
E A S T C O A S T C H A P T E R

Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

February 2004



From The President

Dear ECCTAI Member,

I am excited about the publication of this latest chapter newsletter. Although we had a temporary lapse with the frequency of our quarterly issues, the business of communicating the current happenings of ECCTAI never skipped a beat and were carried out and reported magnificently through our chapter website – WWW.ECCTAI.COM.

Foremost, I believe that we have realized our Chapter year three-fold centerpiece challenge of: improved communications, the Education Assistance Program and the Youth in Aviation Program.

We are finding that the most effective use of communications is the e-mail. A significant number of our members kept us informed on a variety of subjects and allowed us to take an actionable position on issues and initiatives that likely would otherwise wait until the next Board or General Membership meeting. We also have the advantage of using the more expensive phone tree communications for very short-notice and urgent messages.

Since our General Membership meetings have been held on Saturday afternoons, membership at those meetings has doubled. That has increased the activity of our Chapter, to include a monthly presentation by one of our Original Tuskegee Airmen. We welcome and encourage more of you to attend.

Sincerely,
Oliver Carter, Lt Col, USAF (Retired)
PRESIDENT@ECCTAI.COM

From The Treasurer

Walter Jackson

Important Message on Membership and Dues

A note from National Headquarters stated, "Make certain your membership dues reach the National Treasurer before the 15th of May 2004, so you will be eligible to vote. Make arrangements to vote absentee if you are unable to attend the Convention." Dues must be paid and processed through the local chapter, ECCTAI. The membership data has been mailed to each member.

Regular membership dues are \$100; Life Members \$50; active duty military \$45. Don't forget to send the Form 2 with your payment to: ECCTAI, PO Box 62404, Washington, DC 20029. Your 2004 membership card will be mailed from National Headquarters.

"Enriched By Our Past – Prepared For Our Future"

Today's Students – Tomorrow's Leaders



Akilah Miles

The Chapter is proud of our scholarship recipients. Akilah Miles is a freshman at Spelman College. John Calhan is a freshman at Auburn

University. He tells us that he is using his scholarship to pay for course books. Eric Pawloski is an FAA certified private pilot attending Kent State University to major in aviation. We appreciate these students keeping in touch with us during their college years.

Where Are They Now



Yvonne McGee and 2nd Lt. Dennis Jackson II

2nd Lt. Dennis Jackson II was the first student to complete ECCTAI's Youth in Aviation Program. He soloed with the program in 1997. Lt. Jackson completed AFROTC, graduating from Florida A and M. He received his wings at Laughlin AFB, Texas, on November 21, 2003. His first assignment is McGuire AFB, NJ, where he will be flying the KC-10. He thanks his parents and all who supported his vision.

Mark Your Calendar

ECCTAI Board Elections, May 2004. The Nominations Committee is seeking members who meet the criteria of the By-Laws. Contact Preston Davis, Sr. with your nominations by April 1.

African Heritage Honors Luncheon. "Roots in Scouting" award will honor Tuskegee Airman, Ira O'Neal for his lifetime work in Boy Scouting, February 21, at the Forum in Baltimore. Tickets are \$25.00. Call Craig Allen at 410-488-0228.

Career Day, April 30. Contact George Smith for information.

ECCTAI Picnic on July 17 at Bolling AFB. Contact Sam Bass if you would like to help.

Eastern Region Conference, Hampton, VA, March 20. Contact John Patterson.

Amenities

Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with the convalescing members of our Chapter. Please contact Freddie Robinson so that the Chapter can send get well wishes.

Fundraising

The Amenities Committee is selling Tuskegee Airmen license tag holders and Tuskegee Airmen note cards with the ECCTAI logo and picture of the P-51. Two tag holders sell for \$10.00, and 10 note cards sell for \$10.00, mailing included. Monies will go to the Education Assistance Fund and are tax deductible. Contact Roslyn Marchbanks-Robinson.

Education Assistance Fundraiser



Joy Branham-Pryde, chair of the October 2003 Autumn Gala Luncheon, tells us that the fundraiser was a “roaring success,” with 240 guests in attendance and substantial donations raised for the Education Assistance Fund.

