



**CORDS & AWARDS  
HONORS RECOGNITION**

**MAY 2021**

CORDS & AWARDS

ORDER OF THE ENGINEER

Jacob “Bill” Zwick  
*Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering*

Amber Adkins	Vaishnavi Harikumar
Alexis Ahrens	Tyler Hoover
Anna Bartz	Robert Hudson
Kaleb Beebout	Nedah Ibrahim
Bria Booth	Jared Jones
Christopher Bowers	Marcus Kaiser
Spencer Bronco	Indigo Kaul
Nellie Brown	Austin Kendall
Mark Burrell	Dustin Kerr
Elias Celaya	Lillian Klain
Sarah Collins	Macie Kowalski
Grace Day	Kailey Kumor
Kersey Farrell	Nathaniel Larson
Emily Ferrier	Geoffrey Lawrence
Garrett Foster	Alisha Lewis
Kayla Gamble	Christopher Liapis
Akhil Gampala	Charles Long
Victoria Glessner	Eric Malmquist
Carter Greene	Trajan Maxon
Drew Grobmeier	Scott McHugh
Joseph Grosjean	Sergio Monteiro
Adam Gross	Victoria Nelson

ORDER OF THE SWORD AND SHIELD

Reginald P. Parker  
*Coordinator*  
Alexandra Armstrong

NATIONAL ORDER OF OMEGA

Kelsey Tempas  
*Coordinator, Fraternity & Sorority Life*  
Anna Bartz  
Calvin Brannon  
Collin Chen  
Grace Day  
Monica Diaz  
Madison Fougere  
Charles Harness  
Alexis Macias  
Matthew Martinez  
Nicole Rauch  
Charlie Sweetland

Maxwell Neuharth  
Kakeru Ogata  
Jacilynn Poteet  
Niki Powell  
Gabriel Pulido  
Joselyn Rabbitt  
Miranda Reilly  
Gabriel Roper  
Amber Scarbrough  
Aaron Scott  
Paul Spencer  
Abigail Stephany  
Peter Theune  
Lucas Tronstad  
Andrew Ward  
Cody Warren  
Belle Wong  
Sierra Wong  
Andrew Yockey

PHI KAPPA PHI TOP SCHOLAR AWARD

Dr. Anne Boettcher  
*President of Phi Kappa Phi, Prescott Campus, Chapter 337*  
Tyler Marie Staton

HONOR PROGRAM GRADUATES

Dr. Anne Boettcher  
*Director, Undergraduate Research Institute and Honors Program*  
Michaela Adams  
Anton Raymond Allen  
Alexandra Armstrong  
Gillian Anne Blumer  
Grace Day  
Monica Diaz  
Rebekah Elizabeth Francis  
Vaishnavi Harikumar  
Victoria Nelson  
Haley B. Rasmussen  
Joseph Samuel Revell  
Savannah Grace Riddles  
Nathaniel Treadway  
Luke Tronstad  
Haidee S. Wesala  
Thorne Spencer Wolfenbarger  
Nicole Wood

AIR FORCE DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE

Col. Douglas Carroll  
*U.S. Air Force*  
Katherine J. Mosley  
Ashton T. Serratos  
Rhett A. Wilkins  
Zachary P. MacAllister  
Eric E. Malmquist  
Joseph S. Revell

ARMY DISTINGUISHED MILITARY GRADUATE

Maj. Scott Jackson and Connie Colvin  
*U.S. Army*  
2LT Jacob R. Powers  
2LT Joshua H. Rieger

CORDS & AWARDS

PHI BETA LAMBDA

Dr. Javad Gorjidooz  
*School of Business, College of Arts & Sciences*

Mark Burrell  
Sabrina Meiklejohn  
Nicole Rauch  
Andrew Sprengelmeyer  
Charlie Sweetland

GOLDEN EAGLES FLIGHT TEAM AWARD

Dr. Juan Merkt  
*Department of Aeronautical Science, College of Aviation*

Joseph Bryant  
Brian La Fetra  
Karl Naserke  
Richard Santi  
Erin Teal  
Jonathan Van Schooten  
Joshua Wiese

CHAIRMAN'S FLIGHT AWARD

Parker Northrup  
*Flight Department, College of Aviation*

Jonathan Van Schooten

SIGMA GAMMA TAU

Dr. Mark Sensmeier  
*Department of Aerospace Engineering, College of Engineering*

Alexis Ahrens  
Anna Bartz  
Gillian Blumer  
Spencer Bronco  
Nellie Brown  
Kayla Gamble  
Vaishnavi Harikumar  
Indigo Kaul  
Alisha Lewis  
Trajan Maxon  
Sergio Monteiro  
Mackenzie Osther  
Joselyn Rabbitt\*  
Carly VeNard  
Cody Warren  
Belle Wong  
Kate Zimmerman

\*Western Region Sigma Gamma Tau Outstanding Undergraduate

NASA/ARIZONA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Elliott Bryner  
*Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering*

Luke Baird  
Trevor Butcher  
Sarah Guinn  
Marcus Kaiser  
Tara Trail  
Colter Richardson  
Amber Scarbrough  
Carly VeNard  
Jonathon Westhouse  
Thorne Wolfenbarger

TAU BETA PI, ARIZONA DELTA CHAPTER

Dr. Ed Post  
*Department of Computer, Electrical, and Software Engineering, College of Engineering*

