

PHILANTHROPY IMPACT REPORT

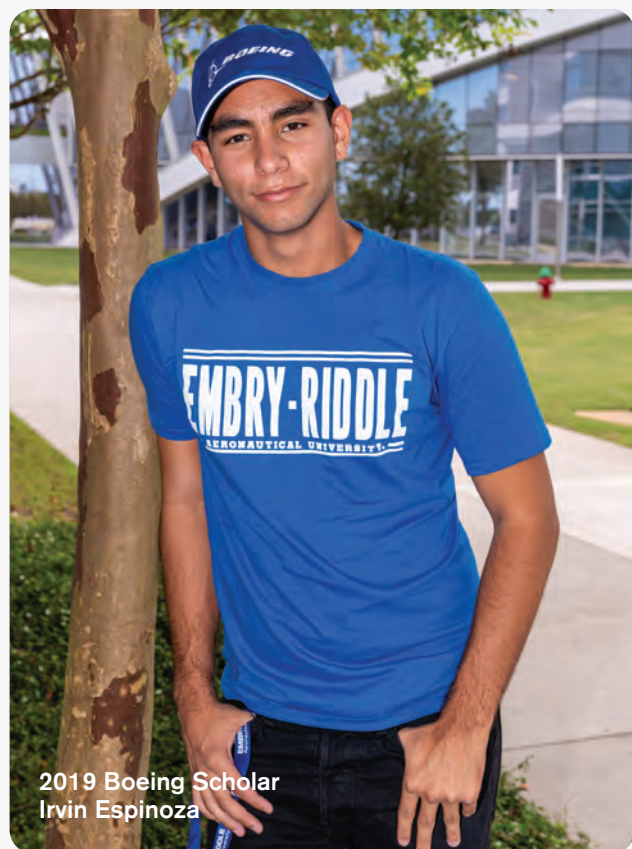
JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019



EMBRY-RIDDLE
Aeronautical University

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE P. BARRY BUTLER

When I delivered the 2019 State of the University Address, we displayed recent Embry-Riddle headlines. These were points of pride from the past year: competitions won by our students, grants earned by faculty members, top rankings for our programs, and more.

You are a big part of the story behind those headlines.

In championing the work that we do, as an ambassador who shares our story or as someone who advances our future with a donation, your support allows us to explore and excel. Even a modest gift that adds to a scholarship fund or puts new technology in our classrooms and labs can have a life-changing impact on students.

Through philanthropy, you make an immediate difference. We are grateful for your confidence in us and for your generosity toward the students we serve. Ensuring student success is our top priority.

What is easy to overlook is that by advancing our mission, you make a long-term difference, as well. You help shape the next

generation of professionals who will keep us safer, create smarter infrastructure, expand our mobility and communications and take us back to the Moon ... and onward to Mars.

The National Academy of Engineering defined 14 Grand Challenges, representing the world's most critical technological research challenges. Embry-Riddle is conducting research – and training researchers – to meet many of these challenges. Our graduates will develop new energy sources, secure cyberspace, enhance virtual reality, and engineer new tools for scientific discovery.

Thanks to the growing participation of alumni, friends, faculty and staff, we provide the resources and opportunities that make us a powerful magnet for talent. We are attracting more students, with higher grade-point averages, than ever. We are collaborating on research or workforce development programs with virtually every leader in aerospace. Our professors are distinguishing themselves by earning grants and awards from the National Science Foundation, NASA, the Department of Energy and the Department of Education.

Embry-Riddle is the right place at the right time with the "right stuff." Your gift to us has more impact than ever – immediately, and is an investment in breakthroughs to come.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

P. Barry Butler
President

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This report reflects contributions in cash, stock and other gifts-in-kind received between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report and the related online donor recognition lists at givingto.erau.edu/donor-recognition. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions. Contact the Impact Reporting unit at 800.362.9285; or email uadonor@erau.edu with any corrections, questions or address changes.

ON THE COVER: Shaddi Abdala is one of 19 inaugural Boeing Scholars. See story on page 14. (PHOTO BY DAVID MASSEY)

INSPIRED?

We hope you enjoy these stories of how philanthropy can change lives. If you are inspired to give, please visit givingto.erau.edu and "Make a Gift" or email giving@erau.edu.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

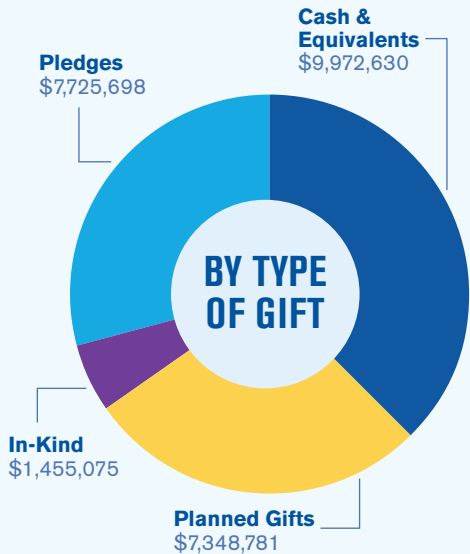
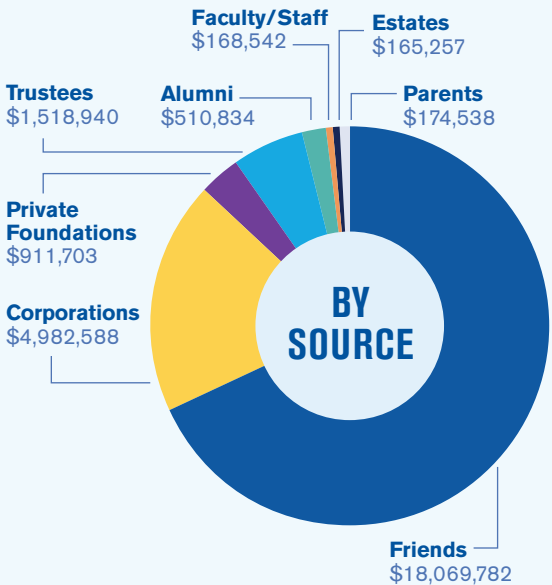
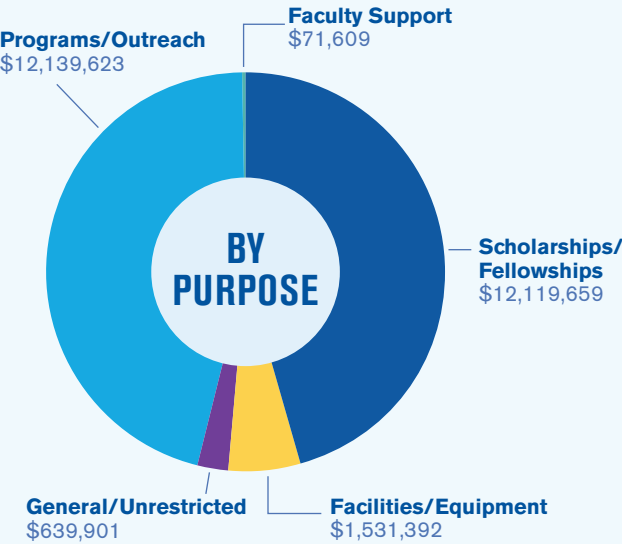
In fiscal year 2019, Embry-Riddle supporters set a new standard of generosity, contributing more than \$26.5 million to the university — the most raised in any one year in university history. Alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends also came out in unprecedented numbers for the fourth year in a row, with a record 5,655 donors stepping up in support of the university and its programs. That's especially good news for our students. Donors contributed \$12.1 million to scholarships, ensuring that talented Eagles with financial need will have more options to fund their dreams. These gifts will also empower the university with additional resources to recruit and retain the kind of difference makers for which Embry-Riddle has become well known — like Francisco Pastrana and Emily Taylor [see page 28].

And once students like these arrive at Embry-Riddle, they will find innovative new programs and services at the ready, thanks to \$12.1 million in contributions to strengthen academic and student success programs. With these vital philanthropic investments, the university is creating an environment personally tailored for student success. From the exciting developments in our aerospace physiology program made possible by Helen Wessel's transformational planned gift [see page 32], to our current efforts to expand student advising, counseling and diversity programs, Embry-Riddle is raising the bar on creating academic, professional and social experiences that address the needs of the whole student.

Our collective philanthropy in support of students continues to rise as well. Individual contributions of \$1,000 or less to benefit students and programs at the university — added up to \$835,757, up 8.1% from the previous year.

A record fundraising year, coupled with a strong investment strategy and financial market, helped raise Embry-Riddle's endowment to an all-time high of \$159,623,000.

Total Philanthropy
\$26,502,184



\$1.8 MILLION

DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS WERE MADE TO EMBRY-RIDDLE STUDENTS.

38

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS WERE CREATED TOTALING MORE THAN \$3.9 MILLION.

\$1,000

WHEN COMPILED, INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$1,000 OR LESS ADDED UP TO \$835,757 TO BENEFIT STUDENTS AND PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY.

238

ACTIVE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AT EMBRY-RIDDLE.

Total Number of Donors



*The total value of the university's long-term investment portfolio includes endowed funds and other long-term investments. Factors such as investment return, contributions and distributions (i.e. scholarship awards) determine the market value.

