



ISASI WEB ROUNDUP NEWS

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Del Gandio Receives ‘Master Mechanic’ Award

ISASI President Frank Del Gandio is the 2016 recipient of the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award, the most prestigious award the Federal Aviation Administration issues to persons certificated under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14CFR) Part 65.

The award recognizes individuals who have exhibited professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise for at least 50 years in the aircraft maintenance profession as a “master mechanic.” The award is named after Charles Taylor, the first powered aircraft mechanic and recognizes the lifetime accomplishments of senior mechanics.



Charles Taylor worked with the Wright brothers’ and is credited with designing and building the engine for the first successful powered aircraft, the Wright’s 1903 Flyer. A video was shown detailing Charles Taylor’s history making life story that began at age 12 when he started working with machinery to his working days with the Wright Brothers and beyond. He developed the first powered wind tunnel and took on the task of creating the first aircraft engine after two commercial firms said they could not produce an engine that met the Wright Brothers specifications; he did it in six-weeks.

Following the video, Wendell Griffin, FAA’s director of aircraft accident and prevention, presented the award. Using digital images, he did an abbreviated “This is Your Life” of Frank’s career. Thumbing through a booklet of FAA deeds accomplished, he said, “Frank has had a long and illustrious career in aviation and in aviation maintenance. Frank’s experiences include an exceptional entry into the Air National Guard (ANG) technician program because he held an A&P certificate. Although he entered as an airman basic in 1963, he retired as an Air Force full colonel in 1996, serving as the Deputy Commander for Aircraft Maintenance.

Griffin said that Frank’s industry experience included assignments as Chief Inspector for Pan Am’s Business Jet Division and Chief Inspector for Falcon Jet Corporation at Teterboro. His FAA experience covered 37 years during which he earned most of the Airman Certificates that the FAA can award, holding his Airframe & Powerplant certificate (A&P) with an Inspection Authorization since Nov. 18, 1965. Griffin noted the Frank “... investigated approximately 45 major accidents/incidents and conducted 25 field investigations. He visited every FAA Flight Standards District Office (94 offices) at least seven times and helped to initiate 250 to 400 safety recommendation every year, as well

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Wendell Griffin, left, presents the FAA’s Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award certificate to ISASI President Frank Del Gandio. Looking on is Frank’s wife, Claire Del Gandio.

—Mechanic from page 1

as creating three new accident investigation courses and teaching over 350 classes.”

Included in the milestones of Frank’s life’s career is joining the New Jersey Air National Guard in 1963; being hired by the FAA in 1974 and moving to accident investigation in 1980; and his more than 25 years with the International Society of Air Safety Investigators. In accepting the Master Mechanics Award, Frank looked back on the years and work that began with being a Maintenance Crew Chief with the New Jersey ANG and retired from the FAA as the Manager of the Recommendation and Safety Analysis Division, Office of Accident Investigation.

Looking out at the audience from the stage lectern, he said “When I received my A&P certificates 50 years ago, I never realized the doors that would open and opportunities to be presented. My first drill weekend at the Air National Guard, the maintenance commander, Mr. Kunze, called me to his office to speak to me and asked if I had an A&P certificate. He requested to see it, and offered me a job as a full-time air technician. My buddy and I were the first two ever hired into the ANG technician program without having prior Air Force experience.

“About three years later while receiving flight instruction, my instructor, Jerry Tritt, who was a pilot for Pan American Business Jets told me they were looking for an executive aircraft technician. I was interviewed and the third question was, “Do you have an A&P license?” I was immediately hired. In the 1960s people with an A&P certificate were truly rare, and anyone that had one was gainfully and quickly employed.

“After the demise of Pan American World Airways, the Business Jet Division became Falcon Jet Corporation. Six years later, I represented a customer at the FAA office in New York that was operating a chartered Falcon Jet. During the meeting, the office manager, Richard Kliener, asked me if I would like to come to work for the FAA. I began my FAA career as an airworthiness inspector covering the state of New Jersey.

