

Vaughn

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2024



Alumni at their Best

Share in the career success of recently graduated alumni.

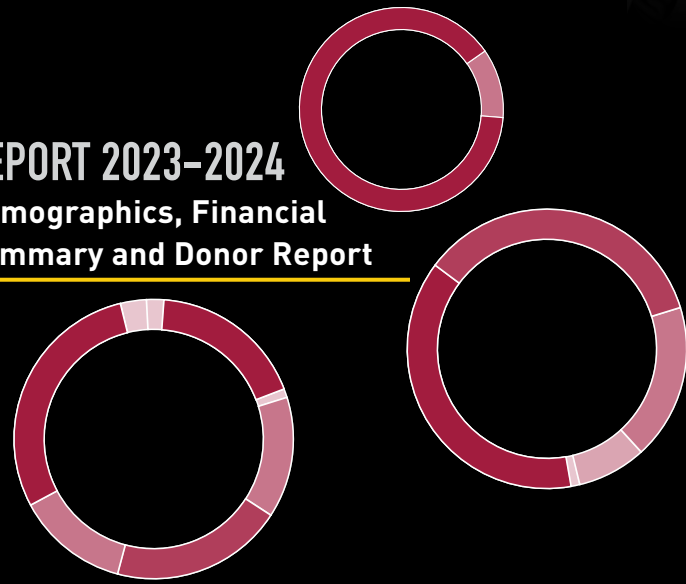
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VAUGHN MAGAZINE

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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20 IN THEIR 20s

VAUGHN COLLEGE PROUDLY CELEBRATES THE CAREERS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ITS GRADUATED ALUMNI

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE FOR RECENT GRADUATES IN THEIR 20S?

Here we feature the next generation of leaders who graduated from Vaughn College and are on their way to creating a lifetime of upward mobility. They had a great start, as evidenced by Vaughn's recognition as having the highest upward mobility rate among 2,137 colleges nationwide in a comprehensive study by The Equality of Opportunity Project. Simply put, this means that Vaughn is leading the nation in improving the financial quality of life for its graduates and their families.

The alumni featured within are a snapshot of successful graduates making an impact in a variety of industries, and in communities near and far. And Vaughn has played an important role in their journeys and is always gratified in hearing important advances on their career fronts.

Here we showcase 20 recent alumni in engineering, technology management and aviation positions at engineering firms, power generation companies, airlines, airports, air traffic control facilities, public and government agencies and more. Alumni are working as mechatronic engineers, air traffic controllers, airport managers and aviation maintenance technicians.

Our graduates' success comes from their hard work and is supported by Vaughn's mission to change the world one student at a time with a transformative education that provides a lifetime of opportunity.

► TWENTY IN THEIR TWENTIES

TATIANA JAIMES '22
MECHATRONIC ENGINEERING

“ Attending a Vaughn-funded Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) conference paved the way for me to connect with my JPL recruiter, which ultimately opened the door to my job offer. ”

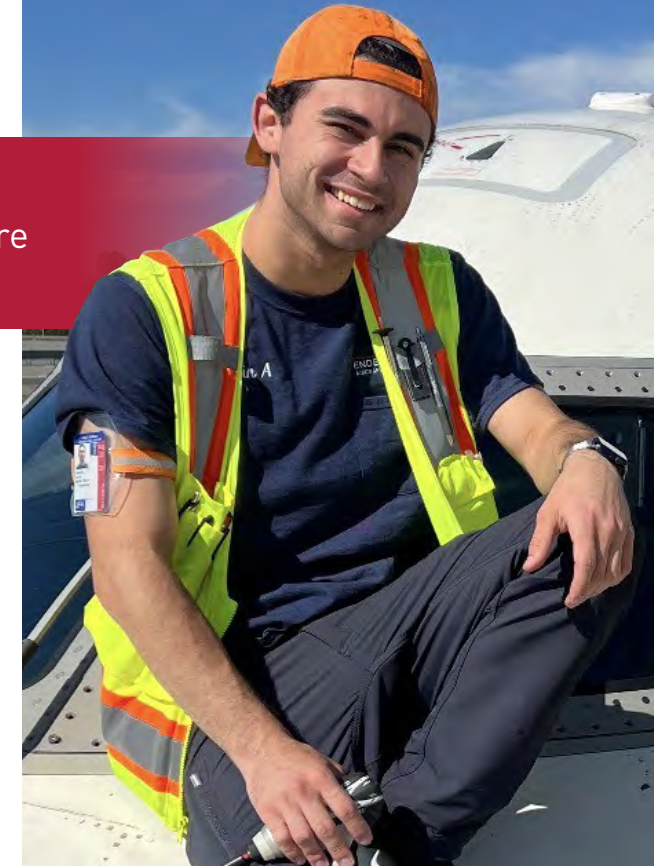
Tatiana Jaimes who attended elementary and high school in Colombia is now thriving as a mechatronics engineer at [NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory \(JPL\)](#). Her job, perfectly aligned with her passions, offers continuous learning and growth opportunities. Vaughn College supported her success by providing financial support for attending conferences, competitions and networking events. A pivotal moment was at a Vaughn-funded SHPE conference, where she connected with a JPL recruiter, leading to her exciting role today. Jaimes is enthusiastic about her future and the limitless possibilities ahead.



KEVIN ARAUJO '21
AVIATION MAINTENANCE

“ By having the aviation maintenance program, Vaughn helped me get to where I am today. ”

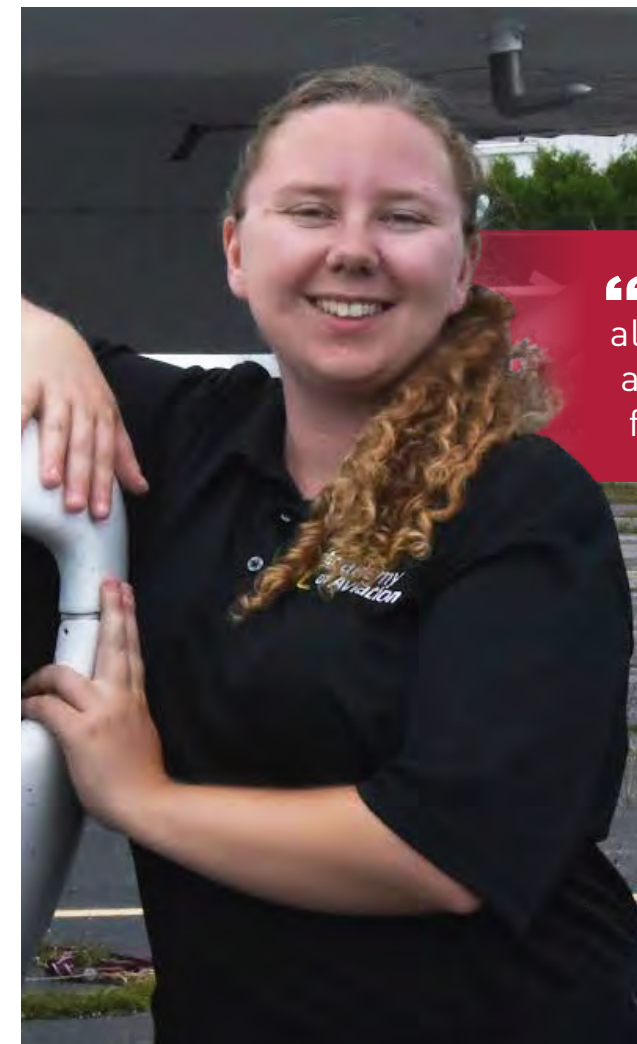
As an aircraft maintenance technician, Kevin Araujo has been a valuable asset to [American Airlines](#). He loves his job and is passionate about his work. Vaughn College played a crucial role in his success by offering the aviation maintenance program that prepared him to obtain his airframe and powerplant (A&P) certificates, which provided him with the necessary skills and certification to pursue his dream career. Araujo is excited about his future, knowing that he is living his dream and looking forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.



ANGELO MANISCALCO '19
AIRPORT MANAGEMENT /
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

“ The professors and instructors of the AT-CTI program are remarkable. They are passionate about their career and helped guide me through it all. ”

Angelo Maniscalco is thriving as an air traffic controller at New York TRACON (N90), a career he wholeheartedly believes is the best anyone can pursue. Vaughn College played a crucial role in his success, with the passionate professors and instructors of the AT-CTI program guiding him every step of the way. Maniscalco loves his job more with each passing year, finding it an honor to work at N90. He cherishes the camaraderie with coworkers who have become friends and family, and he is very excited about what the future holds in this fulfilling career.



DEBRA CASSIDY '20
AERONAUTICAL SCIENCE

“ Not only did Vaughn allow me to obtain all of my foundational knowledge of aviation, it's also where I have met my best friends and lifelong partner, Mitch. ”

Debra Cassidy, a flight instructor at the [US Academy of Aviation](#) in upstate New York, enjoys her job immensely, as it allows her to pursue her passion for flying while spending quality time with her family. Vaughn College played a significant role in her success by providing her with a solid foundation in aviation and the opportunity to meet her best friends and lifelong partner, Mitch Werner '20 a mechanical engineering alumnus. Cassidy is excited about what the future holds, looking forward to continuing her career in aviation and cherishing the personal connections she made at Vaughn.

▶ TWENTY IN THEIR TWENTIES

ATIF SAEED '20 MECHATRONIC ENGINEERING

“ Breaking launch and space records in the industry gets me excited to be a part of that and leaves me wondering what's next. ”

Atif Saeed is excelling as a life cycle engineer II at [SpaceX](#). He is passionate about his role, which allows him to work on projects that are pushing the boundaries of aerospace technology and helping humanity become multi-planetary, with SpaceX breaking new records almost every month. Saeed attributes his success to the strong analytical foundation and hands-on experience he gained at Vaughn, particularly through involvement in robotics and uncrewed aerial vehicle clubs. Looking ahead, he is thrilled about the future and the chance to be part of record-breaking achievements in the aerospace industry.



