

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

The National Society of Professional Engineers founded National Engineers Week in 1951. It's always celebrated at the time of George Washington's birthday. Our nation's first president was a military engineer and a land surveyor. The mission then, and now, is to increase public awareness and appreciation of the engineering profession.

Peninsula Engineers Council Annual Banquet

With Presentation of the 2024 Engineer of the Year and Doug Ensor Awards

Engineer of the Year—Mr. Lynn Showalter



Lynn Showalter has 40 years of experience in welding engineering at Huntington Ingalls Industries, Inc. (HII) – Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS). Mr. Showalter is NNS's Subject Matter Expert and Associate Technical Fellow for welding across the entire shipyard and across all product lines. He is highly respected not only at NNS, but also in other sectors of the HII Corporation. In addition, he is also highly respected by Shipyard's Naval customers locally and in Washington, D.C.

Throughout Mr. Showalter's impactful career, he has developed, analyzed, researched, and designed welding techniques, procedures, and specific welding applications. He has used various engineering principles to manipulate materials for fabrication and assembly processes. He has developed and prepared technical documentation in order to implement waterfront welding processes including specifications, analyses, standards, and limitations/restrictions. He has created new or modified current welding methods, techniques, and procedures in order to substantiate welding theories. He has supported the waterfront work, developed procedures, lead research and development projects, worked on nuclear systems, developed distortion mitigation sequences and so on, and he has lead or completed this across all of the product lines that have existed at NNS ranging from aircraft carriers, submarines, commercial work, new construction, overhaul, refueling overhauls, other

(Continued on page 2)

Doug Ensor Award—Dr. Benjamin Simmons



Dr. Benjamin M. Simmons has served as a Research Aerospace Engineer in the Flight Dynamics Branch at NASA Langley Research Center since 2019. In this role, he has made substantial advancements in aero-propulsive modeling and system identification for electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, enabling accurate flight dynamics simulation development. Compared to many conventional aircraft, eVTOL vehicle designs exhibit greater aero-propulsive

complexity and many interacting factors which have required development of revolutionary testing and aero-propulsive modeling strategies. These specific research advancements have helped to satisfy a high demand for accurate eVTOL aircraft simulations which have allowed technology advancements in numerous other research areas serving to enable future advanced air mobility (AAM) transportation missions. Dr. Simmons has lead and achieved significant results on several specific projects related to eVTOL modelling and simulation with confirmation and correlation to wind tunnel testing. These projects constitute substantial progress in eVTOL aircraft modeling using experimental techniques that can be applied for many current and future vehicles. The methods allow for accurate identification of dynamic models for complex aircraft configurations with significant aero-

(Continued on page 2)

Distinguished Keynote Speaker

Mr. Tom Walker

Founder and CEO of DroneUp, LLC (www.DroneUp.com)



Tom Walker is the Founder and CEO of DroneUp, an American technology company specializing in advanced commercial drone services. Previously, Tom served as an Officer in the U.S. Navy for almost 17 years, pioneering government digital reform through re-programming and web enablement of systems to support both U.S. and International Special Forces.

(Continued on page 2)

FRIDAY, February 23, 2024 – Yorktown Freight Shed,

331 Water St, Yorktown, VA 23690

5:30 PM - Social Hour, Dinner and Program, 6:30 PM

Menu: Chicken Saltimbocca; Teriyaki Glazed Salmon; Mashed Potatoes; Vegetable Medley; Caesar Salad; Rolls; Red Velvet Cake; Iced Chocolate Peanut Butter Cake

Tickets: Sponsor opportunities @ 3 levels: Platinum \$1600 for 8 tickets full table; Gold \$800 for 4 tickets half table; Silver \$400 for 2 tickets. Sponsor organizations are recognized in PEC program and website and help support the mission of the PEC.

Individual Tickets: \$60 per person.

To purchase tickets: Online to <http://bit.ly/47Kjmz3> or contact Bill LaBelle at (757) 619-9050 or your professional society's PEC representative.

