

Vaughn

COLLEGE MAGAZINE Winter/Spring 2013

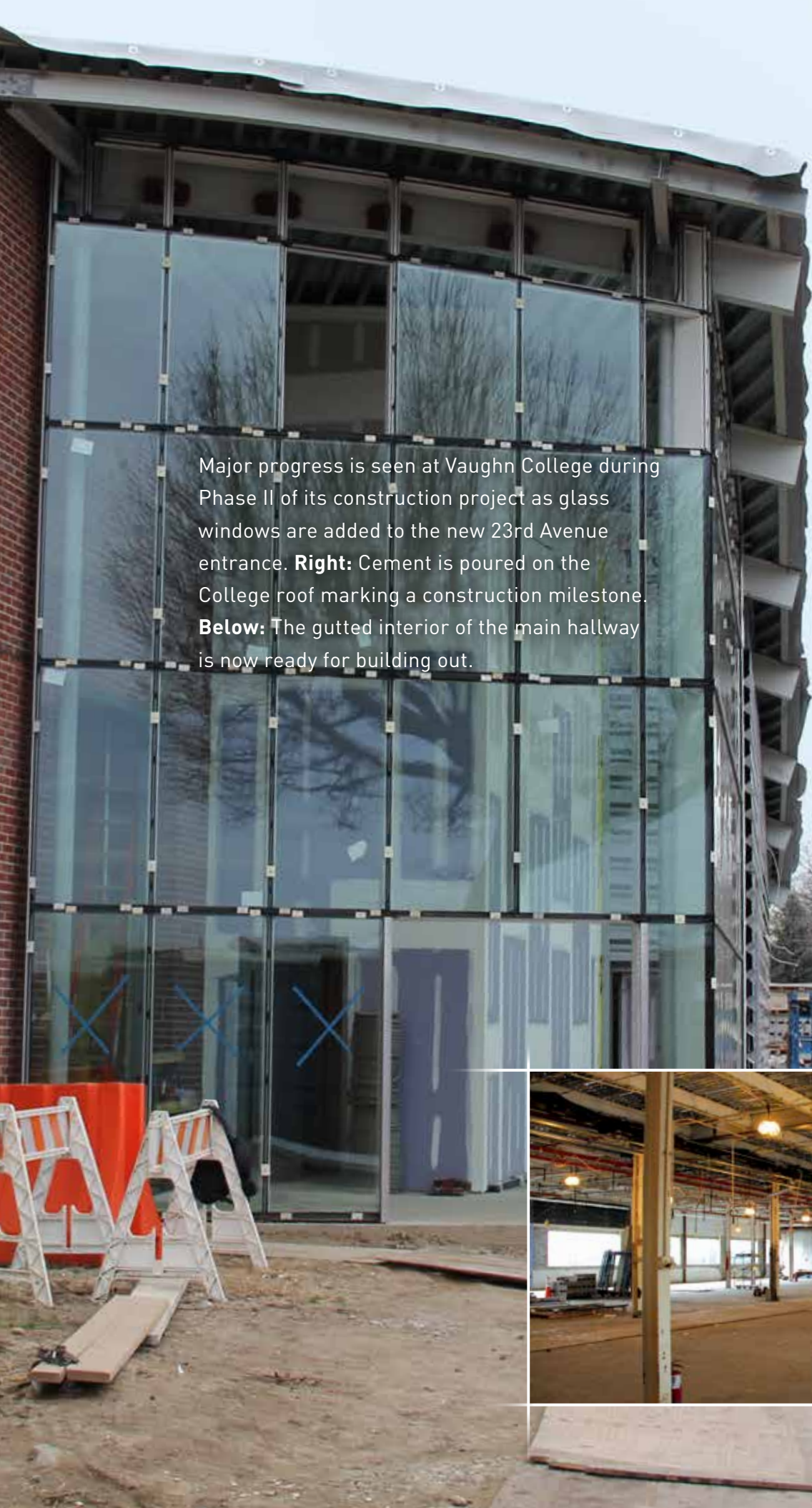


Vaughn Embarks on a New Student Flight Training Program

2 Innovative approach to flight training takes off

12 Vaughn receives National Science Foundation grant

16 New summer program for engineering freshmen



Major progress is seen at Vaughn College during Phase II of its construction project as glass windows are added to the new 23rd Avenue entrance. **Right:** Cement is poured on the College roof marking a construction milestone. **Below:** The gutted interior of the main hallway is now ready for building out.



- 2** Innovative Approach to Flight Training Takes Off: The Redbird Program at Vaughn
- 9** In Memoriam: Daniel Turner
- 10** Student Papers Accepted for Presentation at Two Academic Conferences
- 12** Vaughn Receives National Science Foundation Grant to Fund Scholarships
- 14** Turkish Students Complete American Cultural Immersion Program at Vaughn
- 15** Vaughn Strengthens its Affiliation with Turkish University
- 16** New Summer Undergraduate Research Program Adds Strength to Math and Engineering Curricula

DEPARTMENTS





- 18** Where Are They Now?: Vaughn College Class of 2012
- 20** Alumni Events
- 21** Upcoming Events
- 21** New Faces in New Places

BACK COVER

Blackout Men's Basketball Game

SOCIAL MEDIA

Join the Vaughn College communities on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn:

-  facebook.com/VaughnCollegeAlumni
-  twitter.com/VaughnAlum
-  youtube.com/VaughnCollegeTV
-  linkedin.com/in/alumni

Publisher
Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo

Managing Editor
Amanda Talty

Contributing Writers
Neil Gouveia
Maureen Kiggins

Contributing Photographer
Neil Gouveia

Design
h george design, Inc.

INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO FLIGHT TRAINING TAKES OFF

THE REDBIRD PROGRAM AT VAUGHN

Two recent articles in The Wall Street Journal, a forecast by Boeing and an Aircraft Owners and Pilot study, all come to the same conclusion—there is an acute shortage of pilots now, which will continue over the next 20 years with no quick-fix solutions. This shortage is regarded as the most serious since the 1960s. With these factors in mind and a growing interest in Vaughn's flight degrees, the institution sought to find an innovative approach to flight training.





500,000

New pilots needed worldwide
in the next 20 years

Boeing forecasts a need for nearly 500,000 pilots around the world in the next 20 years. Couple this forecast with a 2010 study done by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) that sought to address the 80 percent dropout rate for those pursuing a private pilot license. The requirements for a professional pilot will also reach higher standards with enactment of a new federal law requiring a minimum of 1,500 hours of flight time. With this increase in hours also comes an increase in expense for those seeking a career in the clouds.

