



Image credit:
Douglas Yazell

2024-2025 AIAA Houston History Technical Committee Web Page Archive Document

- AIAA years start July 1 every year.
- URL https://www.aiaahouston.org/history_technical_committee/
- The Webmaster, the Chair, and I are working to restore my access to this web page. Since I am re-organizing the content of that web page, I am using the following URL for now as I transfer that content to: <https://www.aiaahouston.org/test-page/>
- Image files will be archived here in this presentation file, along with detailed text notes. The history web page will retain a concise summary of events & publications for each AIAA year.

[2025 05 20] Tuesday, May 20, 2025 Building Blocks for Mars Exploration – Why Viking Remains Relevant, presented by Rachel Tillman, Viking Mars Missions Education & Preservation Project (VMMEPP). The public will have access to her Viking Mars Missions archive, and some of it is already shared online. As an introduction, here is a [link](#) to the VMMEPP YouTube channel.

Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Time: 11:46 AM to Noon, CST

Place: Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) Ground Floor Conference Room

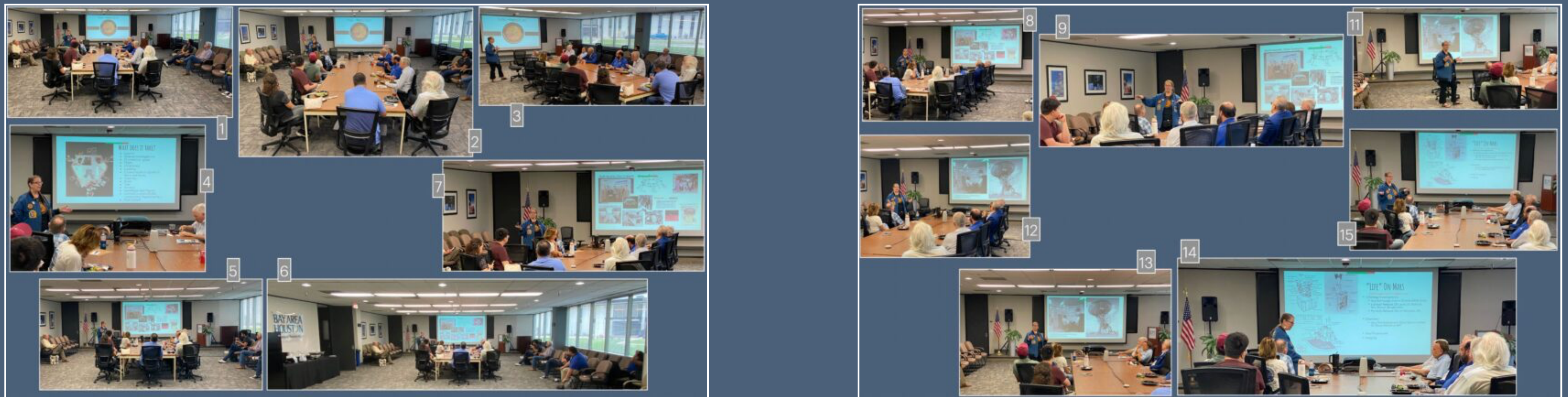


Image credits: Douglas Yazell (Click to zoom.)

[2025 05 15] Thursday, May 15, 2025. **Extreme Weather & Changing Climate Town Hall.** About 100 people attended this 4th Town Hall on this subject or similar subjects in this same venue since the first one in the year 2017. These events are archived on the University of Houston (UH) Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH) Forums web [page](#). The presentation files from our speakers will be available on that web page by about May 22, 2025. That web page might also present some video files.

Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Place: Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook TX 77586

Title: Extreme Weather & Changing Climate Town Hall

Sponsors: One of the sponsors was AIAA Houston. This web page is part of their website. The home page is [here](#). Speaking for this event sponsor, Douglas Yazell was the first speaker of the night, making a few brief comments. After describing AIAA Houston, he explained that in April of 2021, the AIAA Executive Director wrote a public [note](#) saying we must work with the “ultimate sense of urgency” toward the United Nations goal of net zero by 2050, which leads to specific aerospace goals by 2030. The next speaker was Chris Tomlinson of the Houston Chronicle.

Moderator: George Guillen, UH Clear Lake, Retired

Panelists

- Bob Stokes, President, Galveston Bay Foundation
- Yun Hang, UT Health Science Center
- Chris Tomlinson, Houston Chronicle
- Isabelle Bunge, Rice University
- Daniel Potter, Rice University
- Lance Hallberg, UTMB
- John Cobarruvias, Insurance Activist



Audio files recorded by Douglas Yazell using the iPhone Voice Memos app:

Audio [file #1](#).

Audio [file #2](#).

You are invited!

Extreme Weather and Changing Climate Town Hall

 Bob Stokes Pres. Galveston Bay Foundation	 George Guillen Moderator UH-Clear Lake	 Yun Hang UT Health Sci.Ctr.	 Chris Tomlinson Houston Chronicle	 Isabelle Bunge Rice University	 Daniel Potter Rice University	 Lance Hallberg UTMB
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Thursday, May 15 6:30 pm
Bay Area Community Center
5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook

MORE DISASTERS!
LESS DATA
TAKE ACTION!


John Cobarruvias
Insurance activist

[2025 05 15] Thursday, May 15, 2025. **Extreme Weather & Changing Climate Town Hall.**

You are invited!

Extreme Weather and Changing Climate Town Hall

Bob Stokes  Pres. Galveston Bay Foundation	George Guillen  Moderator UH-Clear Lake	Yun Hang  UT Health Sci.Ctr.	Chris Tomlinson  Houston Chronicle	Isabelle Bunge  Rice University	Daniel Potter  Rice University	Lance Hallberg  UTMB
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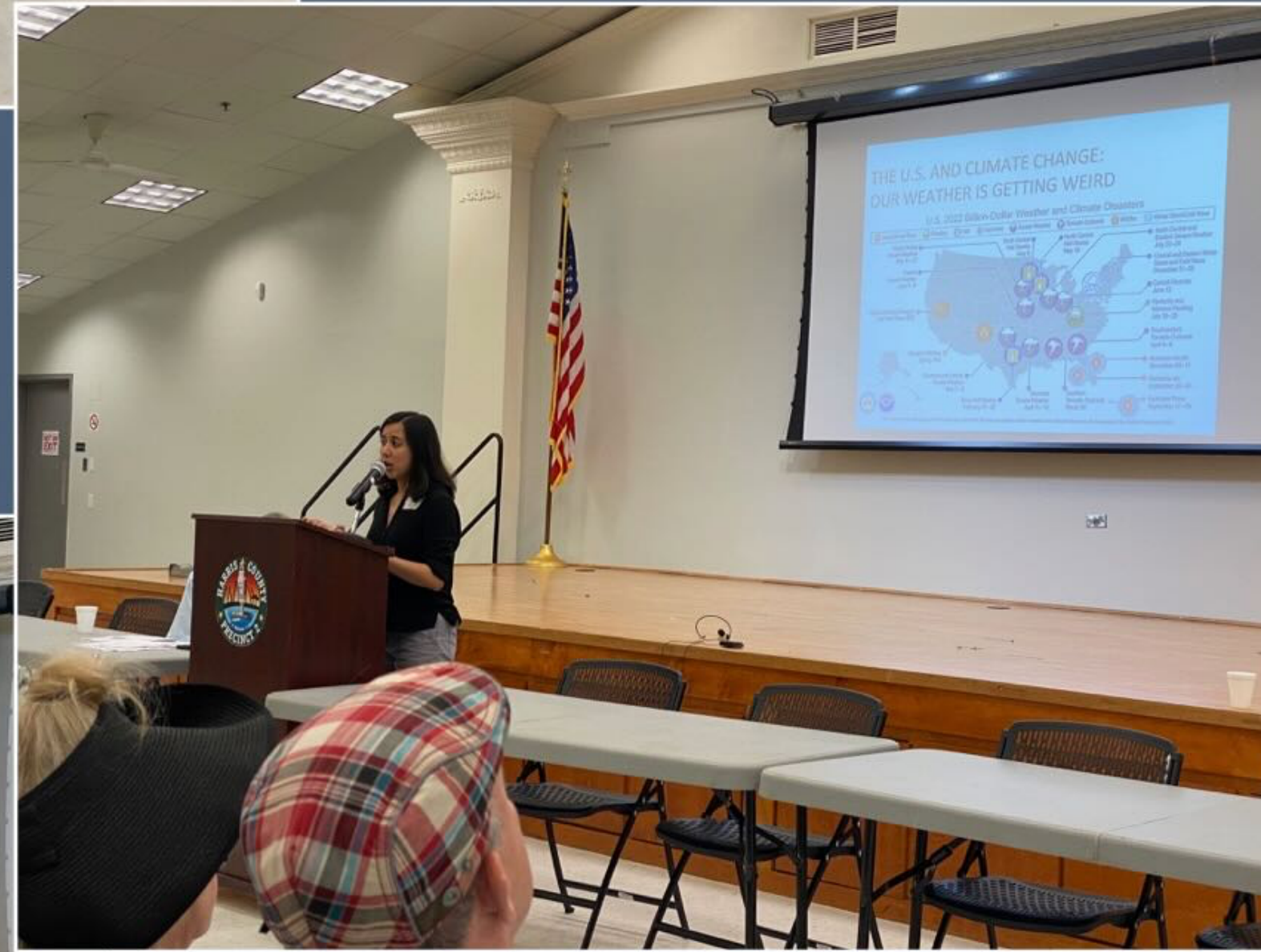
RSVP to EventBrite at QR code
or <https://ExtremeWeatherTownHall.eventbrite.com>
or just come!

