Vaughn

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A SPECTRUM OF OPPORTUNITIES:
Fostered by Loyal Alumni

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Atlas Air Worldwide is one of the prestigious companies where our alumni are making an impact. Adjunct Professor and Vaughn College Alumna Karen Batson '04 (center) gathers with a group of Vaughn College alumni working at Atlas Air in front of the company's history wall.

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A SPECTRUM OF OPPORTUNITIES

Across an array of aviation and engineering companies Vaughn alumni advance the next generation of successful careers

Over the past few years, as the connections to employers have grown and strengthened more and more alumni are coming back to campus to recruit the next generation. These alumni appreciated the value of the education that they received, know firsthand the quality of the degree programs, the care of the faculty and staff and understand that graduates have what it takes to make a long-term contribution.

What follows is a far-from-complete sampling from Vaughn graduates who have gone on to work at Atlas Air, Sikorsky, Lockheed, NASA, Safe Flight Instruments, Cyient, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the Federal Aviation Administration and how they have kept the connection to their alma mater and are paying it forward.

ADJUNCT IS ALSO AN ADVOCATE AT ATLAS AIR

"There are Vaughn students in every department at Atlas," said Karen Batson '04, director of aircraft reliability (the FAA's control airport support system, or CASS) at Atlas Air Worldwide, which operates one of the world's largest fleets of Boeing 747 freighter aircraft.

She should know. From the time she started working at Atlas after receiving her bachelor's degree in airport management and her master's degree in transportation management, Batson has recommended and/or hired some 39 Vaughn students in positions ranging from flight operations and maintenance planning to accounting and human resources.

Asked why she hires so many from Vaughn, Batson laughed and said, "It's not why; it's why not? When I started at Atlas, I had a goal to turn my department around, and I tapped into the College's resources. Vaughn students have done outstanding work!" Batson also pointed out that her role as an adjunct professor at Vaughn gives her a special perspective on Vaughn students. "I have the opportunity to get to know students and their capabilities... I can see who thinks outside of the box. And I like the idea of showing students what they can accomplish. It doesn't matter if you're female or a minority, you can set yourself apart, and the sky's the limit."

Batson's dedication to Vaughn has benefited many students. One such student is Karrosoe A. Prince '19, soon to graduate with her bachelor's degree in airport management. Prince, who has worked full time at Atlas while pursuing her degree, got her first job at Atlas after taking one of Batson's classes and being recommended by her instructor. "I wouldn't be where I am if I hadn't taken that class with Karen!" said Prince. "After I worked in the airport records department, I was offered a great job in the quality assurance department. Karen is such a role model. I really admire how she helps so many people and works to her full capacity here." Even though she has not yet graduated, Prince said she is already trying to pay it forward to Vaughn by talking with freshmen and offering to pass along their resumes at Atlas.

Another Atlas employee who works under Batson's supervision is now pursuing his master's of science degree in airport management at Vaughn, thanks to counseling and encouragement from Batson. Salvatore Pitino '20 came to Atlas with a bachelor of science in economics and is employed as an aircraft reliability and CASS analyst for the company's fleet. "I was always interested in aviation, but I didn't get the educational foundation in aviation as an undergrad. With my master's from Vaughn, I'm not only getting a deep understanding of different parts of the industry and how they fit together; I'm also getting great networking opportunities, like presenting my thesis with another grad student at the American Association of Airport Executives conference in Boston this year. Vaughn really supports students with networking and career opportunities that will take me where I want to go."

Batson also sees future opportunity for Vaughn graduates. "This is a good time in aviation. There's a huge demand on the flight-operations side for pilots as boomers retire and also on the maintenance side, with lots of hiring going on. The next generation of students at Vaughn has a bright future."

Karen Batson '04

OUR GUARANTEE

When deciding where to attend college, many students and families want a clear understanding of the career pathway once they complete a degree. Understandably, they want to make sure that the investment they are making has value—a real return on investment. It was with that sensibility in mind that Vaughn's Guarantee was launched last year and is the first of its kind in New York. The Guarantee promises, "If an eligible student is not employed full time in their field of study one year after graduating, and conducting an active job search, Vaughn College will provide reimbursement for one year of the graduate's federal direct undergraduate student loan."

It is a bold promise, but as Vaughn's President Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo stated in announcing the program, "We believe so strongly in Vaughn's ability to make a difference for those students who attend full time that we decided to give students and families an assurance that we share in the responsibility for career success." Since then, Vaughn's high career placement rates have climbed to new heights: an extraordinary 99 percent of Vaughn graduates are employed or continuing their education within one year, 83 percent in their field of study.

Many factors contribute to Vaughn's success in delivering the Guarantee, including its long-term industry partnerships, and Vaughn's successful alumni are invaluable assets who often play a key role in launching careers for new graduates. Employed in a variety of companies and organizations across the aviation, management and engineering universe, Vaughn alumni are positioned to help their employers find new talent, and to "pay it forward" by helping Vaughn's next generation succeed. It's a win-win proposition that also speaks to the close-knit ties of the Vaughn community and the loyalty and appreciation alumni feel toward their alma mater as they advance in their own careers.

AT SIKORSKY AND LOCKHEED, ALUMNI HELP EACH OTHER RISE

Muhammad Noman '16, who majored in aeronautics as part of the mechanical engineering technology degree, knows the value of alumni outreach from both sides of the coin: He can look back on the alumni and professors who helped him get his career started at Sikorsky Aircraft, a Lockheed Martin company, and he can look forward to the next generation of Vaughn students for whom he is paving the way. Recently promoted to senior project engineer on the Super Stallion (CH-53E), the world's largest helicopter, Noman started as an intern at Sikorsky while still working on his bachelor's degree and was later hired as a project engineer on the Black Hawk (s70i) helicopter.

Noman acknowledges the role Engineering and Technology Department Chair and Professor Dr. Hossein Rahemi played in helping him find that all-important first professional position. He connected Noman with a former graduate who was the chief engineer at Sikorsky, Rajdeep Singh '00. "During my internship, Raj mentored me and helped me in my career path in the aerospace industry," said Noman.

Noman is not the only Vaughn alumnus at Sikorsky to credit Singh with helpful career counsel and support. Nicholas F. Ceballos '18, mechanical engineering, took an engineering project management course in his junior year that was taught by Singh, then an adjunct. Ceballos always knew he wanted to work for "a titan of the aerospace industry," and he and several other students approached Singh about opportunities at Sikorsky. "He provided help for how to navigate the Sikorsky hiring process," said Ceballos, "and it turned out that several of us were hired, including myself and Mechatronic Engineering Major Lovedeep Kaur '18."

Muhammad Noman '16

For Noman at Sikorsky Aircraft, there is no question about the importance of networking and alumni relationships. He has taken on the role of Vaughn alumni organizer at Sikorsky, serves on DeVivo's President's Advisory Council, and continues to work closely with Rahemi. "I come to Vaughn for as many events as possible—like Manufacturing Day—and I try to bring others from Sikorsky to strengthen the connection between Sikorsky and Vaughn. We have quite a few Vaughn graduates at Lockheed, and I help new graduates inside the company. And by the way, my supervisor is also a Vaughn alumnus: Rich Brown '94!"

Ceballos also points out the importance of attending industry and association conferences and workshops while a student is also instrumental to career success. As a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), he attended the SHPE National Conference and career fair where he connected with a Sikorsky recruiter and was invited to an interview. Even before graduating, Ceballos was offered a position as a systems engineer associate and started at Sikorsky in March 2019.

Another Vaughn graduate who found his path to Lockheed through a national conference job fair is Atif Saeed '20. He attended the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) National Conference and circulated his resume to several of the major aerospace manufacturers who had come to recruit new talent. Vaughn students regularly attend this conference, and in 2018 students collectively had 34 interviews, walked away with six internships and received five position offers. Saeed was hired as a research engineering intern at Lockheed Martin in Denver, Colorado this past summer, where he worked on a machine learning algorithm for a drone. "What I did was mostly confidential," said Saeed, "but I can say that because it incorporated mechanical and electronic aspects of a drone, and because I was in the robotics club at Vaughn, I was very familiar with the work and was able to improve their efficiency by 30 percent as soon as I got there." Saeed made the most of networking opportunities during his internship and was offered several full-time opportunities as soon as he graduates. His first choice—taking his dream job at Lockheed Martin Space Systems in Sunnyvale, California as an associate mechanical engineer.

FROM THE HUBBLE TO TANKS TO TERRAFORMING AT NASA

The missions and projects of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) drive scientific advances and discoveries that touch all areas of aerospace, technology development and aeronautics. For Vaughn students and graduates, these programs—from space exploration and robotics to solar electric propulsion and telescopes searching the far reaches of the universe—are dream jobs come true.

