TEN YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AT THE UT SPACE INSTITUTE

In his tenth year at the UT Space Institute, Prof. Joseph C. (Joe) Majdalani was honored with the Abe M. Zarem Educator Award at the 51st Aerospace Sciences Meeting. The Zarem Educator Award is conferred by the AIAA Foundation to faculty members who showcase a remarkable degree of effectiveness in their mentorship and guidance efforts toward advising graduate students as demonstrated by the graduate students receiving the Abe M. Zarem Award for Distinguished Achievement.

In the past four years, Dr. Majdalani has advised seven graduate students who became recipients of eight best paper awards. In addition to Charles T. Haddad, who won the Zarem Award for Distinguished Achievement in Astronautics, Dr. Majdalani’s group at UTSI has been successful at securing seven Best Papers at the 61st–64th Southeastern Student Conferences. Dr. Majdalani’s team so far has entered these conferences with only seven papers, and returned with one national and seven regional awards. Such unprecedented winning streak is a testimony to the exceptional talent of students and faculty that UTSI attracts. The seven papers in question focus on advanced propulsion concepts that pertain to chemical rockets in which the flow is driven by either wall-normal or wall-tangential injection. They are sponsored, in part, by the National Science Foundation and, in part, by the UT Space Institute. “We are truly blessed,” Dr. Majdalani added, “because it literally takes an act of God to repeatedly win at these highly contested paper championships.”

Dr. Majdalani joined UTSI in 2003 as the Jack D. Whithfield Professor of High Speed Flows. In 2007, he was selected to fill the H. H. Arnold Chair of Excellence in Advanced Propulsion. His interests span the areas of internal aerodynamics, acoustic instability, high-speed gas dynamics, swirl-augmented engine technology, and singular perturbation theory. Dr. Majdalani’s research activities at UTSI have materialized in approximately 145 publications in journals and conference proceedings. These have attracted 14 external awards while contributing to the fulfillment of 14 M.S. and 6 Ph.D. degrees.

AIAA SACRAMENTO SECTION CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Jim Hornick, AIAA Sacramento Section Chair

May 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the combination of the American Rocket Society and the Institute of the Aerospace Sciences. AIAA’s Sacramento Section was founded on 15 May 1963. The Sacramento Section has been promoting professionalism among those involved in the art, science and technology of aeronautics and astronautics since its inception.

Among the section’s recent activities have been hosting technical seminars and advancing STEM studies from K–12 though the university level. In recent years, with the assistance of the GenCorp Foundation, senior-year engineering projects at both CSUS (Sac State) and UCD have been funded to encourage and advance the engineering skills of the students.

In April, a dinner meeting featuring Dr. Paul Bevilacqua (Chief Engineer of the Lockheed Martin Skunk Works) was held at the Aerospace Museum of California. Pictured right were two attendees at that event who represent the 50-year span of AIAA in Sacramento. On the left is Donald Eby (Lt. Col., USAF, Retired) and Steven Reiff (Founding President of the AIAA Student Branch at CSUS). Each are hold the founding certificates, issued 50 years apart.

Lt. Col. Eby was a summer intern at Aerojet in 1962 and was a founding member of AIAA in 1963. After graduation from Cal Poly, he went on to join the USAF, flew three tours in Vietnam, was a member of the recovery team for Apollo 11 crew, and served positions with the Lockheed Aircraft Company as aerospace engineer and test pilot. After his military service, he was an Assistant Program Manager on the A-10 program and worked for SAIC in support of the Air Force Logistics Command. Mr. Reiff, as a senior at Sac State, led a group of students in applying for an AIAA Student Branch charter at his school. He is also involved in STEM study advancement at the Aerospace Museum of California.

Former AIAA President Paul D. Nielson and Professor Joseph Majdalani (right).