SUMAYAH RAFI '20 AERONAUTICAL SCIENCE

“ I had no experience with aviation before coming to Vaughn, so all the knowledge and connections that I gained in those four years really helped set me up for success. ”

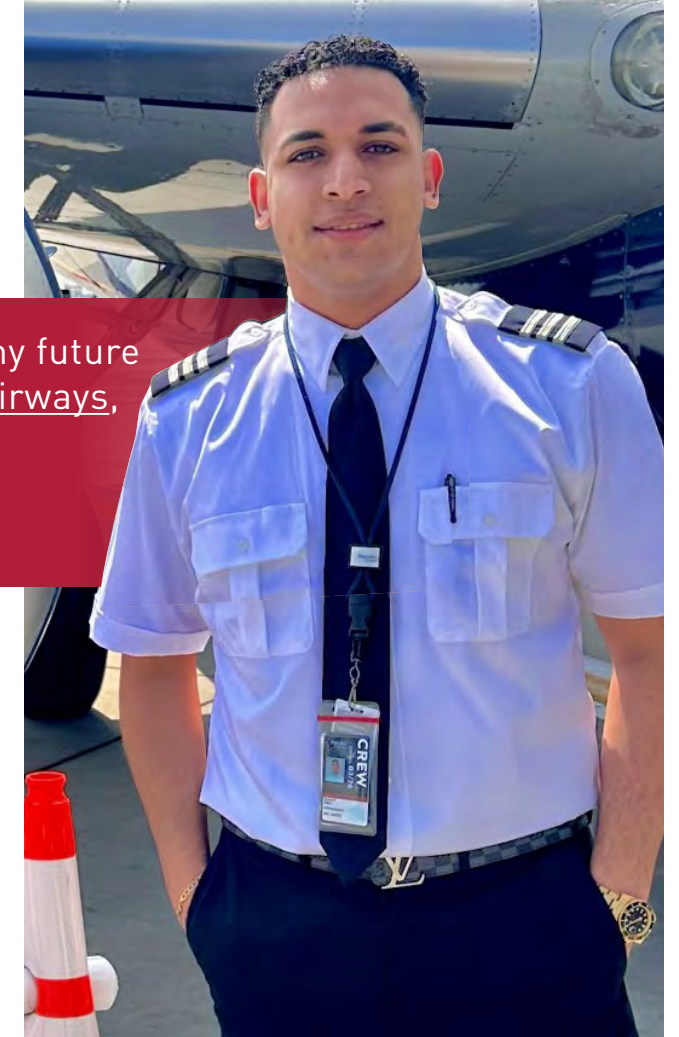
Sumayah Rafi, a 2020 graduate of Vaughn College, is now a high school initiative specialist at the [Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association \(AOPA\)](#). Passionate about both aviation and education, she finds her job to be the perfect blend of the two. Rafi finds it incredibly rewarding to witness the positive impact of the AOPA aviation STEM curriculum on high school students nationwide. Vaughn College provided her with the foundational knowledge and connections she needed to succeed. Excited about her future, Rafi looks forward to flying more aircraft and meeting more incredible industry professionals.



KEROLOS ZAKHER '23 AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

“ I am incredibly excited about what my future holds. As a first officer with [Republic Airways](#), I have already achieved a significant milestone, thanks to the foundational support from Vaughn College. ”

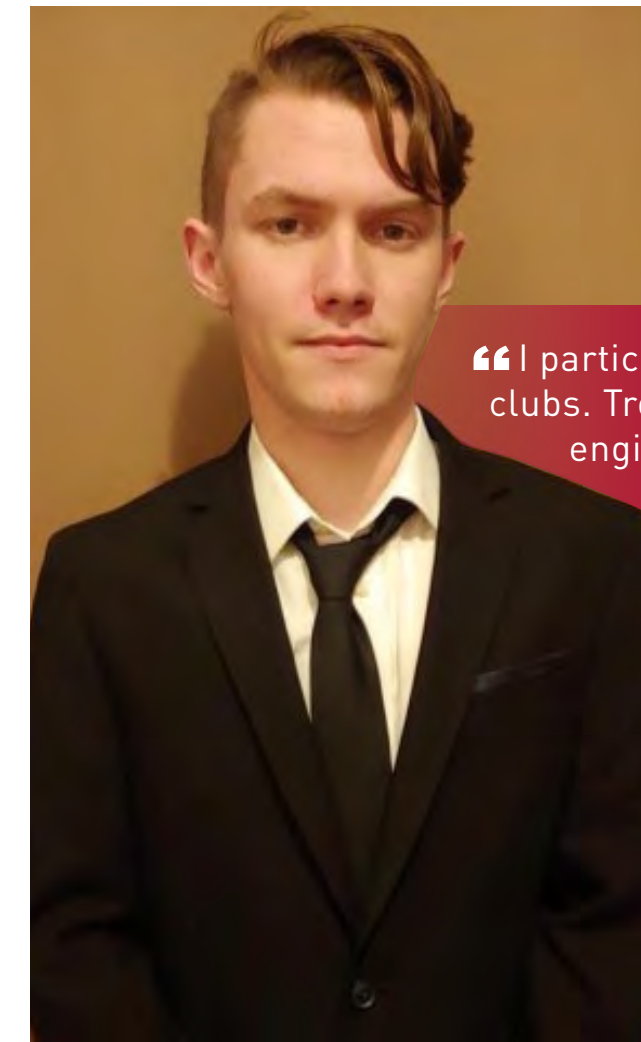
Kerolos Zakher, a first officer at Republic Airways, absolutely loves his job as a pilot. He finds each day filled with new challenges and opportunities to see the world from a unique perspective. The responsibility of ensuring passenger safety and comfort, combined with the thrill of flying, makes his career incredibly fulfilling. Vaughn College provided comprehensive support, facilitating his ratings at Heritage Flight Academy, and easing his financial burden through a generous scholarship. Zakher is thankful to Vaughn College as he is now living his dream, excited for the future and the endless possibilities it holds.



KIRILL SOKOLOV '23 MECHATRONIC ENGINEERING

“ I participated a lot in the UAV and Micromouse clubs. Troubleshooting, rapid prototyping and engineering design process gave me enough experience to get accepted at [Raytheon](#). ”

Kirill Sokolov, now positioned as an electrical engineer I at [Raytheon](#), enthusiastically delves into the aerospace industry. Armed with experience in circuit card design and project management, acquired through active involvement in the uncrewed aerial vehicle (UAV) and Micromouse clubs, he stands poised for success. Excited about the future's abundant growth opportunities within Raytheon and the aerospace and defense sectors, Sokolov's journey marks just the beginning of a promising career trajectory.

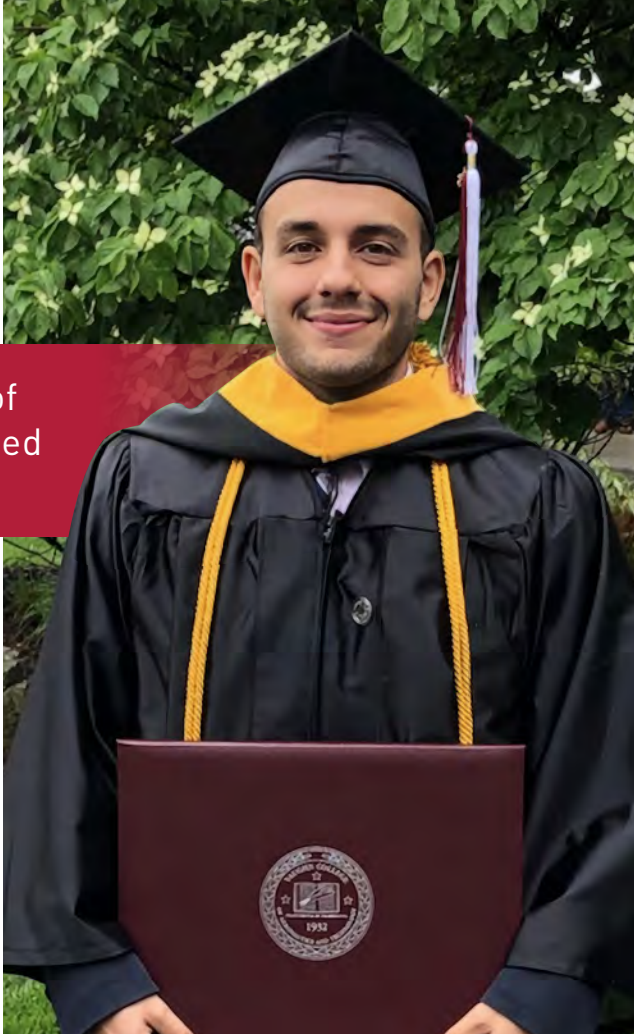


▶ TWENTY IN THEIR TWENTIES

MATTHEW ANIELLO '18
AIRPORT MANAGEMENT /
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

“ Vaughn taught me the fundamentals of air traffic control (ATC) I needed to succeed at the FAA academy. ”

Matthew Aniello, a 2018 graduate of Vaughn College, is now a certified professional controller with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He absolutely loves his job, crediting Vaughn for providing the essential ATC fundamentals that paved his way to success at the FAA academy. Working at the New York TRACON, Aniello feels he has reached the pinnacle of his career but remains excited about the unexpected opportunities that the future may hold.



SAMIA OISHI '21
MECHATRONIC ENGINEERING

“ Vaughn helped shape my career path, especially through the engineering project management course. I look back on that experience fondly and hope to teach it at Vaughn one day. ”

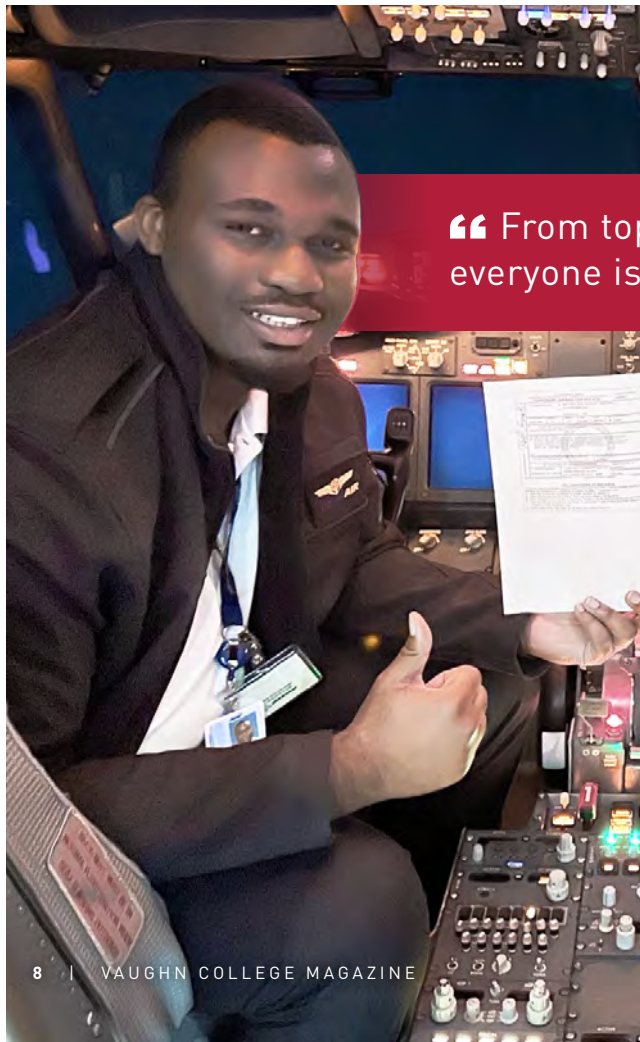
Samia Oishi's career journey highlights swift advancement in project management. Starting as an intern, she swiftly rose to become a sustainability consultant, leading Affordable Multifamily Energy Efficiency Program projects, and later managing teams at Med Elite. Recently receiving her master's degree in project management, she credits Vaughn College for laying the foundation for her success.