“I participated in two major investigations that were run by the Washington based Go-team. Mr. John Rawson was the coordinator on both accidents. On the second accident, he asked if I would like to go to Washington and work on the go-team. My immediate response was “yes”, but this would require a move and I had to check with my family who subsequently agreed with the move.

“So you can see how obtaining my A&P certificates, coupled with good folks along the way paved the way for a successful career. However, my most important supported was my wonderful wife, Candy. Without her love and support, my career would not have been what it came to be. I am humbled to receive the Taylor Award and deeply appreciate my selection to be its recipient.”

The Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award is an 8-1/2 by 11-inch certificate and distinctive lapel pin. The certificate is signed by the FAA Administrator. A stickpin similar in design to the lapel pin is also provided to the award winner’s spouse in recognition of his or her support to the award winner’s aviation maintenance career. Once the award has been issued, the recipient’s name is added to the Roll of Honor, a leather-bound book on display at the entrance to the FAA Aircraft Maintenance Division (AFS-300) in FAA Headquarters, the Orville Wright Federal Building, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591. ♦

Second ICAO/ AIGP Meeting Set for June

ISASI Vice president Ron Schleede reports that the second ICAO accident investigation panel (AIGP/2) meeting will be held in Montreal 14-17 June 14-17, 2016.

Schleede and Bob MacIntosh will represent ISASI.

Eleven Working Groups (WG) formed during the first AIGP/1 meeting in April 2015, have been conducting conference calls regarding their various tasks, many of which will lead to updates to Annex 13 Standards and Recommended Practices and guidance materials regarding accident and incident investigations.

Ron, Bob, and Nick Stoss are participating on four of the WG. For more information, go to Ron’s June 2015 trip report at: http://www.isasi.org/Documents/EventsAndAlerts/Trip_Report_AIGP_June_30,_2015.pdf ♦

In Memoriam

Leslie J. McVey

(MO4442) Ohio, USA;

December 26, 2015



ISASI Reachout Workshop Held in Beirut, Lebanon

Middle East Airlines of Lebanon hosted the 50th ISASI Reachout Workshop on Continuing Airworthiness, Flight Operations and Aircraft Accident Investigation from February 15 to 19 at the Middle East Airlines Training Center in Beirut, Lebanon. Captain Mohammed Aziz was the organizing coordinator for Middle East Airlines. Chairman and Director General Mohamad A. El-Hout spoke to participants during the closing ceremony. Instructors for the program included ISASI President Frank Del Gandio, ISASI International Councilor Caj Frostell, and Capt. Aziz.

At the closing ceremony, Mohamad A. El-Hout, Mohammed Aziz, Frank Del Gandio, and Caj Frostell presented ISASI certificates were presented to the 57 participants.

The Continuing Airworthiness presentation include including aging aircraft maintenance, repairs and alterations;

human factors in aircraft maintenance; maintenance safety and airworthy versus non-airworthy; the roles of technicians and inspectors; MEL, MMEL, and CDL; systems and electrical wiring; maintenance training; the regulatory process, and the roles of the FAA and the manufacturer; as well as numerous case studies. The accident investigation presentations covered the international requirements in aircraft accident investigation (ICAO Annex 13); the organization of an accident investigation agency; planning and organization for investigation; the role of an airline in a major accident investigation; material factors; examples of test and research in investigations; occurrence reporting and incident investigation; crashworthiness and survivability; and investigation case studies and exercises.

The instructors prepared master copies of their training material. Middle East Airlines arranged

for reproduction of the presentations as a participant handout. The instructors also prepared DVD material for each participant consisting of ISASI documentation and the *ISASI Forum*, ICAO documentation pertaining to accident and incident investigation, and manuals by leading accident investigation agencies. Participants mentioned with appreciation that the workshop was a unique opportunity and learning experience.