Jade Kukula '07 always longed for a career in space. She earned her bachelor of science in mechanical engineering technology specializing in aeronautics studying "swarm robots," which refers to a coordination of multiple robots for her bachelor's degree project. Kukula was hired by NASA upon graduating from Vaughn and went to work on the Hubble Space Telescope as part of the orbit-shift team during Space Shuttle Mission 125.

When the Intrepid Air and Space Museum celebrated the 25th anniversary of the launch of the Hubble Telescope a few years ago, Kukula was honored with a reception at the Intrepid by the Vaughn College community, where she spoke about her role working on the telescope and advised students about career choices and the benefits of her education. A lifelong learner, Kukula earned her master's in systems engineering and is currently pursuing a doctorate in systems engineering at George Washington University. Said Kukula, "I absolutely love my job, and I couldn't have achieved so much without the help and guidance of my professors, counselors and administrators at Vaughn."

Deron Hurley '19 recently completed a project as an intern at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. During the application process, NASA's chief technology officer noticed that Hurley had experience with Comsol Multiphysics, a program he had learned and used at Vaughn. "He asked me if I would like to work on a project to assist with the terraforming of Mars," said Hurley, "and when the chief technologist of NASA asks you this, you don't say no!"

Working in the office of advanced concepts for his in-space advanced propulsion internship, Hurley completed his session on Martian terraforming and was then put on a project studying aerodynamic drag and heat reduction for reentry vehicles to the Martian atmosphere. According to Hurley, the exploration of Mars is anything but theoretical. "We have lots of solid data gathered by satellites that gives us depictions of what we as humans can do there in the near future," he said. "NASA's Artemis mission is committed to landing the first female astronaut on the moon in 2024, and we'd like to go to Mars by 2028."

Hurley acknowledges the importance of his classwork with Dr. Amir Elzawawy and the mentoring he received including fabricating a small-scale supersonic wind tunnel as his degree project. "I never thought I'd get the kind of opportunity I have at NASA, coming out of a smaller engineering college in New York City, but I say to Vaughn students, go for it!" Hurley is still at NASA

Jade KuKula '07 with Dr. Hossein Rahemi, engineering and technology department chair and President DeVivo.

and on track for a full-time position as an aerospace engineer at Marshall Space Flight Center.

A summer internship at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) has already propelled Samantha Vitez '20 on a trajectory to a professional career. Vitez was a second-year mechatronic engineering major when she landed what she calls "the internship of a lifetime" at JPL. Drawn to Vaughn by her passion for cars, the former car mechanic found herself working in JPL's Project Formulation department in Pasadena, California, on human-centered design tools to support future space missions. "It was awesome to be part of the team and to see Mars 2020 components being tested and assembled in the clean room. I got to see so many cool aspects of what I can do coming out of Vaughn with a mechatronic engineering degree!"

Vitez became a recipient of the Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship from the Department of Defense (DoD) in 2018 and secured internships for the past two summers plus full-time employment for two and a half years after graduation in the area she loves most: ground vehicles. In the summer of 2019, Vitez completed her second internship, this time in the US Army Tank Development and Engineering Center in the ground vehicles robotics (GVR) department. "I worked on the warfighter machine interface," said Vitez, "and I also had the freedom to create my own projects relevant to the GVR's work. Next summer, I'll have another internship at the Center of Systems Integration (CSI), and then when I graduate in fall 2020, I'll have a full-time job, either in ground vehicle robotics or possibly CSI where they actually build and design tanks for the Army."

Having chosen Vaughn because of its small size and a positive experience during a visit to the campus, Vitez praised the caring attitude she has found. "The faculty want to help students excel—they always make the time to help, and if I make the effort, I get the support I need. It's hard work, but I'm excited about the new future I've built here."

Samantha Vitez '20 mechatronic engineering major, during her internship at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

AVIONICS GRADUATES ARE IN DEMAND AT SAFE FLIGHT

"We recruit from Vaughn College because the graduates have the skill set we are looking for, which requires less training when they are hired and join our team—they hit the ground running," said Jim Hamel, manager of the FAA repair station at Safe Flight Instrument Corporation. "We look for candidates who are skilled, prepared, and can follow directions and troubleshoot. Vaughn provides a good basis for their students in all of these areas."

Providing that strong basis for hiring is one of the driving principles of Vaughn's avionics program, both in the bachelor's and associate degrees in electronic engineering technology, according to Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor Mudassar Minhas. "We get feedback directly from companies to be sure our students have skill sets that are marketable, and we actively incorporate that into our course content. With Safe Flight, they have come to rely on Vaughn's pipeline of qualified, local talent, and in fact, I go to their headquarters to see what they're working on and what skills are needed so that training can be added to the lab work."

That support does not end when a student graduates. With a commitment to lifelong placement, Minhas recently recommended Hilain Hector '16 to Safe Flight for a job as an electronics technician in quality assurance, and Hector started work in September. "I feel like my Vaughn education was designed with the job in mind!" said Hector. "Of course, we got the theories and concepts, but also in our lab work, it was all hands on with the component manuals and test procedures to see if they're up to the quality standard. That's my job at Safe Flight now. And everyone knows Professor Minhas—they know that with technology changing so fast, he will make sure the courses and lab work stay relevant."

CYIENT, IN NEARBY CONNECTICUT, OFFERS FAR-REACHING OPPORTUNITY

Cyient, a global leader in engineering design services and manufacturing focusing on aerospace, rail, communications and other industries, has its US headquarters in Hartford, Connecticut. In the last few years, Cyient has been in near constant demand for Vaughn graduates with mechanical engineering degrees—and Vaughn has become a primary source for Cyient recruiters.

Dominic Visciotti '93 has been at Cyient for 10 years and has played a significant role in strengthening the connection between the two entities.

"A couple of years ago, Cyient was growing exponentially," said Visciotti, "and we were looking for

qualified people with degrees in electrical engineering, electronic engineering technology and mechanical engineering. At Vaughn, we found students who not only had the mechanical engineering, but had exposure to aerospace, robotics and flight, which was great. I believe we hired 15 students right off the bat!"

William Yim '15, who graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering technology with both the aeronautical and computer-aided design (CAD) option, was hired at Cyient in February of 2016. Yim had interviewed with Visciotti before graduating, and when a manufacturing engineer position opened a few months later, he received an offer. Having worked briefly as an aircraft technician post-graduation, he was eager for a job with more in-depth engineering applications and is currently working in Visciotti's group as a manufacturing engineer in smart tooling solutions.

Cyient, which partners with Pratt & Whitney, has also launched a number of Vaughn alumni into positions at Pratt & Whitney. Vincent Collucci '16, is one of these. Hired by Cyient after graduating with his degree in mechanical engineering technology, he worked for two years on tooling carts for the assembly floor before being hired by Pratt in 2018 as a sensor applications engineer. "Cyient gave me everything I needed to build my resume and skills," said Collucci, "and when we go to Vaughn, we talk to the next generation of students about the paths we took."

Dominick Visciotti speaking to Vaughn students about future aviation and engineering trends and job opportunities at Cyient.

Visciotti's work at Cyient continues to advance. After having been a team leader of assembly engineering, he recently became manager of digital factory, which applies digital solutions to aerospace assembly floors. Keenly aware of the changing needs and trends in the aviation industry, Visciotti has been committed to sharing his knowledge with Vaughn: He serves on the President's Advisory Council, works with Rahemi as part of the engineering and technology department's advisory council, and was a speaker at the annual Manufacturing Day. "Vaughn gave me the opportunity to get where I am today, and I want to give back in return for what was given to me. Plus, Vaughn students now have a great reputation at Cyient, and Cyient has a great reputation at Vaughn," said Visciotti.

VAUGHN AND THE PORT: A HISTORY OF SYNERGY

In 2018, when The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) announced a $1.3 million scholarship program to provide six Queens students with a tuition-free education at Vaughn College, it was a new chapter in a long, synergistic relationship in which Vaughn has been a pipeline of talent for one of the nation's most important transportation agencies. These scholarships add yet another opportunity for full-time employment. The scholarships not only guarantee paid internships during the students' pursuit of a degree, but also hold the promise of full-time positions at Port Authority airports.

Emily Shyu '14

Emily Shyu '14, who in just five years is the manager of customer experience at the PANYNJ, knows about having a goal and going after it. While working on her bachelor's degree in airport management, Shyu interned at PANYNJ and wanted to work there full time. "The Port Authority is a key player in airport management," she said. "They set the bar across the nation. They manage the largest transportation hubs, including airports, and that is exactly what I studied at Vaughn." Shyu inspires and supports the next generation of Vaughn students by coming back to recruit and has hired students for internships and as airport ambassadors.