MATTHEW SMALL '21
AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

“ From top to bottom, President DeVivo to security, everyone is there to help. ”

Matthew Small currently serves as a 737 first officer at Atlas Air. In love with his job, Small believes Vaughn College played a crucial role in his journey by offering a well-structured curriculum and dedicated staff who guided him towards his career goals. He appreciates the support from everyone at Vaughn, from President DeVivo to the security team. Small is excited about his future, particularly the opportunity to transition from flying a Cessna 172 to a Boeing 737. With plans to move to a wide-body aircraft like the 777 or 747 within a year, he eagerly anticipates the challenges and advancements in his aviation career ahead.



NICHOLAS GROSSO '23
AVIATION MAINTENANCE

“ Vaughn College was like a second home. The college and all my professors helped prepare me for the airframe and powerplant (A&P) exams and a career in aviation. ”

Nicholas Grosso is an aircraft maintenance technician at GoJet Airlines/United Express, where he finds great satisfaction in ensuring the safety of aircraft and passengers. Vaughn College played an essential role in his journey, providing a supportive environment and thorough preparation for his A&P exams. Grosso is excited about his future, fueled by a lifelong passion for aviation and the opportunities it brings to explore various technical fields.



▶ TWENTY IN THEIR TWENTIES

ADRIAN GALAN GOMEZ '17
AIRPORT MANAGEMENT

“ Vaughn provided me with a solid foundation to enter the aviation industry and equipped me with the knowledge and skills needed to advance my career. ”

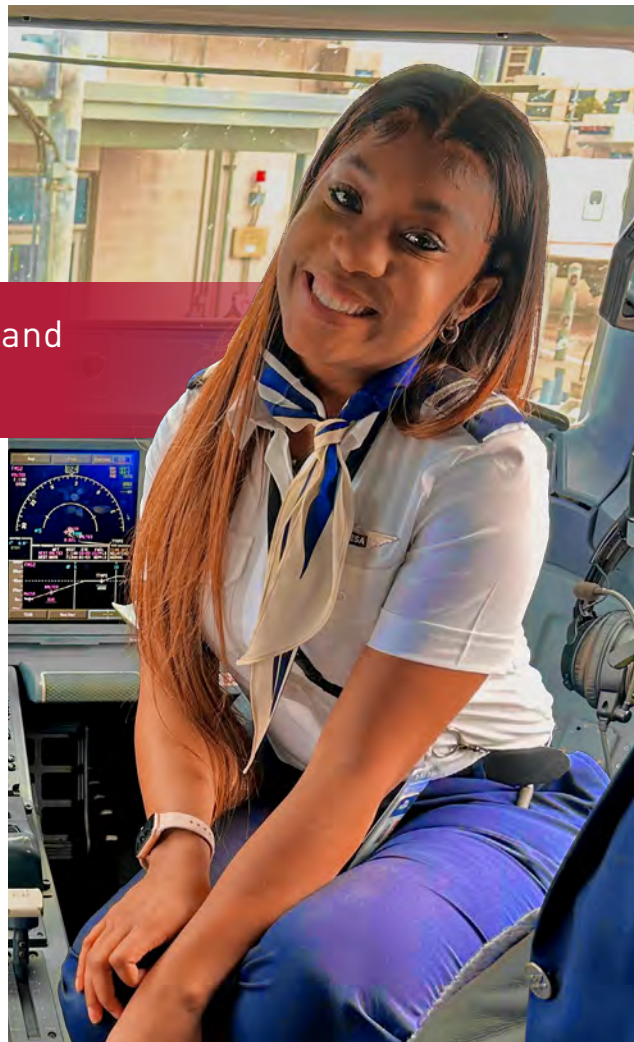
Adrian Galan Gomez is currently thriving as a senior analyst for Airline Partnerships and Alliances at [JetBlue Airways](#). He enjoys his role, contributing to the expansion of the network and building brand awareness through new partnerships. Vaughn College was instrumental in his success, offering a robust foundation that prepared him to enter the aviation industry and advance his career. Gomez is optimistic about his future, looking forward to new opportunities and challenges as the industry recovers from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and companies and their teams adapt to new trends and demands.



XYLENE DECOTEAU '20
AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

“ Vaughn set me up with the resources and tools to reach my position today! ”

Xylene DeCoteau is soaring as a first officer at [Mesa Airlines](#). She expresses a deep love for her job, attributing her success to the comprehensive resources and tools provided by Vaughn College. These have been instrumental in her career progression. With an eye on the future, DeCoteau is excited about her next steps, aiming to join a company where she can explore new destinations and pilot larger, faster aircraft, marking the culmination of her aviation journey.



GRACE DAVIS '19
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
TECHNOLOGY - AERONAUTICS

“ I have found a job that I love and the program I work for is so diverse I can volunteer for stretch assignments to try new specialties if I ever want additional challenges or to increase my knowledge. ”

Grace Davis, who graduated from Vaughn College in December 2019 with a degree in mechanical engineering technology-aeronautical, is currently a principal systems engineer and an integrated product team lead at Northrop Grumman. She loves her job, finding it both challenging and rewarding. Vaughn College played a pivotal role in her success by supporting her attendance at national conferences for the Society of Women Engineers and the [National Society of Black Engineers](#), and inviting her to the leadership academy, which helped build her leadership skills. Davis is extremely excited about the future, the diverse programs she works on and the opportunity to try new specialties and challenges to expand her knowledge.

OTHA WARD '19
AIRPORT MANAGEMENT

“ Vaughn provided great internships that helped me jumpstart my career! ”

Otha Ward, who graduated with a degree in airport management, is currently thriving in his role as a landside operations supervisor at the [Port Authority of New York and New Jersey](#). He loves his job and is enthusiastic about his future. Ward credits Vaughn College for providing excellent internships that helped him kickstart his career. Over the years, he has met many talented, smart and creative individuals who inspire him. He is active in the Vaughn alumni association and is excited to see how the innovative minds of his generation and the next will shape the future in a positive way.



► TWENTY IN THEIR TWENTIES

NIKI TAHERI '19
MECHATRONIC ENGINEERING

“ With such a diverse background, I feel empowered to learn and grow in any direction my career takes me. I’m eager to continue evolving and developing personally. ”

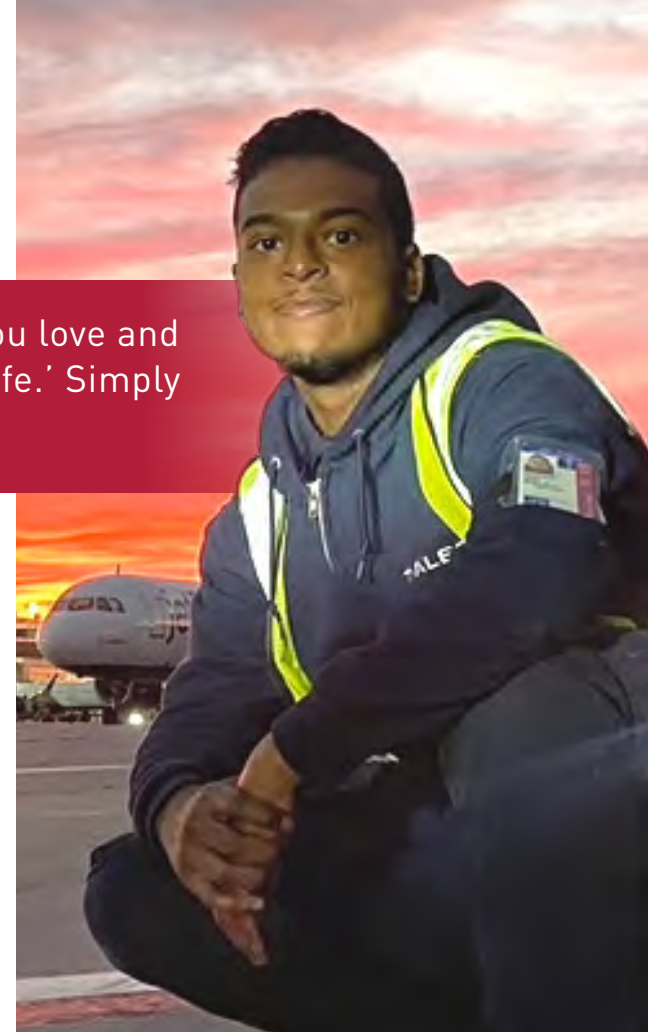
Niki Taheri is thriving as a systems safety engineer II at [Honeywell](#) and truly enjoys the work she is doing. She attributes her success to the networking skills she developed at Vaughn College, which were instrumental in landing her current position. Additionally, her mechatronic engineering degree from Vaughn provided her with a comprehensive understanding of systems as a whole, essential for her role as a safety engineer. Taheri is excited about her future, feeling that her diverse background allows her to pursue various career paths. She looks forward to continuing her learning and development, both professionally and personally.