A total of twelve ISASI membership applications were received during the workshop. Two professors and several students from the University of Balamand, Institute of Aeronautics participated in the workshop. Informal discussions were held with these participants about establishing an ISASI student chapter, as well as corporate ISASI membership. ♦



Participants and instructors of ISASI Reachout #50 pose for a graduation photo at the Middle East Airlines Training Center in Beirut, Lebanon.

Military Air Safety Seminar in NM

ISASI is participating in a military air safety workshop in Albuquerque, NM, USA on April 19-21. Rear Admiral Christopher J. Murry, Commander, Naval Safety Center will deliver the keynote address.

There will be two days of technical presentations and a full day tutorial on investigation tips and techniques for air mishaps unique to the military. Registration opens on April 18 at 1400 followed with a welcome reception at 1800. For more information, email militaryairsafety@gmail.com. ♦

United Flight 232: The Book Becomes a Play

ISASI Treasurer Bob McIntosh noted that Laurence Gonzales authored a book about United DC-10 Flight 232 that crashed in Sioux City, Iowa on July 19, 1989. The book was published in 2014 on the 25th anniversary of the crash. McIntosh observed that Gonzales used extensively the resources of former ISASI members to document details of the NTSB accident investigation. Now, the book inspired Vanessa Stallings to write a stage play focused on the human inter-

actions that came to play during and after the accident.

Nathan Allen, Artistic Director at The House Theatre of Chicago where the play will soon open, said, "Over the last year, Vanessa Stallings has developed the script by drawing upon the names, interviews and research conducted by Laurence Gonzales for his book, *Flight 232: A Story of Disaster and Survival*." *United Flight 232* runs March 11-May 1, 2016 at the Chopin

Theatre, 1543 W Division St, Chicago IL 60642. For more information contact The House Theatre of Chicago Box Office: (773) 769-3832 or go to www.thehousetheatre.com . ♦

Call for Papers For ISASI 2016

The International Society of Air Safety Investigators (ISASI) will hold their 47th annual seminar at the Grand Hotel Reykjavik, Iceland, from the October 17-20, 2016. The seminar theme is: "Every link is important" Papers are invited to address this theme in conjunction with other contemporary matters on aviation safety investigation.

For those interested in presenting a paper, submissions of abstracts are due by **15 April 2016**. Abstracts should include a title and an up-to 300-word summary of the main points of the proposed paper. Please also include your name(s), affiliation, position, and a brief resume. Submissions, or any inquiries regarding submissions, are to be sent to: Papers-ISASI2016@ESASI.EU.

The panel reviewing the submitted abstracts will consider criteria such as the quality of the paper and the relevance to the seminar theme and air safety investigation. The panel will also endeavor to ensure that a broad range of topics are covered. Decisions on the selected abstracts will be made by June 1 2016 and details on the required format of the papers and presentations will be issued at that time. Presenters will be required to submit their papers by 1 August 2016. Information on ISASI16 is available at www.esasi.eu/isasi-2016. ♦



ISASI International Councilor Caj Frostell meets with the Director of the AIB Nigeria Dr. Felix Abali in Lagos and Abuja in Nov and Dec 2015. In the photo from the right, Dr. Felix Abali, Caj Frostell, Mike Doiron, and the participants from Gambia, Guinea Conakry, the AIB Nigeria manager for the Abuja office and the participant from Ghana. Frostell discussed Nigerian participation in the ISASI seminars and the activation of the AIB Nigeria flight recorder readout laboratory with the Dr. Abali and the Nigerian AIB management team. ISASI member Mike Doiron and Frostell delivered a two week accident investigation workshop in Lagos, Nigeria in Nov 2015 and another two week workshop in Abuja, Nigeria in Nov-Dec 2015. Nearly 100 participants attended the investigation workshops. The workshops were organized as part of the West-African regional accident investigation organization's training program (Banjul Accord Group Accident Investigation Agency, BAGAI). ♦



Shown above: Singapore AAIB Director Mr. Chan, Wing Keong invited the accident investigators from over twenty countries participating in the SAA accident investigation course for a delightful evening get-together.