The next Autumn Gala Luncheon will be held on Sunday, October 10, 2004 at the Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center. The Dennis Fisher Band will provide music. The committee looks forward to your continued support of this event.

2003 Recipients of Scholarships and Grants

Tuskegee Airmen National Scholarship Recipients

Grants were awarded to Olatino O. Ayomi, Akilah Miles, Awanki Umaru
Dunbar High School, Washington, DC

Tuskegee Airmen ECCTAI Presidential Memorial Grants

Alonzo Smith, Jr. Memorial Grant.....Donisha Adams, Dunbar H.S., Washington, D.C.
Broadus N. Butler Memorial Grant.....John Calhan, II, Northern H.S., Owings, MD
Philip F. Lee Memorial GrantEric G. Pawloski, Marietta H.S., Marietta, OH
Harry A. Sheppard Memorial Grant.....Jonathan W. Brantley, Parkville H.S., Baltimore, MD
Ernest J. Davis, Jr. Memorial GrantAbdalla A. Stewart, Forest Park H.S., Woodbridge, VA
C. Gordon Southall Memorial Grant.....Jhiana Saint-Fleur, Charles Herbert Flowers H.S.,
Landover, MD

Vernon and Anna Hamilton Memorial Grant

Aja Page, St. Paul's School for Girls, Brooklandville, MD

ECCTAI Continuing Grant Recipients

James McClelland, North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, NC
Vani Dewnandan, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL
Erin Callhan, Eastern University, St. David, PA
Anthony Charles Gregory, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Contributions To The ECCTAI Education Assistance Fund Are Tax Deductible.

Contributions can be mailed to East Coast Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc, PO Box 62404, Washington, DC 20029-2404.

Youth In Aviation

By Yvonne McGee

The ECCTAI Youth in Aviation Program (YIAP) started as an idea from Bill Broadwater and Lonely Eagle Ted Robinson back in 1996. Keeping with the chapter's basic charge, to continue the Tuskegee legacy and inspire minority youth, they formed the committee and the program design came together. YIAP is essentially divided into Three Levels:

Level One is designed to expose high school students (ages 15 – 19) to possible careers in aviation through discussions, activities, guest speakers and fieldtrips. Students meet at College Park Airport (where free classroom space has been generously donated since the beginning) for 5 all-day sessions on consecutive Saturdays in the fall. The sessions cover aviation history, career overviews and basics of flight, air traffic control, maintenance and a small aircraft flight experience.

Level Two is designed for the serious student who has decided he/she is interested in becoming a pilot. For those who qualify, ground school is conducted for 8 – 10 weekends to enable the student to pass the FAA written exam (a prerequisite to Level Three). This is conducted in late winter/early spring as to not interfere with finals around the end of the school year.

Level Three is the flying portion of the program and is held during the summer. For the students who have completed Level Two successfully, they receive at least 15 hours of flight instruction through Herb Jones' Metropolitan Aviation Flight School at Hyde

Field in Clinton, Maryland. The hope is that they will solo within that time.

The committee decided early on that it was better to help several students to at least solo (with the hope they would be inspired to continue) as opposed to just financing one student all the way to receiving a pilot license.

The sense of "comradery" the Tuskegee Airmen experienced could not be achieved by focusing on just one student to completion. One year there were enough funds to support a student to licensing, and the student has continued to pursue a career in aviation at Embry Riddle.

From the beginning, most of our students have come to the program by word of mouth and through referrals from Rick Jones' summer aviation camp program.

Some of YIAP short and long term goals are:

1. To provide more up-to-date teaching materials (simulators etc.) for Level II & III students.
2. To offer Level II and III type programs for students not interested in flying.
(Become a stronger conduit to maintenance, ATC, weather, etc. interests)
3. To have enough funding for all Level III students to receive their license.
4. Compile and publish booklets for conducting/teaching Level I for new members and other TAI chapters to use.
5. Discover ways to work with other aviation organizations so we may use funds for maximum effect

Gen. B.O. Davis, Jr. Golf Classic

The 14th Gen. B.O. Davis, Jr. Golf Classic, sponsored by ECCTAI, will take place at Andrews AFB in early June. Last year's tournament netted over \$1,000 with over 70 players. The proceeds of the function go to the Youth in Aviation Program, so it's important for us to support this event. Monetary and prize donations are being accepted. Members wishing to serve on the golf committee, or requesting more information, can contact Artis McNeill, Larry Frelow, or Bill Broadwater.