Vaughn started its first flight degree in 1996 with an associate's

in applied science (AAS) in aircraft operations and expanded in 2000 to include the bachelor of science (BS) degree. Without an airport campus, Vaughn began by contracting with flight training schools in the region for flight training services and in later years, removed the flight training requirement to allow students to fly at a school that best met their needs. In the last year, the College re-examined its flight training options and considered a new partnership.

The Redbird flight training program took off at Vaughn College in the spring

of 2012 when the College and simulator manufacturer signed an agreement enabling Vaughn students to pursue pilot certification at Skyport, in south central Texas. This partnership hopes to address two of the greatest impediments to new pilots: the expense of flight training and the time to complete licenses and ratings from a private pilot to a multi-engine.

"We were thrilled to join forces with Redbird to offer our students an innovative and immersive aviation experience at Skyport," said Vaughn President John Fitzpatrick. "Our partnership seeks a better way to train pilots and our joint venture, with Redbird, and the continuous improvements that we are planning, will make that a reality. We know this endeavor will become a catalyst for improvements in the way pilots are

trained in the future."

Under this accelerated program, students complete academic studies at Vaughn, and then enjoy periods of intense simulator and in-air training from Redbird's staff of instructors to obtain their flight licenses and ratings. The first group of six students participating in the program went to Skyport in January 2012 and the second group of five followed them in the summer.

To date, the first group has received their private license and instrument rating and is in the process of obtaining their commercial, multi-engine and certified flight instructor ratings. The second group returned in January 2013 to pursue their instrument rating.

This accelerated program combines extended time in simulators with daily flight training for a fixed cost. The

program is built around the theory that simulation is the best method to learn to fly and that the cockpit of an aircraft, guided by an instructor, is the best place to practice what you have learned. This simulator-centric model helps Vaughn students complete their flight training in a predictable amount of time at a predictable expense.

For each license, certification, or rating, students have a defined window of time to attain it. The majority of Vaughn students (75 to 90 percent of each group) earn their private pilot licenses within six weeks at the Redbird Skyport. Each rating or license is also priced at a fixed fee that includes all instruction, simulation time, aircraft time, travel and housing while in San Marcos. If students need another day in the simulators or another hour in the air, they are not charged any additional costs.

Students will complete the following flight credentials with Redbird:

- Private Pilot License
- Instrument Rating
- Commercial Pilot License
- Certified Flight Instructor Certificate
- Certified Flight Instructor Instrument Rating
- Multi-Engine Instrument Rating

"Students are thoroughly engaged in the flight training experience at Skyport and return to Vaughn with a sense of accomplishment and a developing confidence in their abilities as pilots," said Dr. Maxine Lubner, chair of the aviation and management department. "These students are benefitting from an intensive learning experience conducted in a cohort fashion that allows them to reflect on their experience together. This reinforces and deepens the learning process."

SUPPORTING STUDENTS AS THEY TRAIN

In November 2011, Captain Emerson Allen was invited to Vaughn College by the office of career services and Vaughn's chapter of Women in Aviation-International to speak with students about his aviation background.

Allen, who has been a pilot for the better part of 30 years, shared insights and advice and was an immediate hit with students and faculty. Based on a shared commitment to improving the future

of flight training, Allen was tapped to assist with the start of the Redbird partnership and now serves as the on-site coordinator at Skyport in San Marcos, Texas when students are there for training.

As a commercial pilot, Allen has experienced aviation as an "end user" of pilot training. "I have worked with pilots from various backgrounds, and I try to bring a perspective of flying that the students can relate to."

"Allen is a key asset in the implementation of this flight training partnership," said Dr. Sharon DeVivo, senior vice president. "His ability to serve as a role model, teacher and motivator while in Texas is why students value his presence so much, and it contributes to their success."

Allen graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in electrical engineering and worked for three years in the field while attaining his flight ratings. He then began instructing full-time. Allen currently works for United Airlines.



Captain Emerson Allen

Along with accelerated training, fixed cost is a key benefit of the program particularly for students from New York, where high fuel and maintenance costs coupled with a limited number of ideal flying days can be a deterrent. Vaughn recognized that the Redbird program addresses some of the top obstacles to achieving a pilot's license.

THE EVOLUTION OF A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

Before embarking on this partnership, the College consulted with industry experts who helped develop and shape the program. As with any new partnership, it is important for there to be opportunities to regularly assess students' performance and collaborate on the training methods. Captain Emerson Allen, Vaughn's on-site flight training coordinator in Texas, works closely with the Skyport team including Chief Pilot Roger Sharp to make adjustments that benefit students and contribute to their learning.

"A program like Redbird helps address issues associated with flight training by requiring a fundamental change in the way it is conducted," said Sharp. "And this program is designed to demonstrate how it will work, and what it can achieve," he continued. "The goal is that by using scenario-based training that makes situations realistic, we will produce pilots truly ready to be pilot-in-command."

The partnership with Skyport was a win-win situation for Vaughn and Redbird. The founders share a similar vision for the future and are spending

time working together to enhance pilot training at a reduced cost.

"To find a college like Vaughn, that wanted to develop a high-quality flight program was ideal for us," Jerry Gregoire, a former top executive at Dell and Pepsi who founded Redbird six years ago, said. "At the same time, we get to learn from Vaughn's students who utilize our simulators and work with our flight instructors to improve the program."

According to Gregoire, training at Skyport is a first step in developing solutions to the challenges of a shrinking pilot population, staggering student dropout rate and the ever-increasing cost of flight training.

The evolution of the Redbird program can be traced back to the expansion of the simulator laboratory at Vaughn College and continues today through training at Skyport.

To ensure Vaughn students are prepared for a successful future, the College has invested in acquiring flight simulators that assist students in the learning process. Recent grant funding from the US Department of Education has allowed Vaughn to significantly upgrade the flight simulators on campus, and the new \$1 million flight simulator lab now provides a fleet of training devices.

Vaughn's partnership with Redbird began in the spring of 2009, when two Redbirds, the industry's newest motion simulators, arrived at Vaughn and joined the existing Frasca 142.

THE SIMULATOR LABORATORY CONTAINS:

CRJ-200

Simulates the Canadair two-engine fan jet

Frasca 241

Simulates a Cessna 172 fixed-wing aircraft

Frasca 142

Simulates a piston engine aircraft



STUDENT VOICES

The students below have achieved their private pilot license and instrument rating and are well on their way to achieving their dream of becoming a professional pilot. Below are their thoughts on this accelerated program.

