



Plane Talk

Aviation Institute of Maintenance Newsletter

VOLUME 30, END OF YEAR 2020 ISSUE

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Beloved Instructor at AIM Houston Achieves Highest Honor

Submitted by Aviation Institute of Maintenance Houston Campus



Harry James Dumas Jr. accepts The Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award, Congratulated by AIM Houston's Director of Education Gary Buchanan

The Charles Taylor "Master Mechanic" Award is the most prestigious award the FAA issues to persons certificated under the Code of Federal Regulations. This award is named after Charles Taylor, the first aircraft mechanic, to recognize individuals who have exhibited professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise for at least 50 years in the aircraft maintenance profession as "Master Mechanics." This award is not only awarded to the Master Mechanic, but it also honors the spouse for the continued unwavering support of the recipient's aviation career. This recipient will be forever honored in the "Roll of Honor," located on the FAA site at: <https://www.faa.gov/content/MasterMechanic/RecipientList.aspx>.

To be eligible for the Charles Taylor award a nominee must meet the following criteria:

- Hold a U.S. Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) or Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) mechanic or repairman certificate.

- Have 50 or more years of civil and military maintenance experience.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Have NOT had any airman certificate revoked. Revocation of any airman certificate will disqualify a nominee for this award.

A Big Milestone

Gary Buchanan, AIM Houston's Director of Education, has known our accomplished colleague for 35 years and shares that he has known him to always maintain aircraft in a safe and professional manner, be of good moral character and an outstanding individual who is respected in the aviation community. Mr. Buchanan's knowledge and association with



him consists of learning from and working with him. "My introduction to this honoree starts with him as one of my instructors at Rice Aviation in Houston. A few decades ago, I had the opportunity, along with several others, to be introduced to an Instructor for my class that helped to obtain our training to become an A&P. It is amazing to reflect on the years he has been an incremental part of the growth of aviation. He has taught and prepared countless numbers of Airframe and Power Plant students for many years. Just imagine the number he continues to add to his legacy of developing A&P Technicians for the future at the Aviation Institute of Maintenance Houston. His experiences and continued passion for our industry is laudable. He is just as passionate today as he was when he started his aviation career in 1965 in the United States Airforce.

Mr. Dumas's ability to "teach a man to fish" is a gift he has provided to countless aspiring aviation mechanics. The aviation industry and members of the community he serves, have many accomplishments that are directly attributed to committed professionals like Mr. Dumas. Thank you, Mr. Dumas and congratulations from all of us here at AIM Houston. We are so proud of you.





Affordable Christmas Store at AIM Norfolk



Pastor Caleb Dininny with Little Creek Church visits AIM Norfolk Christmas Store with one of his daughters



On Friday, December 4th, the halls at AIM Norfolk were appropriately decked for the holidays and the gymnasium transformed into Little Creek Church's Affordable Christmas Store! A commitment to the community continues the partnership between the Aviation Institute of Maintenance and Little Creek Church. Lead Pastor Caleb Dininny says, "Little Creek Church wants to impact families and give them hope in a time that might seem hopeless."

Parents of children enrolled at Little Creek Elementary School are invited to come to this family-friendly event. Upon arrival, children are greeted with snacks, holiday movies, and festive crafts to keep them busy while parents can enjoy refreshments and time to shop. Parents can pick out two gifts for free and buy up to four additional gifts but pay no more

than \$3 per child. "We believe in the power of exchange and giving parents the value of being able to provide Christmas for their kids and not just get something someone gives to them. These parents are empowered to say I provided Christmas for my child," says Dininny.

The campus is proud to host and support this holiday event, especially in a year that's brought so much uncertainty and change. Ashley Oden, Campus Executive Director, said, "In previous years, this event has been held at the elementary school, but COVID has made that space unavailable this year. We're so inspired by the work Little Creek Church does in the community, so we were thrilled to be asked to partner for this event." Other event partners include Nationwide Insurance, Jimmy Johns, Penguins Snoballs, Papa Johns, and Studio East.