Luke Baird  
Anna Bartz  
Gillian Blumer  
Spencer Bronco  
Mark Burrell  
Matthew Chen  
Grace Day  
Kayla Gamble  
Victoria Glessner  
Nathaniel Gressly  
Sarah Guinn  
Dai Ibrahim  
Indigo Kaul  
Austin Kendall  
Geoffrey Lawrence  
Alisha Lewis  
Riley Martinson  
Nick Meza  
Sergio Monteiro  
Maxwell Myers  
Maxwell Neuharth  
Phil Norton  
Mackenzie Osther  
Joselyn Rabbitt  
Aaron Scott  
Luke Tronstad  
Cody Warren  
Mackinnon Westerfield  
Thorne Wolfenbarger  
Kate Zimmerman

CORDS & AWARDS

CSI CERTIFICATE FOR DISTINCTIVE SERVICE TO EAGLE EYE

Professor Dale Avery  
*Department of Global Security & Intelligence Studies, College of Security and Intelligence*

Savannah Riddles

SIGMA PI SIGMA

Dr. Darrel Smith  
*Department of Physics, College of Arts & Sciences*

Alexander Barret  
Ashley Elliott  
Austin Luttrell  
Måns Mattsson  
Ryder Moreno  
Colter Richardson  
Nate Treadway

GSIS CERTIFICATE FOR OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENT  
IN CHINESE TRACK

Dr. Leeann Chen  
*Director of Chinese Studies, College of Arts & Sciences*

Nicole Wood

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: CHINESE PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AWARD

Benjamin Robinson

ETA KAPPA NU

Dr. Ed Post  
*Department of Computer, Electrical, and Software Engineering, College of Engineering*

Trevor Butcher  
Sarah Collins  
Lucas English  
Adam Gross  
Dai Ibrahim  
Geoffrey Lawrence  
Riley Martinson  
Isaiah Taylor

PSI CHI INTERNATIONAL

Dr. Erin Bowen  
*Behavioral and Social Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences*

Haley Basye  
Marta Li Bassi  
Gabriana Navarrete

ALPA ACE CLUB

Professor Sean Jeralds  
*Department of Aeronautical Science, College of Aviation*

Nicholas Fournier  
Daniel Mills-Thysen  
Hunter Vandertoll

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATORS

Professor Bill Waldock  
*Department of Safety Sciences, College of Aviation*

Andrew Gong  
Eli Murphy  
Breanna Newman  
Yingyi Shen  
Paul Sklarew

WOMEN IN AVIATION INTERNATIONAL, PRESCOTT CHAPTER

Merrie Heath  
*Academic Advising, College of Aviation*

Breanna Newman  
Yingyi Shen  
Felicity Shields-Beckham  
Charlie Sweetland  
Miyu Tsai

MD HELICOPTER SCHOLARSHIP

Clarke Pleasants  
*Department Aeronautical Science, College of Aviation*

Brandon Hutchins

GRANITE MOUNTAIN 99S

Stacey McIntire  
*Academic Advisor Fixed-Wing Flight, College of Aviation*

Felicity Shields-Beckham  
Sabrina Johnson  
Erin Teal-Stole

ACADEMIC HONORS CORDS

SUMMA CUM LAUDE – GOLD CORDS

GPA 3.90-4.00

Michaela Adams	Mikendra Kramar
Anton Allen	Alisha Lewis
Alexandra Armstrong	Sabrina Meiklejohn
Luke Baird	Francisco Meza
Gillian Blumer	Hannah Mommsen
Mark Burrell	Sergio Monteiro
Matthew Chen	Catalina Montelongo
Jake Coolidge	Gabriana Navarrete
Emilee Erickson	Aimar Negrete
Rebekah Francis	Brandon Nepute
Victoria Glessner	Karl Neserke
Nathaniel Gressly	Phil Norton
Andrew Harlow	Mackenzie Osther
Kaden Herbert	Megan Pfaff
Jeremiah Ivan	Melissa Pfeifer
Tyler Jablonski	Joselyn Rabbitt
Taek Hyeong Jeong	Haley Rasmussen

MAGNA CUM LAUDE – RED CORDS

GPA 3.70-3.89

Nayef Alkaabi	Carter Greene
Chavis Arafiles	Marcus Gregory
Dylan Ashcraft	Robert Hagen
Garett Atkins	Nelson Hall
Alexander Barrett	Charles Harness
Anna Bartz	Peter Hensley
Haley Basye	Devin Hicks
Quinn Blatchford	Parker Hoppes
William Boatner	Quinn Hunt
Spencer Bronco	Nedah Ibrahim
Davis Butler	Alexander Jonson
Ashley Carlson	Indigo Kaul
Luke Cerniglia	Austin Kendall
Collin Chen	Benjamin Lamer
Bryce Cirisan	Orion Lauer
Kaylee Coffman	Geoffrey Lawrence
Mackenzie Creighton	Ricky Lee
Connor Davis	Emma Lewis
Grace Day	Perla Lopez
Rachel DeLollis	Austin Luttrell
Lucas English	Elizabeth MacManus
Daniel Frias	Caely Maldarella
Caitlin Fuelling	Riley Martinson
Miguel Gachupin	Marcus Maschietto
Cathrin Galustian	Måns Mattsson
Kayla Gamble	Danielle Mendez