ISASI Participates in Singapore Air Accident Investigation Courses

The Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA) accident investigation courses were held from 11 to 22 Jan. 11-22 and from Jan. 25 to Feb. 5, 2016. ISASI International Councilor Caj Frostell was one of the instructors. His presentations included an update on the ISASI activities and the upcoming annual seminars. Other instructors included ISASI members David McNair, Captain Paul McCarthy, Alain Guillardou and Singapore AAIB senior investigators.

Frostell had several opportunities to discuss ISASI matters with Singapore AAIB Director Chan, Wing Keong and the AAIB senior investigators. Of particular interest was the upcoming 3rd International Accident Investigation Forum April 19 to 21, 2016, which the Singapore Air Accident Investigation Bureau and the Singapore Aviation Academy organized. The Forum is supported by ICAO, ECAC, Flight Safety Foundation, Curt Lewis & Associates and ISASI. AAIB serves as the secretary of ASASI.

The IAI Forum aims to bring together the world's top government investigation officials and experts to discuss issues relating to the organization, infrastructure and management of accident investigation. It is open to investigation officials responsible for discharging their country's obligation under Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, regulatory officials and aviation safety professionals from the private sector.

Previously, the AAIB organized and hosted the Inaugural and Second IAI Forum in Singapore in April 2010 and April 2013 respectively. The previous IAI Forums played a useful role as a platform for ICAO to inform, explain to and discuss with the safety investigation community regarding the developments and issues that ICAO is pursuing. This discussion was very popular with the participants, who also found that the IAI Forum was an excellent occasion for safety investigators to network, share ideas and forge cooperation in accident investigation.

Keynote speakers will include Stephen Creamer, Director of the ICAO Air Navigation Bureau (ANB) and Christopher Hart, Chairman of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board.

Registration for the IAI Forum 2016 and further details are available at <http://www.saa.com.sg/iaif2016/>. ♦

ISASI Forum Set for March 28 Mail

The next issue of the Society's magazine will cover:

Page 3—President's View: ISASI serves on International Observer's Panel.

Page 4—Commentary: **Unmanned Aerial Systems Will Reduce Fatalities but Will Disrupt Aviation in the Process** by Dr. Robert Matthews, Ph.D.

Page 6—**B-787 Lithium Battery Incidents Complex Investigations, Boeing's Role** by Lori Anglin, Air Safety Investigation, Boeing Commercial Airplanes, and John R. Lowell, Boeing Research & Technology.

Page 12—**Beware the Threat to Independence and Impartiality** by Robert Vickery, CEng MIET, UK AAIB Senior Inspector (Engineering).

Page 16—**A Family Affair: AirAsia Group in Light of Indonesia AirAsia Flight QZ8501** by Tony Fernandes, Group CEO and Founder of AirAsia Group.

Page 19—**Is It a Space Plane or Rocket?** by E. Lorenda Ward, SIC, U.S. NTSB.

Page 22—**Fixing the Holes: Infrastructure, Training, and Oversight** by Alain Agnesett, and Arnaud Desjardin, Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la sécurité de l'aviation civile (BEA), France.

Page 24—**A Small Accident but a Very Complex Investigation** by Leo P. Murray, Inspector of Air Accidents (Operations), AAIU-Ireland.

Page 32—Who's Who: Southwest Airlines. ♦

SERC Annual Meeting April 1-2, in Herndon, Virginia

A reminder that the ISASI Southeast Regional Chapter Meeting will be held April 1 at the Sheraton Reston in Reston, VA, located a few miles from Dulles International Airport and just 25 miles from Washington, DC. Events will begin on Friday, April 1, 2016 at 0900 with a two hour presentation about TWA 800 by Dr. Paul Schuda, Director of the NTSB Training Center located in Ashburn, Virginia. The presentation includes a comprehensive slide presentation of the aircraft loss and a visitation of the reconstructed 747.

