

Distinguished Alumni Award in 1984. He is survived by his wife, Gloria; son Steve; daughter Alyson, and five grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Hospice Family Care, 3304 Westmill Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805.

Curt Vail ('62, MS '64, PhD '69) died at home on January 11, 2006. He was 66. Vail was born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, in 1939, the youngest of seven brothers. He was orphaned at 13. Vail attended the Calgary Technical Institute and then the University of Illinois. After



Curt Vail with Hilton at anniversary celebration.

graduation, he worked for four years as a research engineer at Boeing Aircraft in Seattle, then accepted a position at GM Research Labs in Michigan. He managed new-vehicle design and was assistant chief engineer of the GM electric car. Vail joined Johnson Controls in 1982, eventually becoming vice president of engineering. In 1991, he accepted a position as assistant dean and executive-in-residence of the Eastern Michigan University Business School. He was also a visiting professor at the University of Michigan Business School from 1999 to 2000. Vail is survived by Ruth, his wife of 41 years; son Edward, daughter Amy, two grandsons, and a brother, Lloyd. A memorial service was held February 18, 2006 in Ann Arbor. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Michigan Nature Association, 326 East Grand River Avenue, Williamston, MI 48895. (*Editor's note: Vail was most recently on campus when he attended Aerospace Engineering's 60th anniversary celebration.*)

Larry Howell ('66, MS '68, PhD '71) remembers his friend: "Kathy and I had visited with [Curt] just a couple of days before we lost him—he wasn't conscious for that visit. But he had been very alert when we had visited him two weeks earlier, just before Christmas. We talked for almost an hour, mostly about our time together at Illinois, and a summer together in Seattle working for Boeing. He and I had been good friends and very close since we met at Illinois—after retirement, we had a monthly coffee get-together with a couple of other GM retirees."

maritime patrol aircraft (P-X) and cargo aircraft (C-X) at the Technical Research & Development Institute, Japan Defense Agency. He was previously an assistant director for the R&D planning division at the agency.

Suzy Sandrik (MS '02), **Ed Whalen** ('01, MS '03), and **Leia Blumenthal** ('03, MS '05) were instructors in this year's AE summer camp, Illinois Aerospace Institute. **Glenn Hawkins** ('04), **Keerti Bhamidipati** ('05), and **Gina Miller** ('05) were counselors. Twenty-five high school students enrolled in the one-week camp.

Brian Woodard, '02, MS '04, and **Kirk Kittell** ('03) interned in spring 2005 at Scaled Composites in California. Woodard remained at Scaled Composites to orient summer interns while Kittell returned to campus to complete his master's degree.

Leia Blumenthal, '03, married Sebastian Stirling, a University of Illinois alumnus from the English Department, in May 2005. She graduated with her master's in AE in August 2005. Blumenthal began studies for an aero/astro doctorate at MIT in September. She will be working on modeling the movements of a person in microgravity in the Manned Vehicle Lab.

Scot Campbell, '03, is taking a leave of absence from Boeing to work on a master's degree at AE. He will be attached to Dr. Bragg's icing group.

Kishwar Naz Hossain, MS '03, and Peshala Pahala-watta of Sri Lanka were married in Chicago. Hossain plans to graduate in 2006 with her doctorate. Her research is in the numerical simulation of solid propellant combustion.

Jorge Abanto-Bueno, PhD '04, is an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois.

Jeff Hebert, '04, works as a structural engineer at Boeing in St. Louis and is attending graduate school at Washington University.

Kara Huffman, '04, is studying for a master's degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and plans to continue for her doctorate there. Her research focus is aerospace systems, including the biomedical aspects of human involvement in space exploration. She is currently working on combining aeronautical robotics, human factors engineering, and stereographic techniques to construct an omni-directional stereoscopic imaging system.

Lisa Mueller, '04, works for Boeing in Wichita on Air Force 1. She is a stress engineer, but she writes that her job is a lot less stressful than being a student. Air Force 1 is undergoing some interior modifications, and as part of the stress team, Mueller's job is to ensure the structural viability of those modifications.

Yixin Chew, '05, completed her study abroad at the Technical University of Vienna and is employed by the Defense, Science & Technology Agency in Singapore.

Prasun Desai, PhD '05, was recently named Engineer of the Year by AIAA. Desai is a senior research engineer at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia.

Jeff Kowtko, '03, MS '05, is employed at ATA Engineering in California. The company provides solutions to analyze and test designs of mechanical, electro-mechanical, and aerospace products. His first job for ATA was to take real-time strain data on one of the boats at Disneyland's "Splash Mountain" ride. His second assignment was on the roller coaster "Space Mountain." "At one point, I was walking along a narrow I-beam over five stories from the ground," he said.



Jeff Kowtko performs a vibration test on "Space Mountain" at Disneyland in Anaheim, California.