LIFETIME & LEGACY DONORS

Through their support and enthusiasm for the Embry-Riddle mission and their passion for philanthropy to the university, members of the Leadership Gift Societies continue to build the legacy that is Embry-Riddle.

The lists below reflect cumulative lifetime and planned gifts to the university as of June 30, 2019.

LEADERSHIP GIFT SOCIETIES

Jack R. Hunt

Named for Embry-Riddle's first university president, the Jack R. Hunt Society honors donors whose lifetime and/or planned gifts to Embry-Riddle total \$1 million or more.

John Paul Riddle

Honoring Embry-Riddle's founder, the John Paul Riddle Society recognizes donors who make lifetime and/or planned contributions totaling at least \$500,000.

T. Higbee Embry

Named for John Paul Riddle's entrepreneurial partner and Embry-Riddle's co-founder, the T. Higbee Embry Society recognizes donors with lifetime and/or planned gifts of \$100,000 or more.

Legacy

Recognizing donors who include Embry-Riddle in their estates, the Legacy Society supports multiple generations of aerospace/aviation leaders.

Jack R. Hunt Society

Corporations and Foundations

Airbus Services Company
The Boeing Company
Boston Scientific
The Robert and Lois Braddock Charitable Foundation
Brown & Brown of Florida
Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust
Honeywell
Paul & Constance Hunter Charitable Foundation
Intervest Construction
The MathWorks
The Raisbeck Foundation
Rolls-Royce Corporation
The Wessel Foundation

Alumni and Friends

Jay (HonDoc '08)* and Leila Adams
Michele Bowman-Underwood and Joseph Underwood
Rick ('67; '72) and Janice Brown
James and Beverly Cone
DeRhoads Dolan
Samuel Goldman*
James ('79) and Karli Hagedorn
Jim (HonDoc '13) and Carole Henderson
Mori (HonDoc '13; '78, '79, '82) and Forough ('85) Hosseini
Linda Kerstin
Roger Koch
L. Gale Lemerand
Dorothee Miller*
D. Keith ('95; '97) and Alice Mosing

Lee Noe
David and Karen O'Maley
David (H '18) and Andrea Robertson
S. Harry (HonDoc '72) and Linda Robertson
Nick and Joan Spiroff
James and Marilyn Subach
Steven (HonDoc '98) and Christine Udvar-Hazy
Peter ('69) and Linda Vosbury
Stephen Walter
Helen Wessel (HonDoc '17)*

John Paul Riddle Society

Corporations and Foundations

Air Force Association
Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association
Analytical Graphics
Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation
Constellation Productions
Cove Partners
Daytona Beach Campus Student Government Association
Daytona Beach Racing & Recreational Facilities District
Frasca International
Microsoft Corporation
O'Maley Family Foundation
Robertson Research Group
Rockwell Collins
Gen. William W. Spruance Foundation
State of Florida
URS

Alumni and Friends

Matthew Andersson ('78)
Estate of Farshad K. Babazadeh
James* and Essie Barfield*
Theodore ('82; '89) and Muriel Beneigh
J. Powell and Nancy Brown
Robert* and Jennifer Crouch
Gary (HonDoc '69)* and Else Cunningham
Tine (HonDoc '69)* and Eunice* Davis
Andrew Deas ('60)*
Derek Di Masi
Charles and Elizabeth Duva
David Gordon ('80; '81)
Estate of William Haas
Constance Hunter*
Edward (HonDoc '90)* and Carolyn King
James Kolbe
Jim and Linda Lee
Deborah Lee Prescott
Nevin Remaley
Jon ('81) and Tracy Slingerup
Richard and Phoebe* Snyder
William (HonDoc '87)* and Eunice* Spruance
Edward (HonDoc '74)* and Dorothy* Stimpson
Raymond Stratton ('78)
John and Lynne Thelan
Lane and Christine Wipff

T. Higbee Embry Society

Corporations and Foundations

AAR Corporation
AlliedSignal Air Transport
Avionics
American Airlines
Associated Aviation Underwriters
Aviall
Aviation Education Foundation

Edward T. Bedford Foundation
Braniff Silver Eagles Charitable
Brown & Brown Insurance
Cessna Foundation
Cobb & Cole
Combined Federal Campaign
Command Medical Products
Computer Presentations and Training
Consolidated-Tomoka Land Company
CSG Enterprise
Dassault Falcon Jet Corporation
Tine W. Davis Family Foundation
Tom Davis Fund
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Daytona Mitsubishi/Kia
Delta Air Lines
DS SolidWorks
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Follett Higher Education Group
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Giles Electric Company
Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation
Halifax Paving
Honeywell International Foundation
International Order of Characters
International Speedway Corporation
ISTAT Foundation
Harold James Family Trust
J. W. Kieckhefer Foundation
Kresge Foundation
Bill & Moya Lear Charitable Foundation

Link Foundation
Lockheed Martin Corporation
MAG Aerospace
Marmot Foundation
Mead Witter Foundation
The Miami Foundation
Mission Air Support
Northrop Grumman Corporation
Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund
Procter & Gamble Company
Professional Food Service Management
Ray Foundation
The Robertson Foundation
Robinson Helicopter Company
The San Diego Foundation
Sodexo
Tecnam Aircraft
Textron Aviation
The Albert L. Ueltschi Foundation
United Technologies Corporation
Universal Helicopters
US Airways
The Wells Fargo Foundation
The Wings Club Foundation

Alumni and Friends

George and Patricia Adam
Bob and Carol Allen
John Amore ('73)
Peg Billson ('84)
Estate of Virginia T. Bingham
Estate of Hyman L. Bloom
Robert and Amy Book
Benjamin ('82) and Signe Canfield
Lawrence and Barbara Clarkson
Elizabeth Coley* and William Smith*
Victor and Betsy Cresenzo
Guy and Mary Damore
Teresa Delafosse
Linda Downs
Philip (HonDoc '04; '72) and Joyce* Elliott

Michael ('69) and Jacqueline Fitch
William* and Betty Jane* France
Rudy and Lucille Frasca
George and Helen Gallaspy
Albert and Toni* Helfrick
Thomas Higgins Jr.*
John and Lynda Hodgson
Louis* and Dava Hoffman
Russell Holderman (HonDoc '74)*
Daniel and Diane Izard
Sharon Jones ('84)
Pamela and Gale Jose
Jesse C. King and Tanya Wise King
Moya Lear*
George Lerman*
John ('81; '84) and Judith Longshore
Betty MacDonald
William March ('81)*
Barbara and Carl Martens
Joseph Martin ('74) and Solange Albuissou Martin
Joseph McClure
Robert McKay*
George Mendonca*
Estate of Louisa Morse
Richard ('86) and Denise Nisbett
Emily and Thomas Nissley
James and Janet O'Connor
William* and Dixie O'Connor
Quentin* and Jeani* Pearson
James and Sherry Raisbeck
James Ray*
Nancy Robertson*
James Robinson*
Jean and Genevieve Rosanvallon
David and Yolande* Salter
Michael Schiffman
Roger and Barbara Schwarz
Christine and Louis C. (H '07) Seno Jr.
Raymond and Frances Sigafoos
Al Skeaney*



ANNUAL GIVING LEADERSHIP: PLATINUM EAGLES

David and Toni Slick
Steven (HonDoc '06)
and Nancy Sliwa
Lee Spence*
Estate of Mary Spence
Thomas* and Barbara Staed
Estate of Druria L. Sylvester
Maurice* and Dorothy* Taylor
Albert Ueltschi (HonDoc '97)*
Lawrence*
and Virginia* Vagnozzi
Pantelis ('86) and Cleo Vassiliou
Charles Vouaux*
David ('82) and
Rebecca Wallenborn
Estate of Ann R. Weaver
Wayne Webster ('98)
Alexander and Mary Wells
Nancy ('81) and Roger Wingert
R. Lyman (HonDoc '96)
and Leslie Wood
Gertrude Worthington*

Legacy Society

Jay (HonDoc '08)*
and Leila Adams
Matthew Andersson ('78)
Farshad Babazadeh*
Robert* and Mary* Beilman
Robert ('71) and Cheri Belinke
Theodore ('82; '89)
and Muriel Beneigh
Catherine and Gordon Benson
Matthew Berk ('58)*
Peg Billson ('84)
Virginia Bingham*
Stephen ('86) and Terri Blanchette
Hyman Bloom*
Gerald and Susan Bott
Michele Bowman-Underwood
and Joseph Underwood
The Robert and Lois Braddock
Charitable Foundation
Rick ('67; '72) and Janice Brown