People from all walks of life (moms and dads, young and old): come learn more about impacts to and solutions for our families, homes, and bank accounts.



[2025 05 15] Thursday, May 15, 2025. **Extreme Weather & Changing Climate Town Hall.**



[2025 05 15] Thursday, May 15, 2025. **Extreme Weather & Changing Climate Town Hall.**



[2025 05 15] Thursday, May 15, 2025. **Extreme Weather & Changing Climate Town Hall.**

The three prior forums and town halls on this subject are summarized below in a numbered list using the link above from the UHCL EIH.

- 1) 2017, November 28, Bay Area Storm Water Flooding Forum, with Host Professor George Guillen of UHCL EIH and Moderator Professor Neal Lane of Rice University, using venue NASA/JSC Gilruth Center. The summary mentions AIAA Houston: “The Environmental Institute of Houston, along with Americans United in Action, Houston Region Concerned Citizens (HRCC), and American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Houston, brought together experts and community leaders...” That is a reference to the AIAA Houston Annual Technical Symposium (ATS) of May 5, 2017. A detailed record of the event is presented on the AIAA Houston website using this [link](#).
- 2) 2019, March 7, Bay Area Houston Storm Surge Flood Forum, venue Bay Area Community Center. The summary using the UHCL EIH link above mentions AIAA Houston, “Through initial planning with the Environmental Institute of Houston, and support from Sierra Club Houston Group, Galveston Bay Foundation, Americans United in Action and American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Houston, the Houston Region Concerned Citizens (HRCC) grassroots organization brought together experts and community leaders...” That is a reference to the AIAA Houston Annual Technical Symposium (ATS) of May 5, 2017. A detailed record of the event is presented on the AIAA Houston website using this [link](#).
- 3) 2019, June 25, Local Pollution & Your Health Forum, venue Bay Area Community Center





Below is partial list of AIAA Houston climate change events.

- 1) We see below that a prior event was an AIAA Houston Annual Technical Symposium (ATS) luncheon keynote session of May 5, 2017, “Human-Induced Climate Change Requires Urgent Action.” Three Speakers were invited by Douglas Yazell. First, Professor André Droxler was recommended to Mr. Yazell by Professor Neal Lane of Rice University. Second, Mr. Yazell invited Dr. Stephanie Thomas of Public Citizen. Third, Mr. Yazell invited Mr. Doug Peterson from Exploration Green Conservancy. Doug Peterson led the planning of the four forums and town halls below, and those four events included Professors Droxler and Lane.
- 2) AIAA Houston featured climate change events prior to May 5, 2017, too, and after May 5, 2017. The web page of the 2016 AIAA Houston ATS shows that we included Dr. Daniel Cohan of Rice University, along with a display of Tesla, Chevy, and Ford electric vehicles (EVs).
- 3) The web page of the 2019 AIAA Houston ATS includes a 10-page presentation file from Mr. Douglas Yazell, “The Human-Induced Climate Crisis and Responses in the NASA and AIAA Communities.”
- 4) The web page of the 2020 AIAA Houston ATS includes a presentation file and audio recording featuring Mr. Douglas Yazell presenting, “Climate Reality Project.”
- 5) The web page of the history technical committee of AIAA Houston contains climate change reporting from Mr. Douglas Yazell from 2016 to 2025 and earlier. In a post dated June 10, 2016, he wrote, “[NASA Alumni League – Johnson Space Center Chapter (NAL-JSC) organized two climate change meetings; September 2011 and October 2011. See the NAL-JSC website for their link to those charts and a description of the meetings. By 2012, I learned that human-induced climate change requires urgent action, as IPCC’s first Chair Bert Bolin wrote in the conclusion of his 2007 book (A History of the Science and Politics of Climate Change: The Role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), and as the AGU stated in their updated position statement title in August of 2013.]”
- 6) More AIAA Houston climate change events from the past will be listed here. For example, Professor Gerald R. North of Texas A&M University (TAMU) led an American Geophysical Union (AGU) team which produced a position statement titled, “Human-Induced Climate Change Requires Urgent Action.” The position statement was endorsed by the American Astronomical Society (AAS). He agreed to speak at an AIAA event in NASA/JSC Gilruth Center event, but at the last minute, Professor John Nielson-Gammon of TAMU, the Texas State Climatologist, gave Professor North’s presentation, along with his own presentation. AIAA Houston recorded the audio of that event and we present that on our public website along with a newsletter article and the presentation file.
- 7) The AIAA Houston dinner meeting of November 3, 2015 featured a program titled, “Climate Change Engineering, Science & Public Policy.” A summary report is featured on the AIAA Houston history technical committee web page, along with this newsletter article. “Our venue was the NASA/Johnson Space Center (JSC) Gilruth Center Alamo Ballroom. The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Bruce McCarl of Texas A&M was the first of two speakers to confirm his acceptance of our invitation. Our event also featured a presentation from Ian Mills of NASA JSC International Space Station (ISS) Robotics Operations.”

[2025 05 15] Thursday, May 15, 2025. **Extreme Weather & Changing Climate Town Hall.**

[2025 03 25] Tuesday, March 25, 2025. **A virtual Lunch-and-Learn.** This presentation was recorded. If we publish the recording, we will publish the link here. We saw 58 people attending the online meeting using Teams.

“Aero Command and Control Systems (C2)” AIAA Houston lunch-n-learn

AIAA Houston is excited to host Dr. Ali Raz, Asst. Director of Intelligent Systems and Integration at the C4I and Cyber Center at George Mason University, for a FREE virtual lunch-n-learn focused on aerospace command and control (C2) systems. Dr. Raz will first introduce the C2 problem space and activities within AIAA’s Information Command and Control Systems (IC2S) technical committee before presenting his research into C2 solutions for mission engineering in complex systems.

WHAT: “Aero Command and Control Systems (C2)” AIAA Houston lunch-n-learn

WHEN: 11am-12pm CST Tue. March 25

WHERE: VIRTUAL on Teams

Abstract:

The AIAA Information Command and Control Systems (IC2S) Technical Committee (TC) seeks to address end-to-end solutions for decision making via integration of distributed and heterogeneous set of systems, resources, processes, and policies. IC2S applications are seen in a variety of domains, including both military and commercial applications. For example, in a military context, IC2S may provide operations personnel, warfighters, and decision makers with a common operating picture (COP) of the battlefield, decision aids and synchronization mechanisms; similarly, in a commercial context, IC2S may enable management of air transportation systems or establish space situational awareness by tracking satellites and debris. Command-and-Control (C2) principles remain at the core of modern complex systems and system of systems.