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

Christina Rivers '19 (right) with Career Services Director Jessica Caron.

"I know there's a lot of student potential," Shyu said. "The students have an opportunity to learn from professors who are actively working in the industry, and this is an advantage, as everything they learn remains relevant. I want to inspire other students with my career path. In the five years since I've graduated, Vaughn has grown in size, and I see more female students walking the halls. This inspires me to continue to support the next generation," she added.

Christina Rivers '19 also started as an intern at PANYNJ at John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport the summer before her junior year, where she was pursuing a dual major in airport and airline management. "I had my first interview with Emily Shu after being recommended by career services, but I didn't know she was a Vaughn alumna at the time," said Rivers. "I worked with the landside operations management team, and first had a one-year internship, and then it was extended for another year." Two days after she graduated, Rivers got an offer for a full-time job as operations supervisor at Newark Liberty International Airport, International Terminal B, where she oversees baggage management, what she describes as "a jigsaw puzzle" of moving parts, and systems including elevators and escalators. Asked about her next move, Rivers said, "I'm exactly where I want to be. I just want to work my way up the ladder."

Rivers is one of several recent Vaughn graduates hired by PANYNJ, including Caridad (Diana) Carattini '19, who is now a landside supervisor at LaGuardia Airport after an internship at the FAA (see her story on page 10, "2019 Was a Hot Summer for Internships at the FAA") and Otha Ward '19 who was offered a full-time position before graduation in aeronautical services at JFK International Airport.

MANY ROUTES ARE TRAVELED BY GRADS AT THE FAA

With a mission "to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace space system in the world," the FAA touches all aspects of the aviation and aeronautics industry. Not surprisingly, the relationship between Vaughn College and the FAA is extensive. . In August, the new FAA Administrator Stephen Dickson, his Deputy Dan Elwell and the FAA's Management Advisory Council visited Vaughn's campus to meet with President DeVivo and students and to discuss the critical issue of workforce development. After meeting students, the group walked away with new ideas about how to attract and retain the next generation.

Also this past summer, many Vaughn students had internships at the FAA. Alumni are employed across the FAA, from technical operations and aircraft certification to air traffic controllers and quality control inspectors.

When Ethan Addess '15 completed an FAA internship at LaGuardia Airport's control tower in 2014, the experience confirmed his belief that becoming an air traffic controller was the job and the career he wanted. That year, Vaughn purchased its air traffic control simulation lab to enhance the program, and when Addess graduated in 2015 with his bachelor's degree in aeronautical science, he worked in the simulator lab while he waited for his opportunity to be a controller. In 2017, the FAA hired Addess for the Miami Air Route Traffic Control Center . But that job hasn't kept Addess away from Vaughn and the program he felt he had a part in growing.

"I go back to Vaughn quite a few times a year and help out," said Addess. "Students have programming questions, and I talk to them about what it's like in air traffic control and what to expect. It's fun to see my instructors and show what I've learned, and they show me new things they're doing now with the simulator. I felt well-prepared by Vaughn for my job, and the instructors are making sure the next generation is ready too."

Ethan Addess '15 (second from left) working in Vaughn's air traffic control laboratory.

Devendra Singh '17 graduated with a bachelor's degree in electronic engineering technology and soon after was hired by the FAA to maintain electronics at LaGuardia Airport. Speaking from Oklahoma where he was completing a training program, Singh said, "We are frequently trained for updates on the equipment—this is my fifth training session this year, and I have more scheduled for next year." Singh's job includes maintaining all the electronics used by pilots and controllers, including radar, radio, navigational aids and networks. "With all of the new equipment and staying up to date, I'm never bored," said Singh, "and once you're in the FAA, you can go to other government agencies, from the DoD to NASA, even the Secret Service—pretty cool!"

Many Factors Contribute, Many Alumni "Give Back"

People who have spent time on Vaughn's campus—students, graduates, professors, employers and staff—understand how the institution is consistently successful in delivering on the vision: To change the world one student at a time with a transformational education that leads to a lifetime of opportunity. That can only happen when there is intentionality about the design of degree programs, the quality of the experience both inside and outside the classroom and the commitment to supporting students in their career pathway.

"We know that we can only accomplish this mission-critical work with the support of our alumni," notes President DeVivo. "It is so uplifting when I connect with a graduate whose life was changed by a Vaughn degree and that is what motivates so many in our community. We need your support to continue that track record of success."

2019 WAS A HOT SUMMER FOR INTERNSHIPS AT THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

THE CLIMATE WAS RIGHT FOR VAUGHN STUDENTS AS THE FAA SOUGHT TO MEET STRONG DEMAND FOR QUALIFIED INTERNS IN NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

Last summer, eight Vaughn students—a record-breaking number—had 10-week paid internships with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Several factors had converged: the FAA's strong need for interns, Vaughn College's deep talent pool, and the long-standing relationship between Vaughn and the FAA, a relationship that goes back close to 90 years, to the time when the FAA was still the Civil Aeronautics Authority and Vaughn was still the College of Aeronautics.

Willia Jones, the FAA's national student program manager, quickly learned about Vaughn when she started running the program in 2017. "I was informed early on that we had a great relationship with Vaughn," she said, "and it's been a wonderful experience working with the staff and students since then. So, when I realized we had a lot of requests for interns in New York and New Jersey—and we didn't have a lot of time to find them, due to a late start after the government furlough—I immediately reached out to Becky Falto. She is a wealth of information."

Falto is Vaughn's internship coordinator, and according to her, the FAA's proactive outreach and collaboration means a lot. "They are very good about reaching out with openings, and for our part, we encourage students to make the most of these opportunities. After all, the FAA has so many functional areas that are a great match for our students. Students get to learn about their area of interest, but they're also exposed to others and gain broader industry knowledge. Plus, it's an excellent networking opportunity and resume-builder. Everyone knows the FAA!"

For one of the 2019 summer interns, Caridad (Diana) Carattini '19, the knowledge and the networking opportunities she gained while working in air traffic operations at the FAA's New York District Office did more than confirm her desire to become an air traffic controller: this fall, she was hired as a full-time supervisor of landside operations with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey at LaGuardia Airport. The offer came after she interviewed with a manager, whom she had coincidentally met the previous day at the FAA's delay initiative meeting, which she had helped to set up, with her supervisor from the FAA.

Carattini, who graduated last May with a bachelor's degree in airport management, said of her internship experience, "I

Representatives from the FAA attend Vaughn's annual career fairs to recruit talent.

couldn't have asked for a more relevant internship. I worked for, and was mentored by, the district manager of operations for air traffic, who oversees all air traffic managers in the New York district, including 16 towers in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He took me to multiple towers. I met the air traffic managers and got to sit with air traffic controllers and listen, as they directed traffic and made decisions. I met Vaughn alumni who are air traffic controllers now, and who gave me advice. I had amazing access!"

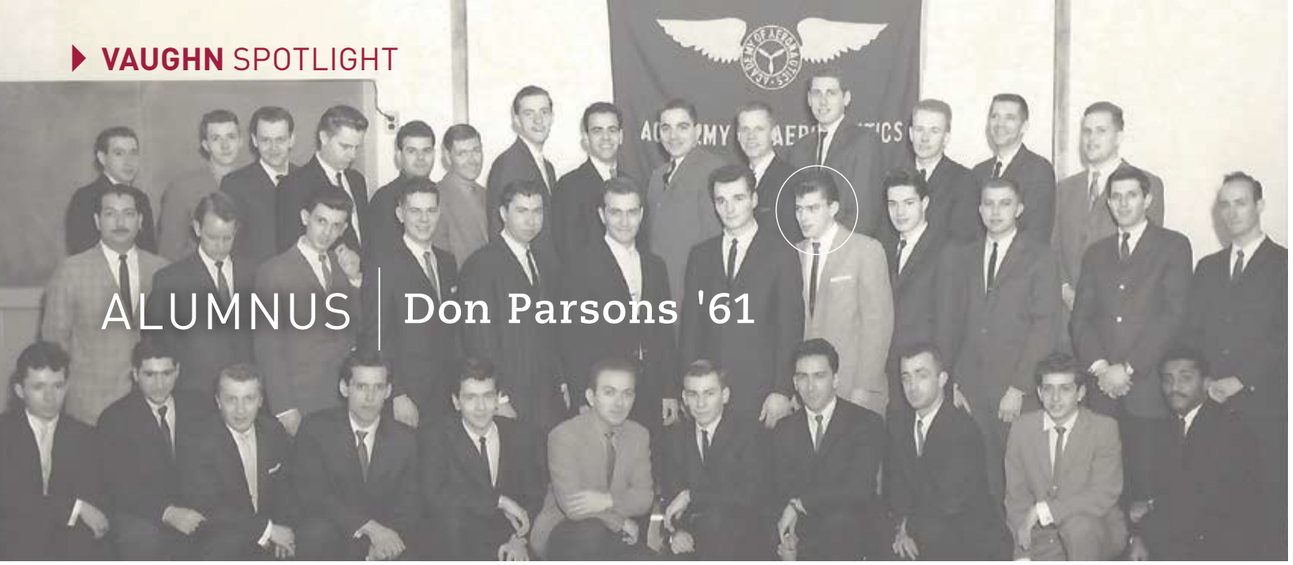
Other Vaughn students described equally rewarding experiences with their FAA summer internships. Christopher Burgos '23, who is also working on a degree in airport management, got an internship that was both close to his home in New Jersey and close to his interest in air traffic control and airport management. As a tower administrative intern at the Essex County Airport, Caldwell Tower, Burgos describes being in the tower five out of eight hours a day.

