

Welcome to this month's issue of ASCEND, the electronic newsletter for The University of Alabama's Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics. Each month, we hope to give you a snapshot of the people and activities helping to shape the future of aerospace engineering and theoretical/applied mechanics.

### *October Spotlights*

- **Dr. Weihua Su** ([suw@eng.ua.edu](mailto:suw@eng.ua.edu)) and his students are working with researchers from the Florida Institute of Technology, a.i. solutions, and NASA Kennedy Space Center (KSC) to develop flexible fiber-optic sensor systems for real-time monitoring and control of launch vehicle vibrations. Dr. Su's research group is also collaborating with researchers from Michigan State University and NASA Ames Research Center (ARC) to develop multidisciplinary aeroelastic analysis and robust control tools for next-generation, highly-flexible, mission-adaptive aircraft. For more information about Dr. Su's research, visit <http://asdr.eng.ua.edu/>.
- **Dr. Charles O'Neill** ([croneill@eng.ua.edu](mailto:croneill@eng.ua.edu)) and MSAEM student **Jamie Moon**, working with the Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering Department and the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS), recently deployed UAVs to Southwest Florida to assess damage from Hurricane Irma. Homes with an IBHS FORTIFIED certification and surrounding neighborhoods were scanned/surveyed to study the impact of building codes, locations and construction methods on hurricane and tropical storm damage. For more information, contact Dr. O'Neill or visit <http://aero.ua.edu>.
- **Dr. Paul Hubner** ([phubner@eng.ua.edu](mailto:p hubner@eng.ua.edu)) will be honored as a recipient of a 2017 Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award (OCTA) on Oct. 17. The OCTA, awarded by The National Alumni Association of The University of Alabama, is the highest UA honor for teaching. Dr. Hubner is the third active AEM faculty member to receive this award, making AEM one of the most recognized departments for teaching excellence.
- **AEM Faculty Openings:** AEM is searching for four faculty members, two tenured/tenure track (with a focus on unmanned aerial systems or miniaturized satellite systems) and two non-tenure track (with a focus on supporting AEM's distance learning mission). If you know anyone who may be interested in applying for these positions, they may apply online at <http://facultyjobs.ua.edu>.
- **NASA Days** are coming Nov. 2-3!

---

Please feel free to contact us should you ever want additional information. I hope you are having an outstanding October.

Roll Tide!  
John Baker