



**GENERAL BERNARD A. SCHRIEVER
LOS ANGELES CHAPTER 147
AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION**



The Spirit of Aerospace mural by artist Scott Bloomfield
El Segundo





From The President.....

Welcome to another AFA Chapter 147 year of activity! As I take the helm from Steve Scott, I need to send him a huge thank you for a job well done. We began a new initiative under his watch, the Schriever Space Futures Forum, which takes place the morning of the AF Ball in November. It was a huge success, with Congressman Jim Bridenstine and Gen Jay Raymond heading the all-star cast of presenters. The hard working folks at SMC have precious little time to just think and discuss the Space Enterprise from different points of view. It is our pleasure to do our part to provide a couple opportunities every year, the other being the Executive Forum in June, associated with the Salute to SMC.

Truth be told, I'm doubly blessed to not only have Steve as my mentor in the Past President role, but Arnie Streland, the architect of the space futures forum, as your Vice President. Throw in Rick Reaser as treasurer for yet another year and Maj Gen Taverney (ret) as your Chairman of the Board, and you have a top notch Executive Committee to go along with an outstanding Board of Directors. The Chapter leadership is fully committed to another great year, and we finished last year in healthy financial shape, so our outreach to activities such as ROTC (LMU, UCLA and USC) and scholarships can continue full speed ahead.

When I was on active duty, I knew about AFA and joined a couple of times, but never really became involved. Yes, if you're paying attention, joining 'a couple of times' means I let my membership lapse at least once. While I must admit that I never figured I'd end up serving on chapter leadership after retirement, I did know I didn't want to lose my connection with the wonderful folks who make up the local AF community, and I wanted to give back somehow to the Service that did so much for my development. I hope you feel the same way, and one of my goals is to get some of you who are not on the Board of Directors to get involved. Perhaps you'd like to run for a seat on the board, perhaps you'd like to help with some of our committees or activities, or perhaps you'd like to just let us know what you would value in your Chapter's long range commitments. In these pages, you'll see contacts to the EXCOM or some of the committee chairs; you have my invitation to contact us to see what we're doing. I want to keep the Chapter relevant to the membership. AFA began as a voice for a separate Air Force; that job is long complete, but we still need a vibrant mission to keep folks motivated and engaged. I challenge each of you to join your Board of Directors to do just that!

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Pluntze



Air Force Association Chapter 147

General Bernard A. Schriever Chapter

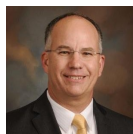
Los Angeles, CA



Chairman of the Board: Thomas D. Taverney (Tav), Maj Gen (USAF Ret)
310-218-8903 Thomas.d.taverney@leidos.com



President: Steve Pluntze
Office: 310 653-3019
scpluntze@gmail.com



Vice President: Arnie Streland
Office: 424-277-7440
arnie.streland@orbitalatk.com



Treasurer: Rick Reaser
Mobile: 310-227-5534
Richard_reaser@raytheon.com

Secretary: Vacant
Office:
Temp: Sherry Wilson,
Brenda Pluntze



Community Partners: Joe Boyle
310-282-5126
joeboyle510@gmail.com



Website: <http://afa147.org/>

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In February, the AFA Schriever Chapter #147 Board of Directors voted to donate \$500 to our local Richmond Street Elementary School in El Segundo, California. The donation will be used to help fund hands-on science experiments at the school's "Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) Night," which is scheduled for April 27th this year. The STEAM Night is an annual event that allows the 590 children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade to try real science and engineering experiments, while having fun and learning about scientific principals at the same time.

Laura Pope
Senior Systems Engineer

Dear Ms. Pope,

Thank you so much for providing our school with the \$500 towards our STEAM Night! We appreciate community members like you who help advocate for the wonderful programs in our schools.

Thank you again and I hope you have a wonderful weekend,
Warmly,
Alice Lee, Ed.D.
Principal, Richmond Street School



Assistant Principal of Richmond Street Elementary School, Dr. Rebecca Godbey, accepting the check on the school's behalf.

StellarXplorers: A Rising Star in the Space Community

By: Harmont Grenier



RPV, California – StellarXplorers is a new program hosted by the Air Force Association centered around teaching and encouraging America's youth to seek careers in the ever-expanding industry of space; but, the AFA didn't stop there. StellarXplorers provides an entire curriculum that teaches critical skills to the leaders of tomorrow. Through the sponsorship with Analytical Graphics Inc. (AGI), StellarXplorers allows participants to use state of the art orbital analysis software; allowing them to become familiar with the same program commonly used in the industry today. The StellarXplorers competition is composed of three practice rounds, three qualification rounds, and the national finals in Colorado Springs, Colorado. During each of these six hour rounds the teams are expected to create and optimize satellite orbits, perfect the craft's design, or adopt a launch vehicle to launch their spacecraft. Only the top ten teams will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Colorado Springs for the Championship Round, a tour of the Space Foundation's 33rd Space Symposium, and Awards Dinner. In Colorado, and throughout the competition, teams have the chance to meet and learn from top industry professionals. With sponsorships from: AFA, The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), United Launch Alliance (ULA), Department of Defense STEM, Orbital ATK, Blue Origin, Analytical Graphics Inc. (AGI), SpaceX, Kratos Defense & Security Solutions Inc., The Space Foundation, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Lockheed Martin Corporation, and Coyote Enterprises Inc.