"I got to see the coordination between a lower level facility and the New York TRACON—and seeing that coordination in play was breathtaking!" he said. "Caldwell Tower is a small facility that deals with private pilots, and the New York area has a lot of airports for a small space. The coordination and communication all the way to the top is what's amazing, because every piece of the puzzle is important and has to work together. They set up tours for me to visit other towers in Morristown, Teterboro and Newark—and at Newark, I got to see how they were running parallel landings and coordinating with TRACON to accommodate a small plane, while minimizing interruption of the traffic. It was awesome."

Not all interns are from the airport management program. Fatin Saumik '20, a mechatronic engineering major, spent his internship in the Westbury, Long Island aircraft certification office, where technical data provided by aircraft manufacturers is reviewed to ensure the safety of aircraft before manufacture. Although Saumik is interested in the design of aircraft, he found it beneficial to learn from the experienced engineers at the FAA, and to build his soft skills. Moreover, he found his Vaughn education gave him the skills he needed to review the technical data. "The training I had from Vaughn prepared me for this. Technical writing helped me understand how to read technical documents and the computer-aided design class was important—I could understand the technical data and the notations." Saumik found the environment welcoming, and he plans to stay in touch with some of his mentors.

On the FAA side, reviews of Vaughn students were so positive that managers have a greater awareness of the value of interns, and they want to provide funding for more, according to Jones. "The Vaughn students come to us with knowledge of our agency and our mission and vision, and when we get students with a passion for aviation, plus the ability to take the initiative and be supportive of the managers...it's just a win for us, and it's a win for the students."

Will the demand for interns continue to be strong? Jones believes so. "We have management who support funding for internships and see the value of bringing in millennial talent. It's a two-way transfer of knowledge where they not only learn from us, but we also leverage their knowledge of the technology tools they use, for efficiency and to get things done, and the FAA needs that to stay on the cutting edge. So, I would just encourage students to apply and be ready when opportunity knocks."



ALUMNUS | Don Parsons '61

Martin Hennessy graduated from the Academy of Aeronautics—the institution that would one day be Vaughn College—in 1950 and moved on to be a pilot in the U.S. Navy. His exciting educational and career path inspired his brother in-law, Don Parsons '61, (center row, fifth from right) to pursue a similar path.

"You could say my career in aerospace was launched at Vaughn College," explained Parsons.

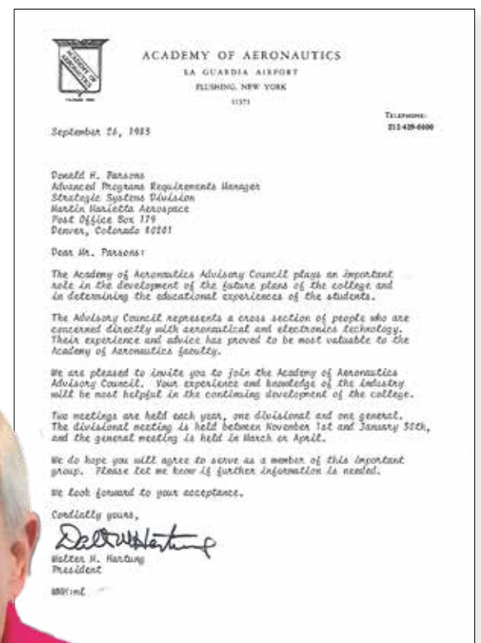
Parsons enrolled in the aircraft electronics certificate program in September 1958. He graduated in the spring of 1961, and despite the struggling job market, secured a position as an avionics technician with the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation. Grumman was contracted to design and build the lunar module for NASA's Apollo program. In 1966, Parsons was selected to lead Grumman's electrical and electronics engineering group for the Manned Spaceflight Center in Houston, Texas, where he worked on Apollo missions 9 through 14, witnessing the historic first lunar landing on July 20, 1969, from the Houston base.

"I got my technical foundation and work ethic from Vaughn," said Parsons. "And those building blocks helped lead me to a long and successful career."

Parsons continued to grow professionally, first at Grumman and then later at Martin Marietta, now known as Lockheed Martin. He continued his education, earning a bachelor's degree and taking advanced coursework in engineering fields in the 1970s, and in 1983, was asked to join the advisory council of the Academy of Aeronautics by then-president Walter Hartung.

"I took great pride in that opportunity," he said. "I loved being able to contribute and give back to the institution, and to help students begin their careers."

Parsons retired in 1997 after a long and exciting career, consulting for several years before settling in Florida.



ACADEMY OF AERONAUTICS
LA GUARDIA AIRPORT
FLUSHING, NEW YORK
11371

TELEPHONE: 212-429-6600

September 26, 1983

Donald H. Parsons
Advanced Programs Requirements Manager
Strategic Systems Division
Martin Marietta Aerospace
Post Office Box 179
Denver, Colorado 80201

Dear Mr. Parsons:

The Academy of Aeronautics Advisory Council plays an important role in the development of the future plans of the college and in determining the educational experiences of the students.

The Advisory Council represents a cross section of people who are concerned directly with aeronautical and electronics technology. Their experience and advice has proved to be most valuable to the Academy of Aeronautics faculty.

We are pleased to invite you to join the Academy of Aeronautics Advisory Council. Your experience and knowledge of the industry will be most helpful in the continuing development of the college.

Two meetings are held each year, one divisional and one general. The divisional meeting is held between November 1st and January 31th, and the general meeting is held in March or April.

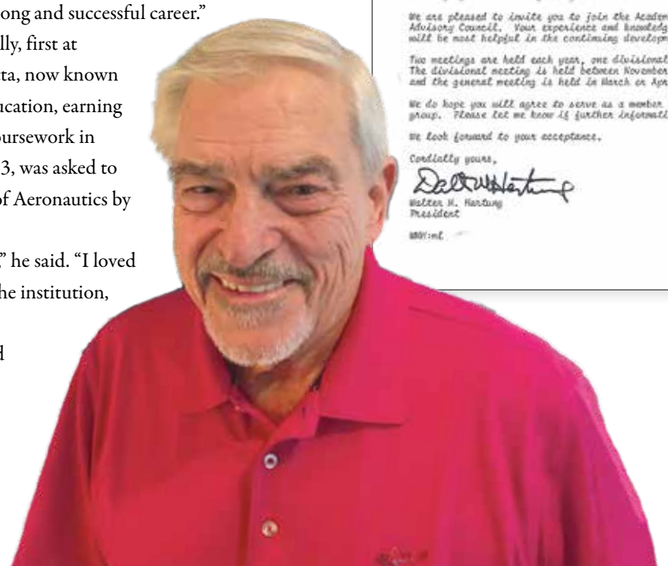
We do hope you will agree to serve as a member of this important group. Please let me know if further information is needed.

We look forward to your acceptance.

Cordially yours,

Walter H. Hartung
President

WHH:ml



VAUGHN COLLEGE

ANNUAL FUND

2019

Annual Fund giving is a central part of Vaughn's fundraising efforts and provides Vaughn with the responsiveness and flexibility necessary to fund emerging opportunities in scholarships, student programming, faculty research and academic initiatives. Every gift in any amount improves the Vaughn experience for our students.

"The most memorable moment of my life was receiving a scholarship that allowed me to pursue my career as a pilot. Because of opportunities such as this, Vaughn has fulfilled my dream and instills belief in their students that they can achieve anything possible. Your contribution to the annual fund will help shape Vaughn students to be tomorrow's leaders."

—Ryan A. Barren '15
Ground Operations Coordinator
Atlas Air

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY

at vaughn.edu/give-a-gift.