Margarita Cholakova '13



"In the program you are faced with a lot of work in a really fast-paced environment. It's like a roller coaster and you are constantly spinning, but when you come back in, you realize you've learned so many things. This is a relaxing experience because you know what to do—you have

already learned the procedures in the simulator so flying becomes just practice. Flying a plane is like playing a musical instrument; the more you practice the better you are."

Cholakova hopes to graduate in 2013 adding to her current master's in Russian philology. She plans to fly commercial aircraft and would love to begin with a large company. She would also be happy as a flight instructor noting, "Flying is the important thing."

Franklin Pillcorema '13



Pillcorema believes that the Redbird program that combines daily flight training with work in simulators is the best way to go. "When you are in a simulator, you can stop and pause and ask the instructor your question and learn right away. In a plane you have to wait until you get to the

ground to ask that question, which you often forget after the moment. The simulator training helped me more than anything in the process of learning while the accelerated program helped with saving time and money."

By the time Pillcorema finishes at San Marcos, he's expects to start his career as an instructor. He would also like to explore opportunities overseas. Franklin's ultimate goal is become an entrepreneur and manage his own flight school after getting a second degree in business management.

Erika Barcenos '13



"The time in San Marcos really helped the learning curve tackling items such a holding patterns and approaches on the ground. After three weeks, everything really started clicking. By the fourth week, we were all taking our check rides and we're now working on our commercial and multi-instrument certifications with flight instructor

certificates to follow."

After graduation Barcenos plans to instruct, work in a simulator lab, or for a charter airline, to obtain additional flight hours before working for a commercial airline. In the meantime, she'd like to secure an internship with a major airline to obtain experience in aviation.

Ryan Barren '14



"Redbird is a very intense program with a lot of hard work combining studying and flying with little time off, but with a big pay-off. I never thought I'd be able to do my training and earn my degree in such a short time. The accelerated program is amazing. The day you pass your test, you realize it

is all worth it."

After graduation Barren hopes to work as a commercial airline pilot and may also spend time teaching others to fly.

Gagandeep Munder '14



"Being able to spend days focused only on flying makes the Redbird program so successful. Practice and learning takes place in the simulators because, after all, planes are not the best classroom and we don't want to practice in the sky."

Munder has two more years to complete his education. Once he attains the certified flight instructor, he wants to teach at Vaughn in the simulators, and then after college, pilot charter private jets.

— IN MEMORIAM —

Daniel Turner

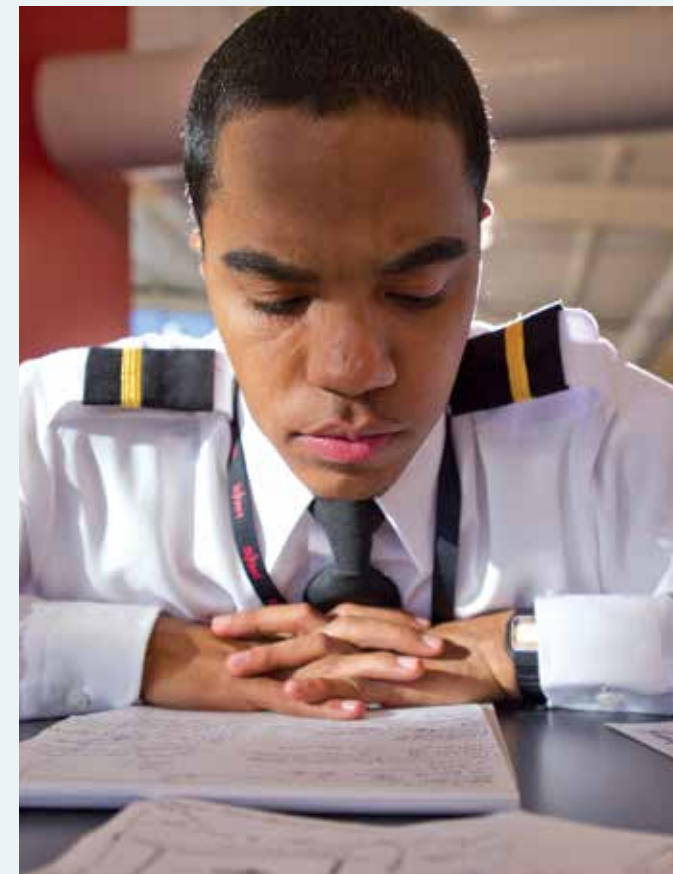
1988 – 2012

The best example of a Vaughn student pursuing his dream

Daniel Turner was a sophomore at Vaughn College and among the first group of students selected for the Redbird flight training program with our partner Redbird Skyport in San Marcos, Texas. He had received his private pilot's license and instrument rating, and was working on his next rating, the commercial certificate, when he unexpectedly passed away on a day off while engaged in recreational activity.

Turner's love of flying began when he was a small child and his father took the family to see many air shows. His older brother also pursued aviation training as a fighter pilot in the Naval Academy. Turner decided to attend Vaughn because of its small, personal atmosphere and proximity to his home. He was a top student at Vaughn receiving the 2012 Walter Hartung Memorial Scholarship to help him make his dream of an aviation career possible.

When he first heard about the Redbird program, he was extremely interested and went directly to see Dr. Sharon DeVivo, senior vice president, to find out how he could take advantage



Daniel Turner was a passionate aircraft operations student who was pursuing his dream of a career in flight.

of this opportunity. While it turned out to be incredibly hard work, Turner was also having a wonderful time.

He was well on his way to pursuing a career as a corporate pilot. Turner also wanted to utilize his training to serve people on a more personal level while doing what he loved—flying and seeing the world. Turner was truly grateful for his time spent in the program and said, "This is truly one of the most exciting and satisfying times of my entire life..."

At his memorial service, fellow flight student Erika Barcenos '13 took a break from training to attend and noted how motivating Turner was for the rest of the group with his calm and confident presence.

Turner was the finest example of a Vaughn student who understands the hard work involved in making your dream a reality. He will be greatly missed by all those on campus who knew him, especially his professors and fellow flight training students. The entire Vaughn community extends their deepest condolences to the Turner family.

Student Papers Accepted for Presentation at Two Academic Conferences

Five papers written by Vaughn engineering students were accepted for presentation this past November at the Mid-Atlantic Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) regional conferences.