ANDREW GOVINDEISAMI '21
AVIATION MAINTENANCE

“ Confucius once said, ‘Choose a job you love and you’ll never have to work a day in your life.’ Simply put, I love my job. ”

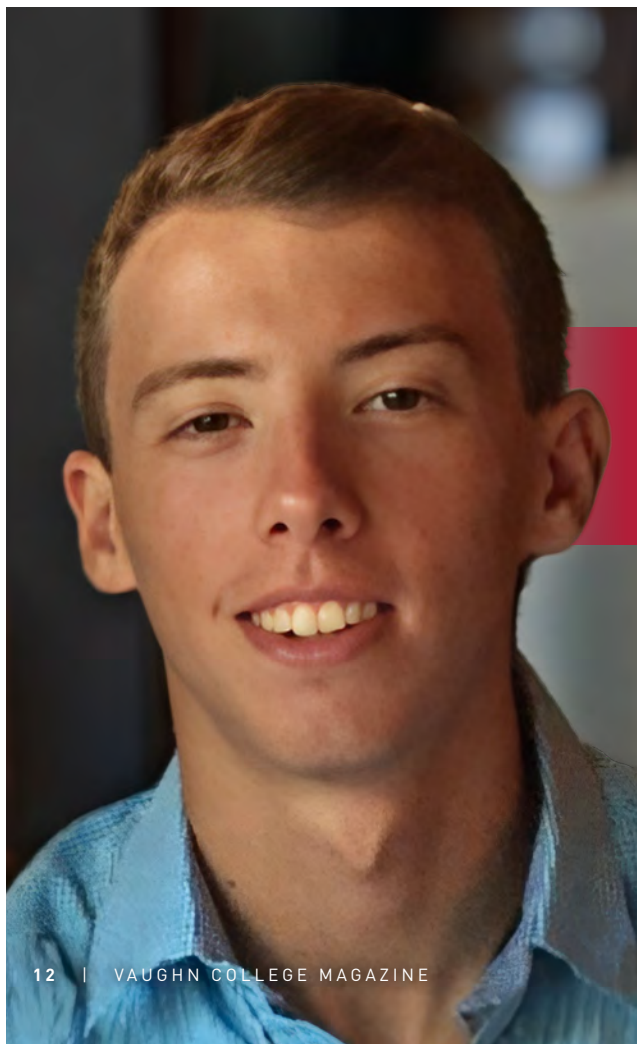
Andrew Govindeisami completed his aviation maintenance degree at Vaughn College in May 2021. He currently serves as an aviation maintenance technician at American Airlines and finds great fulfillment in his role. Vaughn College played a pivotal role in Govindeisami’s journey by helping him obtain his airframe and powerplant certifications, which enabled him to pursue his passion for aviation maintenance. Excited about the future, he looks forward to advancing his skills and qualifications in the rapidly growing aviation industry, aiming to progress into management or operations roles.



CHRISTIAN PEREDA '19
AIRPORT MANAGEMENT /
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

“ Vaughn helped me realize how well invested I would become in the field of aviation. ”

Christian Pereda is excelling as an air traffic control specialist at the Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center (ZLA). He finds his position both challenging and rewarding. Vaughn College was instrumental in his career path, helping him recognize his deep investment in the aviation field. Pereda is enthusiastic about his future, eager to continue learning new techniques and refining his skills over time.



ALINA SANTANDER '23
MECHATRONIC ENGINEERING

“ As an international student, it was always difficult to find opportunities in the aerospace field, so the work I did at Zipline was truly meaningful in my career. ”

Born in Bolivia, Alina Santander, a former Brooke Owens Fellow, thrived as a perception test engineering intern at [Zipline International](#), the world’s largest autonomous delivery system, specializing in on-demand drone delivery and instant logistics. Her impactful work enhanced global healthcare accessibility, aligning with Zipline’s mission of leveraging technology for societal good. Santander’s journey from Vaughn College to Stanford University as a Knight-Hennessy Scholar reflects her dedication to aerospace excellence and community engagement.



▶ NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

VAUGHN WELCOMES TWO NEW TRUSTEES TO THE FIRST GENDER-EQUAL BOARD IN ITS HISTORY

TERI L. BRISTOL

As the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) [Air Traffic Organization](#) from 2014 to 2022, Teri Bristol was very familiar with Vaughn College. A global leader with responsibility for providing safe and efficient air navigation services to 29.4 million square miles of airspace, she was well aware of the [Collegiate Training Initiative \(CTI\)](#) through which Vaughn partners with the FAA to train air traffic controllers, and Vaughn's strong alumni base in the New York TRACON (Terminal Radar Approach Control) facility. But there was a lot that Bristol didn't know about Vaughn until she connected with President Sharon B. DeVivo and Board Chair Peter Vaughn, after speaking with a mutual acquaintance and Vaughn trustee Patty Clark.

"I wanted to be part of a learning institution because learning has been such a big part of my life, and knowing the challenges that air traffic control faces today and the

role Vaughn plays, it just felt like the right place to serve on the board," said Bristol. "And I've discovered that Vaughn is so much more than I knew! I was surprised by the breadth of the curriculum, the range of sciences and all of the new work in drones and applications for all kinds of businesses. It has really opened my eyes."

Bristol also feels a strong connection with Vaughn's students. Herself a returning student who had children at a young age and spent many years going to school part time and at night, she understands the long journey of education, its challenges and inspirations.

"I know what it's like to work so hard while you're in school," she said. "I identify with the students, and I think

they can identify with me. I want the opportunity to share my story and help them understand how I got where I did. I was the first female to ever hold my last three jobs! I was always willing to take jobs where you have to learn as you go and keep growing. If you love learning, you can re-create yourself into whatever you want to be."

Bristol is also eager to leverage the wide range of relationships she's developed during her career in aviation and transportation to create new opportunities for Vaughn students. "As I look at the employment needs across transportation in the US and the world, the needs are huge and the possibilities are endless. I want to acquaint people I know with Vaughn and partner with them through sponsorships, scholarships and internships to create new opportunities. I want to help grow this part of Vaughn's portfolio because the need is so great."

When asked about Vaughn's historic, gender-equal board, Bristol commented that women come at issues

differently than men, and she believes that different voices must be heard to develop the best strategy. "It was never 50-50 in my career, and it's become clear that people want to look at a board and see the makeup of the community reflected there."

April Gasparri, a military veteran who comes to Vaughn's board from quite a different career track, shares Bristol's belief in the importance of a more gender-balanced board. "Growing up in my career in the military and aviation," said Gasparri, "the status quo was being one of the 1-2% of females in the room. I've come to see that needs to change. The change needs to come from the top to change the culture, and we need that change to keep us relevant."



"The addition of these two new outstanding trustees speaks to the changing demographics of the technical fields we serve. We know from the research that organizations that are diverse do better as they contribute to greater levels of innovation and success. At the same time, Vaughn strives to be a model for aviation and aerospace where diversity—in all forms—is lacking. I am so proud of the fact that 42% of our board is from underrepresented groups and 50% are female, and the contribution that this diversity brings to the institution is immense."

—President Sharon B. DeVivo

APRIL L. GASPARRI

A West Point graduate with a bachelor of science in civil engineering and Afghan combat helicopter pilot with a master's in business administration from Rutgers Business School, April Gasparri served for 15 years in various operations leadership roles at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the [Allegheny County Airport Authority \(Pittsburgh International Airport\)](#) before bringing her career passion in aviation to Westchester County, where she is currently Director of Aviation.

She has blended her military experience into her leadership positions as an airport executive. After seven years of distinguished service in the US Army as a commissioned officer and helicopter pilot-in-command performing missions in peacetime and combat conditions, she continues to serve as a reserve officer supporting the US IndoPacific Command (USINDOPACOM) as a joint services multinational security exercises senior officer.

Gasparri is ready to broaden her multifaceted experience in the military and commercial airport management by serving in a new way. Though new to the Board life, Vaughn is like an old friend to her. "I already knew Vaughn as an embedded community partner from time at the Port Authority," said Gasparri. "The caliber of the students I've met over the years and the quality of curriculum drew me to the opportunity to be able to influence the institution's future strategy and direction. I can now see the importance of Vaughn in the whole aviation ecosystem, and I wanted to be more engaged in its important role in the industry."

Gasparri was thrilled when conversations with President DeVivo and Board Chair Vaughn resulted in an invitation to serve on the board, where she believes she can add a new dimension. "My operational and military background bring a distinct perspective," she said. "A board of trustees is most valuable with a mix of experiences. There are the financiers, the engineers, the cyber specialists—and the operational nucleus ties it together."

Like Bristol, Gasparri has learned a lot more about Vaughn since her orientation. "What was new to me was the rich history of Vaughn and the passion toward it, which illuminated my duty to serve. During orientation, I was so impressed by the organization of the administration and its seamless collaboration across every department. And how they keep to the five-year plan by visiting it quarterly! What organization stays on top of a five-year plan like that?!"

Looking ahead, Gasparri is particularly interested in recruitment efforts in continued underserved areas

and outreach to students who don't know about Vaughn and the opportunities that a Vaughn degree can open. "I heard about an initiative for outreach to students in the Philippines," she said, "to give that exposure to young, bright, passionate individuals. You don't know what you don't know—I'm interested in increasing exposure and seeing these students shine. I was recently at a youth aviation expo here in Westchester, and there was a young pilot on the panel who is already flying wide-body planes! The opportunities today are endless."



VAUGHN ADMISSIONS OFFICE — BEST IN BREED AND GETTING EVEN STRONGER

Vaughn College has a single-minded focus on students, their lives, and their future success. Every department at the College is dedicated to engaging students, helping them develop a personalized curriculum and supporting them from their first day on campus throughout their careers. Nowhere is this more evident than in Vaughn's Office of Admissions under the guidance of Susan Merchant, associate vice president and Nick Marter, assistant vice president. Admission Sight, an admissions consulting company, sums it up perfectly.



Susan Merchant, associate vice president of admissions

"Admissions officers play a crucial role far beyond simply reviewing applications; they are the gatekeepers of higher education, shaping the future of not only institutions but also of the aspiring students they admit."

Merchant and Marter are both relatively new to Vaughn, having been at the College for less than two years. They joined forces to strengthen an already robust admissions process, expanding Vaughn's reach to more students than ever before. According to Marter, "The response to the changes have been promising, exceeding new student enrollment goals for spring 2024 and summer 2024, with our eyes set on a successful fall as well." The admissions team is also working to maintain our strong presence in the boroughs of NYC, while being more active in recruiting students from out of our immediate area.