About Dr. Raz

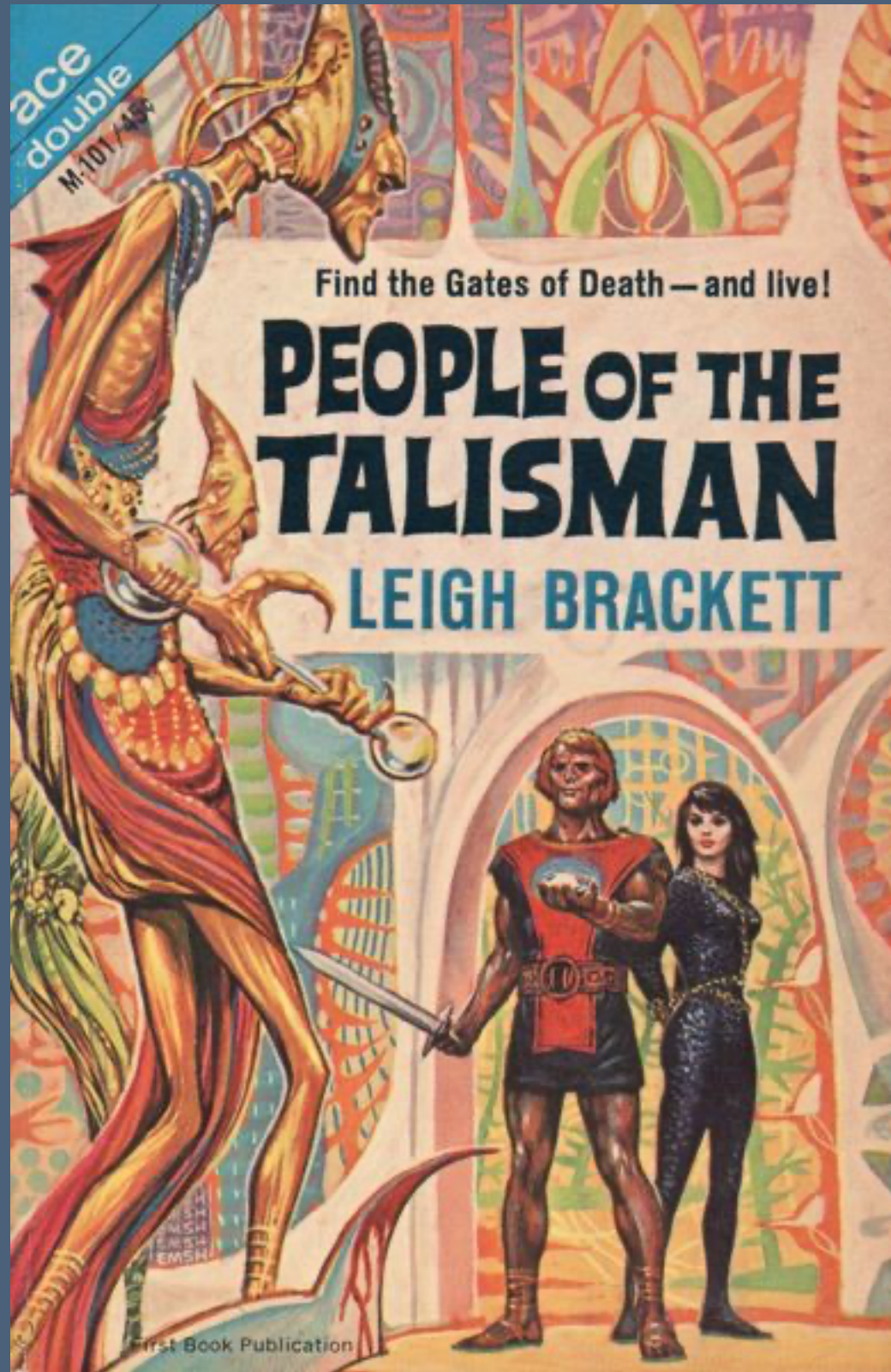
Dr. Ali Raz is an Assistant Professor at George Mason University Systems Engineering and Operations Research department and an Assistant Director of Intelligent Systems and Integration at the C4I and Cyber Center. Dr. Raz research and teaching interests are in understanding collaborative autonomy and developing systems engineering methodologies for integrating autonomous systems. Raz’s research brings a Systems Engineering perspective, particularly inspired by complex adaptive systems, to information fusion and artificial intelligence/machine learning technologies that form the foundations of collaborative and integrated autonomous systems.

About AIAA Houston

AIAA Houston advances the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) mission across the Houston, Texas metropolitan area. The Houston section executes a set of high-quality programs throughout the year to provide AIAA members — and the Houston aerospace community at large — with opportunities for continuing education, professional growth, and accomplishment recognition. Events are generally open to the public but may include AIAA member-only perks.



[2025 03 24] Monday, March 24, 2025. The 47th Anniversary of the Death of Science Fiction Grand Master Leigh Brackett (December 7, 1941 – March 24, 1978)



Cover image from [UNCW dot edu](http://uncw.edu).

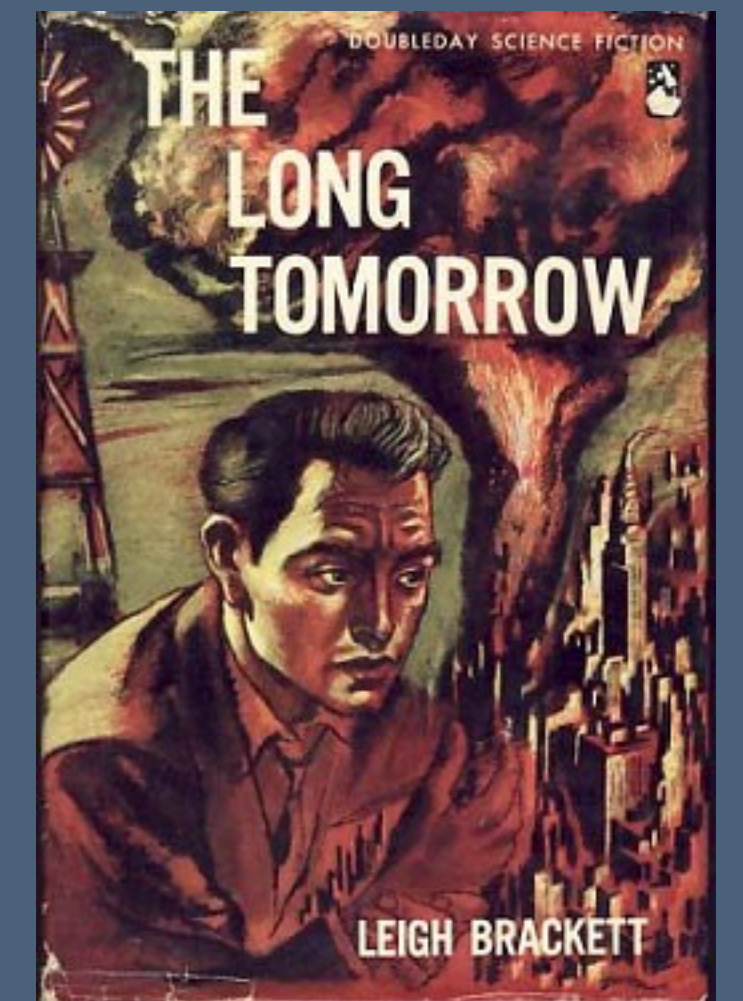
Dr. Albert Allen Jackson IV emailed us about this anniversary. He is the Chair of the AIAA Houston Section astrodynamics technical committee. She wrote pulp & modern science fiction & detective fiction & screenplays. She & Lawrence Kasdan wrote **The Empire Strikes Back** (the **Star Wars** movie screenplay). She & Jules Furthman wrote the screenplay for the 1946 Howard Hawks movie, **The Big Sleep**, starring Humphrey Bogart & Lauren McCall. She wrote a March 1951 cover story for **Planet Stories, Strange Adventures on Other Worlds**, a pulp magazine, **Black Amazon of Mars, a Novel of Warrior Worlds**.

This was later published, after revision & expansion, as a 1964 paperback novel (part of an Ace Double), **People of the Talisman**.

She wrote the 1955 novel, **The Long Tomorrow**. From Wikipedia (& the book cover image source), "**The Long Tomorrow** is a post-apocalyptic science fiction novel by American writer Leigh Brackett, originally published by Doubleday & Company, Inc in 1955. Set in the aftermath of a nuclear war, it portrays a world where scientific knowledge is feared & restricted. It was nominated for a Hugo Award in 1956."



Image of Leigh Brackett from the [Castalia House website](http://CastaliaHouse.com).



[2025 02 08] Saturday, February 8, 2025. AIAA Houston Section monthly status report (10 slides, 4 MB, [PDF](#)) from Douglas Yazell, retired, with two roles in our Section, Chair of our Section's history technical committee and Chair of our Section's International Activities Committee (IAC).

Climate Change

From the unique vantage point in space, NASA collects critical long-term observations of our changing planet.

VITAL SIGNS

Carbon Dioxide

↑ 425 parts per million

Global Temperature

↑ 1.5 °C since preindustrial

Methane

↑ 1922 parts per billion

Arctic Sea Ice Minimum Extent

↓ 12.2 percent per decade since 1979

Ice Sheets

↓ 405 billion metric tons per year

Sea Level

↑ 4 inches since January 1993

Ocean Warming

↑ 372 zettajoules since 1955



<https://science.nasa.gov/climate-change>
Downloaded February 4, 2025

[2025 01 05] Sunday, January 5, 2025. AIAA Houston Section monthly status report (10 slides, 10 MB, [PDF](#)) from Douglas Yazell, retired, with two roles in our Section, Chair of our Section's history technical committee and Chair of our Section's International Activities Committee (IAC). My ten slides use a new format in order to simplify the presentation and keep the file size small enough to email (about 10 MB).