The AIAA meeting, held on Friday, November 2, 2012, at the Kossiakoff Center at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, Maryland, featured papers of interest to the aerospace community by young professionals including graduate, undergraduate and high school students. Manny Santana, '14 presented a paper co-authored by Jennifer Vasquez, '12 entitled, "Aerodynamics Airfoil Configuration," which investigated how the application of a dimpled surface configuration, similar to that of a golf ball, might affect a proposed aerodynamic wing to promote lift and reduce drag.

Dominic Elrington, '12 and John Andon's, '13 paper, "Lift Force Performance of a Car Spoiler at Curvatures," sought to

investigate and characterize the aerodynamic performance of an automotive wing placed on the rear side of a car model using computer flow modeling tools. The study focused on defining optimum AOA (angle of attack) at different turns at different speeds to increase the vehicle stability. Dr. Amir Elzawawy, of the engineering and technology department, served as an advisor on both papers and attended with student presenters.

Additionally, three papers were accepted for presentation at the ASEE mid-Atlantic conference held in November in Toms River, NJ, but canceled due to hurricane Sandy.

The accepted papers were: "Spacing Design between Two Neighboring Circular Holes—An approach based on PATRAN-NASTRAN Finite Element Analysis" by Jonathan Sypeck, '13; "Liquid Automated Cooling Immersion (LACI)" by Jordan Whyllie, '12, Shahidul Islam, '11 and Bridgette Valencia, '12 and "Pressure Distribution of a Bolted Joint Assembly Using CATIA FEA Workbench" by Khadijah Stewart, '12.



Left: Manny Santana presents his paper on modified aircraft wing models



Right: Vaughn students with advisor (from left): John Andon, professor Amir Elzawawy, Dominic Elrington, Manny Santana

“VAUGHN COLLEGE IS SMALL IN SIZE BUT BIG IN CHARACTER...”

The faculty and staff helped me realize my love for the aviation industry. Being awarded a scholarship allows me to continue my education and opens many doors and opportunities for me to fulfill my dreams.”

Whether its financial aid to help deserving students like Emily come to Vaughn or enhancements to resources available to them, gifts from thoughtful alumni and friends make a real and immediate impact—offering them remarkable opportunities, a challenging and supportive environment and an education that benefits them for a lifetime.

MAKE YOUR GIFT TO VAUGHN COLLEGE TODAY

visit www.vaughn.edu/give-a-gift.cfm or call 718.429.6600 extension 204

EMILY SHYU, '14,
Wings Club
Scholarship
Recipient 2012



Vaughn Receives National Science Foundation Grant to Fund Scholarships

Long before STEM was a well-known acronym, Vaughn College recognized the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs for students competing in a global economy. Enhancing education in these four disciplines has always been a focus of Vaughn College. Math and science are the foundation for every degree offered.

To support students, Vaughn has been awarded a competitive \$575,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to fund scholarship programs for STEM degrees. Vaughn's project provides 25 renewable, four-year scholarships for talented, low-income, minority students



"It all started with planes and my wanting to understand how they flew. Now I want to learn all I can about electrical engineering, branching out and

glimpsing other fields where I can apply my knowledge."

Christopher Hyun '17, Flushing, NY
BS in Electronic Engineering Technology - Avionics

Goals: "Achieve a minimum 3.5 GPA while attending college and finish my degree within three and a half years."

that are enrolled in baccalaureate degrees in engineering, and mechanical or electronic engineering technology. The award provides roughly \$5,000 annually to each recipient.

Principal Investigators Drs. Hossein Rahemi and Paul LaVergne, chairs of the engineering and technology, and arts and sciences departments, respectively, will oversee implementation.

"We're excited about the implementation of this grant as it will provide additional opportunities for students to work one-on-one with a faculty mentor to explore their research interests," Rahemi said. "The quality of these research relationships adds significantly to the depth of each recipient's educational experience at Vaughn."

The Increasing Student Enrollment and Achievement in Engineering and Engineering Technology Grant provides \$115,000 annually over the next five years. The total award represents the largest NSF grant received by Vaughn.

"The National Science Foundation's significant financial support of Vaughn College allows us to attract students who value a small college experience, the connections to faculty mentors, and the opportunity to do research as well as present that research at academic conferences," noted Dr. Sharon DeVivo,



Terry Cetoute '17, Miami, FL
BS in Mechanical Engineering Technology

Goals: "Being a successful individual who loves what he is doing in his area of study. Maintaining a GPA of least 3.50, obtaining a doctorate degree, and linking the knowledge from different areas of study to help me think 'outside the box' and reach new heights."

"I want to maximize the opportunities at Vaughn to become one of the College's success stories and use my potential to become the best that I can be."

senior vice president. "Our success in garnering nearly \$20 million in grant funding over the last five years has provided transformative support for our student learning experience."

The first 10 recipients were selected this fall, and an additional 15 students will be selected in fall 2013. In order for a student to be eligible for the scholarships they must enroll in a full-time bachelor degree's program, demonstrate financial need, have a minimum cumulative SAT score of 1050, a minimum high school cumulative grade point average of a 3.0

and complete an essay outlining their reasons for pursuing a degree in the STEM fields as well as their desired goals for their college experience.

Throughout their tenure at Vaughn, STEM scholars will participate in learning communities that promote the application and understanding of knowledge across different courses. In a learning community, two courses are paired together with the same students in both courses and faculty members work to provide at least three intersection points during the semester. For example, by teaching physics and calculus as a learning community, students are able to see the application of math directly in their science course and faculty members work together to have students deepen their knowledge about both subject areas.

Throughout the program, students will have comprehensive support services that include faculty mentors, academic advisors and supplemental instructors. Additionally, under the guidance of faculty mentors, students will participate in integrated research and educational activities that will strengthen their hands-on analytical and communication skills. The goal is to provide students with a pathway to successful degree completion while preparing them for engineering careers.

Funds will also support other costs including industry site visits and undergraduate research conferences such as the VEX Robotics Competition, Spuyten Duyvil Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, and regional conferences hosted by the American Society for Engineering Education and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.