◀ **Admissions Team left to right:** Kelian Rodriguez, admissions counselor; Nick Marter, assistant vice president; Gloria Chavez (front), associate director; Ricky Marchese (back) assistant director; Usama Farhat, admissions generalist; Mohammed Adnan, admissions generalist; Jissette Maldonado, receptionist

The Vaughn admissions team is often the first point of contact for aspiring students and their families, providing them with valuable information about the College's academic programs, campus life and admission requirements. They also share information about the many scholarships and financial aid options available to current and incoming students. This is critical because Vaughn's diverse student body comes from considering factors such as ethnicity, socioeconomic background, geographic location and special

talents or skills. Currently, more than 90% of students receive financial aid, which is a powerful example of how Vaughn fosters an inclusive and vibrant learning environment, and how admissions is a key part of that process.

THE ADMISSIONS TEAM

In addition to Merchant and Marter, the admissions team includes Gloria Chavez, associate director; David Wang, associate director/DSO; and new team members Bryan Fenstermacher, assistant director; Jissette Maldonado, receptionist; and Ricky Marchese, assistant director and freshman recruiter. With this experienced team in place, and the projections for graduates needed in aerospace and aviation positions at an all time high, the future looks bright. More and more students are turning to Vaughn for a solid education and a futureproof career. Marter concludes, "We just had the best open house we've ever seen with more than 400 prospective students and their families visiting the campus. Our goal is to share that Vaughn is number one in upward mobility and their success is our top priority." The admissions team is successfully carrying that message into 2024 and beyond.



JOBY AVIATION TAKES FLIGHT AT VAUGHN COLLEGE

Vaughn welcomed Joby Aviation to campus to showcase their revolutionary electrical vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) flight simulator to students, faculty, staff, alumni, politicians, airlines, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and high school students in the tristate area. Headquartered in California, Joby Aviation plans to deploy its eVTOL aircraft in New York City in 2025. Joby aircraft's vision is to change the way people travel while reducing the acoustic climate footprint of flight.

Several Vaughn air traffic control alumni returned to the College for a chance to fly in the eVTOL flight simulator and speak with members of Joby to discuss how its aircraft will operate in the highly congested airspace of New York City. Students from various middle schools and high schools including Aviation High School, St. Francis Preparatory School and Fordham Preparatory School toured the College and had a chance to fly in the simulator.

"Industry connections are critical to the success of our students and those connections are also how Vaughn College can be top-of-mind for emerging industries like advanced air mobility," said President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo. "When Joby came to us asking for space to host their simulator, we jumped on the chance to be part of



this amazing new technology effort that will launch in New York City potentially by the end of 2025. Every aspect of a Vaughn education can play a role in this burgeoning industry, and hosting Joby's simulator sent a strong signal that our graduates can support it."

Vaughn looks forward to working with Joby to develop the workforce pipeline in the region.



MICHAEL A. JOSEPH '82

Alumnus

JOSEPH EARNS HIS 15TH PATENT CONTINUING A TRAJECTORY OF EXCELLENCE



Vaughn alumnus and Advisory Council member Michael A. Joseph was awarded his 15th patent in November 2023. Joseph has a long record of successful patent submissions, and this latest grant confirms his creativity, intellectual curiosity and importance to the industry. The patent was awarded for apparatuses and methods for heating moving continuous glass ribbons at desired lines of separation and/or for separating glass sheets from continuous glass ribbons. Dennis William Buckley, Gary Lamont Hively, Jason Rudolph Koch, Ritesh Satish Lakhkar, Mark Thomas Massaro, Robert Richard Quiel and Richard Alan Quinn were also part of the team. The [United States Patent and Trademark Office \(USPTO\)](#) granted the patent.

“Michael Joseph continues to show his knowledge with each new accomplishment, and his latest patent,” says Engineering and Department Chair Dr. Hossein Rahemi. **“We are very proud of Mr. Joseph’s accomplishments, his legacy at Vaughn and his continued ability to give back to the next generation.”**

GIVING BACK

After graduating from Vaughn College, then known as the Academy of Aeronautics, Joseph began his career as a design engineer at Karl Keffer, moving on to Gibbs & Cox, and to Johnson & Johnson Ethicon, in successively senior positions. He then joined Corning as a senior project engineer, and it was the perfect match. Joseph spent more than 25 years with Corning, providing project management, team leadership, technical expertise and innovation across Corning

Environmental Technologies, Manufacturing, Technology and Engineering, Optical Communications, Specialty Materials, Display Technologies, Life Sciences and other divisions. During this time, Joseph was awarded his many patents, one of which was for inventing mechanical cutting for Corning Gorilla Glass. He also has approximately 50 international patent grants. Corning is one of the world’s leading innovators in materials science.

VANESSA BLACKNALL-JAMISON

Adjunct

VAUGHN ADJUNCT VANESSA BLACKNALL-JAMISON CONTINUES TO EXCEL

Vanessa Blacknall-Jamison is an adjunct professor at Vaughn College; a change management adviser and leadership coach with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); and chairwoman to the Board of Advisers of the [Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals \(OBAP\)](#). In fact, she was the organization’s first female, non-pilot board chair, and she championed initiatives to promote inclusivity and organizational excellence. In early 2024, Blacknall-Jamison received yet another honor: OBAP named her as its new executive director, effective April 1. Vaughn has dedicated itself to hiring some of the best and brightest adjuncts in the industry, and Blacknall-Jamison exemplifies that commitment. After she participated in the management department’s ATL sponsored Industry Insights speaker series, she signed on with Vaughn to co-teach the course Government Impact and Current Issues in the Aviation Industry, along with Vaughn alumnus Dr. Wycliff Walcott '09 an air traffic control specialist at Westchester County Airport.

Blacknall-Jamison joined Vaughn College in 2022, bringing with her a tremendous depth of knowledge. She has more than 40 years of professional aviation experience, with 28 of those as a supervisor, manager and human resources



specialist. Blacknall-Jamison has been with the FAA since 2009 as an aviation safety inspector with oversight responsibilities for American Airlines and its subsidiary, American Eagle Airlines. She previously served as the manager of emergency procedures training for pilots and flight attendants worldwide, and as a human resources senior staff specialist for United Airlines, responsible for the recruitment of minority and female pilots. Blacknall-Jamison’s expansive career in the aviation industry includes focusing on helping people grow and empower themselves.

She brings that passion to every Vaughn student.

In addition, Blacknall-Jamison believes that the Awareness, Desire, Knowledge, Ability, Reinforcement (ADKAR) model is a building block for future success. She is key to supporting Vaughn’s promise of a futureproof career.

In addition to her professional achievements, Blacknall-Jamison is deeply involved in various philanthropic endeavors, having served on the board of trustees for the Civil Air Patrol Foundation, and as chair of the board of directors for Her Many Voices Foundation. She is also a dedicated coach for Grad Life Choices, empowering individuals to reach their full potential.

VAUGHN COLLEGE
**SCHOLARSHIP
APPEAL**
2024

Vaughn College students receive more than just an education— they receive opportunities to network with professionals, hone their academic and professional skills and prepare for the futureproof careers of tomorrow.

The Professor Thomas A. Broschart Memorial Scholarship, named in honor and memory of Thomas Broschart a Vaughn alumnus and instructor for nearly 40 years in the Aviation Training Institute, provides educational opportunities to students at Vaughn College to help them pursue this dream of quality education and lifelong success.



After losing his battle to esophageal cancer in 2021, his family established the scholarship to support his commitment to quality education in the trade industry and his belief in giving back to the institution that was so prominent in his life. Today, the endowed scholarship has raised more than \$100,000 to support students pursuing a degree at Vaughn College—providing a life changing opportunity for their families in perpetuity.

Please consider giving to the College or starting a scholarship of your own.

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY

www.vaughn.edu/give-a-gift

For more information contact Stephen DeSalvo, chief development officer at stephen.desalvo@vaughn.edu or 718.429.6600, extension 353.

**PRESIDENT DEVIVO NAMED TO
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL
AVIATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024

WASHINGTON— The U.S. Department of Transportation appointed six new members and reappointed four members to the Federal Aviation Administration’s Management Advisory Council (MAC). The 13-member MAC advises the FAA’s senior management on policy, spending, long-range planning and regulatory matters.

The MAC’s newest members continue to represent a cross-section of public and private sector transportation and business leaders who share the Department’s commitment to enhancing aviation safety in a rapidly evolving world. They include:

- SHARON DEVIVO, President, Vaughn College
 - CLARE DOHERTY, Vice President Government Relations, FlightSafety International
 - HOUSTON MILLS, President of Flight Operations & Safety, UPS
 - PETER NEFFENGER, Former Transportation Security Administration Administrator and Vice Commandant of the United States Coast Guard
 - HASSAN SHAHIDI, President, and Chief Executive Officer, Flight Safety Foundation
 - PHIL WASHINGTON, Chief Executive Officer, Denver International Airport
- The four reappointed members are:
- PETER BUNCE, President, and Chief Executive Officer, General Aviation Manufacturers Association
 - LINDA DASCHLE, Former Deputy Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration
 - CHRIS HART, Former Chair, National Transportation Safety Board
 - LINDA JOJO, Executive Vice President and Chief Customer Officer, United Airlines

