

By Frances McKenney, Assistant Managing Editor



## Emerging Leaders

The Air Force Association established the Emerging Leaders Program in 2013 as a way to prepare volunteers for future AFA leadership roles. Emerging Leaders serve for a year. They participate on a national-level council, attend national leader orientations, and serve as National Convention delegates.

The Emerging Leaders for 2015 are: Emilie S. Boschert, Shannon M. Farrell, Deborah A. Landry, Mike Liquori, Emily C. Shay, Christopher M. Talbot, James A. Thurber, Jeremy Trotter, Eric J. Van Der Heide, and Daniel Whalen.

Here's the first profile in AFA's second group of Emerging Leaders.

### Capt. Emilie S. Boschert

**Home State:** Colorado.

**Chapter:** Mile High.

**Joined AFA:** 2007.

**AFA Offices:** State Secretary and Chapter VP for Aerospace Education. Formerly Chapter Secretary.

**Military Service:** Two years Active Duty. Now a traditional Guardsman.

**Occupation:** M.A. candidate, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver. In the ANG: space and missile warning officer, 137th Space Warning Squadron, Greeley ANG, Colo.

**Education:** B.A., University of Northern Colorado.

### Q&A

**How did you first learn of AFA?** "Through Silver Wings. ... When I was elected the chapter president, our outgoing region president gave me the contact for the Mile High Chapter and said, 'Get in touch with them. They're having a golf tournament, and you can use it for fund-raising.'"

**What made you retain AFA membership?** "The camaraderie and the mentorship and the leadership opportunities extended to me."

**Do you have new ideas for boosting AFA membership?** "I think the Emerging Leaders Program is a great start to encourage younger membership and younger people to be active."

**When not busy with her family, Boschert goes rock climbing—in this photo at North Table Mountain in Golden, Colo.**



**Kaci Heins took a student experiment on fabric absorbercy onto NASA's Zero G airplane last year. The aircraft's maneuvers allowed Heins and other teachers to experience weightlessness for 30 seconds at a time. Here, she uses stuffed toys to demonstrate Newton's Laws of Motion.**



Photo courtesy of Kaci Heins

### AFA's National Teacher of the Year

A sixth-grade science teacher from Arizona—originally the Prescott/Goldwater Chapter's top educator—received the Air Force Association's 2014 National Aerospace Teacher of the Year award at AFA's National Convention in National Harbor, Md., in September.

Kaci A. Heins, from the public charter school Northland Preparatory Academy in Flagstaff, received the honor at the Saturday evening AFA Field Awards Dinner. The photo of AFA Chairman of the Board George K. Muellner, the incoming COB Scott P. Van Cleef, and the Vice COB for Aerospace Education Jerry E. White presenting the honor quickly appeared on Northland Preparatory's Web page.

"I eat, sleep, and breathe STEM," Heins had written in her Teacher of the Year application, referring to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, "because if I'm excited when I walk in my classroom, then my students feel that energy and they will get excited as well."

In a speech at the AFA convention, Heins explained how she generates enthusiasm for STEM. Her approach encompasses such hands-on projects as making solar ovens and Lego robots.

One experiment devised by Northland Preparatory students was delivered to the International Space Station in July. The science project, on onion cell replication and mutation, represented a step in determining how food grows in space—useful to know for lengthy space journeys. But to earn a place in the payload on the Orbital Sciences Corp. rocket launch from Wallops Island, Va., to the ISS, the students had to raise a \$21,500 fee. Heins led the fund-raising, collecting half from community donations. Flagstaff's W. L. Gore & Associates provided the other half.

Heins spent five days at the AFA convention. She went to the Friday night US Air Force Band concert at the Air Force Memorial. She attended the Sunday morning memorial service paying tribute to AFA members and supporters who have died in the past year. Later that day, she "flew" the flight simulators during the delegates' tour of the Lockheed Martin Fighter Demonstration Center.

Summing up her involvement with the convention, Heins wrote on her school's Web page: "I had a wonderful time."