Tyler Reid
Nicholas Rice
Benjamin Robinson
Steven Rooney
Richard Santi
Aaron Scott
Tyler Staton
Charlie Sweetland
Jake Thornton
Lucas Tronstad
Jessica Waknin
Shayan Weerasekera
Zachary Wells
Haidee Wesala
Joshua Wiese
Emily Zaweski
Jimmy Zhao

Eli Murphy
Maxwell Myers
Maxwell Neuharth
Patrick Oliver
Joshua Perrino
Tyler Peterson
Nathan Province
Joseph Revell
Colter Richardson
Savannah Riddles
Josh Rieger
Sean Riley
Nicholas Rossi
Jonah Saclausa
Felicity Shields Beckham
Paul Sklarew
Ian Solomon
Samridh Sood
Andrew Sprengelmeyer
Casey Tavernier
Erin Teal
Graziana Temsah
Jonathan Van Schooten
Hunter Vandertoll
Samuel Visser
Zane Warden

Cody Warren
William Whitlock
Sara Willer

Colin Williams
Thorne Wolfenbarger
Nicole Wood

Cameron Zarnich
Kate Zimmerman

CUM LAUDE – WHITE CORDS

GPA 3.50-3.69

Alexis Ahrens
Joseph Allen
Abdulla Alzaabi
Katherine Atkins
Seungyun Baek
Niklas Becker-Brown
Tyler Bigham
Sara-Teresa Borgeily
Nellie Brown
Trevor Butcher
Allyson Campbell
Adalia Canfield
Casey Capp
Timothy Casnellie
Michael Catterlin
Amy Chibe
Sarah Collins
Brooklyn Cross
Monica Diaz
Nikolaus Dunlap
Ashley Elliott
Jeremy Fleming
Nathan Flood
Nicholas Fournier
Scott Gribble
Adam Gross
Sarah Guinn
Peighton Gumm
Matthew Heinrichs
Paul Hemsworth

Alexander Hernandez
Tara Hoefig
Tyler Hoover
Brandon Hutchins
Jared Jones
Matthew Jungkeit
Gurvinder Kochhar
Matthew Konicki
Kailey Kumor
Ethan Ky
Brian La Fetra
Eric La Macchia
Alex Lambert
Nicholas Lara
Marta Verdun Li Bassi
Jonathan Lopez
Zachary MacAllister
Ryan Mahoney
Matthew Martinez
Ryan Maslowas
Trajan Maxon
Dylan McCoy
Zachariah Merced
Jeffrey Middleton-Garces
Daniel Sam Mills-Thysen
Katherine Mosley
Kakeru Ogata
Infiniti Parker
Charles Petersen
Daniel Pietz

Jacilynn Poteet
Niki Powell
Jacob Powers
Cayden Present
Nicole Rauch
Quinn Razak
John Roberts
Gabriel Roper
Nicholas Roush
Brian Sandford
Sascha Scheidegger
Riley Schuck
Cali Singleton
Chandler Stewart
David Stiller
Zoe Streadbeck
Nolan Tifft
Nathaniel Treadway
Vanessa Vallejo
Carly VeNard
Charles Von Rosenberg
Payton Vratil
Adam Walker
MacKinnon Westerfeld
Anna Wockenfuss
Belle Wong
Noah Yarnell
Andrew Yockey
Hee Joon Yoo

MASTERS – GRADUATING WITH DISTINCTION

Recognition of academic excellence with distinction is awarded to graduate students completing a master's program with a 4.0 Cumulative Grade Point Average.

Karolina Bergman
Zachary Bray
Breanna Newman
Yingyi Shen

STUDENT ATHLETE RECOGNITION

Ms. Jaime Long

Director, Athletics Department

Phil Hess

Assistant Director, Athletics Department

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Kaden Herbert

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Kamryn Brown

Melissa Pfeifer

Bethany Wolph

MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY/DISTANCE TRACK

Lucas English

Austin Luttrell

WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY/DISTANCE TRACK

Emma Lewis

MEN’S GOLF

Joseph Allen

MEN’S SOCCER

Måns Mattsson

Sergio Monteiro

Stefano Recinos

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Claire Cashmore

Peighton Gumm

Riley Martinson

Mackenzie Osther

Graziana Temsah

SOFTBALL

Haley Basye

Mikendra Kramar

Zoe Streadbeck

WRESTLING

TJ Hall

Today's outstanding graduates have been selected by the professors in their degree program. The accomplishments for each outstanding graduate appearing in this program have been provided by their program chair.

Michaela Adams

Cyber Intelligence and Security

Michaela Adams is graduating with a major in Cyber Intelligence and Security and a minor in Mandarin Chinese, being on the Dean's List and Honor Roll. Apart from extraordinary leadership in various activities at Embry-Riddle, she has shown a strong will to support the broader cybersecurity community and earn recognition for our university. Michaela contributed to the honors and the women ambassador's programs at Embry-Riddle. She led the Cyber Defense Club and co-founded/led the first Women in Cyber Security Club of Arizona. She excelled as the technical lead for the Embry-Riddle-Boeing multi-disciplinary capstone project. She completed cybersecurity internships at leading aerospace and mass entertainment organizations and accepted a full-time cybersecurity position in one of the prominent U.S. government R&D centers, from many of the job offers available to her. She shows what a cyber warrior can accomplish in less than 4 years!

