

The Conquest of Mars on Earth (see Page 8)



AIAA Houston Section ◆ **ONLINE** ◆ www.aiaa-houston.org

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October 23

Please submit stories and events to *Horizons*

Attention: Micheal Oelke
chair@aiaa-houston.org

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Chair's Corner

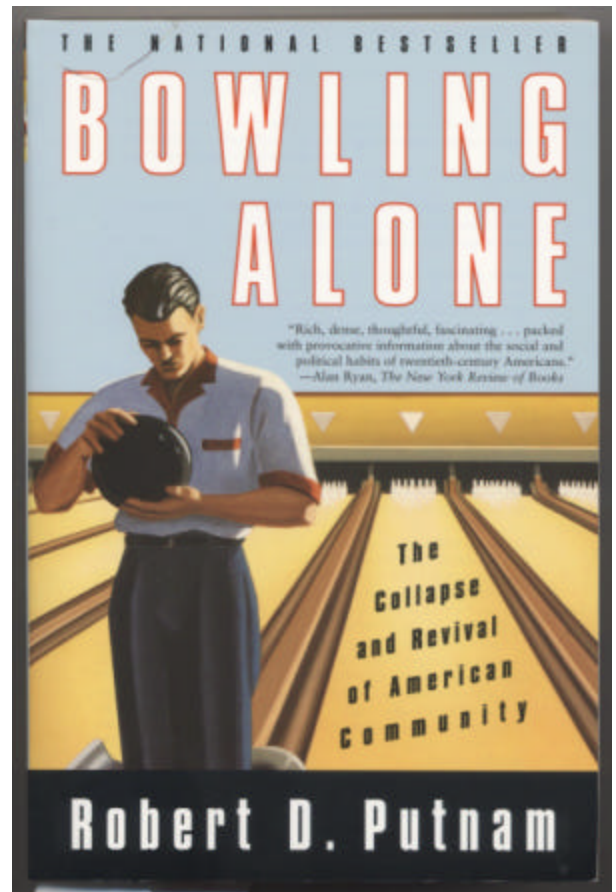
I was recently introduced to a very interesting book: "*Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*", by Robert D. Putnam. Published in 2000, it discusses the precipitous fall in volunteering and American involvement in community groups since the 1960's.

Why should we care? Because involvement in one's community, whether, a homeowner's association, a religious group, or a professional development organization builds what Putnam calls *social capital*. The people involved build bonds and expand their horizons beyond their own experiences. This increased social capital has been shown to produce a wide range of social improvements ranging from lower crime rates to improved high school graduation. In essence: '*United We Stand*'. Most would agree that these benefits are well worth the price of a few hours invested monthly.

But, as of the writing in 2000, these benefits were waning. Across the board, from bowling leagues to bridge clubs, from ASME to the Daughters of the American Revolution, the rate of community involvement has been dropping. What was once an American tradition, noted by foreign visitors, has begun to wither.

However, all is not lost. Putnam suggests that there may be a revival in community involvement and he draws some parallels between our current era and the time around the turn of the 20th Century. Will American community involvement revive and, in turn, bring with it the social benefits mentioned above? Only time will tell.

What does this have to do with AIAA? Everything! The Houston Section Executive Council just held our annual leadership retreat to discuss goals for the coming year. The key thing we come back to every year is "getting more people involved." While AIAA is a professional development organization, a direct by-product is *building social capital*. Not only do we offer the opportunity to learn and build new skills, but AIAA serves a vital role in building our *technical community* at a time when the economy is faltering and the space industry is fighting to gain ground. I encourage each of you to take an active role in this process! Something as simple as a phone call or e-mail to provide feedback to us can help the aerospace community. How about attending a dinner



meeting and exchanging thoughts on the OSP or Return to Flight? Better yet, volunteer to join a technical committee and learn from leaders in their field of expertise.

The 2003-04 year is off to a strong start. Although a great deal of hard work lies ahead, I for one can already speak to the community benefits this organization brings – both through immediate learning experiences and in the legacy it leaves. Being part of a community has a price – although it is small compared to the benefits we enjoy from it. Invest in yourself and the future of the aerospace community!

Michael L. Oelke
2003-04 Chairperson, AIAA Houston Section

Texas Students Receive AIAA Foundation Scholarships

By Norman Chaffee, Councilor

The AIAA Foundation supports a variety of activities designed to promote the future of the aerospace profession, including the funding of scholarships at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The winners of the 2003-04 academic year scholarships have just been announced, and four Texas students are winners. We offer our congratulations to:

Lauren Fincher, Baylor University (Junior)
Andrzej Stewart, Univ. of Texas at Austin (Junior)
Suzanne Oliason, Univ. of Texas at Austin (Senior)
Tyler Summers, Texas Christian University (Senior)

Students interested in competing for these awards in the future should contact the national AIAA website at www.aiaa.org for further information.

