Aviation Institute of Maintenance – Dallas Campus had the pleasure participating in and placing third in this year’s AMT Society’s Maintenance Skills Competition in Las Vegas, NV. The preparation of this great team began by an entirely dedicated Education department and Mr. Riccadelli, team captain, to ensure these students had plenty of hands-on practice time. The team put in countless hours of preparation on Fridays and an occasional Saturday prior to the Maintenance skills competition. In addition the Dallas team was able to place 4th overall in their first appearance at the Dallas area PAMA competition held at Tarrant County Community College in January 2013.

Aviation Institute of Maintenance – Dallas Campus is VERY proud of this year’s team and we look forward to next year’s competition.

“My experience at the competitions was awesome. Knowing that you’re competing with the aviation elite was unnerving and exciting at the same time. It was one of the greatest honors I have ever received. I would like to thank God, my wife, my teammates, and AIM Dallas for supporting us and making this possible.” - Timothy Dearman, AMD

The other AIM school teams had some individual success including Team Atlanta taking the Bonding and...
New Landing Gear Trainer at AIM-Orlando

By Ivan Rodriguez, AMO

There are two absolutes at AIM-Orlando, change and growth in all areas of work. Mr. Walter W. Wyatt, one of the instructors, spends his time between teaching training and engaging in developing new training aids. A few months ago, he was given the task to build a working landing gear trainer. He started gathering materials from an old King Air 90, fitting them and hard working on designing and making a functional landing gear. As the weeks went by and from time to time other instructors got involved and Wyatt also got some students involved in the landing gear project. The students were assigned to assist clean, weld, and participate in what in the end has become a legacy for the present and future students of our school: a fully functional, working landing gear.

Interviewing Mr. Wyatt about this project he expresses, “I started designing around July 2012, after I was given the task to build this trainer, we completed construction in two MODS with help of some selected students and instructors.” The purpose for the trainer was to teach students ground handling mechanical landing gear systems, hydraulics and electrical troubleshooting. During the 2012 winter break, the trainer was finished and painted blue, white and red by members of the faculty (Mr. Tarr, Mr. Ross, Mr. Miller, Mr. Biekert, Mr. Michael and Mr. Keeling). Wyatt enjoys working with the students, individually and as a team. “I want to provide the best that we can give to form the minds of our students into professional A&Ps.” It is amazing how a pile of metal can become a working trainer under the hard work of knowledgeable professionals that have dedicated their lives to teach others the ins and outs of the Aviation Maintenance profession.

Safety First at AIM-Houston

BY MIRTHA GONZALEZ & STEVE TIERNEY, AMH

Mr. Paul Downs, FAA Safety Team Program Manager, came to visit the morning Reciprocating Engines class at the Aviation Institute of Maintenance, Houston. The importance of safety in the aviation community is one of the most important roles known. The FAA issue and enforce regulations and minimum standards covering manufacturing, operating, and maintaining aircraft.

The timing of his visit was perfect, as a majority of the students in class are nearing the completion of their training here at AIM and will hopefully be tested on their Oral and Practical soon. Mr. Downs spoke about maintenance, overhauls, Federal regulations and human factors that pertain to safety. Students were able to walk away with a new view of code of federal regulations part 43 and FAA human factors.

Mr. Tierney, class instructor, commented “As they near the end of the program the students need to be shown what happens in the field and how the FAA handles these situations.” Having Mr. Downs from the FAA visiting our AIM campus is truly rewarding for our future mechanics, it assists them in building a relationship with the local Flight Standards District Office and hopefully makes dealing with the FAA less stressful.

Indy’s Study Skills Workshop

By Jason Noel

On February 27th, AIM-Indy held its first ever Study Skills workshop. We had a great turn out for the workshop that went over well with the students. We had a total of 15 students come to the workshop as well as one of our instructors. We covered everything from proper note taking to avoiding procrastination. There were some useful tips provided to the student’s to assist in their future classes. Instructor, Mark Holloway, also added some insightful advice regarding this topic of discussion.
Manassas Launches the Queen Air Rebuild Project

BY ROWE LEATHERS, AMM

Manassas students are getting their chance to get their hands dirty by volunteering for the Queen Air Rebuild Project. AIM-Manassas’ most dedicated students and graduates looking to practice their mechanical skills are found every Friday working in the shop. Students hungry for experience have been volunteering their precious time with a minimum of four hours each session.