For more information contact the Annual Fund Office at advancement@vaughn.edu.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER LIVES UP TO ITS NAME

Today's college students face a variety of pressures that have increased even in comparison to just a decade ago, and Vaughn College continues to flourish with its comprehensive approach to ensuring student success. In recent months, Vaughn has revamped and relaunched its Academic Success Center (ASC) with the goal of reaching and helping even more students achieve their highest academic potential.

The ASC is an umbrella entity for more than half a dozen student-centered programs designed to support students from the high school level through their college degrees and to prepare them for their careers. In perhaps the most visible aspect of the ASC relaunch, most of the services have moved to a centralized location in the library. That may not seem monumental at a glance, but the impact has been significant. "We strive to be a powerhouse for student success, and the chance to expand and bring everything together helped us create a more comprehensive advisement experience," says Dr. Edgar Troudt, the associate vice president of academic affairs. "It's one-stop shopping now for the students. They can walk in, and we have our entire team of advisers there, and they can get the academic and social support they need."

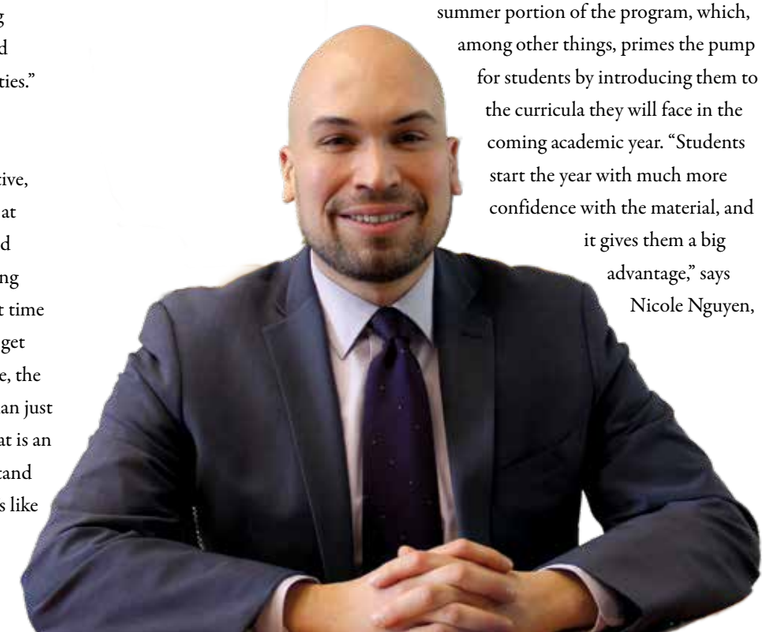
"The new center was designed to be bright and inviting and to make students feel welcome," says Troudt. "It's a grand and absolutely beautiful space, right at the heart of the library, so it is befitting of the work we do and shows the importance of our commitment to our students." So far, the relocation and expansion plan appears to be working as anticipated. "We're getting a lot more traffic through the center, and it looks like the resources we are investing in for the students are paying off," Troudt says.

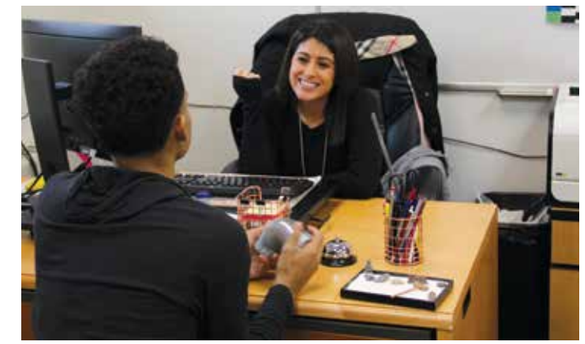
"There are a lot of first-generation college students at Vaughn who come to the center for assistance. They know the desired end result—they are looking for a college degree and a good career," says Donald Jimmo, a writing instructor in the ASC. Jimmo tutors students in the writing and math centers and has an understanding forged from experience of what students need academically and how best to help them. "Getting to the end result is the part that's new to them. I'm a first-generation college graduate as well, so I understand. It's a process that includes improving study techniques, taking advantage of the help that we offer, and having a well-rounded experience by participating in clubs and extracurricular activities."

Another vital source of support for both incoming and continuing students is the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). "The state-sponsored initiative, which is also supported by Vaughn College funds, is targeted at students who are educationally or economically disadvantaged and who may not otherwise be able to attend college. Incoming freshmen participate in the summer program, and during that time they can receive any remedial instruction they might need to get to the college level where they need to be," said Lauren Cajade, the assistant director for HEOP. But the program covers more than just academics, Cajade explains. "The students also take a class that is an introduction to the freshman experience, so that they understand what's going to be required of them academically and what it's like to be a college student." There are also supplementary workshops covering time management, developing a professional demeanor and other soft skills that will help students in their college careers and beyond. In addition, students in the HEOP program will now have monthly check-ins to talk about how their classes are going. "We want to know what we can help them with and ensure they maintain their grades," said Cajade. So far, the results are encouraging. "All our students passed their summer classes and are doing fantastic so far," Cajade reported.

College Possible, new to Vaughn College this fall, is another program crafted to bolster student success. College Possible is an AmeriCorps program that sends recent graduates back to Vaughn College to work with students, providing near-peer advising. "We have three coaches from AmeriCorps, and there's a large open area where students can drop in and feel comfortable seeking help, with no appointments needed," Cajade said. "The idea is that these students have just faced the challenges our current students are facing, so they can relate. And our students think, hey, this person gets it. It gives the coaches real credibility, and they're easy to approach."

Upward Bound is a federally-funded initiative that helps pave the way for high school students to enter college or other postsecondary education. Vaughn works with two Queens schools, Grover Cleveland High School and Austin Martin High School, doing on-site mentoring four days a week after school, with Saturday tutoring for standardized tests. Of the students who graduated last year, 100% did so with the Advanced Regent's Diploma, compared with approximately a third of students who earned the distinction statewide in 2017. Part of that achievement is likely due to the summer portion of the program, which, among other things, primes the pump for students by introducing them to the curricula they will face in the coming academic year. "Students start the year with much more confidence with the material, and it gives them a big advantage," says Nicole Nguyen, assistant director of Upward Bound. Besides the graduation numbers, the matriculation rate highlights the success of the program. "In our target-area neighborhoods, only 22% of people over age 25 have a bachelor's degree, whereas 84% of our students enroll in postsecondary education," Nguyen reported.





▲ Dwight Wermert works with students in the math and writing center (top); Lauren Cajade advising a HEOP student.

Like some of the other offices of the ASC, Upward Bound has relocated centrally to the second floor of the library, making it part of the new ASC complex. In addition, Upward Bound has rolled out a new weekend program, with 25 fun electives available to program participants, including hydroponic gardening and a rocket-building class in which students launched their constructions in Flushing Meadows Park.

While data is still pending, Troudt says that the work of the ASC staff and the expansion of the center is bearing fruit. "The College is telling us that retention is up, which means things are moving in the right direction," he says. "I'm willing to wager that our contributions at ASC are part of that."

◀ Edgar E. Troudt, PhD, associate vice president of academic affairs oversees the division of academic success.

A FRUITFUL SPRING FOR VAUGHN'S CLUB MEMBERS

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (UAV) TEAM WINS AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

The months leading up to competitions in May and June were a busy time for the UAV club and its team members. Their hard work and dedication paid off in the end, with the team receiving awards and high scores at two competitions.

Vaughn's UAV team, which was selected as a finalist to compete in the Vertical Flight Society's 7th Annual Micro Air Vehicle (MAV) student challenge alongside Penn State, Drexel University and the University of Maryland in May, took second place in the challenge.

Vaughn's team was charged with developing two UAVs (drones) to compete in both the manual and autonomous categories of the competition. Both drones were designed to perform vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) with an onboard camera and flight stabilization. Vaughn's drones were designed to be lightweight while not sacrificing their autonomous, computational and flying control.

For both challenges the drone was tasked with taking off from a base station carrying a package, moving around an obstacle and dropping off the package on a pre-identified delivery station. The drone would then take off again and land on the pickup station to gather a second package and then finally fly back to the base station to land and deliver that package.

Engineering and Technology Chair Dr. Hossein Rahemi noted that "Among all participants, only the teams from Vaughn College and the University of Maryland were able to complete the remotely operated tasks within the ten-minute time limit."

When the judges, who were from the aerospace industry, evaluated the teams' performance for both the remote and autonomous control categories, Vaughn's UAV team received the second place award for both categories, achieving the second highest score in the competition.

Just one month later, the UAV team competed for the first time in the AUVSI-SUAS Annual Competition at Webster Field, Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Maryland. The competition required the demonstration of the following elements: proof of flight (documented by a video); safety pilot log of three hours of manual flying; 10 takeoffs and landings; and a flight readiness review, delivered within a video presentation detailing the testing results and the team's competition preparedness.