Chris Taylor, Programs Chair for 2003-2004 Council

By Sophia Bright, Councilor

Please welcome our latest member of the AIAA Houston Executive Council. Chris Y. Taylor has graciously accepted the position of Programs Chair this year and has already gotten off to a great start with a couple of successful activities.

Chris has a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Vanderbilt University. While at Vanderbilt he was a founding member and Vice Chairman of the AIAA student chapter his junior year, and Chairman his senior year. Turning conventional career paths upside down, he became an engineering consultant right out of college. After several years of full time consulting, contracts became scarce and he was forced to get a "real" job. He moved to Houston in November of 2001 to manage a mechanical design group for National Oilwell.

While much of his work is outside the aerospace field, he has kept up his AIAA membership and continues to participate in AIAA activities. When he is not arranging future ASIAA events, Chris is attempting to restore a British roadster and is developing a launch vehicle cost modeling worksheet for presentation at the AIAA Joint Propulsion Conference.

If you have any ideas for programs or activities for the Houston Section please feel free to contact Chris via email at programs@aiaa-houston.org.

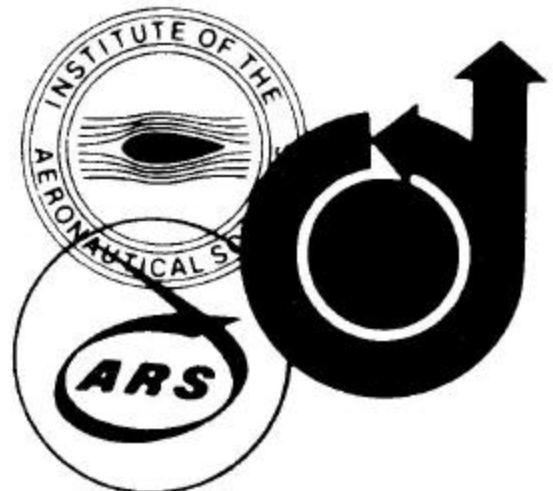
41st Anniversary for Houston Section?

By Michael Oelke, Chairperson

An interesting thing happened in preparing for our 40th anniversary – we realized that this is actually the Houston Section's 41st anniversary! While AIAA is only 40th years old this year (it was formed on February 1st, 1963 by the merger of the American Rocket Society and the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences) the Houston Section was formed on January 4th, 1962 as a chapter of the American Rocket Society. That date is our true anniversary. Unfortunately, no one noticed last year as we were swamped with preparations for the World Space Congress. Rather than let another 10 years go by before we celebrate our heritage, we would still like to hold a "Founding Members Reunion" this November on Friday the 14th at the Gilruth Center. We still need your help for this! While we have very good section records dating back to the mid 1980's, we are missing many of the documents and sections records that list our activities before that. If you have any of these, or know someone who does, please contact us so we may obtain copies for the section.

The current plan for the reunion is a simple social and an opportunity for new members to meet the founding members and others who have been with the section a long time. Congratulations to Eleuterio De La Garza, Ronald G. Elkins, and Chester A. Vaughn who have recently completed forty years of continuous membership with AIAA!

On the following pages are the names of the chairpersons for every year as well as a 30+ year member list obtained from the 30th anniversary program. I encourage you to contact me (281) 226-8689, or Norm Chaffee (281) 483-3777, so we can put together the best event possible.



Houston Section Past Chairmen:

1962-63: Alan J. Chapman / Rice University
1963-64: W. Scott Royce / Northrup
1964-65: Charles B. Appelman / General Electric
1965-66: Phil Sansone / RCA
1966-67: George M. Low / NASA
1967-68: Aleck C. Bond / NASA
1968-69: Jack C. White / North American Aviation
1969-70: Joseph G. Thibodeaux, Jr. / NASA
1970-71: John Stap, Jr. / Martin Marietta Corp.
1971-72: James C. McLane, Jr. / NASA
1972-73: Ernst L. Kistler / Texas A&M University
1973-74: Joseph S. Algranti / NASA
1974-75: Leland Carlson / Texas A&M University
1975-76: Loren E. Wood / TRW
1976-77: Clairborne R. Hicks / NASA
1977-78: Thomas B. Murtagh / NASA
1978-79: Edward L. Hays / NASA
1979-80: Robert Stephens / McDonnell Douglas
1980-81: Norman H. Chaffee / NASA
1981-82: Jack C. Heberlig / IBM
1982-83: Sharon Barnes Castle / NASA
1983-84: Charles V. Wolfers / McDonnell Douglas
1984-85: Robert V. Gloczowski / Martin Marietta
1985-86: Robert E. Lewis / NASA
1986-87: Karen D. Godeck / NASA
1987-88: Carl Huss / McDonnell Douglas
1988-89: Walter Lueke / NASA
1989-90: Andre Sylvester / NASA
1990-91: John Trebes / NASA
1991-92: Zafar Taqvi / Lockheed
1992-93: Steve Zobal / McDonnell Douglas
1993-94: Shirley Brandt / Grumman
1994-95: George Nield / NASA
1995-96: Don Probe / Lockheed
1996-97: Tom Mulder / McDonnell Douglas
1997-98: George Nield / NASA
1998-99: Russ Filler / USA
1999-00: Merri Sanchez / NASA
2000-01: Garland Bauch / NASA
2001-02: Darby Cooper / Neo-Star Astronautics
2002-03: L. Nicole Smith / NASA
2003-04: Michael Oelke / Boeing

30+ year members (as of 1992)

At the time of the 30th anniversary the following names were published as having been members of the section for 30+ years:

Maxine M. Adkins, Jr.
Joseph S. Algranti
Floyd V. Bennett
William D. Best
William M. Bland, Jr.
Aleck C. Bond
Richard M. Breidenstein
Dr. Alan J. Chapman
Howard L. Chevalier

30+ year members (as of 1992), cont.:

Joseph W. Coddou
Aaron Cohen
Prof. Alfred E. Cronk
Ralph H. DeRousse
Merle J. Denny
Homer W. Dotts
Dr. Roger Eichhorn
Herman O. Eley, Jr.
Stanley Faber
William C. Fischer
Lewis R. Fisher
M. P. Frank, III
Hector Garcia, Jr.
David W. Gilbert
Claude A. Graves, Jr.
Howard H. Hall
Ernst R. Hillje
David B. Howes
Carl R. Huss
Charles A. Jacobson
L. C. Kemp, Jr.
E. A. Kiessling
Joseph P. Loftus, Jr.
Prof. Stanley H. Lowy
Reginald M. Machell
Thomas U. McElmurry
Dee S. McKeller
James C. McLane, Jr.
Roy W. Meinke
Dr. Angelo Miele
John Mockoviak, Jr.
Dr. Jerry L. Modisette
Clarence T. Modlin, Jr.
F.G. Morgan, Jr.
Oran W. Nicks
James R. Nolan
Joe W. Nolley
Dr. Benjamin Ostrofsky
Dr. Robert H. Page
James E. Pavlosky
Henry O. Pohl
Prof. Alan Powell
Allister L. Presnal
Donald Reiser
Beverly E. Steadman
Joseph G. Thibodeaux
Dr. Richard E. Thomas
Robert A. Tremant
Max A. Turner
Dr. John Weese
Charles E. Whitsett, Jr.
Loren E. Wood
James C. Young

Help us locate these people for the reunion!

Noting the Passing of a JSC Pioneer, Paul E. Purser

Adapted from the Houston Chronicle, September 14, 2003

On September 8, 2003, JSC lost one of its founding pioneers. Paul E. Purser passed on at the age of 84 at his home in north Houston. Paul Purser was a member of our precursor, NACA, and was an original member of the Space Task Group, which came to Houston from Langley in 1962. Among other accomplishments, Paul helped to develop the Little Joe solid rocket used for unmanned tests of the Mercury Spacecraft. In Houston Paul served as Executive Assistant to Dr. Robert Gilruth through 1968, and was instrumental in the original design and construction of JSC, in establishing the organizational and operating structures, in supporting the early programs (Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo), and in assisting Dr. Gilruth in our Agency and Community outreach activities. Paul was the antithesis of the traditional concept of a government bureaucrat - he was the "Go To" guy at the Center when there was an administrative issue to be resolved. He operated forcefully, but with a grace and politeness that was rare. The Center is very much an artifact of his efforts in those early days.

In 1968 Paul was detailed to help Dr. Philip Hoffman establish the University of Houston - Clear Lake. Due to medical problems Paul retired from NASA in 1970. In subsequent years he had a noteworthy career as an industry consultant and as an academic at UH, University of Texas, Rice, Stanford, Texas A&M, and Harvard. Those of us still at NASA, and his friends in AIAA and the NASA Alumni League will celebrate his career and contributions to the U.S. space program, and will remember him with great admiration and fondness.