Image: A 1948 Robert Heinlein science fiction short story, "Gentlemen, Be Seated." Credit: Refeeq McGiveron.

History Technical Committee

From the 1941 yearbook of Withrow High School in Cincinnati Ohio, we see the group photo of the annual Minstrel Show cast on the final night in the Grand Finale. My father is a senior (Latin Club group photo, not shown) in the 1931 yearbook. The Withrow Minstrel Show ran from 1930 to 1965 (35 years) thanks to Director George Gilmore Smith IV. Blackface was eliminated for about the last five years, but the related problems remained. Tryouts were in December, and the 2.5-hour show ran for 5 or 6 evenings in May, typically.

Some of the troubles with minstrel shows are [noted on slide 2](#).

AIAA Houston Section History Technical Committee ([link](#))
Chair: Douglas Yazell, douglas.yazell@me.com



Photo credits not shown here identify Production Orchestra members, Cast & Crew, and Executive Staff. Two men are in the center in dark suits. One is the student in the role of Interlocutor. Behind him is Minstrel Show Director George Gilmore Smith IV. The Chorus is a large part of the cast. The 40 or so young men in blackface on both sides of the Interlocutor are linemen. This annual Withrow Minstrel Show always included about 20 dancing young women called "Ponies."

Eight endmen, always in blackface, are seen in the front row, four on each end. Every 2.5-hour show since the Virginia Minstrels starts with endmen getting the audience excited and laughing, then arriving on stage where a semicircle of chairs awaits. "Gentlemen, Be Seated," says the Interlocutor. They sit down quickly and in a dignified way, despite their blackface, crazy humor, and ridiculous clothes. Mr. Tambo (with a tamborine) and Mr. Bones (with castanets) sit at each end, but they cannot sit still for long.

10

[2024 11 13] Wednesday, November 13, 2024. An AIAA Houston Section Dinner Meeting featuring **Wayne Hale**, presenting, “**From Sputnik to Artemis: Perspectives on Space Exploration for Tomorrow’s Missions.**” Here is a [link](#) to his presentation (91 charts/slides, 10.5 MB PDF). Our event sponsor was [Amentum](#).

FROM SPUTNIK TO ARTEMIS PERSPECTIVE ON SPACE EXPLORATION FOR TOMORROW’S MISSIONS

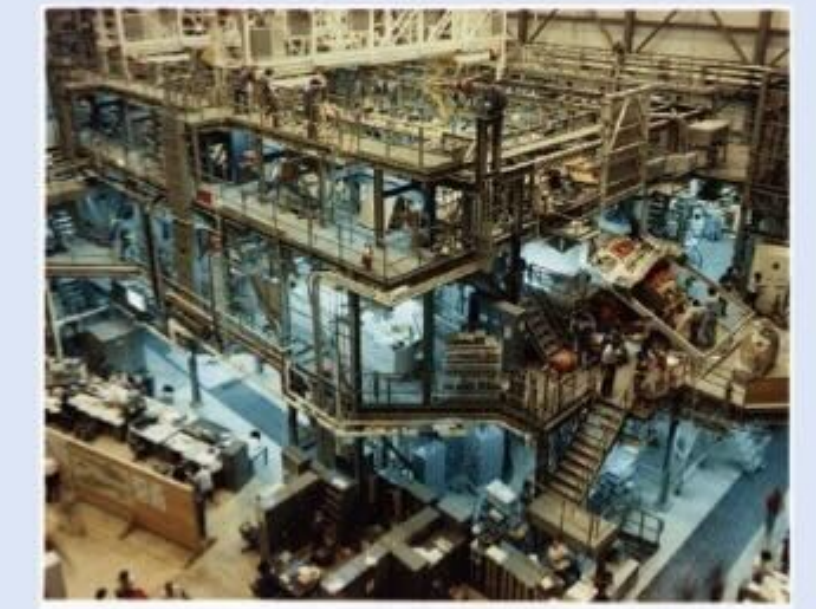
**WAYNE HALE
NOVEMBER 13, 2024
AIAA JSC CHAPTER**

SHUTTLE REALITY

- **Lower recurring cost goals never met**
- **Refurbishment costs much higher than estimated**
 - **Turnaround workdays 10+ times higher than goal**
 - **Orbiter TPS, SSME and SRB refurbishment man-hours much higher than projected**



The Expectation
160 hour turnaround



The Reality
75 – 120 day turnaround

Two views of Orbiter Processing

Wayne Hale spent 45 years in the aerospace industry, both as a NASA Civil Servant and as a private industry consulting engineer. He also served as a member of the NASA Advisory Council (NAC) for over ten years and a term as a member of the FAA Commercial Space Advisory Committee (COMSTAC). Wayne fully retired at the end of 2023.

Wayne has participated in space flight ventures that were successful and unsuccessful. He described his experience and especially that with recent or ongoing projects and how they may affect the future of space exploration especially as it concerns humans in space. His comments on NASA’s Commercial Crew program, the Artemis Program, Blue Origin, SpaceX, Boeing, and the competition with the People’s Republic of China were included.

[Twelve photos from this event are available using this [link](#) for the LinkedIn page of AIAA Houston Section.]

AIAA Houston Section Dinner Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Place: NASA/JSC Gilruth Center

Sponsor: Amentum



From Sputnik to Artemis
Perspectives on Space Exploration for Tomorrow's Missions
A Presentation by Wayne Hale

Wayne Hale spent 45 years in the aerospace industry, both as a NASA Civil Servant and as a private industry consulting engineer. He also served as a member of the NASA Advisory Council (NAC) for over ten years and a term as a member of the FAA Commercial Space Advisory Committee (COMSTAC). Wayne fully retired at the end of 2023.

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[2024 10 24] Thursday, October 24, 2024. This is my status report (10 slides, 18 MB) for AIAA Houston Section for our September council meeting. I am Douglas Yazell, an AIAA Houston Section retired member. My status report includes climate change news, international activities in our Section, and history technical committee notes for our Section. International activities in our Section include France, Ethiopia, Peru, and Mexico. Note that Mexico is paired with AIAA Houston Section in Region IV (with Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arkansas), not Region VII, though Region VII is the international Region. My status report also includes notes on diversity, since I was a member of the AIAA Diversity Working Group (DWG) from 2015 to 2023.

AIAA Houston Section Monthly Status from Douglas Yazell: Diversity, Climate, History and Three Sister Sections: France, Ethiopia and Peru, 2024 10

Ethiopia

☰ Emahoy Tsegué-Maryam Guèbrou

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Dr. Catalina Stern (Forgach) is a regular attendee at AIAA Houston Section SpaceGeekSpeak Saturday mornings, where we discuss space exploration, hosted by Svetlana Hanson. Catalina sent this link about the late jazz musician who often used the single name of Emahoy. Catalina sent a link which allows the user to play an entire album of jazz piano, relaxing music, as I recall. Catalina also explained that Emahoy's life story is an amazing story of Ethiopia and more, as introduced in this [Wikipedia article](#).



Emahoy Tsegué-Maryam Guèbrou

Born Yewubdar Guèbrou
12 December 1923
Addis Ababa, Ethiopian Empire

Died 26 March 2023 (aged 99)
West Jerusalem, Israel

Occupations Composer · pianist · nun

Years active 1967–2008



ETHIOPIAN SPACE SCIENCE SOCIETY

<https://www.ethiosss.org>

Current events:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/ethiopia>

Head of mission: Mr Gezahegn Kebede, Honorary Consul

Consular services: *No information available*

Supervising authority: Embassy of Ethiopia in Washington, D.C.

Ethiopian Honorary Consulate in Houston, United States

U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia

Ambassador Tracey Ann Jacobson



Deputy Chief of Mission Fiona Evans



Ambassador Tracey Ann Jacobson, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, arrived in Addis Ababa on February 25, 2022 to begin her assignment as Charge d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia. She previously served as Ambassador to Kosovo, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Ambassador Jacobson's earlier overseas assignments include Seoul, Moscow, Nassau, and Riga. Her domestic assignments include serving as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, Deputy Director of the State Department's Foreign Service Institute, and Deputy Executive Secretary of the National Security Council at the White House. Ambassador Jacobson is joined in Ethiopia by her husband, David Baugh, a retired member of the British Diplomatic Service.

Globe image: Wikipedia.

Views expressed in this document are opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect views of AIAA.