*At right: Bellbrook High School AFJROTC cadet Taylor Carter offers a nutritional gel packet to Air Force Marathon runners.*



Photo via Tony Chittwood

**Air Force Marathon: Can't Run it Without the Cadets**

Another record-breaking crowd of athletes—this time 15,000 registered competitors—ran the US Air Force Marathon, Half-Marathon, 10K, or 5K in September in Ohio, with cadets organized by the **Wright Memorial Chapter** providing support services.

The chapter operated a hydration stop between Mile 7 and 8 on the 26.2-mile marathon course through Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the adjacent city of Fairborn. Chapter officer Everett G. Odgers supervised the station for the fifth time.

Chapter member retired Lt. Col. Eugene A. Longo provided manpower for the station, mustering some 70 of his AFJROTC cadets from Bellbrook High School at 4:30 a.m. on race day, for the bus ride to Wright-Patt. Odgers said that as in the past years, he does the initial water stop setup, but then “60 to 80 kids roll in and take over.”

He explained that his first mass of cadet volunteers always hand out packets of nutritional gel—thick and gooey—to the runners, then several yards later, another group hands out the water to wash it down. The chapter has taken the lead on this and other tasks since 2007.

Does it take 70 volunteers to man one station? Consider the number of athletes on the course. Odgers said, “At times, we had streets full of them.”

The 18th annual Air Force Marathon’s overall winner was Steve Chu from Colorado Springs, Colo., who finished in two hours, 28 minutes. The first-place military winner was USAF MSgt. Juanjose Moran from Clovis, N.M., at 2:37. He placed third overall. Nicola Holdsworth of Columbus, Ohio, finished first among women, at 2:56. The first military women’s finisher was USAF Capt. Jackie Marotta of Newport News, Va., at 3:14.



Photo by Antonio G. Ruiz

*AFJROTC cadets from Tecumseh High School manned this food tent at the marathon. Wright Memorial Chapter members retired Col. Fred Schuster and retired MSgt. Antonio Ruiz lead their cadets in this annual volunteer project.*

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**Transitioning to the Civilian World**

“Nothing beats your network,” said Christof P. Cordes, secretary of Virginia’s **Donald W. Steele Sr. Memorial Chapter**.

The idea has guided his chapter, the **Nation’s Capital Chapter** in Washington, D.C., and American Corporate Partners in helping military personnel transition from the service.

The three entities have joined forces to hold no-host receptions, where soon-to-be veterans network with AFA and other business people.

The New York-based ACP brings to the relationship an established mentorship program specifically for vets. In 2014, according to its website, it matched more than 2,000 veteran-protégés with civilian mentors from 50 institutions. AFA for its part has been developing various initiatives for airmen in transition, aiming to complement DOD programs already in place.

Cordes himself made the jump from the Air Force four years ago. He now works for Boeing. He has been a formal ACP mentor three times and is a bridge between ACP and AFA.

Sixty people attended the first combined-organizations networking reception in January, he said. The last two attracted some 20 guests. A fourth gathering was scheduled for October.

*MSgt. Andrew Stephens (left), Jeff Lipsky (back to camera) from Analytic Services, and Col. Dale Sinnott (right) chat at a reception in Arlington, Va. These periodic gatherings introduce military members who are leaving the service to the business community. Steele Chapter’s President Kevin Lewis, Jim Lauducci, Chris Cordes, and Nation’s Capital Chapter President Bruce VanSkiver attended this no-host event in July.*



Photo by Christof P. Cordes

Cordes’ success as a mentor has come from brainstorming with his protégés, helping them come up with options.

“Do you still have the GI Bill?” he asked his first protégé, a former Army E-5. Today, that one-time soldier is a junior majoring in physics at Virginia Tech. Cordes now mentors a former marine who hadn’t been receiving responses to job applications, despite Ivy League credentials. Cordes taught him to use keywords in his résumé and how to tailor it for each job announcement. This suggestion resulted in a batch of job interviews.

As for success stories from the AFA-ACP networking receptions, Cordes cited a thank you email he received from

a guest who made a solid connection at the first gathering and landed a job interview at a TV station.

**Vroom! Vroom!**

**Chicagoland-O’Hare Chapter** President Gerald L. Ashley began riding motorcycles in 1974. The Illinois resident has owned four of them: a Honda, a Harley, a Kawasaki, and most recently a Yamaha Star 650.