Engineer of the Year—Mr. Lynn Showalter

(Continued from page 1)

availabilities, and ship repairs. Since welding is a primary function for joining materials in Naval shipbuilding, Mr. Showalter has been integral to solving literally hundreds of unique welding challenges that have occurred over his career. While carrying out these duties, Mr. Showalter has been a mentor to countless engineers within the welding engineering department but also across the shipyard as the welding engineering expert that is called upon to by his engineering peers.

Mr. Showalter earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Human Relations from Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia in 1981. He then earned dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Mechanical Engineering Technology and Welding Engineering Technology from LeTourneau University in Longview TX in 1984. Mr. Showalter has also been nationally recognized by the American Welding Society and the American Society of Materials. Mr. Showalter is a past President of the Peninsula Engineer's Council (1993). He is a six time award winner of the NNS President's Model of Excellence Award (NNS's highest award). Most employees never earn this award even once much less earning this award six times, which reflects Mr. Showalter's technical and leadership acumen as well as his service to the profession. Mr Showalter has been an active member over his career in the American Welding Society (AWS) serving in the local chapter and in several leadership positions in the national organization and has achieved Life Member status. He was elected as the AWS National Board of Directors for District #4 (2019) and was elevated to Director-atLarge (2022). He served as a technical editor for the AWS Welding Handbook 8th Edition for ASM Handbook, Vol. 6 Welding, Brazing and Soldering.

In addition to his normal duties as a leader in welding engineering, Mr. Showalter has served and volunteered in after-hours activities that involved his profession and also served the community. Examples include developing and leading the Fundamentals of Welding Technology course in the Shipyard Night School; Teaching Shipyard Operations course every term since 2000; Developed and Implemented - Supplier Technical Assessment for NNS critical component suppliers; Lead the Corporate Directed Welding Assessment of Gulf Coast Shipyards; He also served as a judge for FICA welding competitions and has 25 + years of volunteer service to various faith based non-profit organizations. Lynn is seen by his engineering peers as a dedicated person that puts in more effort than most, finding time to serve in volunteer and extracurricular activities, all while working well more than 40 hours per week as the leading subject matter expert for welding engineering.

Distinguished Keynote Speaker—Mr. Tom Walker

(Continued from page 1)

As a natural early adopter of innovative technology, his interest turned to drones many years ago. Working with a team of industry veterans and experts, Tom built DroneUp to be the largest drone delivery operation in the United States.

DroneUp's mission is to bring the tremendous benefits of drone technology to communities, businesses, and society. Clients and partners include Walmart, Brookfield Properties, Quest Diagnostics, NATO Allied Command, and many more.

Tom has served as an advisor to the White House on technology innovation and its impact on the emerging workforce and is a member of the Forbes Technology Council. He resides in Chesapeake, VA with his wife, Dyanne, and a fleet of drones.

Doug Ensor Award—Dr. Benjamin Simmons

(Continued from page 1)

propulsive coupling and many control effectors using a short amount of wind-tunnel and flight-test time, or substantially reduced time/resources required to run computational aerodynamic prediction cases.

Dr. Simmons is an active member of AIAA and is currently the Flight Test and Parameter Identification Technical Subcommittee Deputy Chair for the AIAA Atmospheric Flight Mechanics Technical Committee. He has served as a mentor for the Virginia Tech Aerospace and Ocean Engineering Alumni Mentoring Program for six consecutive years, providing guidance and encouragement for a new undergraduate Aerospace Engineering student each year. He has served as a mentor for the NASA Office of STEM Engagement and Pathways Internship Programs, providing technical mentorship and professional development support for five different student internship sessions. Dr. Simmons has participated in STEM outreach activities including serving as a volunteer at the NASA Langley Research Center Open House and serving in the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division Science Fair Mentor Program. He has formally mentored 10 different students enrolled in high school, undergraduate, or graduate degree programs from diverse backgrounds. Furthermore, Dr. Simmons has served as an influential technical mentor for several additional students and young employees in an informal but substantial role.

Dr. Simmons' contributions are recognized as exceptional by NASA and AIAA leadership and has received multiple technical honors and awards. He was highly recommended for this DEA award by his mentors and peers at NASA, US Air Force and Virginia Tech, with whom he has worked with over his career and academic journey.