Benjamin ('82)
and Signe Canfield
Richard ('87) and Debra Cargo
Roland Charlebois*
Robert and Bobbi Coleman
Elizabeth Coley
Allen Colfry ('66)
James and Beverly Cone
Frances Cresenzo*
Robert* and Jennifer Crouch
David* and
Marguerite* Cummock
Gary (HonDoc '69)*
and Else Cunningham
Derek Di Masi
Teresa Delafosse
DeRhoads Dolan
George Errick*
Michael ('69) and Jaqueline Fitch
Charles* and Karen Ford
James ('92; '95)
and Suellen Gallogly
Samuel Goldman*
Dave and Nancy Gonnion
David Gordon ('80; '81)
Charles ('75) and Liz Graf
Nancy Graham*
William Haas*
I.V. and Loma Hamilton
Cecile Hatfield
Dennis ('82; '85)
and Tracy Hicks
Thomas Higgins Jr.*
George ('78) and June Hill
Louis* and Dava Hoffman
Mori (HonDoc '13; '78, '79, '82)
and Forough ('85) Hosseini
Constance Hunter*
James Hunter ('75)
John Hurley
Charles* and Marion* Johnson
Sharon Jones ('84)
Cale Kastanek ('02)*
Ronald and Carolyn Kerlin
Jesse C. King
and Tanya Wise King

Linda Kerstin
James Kolbe
Martin Korges ('81)
Kenneth* and Mary* Lamalie
L. Gale Lemerand
Robert ('57) and Roxie* Lewis
Robert* and Virginia* Lyall
Betty MacDonald
William March ('81)*
Barbara and Carl Martens
George and Karen McCown
Robert McKay*
Roy and Mary Miller
William Montgomery ('78)
Dan and Kelly Montplaisir
D. Keith ('95; '97)
and Alice Mosing
Terry ('94) and Nancy Mularkey
Donald Needham
Nick Nicolai* and
Patricia Nicolai-Arntzen
Emily and Thomas Nissley
Lee Noe
William* and Dixie O'Connor
David and Karen O'Maley
John (H '16)* and Ann* Olsen
C. David ('74) and Carol Owens
Robert Oxley
Nancy Pettit ('74)
Curtis ('72) and Mutsuko Poree
Deborah Lee Prescott
Walter Prettyman ('75)
Nevin Remaley
Joseph* and Margaret Rhodes
Charles* and Joan Richardson
Gordon* and Celia Ritter
David (H '18)
and Andrea Robertson
Fred ('68) and Julie Robinson
Robert Rockett
Nancy Samp
Wesley Segner*
Christine and
Louis C. (H '07) Seno Jr.
Raymond and Frances Sigafoos
Jon ('81) and Tracy Slangerup

Mary Spence*
Nick and Joan Spiroff
Raymond ('75)
and Wendy Springsteen
William (HonDoc '87)*
and Eunice* Spruance
Thomas* and Barbara Staed
Betty Stern
Edward (HonDoc '74)*
and Dorothy* Stimpson
Raymond Stratton ('78)
James and Marilyn Subach
Druria Sylvester*
Maurice* and Dorothy* Taylor
Dianne ('81) and
Raymond Thompson
Harvey Thompson*
Carlos Villa ('10)
Peter ('69) and Linda Vosbury
Charles Vouaux*
Stephen and Lynn Walter
Ann Weaver*
Wayne Webster ('98)
Alexander and Mary Wells
Helen Wessel (HonDoc '17)*
Jody ('91; '05)
and Daniel Wichman
Fred* and Alice* Wills
Nancy ('81) and Roger Wingert
Kevin Wisneski ('98)
June Wittfoth*
Phillip Woodruff ('70; '71)
James ('80) and Clara Zeiler

Through annual gifts that total \$10,000 or more, members of the Platinum Eagle Club have the personal privilege of helping shape the future of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University through their philanthropic leadership.

The list below reflects cumulative giving to the university from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Corporations and Foundations

AeroVironment
Allegiant Air
AUVSI Foundation
The Boeing Company
Charitable Trust
Braniff Silver Eagles
Charitable Fund
Brown & Brown of Florida
Buehler Aviation Research
Foundation
Concorde Battery Corporation
Dassault Falcon Jet Corporation
Daytona Mitsubishi / Kia
Edward T. Bedford Foundation
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Fidelity Charitable
FlightSafety Foundation
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Giles Electric Company
Gulfstream Aerospace
Corporation
H & H Nevada
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ikon.5 Architects
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J. W. Kieckhefer Foundation
Lockheed Martin
Louisiana Steam
Equipment Company
Magna International of America
Margaret T. Morris Foundation
Marmot Foundation
Microsoft Corporation
National Center for Women &
Information Technology
Northrop Grumman Corporation
O'Maley Family Foundation
Orlando Health Foundation
Paul B. Hunter & Constance D.
Hunter Charitable Foundation
Phillips 66 Aviation
Procter & Gamble Company
Raymond James Charitable
Endowment Fund
Schwab Charitable
Spirit Airlines
Charitable Foundation
Spirit Airlines

State of Florida
Suntrust Foundation
Textron Aviation
The Janice Marie Fraser Trust
The Nash Family Foundation
The R. Roland Smith
Family Foundation
The Raisbeck Foundation
The Reuben H. Fleet
Foundation Fund
The San Diego Foundation
The Wings Club Foundation
Tiger Aircraft Trading
Tom Davis Fund
United Way of the National
Capital Area

Alumni and Friends

John Amore ('73)
Gary and Stacey Becker
Robert and Amy Book
J. Hyatt and Cynthia Brown
J. and Nancy Brown
Joseph D'Amico
Charles and Beth Duva
Randall ('86; '90)
and Sandra Fiorenza
Bradley and Leigh Anne Giles
Bruce and Mary Harvey
Albert Helfrick
Jim (HonDoc '13)
and Carole Henderson
Thomas and Madeline Higgins
John and Lynda Hodgson
Dava Hoffman
Mori (HonDoc '13; '78, '79, '82)
and Forough ('85) Hosseini

Ronald and Laura James
C. Jeffrey ('80)
and Katherine Knittel
Estate of Mary E. Lamalie
Jim and Marion Lee
Erin Lenaghan-Chappel ('90)
and Donald Chappel
John ('81; '84)
and Judith Longshore
Terri Lynch
Anne Massey
Vincent ('87)
and Amy Monteparte
Barbara Nash
James Nash
Shirley Neyhart
Richard ('86) and Denise Nisbett
Steven ('90)
and Elizabeth ('94) Nordlund
David and Karen O'Maley
James and Sherry Raisbeck
Tamara and Don Rinehart
S. Harry (HonDoc '72)
and Linda Robertson
David (H '18)
and Andrea Robertson
Jean and Genevieve
Rosanvallon
Zane ('91) and Allyson Rowe
William and Jane Schoknecht
Corinne Smith ('41)
Estate of Dorothy Stimpson
Pantelis ('86)
and Cleo Vassiliou
Martha and David Webb
Helen Wessel (HonDoc '17)*
James and Roselle Zuffoletto



Thank You for Being an Eagle Donor

A record-breaking 5,655 donors chose to invest in Embry-Riddle's students, faculty, programs and facilities during Fiscal Year 2019. We are grateful to all of our donors and for each contribution. In an effort to be responsible stewards of these gifts and of our natural resources, the comprehensive list of Embry-Riddle's annual donors (to include the Gold, Silver, Bronze and Eagle giving clubs) may be viewed online at givingto.erau.edu/donor-recognition. Click on "Gift Clubs."



David and Karen O'Maley are equipping future aviation business leaders for success through their philanthropic gift to Embry-Riddle.

ELEVATING BUSINESS

Trustee David B. O'Maley takes College of Business to greater heights with leadership gift aimed at strengthening business programs

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Board of Trustees member David B. O'Maley recalls a time when he was a young man with a passion for aviation and someone helped him finance his flight training.

"He left me with a simple charge. And that was, if you are able at some point in your life ... do things to help other young people achieve their [goal] and success," says O'Maley, a nationally prominent insurance executive who made a significant gift to support the Daytona Beach Campus' College of Business.

Thanks to O'Maley, Embry-Riddle will be able to elevate its college, now named the David B. O'Maley College of Business in his honor, to even greater heights, says university President P. Barry Butler.

"It's a key moment for business education at Embry-Riddle," Butler says. "It helps us expand our reach and more closely integrate business education into our other areas of focus — engineering and aviation — as we move into the future."

DAVID MASSEY

Expanding and Strengthening the Business Program

The college, established in 2003, is already widely regarded for its aviation business administration and aviation finance programs, but the gift shows a commitment by O'Maley and the university to Embry-Riddle's business programs, says Lon Moeller, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. It also is significant for the university to have a named business college.

"When you look at top business schools in this country, they tend to be named, and the naming of the O'Maley College of Business raises Embry-Riddle to a higher level now," says Moeller.

Although the O'Maley gift is earmarked for the Daytona Beach Campus, it also triggered the university to form a business visioning committee, which included O'Maley, to discuss how to best expand and strengthen business programs throughout the university.

"The business visioning committee has helped us take a deeper look at how we can make our business programs better," Moeller says.

Funding Business Excellence and Innovation

The O'Maley gift will help fund several new programs and initiatives at the college, according to Moeller. There are plans to create an Executive in Residence program, which would host an aviation or aerospace industry leader on campus to share their insights with students and faculty.

Additionally, the university will redesign several undergraduate business courses to add more aviation and aerospace content, ensuring Embry-Riddle students pursue their studies in the context of real industry challenges. Another goal is faculty development programs and supporting faculty who want to work with industry or pursue research during the summer.

The O'Maley gift will also support design-project work teams that bring together business and engineering students at the Daytona Beach and Prescott campuses to collaborate on research and other special projects.