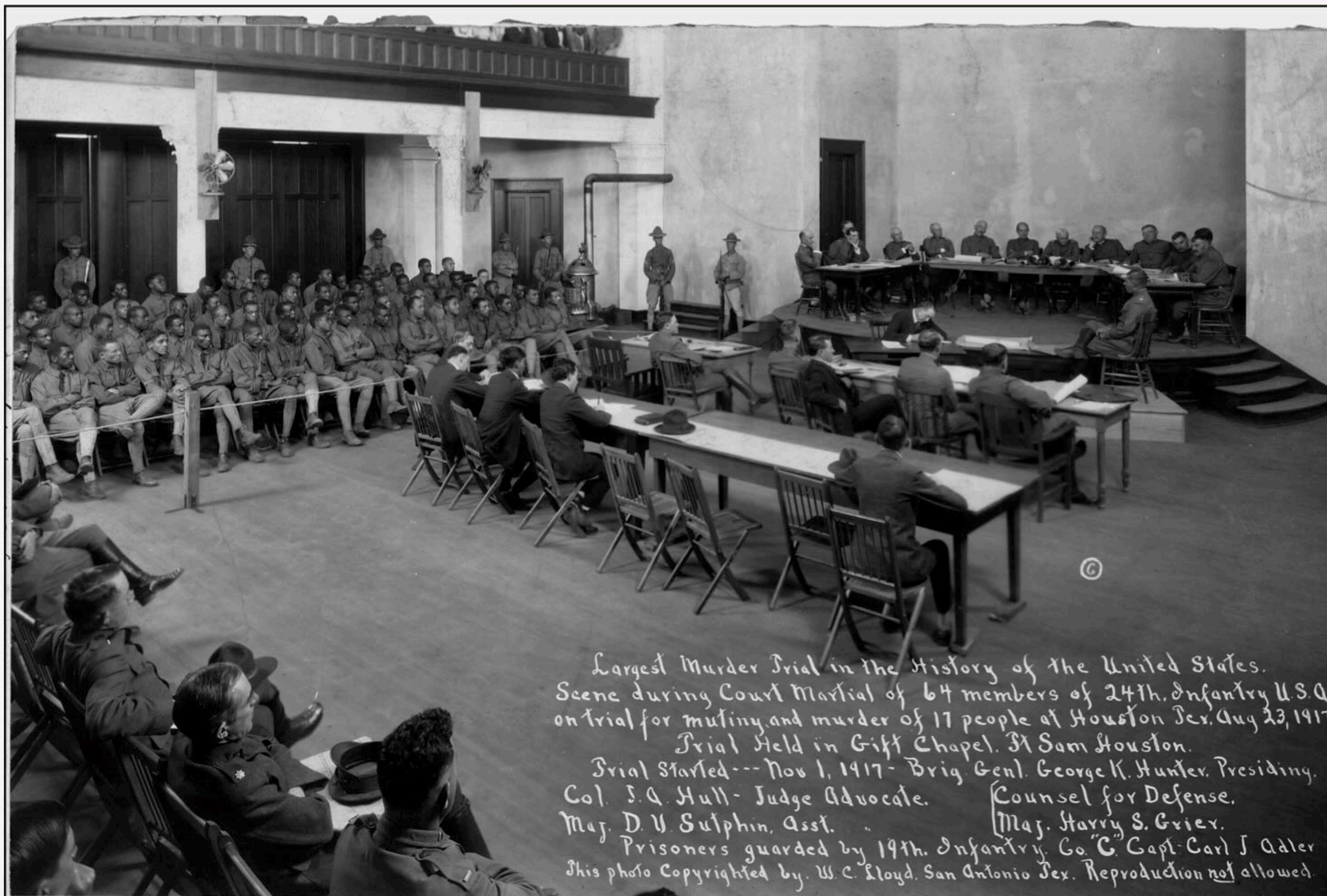
Return to First Slide 6

[2024 08 22] Thursday, August 22, 2024. This is my status report (10 slides) for AIAA Houston Section for our September council meeting. I am Douglas Yazell, an AIAA Houston Section retired member. My status report includes climate change news, international activities in our Section, and history technical committee notes for our Section. International activities in our Section include France, Ethiopia, Peru, and Mexico. Note that Mexico is paired with AIAA Houston Section in Region IV (with Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arkansas), not Region VII, though Region VII is the international Region. My status report also includes notes on diversity, since I was a member of the AIAA Diversity Working Group (DWG) from 2015 to 2023.

AIAA Houston Section Monthly Status from Douglas Yazell: Diversity, Climate, History and Three Sister Sections: France, Ethiopia and Peru, 2024 09

AIAA Houston Section History Technical Committee Chair-Douglas Yazell

History



Houston riot of 1917

Buffalo Soldiers

Image: Largest Murder Trial in the History of the United States. Scene during Court Martial of 64 members of the 24th Infantry United States of America on trial for mutiny and murder of 17 people at Houston, Texas August 23, 1917. Trial held in Gift Chapel Fort Sam Houston. Trial started November 1, 1917, Brigadier General George K. Hunter presiding. Colonel J.A. Hull, Judge Advocate, Council for Defense, Major Harvy S. Grier. Major D.V. Sulphin, Assistant Advocate. Prisoners guarded by 19th Infantry Company C, Captain Carl J. Adler. [Wikipedia, public domain]

[Wikipedia] The Houston race riot of 1917, also known as the Camp Logan Mutiny, was a mutiny and riot by 156 soldiers from the **all-black 24th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army**, taking place on August 23, 1917, in Houston, Texas. The incident occurred within a climate of overt hostility from members of the all-white Houston Police Department (HPD) against members of the local black community and black soldiers stationed at Camp Logan. Following an incident where police officers arrested and assaulted black soldiers, many of their comrades mutinied and marched to Houston. There they opened fire and killed eleven civilians (including a minor, Freddie Winkler) and five policemen. Five soldiers were also killed in exchanges of gunfire with the police.

In accordance with policies of the time, 118 soldiers were tried in three courts-martial. This was the largest murder trial in US history. A total of 110 were convicted, of whom 19 were executed and 63 were sentenced to life imprisonment. Gregg Andrews, author of Thyra J. Edwards: Black Activist in the Global Freedom Struggle, wrote that the riot "shook race relations in the city and created conditions that helped to spark a statewide surge of wartime racial activism".

In November 2023, the Army set aside all 110 convictions. It acknowledged they had not received fair trials in the racist climate of the time period. The Army gave all the men honorable discharges, enabling any of their descendants to receive military benefits.

[2024 08 06] Tuesday, August 6, 2024, the date of our monthly AIAA Houston Section Council meeting. Status (10 slides, PDF) from Douglas Yazell, AIAA Houston Section retired member. My status report includes climate change news, international activities in our Section, and history technical committee notes for our Section. International activities in our Section include France, Ethiopia, Peru, and Mexico. Note that Mexico is paired with AIAA Houston Section in Region IV (with Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arkansas), not Region VII, though Region VII is the international Region. My status report also includes notes on diversity, since I was a member of the AIAA Diversity Working Group (DWG) from 2015 to 2023.

AIAA Houston Section Monthly Status from Douglas Yazell: Diversity, Climate, History and Three Sister Sections: France, Ethiopia and Peru, Tuesday, 8/6/2024

Diversity


The 2021-2023 AIAA Diversity Plan Archived on our Houston Section Server

The 2021-2023 AIAA Diversity Plan

Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1: DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ARE WIDELY RECOGNIZED WITHIN THE AIAA COMMUNITY AS ESSENTIAL TO THE MISSION AND VISION OF THE INSTITUTE.

OBJECTIVE 1: Increase awareness within the AIAA community of the importance of diversity and inclusion.




Meet the New AIAA Diversity Working Group Chair, Sonya Smith

JULY/AUGUST 2024

<https://aerospaceamerica.aiaa.org/departments/meet-the-new-aiaa-diversity-working-group-chair-sonya-smith/>

Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan

2021-2023



Provide a salute to members of each demographic who have made great strides in aeronautics and astronautics

- ✓ **February** - Black History Month
- ✓ **March** - Women's History Month
- ✓ **May** - Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
- ✓ **June** - LGBTQ Pride Month
- ✓ **September 15-October 15** - National Hispanic Heritage Month
- ✓ **November** - National American Indian Heritage Month

AIAA Statement on Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion from AIAA Executive Director Dan Dumbacher, Written Monday, June 2, 2020.