In this year's competition, 75 top-recognized national and international engineering colleges including Harvard, Cornell, Virginia Tech, UCLA, Penn State and the University of Maryland qualified, but only 47 teams were flight ready by registration day, including Vaughn's UAV team.

The 2019 competition's mission was for each team to deliver a package to a customer using an unmanned aerial system (UAS). The UAS needed to follow a prescribed path, avoid obstacles such as buildings, identify potential drop locations, drop a package to a safe location via a rover, and then autonomously deliver the package, via rover, to the customer's location.

Vaughn's team placed 24th on mission execution and 26th place overall. The team's Advisers, Dr. Amir Elzawawy, engineering and technology assistant professor, and Ryan B. Tang Dan '17, mechatronic engineering alumnus and adjunct professor, were on hand to support the team at the competition.

"This was quite an achievement for the UAV club, which was established only four years ago, and we have now, for the first time, participated in one of the most challenging international UAV competitions," said Elzawawy. "We have learned many design and mission techniques in our first year, and we will now improve going forward." Elzawawy also noted that the judges' comments included praising the team's professionalism and strong safety awareness.

▲ Vaughn's UAV team competing for the first time in the AUVSI-SUAS Annual Competition at Webster Field, Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Maryland.

Rahemi noted that the support provided by the Department of Education federal fund as part of Title III, Part F, HSI-STEM grant, continues to make it feasible for the institution to offer students the opportunity to engage in many STEM-related activities and competitions. "We are very fortunate to be able to provide our students with access to these competitions that help them learn firsthand how to utilize the knowledge they obtain in the classroom in practical applications. The effort Vaughn students apply to all activities and their willingness to continually learn make us proud of their accomplishments."

FACULTY | Miguel Bustamante, PhD

Passion and dedication are the driving forces behind one of Vaughn College's newest faculty members. With more than one year under his belt at Vaughn, backed by 24 years of teaching experience, Miguel Bustamante, PhD, assistant professor of engineering and technology, is making his mark on campus with an exceptional teaching approach, all while spearheading a recent humanitarian mission to Rwanda.

Bustamante brings 24 years of teaching a multitude of engineering and technology courses to Vaughn, such as electrical engineering, program logic control, programming language, and feedback control systems. These courses supply the knowledge and skill set that are the basis for success in the industry. They give students the ability to stand out from the crowd, and Bustamante loves nothing more than to pass this passion along to his students.

"JUDGEMENT-FREE" CLASSROOM

Bustamante believes making his classroom a "judgement-free" zone is the key to ensuring his students' success. He admits the engineering and technology courses he teaches can be challenging but explains how his unique approach has proven to be a formula for student success. "It's important to make students feel at ease while still being firm with them," Bustamante stated. "Teaching is all in the approach and keeping students engaged."

Here are some of the ways Bustamante ensures his students' success in his engineering and technology courses:

- Create a "judgement-free" zone where students can express themselves freely and ask questions without fear of being wrong
- Bring humor to discussions to lighten the mood
- Bring real-life experiences to lectures
- Write information on the board to keep concepts fresh in their minds

Because the classes required for engineering degrees can be challenging, he believes these approaches will encourage student success and a positive classroom experience.

WHERE HIS PASSION STARTED

Bustamante's passion for electrical engineering began at an early age growing up in Columbia, South America, but it wasn't until his family moved to New York when he was 15 years old that he knew his future in engineering would become a reality.

After high school graduation, Bustamante enrolled at a local college in New York where he earned a bachelor of science degree and a master's degree in electric engineering. In 1996, he began teaching at the college, devoting himself to his students every step of the way. In 2004, he decided to go back to school to pursue his PhD in electrical engineering. "Teaching inspired me to pursue my doctorate," Bustamante said. "It was important for me to pass my knowledge in mathematics and engineering on to my students."

BRINGING CLASSROOM KNOWLEDGE TO A REAL WORLD MISSION

The Vaughn student chapter of Engineers Without Borders proudly partnered with the humanitarian efforts of Engineers Without Borders USA, an organization that utilizes the skills of engineers across the country to combat the challenges faced by some of the world's poorest people in their efforts to live healthy lives.

Last February, Bustamante, along with four Vaughn students who are pursuing engineering and technology degrees, visited the African country of Rwanda to test water supplies in the village of Kibingo. The goal of the 10-day mission was to determine a solution that would provide potable water to the town of 900 villagers. The team located, tested and marked every water source in the village, tested the sediment in the soil, and met with authorities.

"The students had the ability to use their knowledge of mathematics, science and computer-aided design from their engineering and technology courses in a real-world scenario," Bustamante said. "Their collected data was analyzed, revealing microbial contamination that exceeds the limits in accordance with the National Primary Drinking Water Standards (NPDWS) set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), confirming the water sources are unsafe and inadequate for safe consumption."

Currently, the students are crafting an engineering solution system to provide enough clean water to serve over 250 families in the village of Kibingo. "The post-assessment and solution to treating the water supplies is good to go," Bustamante stated. "We are now working on raising capital for the project and plan on returning to Rwanda in January 2020 to implement the system."

When it comes to achieving your goals, Bustamante believes in staying the course and forging ahead to overcome any obstacles. "I want my students to remember that gaining knowledge will only get them halfway to their goals. The other half is to never lose their sense of wonder and knowing the journey to knowledge never ends."

Dr. Bustamante visits with children from Kibingo, Rwanda during the Engineers Without Borders water test for the group's engineerng project.

ROBOTICS TEAM COMPETES

AT VEX U WORLDS FOR SIXTH YEAR IN A ROW

Every year, VEX Robotics challenges the problem-solving skills of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) scholars. Competition participants used robotics platforms and engineering processes to solve this year's challenge titled "VEX Turning Point." For this purpose, Vaughn College's Robotics Team VCAT designed, built and programmed two robots to compete in matches consisting of a 45 second autonomous period followed by one minute and 15 seconds of driver-controlled manipulation. The team constructed their robots to attain the following objectives:

> Launch balls consistently and accurately from any location on the field to toggle low and high flags
> Perform with speed and utilize an effective mechanism to pick up the cap and place it on the post through both autonomous and driver-controlled modes
> Program control algorithms for the best autonomous performance
> Develop a structurally reliable robot in compliance with the limitations and constraints of the challenge

For the "VEX Turning Point," played on a 12' x 12' square field, two teams (two alliances, one red and one blue) compete in each match, and the objective is to attain a higher score than the opposing alliance to win the match, through a variety of skills activities. The VEX U college and university competition has more than 300 teams competing in local tournaments and at VEX Worlds.

During fall 2018 and spring 2019, Team VCAT participated in many competitions that led to its qualification for the VEX U Worlds competition in April. The team was among seven international teams in the VEX U Reeduca International Robotics Competition in Cancun, Mexico in November, finishing second place overall in the competition and earning first-place recognition for the robotics skills champion category.

Faculty Adviser Dr. Hossein Rahemi, chair of the engineering and technology department, and Khalid Mouaouya, associate professor of engineering and technology, were on-site for the event, lending support to the team during its matches.

"I'm so proud of my students; they did a great job in the competition," said Rahemi. "I see how well they perform and how they challenge themselves . . . They have a passion." Team VCAT used mechanical, electrical and programming skills to build this year's robots for the "Turning Point" challenge.

Niki Taheri '19, then a senior at Vaughn College studying mechatronic engineering, joined the robotics team in her freshman year. To prepare for the competition, the team builds the robots and conducts a test run, according to Taheri. "To complete one robot takes around three months, but it's never completely done," said Taheri. "Even after it's done being built, we still have to program it and practice driving it, and then when you're driving, you might find something wrong and have to go back and fix it. ... It's constantly making improvements."

For the past six years, since 2013, the team has been a part of the world championship, according to Rahemi. They've been invited every year to compete against other schools in Mexico. The team plans on returning to Mexico next year to compete again.

"The teams are very dedicated, devoted and hardworking, and we're proud to encourage and support them," said Rahemi. "Being a part of the competition is important, giving them the hands-on skills they need for a successful career path. All the students who are a part of these clubs receive job offers – another example of Vaughn's commitment to providing our graduates with a 'future-proof' career."

On Friday, February 8, and Saturday, February 9, New York college and high schools gathered on campus for the Vaughn College VEX U Tournament and VRC Qualifier. The college-level event kicked off the series, and Vaughn's robotics team VCAT finished in second place overall and was awarded both the excellence and robot skills champion awards which qualified them for the state championship.