AIM Indianapolis Prepares a Meal for our Veterans

By: AIM Indianapolis



As Veterans Day is celebrated every year on November 11th, we at the AIM Indianapolis campus make it a point to not only celebrate and thank our veterans for their service, but we like to FEED them as a small token of our appreciation. Vets make up almost 25% of our student population here at the Indianapolis campus. Several instructors have served various branches of the Armed Forces. We find it necessary to acknowledge those individuals for their commitment and patriotism to protecting and serving us here in the United States and overseas.

So with that, this year, the staff provided lunch for our day vets and dinner for vets in evening classes. We set up decorated tables and chairs in our hangar to properly socially distance the veterans yet enjoy each other's company while enjoying their meal. The staff personally served each veteran as a gesture of our appreciation. All the vets seemed to be very thankful for the dinner and acknowledgment of their contribution to our country.

AIM Charlotte Scholarship Winners

By: Ashley DeLuca and Eddie Gonzalez



Most people want to better themselves, but many people struggle to find the means to do so. Even if you are not someone who struggles, receiving scholarships and grants offers peace of mind and a reward for hard work. This sentiment is stronger during the especially trying year we have all experienced, which makes the reward that much sweeter.

“We are teaching & mentoring the next great generation of Technicians to be the future leaders of the industry.”

- DOE, Michael Sasso.

Several of our students worked diligently to apply for scholarships. They attended workshops held by our Financial Aid officer, brought their essay drafts to multiple staff members for revision, and worked hard to deserve letters of recommendation from those who saw their work ethic and potential. After all their hard work, eight students from AIM Charlotte won the Carolina Aviation Professionals Association (CAPA) scholarship. Once the winners were announced, the CAPA team called and asked to present the scholarships in person and meet the students. “It was really nice to put a face to the people handing out the scholarship. They were really nice,” said Sebastian McShane, an IMT student who received the scholarship.

The CAPA team put forth the effort to make the occasion memorable. It provided plenty of pomp and circumstance as they took pictures handing the students oversized checks and framed certificates for their scholarships. It was a very personal touch that all the recipients appreciated.

“It was really nice to put a face to the people handing out the scholarship. They were really nice.”

-Sebastian McShane

Our students were too excited about their success and even more excited to be a part of a school willing to match their scholarships. All eight students immediately filled out paperwork to apply for AIM’s scholarship

match program. AIM is proud to help its students by matching their scholarships and ensuring that finances don’t stop students from furthering their education.

Whether it is performing maintenance on an aircraft, designing a part for the CNC Machine, or filling out scholarship paperwork, each student has the opportunity to be successful. That is truly what we try to instill in each student that attends AIM Charlotte. Suppose you ask Director of Education Michael Sasso. In that case, his response is always the same, “We are teaching & mentoring the next great generation of Technicians to be the future leaders of the industry.” The continued hard work of these students, coupled with the partnerships from organizations such as CAPA, will allow the Aviation Institute of Maintenance to do just that for many years to come.



Our scholarship winners hold certificates and pose for picture with Faculty and staff.



15 Years and Counting!

By: Brad Groom



Instructor Ric Ryburn congratulating student Christina Pinasco on earning her A&P certificate.

The Aviation Institute of Maintenance in Norfolk, VA, had the pleasure to honor one of its Instructors, Richard "Ric" Ryburn, for his 15 years of continuous service at our campus.

Ric is an alumnus of the school, and with his aviation background, he has been a versatile instructor.

His roots are firmly planted in the aviation world. Growing up in a family that owned a flying service, he helped in many capacities. He performed many ground-up restorations of antique aircraft, assisted in annual and 100-hour inspections, helped in the operation of a Part 135 Charter operation and the flight school. Also, his family operated a Cessna Pilot Center and a Cessna Dealer/Service Center. And if this was not enough, he learned to write and maintained the Part 135 Operations Manual!

During his time restoring antique aircraft, he was named "Second Generation Antiquer of the Year" by the Antique Airplane Association. An award he still cherishes.

When Ric was a student, he earned a high GPA, helped other students understand the classroom theory, and aided in projects' hangar. He was always willing to stay after class and undertake certain task such as facilitating building a WWI aircraft.