StellarXplorers is a rising star in the space community. "No other competition today provides the in-depth education and training in the space field that StellarXplorers does; in fact, I have yet to see anyone even come close. AFA teaches material that has prepared me, and many other young people, to be ready for the pursuit of careers in not only the space industry but also any STEM career." – Harmont Grenier, 2016 2nd Place National Champion Team Captain. Harmont Grenier described his experience with the StellarXplorers competition as, "nothing shy of brilliant," he said that through the grueling six hour rounds and even more grueling days waiting for their scores, the competition only grows more exciting. During his first year of participating in StellarXplorers with Palos Verdes Peninsula High School, the school managed to take home both the First and Second Place National Championships. After their time in Colorado, two of the team members, including Harmont, went on to receive their certification in AGI's Systems Tool Kit (STK). Peninsula's participation has doubled in size in this, their second year of participation, and have yet another team going to the national finals for this year's competition. "It is amazing to see them take to the program so quickly, and what's better is they absolutely love doing it," commented Greg Grenier, one of the Peninsula team coordinators, after the third qualification round. Both the adults and student participants at Peninsula are very excited to be participating in StellarXplorers for many years to come.



**Both Peninsula 2016 National Finalist Teams
with StellarXplorers Staff.**

Left to right –

Top row: Bill Yucuis, Eugene Lee, Sher Shar, Harmont Grenier
, Nathan Kim, Regina Lee, Buck Buckwalter –

Bottom row: Elizabeth Grenier, Yodai Takeuchi, Amy Ross,
Bethany Grenier, David Noh, Sahil Parikh, Rishi Gattu.

Peninsula First and Second Place Championship teams.

Left to right – Eugene Lee, Sher Shar, Sahil Parikh,
Yodai Takeuchi, Regina Lee, Elizabeth Grenier,
Harmont Grenier, Bethany Grenier, Amy Ross,
Nathan Kim, David Noh, Rishi Gattu.



**Peninsula First and Second Place Champions
with StellarXplorers dignitaries.**

Left to right – Top row: Sher Shar, Eugene Lee,
Sahil Parikh, Col. Martin France (Head, USAFA
Astronautics Dept), Harmont Grenier,
Bethany Grenier, Rishi Gattu, Amy Ross

Bottom row, Elizabeth Grenier, Yodai Takeuchi,
Nathan Kim, David Noh



**Peninsula teams at the Space Foundation's
32nd Space Symposium with keynote speaker Trevor Beattie.**

Left to right – Top row: Rishi Gattu, Adam Wolven
Middle row: Sher Shar, Nathan Kim, Harmont
Grenier, Trevor Beattie, Regina Lee, Eugene Lee,
Yodai Takeuchi

Bottom row: Amy Ross, Bethany
Grenier, Elizabeth Grenier, Sahil Parikh, David Noh





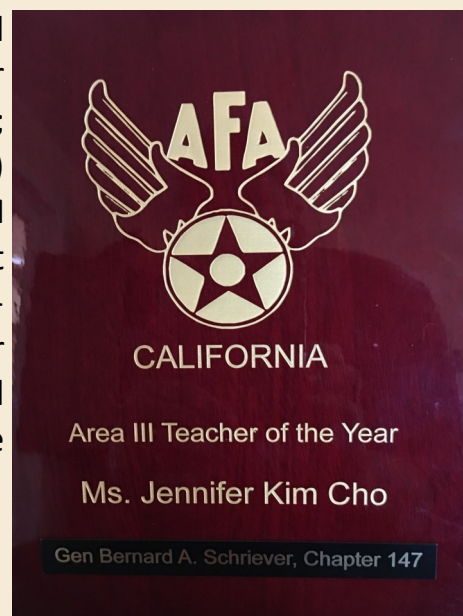
CALIFORNIA AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (CAFA) AREA III TEACHER OF THE YEAR (TOY) for 2015

Ms. Jennifer Kim Cho recently received recognition of her selection as the 2015 California AFA Area III Teacher of the Year (TOY) for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) subjects. Ms. Cho teaches both Introduction to Engineering and Calculus at Palos Verdes High School in Palos Verdes Estates, California. The delay in her recognition was due to the reorganization of the California AFA (CAFA) organization into the new AFA-California (AFAC) organization.