Michael Williams, dean of the O'Maley College of Business, says the O'Maley family's investment will support breakthroughs in industry operations, safety and manufacturing through transformative ideas and technologies.

"It will allow our students to turn research into new business opportunities, moving their discoveries from our labs into the Micaplex Engineering and Innovation Complex as startups, and then out into the real world," Williams says.

"TOGETHER, WITH THE OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AT EMBRY-RIDDLE, WE CAN INNOVATE, GROW AND WATCH THE BUSINESS COLLEGE MOVE FORWARD TO A DIMENSION IT HAS NEVER SEEN BEFORE."

David B. O'Maley, Embry-Riddle Board of Trustee member

Inspiring the Next Wave of Business Leaders

O'Maley says he intends for his gift to create aviation business leaders. While many graduates will rise through the ranks based on their technical skills, he says, there is a pressing need in the industry for graduates to enter the workforce with some grounding in business, so they can more readily become industry leaders.

"Many of [our graduates] will become leaders," he says. "If they get there by way of a path through their chosen professions, they wind up in leadership and management positions without any managerial or business experience."

O'Maley strongly believes that Embry-Riddle's College of Business can address that challenge — and that's why he and his wife, Karen, support the university's vision.

"Together, with the outstanding leadership at Embry-Riddle, we can innovate, grow and watch the business college move forward to a dimension it has never seen before," he says. "We can inspire the next wave of young aviation business leaders, innovators and experts."



Members of the Business Eagles student club expressed their gratitude to the O'Maleys at the David B. O'Maley College of Business naming ceremony.

Reuben H. Fleet is pictured at his 40-year reunion at Culver Military Academy (1946).

BLESSINGS FROM ABOVE

The Reuben H. Fleet Foundation at the San Diego Foundation establishes scholarship for flight students

BY SARA WITHROW



While their paths in life never crossed, aviation pioneer Reuben H. Fleet and the founders of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, John Paul Riddle and T. Higbee Embry, shared a common history that would one day align their legacies to give students the transformational experience of flight.

All three men were involved in the earliest business endeavor for flight: airmail. Riddle and Fleet both served as pilots in the U.S. Army Air Corps (which became the U.S. Air Force), and the Embry-Riddle Company and Fleet's aircraft manufacturing business, Consolidated Aircraft, both contributed to the Allies victory in World War II. Embry-Riddle trained U.S. and British military pilots and Consolidated Aircraft built the PBY "Catalina" flying boats and B-24 "Liberator" bombers.

Now, nearly a century later, the institutions founded by Fleet, Embry and Riddle have come together to inspire and empower students to pursue their shared passion for flight. The Reuben H. Fleet Foundation at the San Diego Foundation made a generous gift in 2019 to establish a scholarship for flight students studying at Embry-Riddle's campus in Prescott, Arizona.

The inaugural scholarship recipient, Seth Guentner, represents the intersection of Fleet's philanthropy with the flight education program founded by Embry and Riddle. Guentner is earning a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science with the goal of becoming a commercial pilot.

"Embry-Riddle was at the top of the list of colleges I wanted to attend, but I was not going to be able to, due to finances. The [Reuben H. Fleet Foundation] scholarship opened that door for me. I am now able to attend Embry-Riddle and go to flight school with significantly less student debt," Guentner says. "Flight has always been an interest, and now I have the chance to pursue it. I cannot express how grateful I am."

The Law of Love

The Fleet Foundation's gift is the product of a decades-long legacy of generosity that began in 1941, when Reuben Fleet established his philanthropic foundation to help war widows and injured service members send their children to school. Since 1985, the foundation has been managed by the San Diego Foundation.

As the fund's advisers, Fleet's three adult daughters and two adult great-grandchildren ensure that Fleet's

Seth Guentner of San Diego, California, is the inaugural recipient of the Reuben H. Fleet Foundation Scholarship. He is studying and training to be a commercial pilot.



"EMBRY-RIDDLE WAS AT THE TOP OF THE LIST OF COLLEGES I WANTED TO ATTEND, BUT I WAS NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO, DUE TO FINANCES. THE SCHOLARSHIP OPENED THAT DOOR FOR ME"

Seth Guentner

legacy and generous ways guide the foundation's dedication to education and science.

According to Sandra (Fleet) Honnen, her father, who passed away in 1975, was always very "magnanimous." A scholarship recipient himself, Fleet attended Culver Military Academy, a private boarding school in Indiana, graduating in 1906. He valued the education so much that he sent his own sons and grandsons there, as well as many other boys and girls, Honnen says.

"Dad wanted others — all members of society regardless of race, religion or financial circumstances — to benefit from education," she says. "Dad used to say, 'For we must share, if we should have blessings from above; ceasing to share, we cease to have, and so is the law of love.'"

COURTESY OF THE SAN DIEGO FOUNDATION

CONNOR MCSHANE

A STRONG CONNECTION

Concorde Battery provides a jolt of support to alumni programs and Embry-Riddle students

BY ALAN MARCOS PINTO CESAR



The Concorde Battery Team is helping Eagle alumni connect, and fueling Embry-Riddle student success through event sponsorships and a scholarship honoring one of its own.

BILL THOMPSON

Concorde Battery Corporation, the company behind the battery of choice for Embry-Riddle's aircraft fleet, is powering the student and alumni experience with its contributions to several areas within the university. In just two years, Concorde Battery has strengthened its connection with Embry-Riddle by supporting alumni programming at events around the country and providing resources for scholarships.

Making Contact

This partnership began to grow beyond batteries in 2017, when Concorde chose to sponsor the alumni functions at the annual EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and the Sun 'n Fun Airshow in Lakeland, Florida. The barbecue dinner at Oshkosh is Embry-Riddle's best-attended alumni event each year, attracting as many as 500 alumni and their families and friends.

"Partnering with Concorde Battery has allowed us to reach a new level of outreach at Sun 'n Fun and EAA AirVenture," says Keith Deaton, director of alumni engagement at Embry-Riddle. "We've been able to expand these events to invite current students and industry partners. Now, the next generation of Eagles can get to know our alumni and also network with key players in the aviation industry." In 2019, attendance at the Eagle barbecue grew 20% over the previous year, thanks to Concorde's support.

While sponsorships indirectly benefit education by reducing the university's operational expenses — allowing it to shift more funds toward student, faculty and program support — Concorde Battery wanted to do something directly to help students with educational costs. At the first Concorde-sponsored Oshkosh dinner, the company made a donation to the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship. "Concorde highly values education. It is paramount to the industry's safety and success," says Noga Holck, vice president of business development at Concorde.

In its efforts to promote aviation education, Concorde also hosts courses for pilots and aviation enthusiasts. These include a series of Inspection Authorization Renewal courses in the Southeast, one of which is held at an Embry-Riddle facility in northern Florida. "Embry-Riddle has been gracious in allowing Concorde the use of its facility to host the North Florida renewal. The location brings additional credibility and interest to the event," Holck says.

These powerful connection points led Concorde to establish a scholarship at Embry-Riddle, honoring Edward "Skip" Koss, one of its most influential executives.

Honoring Skip

When someone spends 30 years at a company, it's almost inevitable that the individual and the organization will share the same values. "Skip was no exception," Holck says of Koss, Concorde Battery's former vice president of marketing. "He embodied all that Concorde is, and he helped mold the company into the successful organization we are today."

"PARTNERING WITH CONCORDE BATTERY HAS ALLOWED US TO REACH A NEW LEVEL OF OUTREACH. NOW, THE NEXT GENERATION OF EAGLES CAN GET TO KNOW OUR ALUMNI AND NETWORK WITH KEY PLAYERS IN THE INDUSTRY!"

Keith Deaton, Director of Alumni Engagement

Skip had been an aircraft mechanic before becoming a leading expert on aviation batteries. "Skip kept a close eye on Concorde in our infancy and as we matured into an influencer in the aviation battery market. He joined us in 1987, just after Concorde received PMA [Parts Manufacturer Authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)] for a sealed lead-acid battery," Holck says.

Koss was awarded the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award from the FAA in 2009 and retired from Concorde in 2017. "The same principles that ultimately made Skip successful in establishing Concorde as a reputable aircraft battery company are now the foundation of Concorde's approach to business today."

Koss passed away on March 19, 2019, at the age of 83, which left Concorde considering his legacy. To honor his contributions to aviation, the company established the Edward "Skip" Koss Memorial Scholarship at Embry-Riddle. The scholarship will annually award \$5,000 to one Embry-Riddle student studying aviation maintenance or electrical engineering.

"We felt there would be no greater honor for Skip than to have a scholarship in his name rewarded to a student who shares his same passion for aviation," Holck says.

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

The Boeing Company creates a \$3 million endowed scholarship to support the next generation of aviation and aircraft maintenance professionals

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM

DARYL LABELLO

One of 19 inaugural Boeing Scholars, Shaddi Abdala has her eyes firmly fixed on the sky.



his summer, Shaddi Abdala received a package containing a shirt from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, a hat from The Boeing Company – and a letter informing her that she was chosen nationally to be one of Embry-Riddle’s prestigious new Boeing Scholars.