After getting his A&P, he went to work for Piedmont-Hawthorne Aviation, but he did not find as much satisfaction in his position as he did being at the school. He applied at the school to become an instructor, where he earned his A&P. As they say...the rest is history! Congratulations, Ric, on 15 years!

Don't Play Life Small – Jimmy Medrano

By: Gail Strickland



Jimmy Medrano returned to Aviation Institute of Maintenance (AMO) in Orlando, Florida, with three family members to introduce them to the school that changed his life. Jimmy began his education to become an Aviation Maintenance Technician on May 11, 2015, and graduated on December 4, 2016. He states that he has had a passion for aviation since he visited the airport with his father and grandfather. He moved to Orlando and, while watching television, saw an AIM commercial. He made an appointment to visit the school, and two weeks later, he began classes at AIM Orlando.

While he was in school, he looked forward to attending because it was such an engaging, positive environment with a lot of motivation from the faculty and staff. His advice for students is not to lose focus, recognize that it will take a lot of hard work and sacrifices. He states that he studied like crazy, day and night, his eyes were red, but he never felt like giving up. Even when he failed his written exam by one point, he returned the next week, retook it, and passed it. He achieved his A&P Certification in August 2017.

Once he received his A&P certification, he was hired to work as an A&P mechanic for PSA Airlines. He states that he loves learning new things; every day is different; the daily routine is never the



same. He acknowledges that you have to take what you have learned in school and add what you know on the job by self-teaching, applying it, and he states that the rest is common sense. His advice to those that are new in the industry is that you must want it for yourself.

Jimmy has had to overcome a lot of adversity in reaching this stage of his career. When he first moved away from Orlando to Ohio to work with PSA Airlines, he slept in his car for two weeks before getting his first paycheck because he could not afford a hotel. He states that moving away from Orlando and his family was the best decision he could have made because it helped him grow and become more responsible, leaving his comfort zone. He is now able to provide for his family, which includes his 15-month-old son. According to a quote by Nelson Mandela, "There is no passion for being found playing small in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living." He believes, "Every opportunity starts with a TAKE-OFF!" He is so excited about his life that he is bringing others to AMO. His ultimate goal is to become Maintenance Control or Tower Control. Well done!

Aerospace Scholarship Recipient

By: Tiffany Pothier and Meira Plant

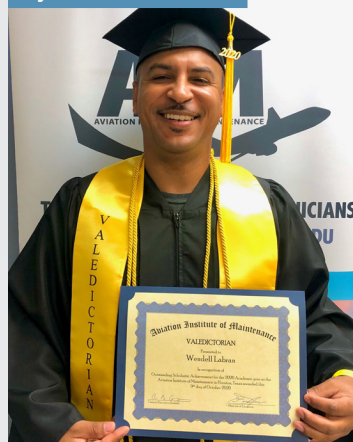


Choose Aerospace, Inc. is a partnership of aerospace stakeholders, joined to address one of the biggest threats to continued industry growth: the availability of a diverse, qualified technical workforce. The purpose of the campaign is to unite companies, associations, labor unions and educational institutions, to spur interest in aerospace careers, and identify and implement solutions to the aerospace workforce shortage.

AIM Houston is proud to announce, Ana Claudia Viertons, as a scholarship recipient. Ms. Viertons was awarded a complete set of Avotek AMT Series Textbooks. Ana comes from a family of aviators and in fact her brother and brother-in-law are both AIM Houston Alumni. Ana hails from Brazil, lived in Boston for a few years and then went back to Brazil to complete high school. From there, she moved back to Boston and eventually found her way to Houston and AIM. She has 9 months left in her program and hopes to work with her brother at American Airlines once she gets her A&P Certification. Ana saw the scholarship on the school website and decided to apply. She met the criteria for the application, which was to have a minimum of 3.5 GPA. She wrote an essay on why she thought she deserved to receive the scholarship and included two letters of recommendation from her instructors. Although she was already a very determined young mechanic, we have no doubt that this scholarship will assist her in her journey to obtaining her aviation goals.