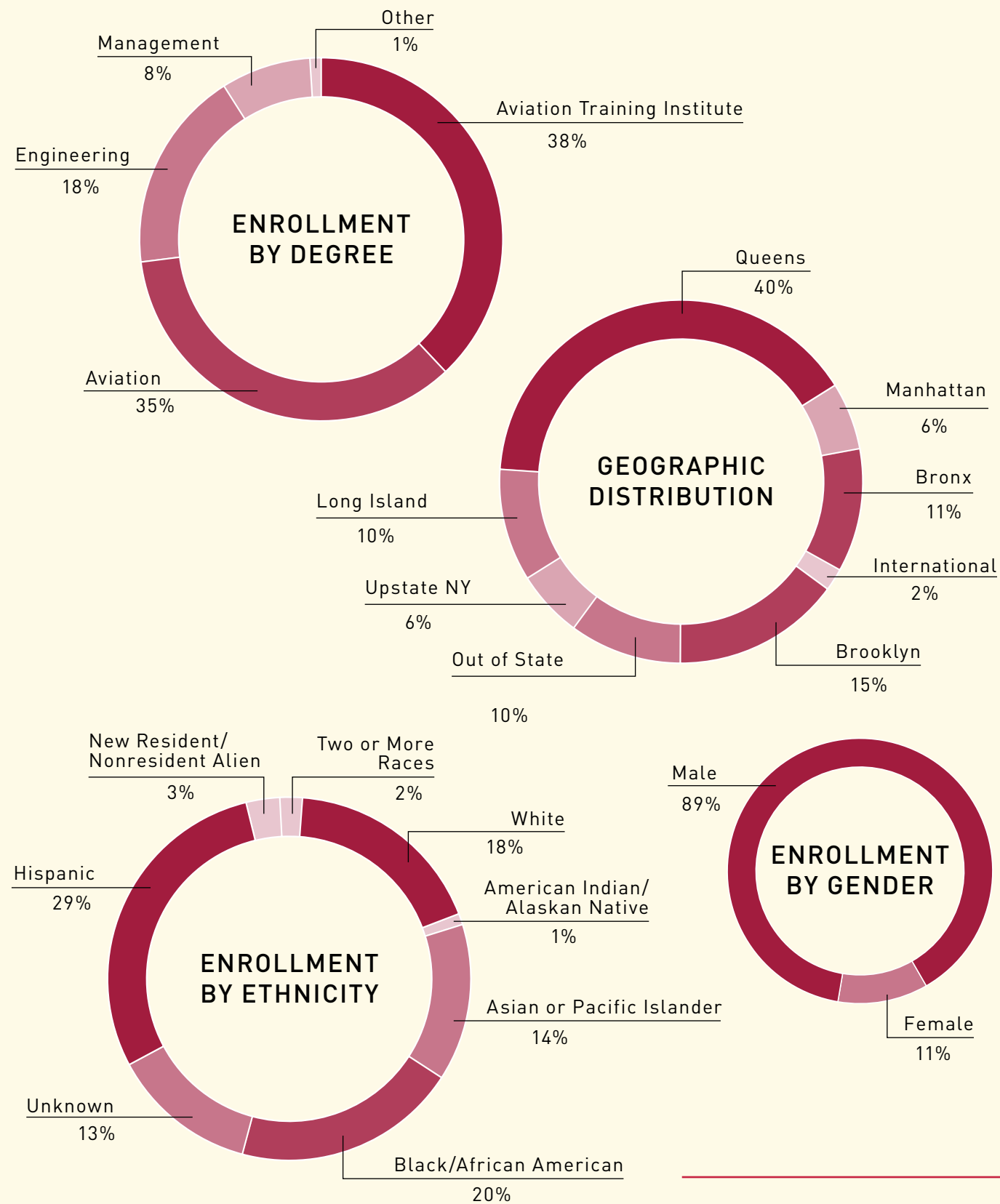
They join three statutory members: TRENT DUDLEY, Acting Associate Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, U.S. Air Force; RICH SANTA, President, National Air Traffic Controllers Association; and, POLLY TROTTENBERG, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation.

“These industry experts will guide the FAA in ensuring that America’s aviation sector remains a global leader in safety,” said FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker. “Their diverse experiences and backgrounds strengthen us, drive innovation and position us for a future full of change and opportunity.”

Created by the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996 and modified by the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, the MAC meets three times a year. MAC members serve three-year terms in a voluntary capacity and retain their public and private sector positions.



DEMOGRAPHICS, FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND ANNUAL FUND



BALANCE SHEET

	2024	2023
Total Assets	\$90,841,107	\$98,455,390
Total Liabilities	\$60,692,327	\$63,356,810
Total Net Assets	\$30,148,780	\$35,098,580
<i>Comprising:</i>		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$24,761,674	\$30,378,554
With Donor Restrictions	\$5,387,106	\$4,720,026
Total Net Assets	\$30,148,780	\$35,098,580

REVENUES AND EXPENSES

	2024	2023
<i>Revenues</i>		
Tuition and Fees	\$28,348,188	\$28,483,575
Less: Scholarships and Fellowships	\$4,033,433	\$4,358,954
Less: Federal Aid	\$194,628	\$308,465
Net Tuition and Fees	\$24,120,127	\$23,816,156
Government Grants and Contracts	\$4,481,407	\$9,065,810
Contributions, Including Equipment	\$631,587	\$394,852
Investment Income	\$670,608	\$349,693
Auxiliary Revenue	\$1,758,641	\$1,608,269
Appreciation (Depreciation) in Fair Value of Investments	\$1,852,119	(\$3,658,016)
Other	\$185,233	\$175,406
Total Unrestricted Revenues, Gains and Other Support	\$33,699,722	\$31,752,170
<i>Expenses</i>		
Educational and General	\$35,218,038	\$34,596,675
Depreciation and Accretion	\$4,098,564	\$4,107,057
Total Expenses	\$39,316,602	\$38,703,732
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	(\$5,616,880)	(\$6,951,562)
Increase (Decrease) in Temporarily and Permanently Restricted Assets	\$667,080	(\$653,189)
Change in Net Assets	(\$4,949,800)	(\$7,604,751)

THE DONOR REPORT

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► IN MEMORIA

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE AUGUSTUS VAUGHN III

JUNE 30, 1927 - APRIL 14, 2024

“So far, so good”

These words, the title he gave to his memoir, capture the optimistic and humble spirit of aviator, engineer, entrepreneur, inventor, singer and long-serving Vaughn trustee, George A. Vaughn III, son of the co-founder of Vaughn College.

“He loved problem-solving and tinkering, and his passion for engineering, aviation and family were always present,” said Peter Vaughn, chair of Vaughn College’s Board of Trustees, when asked about his late uncle, George Augustus Vaughn III. “Despite his accomplishments and his impact on a number of industries and on Vaughn College, he was never self-aggrandizing and often answered questions with ‘So far, so good,’ a combination of humility and wonderful optimism that was so typical of him.”

George A. Vaughn III, known to friends and family as Arky, was born in 1927 in East Orange, NJ, to Marion and George A. Vaughn Jr., a World War I flying ace, engineer and co-founder of what evolved from the airplane maintenance-focused Casey Jones School of Aeronautics in the 1930s to the broad-based academic institution that is Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology today.

Raised on Staten Island, Arky, his brother, James, and his sister, Jane, witnessed the birth of the school, its growth during World War II and its transformation during the postwar years. While James pursued a career in aviation and Jane in education, Arky was drawn to engineering. After serving in the United States Navy overseas, he attended Princeton University and graduated from Ohio State in 1955 with a degree in engineering. He began working at ALCOA in New York City, and in 1959, moved to Philadelphia with his wife, Martha, and continued to work for ALCOA. In 1965, Arky joined Mideast Aluminum and relocated to Princeton, where he and Martha raised their three daughters.

REVOLUTIONIZING TENNIS

Two years later, his entrepreneurial side took over. Along with fellow Princeton engineer, Dick Hargrave, he started the Maark Corporation, a company that would revolutionize the game of tennis with the design and manufacture of the aluminum tennis racquet. A major order from Howard Head propelled the successful development and launch of the Head Master, Standard and Professional racquets that won acclaim in the hands of professional players like Arthur Ashe, Stan Smith and Bob Lutz.

A new opportunity soon came from Prince: the idea of an unprecedented, oversized tennis racquet. What started as a controversial concept won mass acceptance when people saw Pam Shriver use the Prince racquet to achieve tennis stardom. In 1977, AMF, the parent company of Head, acquired Maark, and Arky became Chairman of Head Racquet Sports Worldwide. More innovations followed, notably in the use of new materials like graphite, immortalized in the Head Graphite racquet by Arthur Ashe. In a video for TenniStory, Arky commented on the use of graphite, saying, “Light and strong. That’s what you want for sports. And for airplanes. But you have to design for that.” Arky remained at Head until 1985, when AMF was purchased by Minstar Corporation, after which he was president of Cryomed Corporation and later joined Electron Transfer Technologies.



“He was an entrepreneur at heart and wanted to make things that would have an impact on peoples’ lives and drive change. I think that being a change agent is part of his legacy: the passion to solve problems and create something new. And the belief that you can accomplish almost anything by pursuing your interests and putting your skills to work. It’s an inspirational legacy.”

—Peter Vaughn

A PASSION FOR AVIATION

While his career as an inventor and entrepreneur had a huge impact on the tennis industry, his passion for aviation, engineering and Vaughn College never waned. A licensed multi-engine pilot, he flew his own planes and built his own experimental model airplane, a Fokker D. VIII replica, which he eventually donated to Vaughn and is still on campus today. He served as a Vaughn trustee from 1996 to 2017, never missing a graduation ceremony, saying, “It’s a very exciting day when the diplomas are handed out—the culmination of a lot of hard work on their part.” He was deeply committed to Vaughn’s legacy as an institution that helps first-generation college students and first-generation Americans achieve their dreams.

Despite his humility and aversion to compliments, George (Arky) Vaughn had great pride in the family legacy and worked hard for Vaughn College with a clear idea of the success he wanted the institution to achieve. Carrying the torch forward, working to pursue greater national recognition and attracting students from around the world seeking a first-class education in aviation, engineering and technology—these were vitally important to him. “He was very happy when I joined the board,” said Peter. “We would talk before board meetings, and he encouraged my involvement in a very gracious way that made serving on the board wonderful—he passed on his passion. That’s not a reflection on me—it’s a reflection on him.”

President Sharon DeVivo said that she will miss his encouragement and ongoing devotion to the College. “It was an absolute pleasure to work with George Vaughn in his role as a board member,” she said. “He was the very first chair of the institution’s fundraising committee and he was deeply committed to the long-term success of the institution that his father helped to found.” George Augustus Vaughn III died peacefully at age 96 surrounded by family. He is survived by three daughters, six grandchildren, and his brother and sister, as well as the enduring, inspiring and still-evolving legacy of Vaughn College.