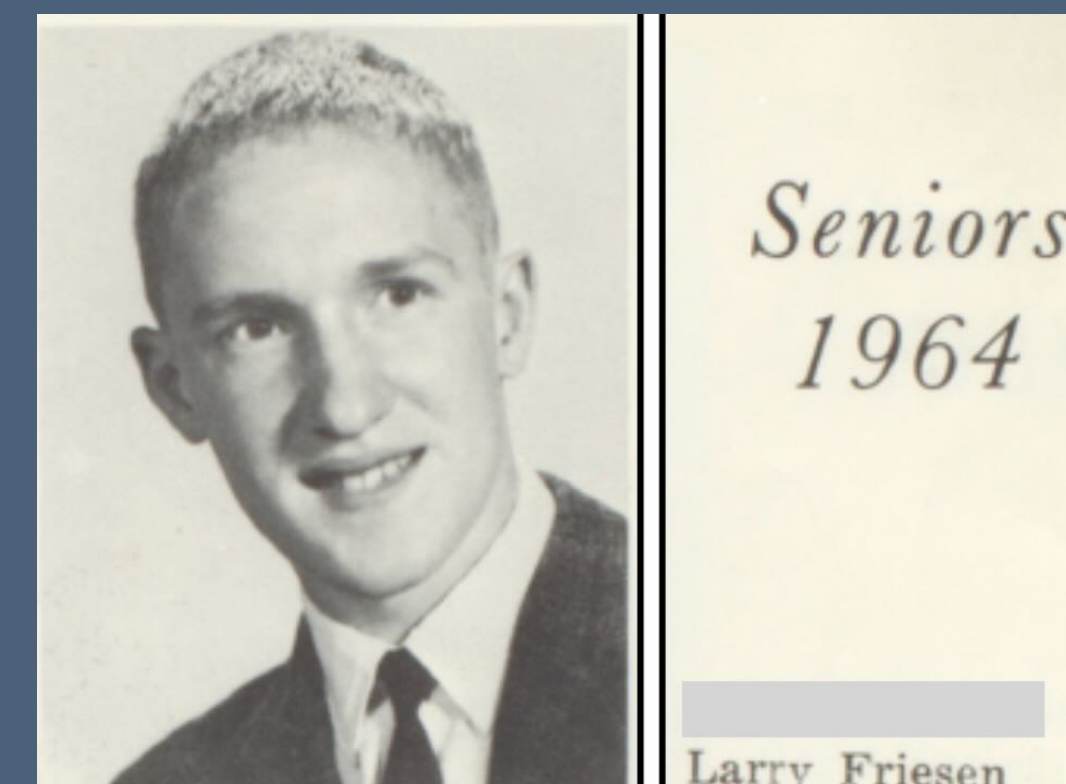
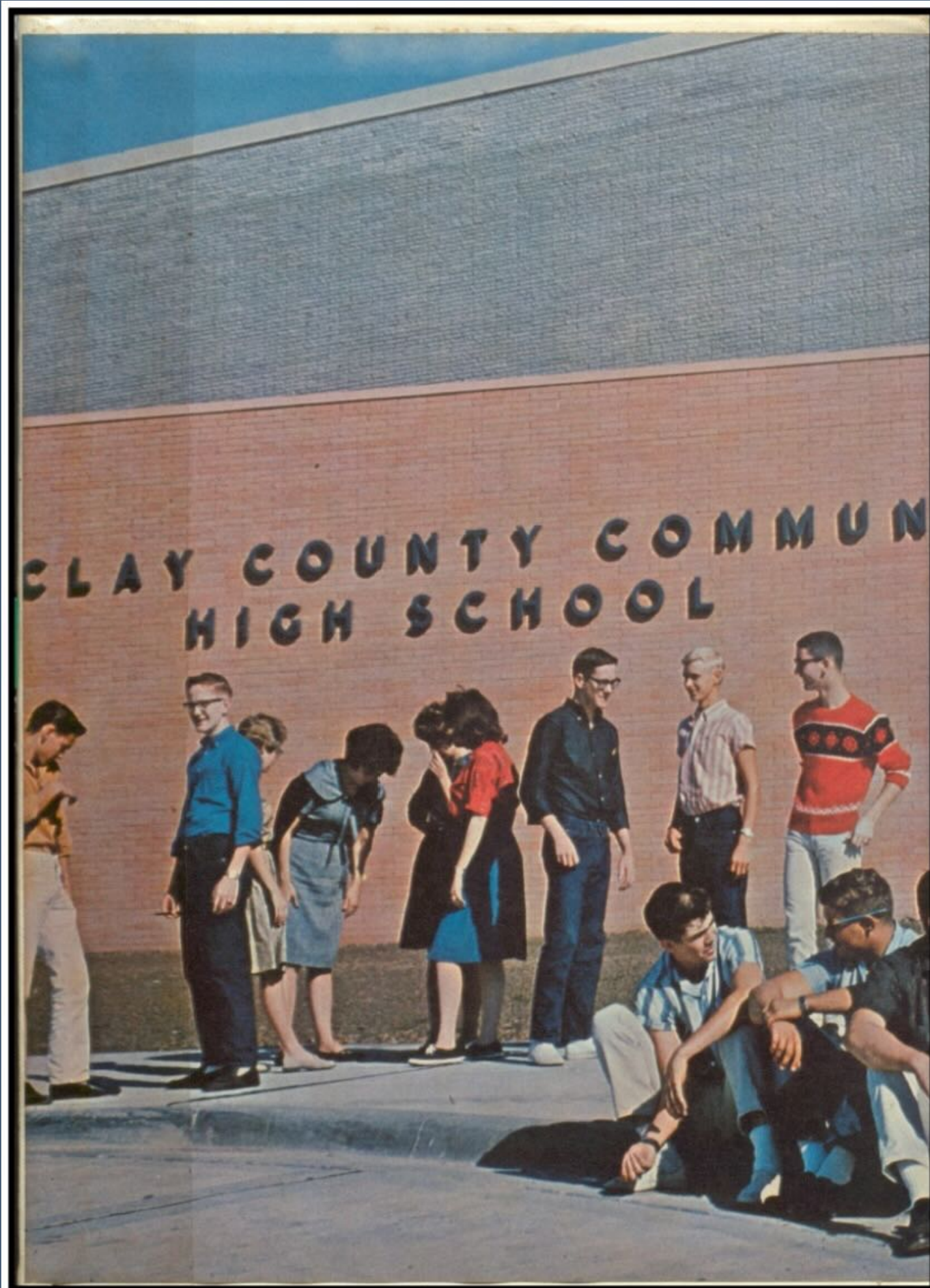
Views expressed in this document are opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect views of AIAA.

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"We need to make the ultimate pivot..."

[2024 07 28] July 28, 2024. Obituary. Larry Jay Friesen (September 7, 1946 – July 28, 2024), PhD, an AIAA Associate Fellow and a member of AIAA Houston Section. This [document](#) (PDF) is a Houston version of his life story, but it also explains that Dr. Friesen was born and raised in Kansas, including his undergraduate university education. This Neptune Society (cremation services) [web page](#) commemorates Dr. Friesen and mentions his birthplace, Salina Kansas. I [Douglas Yazell] will add a few notes about Dr. Friesen.



[2024 07 28] July 28, 2024. Obituary. Larry Jay Friesen (September 7, 1946 – July 28, 2024), PhD, an AIAA Associate Fellow and a member of AIAA Houston Section.

Like many public high schools in the USA, his high school in Kansas publishes a public [archive](#) (PDF) of their yearbooks, as many as they can find. Dr. Friesen graduated in 1964, and that yearbook is included, but not the prior 3 yearbooks. I created some “Friesen” Keynote presentation slides (exported to PDF) from the 1964 yearbook. His late father [Eric Friesen \(1917 – 1993\)](#) taught math and coached the cross country track team in that school, so I included him. Dr. Larry Jay Friesen was in the cast of a play, Harvey as a senior in high school, and Wikipedia features this description of the play: “Harvey is a 1944 play by the American playwright Mary Chase. She received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for the work in 1945. It has been adapted for film and television several times, most notably in a 1950 film starring James Stewart and Josephine Hull.”

These yearbooks are included in Classmates dot com (free membership).

Kansas High School Yearbooks
Larry Friesen, Senior, 1964
His father, Eric Friesen, taught math and sports.
His father is in the 1964 and 1965 yearbooks, but not 1957.
Clay County Community High School
Clay Center Kansas
The Tiger Roar Yearbook
1964



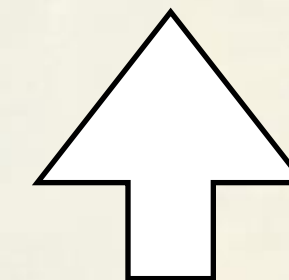
SIXTH SENSE of Nancy Dukelow's turns a would-be pass into a scratch on the head.

Senior
Class



HARVEY CAST MEMBERS — Laura Ann Murrison, Claudia Oelsen, Nancy Dukelow, Jim Kocher, Jo Hanson, Gail Habluetzel, Larry Friesen, Ruth Schroeder, Jim Peterson, Sally Ryan, Evan Ruff, and Gary Wingfield.