The highly structured project is a joint venture between the Education department and Career Services. Under the supervision of Chris Wilkison, Program Coordinator, students are experiencing real world requirements, expectations and challenges.

The project stemmed from the internship program offered through Career Services. By bringing the internship program in-house, Career Services is able to offer a larger number of students the opportunity. Each student is required to have a maintenance log to track his or her work. The goal for each student is to have a log of all the tasks he or she has performed. With the log book in hand, the hope is that it will help build confidence as they begin to interview with employers and become professional aviation mechanics.

The project is open to all students who have finished Generals, thus having a basic understanding of the functions in the shop. Graduates looking to gain experience are also welcome and make up half of the attendees. The project is a success and is embraced by all.

Robinson R22 Helicopter Flies into and Makes Home in Dallas

By Chris Coley & Dr. Robert Steinman, AMD

AIM-Dallas is now the home to a Robinson R22 helicopter. This aircraft was introduced and welcomed by faculty, staff and students. This aircraft will now allow additional training for the students on a helicopter aircraft. The students are excited about the new addition to the already extensive collection in the hangar.

Manage the Skies with the Aviation Management Degree

Hot air balloons, insurance, farms, and poetry are four things that appear to have nothing in common. Believe it or not, they do. Lately, students in the Aviation Maintenance Management (AMM) program at Centura College’s online campus have been talking about these and other concepts and how they relate to their current and future career paths. Centura’s AMM students have chosen to enhance their technical skills, which many gained at Centura’s sister school, AIM, with management techniques that will help them move into supervisory roles earlier in their careers.

AMM graduates are also saying how much this program has changed their lives and not just from a career-minded perspective. Because the Aviation Maintenance Management program is so multi-faceted, many assignments ask students to think about meaningful experiences in other areas of their lives. One graduate realized that writing poetry in his spare time provided an outlet for creativity, while focusing his intellectual efforts on his schoolwork and career. He noted, “This program has shown me that I can do the things I want to do in my life. I can have it all — an education, a career, and an awesome personal life. Writing poetry makes me feel good and who doesn’t want to feel good? If I feel good, I’ll obviously do a better job at work and in other areas of my life.”

It’s “plane” to see that current students and graduates of the AMM program are involved with some of the very best in-field academic training, but they are also growing as individuals and enjoying all aspects of their lives more. Mark Twain once said, “Never let formal education get in your way of learning.” AMM students, past and present, are proof that learning can involve a multitude of unique things, in
AIM-Atlanta Promotes Professional Aviation Maintenance Organization Affiliation By Tara Logan, AMA

Gary Sanders, Professional Aviation Maintenance Association (PAMA) Representative, spoke with a group of AIM Atlanta students. AIM Atlanta encourages students to become affiliated with professional aviation maintenance organizations in efforts to enhance networking, scholarship awards, and career opportunities. Mr. Sanders discussed the history of PAMA, its mission, and PAMA’s student membership benefits. Mr. Sanders is currently employed with Lockheed Martin as an aviation maintenance technician (AMT) and has previously been employed with Gulfstream located in Savannah, Georgia.

The students were able to receive a wealth of information regarding the aviation maintenance industry and how being affiliated with a PAMA contributes to career development and career progression. Mr. Sanders serves dually as a representative of the Aircraft Maintenance Technician (AMT) Society and discussed its organizational history, mission, and student membership benefits. AMT Society annually hosts the AMT Society Skills Competition. AIM Atlanta’s AMT Skills Competition Team participated in the 6th Annual AMT Society Skills Competition held this year in Las Vegas Nevada.

GE Aviation Recruits at AIM-Chesapeake

By Gloria Powell, AMN

On January 24th, recruiter Molly Hackett was invited by Career Services to interview graduates and pending graduates for positions with General Electric Aviation in Sterling, Virginia.

Molly was given a tour of our campus and was very impressed not only with institution and our curriculum but also with the preparedness of our grads. Prior to her visit “A Positive Employment Program’s Step 4-Best Practices for Interviewing” workshop was held here at the school to prepare the grads for the interviews. They were interviewed one by one.