Haley Basye

Forensic Psychology

Haley Basye is graduating with her Bachelor of Science in Forensic Psychology. Along with being one of the top performing students in her program, Haley also is a collegiate athlete on the Embry-Riddle softball team. During her softball career at Embry-Riddle, Haley was the first freshman in the team's history to make the All-Region Team due to her top 50 rankings in multiple hitting categories nationally, resulting in invitations to play on the U.S. National Softball team during the summers. Perhaps even more impressive, Haley was accepted into the Department of Justice's Phoenix Division Internship Program, making her the youngest person to occupy that honor. While navigating a heavy course load and athletic schedule, Haley has maintained this internship position for the past few years, working in both the national security and criminal divisions. Academically, Haley is an excellent student maintaining a high GPA throughout her program, and was selected for membership in Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. Haley's most recent academic achievement was receiving a URI grant to continue her independently-driven research study. While pursuing her research agenda, Haley recently completed a series of master's courses through Embry-Riddle Worldwide and is applying to Park University to pursue a Master's Degree in Communication and Leadership.

Karolina Bergman

Cyber Intelligence and Security

Karolina Bergman is graduating with a M.S. in Cyber Intelligence and Security. She came into this grad degree program after completing her bachelor's degree in Global Security and Intelligence studies and minor programs in Computer Science and Mandarin Chinese at Embry-Riddle. While achieving this very unique background, she has demonstrated exceptional academic performance throughout and shown extraordinary skills in various activities during her study. She has focused on new, exciting, and challenging topics such as blockchain and autonomous vehicle cyber security. Extra-curricular activities during her graduate degree included contributing to Arizona's first Women in Cyber Security (WiCyS) club and motivating others to engage in cybersecurity topics!

Tyler Bigham

Air Force ROTC

Cadet Bigham is an Air Force ROTC Cadet who has excelled while completing his bachelor's degree in Global Security and Intelligence Studies - Mandarin track, with a minor in Defense Studies. Cadet Bigham has repeatedly been on the Dean's List and Honor Roll. Impressively, Cadet Bigham's undergraduate research on the largest ever Cadet Wing restructuring program called RECOIL (Restructuring Cadet Organization, Instruction, and Leadership) was published through the university's Undergraduate Research Institute. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership as part of the special operations pre-candidate program, field training preparation flight commander, and squadron commander, candidate training officer for Arnold Air Society (AAS), AAS Region X Director of Operations, and as a physical fitness officer (PFO) for AFROTC. During his time as PFO, Cadet Bigham set detachment records for average physical fitness scores. His problem solving and critical thinking allowed physical fitness operations to take place during a time when few universities nationwide were conducting fitness in-person due to COVID-19. He also volunteers to train and mentor students interested in special forces career fields. Cadet Bigham continually demonstrates academic prowess, and exudes the highest qualities of an AFROTC cadet and Embry-Riddle student. He is most deserving of this Outstanding Graduate distinction.

Gillian Blumer

Aerospace Engineering

The Aerospace Engineering faculty is proud to announce Gillian Blumer as the Outstanding Graduate in Aerospace Engineering (Aeronautics Track) for Spring 2021 commencement. Coming to Embry-Riddle from Albany, Oregon, Gillian achieved a stellar academic record. She has been involved in several projects, most

# OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

notably the Human Powered Aircraft team and her capstone project developing a Flying Wing Training Glider. She completed an internship with Exotic Metals Forming Company in Kent, Washington, where she designed a database for improved information flow between manufacturing cells. Gillian has been very involved with the greater community, serving as a mentor for the Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program in Prescott, and spending a year of faith-based service strengthening neighborhood unity through youth events and programs to aid in literacy and moral development with middle schoolers. She was inducted into the Sigma Gamma Tau Aerospace Engineering honor society, the Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society, and Phi Kappa Phi honor society. Her future plans include a position with NAVAIR Fleet Readiness Center and eventual a Master's and/or Doctorate degree in propulsion engineering, as well as to get back to community theater, Jazzercise, hang gliding, and getting a private pilot's license.

**Mark Burrell**  
*Software Engineering*

Mark Burrell is the Outstanding Graduate in Software Engineering for spring 2021 based on his academic achievements and campus involvement. Mark was graduated from Capital High School in Olympia, Washington where he was an active member of FIRST robotics and also participated in the band program. At Embry-Riddle, Mark served as student chair of the IEEE student chapter and has organized and participated in the IEEEEXtreme programming competition for the past three years. Additionally, Mark has served as a tutor for numerous CEC/CS/SE courses and was recognized as Tutor of the Year for 2019-2020. Mark has also been involved in several projects over his time here, including designing a proof of concept for a rail-borne drone to reduce freight train collisions, a prototype for a system to schedule tutoring appointments, and a consulting project for an international autonomous vehicle testing firm. During the summer, Mark had internships with Pioneer Technologies Corporation in Olympia, Washington and at Amazon. Mark is a member of the Arizona Delta Chapter of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. After graduation, Mark will move to Bellevue, Washington to work as a software engineer with Amazon in their consumer trust and partner support organization. Congratulations, Mark!