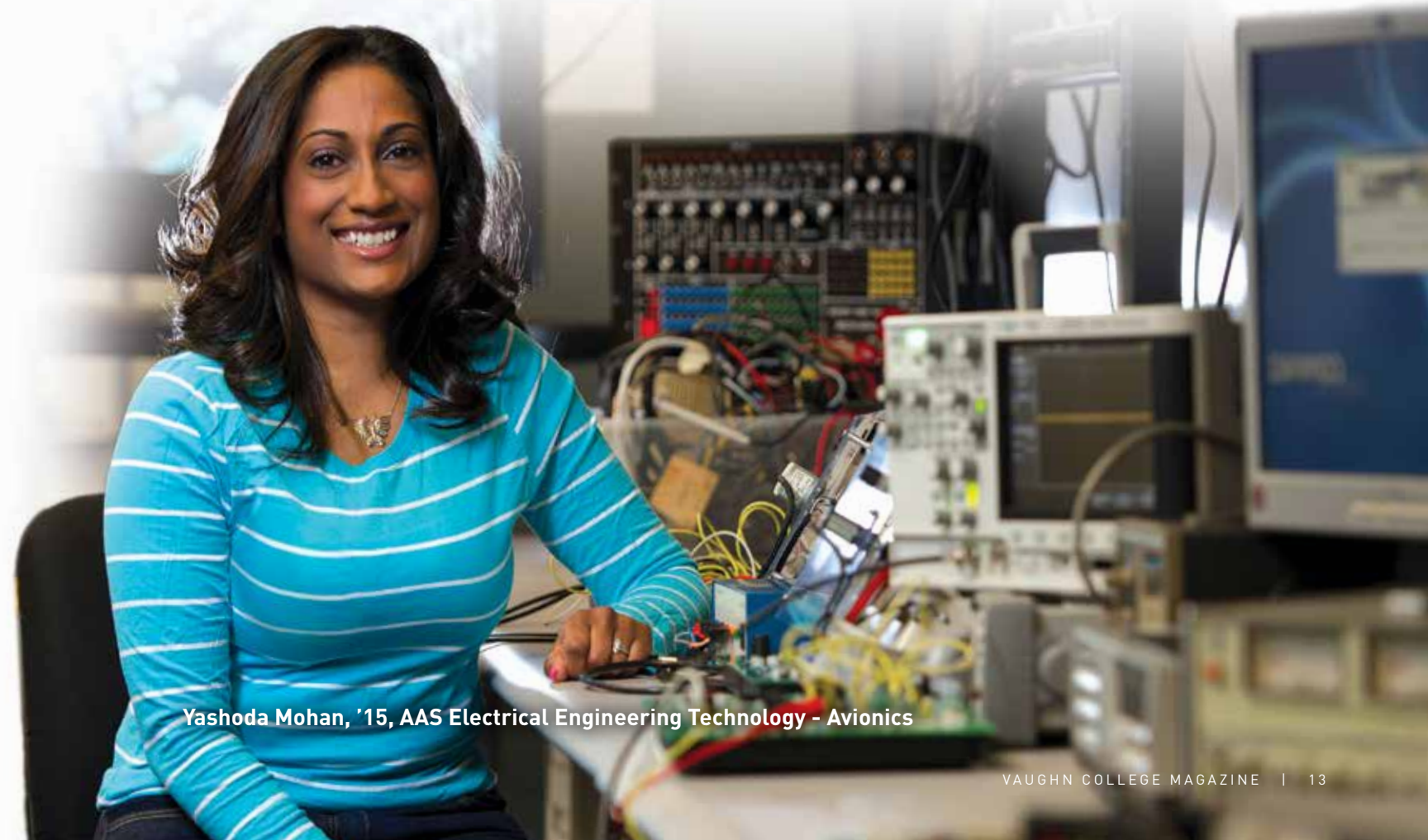
"Being capable of using one's imagination is truly a talent and a gift. Ever since I was five years old, my passion was for creating things.

The machinery

and technology surrounding me fascinated me, so I attempted to capture the beauty in the hopes that one day I could build something as interesting."

Saneela Rabbani '17,
Kew Gardens, NY
BS in Mechanical Engineering Technology

Goals: "Utilize my passion for creating objects to help the community by easing their lives. Maintain all As in college and be an active participant at conferences and in the VEX robotic competition."



Yashoda Mohan, '15, AAS Electrical Engineering Technology - Avionics

Turkish Students Complete American Cultural Immersion Program at Vaughn

Twenty-one students from the Turk Hava Kurumu Universitesi in Ankara, Turkey, and their chaperone, completed a four-week American cultural experience program at Vaughn College that ran this summer from July 9 to August 3. At the graduation, participants showcased their accomplishments by reciting poems and speeches in English, and were awarded certificates of participation by Associate Vice President Said Lamhaouar. To close the ceremony, the Turkish students performed a traditional dance and Student Derya Rana Musluk, sang a Turkish song as well as a popular Adele song “Someone Like You” in English.

Vaughn College President Dr. John C. Fitzpatrick, was on hand for the event: “This is the first time we’ve instituted a program like this and it’s very exciting to see how much the students learned, and appreciated this unique experience. As technology continues to soar at breakneck speed, the world is becoming a smaller place and it’s increasingly

important to understand and welcome other cultures into our student population.”

The students were introduced to America through introductory writing and speaking classes. Additionally, the students were immersed in the New York culture through trips to landmarks, restaurants, museums and a Mets game.

Anıl Köker who is 17 years old, enjoyed the overall experience but was truly impressed by Central Park which he referred to as “the forest in the middle of New York City.” He went on to sum up his visit by saying, “Nothing can be perfect, but this is very close.”

Ages of those attending ranged from 17 to 37 with varying individual objectives. Some students wanted to acquire a taste of American life, while others wanted to hone their English skills for résumé writing, job interviews or work-related needs.

“The overall cultural experience was enjoyed by all and the students really valued the educational component we provided,” said instructor Jason Collins.

“My job was to help students meet their goals so they could succeed on an international level in the future.”

The program was designed to include current Vaughn student peer-mentors who assisted in classes and led excursions around New York City. Ricardo Ortiz ’13 and Mindalia DeJesus ’13, both enrolled in the associate in applied science degree in airport management, were instrumental to the program’s success and made the students feel truly welcome while sharing their own life experiences.

Instructor Theodora Efthimiades’ role was more than just a teacher. Having gone through the experience as a Greek exchange student some years ago, she understood the anxiety felt by the students and worked to alleviate their concerns and bridge the transition. According to Efthimiades, “I’m incredibly grateful to Vaughn College for making this experience possible and showing the students the ‘real America’ while creating memories to last a lifetime.”

Vaughn Strengthens its Affiliation With Turkish University

On September 28, Vaughn College signed an agreement with the University of the Turkish Aeronautical Association (UTAA) and the Turk Hava Kurumu Universitesi (THK) in Ankara, Turkey to continue its relationship begun in 2011.