“It was just an amazing feeling all around, knowing my hard work in high school was noticed by the school and a great company like Boeing,” says the South Florida teen, who is a freshman honors student enrolled in the aeronautical science program. “And it really helped financially.”

Supported by a \$3 million endowment gift from The Boeing Company, the Boeing Scholarship Fund at Embry-Riddle will help students pursuing aviation science and aircraft maintenance degrees at its residential campuses in Daytona Beach, Florida, and Prescott, Arizona.

“BOEING SEES A HUGE NEED FOR PILOT AND AIRLINE MECHANICS IN THE FUTURE, OVER THE NEXT 30 YEARS. IF WE DON’T GET INVOLVED TO HELP ... WE WOULD BE DOING A DISSERVICE TO THE OVERALL INDUSTRY.”

Brian Hoefig ('86, '97, '98), Director of Operations, 737 Delivery Center, The Boeing Company

This year, the scholarships were awarded to 19 high school students from across the United States. Each scholarship ranges from \$5,000 to \$7,500, and is renewable through the students’ sophomore year. Recipients are selected based on their academic achievements and financial need.

Boeing’s gift is the beginning of a larger effort to address predicted industry workforce shortages in the coming years. A key part of that strategy is increasing the number of women, underrepresented minorities and military veterans and their dependents pursuing flight and aviation maintenance degrees.

“At a time when we are facing a global shortage of aviation professionals, it is critically important to widen the talent pipeline,” says Embry-Riddle President P. Barry Butler. “It is an honor to partner with Boeing to enrich and enhance the aviation workforce.”

Of the 609,306 pilots certificated by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration’s Aeronautical Center in 2017,

only about 7%, or 42,694, are women, according to Women in Aviation International. Statistics on other underrepresented groups in aviation are limited, but a 2014 report suggested that 2.7% of U.S. airline transport pilots were people of color, 2.5% were of Asian heritage, and 5% were Hispanic or Latino.

“Different perspectives make our industry stronger. These scholarships will help address the need for aerospace talent, including pilots and maintenance technicians, by equipping students from diverse backgrounds with the skills they need to succeed,” says Boeing President and CEO Dennis Muilenburg.

Boeing Scholars Fill an Industry Need

The \$3 million award to Embry-Riddle builds upon Boeing’s long-standing support of STEM programs, women, military veterans and minorities, while addressing an industry need for more pilots and maintenance technicians worldwide.

“Investing in this sector is incredibly important,” says Steve Nordlund ('90), who is vice president and general manager of Boeing NeXt and serves as a member of the Embry-Riddle Board of Trustees.

According to Boeing’s 2018 *Pilot & Technician Outlook*, the industry will need 790,000 new civil aviation pilots and 754,000 new maintenance technicians to fly and maintain the world’s fleet over the next 20 years.

“Boeing sees a huge need for pilot and airline mechanics in the future, over the next 30 years. If we don’t get involved to help the airlines relieve that, then we would be doing a disservice to the overall industry,” says Brian Hoefig ('86, '97, '98), director of operations for the 737 Delivery Center and executive focal for Embry-Riddle partner programs at The Boeing Company.

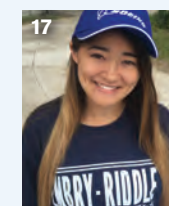
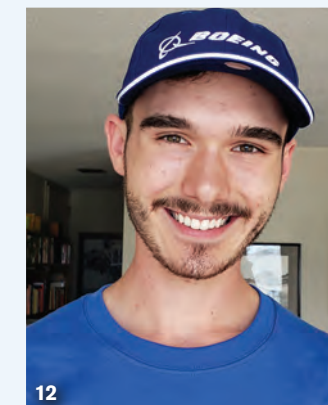
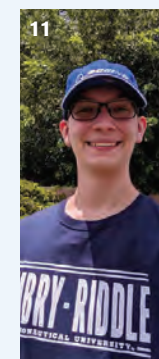
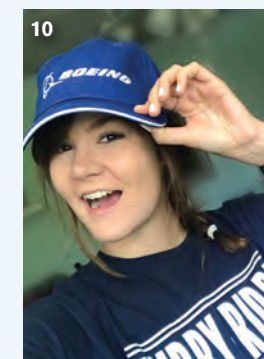
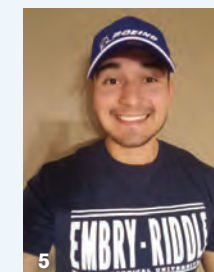
Boeing’s investment will help train and foster the aerospace and aviation leaders of tomorrow, he says, and it makes sense to involve a global leader in aviation and aerospace higher education, like Embry-Riddle, in that goal.

“Boeing saw a big value in investing in the future early on, so this wouldn’t be a huge problem 20 years from now,” Hoefig says. “So why not go to a school who trains excellent pilots and mechanics, so we will have a leg up when we have this very large requirement coming at us in the future?”

Embry-Riddle Gains Top-Tier Designation

This year, Embry-Riddle also joined a small, select group of top engineering schools across the country for the expedited recruitment and hiring of exceptional

MEET THE BOEING SCHOLARS



1. Irvin Espinoza
 2. Liam Brennan
 3. Caitlin Hartsel
 4. Haley Scheunemann
 5. Christopher Espino
 6. Shannon Byrne
 7. Hunter Wise
 8. Adrien Baffigo
 9. Matthew Case
 10. Anna Scott
 11. Brennan Acevedo
 12. Joshua Lopez
 13. Alijah McDonald
 14. Bailey Dostal
 15. Joshua Sandoval
 16. Jing-Yu Tan
 17. Zsoee Eisel
 18. Alanah Pluchos
 19. Shaddi Abdala
- (page 15)

Boeing Development Days Will Increase Campus Outreach

Events focus on career networking, resume building

The Boeing Company is partnering with Embry-Riddle Career Services to increase its outreach at the Daytona Beach, Florida, and Prescott, Arizona, campuses in the coming year.

Boeing Development Days is a new initiative that will focus on students who are athletes, veterans and members of diversity groups.

Boeing will award the Daytona Beach Campus \$23,500 and the Prescott Campus \$20,000 for the program, which will host events focused on resume building, networking, professional attire and feature guest speakers.

"We are very excited to be able to provide Embry-Riddle students with specialized programming to help them enhance their ability to conduct themselves in networking settings and articulate their experiences when speaking to prospective employers," says Alicia Smyth, executive director of career services at the Daytona Beach Campus. "This will not only help students be more successful when seeking jobs and internships, but also out in the workforce, when they become professionals in industry."



Embry-Riddle students, like these, are benefiting from Boeing scholarships, as well as career readiness training through Boeing Development Days.

Kevin Hewerdine, executive director of career services and corporate relations at the Prescott Campus, says the program would better prepare graduates to have increased opportunity throughout their careers.

"The Boeing partnership will impact greatly the entire student population and help in creating a better understanding of possible career pathways," Hewerdine says.

Boeing continues to have a strong partnership with Embry-Riddle – this past summer, 60 students from the Daytona Beach and Prescott campuses had internships at the company. The interns included 12 returning students and 48 new students,

"THIS IS THE KIND OF QUALITY PROGRAMMING THAT CAREER SERVICES HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO PROVIDE TO STUDENTS AND NOW, THANKS TO BOEING'S GENEROUS SUPPORT, WE HAVE THE FINANCIAL MEANS TO DO SO."

Alicia Smyth, Executive Director of Career Services at the Daytona Beach Campus

who are earning degrees in engineering, cybersecurity and business.

"This is the kind of quality programming that career services has always wanted to provide to students and now, thanks to Boeing's generous support, we have the financial means to do so," Smyth says.

full-time engineers and interns straight out of college. The university was selected this fall for the Boeing Engineering Accelerated Hiring Initiative (EAHI).

"It puts Embry-Riddle in an elite group with only 27 other institutions," Nordlund says. "It is the best of the best and Embry-Riddle is not just a member of those 27 institutions, but in my mind, it leads the pack."

There were 15 students chosen in October for full-time jobs or internships through the EAHI program, according to Nordlund. Candidates are evaluated based on academics, technical experience and leadership. The hiring process is streamlined for seniors, so they can be hired early and graduate with a job waiting for them.

Hoefig, who has served as Embry-Riddle's executive focal at Boeing since 2009, has advocated for his alma mater for the past decade, so he was thrilled when the Daytona Beach Campus received the designation this year.

"It is a huge deal," agrees Hoefig. "It allows us to come on campus, do job interviews and give job offers on the spot."

Boeing Has Longtime Investment in Embry-Riddle Students

With this new \$3 million permanent endowment, Boeing's investment in scholarships at Embry-Riddle now makes up more than 70% of the \$7.2 million, overall, the company has contributed to the university since 1980.

For years, Boeing has annually supported student scholarships in engineering, business and cybersecurity, student organizations and university outreach and retention programs.

"I think that Boeing in the last few years has really seen the value that Embry-Riddle is bringing," Hoefig says.

Boeing is also recruiting more Embry-Riddle graduates in emerging fields like cybersecurity, business supply chain management, environmental health and safety, and security and fire protection.

"We have added about six or seven new disciplines," Hoefig says. "We are going after data analytics next, because we see a lot of opportunity there." Looking at data can provide valuable information, help solve problems and set a direction for the future to be successful, he adds.