**Ashley Carlson**  
*Aeronautics*

Ashley Carlson has excelled academically by earning a place on the Dean's List during every semester that she has attended Embry-Riddle. She has served the College of Aviation, the campus, and her peers as the SGA representative to the College of Aviation, as a member of the Flight Line Student Advisory Board, the

Graduation committee, the OctoberWest committee, and the Orientation committee. In each position she has held, Ashley has a gift for identifying and meeting needs. She will leave the campus a better place than she found it while graduating in just three years. In her personal time, she participated in Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship and the photography club, served as a nanny for a local family, works as a referee for youth soccer, and works 25 hours each week at the maintenance hangar at the flight department. Ashley was a joy to have in class, has earned the respect of the faculty who know her, and truly embodies what it means to be an outstanding graduate.

**Matthew Chen**  
*Electrical Engineering*

Matthew Chen is the co-Outstanding Graduate in Electrical Engineering for spring 2021 based on his academic achievements and campus involvement. Growing up and graduating from high school in Houston, Texas, Matthew wasn't really sure what he wanted to study. Embry-Riddle caught his attention, and the concept of flight seemed interesting, so he enrolled in aerospace engineering. After his first semester Matthew realized that aerospace didn't feel like a fit for him, so he switched to electrical engineering. While taking more specialized electrical engineering courses, Matthew noticed how much he enjoyed the subjects and the concepts he studied in class accelerated his learning in the field. In most cases, Matthew enjoyed going to class and also had fun with the many labs in the program. Matthew was involved in numerous on-campus organizations where he participated in everything from helping with service projects to organizing game nights. Looking back, Matthew attributes some of his success here to finding a good balance between academic work and personal activities. Matthew is a member of both Eta Kappa Nu and Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Societies. After graduation, Matthew will work for Tectron Systems in Hunt Valley, Maryland as a test engineer. Congratulations, Matthew!

**Connor David**  
*Unmanned Aircraft Systems*

It is our pleasure to select Connor David as the Outstanding Graduate for the UAS Program. Connor was very thorough in his GEO classes. He has been an excellent scholar by going above and beyond the course requirements. He often asks pertinent questions and shows interest in the topic. When Connor is not in class or studying, you can find him in the UAS lab where he spends his time organizing, giving a hand on various projects, helping other students, or simply practicing his flying skills on the simulator. He was instrumental in setting up and testing our new Matrice 600 UAS and spent hours researching the unit and troubleshooting

unforeseen issues. He also showed interest in the new LIDAR unit and helped the lab staff set up and test flight the payload. Connor is always looking to lend a hand and get involved and we will miss him around the lab when he graduates.

**Ashley Elliott**  
*Space Physics*

Ashley Elliott is set to graduate in Spring 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Space Physics. Over the years, she has performed at a high level in a myriad of challenging physics and math courses. What is so amazing about Ashley is her ability to juggle so many different tasks at once. She has worked in a large variety of science and outreach-related jobs on campus like the Jim & Linda Lee Planetarium, a laboratory Assistant Teacher, and an orientation leader. In physics, she has worked on research with Dr. Darrel Smith with neutrinos, and is now working on astrophysics research with Noel Richardson. Her outstanding performance as Laboratory TA has led to her being the head TA this year as well as a TA of the gauntlet Optics course. She already had an internship in summer 2020 at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. She plans pursue a Ph.D. in Astrophysics and has already received an offer for the graduate program at Louisiana State University. Ashley is outstanding in so many ways and she deserves recognition as an outstanding Space Physics graduate.

**Victoria "Vee" Glessner**  
*Aerospace Engineering – Astronautics*

The Aerospace Engineering faculty is proud to announce Victoria "Vee" Glessner as the Outstanding Graduate in Aerospace Engineering (Astronautics Track) for Spring 2021 commencement. Coming to Embry-Riddle from the Seattle area, Vee made the most of her time in Prescott. In addition to her outstanding academic record, Vee has been a true campus leader. She helped found the Embry-Riddle-Boeing Internship Ambassador Program which she has led for 3 years. She has been involved with the Horizons campus newspaper for her entire tenure, the last 3 years as the Chief Copy Editor. Her technical project experience includes an asteroid mission development and her capstone project developing a ground rover and autonomous terrain-mapping solution. Before she arrived at Embry-Riddle, Vee had completed summer opportunities with the FAA and Boeing. She has continued her involvement with Boeing every summer since, including internships in maintenance training data analytics, interiors engineering integration, and studies on braille and tactile solutions for visually impaired passengers. A member of the Society of Women Engineers, Vee has also served as Secretary and President of our Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society chapter. After graduation, Vee will join the Honeywell Corporation as an Avionics Systems Engineer,

developing next-generation cockpit technology. She plans to pursue an MBA and to apply her skills in organizational leadership. Ultimately, she would like to teach, either in an industrial setting or at the university level (perhaps at Embry-Riddle).

**Brandon M. Hutchins**  
*Aeronautical Science – Rotary Wing*

Brandon Hutchins is the College of Aviation's Spring 2021, Aeronautical Science – Rotary Wing Outstanding Graduate. In addition to his Helicopter major in the Flight Education Track, he has minors in Aviation Safety and Aviation Business Administration. Brandon has completed all of his flight training (CFI/CFII) with Universal Helicopters and is now a Stage Pilot and Flight Instructor for UHI where he teaches and helps his fellow students obtain their flight certificates. While at Embry-Riddle, Brandon was awarded an internship to spend the summer of 2019 in Houston, Texas, working with Gulf Coast Helicopters. There, Brandon's dedication to flying and customer support allowed him to conduct professional commercial operations. Experiences at Embry-Riddle allowed for multiple networking opportunities, resulting in several job offers after graduation in May. Brandon is a Massachusetts native and hopes to win the MD Helicopter, Inc. Scholarship before starting his flying career this summer.

