



For More Information, Contact:
Jennifer Friedmann ♦ 713-824-7111 (cell)
Lauren Martin ♦ 281-744-7938 (cell)
jfriedmann@thepointgroup.com
lmartin@thepointgroup.com
The Point Group ♦ 713-622-7174

WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIRSHOW AWARDS LOCAL STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIPS TO PURSUE EDUCATION IN AVIATION FIELDS

HOUSTON (September 27, 2011) – Wings Over Houston Airshow announces its 2011 scholarship recipients. Among the recipients are James Forkner of Richmond, Richard Garcia of Spring, Michael Hughes of Dickinson and Reginald Richardson III of Houston. Jessica Miniutti and previous recipient, Julia Hall, were awarded the Emyre Barrios Robinson Memorial Scholarships at San Jacinto College. Scholarships were awarded to local outstanding college students who are pursuing an education in the fields of aviation or aerospace.

“Each of this year’s recipients has demonstrated immense passion and true dedication to the aviation and aerospace,” said Steve Sehnert, chairman of the 2011 Wings Over Houston Airshow Scholarship Subcommittee. “We are pleased to present scholarships to these students and look forward to the many contributions each will make as they pursue their careers in their chosen fields.”

James Forkner is a senior at the University of Texas at Austin majoring in aerospace engineering. A member of the University of Texas’ Air Force ROTC, Forkner plans to enter the Air Force and pursue a graduate degree in aerospace sciences following graduation.

Richard “Ricky” Garcia is studying for his master’s degree in industrial and organizational psychology at Louisiana Tech University where he received his bachelor’s degree in professional aviation earlier in the year. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Garcia plans to pursue employment in the airline industry.

Michael Hughes is a junior at Baylor University pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering. During high school, Hughes participated in several workshops and aerospace programs at the Johnson Space Center. Following graduation, he plans to seek a career supporting a manned space flight, either by NASA or private ventures.

LOCAL STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS / add 1

Reginald “Reggie” Richardson III, a junior at Texas Southern University, is majoring in aviation science and computer science. After graduation, he plans to enter the military service with the goal to join the military flight test program.

The Emyre Barrios Robinson Memorial Scholarship is a recent addition to the Wings Over Houston Scholarship program in honor of Emyre Barrios Robinson who served on the Wings Over Houston Airshow Executive Committee for over ten years. The scholarship is available exclusively to San Jacinto College students who are nominated by the faculty and have completed their first year of college.

Julia Hall, a repeat recipient, will receive her Associate’s degree in aviation this fall from San Jacinto College. Following graduation, Hall plans to continue her studies at a four-year university pursuing a career in professional aviation.

Jessica Miniutti is studying aeronautical technology at San Jacinto College with the goal of becoming a flight instructor. After graduation, Miniutti plans to enter the commercial airline industry.

Wings Over Houston commends each of the 2011 Scholarship recipients on their hard work and dedication to the field of aviation.

About Wings Over Houston

Wings Over Houston is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community event produced by a volunteer effort of the Gulf Coast Wing and West Houston Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force, with support from the Lone Star Flight Museum in Galveston, is dedicated to showcasing vintage military aircraft, along with the thrills of modern aviation. One of the top air shows in the United States in its category, the Wings Over Houston Airshow attracts more than 80,000 visitors from across the Houston area as well as from around the globe. The 2011 Airshow benefits the Wings Over Houston Airshow Scholarship Program, TSU Aviation Career Academy, Exchange Club of Sugar Land, and the Commemorative Air Force aircraft restoration and flying historical programs, in addition to numerous other nonprofit organizations.

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