ECCTAI Speakers' Bureau

The ECCTAI Speakers' Bureau continues to stay active in keeping the TAI history alive. If you ever have the opportunity to attend one of their presentations, you're in for a unique look into history!

The group makes more than 100 presentations each year, under the coordination of Col. (ret) Hank Henry. Many of the organizations and schools they speak to give the group monetary donations to ECCTAI's Education Assistance Fund.

Col. Henry also accepts used computers, which he repairs and gives to schools and day care centers.



Pictured l-r Maj. Bill Peterson, Hamp Johnson, Maj. Bob Davis, Sam O'Dennis, J.T. Valentine, Esq. and Col. Hank Henry. Not pictured: Maj Bob Owens.

In October 2003, the group visited the Harrisburg, PA High School of Science and Technology, where they received a positive interest from the students.

Tuskegee Airmen Wives' Book Project

The Tuskegee Airmen Wives Tell Their Stories project documents the lives and experiences of the wives of the men of the 99th Fighter Squadron, the 332nd Fighter Group, the 477th Bombardment Group, and related units, in order to create a public record. The women's lives span much of the 20th century. They lived through dramatic changes in the United States for both women and African Americans. Fifty-nine oral history interviews have been

conducted and are currently being transcribed and finalized by the interviewees. Excerpts from these interviews will be collected in a book highlighting experiences in the areas of education, medical care, social and family relationships, finances, parenting, employment, gender issues, and race relations. The project is headed by Dr. Rosemary Crockett, daughter of Tuskegee Airman, Woodrow Crockett.

2002-2004 Officers

Oliver C. Carter	President
Cora M. "Tess" Spooner	1st Vice President
Taro K. Jones	2nd Vice-President
Walter Jackson, III	Treasurer
Tonya Suggs	Secretary
Yolanda Williams	Secretary
James R. Coles, Jr.	Parliamentarian
Gustavus A. McLeod	Immediate Past Pres.

Directors

William E. Broadwater
George A. Henry
Samuel W. Rhodes
Clarence R. Turner

The telephone numbers of all members mentioned in this newsletter can be found in the TAI Membership Directory.

Lonely Eagles 2003 - 2004

Lorine Brewer
La Frances Brown
Cunningham C. Bryant
Perry Ellis, Jr.
Ellsworth Jackson
Frankye M. Jones
Conway B. Jones, Sr.
Marcelite T. Jordon
William Parkerson
Winston D. Powers
Vivian E. Scurlock
Harry Sheppard
William E. Stevens
J.T. Valentine
Henry A. Wise

Colonel Harry A. Sheppard, USAF (Retired)

was born October 24, 1917 in Jamaica, New York. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps on April 1, 1941 and became one of the first Blacks accepted for aircraft maintenance training in the Air Corps and to be assigned to the 99th Pursuit Squadron, which was activated a month earlier at Chanute Field, Illinois. He completed pilot training, earning his wings and a commission at Tuskegee Army Air Field on May 28, 1943 and was assigned to the 302nd Fighter Squadron. During WW II, he flew 123 combat missions in P-39, P-47, and P-51 aircraft.

During his 33-year military career, he served as Pilot, Engineering Officer and Supply Officer, earning an impressive list of decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Service Medal, and Air Medal with 13 oak leaf clusters.

Colonel Sheppard was a charter member of East Coast Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. and served as the first chapter secretary. He served as Chapter President 1987-1988 and as Eastern Region President for three years.

Dr. Henry Alphonso Wise, Jr. was born in Cheriton, VA, and drafted into the US Army Air Corps in July 1942. He achieved the rank of Sergeant prior to his selection for flight training in 1944. Following graduation and commission, he was assigned to the 99th Fighter Squadron, Tuskegee Army Air Field, and then as a replacement pilot in Italy.

