



The Vector

Newsletter of AF309: Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Air Force Association
June 2020



Chapter President-Dwyer Dennis

June was an exciting month with much effort focused on best posturing the Chapter for success. In the May Vector, I mentioned seeking ways to operate and execute our mission in a more virtual yet effective manner. A great example was Lt Ahna Arcturus, Russ Lewey and our North Brevard County Teacher of the Year, Ms. Tracey Beatovich's work to hold a Virtual STEM hour with a group of Brevard County High Schoolers from Merritt Island High. A separate writeup follows. Perhaps the most significant virtual event was our Chapter Special Meeting held 26 Jun where, by unanimous vote of those "present" - virtually, we approved changing the name of the chapter to the Space Coast Chapter. This name change was codified in an approved, and now endorsed by AFA National, revised Chapter Constitution and ByLaws. The name change will be effective 1 July 2020. To close out the Cape Canaveral's legacy of excellence I'm honored to announce that our own Jordan Arcturus was selected by National for the AFA Emerging Leader Program. Congratulations Jordan!

Again, if you have suggestions regarding virtual or physical events or if ever any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

As always - Be SAFE! Be Well!

Executive VP – Gerald May

The Chapter is supporting recognition of local area Outstanding AFJROTC and CAP Cadet of the Year AFA program. Letters of Congratulations from the Chapter and recognition trophies have been secured for the units. Look to future newsletter for announcements of names following the units' end-of-year "ceremonies."

Community Partners VP-Randy Turner

The new trifold has been printed and is available for use. The trifold will explain the AFA mission and how community businesses and organizations can partner with our chapter.

Aerospace Education VP-Russ Lewey

Outstanding News for a Cape Canaveral Teacher of the Year! Ms Jill Whitacre, our Chapter Elementary TOY was selected as the AFA Florida State Teacher of the Year. Chapter President and VP for Aerospace Ed notified Jill via a Zoom meeting and the Brevard School Board Superintendent, Mr. Mark Mullins, made the announcement during the District School Board meeting. Check out the separate article below. Another incredible recognition of the great things happening on our Space Coast.

Chapter Treasurer-Jim Carroll

As of the end of May 2020, finances are in order and our chapter bank balance is adequate. Donations are encouraged. We're excited about a recent donation via the Chapter's PayPal site. If you have questions about donations, please don't hesitate to contact Jim.

Chapter Secretary-Marc Lindsley

Minutes from the May EC meeting were approved by the Executive Council. All members are encouraged to update their contact information with AFA National.

Events

Jun 9 EC held virtually. Jul EC will be held virtually via Zoom on 14 July. Let us know if you want an invite.
Jun 26 Special Mtg (via Zoom) for members to approve Chapter name change and revised Constitution.

Upcoming

Jul 25 AFA State Convention in Jacksonville FL
Sep 12-13 AFA National Convention
Sep 14-16 AFA National Air, Space & Cyber Conference

Executive Council Decisions from 12 May EC

1. EC directed Special Mtg for members to approve name change and revised Constitution and Bylaws
2. Go to www.canaveral.afaflorida.org. to get updates and access The Vector online. New Facebook site is active: <https://m.facebook.com/AFA SpaceCoast/>.

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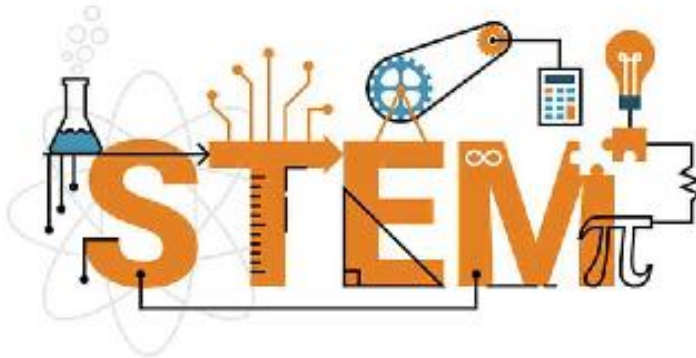