Mary Anne, Olivia, Peter and George Vaughn at Commencement

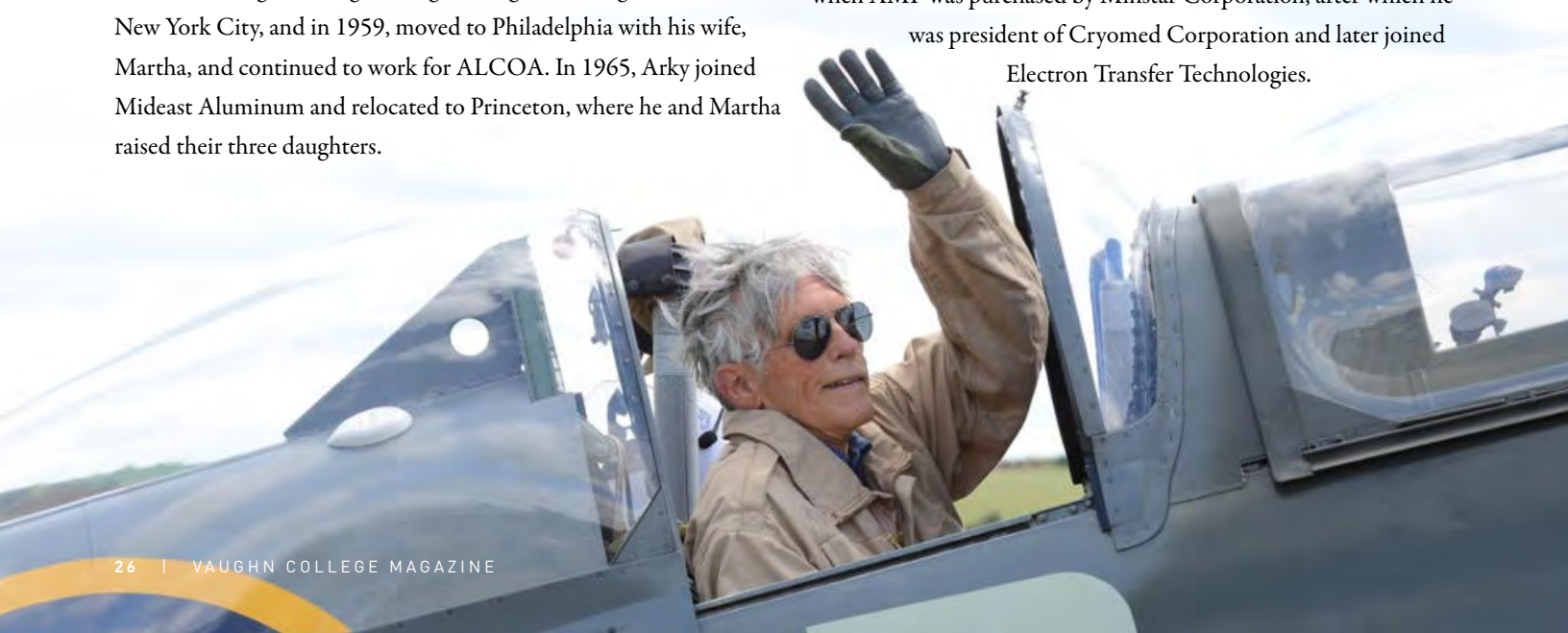
A POWERFUL CONNECTION AND ENDURING LEGACY

Peter Vaughn joined his uncle on the Vaughn College Board of Trustees in 2013, becoming the third generation of the Vaughn family to be actively involved in the college. Describing himself as a bit of an “aviation geek,” Peter recalls that during childhood visits, his uncle loved to explain how things were built, and would take a model airplane off the shelf to demonstrate a point.

“I think we both knew that I was the family member most likely to engage with the college,” said Peter, who got his pilot’s license in college. “One of the things I remember so clearly is that whenever I asked about the college, Uncle Arky always said the same thing, ‘I would love you to get involved in the college, but you’re going to have to start at the bottom.’ That was such a reflection of his humble nature.”



James Vaughn and President DeVivo



DIMITRI PAPAZOGLU '17 | Alumnus

PAPAZOGLU EARNS PHD IN MECHATRONIC ENGINEERING

It is an exciting moment for both Dimitri Papazoglou '17 and for Vaughn College. Papazoglou, a 2017 mechatronic engineering graduate, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation, and earned his PhD from the University of Dayton, in Ohio, in May 2023. It is an exceptional accomplishment, and a clear example of Dr. Papazoglou's skill and competence, as well as Vaughn's commitment to providing its students with educations that lay the groundwork for their future success.

Vaughn's [mechatronic engineering program](#) is based on the industry's most current technology and research. The curriculum was developed to combine mechanical, electrical and computer engineering to prepare students for this multifaceted industry. The mechatronic engineering program is one of only four mechatronic programs accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of [ABET](#) in the US.

Dr. Shouling He, professor, engineering and technology, sums up the pride that Vaughn feels in Dr. Papazoglou's success: "I am absolutely thrilled for him. As the first doctor among our mechatronic engineering graduates, he has set a high standard of excellence for those who follow in his footsteps." Papazoglou, whose father is from Athens, and whose mother is from Argentina, grew up on Long Island. He shares that he was never a good student until he took a class in electronics that changed everything, especially because of engineering's hands-on nature. He was also fascinated by learning how things worked. That inquisitive nature led him to mechatronic engineering, as opposed to electrical engineering, because it was a more interdisciplinary program. Since Vaughn's mechatronic program is one of the only ABET-accredited ones in the country, and on the East Coast, Papazoglou knew that Vaughn would offer an unparalleled opportunity to apply his interest in mechanical, electronic and robotic solutions to real-world problems.

"I view mechatronics as the melting pot of engineering," he says. "There are just so many applications, especially given my interest in additive manufacturing." Additive manufacturing is a process that deposits materials layer by

layer to create novel three-dimensional objects from a digital 3D model. In fact, for his dissertation, Papazoglou created additively produced lattice structures to be used as orthopedic implants for use in human bone growth research.

Currently, Papazoglou is a multidisciplinary additive manufacturing principal engineer at The Ohio State University's Center for Design and Manufacturing Excellence (CDME). Prior to joining CDME, Papazoglou was a principal investigator responsible for leading Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) projects of various technologies to support scientific excellence and technological innovation through the investment of federal research funds in critical American priorities to build a strong national economy.

"I attribute much of my current success to my time at Vaughn," he concludes. "You really get to know the professors, and their support is key to achieving personal and professional success."



MARTIN WILLIAMS, VAUGHN'S GRANT AND COMPLIANCE "CONDUCTOR" AND AN HONORED INDUSTRY MAGAZINE VOLUNTEER FOR DECADES

It takes a special skill set to make sure that important projects run smoothly, accurately and harmoniously. Martin Williams, Vaughn's grant and compliance manager, does just that, successfully overseeing more than \$4 million in grants and contracts every year. Williams joined Vaughn in 2021, and he has been providing technical support to the College's sponsored projects, supporting the development and submission of new grant proposals, the setting-up of new awards, and award-related compliance requirements. Williams was thrilled to join the Vaughn team noting that, "Vaughn is a dynamic place to work because of its commitment to students. All the funding goes to giving students the best educations in the industry, rather than going to research projects that may not touch their academic lives."

Williams has been engaged as a grants and sponsored projects professional for many years, working to increase the capacities and capabilities of institutions, organizations and applicants to achieve their aspirations by creating high-quality projects, successfully competing for external funding, responsibly managing awards and projects, and ensuring compliance with funder requirements. Before joining Vaughn, Williams was director of William Paterson University's Office of Sponsored Programs for more than 23 years. While there, he assisted faculty with the completion and submission of proposals to external funders, and helped oversee the development, post-award project management and non-financial compliance management for the university.

“When you are given a lot, it's important to give back”



MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS OF GIVING BACK

Williams is equally committed to volunteering within the industry. He has spent more than 20 years volunteering with NCURA Magazine, the official publication of the National Council of University Research Administrators. He began as a writer, then became a contributing editor, and he is now co-editor of this highly regarded publication. When asked why he dedicates so much of his time to NCURA, he replied, "When you are given a lot, it is important to give back. The organization and the industry have enriched my life so much, and I am passionate about sharing that knowledge with students to help them achieve their greatest success."

SPRING CAMPUS EVENTS CELEBRATE SENIORS AND GRADUATES



HONORS CONVOCATION

In May, the class of 2024 was honored at the [honors convocation](#) awards ceremony where the achievements of more than 50 of the classes top students were celebrated. [Elena Buenrostro](#), founder and chief executive officer of Women Who Drone, delivered the convocation address. Jewel Fletcher '24, aircraft operations major, served as student speaker and was the recipient of the Bessie Coleman Award, presented to the student with the highest cumulative grade point average who also demonstrates the professional and civic values that exemplify Vaughn's mission. Other awards included academic recognition, leadership athletics and service recognition.

GRADUATE CELEBRATION AT RAVEL

On the eve of commencement, students, faculty and staff gathered to celebrate the graduating class of 2024 and enjoy an evening full of dance music, hors d'oeuvres and night views of the New York City skyline. Students commemorated the completion of their college journey, reminisced about college memories with friends and faculty and discussed their future plans after graduation. Stephen DeSalvo, assistant vice president of institutional advancement and engagement, addressed the class of 2024 congratulating them on officially joining the Vaughn College alumni group and reminding them to stay connected by attending future alumni events as well as supporting their alma mater.



VAUGHN COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

The [92nd commencement exercise](#) was celebrated on Saturday, May 18 at the Westchester County Center in White Plains, New York with more than 200 graduates and their families in attendance for the conferring of master's, bachelor's and associate degrees in engineering, technology, management and aviation as well as certificates in drone design, application and operation and safety management systems.

▲ Captain Houston Mills, president of flight operations and safety for the United Parcel Service, was this year's commencement speaker. In his address, Captain Mills commended Vaughn College's dedication to transforming students' lives through a comprehensive educational experience tailored to prepare them for a future of distinguished careers.

▶ Carla Vasquez Chavez '24, electrical engineering graduate and this year's student speaker, was honored with the prestigious Board of Trustees Award in recognition of her exceptional academic accomplishments and dedicated service to the institution.



▶ CAMPUS UPDATES

UNITED AIRLINES SUMMER ASSOCIATES PROGRAM



▲ Vaughn College has been selected to serve as the sourcing institution for United Airlines first ever LaGuardia Airport (LGA) United Airlines Summer Associates Program. The seven students chosen for the internship are Chris Amatitla '28, mechatronic engineering, Jessie Bonilla '24, aircraft operations, Jean De La Rosa '25, mechatronic engineering, Matthew Diaz '28, aircraft operations, Matthew Flores '28, mechanical engineering, Jean Carlos Perdoma '26, aircraft operations and Roseonne Velasquez '24, electrical engineering technology.