He was on his 13th mission escorting bombers when he was shot down the morning of August 26, 1944. He was imprisoned for a short time and liberated on September 17, 1944. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and received orders to return to the United States, where he participated in War Bond rallies, attended Command and General Staff School, and worked as Base Tactical Air Inspector until 1946. Subsequently, he was assigned as a flight instructor until he was honorably discharged from the Army Air Corps in 1947.

Dr. Wise received an M.S. degree in biology from Howard University before entering medical school. He received his M.D. degree in 1954 from Howard and went on to establish a lucrative medical practice and medical center in the Lanham, MD area. Dr. Wise was an early supporter and member of the East Coast Chapter, TAI.

J. T. Valentine was born in Suffolk, VA. He entered the United States Army and later attended Howard University, where he earned a Law degree in 1951. He had a successful career in the Federal Government, culminating with his retirement as an Industrial Relations Officer in the Law Division of FAA. After his retirement, he continued to provide legal assistance to family and friends. He was an original member of the East Coast Chapter, TAI, and participated actively in our Speakers' Bureau.

Tuskegee Airmen Honored At The Smithsonian's Newest Air And Space Museum

By Dr. Lorna Marie Polk



Dr. Lorna Polk and Lt. Col. Woody Crockett (Ret.), Tuskegee Airman.



(L-R) Steven Udvar-Hazy and Col. Conway B. Jones, Jr., (Ret.)

On December 10, 2003, opening ceremonies were held at the new wing of the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport, the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. The events hosted many key figures in aviation history, to include our famed WWII pilot, Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. (ret)

Woodrow Crockett. Other distinguished ECCTAI guests were Col. Conway Jones, Jr., USAF (ret) and pilot, Dr. Lorna Marie Polk.

Washington's newest museum houses more than 80 aircraft, an unparalleled collection of flying machines. The museum was named for Hungarian immigrant, Udvar-Hazy, who made his fortune in the airplane leasing business and donated \$65 million for this project. He wanted to pay back America for its opportunities and pass on his love of aviation to future generations. Mr. Udvar-Hazy said the museum was a salute to "the men and women who demonstrate the courage and vision to conquer the unknown and dangerous barriers of flight."

Gus McLeod Update

Around the World



Pole - To - Pole



ECCTAI members gather at College Park Airport to watch Gus prepare for his trip.

Former ECCTAI president and aviator, Gus McLeod, began his historic flight to circumnavigate the earth in a modified 18-foot fiberglass and carbon composite Velocity aircraft on December 29, 2003 from College Park (MD) Airport. The trip, 28,000 miles, is expected to take 2 months, with 35 stops along the way. Gus is surrounded by 370 gallons of fuel and is carrying a radio and cell phone for communications. His trip progress can be followed on his website, www.gusmcleod.com. Gus dedicated his trip to honor the Tuskegee Airmen.

EAST COAST CHAPTER

February 2004



**East Coast Chapter
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc
PO Box 62404
Washington DC 20029-2404**

Membership Meeting Dates

The ECCTAI General Membership meetings are now being held during the day, which is turning out to be a more convenient time for our members to attend, as the turnout has shown! The following Saturdays at 12:00 pm at the Bolling AFB Officers' Club have been reserved for our meetings:

February 14
March 13
April 17

May 15
June 12
July 17

No Aug. meeting
September 11

October 16
November 13
December 10

Electronic mail, for many of us, is the fastest and most efficient way to communicate these days. If you would like to give us your e-mail address, please send it to members@ecctai.com. Be sure to include your name and address. Your e-mail address will only be used by the ECCTAI Board for Chapter business. It will not be listed in the ECCTAI membership directory without your permission.

This newsletter can be accessed at www.ecctai.com. If you have a news item for the ECCTAI Newsletter, please mail it to ECCTAI Newsletter, PO Box 62404, Washington, DC 20029; include your name and daytime phone number. The next newsletter is planned to feature activities at which Tuskegee Airmen were honored; send us your pictures and text.

#7721 IS OUR COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN NUMBER.

If you are eligible to participate, please consider designating the ECCTAI as a recipient of your donation.