Ms. Cho had previously been recognized and received a \$250 check as the AFA Schriever Chapter #147 High School STEM Teacher of the Year for 2015, but was also later selected as the Area-level STEM TOY winner as well. This March, the AFA Schriever Chapter presented her with her Area III Teacher of the Year plaque and a \$500 check, in recognition of her outstanding contributions in teaching Engineering and Math in our local community.

Her Principal at Palos Verdes High School, Dr. Charles Park, wrote, "As a result of Ms. Cho's instruction, students in our school have been motivated to study and demonstrate interest in these fields, and are more likely to want to pursue STEM subjects as potential future careers. I appreciate the Air Force Association helping us recognize the overall outstanding performance and dedication of our local STEM Teachers!"

The Schriever Chapter is continuing to recognize outstanding STEM teaching in our community, and is currently soliciting nominations for the 2016 STEM Teacher of the Year from the Intermediate and High School principals in the area. The Chapter's STEM TOY Committee will then score all nominations based on five Chapter criteria: 1) methods for increasing students' interest in and study of STEM subjects; 2) use of innovative tools or methods of teaching STEM; 3) descriptive or quantitative impact of nominee's STEM teaching; 4) extracurricular STEM volunteer activities that are not part of normal, paid teaching duties; and 5) continuing STEM education the nominee is pursuing currently or has completed in the last 5 years. The Intermediate and High School-level Chapter #147 winners for this year will be selected and notified in April.



Recipient of the Colonel George Day Cup: Cadet Courtney Tomas

AFA have been proud supporters of Arnold Air Society (AAS), an AFROTC cadet-run organization advocating the support of aerospace power, since its foundation and continues to support in Arnold Air Society's endeavors to assist in the development of the best officer candidates for the Air Force. One such cadet in the society is Courtney Tomas from AFROTC Detachment 055 at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Cadet Tomas is a third-year cadet at the detachment and has been recognized on numerous occasions for her outstanding leadership potential and dedication to Detachment 055. This year alone Cadet Tomas received the distinguish graduate award, which is given to the top ten percent of their Field Training Flight, raised over \$900 for the cadet wing, assisted as the deputy squadron commander for AAS – Capt. Don Brown Squadron in training incoming AAS candidates, and is training this year's PLEAD cadets as they get ready to go off to Alabama for LEAD, previously known as Field Training Preparation and Field Training. Cadet Tomas has most recently been recognized by AAS National for all her accomplishments and was awarded the Col. George Day Cup National Award for "Outstanding Squadron Staff Officer." Thanks to the AFA Chapter 147, General Bernard A. Schriever Los Angeles Chapter, and all their support for the local Southern Californian JROTC and ROTC, Cadet Tomas will be able to travel to Orlando, Florida for Arnold Air Society's National Conclave where she will formally receive her award. The AFA's continual support of the ROTC and JROTC detachments have made it possible for cadets like Cadet Tomas to aim high and reach even higher goals.



*Photo of Cadet Courtney Tomas from Detachment 055 at UCLA in action
by training cadets for LEAD (Previously known as Field Training)



AFA President, Steve Pluntze



Commander; Lt. Gen. Samuel A. Greaves

AFA Chapter 147 held its first membership mixer of the year on Friday, 7 April. These have become something of a tradition on the base, as we try to familiarize new groups of interested SMC employees with the Chapter and our mission. Once again, Lt Gen Sam Greaves was kind enough to offer a few words about the outstanding accomplishments of SMC since the mixer last fall, as well as mention some potential changes SMC might see in the future. We had a great time, handed out membership materials and gave away some raffle prizes. Many thanks go to our Membership Committee of Mary Guyse and Bill Page. Look for the second mixer of the year on or about the first Friday of October.



Committees



AFA National Liaison

Wayne Kauffman, wayne.kauffman@raytheon.com



Airmen/Family support

Brad J. Bolstad, brad.bolstad@orbitalatk.com



Awards

Hector Pelayo, hector.pelayo@att.com



Base Scholarships

Bill Harding, rocketdude@verizon.net



Community Relations

Jerry Saunders, jsaunders@continentaldevelopment.com



CyberPatriot

Mark Williams, markwill@earthlink.net



Education

Chris Harlambakis, chris.harlambakis@rocket.com



Events

Alison Schneider, alison.l.schneider@boeing.com



Executive Forum

Laura Pope, lpope@stellarsolutions.com



Governance & ByLaws

Bob Wickwire, robertjwickwire@gmail.com



Membership

Mary Guyse, maryguyse01@yahoo.com

Bill Page, William.Page@engilitycorp.com



Public Relations

Chris O'Connor, afchris.oconnor@gmail.com



ROTC/JROTC

Randy Odle, randy.t.odle@jpl.nasa.gov



Schriever Pioneers

Chris Kalivas, cjkalivas@cox.net



<https://www.facebook.com/afachapter147>

Newsletter Editor & Public Affairs Chair, Chris O'Connor, afchris.oconnor@gmail.com

Newsletter Creator & Publisher, Brenda Pluntze, bpluntze@yahoo.com