“Hi AIM-Chesapeake, Thank you so much for organizing the campus recruiting event! It was wonderful to be able to tour your campus and meet some of the talented students at AIM. I am really looking forward to having further discussions with the students via on-site interviews. We will be contacting the students early next week to arrange for on-site interviews. It was great getting to meet you and the rest of the AIM faculty. I look forward to working with you again in the near future! Thanks.” Molly (GE Aviation)

STORY FOLLOW-UP: Mr. Ernest Dorson who moved here from Haiti to make a better life for himself and his family enrolled in the AIM-Chesapeake AMT program in June 2011 and graduated Magna Cum Laude in December 2012. Mr. Dorson attended our Positive Employment Workshops (PEP) to prepare himself for the resume building and interviewing process. Mr. Dorson interviewed at our GE Aviation hiring event and 1 week later Mr. Dorson was invited to Sterling, Virginia for an onsite interview with GE Aviation Corporation. Within days of the interview he was hired. He has since relocated and began his new career with GE Aviation on March 11, 2013. Congratulations Ernest! *
AIM-Orlando Career Talk with Pneu Tech Aerospace

By: Kathy Frounder, AMO

On January 18th, AIM-Orlando had the pleasure of Mr. Todd Morris, the owner of Pneu Tech Aerospace come in and do a Career Talk with students and graduates. After the Career Talk, those who brought resumes were invited to interview with Mr. Morris for a potential job with the company.

Mr. Morris was able to have a huge impact on the students and graduates because of the vast industry knowledge that he has. He discussed his passion for aviation maintenance as well as the reality of working in the industry. It was important to him to let the students and graduates know what it is like to work in the field as well as industry expectations.

Not only were industry expectations discussed, but, the importance of having an A&P certificate was also discussed. Mr. Morris told students and graduates that the way to get more out of the industry was to earn an FAA A&P certificate. He said that it can take them just about anywhere they could ever want to go.

Mr. Morris was able to impart some valuable knowledge amongst students and graduates. He was an inspiration to everyone and his speech left a great impact. All that left the Career Talk were very motivated and excited about what is yet to come in their field.

AIM-Manassas Keeping Busy

By Sheryl Rogers, AMM

The past quarter has been very busy at AIM, Manassas, starting with a very successful student appreciation Pizza Day. Other student appreciation days consisted of Popcorn Day, in which each student was given a bag of popcorn, a showing of “The Bourne Legacy” and a raffle contest with a Universal 7-piece wrench set as the grand prize, and local gift cards for the four runners-up.

The Student Services Department held a food drive in December for SERVE, our local family shelter and food pantry. Our students and staff were extremely generous with their donations to help those in need, donating 763 individual non-perishable food items weighing 392 pounds!

Two field trips were offered - one to King Aviation, home of the Flying Circus in which students and staff were treated to an individualized tour by the owner, John King, of two working hangars containing World War I era barnstorming planes. These planes are owned by private individuals and used in the Flying Circus air shows. The second field trip involved a tour of the local BAE Systems campus, in which we were provided information and access to their circuit technology centers, culminating in the viewing of a $10,000,000 machine used to make circuits based on specific client needs. We learned during this visit that three of the computers developed by this particular BAE campus are on the Mars Rovers currently being used by NASA. And finally, we have our two winners of the Tool Olympics, Robert Wenzl and Joel Scheifele, who will be representing AIM, Manassas at the Maintenance Skills competition in Las Vegas in March! We wish them much luck!

AIM-Houston’s Field Trip Time

By: Mirtha Gonzales & Steve Tierney, AMH

Houston’s day Reciprocating Engines class went on a field trip to Southwest Airlines main maintenance hangar. Mr. Evan Truettner gave the students a guided tour of the facility, and shown how maintenance technicians map out crack repairs of fuselage damage. Truettner also reaffirmed policies on proper maintenance records and keeping all shop safety practices. The tour proceeded to the back shops where they were able to see precision measurements of cracks being taken and Non Destructive Inspections. The students also toured the composite repair shop.

The class also had the opportunity to visit Signature Flight Support and Hawker Beechcraft (recently merged to become Jet Aviation) where they were introduced to Mr. Dario Garcia. During their visit they were shown operations, ground handling, and servicing. The students then visited the Hawker Beechcraft repair station where they were met by Jason Kopecki who explained the various maintenance procedures and the job functions of each maintenance technician. This reinforced the student’s educational objectives. Finally the students visited the fuel farm and became familiar with documentation that is required for tracking fuel that is delivered to customer aircrafts.