AIM Houston Celebrates Our 2020 Valedictorian

By: Jennifer Butler



This year's Valedictorian started attending Aviation Institute of Maintenance – Houston campus in January of 2019. Not only an honor graduate, he was Student of the Quarter for July – September of 2019 because of his attendance, grades and leadership. He has been described as a very enthusiastic and self-motivated professional; filled with excitement about joining the aviation industry as a certified Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic. This graduate has over 10 years' experience in a leadership role with

several fortune 500 companies and has achieved numerous safety awards including the best in class safety record. After organization restructuring, his career path as a Network Service Manager changed and he took it as an opportunity for a brighter future. It was then he decided to follow in his father's and grandfather's footsteps and become part of an elite group of Aviation Mechanics. He looks forward to the new challenges his career will bring, but despite the challenges he looks forward to bringing the same level of safety and professionalism with him to work every day. There is no doubt that he considers it an honor to uphold the mechanics creed with the upmost integrity. We would like to congratulate our 2020 Valedictorian, Wendell Labran and look forward to sharing his exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

Drive Thru Graduation at AIM Las Vegas

By: Megan Lewis



The Aviation Institute of Maintenance, Las Vegas campus hosted a drive-thru graduation ceremony on Friday, November 6, 2020. Graduating classes from August, September, and November 2020 were invited to celebrate their success. Congratulations banners, a balloon arch, and the management, staff, and academic team were in attendance to award our graduates their diplomas. The graduates stayed in their cars with family and friends and drove up to our covered display, where instructors and administrative staff greeted them. They received their diplomas amongst a cheering crowd. To keep with CDC COVID guidelines, they were allowed to park their cars, get out with family and take pictures in the parking lot while socially distanced and wearing masks. During this very challenging time, the event was exciting and fun. People were upbeat and happy. It was a time to reflect on positive thoughts and the rewarding feeling of success!