Presents “Harvey”




[2024 07 28] July 28, 2024. Obituary. Larry Jay Friesen (September 7, 1946 – July 28, 2024), PhD, an AIAA Associate Fellow and a member of AIAA Houston Section.

When I searched for issues of our newsletter Horizons for our public [archive](#), Dr. Friesen sent me quite a few issues (which I scanned and converted to PDF, then returned), more issues than any other source. The September 1990 issue is the first one we have named Horizons instead of Newsletter, and the earliest issue we found so far is the October 1977 issue.



Kay High School Club: "K" for Kansas

KAY CABINET OFFICERS—(Top row L. to R.) Raymond Copeland, points; Larry Friesen, school service; Phillip Hoyle, music director; Ned Valentine, publicity; Gail Habluetzel, world service; Al Volkmann, finance; Bill Summers, community service; Bill Frost, program chairman; Richard Cerretti, devotions; (Bottom row) Mr. Johnson, sponsor; Jim Kocher, secretary; Don Hammel, stu-co; Gail Lard, president; Dan Bauer, vice-president; Bo Conrad, treasurer; Mr. Larson, sponsor.
"Today For Tomorrow"



AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF
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ASTRONAUTICS

HOUSTON SECTION

newsletter

OCTOBER 1977

IN THIS ISSUE

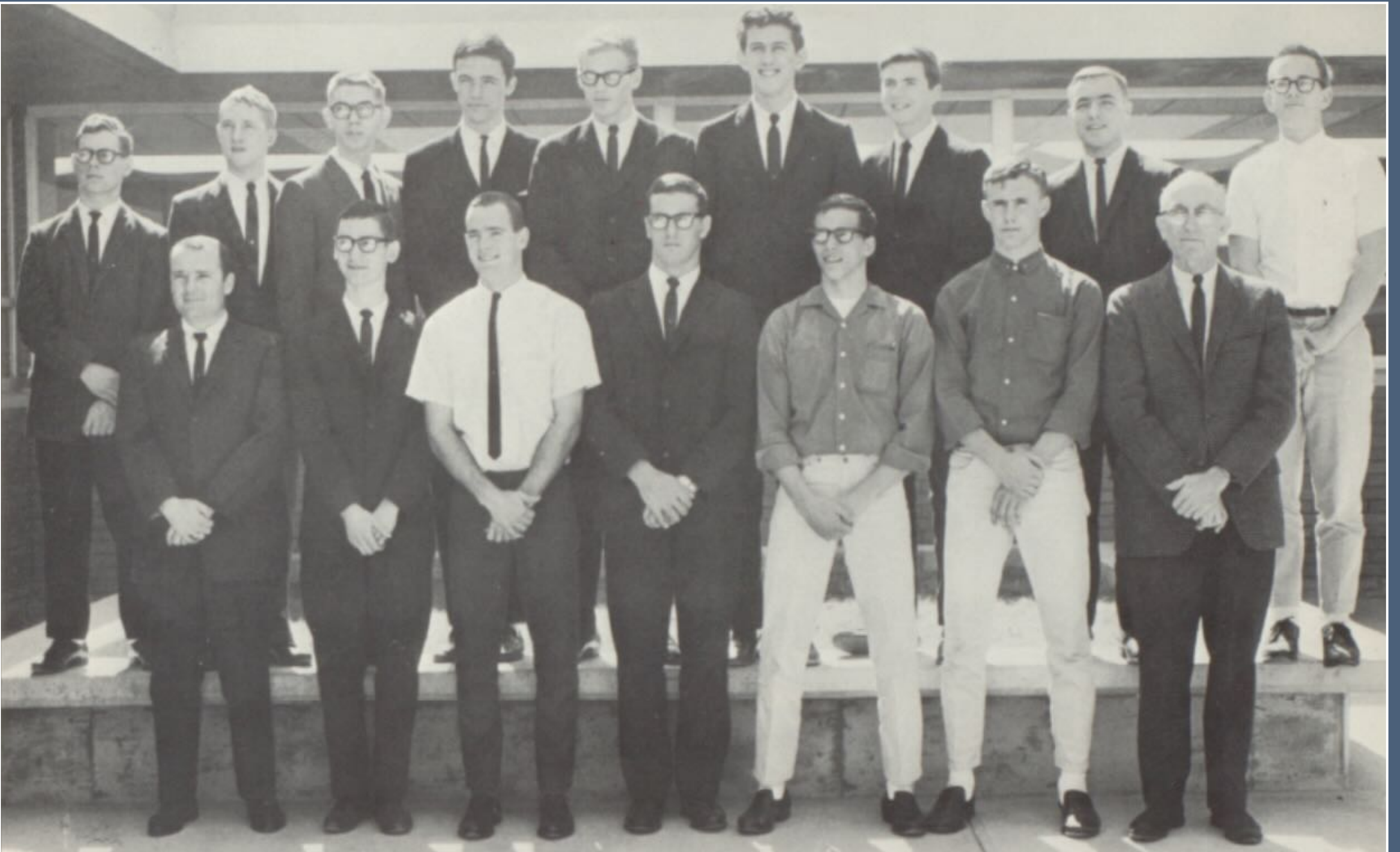
- Editorials
 - Coming Programs
 - Help! "No Shows" Cost Money
- Section Prognosis
 - Emphasis on Youth
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- Student Hospitality Program
- The Treasurer Reports
- U. of Kansas 1st in Bendix Design
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 - Dues Due
- A/A Presenting Career Opportunities
- Atmosphere Seems Clearer

"FROM THE CHAIRMAN"

A portion of Kipling's poem "If" reads "...If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run..." and I personally believe that this typifies the collective attitude of the Houston Section of the AIAA. As a Section we work hard to achieve our program goals for each year and distribute our efforts in the professional community which we serve. Our September program dealt with the private sector's views on space industrialization and attracted some 60 attendees. The October, November and December programs have been finalized and as a Section we should strive to support each of them. The October program will provide information on the Technology of Remote Sensing of the Oceans from Space. In November we will get insights into the Soviet Manned Space Program, and finally in December the topic will be the Cruise Missile. With a membership of 500 plus we should have in excess of 100 attendees at each monthly program. I encourage each and every one of you to "fill the unforgiving minute" with sixty seconds worth of effort and help make this an outstanding year of achievement for the Houston Section.

Tom Murtagh

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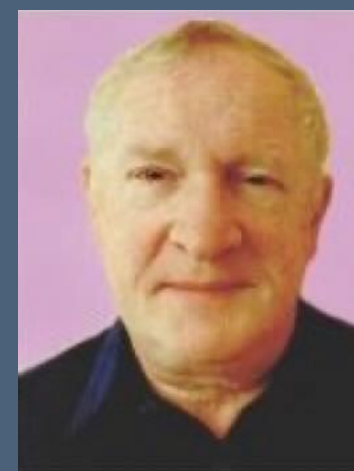
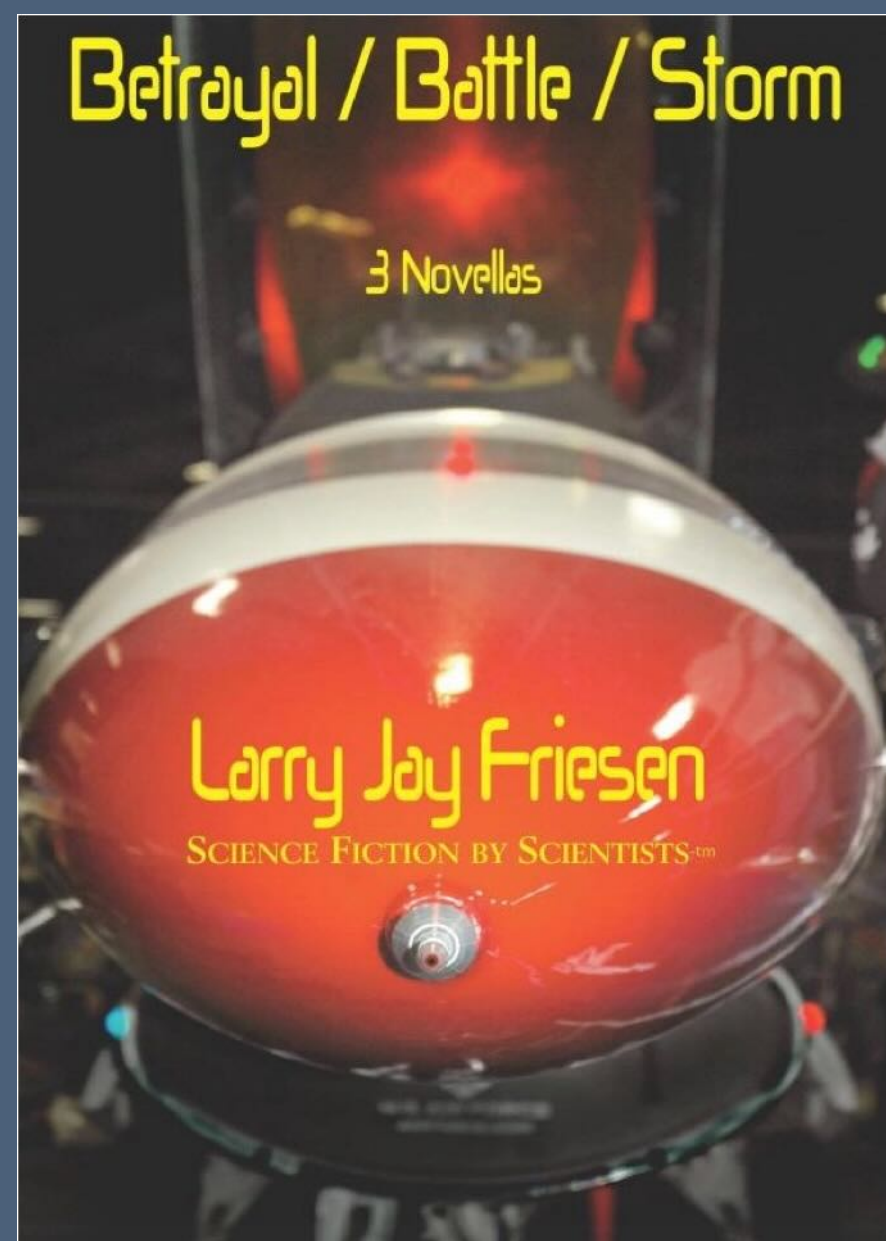