The University was established by the Aviation Foundation of the Turkish Aeronautical Association in 2010. The purpose was twofold: to transfer the experience gained in the field of aeronautics through its 86-year history to an academic environment and meet the increasing demand for personnel in the rapidly growing aeronautical sector in Turkey and the world.

THK is the first and only university in Turkey specializing in aviation and aerospace with four campuses based in three cities in Turkey (Ankara, Istanbul, and Izmir). The University specializes in the fields of air transportation management and logistics and offers courses in aviation, aeronautical and astronautical engineering, technology and management.

The goal of the agreement is to enhance teaching and research programs at both institutions. Vaughn and THK agree to share faculty and student

opportunities and collaborate on research efforts for the next three years. Under the memorandum, in the coming years students will have the opportunity to enroll in courses in Turkey and New York. Faculty will also be able to teach and collaborate on the two campuses.

“Our relationship provides students with exciting opportunities to participate in aviation internationally,” President John Fitzpatrick said. “This is just

another avenue we have identified to prepare our students for future work in a global economy.”

In signing the agreement, Vaughn President Dr. John Fitzpatrick and Turkish Aeronautical Association Chairman Osman Yildirim recognized the beneficial nature of the relationship and closed the signing ceremony with Yildirim noting, “The future is in the skies.”



Students and teachers gather for a group photo after the closing ceremony of the four-week American cultural experience program.

Turkish Aeronautical Association Chairman Osman Yildirim presents Vaughn College President Dr. John C. Fitzpatrick with a token of appreciation after signing an affiliation agreement designed to enhance teaching and research programs at both institutions.

New Summer Undergraduate Research Program Adds Strength to Math and Engineering Curricula

This past summer, Vaughn College offered its first educational enrichment program to nine soon-to-be engineering sophomores. These students had the opportunity to work closely with faculty members as well as receive a stipend for completing the program.

The summer undergraduate research program is a five-week course designed by Professor Raymond Addabbo of the arts and sciences faculty. The program introduces students to sophisticated research methods early in their academic careers. Using a project-based curriculum, students learn different ways to approach a math or engineering problem, resolve it with the help of their classmates and build a relationship with their instructors that continues throughout their time at Vaughn.

“By doing this kind of enrichment, we’re hoping to have an impact on students’ learning abilities,” Addabbo explained. “In addition, we want students to create more meaningful connections to one another, the instructor and the institution to support them in their goal to achieve a degree.”

Nine students were selected to be part of the first group. Classes ran in June, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Topics included error analysis, numerical differentiation and integration, linear algebra and differential equations linked to mechanical and electrical engineering. Assisting Addabbo in the development of this program were faculty and staff from

across the institution including Dr. Paul LaVergne, chair of the arts and sciences department; Professor Khalid Mouaouya and Dr. Shouling He, both faculty members in the engineering and technology department; as well as Ms. Tomasita Ortiz, a member of the staff of the Teaching and Learning Center who assisted students with their writing and presentations.

“This is a unique and valuable program for students far beyond the five weeks,” LaVergne said. “When these students arrived this fall we were able to expand the parameters of the course because we have a deeper understanding of their academic abilities. We also know that students have a greater sense of connectedness to each other which enhances their ability to persist and graduate.”

Nicholas Cuneo ’16, a student from Staten Island, New York pursuing his engineering degree, appreciated the opportunity to learn in a small, less stressful environment over the summer. “Everything we learned can now be applied to our fall courses making them much easier to understand,” said Cuneo. “It was a fun learning experience and I would definitely be interested in participating again next summer.”

“We were thrilled to move forward with Dr. Addabbo’s idea,” Senior Vice President Sharon DeVivo said. “The College believes this program can significantly enhance student learning outcomes in engineering and we have seen the impact these types of programs can also make for pre-freshmen where we offer intensive experiences for students requiring extra support in math, science and English.”

He, whose areas of specialization include mechatronics engineering, sees the program as having particular long-term value to students in that program. Vaughn is the only college in the metropolitan area that offers a bachelor’s degree in mechatronics, which employs elements of mechanical, electrical and computer engineer to design “smart” technologies. “Mechatronics students need to have a broad background in mechanical engineering and electronics,” she said. “Students can make use of the knowledge they gained this past summer to help solve problems they’ll encounter as they continue to study engineering.”

Mechatronics major and Lakeville, Massachusetts resident Michael Rubenacker ’16 found the financial assistance particularly helpful. “I find it wonderful how Drs. Addabbo and LaVergne, and the other professors, took the time to make this happen,” he said. “Having the extra learning time, without the expense, was truly amazing and definitely enhanced my current

understanding of the topics we covered.”

Addabbo is already planning to grow the program to serve more students in the future. “This program came about quickly, and there was a lot of enthusiasm from everyone,” Addabbo said. “The program exceeded our expectations and we hope to offer it next summer to rising sophomores in addition to those already participating. We would also like to engage more women engineering students in the future.”

Vaughn College Summer Research Program:

Students, with Drs. Paul LaVergne (left) and Raymond Addabbo of the arts and sciences faculty and Tomasita Ortiz of the Teaching and Learning Center (front row, black sweater). Front row are David Kweun, Terry Beesoon and Michael Rubenacker; second row, William Babikian, Nicholas Cuneo and Bryan Cook-O’Reilly; back row, Raquel Torres, Zechariah Gajadhar and Andrew Kestler.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

DR. RAYMOND ADDABBO CONTINUES TO INSPIRE VAUGHN STUDENTS

A calculus and physics teacher with a love of historical biography, jazz and percussion, Vaughn College Professor Raymond Addabbo, PhD never wearies of learning or teaching.

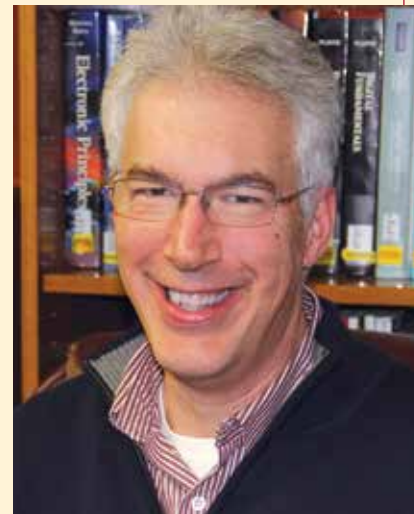
“I think what (Sir Isaac) Newton did was really an incredible intellectual achievement,” Addabbo says of the influential English physicist and mathematician.