*Norman Chaffee, President
NASA Alumni League*



New Members to Houston Section of AIAA

By Sophia Bright, Councilor

On behalf of the Houston Section of AIAA, I would like to recognize and welcome several new and long-standing members to the Houston Section Professional Membership.

Ms. Katie Boyles	Ms. Anne Martt
Mr. Michael Cannells	Ms. Marcia O'Malley
Ms. Rebecca Cutrikohart	Mr. John Osborn
Mr. Jeremy Denman	Mr. Eddie Paddock
Ms. Mary Lynne Dittmar	Mr. Andrew Perez
Ms. Bonnie Dunbar	Dr. James Peters
Mr. James Eyman	Mr. George Platanitis
Mr. Harold Fassburg	Ms. Angela Prince
Ms. Karen Hall	Mr. Michael Shaw
Mr. Thomas Hall	Mr. Brent Sherwood
Mr. Morgan Hill	Mr. Earl Smith
Mr. Andrew Kenny	Mr. Steven Tomkies
Ms. Aiyuela Kwan	Mr. Keith Vetter
Mr. Eric Lanoix	Mr. Brian Ward
Ms. Grace Lauderdale	Dr. J. Kevin Watson
Mr. Alexander Lin	Mr. Roy Weeks

The Houston Section currently has 982 members consisting of 713 professional members, 110 National Educator Associates, and 159 student members. Our size and diverse membership allows the Houston Section to potentially explore various opportunities for events and activities. We have several technical committees to satisfy your technical interests as well as several section sponsored social activities throughout the year.

If any of you would like to find out more about the organization please feel free to visit the section website at <http://www.aiaa-houston.org>. Additionally there are a number of activities that we sponsor throughout the year and we encourage the participation of all of our members not only from the aspect of attending the activity, but also in planning and coordinating the activity.

We are currently looking for a new Membership Chair position so if you have any questions regarding membership you may either contact me, Sophia Bright, at 281-281-244-4135, or you can contact our section Chair, Mike Oelke at 281-226-8689. If you prefer to contact us by e-mail our addresses are tsumi.s.bright@boeing.com and chair@aiaa-houston.org, respectively.

Help AIAA Help You - Update Your Member Records!!

By Sophia Bright, Councilor

It is often said that the aerospace industry is the only place where you can have the same job for five years and work for five different companies. That is especially true given the industry wide consolidation that has happened in the last few years. As companies have changed so have the building signs and the business cards. Additionally, our environment provides most people with the ability to move from one company to another as we try to expand our occupational horizons.

With all of these potential changes have you verified if your AIAA member record is up to date? Knowing where our members are working is vital to the Houston Section in obtaining corporate support for local AIAA activities (such as our monthly dinner meeting, workshops, etc.). Please take a few minutes and visit the AIAA website at <http://www.aiaa.org/> to update your member information or call customer service at 1-800-NEW-AIAA (639-2422). Feel free to also contact me at 281-244-4135 or by email at tsutsumi.s.bright@boeing.com.

Becoming an AIAA Member or Renewing Your Existing Membership

By Sophia Bright, Councilor

Are you interested in becoming a member of the AIAA or renewing your membership? Do you know of someone who should become a member? That person or you can fill out a membership application online by going to the AIAA National website at <http://www.aiaa.org/> (click on Join/Renew/Update) or call 1-800-NEW-AIAA (639-2422).

Please note if you have not used the AIAA on-line store then you will need to set up an account before purchasing a new membership (or even if you are renewing your membership). If you are purchasing a new membership the "store" will assign a temporary account access number to you until you have an AIAA membership number assigned to you. All existing members will use their membership numbers to establish an account.

Also if you know any students who would like to upgrade from a student member to professional member, all they need to do is submit a professional membership form and indicate that they are upgrad-

ing. This will enable that person to receive their first year of professional membership free.

If you are or know someone who needs to transfer their membership affiliation to the Houston section, please go or direct them to the National AIAA website to update membership information.

If you have any questions regarding any of the items addressed above please feel free to call AIAA National customer service number listed earlier. Feel free to also contact me at 281-244-4135 or by email at tsutsumi.s.bright@boeing.com.