That afternoon participants will visit the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center located on the Dulles Airport property (Chantilly, VA), only a few miles away from the meeting hotel.

The following day will consist of a variety of speakers—including:

- Mrs. Maria Szonert Binienda, ML, JD, MBA and Dr. Wieslaw K. Binienda, Ph.D., F. ASCE, “Crash of TU-154M, PFL, 101 April 10, 2010” (Legal, Medical and Technical Aspects of the Investigation);
- Capt. Shem Malmquist, FRAeS “Extending Safety I to Safety II” (Integrating the “New View” of Safety into Accident Investigation);
- Robert Rendzio, “Update on the Methodology Employed on the Rotorcraft Occupant Protection Working Group (ROPWG) as Assigned by the FAA Administrator”;
- Gerhard Coetzee, “Unstable Approaches; From an Incident to a Safety Management System” and
- Robert Burns, “Systems & Software Safety Engineering” (A Systems of Systems (SOS) Approach). ♦

MARC Spring Meeting Set In Herndon, VA

The ISASI Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter (MARC) cordially invites you to attend MARC’s spring 2016 Dinner/Meeting to be held at the Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport Hotel, 2200 Centerville Rd., Herndon, Virginia, 20170, on **May 5, 2016, 6:00 - 9:30 pm**. The Honorable T. Bella Dinh-Zarr, Vice Chair, NTSB will be the guest speaker.

MARC anticipates a large turnout for this event because of the distinguished guest speaker. Make reservations to attend early; as space will be limited and the hotel must have confirmed dinner numbers on April 21. Companions and other guests are most welcome.

Cost: \$50.00, which covers the full buffet dinner, gratuities, taxes, and routine function expenses. \$55.00 after April 21, 2016, if space is available.

A registration form and directions to the Crown Plaza Hotel can be found on the ISASI website at www.isasi.org. ♦

New ISASI Members

Individual Members

Abdel-Aziz M. Aziz; Middx, United Kingdom
Ahmad Ezzat; Beirut, Lebanon
Alyssa A. Slight; Daytona Beach, FL, USA
Angela, Bitar Semaan; Ain Aar, Lebanon
Carly C. Shoemake; Daytona Beach, FL, USA
Dong-heon Lim; Goyang, South Korea
Emillio L. Navarrete; Prescott, AZ, USA
George Nader; Beirut, Lebanon
George J. Dib; Stockton, CA, USA
Ghina Fakih; Beirut, Lebanon
Heeseok Yoon; Seoul, South Korea
Horikoshi Toyohiro, Washington DC, USA
Jamie E. Floyd; Port Orang, FL, USA
James I. Murphy, T.P.; Bellevue, WA, USA
James J. Burtenshaw; Silverstream, Wellington, New Zealand
Jennifer C. Rigdon Teter; Shady Side, MD, USA
Joe H. Youssef; Beirut, Lebanon
Lau ing Hiong, Subang Jaya, Malaysia
Leishka Collazo-Nazario; Daytona Beach, FL, USA
Luis C. Vargas; Weston, FL, USA
Mark W. Stephens, Prescott, AZ, USA
Md, Anwar Hossain; Dhaka, Bangladesh
Michael F. Cady; Hampton, VA, USA
Mohammed Ali Reza Kahn; Dhaka, Bangladesh
Mohammad Imran Ismail; Sungai Buloh, Malaysia
Nancy K. Arbid; Beirut, Lebanon
Sam M. Bass; Bintulu, Malaysia
Izoma C. Nwachukwu; Daytona Beach, FL, USA
Zilin Lu, Daytona Beach, FL, USA

Corporate Members

Institu, Inc. William M. Williams Flight Safety Manager and William J. Kupchin, Aviation Safety Officer; Bingen, WA, USA
Virgin America, Timothy J. Logan, Director of Safety, Burlingame, CA, USA ♦