Air Force Association **Virtual STEM DAY**

By: Ahna Arcturus, AFA Ch. 309

The Air Force Association (AFA) has long believed in the power of education and technology to transform the lives of Airmen and the American public they faithful serve. Education and technology have enabled our organization and its members to adapt and overcome great trials throughout history, with

no more recent example than the COVID-19 epidemic. Despite quarantine restrictions, AFA Ch 309 developed a new way to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education in our local Space Coast community with the first-ever *AFA Virtual STEM Day!*



AFA • Patrick AFB • Merritt Island High School

Virtual STEM Day debuted on May 15, 2020 over web-based application Zoom. AFA Chapter 309 invited military and civilian experts assigned to Patrick Air Force Base to participate in a STEM panel intended to education Merritt Island High School senior students on potential career tracks.

The five-member panel presented on the chemistry, electrical engineering, nuclear science, geophysics, and various specializations like radio frequency propagation, telecommunications, engineering

management and more! The virtual platform allowed the experts to share their stories and interact with the students one-on-one.

The Seniors were exited to hear about the education and life experiences of our expert panel. They were surprised to discover most of the experts never imagined their current career success in their early education years. The panel's advice was simple... "pursue your passion and be open to opportunities... you never know where life will lead you!"

AFA Space Coast Chapter 309

AFA is an independent non-profit 501(c)3 organization that supports United States Air and Space Forces with the goal of ensuring a dominant air, space, and cyber power.

The chapter consists of over 800 and growing military and civilian members who live and work across the Space Coast.

One Chapter's priority is investing in the future of young men and women who are interested in joining the military, and/or supporting the aerospace defense of our nation.

SUPPORT THE AFA!

www.canaveral.afafloida.org

<https://facebook.com/AFA SpaceCoast/>

Pay Pal Donations:
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Space Coast is Home to the Florida Teacher of the Year 2020

By, Russ Lewey, Cape Canaveral AFA Chapter 309, VP for Aerospace Education

When the Cape Canaveral AFA Chapter received the Teacher of the Year Package from West Shore Junior/Senior High School's principal, Mr. Rick Fleming, there was no doubt they had an outstanding candidate. Their intuition was "spot on", as Ms. Jill Whitacre was selected as the Chapter Elementary Teacher of the Year and was just selected to be Florida AFA Teacher of the Year. Ms. Whitacre has been inspiring young people for twenty years. This past school year, she taught 7th and 8th graders in math and robotics. It was twelve years ago, when she started West Shore's first Lego League Team for 4th through 6th grades. In 2014, she initiated a Robotics Program, which is going strong to date. Particularly noteworthy, is that 40 – 60% of those in the Robotics Program are female. Continuing



Ms. Jill Whitacre (Right) providing instruction with two of her Robotic students.



West Shore's Robotics Team conducts field trip to Florida Institute of Technology (FIT)

evidence of her work to inspire young women to pursue STEM studies, was her recent trip to the Air Force Technical Application Center (AFTAC). There she had 8th and 9th grade young ladies take part in the Women in Science and Engineering Symposium (WiSE) for a STEM Pioneer Hands on Day. Her students have even traveled to Europe to compete in the Monaco Mousetrap Grand Prix Finals; placing second as they were up against teams from France, Italy, and Monaco.

Ms. Whitacre is a superior classroom teacher, whose dedication is unmatched. Her principal commented that her car was typically the first in the parking lot, as she works with her Lego team,

ninety minutes before school begins. In addition to inspiring and directly contributing to STEM studies, she ensures young ladies know the challenges that women before them have met and overcome. Her "Whirly-Girls", an all-female Drone Team, took their name from the first all-female helicopter pilots who flew during the Vietnam War. This team traveled to Tallahassee to meet with State legislators in furthering the promotion of STEM education.

Ms. Whitacre is the epitome of a dedicated, passionate teacher committed to helping prepare the future STEM workforce of Florida, and the Cape Canaveral AFA Chapter is very proud of our association with her!



West Shore Jr. High's "Whirly Girls" Teach running their drones through the course.

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