Congratulations to our Graduates in Professional Placements

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| AGUIRRE, Brian | Professional Aircraft Accessories | COBB III, Ben | Indy Jet Services |
| AJEL, Abdalrezak | Frontier Airlines | COULTER, Joseph A | Tallahassee Aviation Partners LLC |
| AMARAEGBU, Collins | Express Jet (IAH) | CUMMINS, James T | Florida Flyers Flight Academy |
| ANDERSON, Erik | Airplanes Inc. | DANG, Joseph | Mesa Air Group |
| APONTE RODRIGUEZ, Pedro A | Certified Aviation Services | DELEON, Rufino A | Constant Aviation |
| ARAUJO, Segundo | STS | DRYDEN, Damon | AAR Corp - Rockford |
| AREVALO, Hunter A | Amentum Services | DURST, Brandon | General Dynamics Corporation |
| BAKER, Cody A | Sandpiper Turbines | FALVO, Christopher M | Workforce Resources |
| BAKER, Joseph M | Amentum Services | GAUL, Connor | Boeing |
| BECK, Austin | AAR Corp | GIORGI, Breanna F | Enterprise Resource Services, Inc. |
| BECKER Jr., John E | Space X | GOUNEHKPON, Segbegnon | Mesa Air Group |
| BELANGER, Lyndon J | Piper Aircraft, Inc. | GRAZIOSI, Shane D | STS Repair & Modifications |
| BELLO, Olaide | STS | HERNANDEZ, Isaac | Aerotek Aviation |
| BERES, Delaney M | Flight Safety International | HOLLEY, James R | Total Aircraft Services |
| BERON II, Robert A | AOG MX LLC | HOPKINS, Edward V | Amentum Services |
| BLACK, Kevin J | L3 Technologies | IRONS, James L | PSA Airlines |
| BOLDEN, Leonardo D | AECOM/URS | JOHN, Ricky | Piedmont |
| BONDRE, Nathan | Launch Technical Workforce | JOHNSON, Jonathan | Aerotek |
| BROWN, Joshua | Byerly Aviation | KIBLER, Nicholas | Mecaer Aviation Group |
| BUCKLEY, Joshua R | Akerman Aviation | KINISON, Timothy | The Home Depot |
| BURKHOLDER, Lena R | SpaceX | LAVAREZ, Roberto | Express Jet (IAH) |
| CAGNETTI, Steven | Boeing | LEACH, Joey | Lift Academy |
| CANNION, Jordan R | Workforce Resources | LINDO, Curtis A | Airborne Maintenance and Engineering |
| CARLIN, David | STS | LOUIS, Jean David | Aviation Personnel |
| CASTANEDA CRUZ, Adrian R | Certified Aviation Services | MAGUIRE, Connor A | Avocet MRO Services |
| CHAPPELL, Colton | Amazon.com | MAI, Matthew | Powell Electrical Systems, Inc. |
| CHRISLEY, Alexis D | Jacobs Technology | MALO, Lauren M | Spirit Airlines |
| CLARK, Alexander | Republic Airways | MARTINEZ, Gabriel A | Tyonek Native Corporation |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| MARTINEZ, Sergio | Helicopters Inc | SERGE, Shokano | InTech Aerospace |
| MARTINEZ, Troy | K & W Aviation | SESSOMS, Winston W | Amentum Services |
| MATHEW, Donny | Million Air Houston | SHEPPEARD, Shawn D | AECOM/URS |
| MATOS COLON, Carlos E | STS Line Maintenance | SII, Fong | Total Safety, US Inc |
| MAXWELL, Lovelle A | DynCorp International LLC | SMITH, Jaicob N | K & W Aviation |
| MEDETOGNON, Narcisse | STS Repair & Modifications | SNYDER, Gary | BP Air |
| MENDEZ, Claudio E | Panasonic Corporation of North America | SOLTYS, Adrian | STS Workforce Solutions |
| MENDEZ, Samuel G | Professional Aircraft Accessories | STARKE, Andrew | Gulf Coast Helicopters |
| MITCHELL, Christian | Arch Aerial | STEVENS, Richard | Menzies Aviation |
| MORALES, Alexis M | L3 Technologies | STORK, Joshua | Skywest Airlines |
| MUNGIN, Princell | Draken International | STRIMAITIS, Shaun P | Airforce Civilian Services |
| NGUYEN, Devin | Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. | TERRY, Jason | Lone Mountain Aviation Inc. |
| NIEVES ROSARIO, Julio E | Allegiant Air | THORPE, Cody | Tallahassee Aviation Partners LLC |
| PERRY, Jay C | Launch Technical Workforce | TOMASELLO, Michael | United States Air Force |
| PURCELL, Ashlee L | Piedmont Airlines | VALDES, Iliana | Mesa Air Group |
| QUESADA, Joshuel L | Professional Aircraft Accessories | VIDLER, Kyle R | Spirit Airlines |
| RICHARDS, Andrew S | PSA Airlines | VIDRASCO, Marin | Boeing |
| ROLDAN, John M | Aero Support Group | WALKER, David J | West Star Aviation |
| SAKHLEH, Michael M | Sovereign Air LLC | WARE III, Robert R | Precision Resources |
| SALGADO LUGO, Jorge D | Constant Aviation | WEIRICK, Glenn | Republic Airways |
| SARMIENTO, Alberto A | Aero Engineering Support Group | WHITE, Antonio J | Northrup Grumman Mission Systems |
| SAUCEDO, Carlos | Mesa Air Group | WILLETTE, Christopher | Republic Airways |
| SCOTT, John T | Workforce Resources | | |

AIM Houston Program Related Projects that Support Groups in the Community

By: Jennifer Butler, Campus Assistant Director
and Gary Buchanan, Director of Education

AIM Houston prides itself on serving the public and encouraging students to help local community endeavors. This year, we supported non-profit aviation museums, such as the Lone Star Flight Museum, the Marine Aviation Museum, the Air Terminal Museum, and the Houston Wing Museum. Their focus is on promoting interest in aviation with a specific emphasis on aviation maintenance. These museums provide free tours and open hangar days for children and adults throughout the year, and our students were provided the opportunity to network in the field for career prospects while working side-by-side with experienced aviation mechanics who served as mentors.