[2024 07 28] July 28, 2024. Obituary. Larry Jay Friesen (September 7, 1946 – July 28, 2024), PhD, an AIAA Associate Fellow and a member of AIAA Houston Section.

As mentioned in a document above, Dr. Friesen is the author of the 2012 book from Firefall Media in a series called Science Fiction by Scientists. The book is featured in a one-page article in the January / February 2013 issue of Horizons, newsletter of AIAA Houston Section. Here is a [link](#) to that one-page article, available to the public (PDF).

The book is three novellas and the title of the book is Betrayal / Battle / Storm. The titles of the three novellas, in the order referenced in the book title, are Buddy System, Sail a Dusty Sky, and Armor in Aristoteles.

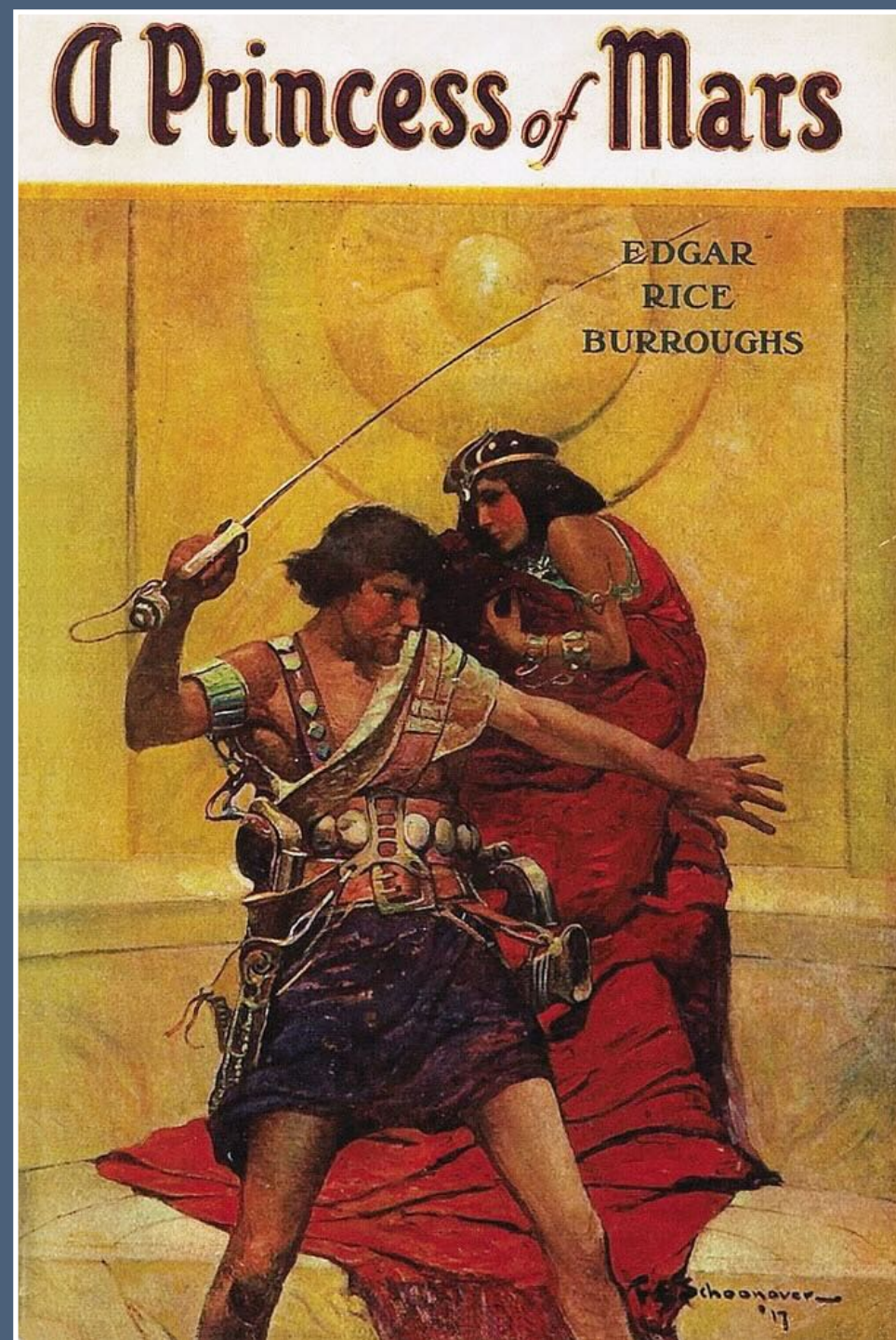
The one-page feature article includes this biography of Larry Jay Friesen: “With a PhD from Rice University in Space Physics & Astronomy, Larry Jay Friesen worked at [NASA] Johnson Space Center from 1976 through 1998, mostly for McDonnell Douglas and Lockheed Martin. He currently teaches Astronomy and Physics at the University of Houston – Clear Lake. He was elected as an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). He brings a wealth of accurate detail to the highly probable reality of his stories.”



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A family member told me Dr. Friesen was an expert on Edgar Rice Burroughs (1870 – 1950), creator of John Carter of Mars, Tarzan, Pellucidar, Carson of Venus, and much more. I recall the science fiction author Robert Heinlein (1907 – 1988) writing to defend the Burroughs science fiction, saying it was good science fiction for its time.

I started collecting Ballentine paperback book editions of the Burroughs novels around 1964, but Larry enjoyed original hardcover editions, though he was only 6 years older than me.



The 1917 Frank Schoonover cover of *A Princess of Mars* by Edgar Rice Burroughs, published by McClurg. Credit: [Wikipedia](#).



The 1918 cover art by Frank E. Schoonover from *The Gods of Mars* by Edgar Rice Burroughs, McClurg, 1918. Credit: [Wikipedia](#) (via Flickr).



The 1919 cover art by J. Allen St. John from *The Warlord of Mars* by Edgar Rice Burroughs, McClurg, 1919. Credit: [Wikipedia](#) via Flickr.

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A document above mentions a weekly or biweekly lunch in the NASA/JSC community which Dr. Friesen often or almost always attended. I joined them decades ago, and they told me it started with one man as an astronomy brown bag lunch. I suppose it moved to restaurants long before I attended.

I sometimes think of it as an astrodynamics lunch. Four of us were still meeting about monthly just a few weeks ago, including Dr. Friesen, at 888 Bistro on El Camino Real. It is a good location with good food. We moved it from Wednesdays to Thursdays recently. We were starting early, as early as 11:15 AM, but noon is the usual time for lunch. The tradition might or might not continue. [Al Jackson, Jon Zahn, and I [Douglas Yazell] enjoyed lunch there a few weeks ago. Other recent attendees include Tom Hile and Wes Kelly. [September 3, 2025]

Image credit: Douglas Yazell, July 1, 2025.