"Data analytics and cybersecurity are two important areas that are probably at the forefront of our partnership with Embry-Riddle," agrees Jason Alvarez ('13, '15), who is The Boeing Company's regional cash manager for airplane contracts and chief of staff to the executive focal for Embry-Riddle. "We want to evolve and expand that."

"EMBRY-RIDDLE GRADUATES HAVE A LEVEL OF FOCUS, AND THAT IS SOMETHING YOU JUST WANT TO CONTINUE TO FOSTER."

Steve Nordlund ('90), Vice President and General Manager of Boeing NeXt and an Embry-Riddle Board of Trustees Member

Forever Embry-Riddle Eagles

Nordlund, Hoefig and Alvarez all say they feel a strong connection to Embry-Riddle and are dedicated to giving back to the next generation of Eagles.

"The number one reason is the passion and quality of the students who come out of Embry-Riddle to do an internship or to work full-time," says Hoefig, who is celebrating his 10th year as part of Boeing's campus team for Embry-Riddle.

"I wanted to give back to the school, because the school helped me get a great start to my career," says Hoefig, whose daughter is now a flight student at the Prescott Campus. "I know it was the Embry-Riddle brand and the reputation Embry-Riddle has in the industry that helped me."

Alvarez gives back because he loves his alma mater, but also because he deeply values diversity and the role it can play in creating a strong talent pipeline to Boeing and the industry. That diversity includes hiring students with a variety of backgrounds, experiences and values in areas of safety, quality and integrity.

"It's not only the camaraderie and passion that I have for Embry-Riddle, we also have a tremendous talent need at Boeing and in the industry, and we also pride ourselves [for our] diversity," Alvarez says. "I always have had a passion for recruiting the best and brightest students, but also getting students from a variety of backgrounds."

For Nordlund, it is students like Abdala, whose focus and excitement for aerospace and aviation will make them the leaders in the industry tomorrow, that motivates him to support his alma mater.

"Embry-Riddle graduates have a level of focus, and that is something you just want to continue to foster," he says.

As for Abdala, thanks to the Boeing Scholarship she received, she completed her private pilot training this summer and is now working on her instrument rating.

"I have always been an adventurous type and have always had a passion for aviation," she says. "It's really been an amazing experience and I've loved every minute of it."

EYE-OPENER

Longtime employee Sharon Amick discovers small gifts make a difference, and keeps on giving

BY SARA WITHROW

It started as a desire to help, to be a part of something bigger than herself. Now, 27 years later, she's still giving.

Sharon Amick, executive assistant and special events manager for the athletics department at the Daytona Beach Campus, has worked in several areas at the university, since she

started in January 1985. But after nearly a decade in service, her eyes were opened to the idea of giving more than her talent and skills to the university, when working as an assistant to Vice President of Development Harry Jennings.

"I wasn't able to give thousands of dollars to the university, but when I was introduced to the annual fund, I

thought: that's a way I can contribute; even small gifts can help."

Already organizing pep rallies and driving the team van to away games for the then-fledgling men's basketball program, Amick started designating \$5 a pay period through payroll deduction to support the team led by Coach Steve Ridder. In April 1995, when women's volleyball launched, she upped her giving to also support the women's team. "I wanted to support both genders equally," she says.

Intrinsic Rewards

Working in the development office (now called the office of philanthropy), Amick saw first-hand that her donations were allocated according to her wishes. "I knew the funds actually went to the basketball program. That was a positive eye-opener for me," she says. "For me, it was real important to know that Coach Ridder's program got the money."

Ridder says Amick's contributions, and those from other faculty, staff and community members, made a tremendous difference.

Relationships Matter

"Resources were very limited. To continue on university funding by itself was not an option. The idea of developing relationships with people on campus was critical to growing the program," Ridder says.

Today, the athletics program in Daytona Beach boasts 19 intercollegiate sports teams that compete in NCAA Division II.

For Amick, seeing the fruits of her contributions to the athletics program is sweet. "I think it's important to give back to the place that gives me so much," she says. "I've always received more than I've ever given."

Good Luck Charm

Pre-game tradition builds lasting bonds

Sharon Amick spent her lunch hours organizing team fundraisers and pep rallies, and soliciting sponsorships – way before she started working for the athletics department. In 2004, she was a leading force in developing and executing the first Blue & Gold Gala athletics fundraising event, and she's been a key organizer of this annual effort ever since.

She and her husband, Kenny, are also No. 1 Eagle fans. They attend most (if not all) home and away basketball games, and they form close relationships with Eagle athletes and their families – especially those who work with Sharon as student assistants.

In 2000, Sharon's two student assistants, Yon Price ('00) and Jason Cruse ('00) were

seniors on the basketball team that competed in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II National Championship. She traveled to the playoffs in Branson, Missouri, to support the team.

"I packed for four days," she says, "and we were there for eight."

That year, Sharon had developed a pre-game tradition with Price and Cruse. "Right before every ball game, I'd say, 'Make me proud,' and I'd give them a hug." The two student-athletes had come to rely on this gesture for good luck.

The night of the championship, she was unable to locate the two young men prior to the game. "I told the trainer to go back to the locker room and tell them, 'Make me proud,' for me," Sharon says. The trainer, however, returned with a message. "They said, 'No, that won't work, you have to do it.'"

When the team started its warmups on the court, Sharon found herself under the basket.

As Cruse and Price passed by, she delivered her good-luck message, personally. "Jason let out a huge sigh of relief," she recalls.

The team came home with the championship and Cruse was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Cruse was inducted into the Embry-Riddle Athletics Hall of Fame in 2017. During his acceptance speech, he publicly thanked Sharon and Kenny Amick for their support.

The Amicks continue to form lasting relationships with the student-athletes at Embry-Riddle. Sharon volunteers to work at every commencement ceremony to tell them goodbye. She cries a little each time.

At the first commencement ceremony where she got weepy, she says she received some valuable advice from Head Men's Basketball Coach Steve Ridder.

"He said, 'You have to let them go, Sharon.'"



Sharon Amick is a longtime supporter of Eagle Athletics.

DAVID MASSEY

Loyal Donors

Faculty/Staff with more than 20 years of giving

YEARS OF GIVING | NAME

- 36 David Esser
- 33 Maryellen Wynn
- 31 Eileen Landis-Groom
- 30 Thomas Hilburn
- 29 Patric McElwain
- 29 Darrel Smith

- 28 John Rollins
- 27 Sharon Amick
- Alan Bender
- Sathya Gangadharan
- 26 Massood Towhidnejad
- Peter Vosbury
- 25 Milton Cone
- John Jenkins
- Frank Radosta
- Sarah Thomas
- Michael Williams
- 24 Richard Felton
- Sonja Taylor
- William Thompson
- 23 Paul Bell

- Sara Heffelfinger
- James Ladesic
- Paula Reed
- Jack Thompson*
- Leslie Whitmer
- 22 Maria Franco
- Barbette Jensen
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- Alan Pratt
- 21 Ann Ade
- Farahzad Behi
- Linda Bloom

- Christopher Grant
- Steven Hampton
- Thomas Henkel
- Karen Hudson
- Gerard Lombardo
- Ron Madler
- Barbara Munderloh
- Theresa Nolte
- Alicia Smyth
- Nancy Tran-Horne
- Nancy Zeman
- 20 Lucille Babcock
- Norma Butler
- John Denigris III
- *Deceased

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

With a historic flight log and gift to the Eagle Impact Fund, Corinne Smith's love of air and sea touches the lives of Embry-Riddle students

BY ALAN MARCOS PINTO CESAR

Corinne Smith's history with Embry-Riddle goes back to the 1940s, when she finished college and moved to Miami to find her way in the world. "The first thing I did was to try and get into flying," she says.

That's when she found a small operation on MacArthur Causeway, a flight school with just a few seaplanes tied to a dock, and a one-room building for instruction. She started taking lessons, and soon she took her first solo flight on a Piper J-3 Cub on floats.

For Smith, who loved boats and had spent much of her life on the water, it was the perfect marriage of air and sea.

"It was only a matter of seconds until I was skimming the bay waters into the clear blue sky — all alone," she says beaming.

She quickly took a job at that company, the Embry-Riddle School of Aviation, starting as a secretary and eventually advancing to lead the Link Trainer department. She shared these memories in a meeting with Embry-Riddle representatives near her home in Vero Beach, Florida, in 2017. Her full story was featured in the fall 2017 issue of *Lift*, the Embry-Riddle alumni magazine.

ALAN MARCOS PINTO CESAR

THANKS TO CORINNE SMITH'S THOUGHTFUL SCRAPBOOKING, EMBRY-RIDDLE'S ARCHIVIST WAS ABLE TO CONNECT THE DOTS BETWEEN EMBRY-RIDDLE AND PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.



This page: In the 1940s, Corinne Smith led the Link training division at the Miami Campus; and right, piloted the Embry-Riddle Waco No. 43 as a flight instructor at the seaplane base. Opposite: Corinne Smith in 2017 at the Piper Aircraft headquarters in Vero Beach, Florida.

Shortly after reconnecting with her alma mater, Smith sent copies of the pages in her old flight log, indicating which planes she flew during her time at Embry-Riddle. That simple, generous act led to an extraordinary discovery.