What Newton did was define properties of forces in the Principia, a three-volume work about laws of motion and universal gravitation. His realizations could explain items like planetary motion without having to look up into the sky. Addabbo concluded, “Even after all these years I haven’t gotten tired of teaching it.”

More than two decades after arriving at what was the Academy of Aeronautics in 1984, Addabbo is still motivated by communicating the lessons of Newton to students in his five classes. In addition to calculus and physics, Addabbo teaches differential equations, MATLAB (a computer programming class) and linear algebra recently introduced in 2010.

It is an eagerness to learn and willingness to sacrifice that makes Vaughn College students unique, according to Addabbo.

“I appreciate how hard our students work; that they juggle a lot of classes, work and family life. I’ve always believed in our students and admired their motivation to succeed.”



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

VAUGHN COLLEGE CLASS OF 2012



BRIAN LINHARES

**Bachelor of Science, Engineering
Mechatronics
Astoria, New York**

Scientific aptitude is fine, but ask Brian Linhares what makes a good engineer and the answer might surprise you. “Imagination,” he says. “Without it, you’re just a paper pusher.”

Of all the skills required of a successful engineer, Linhares says the best one is an open mind. He was one of the first graduates of Vaughn’s engineering program and during his pursuit of his degree made significant contributions by developing opportunities for engineering students outside the classroom.

A 2012 graduate, he earned the College’s Asch-Root Engines of Invention Award and a Casey S. Jones award for his academic achievements. He participated in several international robotics competitions, which helped him secure a position as a structural engineer with Embraer, the Brazilian-based aerospace giant.

“Working in any engineering company, you have to be open to new ideas and be responsible,” Linhares says. “You also have to have good public speaking skills to present your ideas. All of the conferences I went to helped me with that. Vaughn College also does a great job of networking.”

While at Vaughn, Linhares served as president of the Robotics Club. He and his fellow students earned a second-place finish in the 2009 Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions (LACCEI) competition in Venezuela, designing a robot to enhance farm productivity. The following year, the group finished third in Peru, designing an anti-riot robot to aid police in crowd control.

“He’s very creative,” Dr. Hossein Rahemi, chair of the engineering and technology department, said. “Linhares is also dedicated to his education and seeks out every available opportunity to broaden his knowledge.”

In November 2010, Linhares and three Vaughn classmates—Chandra Mauli Nautiyal ’11, Marlon Medford ’12 and Kin Lok Poon ’14—finished second and third in a national robotics competition at California University of Pennsylvania, advancing to the world competition in April 2011 in Kissimmee, Florida.

While at Vaughn, Linhares earned top grades in his study of CATIA or,

computer-aided, three-dimensional interactive application, an engineering design software. His expertise in CATIA was very appealing to aircraft manufacturer Embraer. “I am very comfortable in CATIA; I studied it at Vaughn and it’s great that I will be working with it,” he says. Vaughn Board of Trustee Member Elaine Asch-Root, publisher and editor of Revista Aerea, the top Latin American aviation magazine, made the connection for Linhares with Embraer after he received her engineering scholarship. The award seeks to inspire a student and faculty member to work together on a research project that encourages creativity in the fields of science and math.



ADRIAN DEJESUS

**Master of Science in Airport
Management, Bachelor of Science,
Aviation Maintenance, Associate in
Applied Science, Aviation Maintenance
Bronx, New York**

Dreams alone guarantee little. As a

child, Adrian DeJesus knew hard work was the key to a better life.

Raised in an orphanage in Guyana, South America, he dreamed of maintaining aircraft. Of course, to do that he would need the proper training. Enter Vaughn College.

“When I came here I was so fascinated to see all the types of aircraft,” DeJesus says. “The first thought I had was that I would be doing hands-on work on the same planes I used to see flying over my house.”

A veteran of the Guyanese Defense Forces, DeJesus came to the United States in 2004 at age 21. Sponsored by his aunt, he settled in the Bronx with nothing more than a work ethic and a vision to work on aircraft.

He enrolled in Vaughn College’s associate program in aviation maintenance, and then continued for a bachelor’s degree. At one point, DeJesus says, he was working three jobs while taking 22 credits.

Among those jobs was a part-time position in the College’s admissions office. Through a career fair at Vaughn, DeJesus also secured a position as a trainee maintenance technician with Delta Air Lines.

“If not for my foundation and training at Vaughn, it would have been difficult for me to be selected for the position at Delta,” DeJesus says. “Life would have been very hard for me without Vaughn College.”

Ultimately, DeJesus hopes to work as a

safety inspector for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

He became a United States citizen in January 2010, and earned his master’s degree in airport management in 2012.

“I really want the skies to be safe,” DeJesus says. “That’s why I want to work for the FAA. I want to make sure the planes you fly are safe from point A to point B, and that the people who work on them are properly qualified.”



BRIDGETTE VALENCIA

**Bachelor of Science, Engineering
Mechatronics
Ridgewood, New York**

From the first time she saw a Vaughn College advertisement while in high school, Bridgette Valencia knew the College was meant to be a part of her future. “I was on the train,” she recalled. “I saw an ad that read ‘Who’s going to be the next person to go to Mars?’”

That advertisement was the first step in her journey to studying mechatronics at Vaughn. “I didn’t bother applying to other

schools,” Valencia said. “After a discussion with an admissions counselor, I was convinced that studying mechatronics here would help me reach my goal of working for NASA.”

Vaughn’s mechatronics curriculum proved to be challenging from the start. But through determination and ambition, and a little help from Vaughn’s faculty, Valencia excelled in the traditionally male-dominated major. According to Valencia: “The guys were the ones always answering the questions. But one day, I understood perfectly what the professor was asking. For once, I was the first to answer a question correctly. And it kept getting better from there.”

Valencia kept busy as 2011-2012 vice president of Vaughn’s chapter of Women in Aviation. She says membership in the organization helped her develop the skills necessary to be attractive to employers. “I was able to develop great leadership and communication skills that helped me get internship offers,” Valencia said.

She received two internship offers after participating in a conference hosted by the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). She also accepted a summer 2012 internship with Cummins, Inc. in Columbus, Indiana in mechatronics engineering.

Due to her hard work during her internship, Valencia was offered a full-time position at Cummins that she has eagerly accepted.