Jeff Glass (right) and Larry Landgren ('77 for both) reunite at 35,000 feet. They never flew together in the Air Force but got the chance at Delta Airlines.

Present at the University of Illinois mixer at the AIAA Aerospace Sciences meeting in Reno, Nevada in January 2005: **Shawn Noe** ('93, MS '96), **Rick Mange** ('86, MS '90, PhD '96), **Mike Kerho** (MS '92, PhD '95), **Sam Lee** (MS '97, PhD '01), **David Carroll** ('85, MS '86, PhD '92), **Rex Chamberlain** (MS '80, PhD '84), **William Bertelsen** ('82), **Dan Dominik** ('74), **Gene Hill** ('57), **Bob Liebeck** ('61, MS '62, PhD '68), **Mark Maughmer** ('72, PhD '84), **Hassan Hassan** (MS '53, PhD '56), **Dan Jensen** ('88), **Tim Madden** ('86, MS '93, PhD '97), **Ashok Gopalaraman** (PhD '99), **Steve Wells** ('90, MS '92), and **Abdi Khodadoust** (PhD '93).

Several alumni and alumnae serve on various AIAA technical committees: **Daryl Boden** (PhD '86, USN Academy), **W. Todd Cerven** ('97, MS '99, PhD '03, Aerospace Corp), **Prasun Desai** (PhD '05, NASA Langley), **Robert Farquhar** ('59, Johns Hopkins APL), and **Ronald Lisowski** (PhD '84, USAF Academy) on the Astrodynamics TC; **Steven Tra-gesser** ('92, U. Colorado at Colorado Springs), Space Tethers TC; and **Hassan Hassan** (North Carolina State) and **Abdi Khodadoust** (Boeing) on the Atmospheric and Space Environment TC, while **Anthony Springer** ('91, NASA HQ) is the current chair of the History TC.

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FACULTY NEWS

John Buckmaster was awarded emeritus professor status in the department. He joined the department in 1984 and retired in April 2005.

Bruce Conway received the Rose Award for Teaching Excellence at the College of Engineering's awards convocation on April 29, 2005. This award is given for achieving excellence in undergraduate teaching in the College of Engineering.

Victoria Coverstone ('85, MS '86, PhD '92) was promoted to full professor in fall 2005.

Philippe Geubelle was honored with a 2005 Bliss Faculty Scholar Award. The award recognizes faculty members who are in the early stages of their career and includes a cash stipend to support research and teaching activities. He was one of five faculty members in the College of Engineering so honored.

Profs. Bruce Conway, Victoria Coverstone, Gregory Elliott, and Philippe Geubelle appeared in the spring 2005 Incomplete List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students.

Harry Hilton and Jack Vinson have been selected by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) to teach a two-day short course on composites and viscoelasticity on April 29 and 30, 2006. The course will be held in conjunction with the annual AIAA Conference on Structures, Dynamics and Materials in Newport, RI, on May 1–4, 2006. Hilton is senior academic lead for Structural/Solid Mechanics at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. Vinson is the Fletcher Brown Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the University of Delaware.

Hilton was inducted as an AIAA Fellow in Washington, D.C. on May 10. He joins three other Fellows

on the AE faculty: **Michael Bragg** ('76, MS '77), **John Prussing**, and **Lee Sentman** ('58).

John Prussing attended the AAS/AIAA Astrodynamics Specialists Conference in Lake Tahoe, California, from August 7 to 11, 2005. At the meeting were several AE alumni: **W. Todd Cerven** ('97, MS '99, PhD '03) of The Aerospace Corporation presented a paper and attended the meeting of the AIAA Astrodynamics Technical Committee. **Prasun Desai** (PhD '05) of NASA Langley Research Center presented a paper, attended the technical committee meeting, and chaired a session. **Scott Zimmer** ('01), who is finishing his PhD at University of Texas–Austin, also presented a paper.

Wayne Solomon, professor emeritus and former department head of Aerospace Engineering, received the AIAA Plasmadynamics and Lasers Award for 2005. He was cited for contributing to the technology of HF, DF, and COIL lasers and mentoring laser technology scientists. The award was presented on June 7 at a luncheon held in conjunction with the AIAA Fluid Dynamics Conference at Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto, Canada.

Scott White has been named a University Scholar for 2005-2006. The University Scholars program was initiated in 1985 to honor outstanding faculty. He will also be invested as a Donald Biggar Willett Professor. The professorship honors the late Mr. Willett, who attended UI from 1916 to 1922.

AE faculty on AIAA technical committees: **Joanna Austin**, Propellants and Combustion TC; **Gregory Elliott**, Aerodynamic Measurement Technology TC; **Rodney Burton**, Electric Propulsion TC, and **Lee Sentman**, Plasmadynamics and Lasers TC.

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