**Jeremiah Ivan**  
*Simulation Science, Games and Animation*

Jeremy Ivan has the perfect blend of creative ambition and technical prowess gained through his excellent work ethic, passion, and talent. His class participation is consistent over four years, as demonstrated GPA. What makes Jeremy different is that he not only strives to complete the work, he is consistently passionate about what he produces. He completes his course work on time and with inspirational intent. Jeremy seeks advice and mentorship. Before each summer, Jeremy met with faculty to discuss plans for how to best spend it building his skills and portfolio of work. Jeremy now has a fantastic body of work prepared for promising opportunities that await him. Jeremy is a student that breathes life into a classroom. His friendly personality, willingness to participate, and help others is invaluable. He does not hesitate to help others with thoughtful advice. Because of this, SSGA often relied on Jeremy to participate as a Program Assistant and Student Ambassador. He is a founding member of the Computer Rendering, Art & Design Club. Jeremy is also a leader engaged in community service, further demonstrating his exceptional personality and commitment to others. We have no doubt that Jeremy will make Embry-Riddle and SSGA proud as an alumnus.



# OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

**Payton Curtis Mair**

*Army ROTC*

Coming from Heber City, Utah, Cadet Mair received a 3-year AD National Scholarship to attend Embry-Riddle. While completing his degree in Global Security & Intelligence, with minors in Middle Eastern Affairs and Military Science, Cadet Mair has repeatedly been on the Dean's List and is often mentioned as a top performer by his instructors. He has demonstrated excellent leadership and initiative as he progressed through his studies at Embry-Riddle. He has mentored underclassmen, treats others with respect, and has a professional attitude when working with administrators and the community. As a top performing Cadet, he was selected to attend Jungle Operation Training Course held in Honolulu, Hawaii. His can-do attitude, problem solving skills, combined with physical fitness contributed to his survival of completing the course rather than dropping out. The soldiers who go through the course become jungle trainers and receive the Jungle Expert tab. Cadet Mair will commission on May 7, 2021 into the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant. He will attend BOLC in Fort Benning, Georgia. His first duty station in Active Duty Infantry is TBD. Congratulations 2LT Mair and good luck!

**Sabrina Meiklejohn**

*Aviation Business Administration*

We are pleased to present Sabrina Meiklejohn as the Outstanding Graduate in Aviation Business Administration. Sabrina's achievements on and off campus are laudable. She was the team lead on a capstone consulting project with Tripod House in Norway, helping with U.S. market integration. Her team's efforts directly allowed the client to gain funding from the Norwegian government to bring their housing concept to the U.S.. As the recipient of the School of Business Women of Excellence Award, her academic accomplishment is superior. Sabrina is the 2019 Phi Beta Lambda State Champion in Accounting Analysis and Decision Making. She was the lead loader and flight coordinator for both Challenge Air in Colorado and Sky Kids in Scottsdale, Arizona, helping children with disabilities experience the joy of flight. Sabrina is on the last round of interviews with the Boeing Business Career Foundation Program (BCFP) and has job offers from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Avidyne. She is hoping to land a position with Boeing that would start in July 2021 and then pursue a master's degree in Aviation and Aerospace Management at Purdue University in the fall of 2021! Congratulations Sabrina!

**Nick Meza**

*Mechanical Engineering*

Nick Meza survived cancer to become the Spring 2021 Mechanical Engineering Outstanding graduate. After spending too much of his childhood in hospital, Nick

came to Embry-Riddle to study robotics. While here he earned a nearly perfect grade point average while leading the fabrication team for the Advanced Vehicle Lab student club developing a vehicle to break the electric vehicle land speed record. Nick honed his hands on manufacturing skills working in the AXFAB machine shop building parts for other student organizations and capstone projects. For his own capstone project, Nick and his team are applying their engineering skills to develop a robotic prosthetic leg. Nick also interned with SpaceX in Florida where he applied his robotics knowledge to significantly improve their manufacturing process for thermal protection systems. The Mechanical Engineering faculty is proud to name Nick this year's outstanding graduate.

**Gabriana Navarrete**

*Industrial Organizational Psychology*

Gabriana "Gabi" Navarrete was born in Mountain View, California and grew up in the Bay Area prior to attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. During her four years at the Prescott campus, Gabi has been studying Industrial/Organizational Psychology. An outstanding student, Gabi was selected for membership in Psi Chi, the International Honors Society in Psychology. Gabi has participated in various research projects in collaboration with faculty, including a collaborative project on relapse prevention with Dr. Kathy Lustyk that was published in the Encyclopedia of Behavioral Medicine. While at Embry-Riddle, she learned the importance of applying psychological theories to better understand, manage and predict human behavior in the workplace. In her senior year, Gabi completed a six-month internship with Drake Cement where she worked and contributed to the recruitment and onboarding process in the Human Resources Department.