Alumni Events



SENIOR CLASS BARBECUE MAY 17, 2012

Left: Vaughn College held its annual graduation celebration for alumni and seniors at Studio Square NYC. The event honors the accomplishments of the graduating class of 2012 and welcomes them as members of the alumni association. **Pictured:** (Left to right) Nitza Guardado '13, Jennifer Vasquez '12, Guest and Jonathan Chou '12

Right: The 2012 subway series brought out both Mets and Yankees alumni fans. Alumni and their guests enjoyed a competitive game while connecting with fellow Vaughn graduates. **Pictured:** Bradford Carpenter '04 and guest

Below: The alumni association kicked off the fall season by attending Bear Mountain's annual Oktoberfest. Alumni and friends boarded the Circle Line for a scenic three-hour cruise along the Hudson River before enjoying the festivities.



BEAR MOUNTAIN OKTOBERFEST OCT. 6, 2012

Right: The alumni association ended the year by hosting a reception for alumni and friends of Vaughn College. Graduates from various years and supporters of the College came together to celebrate the holiday season and toasted to the New Year. **Pictured:** (Left to right) Jana Langhammer '11, Juan Roman '11, Katherine Saldarriaga '11, Margaret and Hans van Ophemert '79



VAUGHN HOLIDAY RECEPTION DEC. 13, 2012



METS VS. YANKEES

JUNE 22, 2012

Upcoming Events

Bowling at Frames NYC
Thursday, March 28, 6 p.m.
Frames Bowling Lounge

Join your fellow alumni for a fun evening of bowling. For \$20 you will enjoy two hours of bowling, shoes, and an assortment of appetizers and beverages.

Mets Vs. Phillies
Friday, April 26, 6 p.m.
Citi Field

Attention all Mets fans. Come cheer on our hometown team as they take on their arch rivals, the Philadelphia Phillies. Tickets are \$25 including a pregame cocktail reception at McFaddens Restaurant and Saloon prior to game time. Must be 21+ to drink.

Family, Friends and Alumni Festival
Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m.
Vaughn College

Vaughn College invites alumni, friends, students and their families to a festive day of food, music, entertainment and rides in our state-of-the art flight simulators.

For more information about these events please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at 718.429.6600 extension 112.

Cirque Du Soleil: Totem
Saturday, May 4, 4 p.m.
Citi Field

Come trace the fascinating journey of the human species from its original amphibian state to its ultimate desire to fly. The Vaughn College Alumni Association is proud to offer tickets at a discounted rate of \$25 to alumni and friends.

50th Anniversary Reunion Luncheon-Class of 1963
Wednesday, May 8, 1:30 p.m.
Vaughn College

To commemorate 50 years since graduating, Vaughn College will host a special reunion luncheon for the class of 1963.

Graduation Celebration
Friday, May 17, 6 p.m.
Studio Square NYC

President John C. Fitzpatrick invites seniors and alumni to attend a special graduation dinner to honor the accomplishments of the graduating class of 2013.

New Faces in New Places

New faculty and staff who were promoted or joined Vaughn College recently:

FACULTY

Flavio Cabrera, PhD
assistant professor, engineering and technology
Amir Elzawawy, PhD
assistant professor, engineering and technology
Carl Lewis, Jr.
technical specialist instructor, Aviation Training Institute
Young Mee Oh, EdD
assistant professor, arts and sciences

STAFF

Christine Chan
director of information technology
Guillermo Cruz
assistant director, financial aid
Jerima DeWese
assistant vice president and dean for student affairs from dean of student development and campus life

Urban Gillard
painter, maintenance staff
Byron Gittens
associate director from admissions counselor
David Griffey
director of admissions
Maureen Kiggins
director of public affairs
John LaBarbera
associate director from admissions counselor
Natalie LaMarche
senior assistant director of enrollment from assistant director of enrollment
Juan C. Martinez
senior assistant director to student accounts from assistant to student accounts
Allison Mosler
associate director from admissions counselor
Kristal Singh
associate director from admissions counselor

Alumni Update

Send us your news!

Recently married, promoted or relocated? Started your own business or switched career fields? Added a new member to your family? Share the good news with your friends, professors and classmates at Vaughn—we want to stay connected!

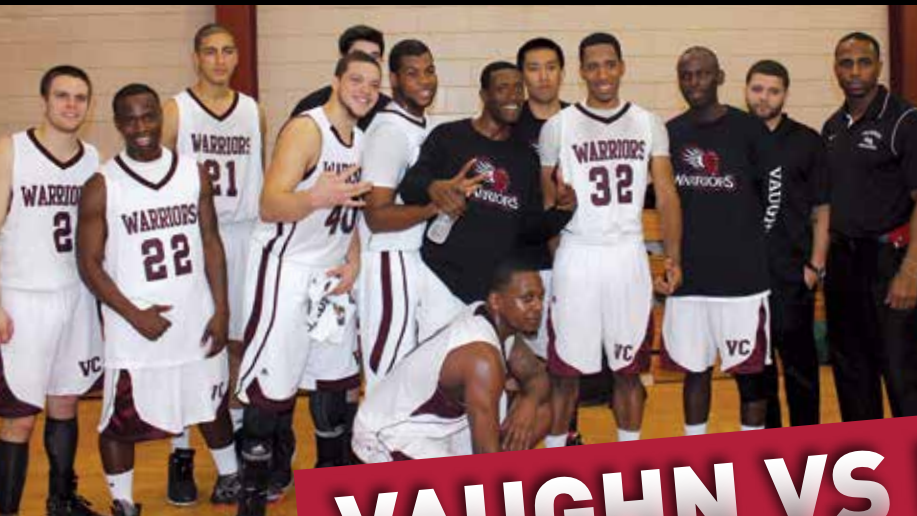
Please contact:

Neil Gouveia,
Assistant Director
neil.gouveia@vaughn.edu
(718) 429-6600 ext. 112
Office of Development and Alumni Affairs
Vaughn College
86-01 23rd Avenue
Flushing, NY 11369

First Annual **BLACKOUT** **MEN'S BASKETBALL GAME**

On Wednesday January 16 Vaughn College's Men's Basketball team hosted its First Annual Blackout Game. Students, family, friends, faculty and staff cheered the team on donning all black attire emblazoned with the Warrior logo. A live DJ entertained the crowd as they snacked on hot pretzels and hot dogs from the concession stand. The Warriors defeated Pratt with a decisive 74 to 33 victory. The game concluded with a celebration and live raffle giveaway.

For more information on upcoming athletics events visit www.vaughnathletics.com



VAUGHN VS PRATT