Calendar

October 2003

- 4 Glider Workshop
- 7 AIAA Fly-in in Galveston
- 8 JSC Safety Day
- 18 Wings over Houston
- 23 Dinner Meeting

November 2003

- 14 Dinner Meeting (41st anniversary)

December 2003

- 17 Wright Brothers Centennial of Flight Anniversary
- 18 Dinner Meeting

January 2004

- 5 - 8 42nd Aerospace Sciences Mtg (Reno)
- 22 Dinner Meeting

February 2004

- 20-22 Mars Settlement Design Competition

March 2004

- 5 - 6 Mars Settlement Design Competition (2nd)
- 23 Dinner Meeting - Dr. John Lienhard

April 2004

- 22 Dinner Meeting

May 2004

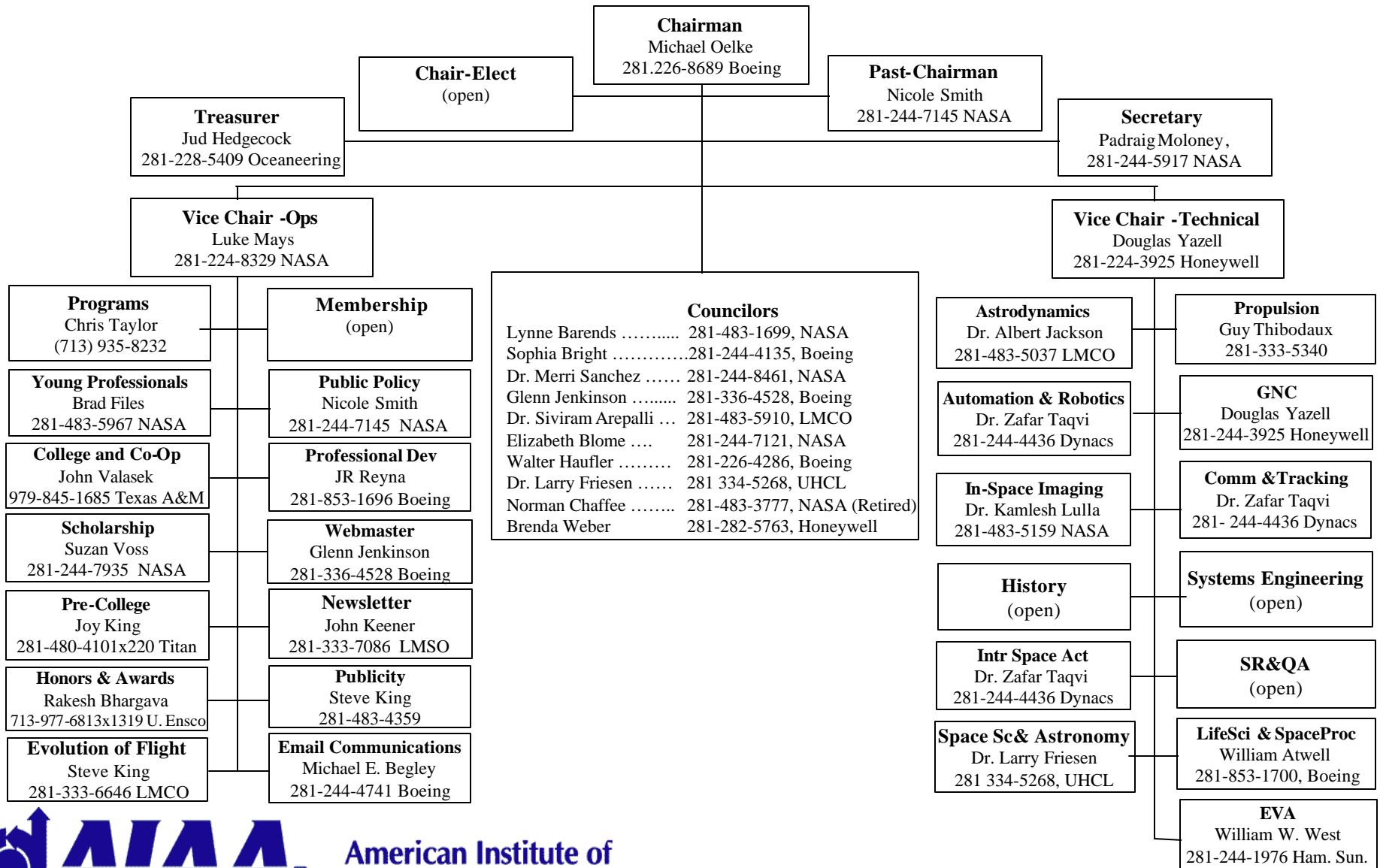
- 20 Dinner Meeting

June 2004

- 17 Awards Banquet

AIAA Houston Section Executive Council for 2003-2004

as of 1 Oct 2003



American Institute of
Aeronautics and Astronautics



Houston Section

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