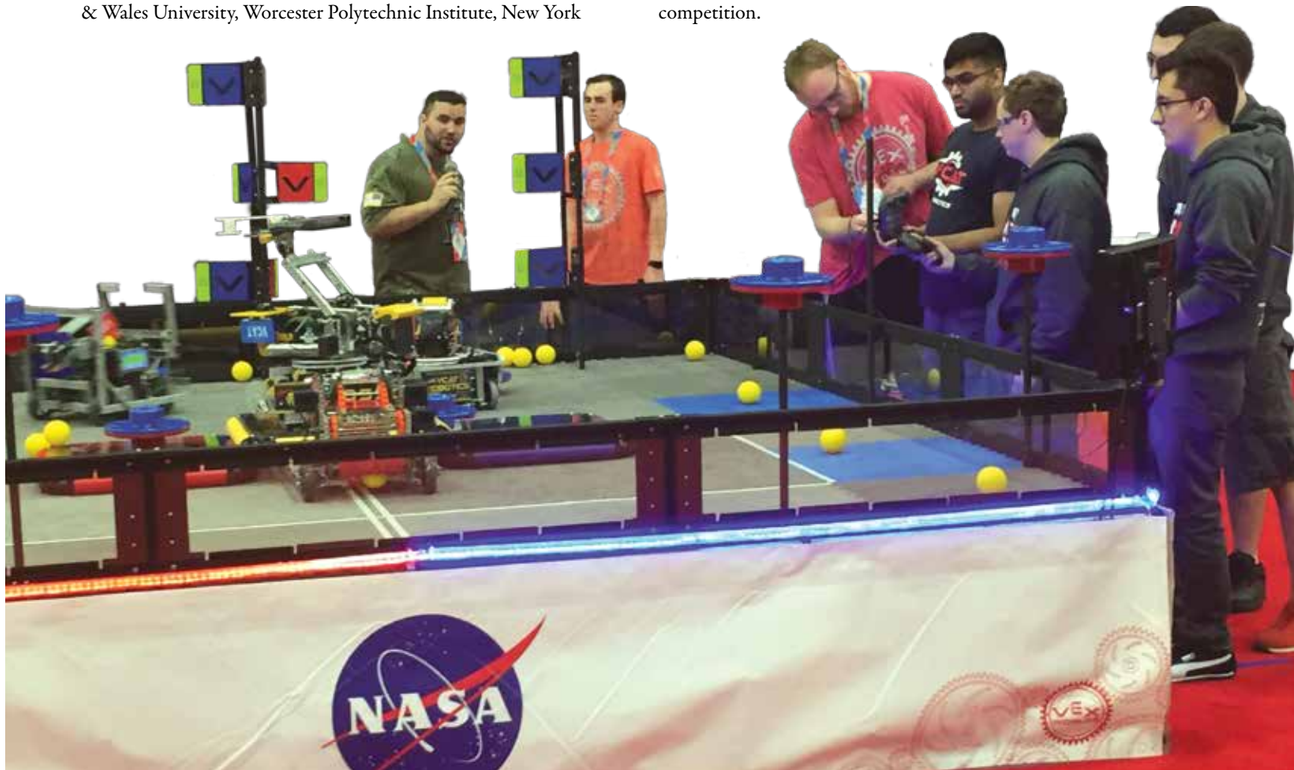
"Events like this increase awareness of community service for our students and prepare them with leadership and organizational skills to prepare them for their future," said Dr. Shouling He, mechatronic engineering program coordinator and robotics team adviser. The high school qualifier was one of the largest in the northeast, with twenty-two high schools and forty-six teams in attendance to compete and display their robotic skills.

Team VCAT's next stop was the Manchester Community College VEX U Qualifying Tournament in New Hampshire in March, where the team advanced to the finals at the VEX U Robotics Regional Tournament and earned the robot skills and excellence awards, which qualified them for the 2019 VEX U world championship. The team of 13 members competed against five other groups, including Manchester Community College, Johnson & Wales University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, New York Institute of Technology, Vermont Technical College and Aquidneck Island Robotics (AIR).

"We had an improved structural design for this tournament, and the team pulled together in such a positive way," said Jason Becker '20. "We look forward to performing even better with the skills portion and learning from our competition."

The team then set its sights on the 2019 VEX U Worlds Competition in April in Louisville, Kentucky, at the Freedom Hall Exposition Center, where 78 national and international universities and colleges were invited. Invitations were granted only to tournament champion teams, finalists or excellence award recipients of a regional competition.

Rahemi commented that "This intense three-day competition was challenging, and our team had to continually modify its robots and autonomous programming to be competitive with other top teams in the tournament." During the qualifying matches, Team VCAT competed against 10 teams, won seven out of the 10 matches and advanced to the playoff round. During the single elimination playoff round, 16 teams competed, and Vaughn's team lost to the top team from China. This is the sixth year in a row that Vaughn's team retained its standing as one of the top competitors in the world championship by advancing to the playoff round of this intense competition.



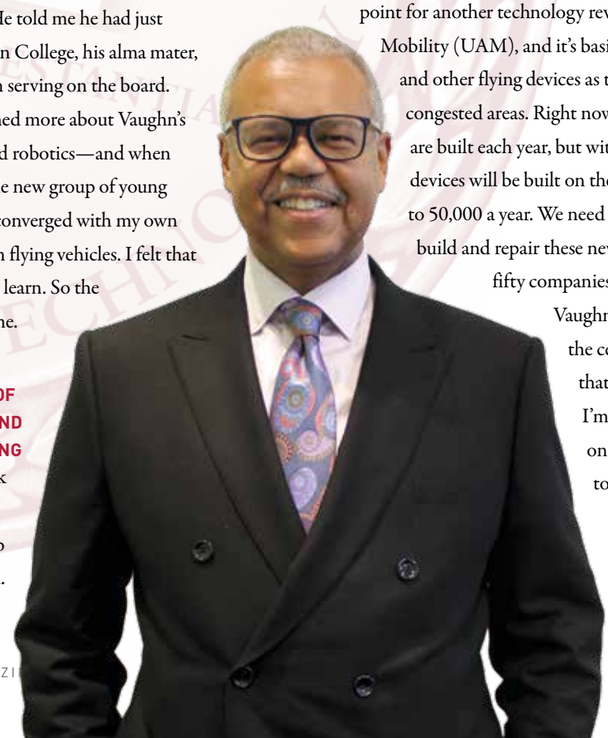
RODERICK K. RANDALL

JOINS THE BOARD OF VAUGHN COLLEGE

A self-described "tech geek" who knew he wanted to be an electrical engineer in second grade, Roderick K. Randall joined Vaughn's board of trustees in October. Randall's career has spanned the telecom and computer networking industries, from his groundbreaking acoustical engineering work at Bell Labs to founding Teleos Communications and building it into an industry leader in Integrated Services Digital Network switches. He played a catalyzing role in the $24 billion merger of Lucent and Ascend in 1999. Today, as an executive partner of SIRIS Capital, a tech-focused private equity firm, he brings Vaughn his financial savvy, an entrepreneurial spirit and an insatiable love of engineering science. We asked him to share his thoughts about serving on the board.

MANY BOARD MEMBERS HAVE BEEN VAUGHN ALUMNI, BUT YOU'RE NOT. HOW DID YOU CONNECT WITH VAUGHN COLLEGE? I've become very interested in aeronautics and aerospace engineering since I'm chairman and principal financier of my son's company, MagLev Aero, which is applying the principles of magnetic levitation to vertical flight systems. So I'm knee-deep in aerospace engineering, and I got a call from my old friend Ken Stauffer '83, who I'd known for many years in the IT industry. He told me he had just become chair of the board at Vaughn College, his alma mater, and asked if I would be interested in serving on the board. When I did some research and learned more about Vaughn's place in the world of aeronautics and robotics—and when I visited the College and saw a whole new group of young people building things that fly—it converged with my own engineering and business interests in flying vehicles. I felt that I could not only contribute; I could learn. So the stars were aligned for Vaughn and me.

DO YOU THINK KEN STAUFFER REACHED OUT TO YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR EXPERIENCE IN FINANCE AND YOUR MULTIFACETED ENGINEERING BACKGROUND? That, plus my track record of entrepreneurship. I hope my enthusiasm for entrepreneurship is an especially important value-add.