During the field trips the students got a real life glimpse of how the avionics, interior and inspections shops function.
St. Patrick’s Day Parade continued

answered many questions from the curious parade watchers. With freezing rain, snow, wind and low temps the trek was quite a journey. The parade team had a great time and an inspiration for all age groups. A big thank you goes out to students Lisa Brown; Marshall Williams; Kevin Turner; Matthew Strauss; Christopher Martinez; alum Curtis Gamble; instructors Mr. Thacker and Mr. Alvarado; and staff Patrick Nelson, Mark Barefoot, Carletta Race and Jenny Caruso for all their work.
By Andy Duncan, AMI

AIM-Indianapolis Does it Again
Wins 8th Consecutive Diamond Award

For the eighth consecutive year, AIM Indy has earned the FAA’s Award of Excellence “Diamond Award.” To earn this distinction once is an honor. To earn it twice is noteworthy, but to earn it eight years in a row is nothing short of inspiring. The faculty at AIM Indy has worked diligently to satisfy all requirements needed to achieve this distinction for the eighth time. The school has developed a formula for providing excellent education to students as well as continued training for instructors and the FAA has noticed. “AIM-Indy strives to achieve this award each year. Our dedicated faculty accomplishes this by completing training at FAAsafety.gov, AMT Society, Aircraft Electronics Association and Annual IA Training provided by our local FSDO. Our faculty completed 600 plus hours of training this year,” Mike Newman, Director of Education. Steve Kivett, Program Coordinator, says, “Having worked in the aviation industry for over 15 years, I have never been involved with a company that takes training so seriously. I am proud and honored to work at AIM-Indy.” We have no plans to stop our successful tradition of excellence in training any time soon.

Pursue your goals and follow your passion

By Ivan Rodriguez, AMO

I found this quote on the internet: “Women in aviation industry appeared to be a rather different minority; only a handful of women have experienced the loneliness of being the only one or one of the few women at work or school.”

AIM-Orlando (AMO) would like to recognize those brave students that are successfully overcoming their personal, societal, and industry challenges to become an Aviation Maintenance Technician in our school. One of those students is Laura Gonzalez. This is a student that has overcome many barriers to finally be an AIM graduate. Talking to Gonzalez, she shared with us her experience as a student. “In the beginning it wasn’t easy because of the language barrier. My native language is Spanish, because I was born and raised in the beautiful island of Puerto Rico. Thanks to the encouragement of my fiancé and the school staff and faculty, I have been able to succeed in many of the challenges placed before me. I have many people that have been instrumental in my success. The instructors, classmates, and program coordinators have been willing to go the extra mile to help me. I love working on aircraft and was always fascinated by the aviation industry. The instructors at AMO have been inspirational to me, not only for what they teach but for their knowledge and experience in the field. They share many years of experience in the classroom and this has motivated me to continue learning and has opened my eyes to appreciate the profession in ways that I never imagined. Although I was one of the few women in school, I never felt out of place, my classmates have always respected me and made me feel as part of the team.”

Student Services asked Laura, “What advice would you give to women contemplating becoming an AMT?” She responded, “Pursue your goals and follow your passion, there is no such thing as a male/female only job, the limits are only as far as you make them.” Laura Gonzalez is a great example of someone that pursues and reaches her goals and dreams. We wish her success in her professional life.

AIM-Oakland’s Students of the MOD

By Bianca Franco, AMS

Each of our students who were recognized as Student of MOD have their own positive attitude and leadership skills which helps them strive to obtain stellar performance at AIM-Oakland.

Career Services Coordinator, Bianca Franco, sat down with the Students of the MOD for January (day and evening classes) and asked them what type of attitude do they have while attending school? How do they define and apply their leadership skills at school?

Student of the MOD for evening class, Robert Castellano, commented that the attitude he has while attending school is to focus on learning. He served in the NAVY for four years and worked as an engine mechanic working on FA 18 Super Hornets. His experiences have allowed him to have a passionate and focused attitude while attending school. He defines leadership as someone who takes initiative to help others promptly. He uses his leadership by answering questions and assisting his fellow classmates to the best of his ability.

Here in AIM-Oakland we are extremely proud of our students and hope that they are able to continue to develop their positive attitudes and leadership skills as AMTs in the field. It is wonderful to see that they do not just work on their own success, but they also make an effort to help their classmates succeed. This is something that we all at AIM can appreciate because it all goes back to the ONE TEAM ONE GOAL! Great job Michael and Robert!