**Brandon Nepute**

*Cyber Intelligence & Security*

Brandon Nepute is graduating with a major in Cyber Intelligence and Security and a minor in Computer Science. Apart from the Dean's List and Honor Roll, Brandon ranks highest academically among the spring 2021 graduates of this degree program. He has shown extraordinary skills in various activities during his study here at Embry-Riddle and faculty have great things to share about his knowledge and abilities. He has shown leadership in co-founding and co-leading the Ethical Hacking Club and Data Privacy Club. He has demonstrated technical excellence in the Embry-Riddle-Boeing multi-disciplinary capstone project. Brandon has never hesitated to tackle complex technical problems and has proven himself to be a great role model for his peers to consistently challenge themselves to excel!

**Breanna Newman**

*Master of Safety Science*

Breanna Newman excelled in the Masters of Safety Science program while balancing employment in the safety management field as an assistant to the university Safety Manager. A USAF veteran and licensed aircraft mechanic, she also helped maintain the universities fleet of aircraft. Her capstone research is centered on utilizing LiDAR to measure potential deformities in order to identify potential failures prior to them being visible to the naked eye. Breanna is an outstanding student and quick learner who continuously goes the extra mile in everything she does. She has spent time helping her fellow students with their studies and learning to utilize new lab equipment for research. Breanna plans to pursue a career in aviation safety following graduation.

**Melissa Pfeifer**

*Electrical Engineering*

Melissa Pfeifer is the co-Outstanding Graduate in Electrical Engineering for spring 2021 based on her academic achievements and campus involvement. Melissa hails from Kansas and came to Embry-Riddle with desires of living in a place with nicer weather, obtaining a well-regarded education, and playing college basketball. Melissa did not start out in engineering, but transferred into electrical engineering attracted by the higher value and greater challenge that she sensed was inherent in that degree. During her five years here, Melissa demonstrated a laser-focus on high achievement in both academics and sports. Melissa was a four-year starter on the women's basketball team and was named a team captain in her senior season. She excelled at the multi-tasking necessary to achieve simultaneous success in two demanding pursuits. During summer breaks Melissa completed three internships where she gained experience in analysis, system testing, leadership, project management, research, data science, and printed circuit board design. After graduation, Melissa has accepted a position with a government agency that will allow her to pursue her interest in human-centered, high-level work. Congratulations, Melissa!

**Daniel Pietz**

*Computer Engineering*

Daniel Pietz is the Outstanding Graduate in Computer Engineering for spring 2021 based on his academic achievements and campus involvement. Daniel's initial draw to Embry-Riddle was a program that allowed him to begin taking courses on campus after freshman year of high school. His first year consisted of daily commuting between Prescott High School and Embry-Riddle, but soon he was able to leave PHS and become an Eagle full time. By taking credit overloads as well as summer classes, Daniel was able to complete B.S. degrees in both Computer Engineering and Software Engineering

in four years. During fall 2018, Daniel approached his mathematics professor, Dr. Christopher Briggs, to discuss a numerical analysis algorithm Daniel had developed on his own. With Dr. Brigg's assistance, Daniel presented his ideas at a 2020 Joint Mathematics Meeting poster session in Denver, Colorado, and ultimately published a paper in the Rose-Hulman Journal of Mathematics in January 2021. Additionally, Daniel consults for the cryonics company Alcor where he develops software and hardware systems for various projects. Following graduation, Daniel will start the Ph.D. program in Electrical Engineering at Arizona State University where he plans on investigating VLSI for artificial intelligence systems. Congratulations, Daniel!

**Colter Richardson**

*Space Physics*

Colter Richardson is set to graduate in Spring 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Space Physics. Over the years, he has performed at a high level in a myriad of challenging physics and math courses. Colter's undergraduate research is outstanding. He has worked on Core Collapse Supernovae research with Dr. Zanolin and has been a member of the LIGO scientific collaboration for most of his time at Embry-Riddle. In 2018 and 2019 he won awards for outstanding student presentation at American Physical Society conferences. He already has two co-authored papers in the prestigious Physical Review D published and was invited as a spokesperson for our LIGO research group to speak at a top institution in Japan. Also, he has worked in a variety of jobs on campus, including the Dean of Students Office and he has been a laboratory assistant teacher for the Optics course, as well as participating in science outreach activities. Colter is headed to physics graduate school at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He has been one of our most successful graduates in Space Physics and deserves recognition.

**Sean Riley**

*Global Business and Supply Chain Management*

We are pleased to present Sean Patrick Riley as the Outstanding Graduate in Global Business and Supply Chain Management. Sean has excelled in the classroom making the Dean's List every semester while in the School of Business and earning a reputation for his critical thinking and analytical skills in his courses. Outside of the classroom, he has provided outstanding support to the Dean of Students for three years including graduation lead for two consecutive semesters and assisting with families during orientation. In 2019, Sean was selected by Rotary International as only one of three University students in Arizona to study at the University of Westminster in London and continues to provide mentorship for future study abroad students.



OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

He was also hand-selected to present to our Business Industry Advisory Board on his global consulting project experiences and is currently pursuing a consulting career in operations, supply chain or global management. Congratulations Sean!

**Yingyi Shen**  
*Master of Safety Science*

Yingyi “Amanda” Shen has been a stellar performer throughout her time in the Master’s program. She is always looking to expand her knowledge and share with fellow students. Her capstone project is researching the lack of regulations with regard to fatigue that exist in flight training environments. Along with her research she also is a member of the Prescott Chapter of Women in Aviation where she serves as the Chapter Secretary. She also gives back to the community and recently was a volunteer for the Girls Day in Aviation hosted by the local chapter. Amanda was the awardee of the prestigious Robertson/ISASI Fellowship and spent many hours working in the Aviation Safety Archives digitizing the archives to make them available worldwide.