Thanks to her thoughtful scrapbooking, Embry-Riddle Archivist Kevin Montgomery was able to connect the dots between Embry-Riddle and President John F. Kennedy. The tail numbers in Smith's logbook matched those in JFK's small series of flights, indicating that the former president took flying lessons at Embry-Riddle, while he was on shore leave from the Navy. He and Smith likely crossed paths — on one particular day, they both flew the same plane.

Making an Impact for Students

Smith's generosity didn't end there. This past year, she made a donation in support of the Eagle Impact Fund (formerly known as the University Fund for Excellence). She wanted the investment to go "where it's best used or needed," she said. "I'd rather they decide than me."

The Eagle Impact Fund has a broad-based impact on students throughout the university. Donations like Smith's can and have been used to help support student groups, assist students in the event of financial emergencies and fund initiatives that improve the student experience and success, says Randy Howard,

senior vice president and chief financial officer at Embry-Riddle.

"[For example] The labs in the AAC (Academic Advancement Center) were getting crowded," Howard says, referencing responses to a student survey. The Eagle Impact Fund was tapped to increase wages for student tutors and open up four additional tutoring lab spaces.

Throughout the year, the Eagle Impact Fund also helped a wide range of student groups achieve their goals. With the university's financial help, the Society of Women Engineers put on an "Introduce a Girl to Engineering" workshop for elementary school students; the Student Veterans Organization purchased equipment to provide SCUBA diving therapy to its members struggling with depression; and the Embry-Riddle chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics repaired its laser cutter, a critical piece of equipment in building aircraft, for its cornerstone Design/Build/Fly competition.

Thanks to the supporters of the Eagle Impact Fund, Embry-Riddle is able to provide a richer learning experience for its students.

Smith says she is glad to advance the mission of an organization that was so important in her early adult life. "I meant to do it long ago," she says of her donation. "You all have done so much for me. I feel so close to Embry-Riddle."

SCHOLARSHIPS TURN DREAMS INTO REALITY

Funding has major impact
on student success

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM

Growing up on a farm in Spain, Francisco Pastrana ('19) would watch the planes from a nearby airport take off above him.

"It was so close that my horse would get spooked," he says. "I saw the 747s flying overhead, and I wanted to fly them. I always wanted to be a pilot."

Pastrana earned his pilot's certificate, but his fascination with the mechanics of flight drove him to pursue an aerospace engineering degree at Embry-Riddle with a space studies minor.

"At Embry-Riddle, I learned that anything is possible, if you put in enough effort," says Pastrana, who is now a systems engineer at Raytheon's Space and Airborne Systems facility in El Segundo, California. "I have been able to fund my education here, thanks to scholarships."

Currently, Embry-Riddle awards \$1.8 million annually in merit- and need-based, donor-driven scholarships, although there are efforts to grow the amount of funding available to assist students.

"The value of scholarships goes beyond immediate financial support. Scholarships allow Embry-Riddle to recruit talented students from diverse backgrounds and encourage their success through graduation. In welcoming a diverse student body, we are a better partner to industry because we are their pipeline to an inclusive workforce. In many cases, scholarships strengthen the bond between alumni and the students they are helping, building the Eagle network," says University President P. Barry Butler.

Many of Embry-Riddle's best and brightest students, like Pastrana, can only complete their studies with the help of scholarships.



Francisco Pastrana at graduation in May 2019.

"When you invest in today's students, you are investing in the future leaders of tomorrow," Pastrana says.

Overcoming Obstacles

For Pastrana, his journey to reach his goals seemed like a marathon at times.

After the global recession took a financial toll on his family in 2008, they moved from Spain to Miami, where one of his aunts lived. The youngest child with three older sisters, Pastrana spent his final year of high school trying to become fluent in English and adjust to life in America.

"It was a huge change for me," Pastrana recalls. "I had about 100 people in my K-12 school in Spain, and then I came here and it was 4,000 students. It was a huge culture shock."

When he decided to attend Embry-Riddle, he knew his family did not have the resources to help him.

"I worked as a valet, cook, dishwasher, server and sold clothes," Pastrana said. "It was up to me to find funding and secure scholarships."

DARYL LABELLO

"AT EMBRY-RIDDLE, I LEARNED THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, IF YOU PUT IN ENOUGH EFFORT. I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FUND MY EDUCATION HERE, THANKS TO SCHOLARSHIPS."

Francisco Pastrana ('19)

At Embry-Riddle, Pastrana received numerous prestigious scholarships, including a \$30,000 Wings Club Foundation Scholarship, the John & Isabel McKay Scholarship and Paul B. Hunter Memorial Scholarship, among others. Pastrana also worked hard to secure several external scholarships.

He excelled in his classes, while completing four internships, serving as president of the Space Club and working as student supervisor of the Engineering Physics Propulsion Lab. He was involved in multiple research projects that included developing payloads for a NASA high-altitude aircraft and for Blue Origin's New Shepard Rocket.

Pastrana eventually founded his own company, Beyond Ares Technologies, LLC, with the help of fellow Embry-Riddle student Patrick Serafin. The company plans to develop transportation technologies for Mars exploration.

"I worked 50-60 hours a week in the lab over the last three years," Pastrana says. "My goal is to change the way people travel by developing new space transportation systems. Space is the new frontier."

A Perfect Transition

By the time Emily Taylor enrolled at Embry-Riddle, she had already spent four years tracking and analyzing major global criminal operations as a U.S. Army intelligence analyst.

"I found Embry-Riddle offered a degree in global security and intelligence studies, and I thought it would be the perfect transition," says Taylor, a combat veteran and U.S. Army reservist who was deployed to the Middle East.

After taking a forensic accounting and fraud examination course with Associate Professor Cindy Greenman, she fell in love with the field and decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in forensic accounting and fraud examination.

Scholarships have played a critical role in helping Taylor fund her education while continuing to serve her country.

"Scholarships have made me less nervous about the future," says Taylor, who is currently a drill sergeant in

CONNOR MCSHANE

the Army Reserve. "Because I am a reservist, I do not get 100% funding through the Veterans Administration, which therefore makes me ineligible to receive access to the Yellow Ribbon program."

Taylor, who served a stint at The Boeing Company this past summer as a supply chain intern, has received several scholarships, including a John and Maurie Johnson Endowed Scholarship and a Frank Novie Adams Scholarship. She also served as vice president of the Student Veterans Organization.

With plans to graduate in May, Taylor's goal is to work as a forensic accountant, then eventually teach students like herself.



Emily Taylor is an active Army reservist studying forensic accounting.

"Educating the next generation of accountants and fraud examiners is going to be crucial," she says.

The Prescott Campus has been the perfect place for her to build her forensic accounting skills with support from faculty and staff, including scholarship assistance, Taylor says.

"To share all of the incredible experiences I have had at Embry-Riddle would require me to write a book," she says. "I have received help, resources and encouragement in an amount that is not fathomable."



Students in the cybersecurity and intelligence lab are learning valuable skills to defend against cyber intrusions.

A SECURE INVESTMENT

Parents Bruce and Mary Harvey support Embry-Riddle's mission to become a leader in cybersecurity education and research

BY ALAN MARCOS PINTO CESAR

As president of a financial firm, Bruce Harvey knows the importance of keeping information secure. "It is one of our biggest priorities, protecting client and business data from cyber intrusions," he says. "We take that very seriously, and there's a real shortage of qualified people who can do that type of work."

That's one of the reasons he and his wife, Mary, chose to support Embry-Riddle's College of Security and Intelligence. They want to see more students like their son, Steven, getting an education in cybersecurity — especially at Embry-Riddle. They know the quality of the education.

Mary says that Steven always had a knack for working with computers. Even in his primary and secondary schooling, he was the go-to student to solve problems with technology — teachers often sought him out for help. After high school, he attended a large university to pursue his passion, but found that teaching assistants taught most classes and the experience was impersonal.

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So, they visited Embry-Riddle's Prescott Campus and met with Jon Haass, the dean of the College of Security and Intelligence, along with other faculty. Ultimately, Steven chose to transfer there. "We have three kids, and we toured a lot of universities with them," Bruce says. "One of the things we wanted to be sure of was that the school was a good fit. Embry-Riddle was an excellent fit for Steven. In addition to liking his courses, Steven served on the student government as the College of Security and Intelligence representative."

"We were impressed with the school," Mary adds. "The classes are all taught by professors who have professional experience in the areas they're teaching. They've walked the walk. Our son wasn't just a number there; he was known personally by these professors. We feel he received an incredible education."

Upon graduating, he began working in his chosen field of cybersecurity. He maintains a connection to the Prescott Campus by staying in touch with his professors, exchanging ideas and discussing advancements in cybersecurity.

"WE WERE IMPRESSED WITH DR. HAASS' BACKGROUND, HIS KNOWLEDGE AND VISION FOR THE COLLEGE OF SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE, AND WANTED TO HELP IN ACHIEVING THAT GOAL."

Bruce Harvey

Leading the Way

The field of cybersecurity is relatively young, and Embry-Riddle's College of Security and Intelligence is the first of its kind. The Harveys want to help Embry-Riddle grow its reputation as a leader in that new space.