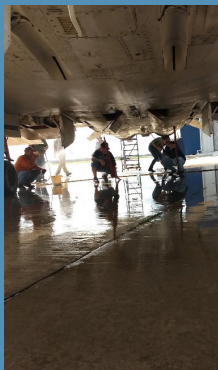
AIM Houston students voluntarily conducted preventative maintenance and corrosion control on aircraft and aircraft systems

at one of the local aviation museums located in and around the Houston, Texas area. They had the opportunity to apply the airframe and powerplant skills they have learned at AIM to help maintain airworthy and static displays that are open to the public. Work supervision was coordinated with each participating museum's maintenance coordinator who directed students to tasks and assisted in the learning process in conjunction with AIM personnel.

One of our students, Ruben Pimentel, summed up the experience eloquently when he said, "I very much enjoyed this volunteer work. I worked on the interior of the plane, installed trim and seats, installed nose wheel and fork, organized their shelves and wrote down part numbers, worked on cylinders for IO-360 **Continued on Next Page**



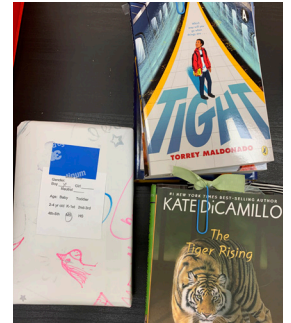
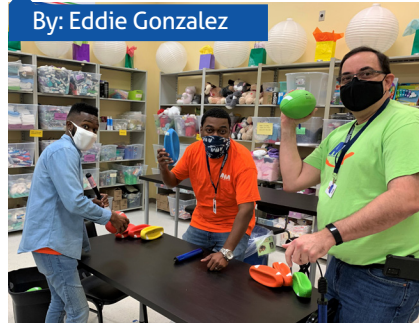
AIM Houston Program Related Projects that Support Groups in the Community (continued)



continental, towed two aircraft, and had lots of fun." Ruben said that he also worked with some gentlemen from San Antonio and may even have a job with them when he obtains his certification. As a highlight, our student volunteers assisted in the inspection and corrosion control of the F-4 Phantom, culminating in ground runs and taxiing of this historic aircraft. AIM Houston thanks the men and women who made this vision of working together for the common good a reality and looks forward to our future endeavors with these organizations.

AIM Charlotte Keeps it Bright in 2020

By: Eddie Gonzalez



No one would expect that 2020 would be a year of records and firsts for the United States, mainly to keep people safe. March 2020 marked a new time in American history, as people began to show concern and experience the effects of COVID-19. So what was the response of the Aviation Institute of Maintenance in their local communities? It was a simple but powerful one to see the needs and meet them.

Here at AIM Charlotte, we partnered with an organization that brings "Joy, Care, and Hope for Homeless and Impoverished Children." If you read the Bright Blessings website, they began by filling a void for children who did not have anyone to give them a birthday party. They have now grown to focus on four different ways to serve these children and one is the Gift of Literacy.

The AMC Staff was invited for the second year to help wrap books; and footballs and to provide inspirational words for the students delivered to children's homes and schools in the local area. Last year, Bright Blessings ended up serving 17,940 children in the local area. As of October 1, 2020, Bright Blessings has helped over 23,000 children in our local area and AIM Charlotte truly wanted to be a part of that.

Student Services Coordinator Melissa Preslar is the person who made the connection with Bright Blessings initially. When asked about her thoughts on Bright Blessings and their services, she said, "It's important to give back to the homeless youth and to let them know that someone cares. I love the idea of giving them something that they can call theirs." The event also involved all staff from different departments. Admissions Representative Howard Boyd has this to say, "It felt great to give back. We never realize how much something small can mean to someone else.

"Whether it is a book, diapers, or Happy Birthday, it can be a life changing event." Whether it is giving back as an AIM Staff member, as a student, or when you are not on campus, this year has proven that we need each other more than ever. AIM Charlotte is focused not only on providing our students with high levels of education and training, but we also desire to be a supportive voice in our community. Be encouraged to give back, be available to serve, and be the change you want to see today.