**Tyler Staton**  
*Forensic Accounting/Fraud Examination*

Tyler Staton is a highly motivated student who worked hard to not only achieve academic excellence but also get involved in her future career while in college. This included taking part in internships, as well as serving as the Vice President (VP) of Events for the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) club on campus. During one of her internships, she uncovered a financial fraud and helped report it to the proper authorities. In Tyler’s role as VP of Events of the ACFE club, she was able to network with forensic accountants and help pave the path for her future career. Tyler took an active role in her education throughout her time at Embry-Riddle, which should pay dividends as she prepares to enter the workforce!

**Erin Teal**  
*Aeronautical Science – Fixed Wing*

Erin Teal has exemplified the very best of the Embry-Riddle Eagles through her extensive involvement on and off campus. During her time at Embry-Riddle Prescott, Erin not only held a regular place on the Dean’s List for her extraordinary academic work, she was also recognized with both Presidential and Women of Excellence scholarships. She served as Administrative Officer of the Golden Eagles Flight Team, Webmaster for the Yavapai chapter of the Ninety-Nines, and participated in the Eagle Music Club and the Women in Aviation International Club. Erin plans to remain in Prescott to earn

her Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) rating, because she finds teaching to be enjoyable and rewarding. Ultimately, she hopes to become a First Officer at Republic Airways, where she is already a Student Ambassador. Her long-term goal is to fly for Southwest Airlines.

**Zoe Streadbeck**  
*Air Traffic Management*

Zoe Streadbeck is a student athlete born and raised in Ewa Beach, Hawai’i who will obtain a bachelor’s degree in Air Traffic Management with minors in Safety Aviation and Business Aviation Administration while also completing the aircraft dispatch program. She has been on the Embry-Riddle women’s softball team for the past four years and gained a lot of insight on being a leader and working as a team. On top of being a student athlete, she has been a part of the Eagle Gym’s staff and an Air Traffic Control lab assistant. While maintaining good grades throughout college and being on the Dean’s List and Honor Roll, she has been recognized as a NAIA scholar athlete. Zoe has a continual drive to challenge herself, her coworkers, and the students she teaches. She never stands down to any challenge and is a wonderful asset to have on a team, making any environment she is in a fun and dynamic atmosphere. Her plan is to continue to pursue her dream to become a controller for the Federal Aviation Administration.

**Jessica Waknin**  
*Applied Biology*

Jessica Waknin is our first graduate of the Applied Biology program and is our outstanding graduate. She not only maintains an excellent GPA but has been a teacher’s aide, volunteer tutor, winner of Rudy Arena Academic scholarship, and has done doctor shadowing at the several local medical facilities. She has an excellent GPA, as well as being the top student academically in many of her classes.

**Zane Warden**  
*Applied Meteorology*

Zane Warden, from Vega, Texas, was valedictorian of his high school class and was awarded both a Presidential Scholarship and an Air Force ROTC scholarship to attend Embry-Riddle. While in AFROTC, Zane has held many leadership positions, including Flight Commander and a Group Chief of Standards and Evaluation. As a freshman Flight Commander, his flight was awarded “Honor Flight” for exhibiting the highest standards in the Cadet Wing. He also co-led a series of AFROTC Wing Exercise sessions involving over 200 cadets. Zane has both participated in and organized multiple community service and philanthropy events. As a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity on campus, he was elected as the Philanthropy Officer for two years where he organized

and participated in ADOT’s Adopt a Highway trash cleanup program and also set up multiple philanthropy events for the Yavapai Humane Society, Yavapai Food Bank, Australian Wildfires of 2019, and more. Zane has maintained high semester GPAs, which have never fallen below 3.5. For his outstanding academic achievement, he was invited and inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Following graduation, Zane will become a part of Space Force and begin training at Vandenberg AFB near Lompoc, CA.

**Haidee Wesala**  
*Global Security and Intelligence Studies*

Haidee Wesala has been consistently an outstanding student. Quiet and nice, yet determined and persistent, Haidee truly deserves this honor. She has been the most punctual student for all classes, homework, and appointments. She also devoted hours of time helping other students. On the leadership team of Project Pengyou Club, Haidee contributed to the management of activities, such as the COVID 19 outdoor Chinese New Year celebration on campus, performing Chinese martial arts multiple times. Furthermore, Haidee is also an honors student, as well as a member of the national honor society, Phi Kappa Phi

**Sara Michele Willer**  
*Forensic Biology*

Sara excelled in her studies at Riddle while volunteering her time and leadership to support other students and community members through many extra-curricular activities and organizations. As an example of her leadership and contributions, Sara has been an invaluable asset to the program as a chemistry teaching and laboratory assistant. She has served in the Dean of Students Office and as Communications Vice President of Alpha Xi Delta. She made the Dean’s List from 2017-2020, and has received the Women of Excellence award all four years. She has volunteered with Autism Speaks, The Boys and Girls Club, Feed My Starving Children, and Prescott Rotary. Sara completed her internship at the Yavapai County Medical Examiner’s Office, where she learned valuable medical death investigation, and has been accepted to Sam Houston State where she plans on earning a Master of Science in Forensic Science, beginning in Fall 2021.



FOREVER AN EAGLE