"Most of the people that I have talked to — friends, colleagues and clients — think of Embry-Riddle as an aviation-only school. I would like them to know that it also has an excellent College of Security and Intelligence," Bruce says. "We would like to help the school continue to be a leader in this area."

The Harveys have chosen to help grow the program through a faculty support endowment. An endowment is a permanent fund: the core donation is invested, and earnings from that investment are spent according to the criteria set by the donor.

"Our goal in establishing the endowment was to help Dr. Haass and the faculty to hire qualified people who can pass their knowledge and experience on to their students," Bruce says. "We were impressed with Dr. Haass' background, his knowledge and vision for the College of Security and Intelligence, and wanted to help in achieving that goal."

Haass is grateful for the Harveys' confidence in the program. "With industry and public sector demand for trained employees, we need the ability to attract and retain passionate faculty to prepare our future leaders. This endowment provides ongoing funds to support the work of the department of cyber intelligence and security. It also supports conference and professional development participation, keeping our faculty abreast of the state of the art."

THE POWER OF PLANNED GIVING

Helen Wessel's planned gift provides transformational support to the aerospace physiology program

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM

A miniature bulldog figurine sits on the shelf in the office of College of Arts and Sciences Dean Karen Gaines. The knickknack is a tangible reminder of one of Embry-Riddle's staunchest and most colorful supporters.

It belonged to Helen Wessel (HonDoc '17), a retired art professor whose generous estate gift is supporting the growth of the college's aerospace physiology program, the first undergraduate program of its kind in the nation.

"Helen gave to this university through her passion to help," says Gaines. "She will be missed. I had the privilege of spending time with her over the last three years, and I am a better person for it."

Wessel, who was named an honorary alumna of the university in 2017, left much more behind than her collection of beloved bulldogs, which were shared with her friends at her memorial service held March 14.

Never one for small gestures, she bequeathed a gift to Embry-Riddle that would transform the university's aerospace physiology program. This most recent gift was by far her largest financial investment in the university. But she is most known for her gifts of artwork to the Daytona Beach Campus, given over the past 20 years, and an endowed chair for the Aerospace Physiology Program that she established prior to her passing.

"Helen Wessel's generosity to Embry-Riddle encompassed both the arts and sciences. She funded iconic artwork throughout the Daytona

Beach Campus and enriched cultural life with an endowment that brings live performances to students," says Embry-Riddle President P. Barry Butler. "[Additionally] her support made our aerospace physiology degree possible. Her gifts to us will continue to enrich our community."

Transformative Gift

Wessel's planned gift will fund the Helen Wessel Endowment for Women in Aerospace Physiology, which focuses on developing the university's aerospace physiology program established in 2017, and supporting more female students.

"Aerospace physiology looks at how life responds to the extreme environments of flight and space from the cellular to organismal level," says Gaines. "If we are going to be leaders in aerospace, this is absolutely a component."

The Wessel endowments will be dedicated to fund aerospace physiology student scholarships, internship and student research support, and program support.

"It is a transformative gift," says Lon Moeller, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. "It is one thing to give back to your alma mater, but it is another to give back to a place that just impresses the heck out of you, because of what you've seen."

The aerospace physiology program currently has about 100 students, says Gaines. Of them, about half want to work for NASA either as astronauts or to

Aerospace physiology student Jenifer Schuman is researching the effects of radiation on yeast samples from the International Space Station as a lab assistant for Professor Hugo Castillo.



DAVID MASSEY

support life sciences in space. Students study ways to improve human performance and pursue such questions as why astronauts may be susceptible to certain diseases like shingles when in space.

Other enrolled students in the program also have ambitious goals, including supporting flight operations as either aerospace physiologists in the military or in aeromedical applications, or pursuing clinical medicine to become physicians, pathologists, pharmacists, and physical therapists.

“These students are intrigued by the university’s approach to physiology, not only because of the direct opportunities to support the aerospace industry, but because it uniquely prepares them for clinical opportunities,” says Gaines.

Whatever path students choose, there is now financial support to help them achieve their goals.

“Institutionally, we don’t have a lot of collegiate or departmental scholarships, so this is really a breakthrough in that area,” says Moeller. “Scholarship support is critical these days when colleges are so competitive. We’re all going after the same top talent and this differentiates Embry-Riddle from other schools.”

The scholarships will also help increase the diversity of the university’s student body.

“There are more women interested in that program, and it opens up career paths with NASA and medical school for some of our top students,” Moeller says.

Developing Partnerships

Internships and student research support is another funding priority. Graduates of the aerospace



Helen Wessel proudly displays her Embry-Riddle doctorate at commencement (2017).

physiology program support the flight and space industry, and the university has established partnerships with several NASA centers, U.S. Air Force, Army and Navy laboratories, as well as private companies, like Space Tango, for student internships and research.

“We’re leveraging the fund to give students opportunities for experiential learning,” Gaines says.

Additionally, endowment funds will be used for equipment to support the aerospace physiology program and assist faculty mentors and students involved in research.

“For example, as we use gene editing as a tool in fighting disease, understanding how genes are expressed in extreme environments like space help us better understand the genome,” Gaines says.

Some of the partnerships being explored involve developing and deploying physiological payloads to the International Space Station. Much of the research, especially involving the effects of radiation and microgravity, have applications on Earth, Gaines adds.

“We’re looking at how life responds to extreme environments and that can be space or flight.”

Clinical and Research Experience

The aerospace physiology program is also unique because it offers its students both clinical and research experience. The program partners with Advent Health and other hospitals around the nation to provide students the opportunity to participate in clinical experiences.

“It’s geared toward what we plan to do in the future,” says aerospace physiology student Haleema Irfan, who plans to become a physician.

Additionally, undergraduate students can study with professors conducting research in the field, allowing them to gain highly valuable skills for biomedical and aerospace careers.

For example, Irfan and fellow aerospace physiology student Jenifer Schuman have been assisting Assistant Professor of Microbiology Hugo Castillo with his research investigating DNA damage in a low-Earth-orbit environment and how background levels of radiation impact cellular growth.

“The research part sets us on a path that other undergrad programs don’t typically have, giving us a foot in the door to future employers,” Irfan said. “I love the program. It’s set up for the success of the student.”

Indelible Presence

Helen Wessel’s gifts of art create an enduring impact for Daytona Beach Campus

The fingerprints of Helen Wessel’s philanthropy are visible throughout Embry-Riddle’s Daytona Beach Campus.

From *Pathways to the Sky*, a grand stainless-steel sculpture that dominates the James Hagedorn Aviation Complex plaza to the *Great Cascading Fountains* outside the ICI Center, her numerous gifts of artwork are now iconic symbols of the university. To round out her artistic vision, Wessel also created an endowed fund to support arts and culture initiatives at the university’s College of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach.

Now, her transformational estate gift will grow the College of Arts and Sciences’ new Aerospace Physiology program for years to come [see related article].

An artist and educator, Wessel (HonDoc ’17), passed away Jan. 12, 2019, at the age of 93. For the past 20 years, she gave a series of gifts to Embry-Riddle in the areas of art and education.

Born in 1925 in Cincinnati, Wessel was an avid artist from an early age. She earned degrees in art and education from the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Architecture and Art and taught art in Cincinnati public schools for 10 years.

While teaching in Massachusetts, Wessel earned a master’s degree from Harvard University and then a Ph.D. in Art Education from the University of Cincinnati.



The *Pathways to the Sky* sculpture is one of several artworks commissioned and gifted by Helen Wessel (HonDoc ’17) to the university.

Wessel’s late husband, Bob, an economist who also taught at the University of Cincinnati, was a savvy investor – the fruits of which resulted in the founding of the Wessel Foundation in 1996, with the goal of supporting art and education. He also loved to fly.

The couple retired as professors from the University of Cincinnati and moved to Florida. Wessel became acquainted with Embry-Riddle after meeting Col. Charles “Chuck” D. Fountain at Metz Bar in Daytona Beach Shores, where her best friend was a bartender.

Fountain was a 1972 graduate of the Daytona Beach Campus, who spent 18 years as the university’s director of business and director of facilities. Following his death in 2009, Wessel gifted a bronze plaque depicting “World War I, the Birth of Air Combat,” which she dedicated in Fountain’s honor for the Legacy Walk.

Later, Wessel became good friends with Tim Brady, who served as chancellor of the Daytona Beach Campus, and as professor of doctoral studies and dean for

the College of Aviation. The two shared a love of art and collaborated together on three of the sculptures installed at Embry-Riddle.

“She called me the dean of arts and aviation,” said Brady, who is also a stained-glass artist, in an article published in the 2017 *Philanthropy Impact Report*. “I think we shared a common bond in that we knew if we did the right thing – as far as art for the institution – that it would last beyond either one of us.”

In recent years, Wessel focused on investing in the university’s aerospace physiology program and supporting more female students. In 2017, she made a significant gift to create The Dr. Robert H. Wessel and Dr. Helen M. Wessel Endowed Chair for Aerospace Physiology.

“Helen has been a great friend and supporter of Embry-Riddle,” said Bill Grams, retired dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “The beauty to our campus and the enhanced educational opportunities provided by Helen Wessel’s gifts truly provide a most important missing link for our university.”

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17
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