All participants will be trained to be United brand ambassadors assisting with enhancing the customer experience and retaining United Airlines customers. Interns will be introduced into corporate experiences and various aviation related departments and functions while spending time in mentorship with a member of the United Airlines LGA leadership team.

VAUGHN COLLEGE STUDENTS ENGAGE AT AAAE CONFERENCE 2024

▶ Vaughn College sponsored student attendance at the [American Association of Airport Executives \(AAAE\)](#) Conference held in Nashville, Tennessee, from April 28 through May 1 2024. This premier event offered students an immersive experience featuring unparalleled education on industry regulations, cutting-edge airport management solutions and innovative technologies showcased in an expansive exhibit space. Students gained valuable insights and connections essential for navigating the dynamic field of airport management.



WOMEN IN AVIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

▶ In March 2024 four Vaughn students attended the [35th Annual Women in Aviation International \(WAI\) Conference](#) in Orlando, Florida. The event, one of the largest and most successful gatherings of its kind, featured world-class speakers, a bustling exhibit hall with more than 200 companies, and numerous educational sessions. With an attendance of 5,200, including international representatives from 35 countries, the conference provided exceptional opportunities for Vaughn students to connect and network with female peers in the aviation and aerospace industry, gaining inspiration and building valuable connections to aid their future careers in aviation.



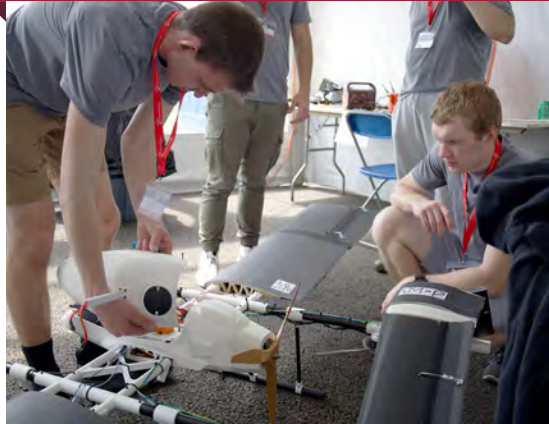
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS' 50TH ANNUAL CONVENTION



▲ A group of nearly 30 Vaughn College students attended the [National Society of Black Engineers' \(NSBE\) 50th annual convention](#) in Atlanta, GA and took full advantage of the conference to focus on professional growth, networking and community building. The vibrant culture of NSBE, dedicated to increasing the number of culturally responsible Black engineers excelling academically and professionally, was evident throughout the event. The students set and achieved ambitious goals, from securing job opportunities to building valuable connections. The unwavering support from Vaughn College's Vice President of Student Affairs Kelli Smith and Engineering and Technology Chair Dr. Hossein Rahemi was instrumental in making this endeavor possible.

CAMPUS UPDATES

UAV TEAM SHINES AT 4TH ANNUAL DESIGN-BUILD-VERTICAL FLIGHT COMPETITION



◀ Vaughn College's uncrewed aerial vehicle (UAV) team achieved an impressive 4th place finish at the 4th Annual [Design-Build-Vertical Flight \(DBVF\) Competition](#) hosted by the Vertical Flight Society. Competing against a diverse field of 16 international teams, the Vaughn team showcased their innovative hybrid design, capable of flying like both a VTOL and a fixed-wing aircraft, aimed at maximizing ground coverage. Held in Churchville, Maryland, the event featured various challenges including technical reports, presentations and both manual and autonomous flight courses. Despite harsh weather conditions, Vaughn's team demonstrated resilience and skill, securing their place among the top competitors. The competition, designed to foster interest in vertical flight and eVTOL technology, saw Texas A&M University take first place, with University of Maryland and Georgia Institute of Technology following.



ATL SPEAKER SERIES

▶ During the spring semester, seven industry professionals spoke to students regarding their experiences in the industries they serve and shared career insights. Returning guests for the ATL speaker series hosted by the management department included Greg Principato, who discussed navigating aviation with politics and William J. McGee, who spoke on ways to improve the difficulties some airline passengers face. New speakers this semester included Michel Ajjan, whose presentation focused on airline revenue management, Vic Sotenberg, who spoke about his role in overseeing air carriers and Kevin Costello, whose presentation touched on the importance of supporting air mobility moving forward.



INDUSTRY CONNECTION SEMINAR SERIES

The Engineering and Technology Department hosted its spring speaker series that included Ariel Ferrera's presentation on the margins of safety in aerospace flight structural components and Carlo Asaro's presentation on aircraft lighting and static protection.

▶ Thirty-six guidance counselors from the tri-state area gathered in the cafeteria to attend the guidance counselor luncheon hosted by the office of admissions on Wednesday, March 27. The event allowed new and returning guidance counselors the opportunity to familiarize themselves with Vaughn's programs and what the institution has to offer. Staff and faculty shared information regarding the pre-college opportunity programs, the new computer engineering program and other degree offerings. Vaughn student ambassadors accompanied the guidance counselors on tours of the College where they visited the residence hall, hangar, engineering and aviation labs.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR LUNCHEON



SPRING OPEN HOUSE



◀ More than 210 prospective students and their families filled the William R. DeCota hangar for Vaughn College's spring open house. The attendees heard about Vaughn's futureproof degree programs in engineering, technology, management and aviation, toured the campus and learned what living and learning at Vaughn would be like. In addition to the academic sessions, attendees were given a presentation on college affordability, scholarships and financial aid options that are available to help finance their college education and staff was on hand to help interested attendees fill out the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA.

▶ CAMPUS UPDATES

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH MELVYN HEARD



▲ Melvyn Heard, president of General Electric (GE) Passport and executive vice president of GE Honda Aero Engines Programs participated in an event moderated by Matthan Mbanefo '25, mechatronic engineering student and current president of Vaughn's chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers. Heard spoke about the career path which led him to GE Aerospace, his experiences as a mechanical engineer, how curiosity continues to drive his passion for engineering, the most challenging and fun aspects of his job, while providing career advice to students in attendance.

DRONE SAFETY DAY



▲ Hosted by the engineering and technology department, Vaughn College celebrated uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) or drones, through an event designed to explain the importance of UAS, their beneficial uses to society and how to operate them in a safe manner. The event was promoted on the Federal Aviation Administration's website and NY1 news reporter Chelsea Katz visited the College to interview members of Vaughn's UAS team. High school attendees were able to build and fly their own drones, watch drone mapping demonstrations, operate drone simulators and learn about exciting careers in the field.

HONORS CEREMONY



◀ Students, faculty, family and friends gathered in the main lobby to recognize the fall 2023 academic achievements of Vaughn's undergraduate and graduate students. Dr. Peter Canellis, faculty senate president; Jonathan Sypeck, assistant professor, engineering and technology department; and President DeVivo presented students with individual certificates to recognize their recognition on the faculty's list (GPA 3.50 to 3.67); dean's list (GPA 3.68 to 3.84); and president's list (GPA 3.85 to 4.0).



VAUGHN IN THE NEWS

▶ [CBS MAY 21, 2024](#)

CBS New York Investigative Reporter Tim McNicholas visited Vaughn College to report on the current air traffic controller shortage and the significant role educational institutions like Vaughn are playing to mitigate this issue. He highlighted the unprecedented summer travel surge at John F. Kennedy International Airport and showcased Vaughn's advanced air traffic control (ATC) simulation laboratories. The segment included interviews with Kyle Ratkowski '24, who is set to begin Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ATC training in Oklahoma City, and Vaughn instructor Steve Fanno, a former air traffic controller. A new FAA enhanced air traffic-collegiate training initiative, which would allow select aviation-focused colleges to conduct on-campus training sending graduates directly to a facility, was also covered. Vaughn College is poised to be a key participant in the program after submitting its application to participate in April.



▶ [CBS MARCH 8, 2024](#)

A CBS News segment at Vaughn College highlighted the impact of staffing shortages in the air travel industry, with nearly 17,000 job openings projected this year. Reporter Elle McLogan showcased Vaughn's efforts to recruit and train diverse candidates for aviation careers. Twin sisters Elizabeth and Isabella Rookhum '27, who are starting their journey at Vaughn, were featured in the report and President DeVivo discussed how federal and state aid, along with airline sign-on bonuses, are making aviation careers more accessible for students. The segment underscored the high demand for aviation professionals and Vaughn College's commitment to preparing students for this evolving industry.



▲ [PIX11 FEBRUARY 3, 2024](#)

Greg Mocker from PIX11 visited Vaughn College to report on a robotics competition hosted by Vaughn, where students competed to qualify for the Vex Worlds Championship. The event featured students from eight colleges who spent six months designing and building robots to complete tasks and score points. Seniors Chris Walker '24, a mechatronic engineering major and Mike Hefner '24, who is studying to be a commercial pilot, highlighted the hands-on learning and practical application of their classroom knowledge.

► FLIGHT CERTIFICATIONS

STUDENTS SET GOALS AND HIT MILESTONES IN THEIR FLIGHT TRAINING

► Thirty aircraft operations students set goals and hit milestones in their flight training at Heritage Flight Academy, during the spring semester. These achievements included soloing for the first time, achieving their private pilot's license, flight instructor certification, instrument rating, commercial pilots license, certified flight instructor (CFI) airplane and CFI- Instrument.



Heritage Flight Academy, located at MacArthur Airport on Long Island, trains hundreds of Vaughn aircraft operations students as part of its Federal Aviation Administration-approved Part 141 training operation. Industry partnerships such as this ensures that Vaughn's curriculum, technology and equipment is the latest and among the best in the US.



Top row, left to right: Justin Orosco '26, Ashkinaz Elsayed '27, Wilson Wu Wu '26, Gaville Edwards '24, Joshua Keller '27 **Bottom row, left to right:** Phillip Sarzynski '25, Morad Alansi '26, Steven Duran '24, Teressa La Francesca '24, Arnaldo Gilbert '24

SAVE THE DATE

**JOIN US FOR THE FOURTH ANNUAL VAUGHN OPEN GOLF OUTING
IN SUPPORT OF THE GEORGE A. VAUGHN JR. FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024
DYKER BEACH GOLF COURSE
86TH STREET AND 7TH AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY, 11228