS/AIAA Space Flight Mechanics Meeting**

31 JANUARY - 4 FEBRUARY 2021  
Charlotte, North Carolina

### **2021 IEEE Aerospace Conference**

6 MARCH - 13 MARCH 2021  
Big Sky, Montana

### **Congressional Visits Day 2021**

15 MARCH - 20 MARCH 2021  
Virtual

### **2021 Integrated Communications Navigation and Surveillance Conference (ICNS)**

20 APRIL - 22 APRIL 2021  
Herndon, Virginia

### **AIAA DEFENSE Forum**

20-22 APRIL 2021  
Laurel, Maryland

[See more at the AIAA Events page](#)

## **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

This is a new section of the newsletter! We recognize that there are many relevant events outside of AIAA. If you know of any and want to spread the word, let us know:

[nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com](mailto:nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com)

# MEET A MEMBER

## 1st Lt Alexandra Straub

In this newsletter, we meet Alex Starub, our section's new Career Enhancement/Young Professionals Chair as well as national Chair for an AIAA committee (read about Alex to learn more). Interested in being featured in a future newsletter? Let us know [nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com](mailto:nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com).

### What is your current organization and primary job responsibility?

I'm currently a 1st Lt at AFSEO (Air Force SEEK EAGLE Office). I'm working as a stability and control engineer. We certify new store carriage and different configurations for a variety of aircraft.

### How did you get started in aerospace?

This is my first real aerospace job, but I'm happy to be here. I got interested in aerospace really from the space side of things, and focused on that side in my education. However, in general I've always liked challenges and problem solving and aerospace definitely has some of the coolest and most exciting problems to solve.

### What are you excited about in aerospace's future?

Being a space nerd, I'm really excited about the "democratization of space" phenomenon going on right now, where the barrier of entry is getting lower and lower to put objects into space. It is so exciting how more and more people are able to innovate in the regime. Although there are definitely concerns regarding space traffic, I think it's really exciting to see all of the innovations that have emerged in the last decade.

### What do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time I enjoy hiking and golfing. I'm from Pittsburgh and am a huge Steelers fan, so I spend my Sundays cheering them on. I also spend time working as the chair of the AIAA committee WoAA, which is the Women of Aeronautics and Astronautics. It's a really rewarding committee to be a part of.

### Education:

B.S. Astronautical Engineering - U.S. Air Force Academy

S.M. Aeronautics and Astronautics - MIT



## ABOUT THE SECTION

The Northwest Florida Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc. (AIAA NWFL) is home to 289 members (as of May 2019): 124 professionals, 141 educator associates, and 24 students. The section spans 24 counties across northern Florida from Pensacola to north of Jacksonville. These counties are: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, Hamilton, Suwanee, Lafayette, Columbia, Baker, and Nassau. Most of the aerospace-related activities in the AIAA NWFL section are at military installations in the western panhandle.



### Officer/Chair Email:

[nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com](mailto:nwfl.aiaa@gmail.com)



### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NWFL.AIAA/>



### Twitter:

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<https://engage.aiaa.org/northwestflorida/home>

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

### Chair

Ryan Sherrill

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### Vice Chair

Angela Diggs

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### Secretary

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### Treasurer

Kevin Diggs

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## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Program Chair

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### Technical Chair

Kevin Brink

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### Membership Chair

**Vacant - looking for volunteers**

### Career Enhancement/Young Professionals Chair

Alex Straub

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### Education/Pre-College Outreach Chair

Judith Sherrill

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### Education/College Outreach Chair

John Fay

[john.fay.3.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:john.fay.3.ctr@us.af.mil)

### Honors & Awards Chair

**Vacant - looking for volunteers**

### Public Policy Chair

Michael Kelton

[michael.kelton.1@us.af.mil](mailto:michael.kelton.1@us.af.mil)

### Communications Chair

**Vacant - looking for volunteers**