“I did not own a car for six years. Just my bike,” wrote the former RED HORSE heavy equipment operator, describing a period when he lived in Arizona.

So when he was casting about for ways to interest people in joining AFA, he thought of forming an Air Force



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Association Riders motorcycle group. He launched his program this summer.

First, he registered riders, requiring AFA membership to participate.

Heather Kilheaney, who joined in July, served as ride captain for the first group ride. She planned the route and led the formation of five motorcyclists in that inaugural outing.

"The ride she put together was beautiful," commented Ashley. It started in Orland Park and went along the Des Plaines River, with a lunch stop in Wilmington. In all, it took some four hours, Kilheaney estimated.

Ashley is unable to ride two wheeled motorcycles anymore—he's looking for a three wheeler trike—and instead drove the safety car for this group ride.

The motorcycle season ended shortly after this initial ride, but in late September Ashley was already thinking about the next one, to begin in April.

This is not the first time AFA has rolled out with loud pipes. In Utah in 2006, L. Boyd Anderson, then the vice chairman of the board, fired up his red and silver three-wheeler and joined **Ute-Rocky Mountain Chapter** riders Gerald K. Wilcox—on a Harley low rider—and Ed Brisley—on a Honda Valkyrie—for a 9/11 Memorial Ride. A collection of some 70 vehicles, including dirt bikes, rode from Layton to Brigham City, where they took part in a Harley-Davidson motorcycle show.

### Ladybirds in New Jersey

The **Shooting Star Chapter** in New Jersey hosted a luncheon for author Henry Holden, then reconvened at a

*Lt. Col. Elizabeth Ortiz offers a piece of birthday cake to visitors at New York City's celebration for the 67th anniversary of the Air Force. The festivities took place at Bryant Park, with two large cakes—like this one—provided through funds from the Iron Gate Chapter. Airmen from the city and JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., also got air time on "Good Morning America" and "Fox & Friends" to spotlight the service.*



Photo by Patrick Cashin

*At right: On a Honda Shadow, ride captain Heather Kilheaney (at right) led the Chicagoland-O'Hare Chapter's first motorcycle group ride. Jo Powers, at left, checks out a Harley trike.*



Photo by Gerard L. Ashley

library afterward for his presentation on American women in aviation.

Holden based his remarks on his books *Ladybirds: The Untold Story of Women Pilots in America*, published in 1991, and *Ladybirds II: The Continuing Story of American Woman in Aviation*, published in 1993.

New Jersey State President Howard Leach explained that the library lecture was one in a series of author talks by Holden, an aviation historian and pilot who joined AFA in May. Holden has

written 37 books, many of them on aviation in the Garden State.

Leach said that the pioneering female fliers Holden spoke about in his presentation succeeded because of their dreams and dedication, positive outlooks, and sometimes a refusal to take no for an answer. ✪

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## reunions@afa.org Reunions

**Arc Light-Young Tiger Assn.** June 15-19, 2015, at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. **Contact:** Russ Stephenson (410-740-8024) ([rgsteph@msn.com](mailto:rgsteph@msn.com)).

**1st Air Transport Sq, MATS**, including memorial service and cairn dedication. Nov. 7, 2014, at 5th Wg Goose Bay Hq, Newfoundland-Labrador, Canada. **Contact:** Chris Charland (705-476-5325) ([pukkagen@cogeco.ca](mailto:pukkagen@cogeco.ca)).

### Having a Reunion?

Email reunion notices four months ahead of time to [reunions@afa.org](mailto:reunions@afa.org), or mail notices to "Reunions," *Air Force Magazine*, 1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22209-1198. We reserve the right to condense notices.



*Author Henry Holden (second from right) holds a tote bag he received as guest speaker for the Shooting Star Chapter in New Jersey in September. With him are (l-r): Chapter Secretary Toby Terranova, VP Cole Kleitsch, State and Chapter Government Relations VP Susan Loricchio, and New Jersey State President Howard Leach. He's holding a copy of one of the author's aviation books.*



*Vermont's Green Mountain Chapter members toured the 158th Fighter Wing's engine maintenance and test facility of the Air National Guard in Burlington. Here, TSgt. Scott Stone talks to the visitors about an F-16 engine.*

Photo by Richard F. Lorenz