HOW DO YOU SEE THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT BEING SIGNIFICANT IN WHAT YOU HOPE TO BRING TO VAUGHN? I walked the halls at Vaughn with President Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo and saw the projects that students are working on every day. I know that young people have bold ideas, backed by their knowledge, by the use of technology, and by some breakthroughs that are new and not fully proven but that a student has figured out. I'd like to help young engineers get their ideas financed and encourage them to shoot for the stars. I want to bring this attitude and expertise not only to students but also to the administration by applying what I know about paths to opportunity and success for tech startups to an educational institution. Over the course of my career, I went from hands-on engineering to starting companies, building companies and engineering the best outcomes for companies. That's the kind of thinking I hope to bring to Vaughn.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT VAUGHN COLLEGE, WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT ITS FUTURE? I see Vaughn College as well positioned to continue to train tomorrow's pilots and engineers for the current aviation industry—but also, we are at an inflection point for another technology revolution. It's called Urban Air Mobility (UAM), and it's basically about building air taxis and other flying devices as transportation systems in congested areas. Right now, only about 1,100 helicopters are built each year, but with urban air mobility, flying devices will be built on the scale of automobiles, 10,000 to 50,000 a year. We need people trained to design, build and repair these new devices. One hundred and fifty companies are already in this space, and Vaughn is positioned to be right at the center of this revolution—if that's the direction it wants to go. I'm inspired by what I see going on at Vaughn, and it's a privilege to be invited to serve here.

VAUGHN STUDENTS' PRESENTATIONS SWEEP LACCEI 2019

LACCEI

Six engineering and technology student team research papers were presented at the Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions (LACCEI) 2019 Conference in Montego Bay, Jamaica, in July. Five of the papers were also selected to compete among the 10 finalists in the student paper session.The students were supported by the following advisers: Engineering and Technology Department Chair Dr. Hossein Rahemi, Associate Professor Dr. Shouling He, and Assistant Professors Dr. Amir Elzawawy and Dr. Mohammed Benalla.

"This was an incredible experience for our students, and their success at this conference is a testament to all of their hard work and dedication," said Rahemi. "The students did an excellent job presenting and were able to take first, second, and third place in the paper session and first place in the poster competition."

The top three paper winners were "Autonomous Search and Rescue Project (ASAES)," by Ryan B. Tang Dan '17 (first place); "Smart Braille Learning Block Systems," by Niki Taheri '19 and Atif Saeed '19 (second place); and "Walking Wise Camera Sensor Smart Cane," by Jevoy James '19 and Richi Ramlal '19 (third place).

Vaughn's Engineers Without Borders student chapter poster "Rwanda Potable Water Project," presented by Samantha Maddaloni '19, received the first place award for the best poster presentation of the LACEEI 2019 poster session competition.

"Our students are very appreciative of the support the College and the professors provide," said Benalla. "Vaughn made it possible for them to travel to an international conference and present their work among other top students. This type of challenge strengthens their confidence level and provides great motivation for their future careers and bragging rights for interviews."

PUBLICATIONS

STUDENTS

Vaughn's students recently presented papers at conferences with mentor support from the engineering and technology department Assistant Professors Dr. Amir Elzawawy and Dr. Mohammed Benalla, Associate Professor Khalid Mouaouya and Department Chair Dr. Hossein Rahemi.

17th Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institution (LACCEI) 2019, Montego Bay, Jamaica

> "Smart Braille Learning Block Systems" by Niki Taheri '19 and Atif Saeed '20
> "Walking Wise Camera Sensor Smart Cane" by Jevoy James '19 and Richi Ramlal '19
> "A Study of Notched Beam Stress Concentration" by Aderet Pantierer '20 and Shmuel Pantierer '20
> "Vehicle Design For Formula SAE 2019 Competition" by Ryan Lewis '22 and Andriy Belz '20
> "Rwanda Potable Water Project" by Samantha Maddaloni '19

126th American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Annual Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah

> "Early Learning Braille Block Language System" by Niki Taheri '19 and Atif Saeed '20

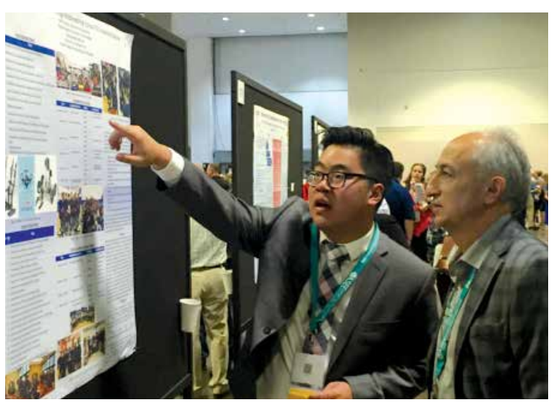
COMSOL Multiphysics Conference, Boston, MA

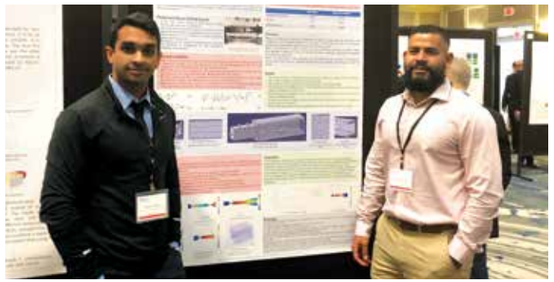
> "Design and Fabrication of Small-Scale Supersonic Wind Tunnel" by Johnny Atreaga '19 and Deron Hurley'19

2019 International Mechatronics Conference & Exhibition, Stillwater, Oklahoma

> "Autonomous Position Control of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Based on Acceleration Response for Indoor Navigation" by Sagufta Kapadia '20 and Syed Misbahuddin '20

Ryan B. Tang Dan '17 reviewing his poster with Dr. Hossein Rahemi, engineering and technology department chair at the ASEE conference.





(Top) Johnny Atreaga '19 and Deron Hurley '19 showcasing their wind tunnel paper at the COMSOL conference in Boston. (Bottom) Atif Saeed '20 and Niki Taheri '19 present their paper at the LACCEI conference in Jamaica.

FACULTY

Vaughn's faculty research was recently presented at the following conferences.

20th International Aviation Psychology Symposium, Dayton, Ohio

> "Six-Year Follow-Up of Intensive, Simulator-Based Pilot Training" by Dr. Maxine Lubner, Emerson Allen, Deb Henneberry, Dr. Sharon DeVivo (Vaughn College); and Dr. Andrew Dattel (Embry-Riddle)

IACBE Regions 9 and 10 Conference, Beirut, Lebanon

> "Strategic, Technology-Supported Action for Student Recruitment, Engagement and Persistence" by Dr. Peter Canellis and Dr. Maxine Lubner

17th Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institution (LACCEI) 2019, Montego Bay, Jamaica

> "Autonomous Search and Rescue Project (ASAES)" by Adjunct Professor Ryan B. Tang Dan '17

126th American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Annual Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah

> "A STEM Training Program to Improve High School VEX Competition Outcomes" by Adjunct Professor Ryan B. Tang Dan '17

NEW FACES, NEW PLACES

The staff and faculty who are in new positions or joined Vaughn College recently:

STAFF

Adrian Chutkhan
assistant director of financial aid, financial aid department from associate director of student advisement, academic support services

Samantha Cortez
admissions receptionist, admissions

Stephen DeSalvo
assistant vice president and chief development officer, office of institutional advancement

Becky Falto
director of residence life and housing, student affairs from internship coordinator, career services

Asia Johnson
academic adviser, division of academic success

Matt Lachs
development officer, office of institutional advancement

Francesca Marricco
public affairs assistant, public affairs

Jennifer Pye
admissions counselor, admissions

David Sookdeo
senior associate director/technology coordinator from senior associate director, admissions

FACULTY

Harrison Carranza
assistant professor, engineering and technology

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLIDAY RECEPTION

Thursday, December 5 | 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Vaughn College | 86-01 23rd Avenue, Flushing, NY 11369

Ring in the holidays with employers who recruit at Vaughn, fellow alumni and friends of the College. Enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment as we toast to the new year.

SAVE THE DATE

2020 GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 16 | 6:30 p.m.

For more information contact stephen.desalvo@vaughn.edu or 718.429.6600, extension 353.

VaughnCollege
of aeronautics and technology
86-01 23rd Avenue
Flushing, New York 11369

NEW CAFETERIA OFFERS STUDENTS A BRIGHT AND AIRY MEETING SPACE

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE VAUGHN COLLEGE OPENED ITS DOORS IN EAST ELMHURST, the cafeteria is moving its location from the basement into a newly constructed area featuring skylights and an outdoor space. The new 5,100 square foot cafeteria will open in the spring semester with seating for 125, serving residential and commuter students as well as faculty and staff. The new dining area and kitchen is being designed to allow for new food offerings, maximized space for student programming and activities and will include a media wall installed for multiple uses.

"We are incredibly excited about opening the new cafeteria that will both enhance student life and support student program offerings," said President DeVivo. The construction is scheduled to be completed at the end of the fall semester.