Ferguson wins 2020 SVP bigBANG! nonprofit pitch competition

On Thursday, February 27th, PHASTAR President Capt. Drew Ferguson took to the stage at the Global Center for Health Innovation in Downtown Cleveland as part of a competition that challenges nonprofit leaders to share how they are effecting social change in Cleveland. Capt. Ferguson made an impactful presentation that ultimately led to his presentation being chosen as the “Most Persuasive Pitch” by the audience.

Four nonprofit leaders were selected as finalists to participate in the Social Venture Partners (SVP) bigBANG! Fast Pitch event. SVP’s program included two months of individualized Fast Pitch coaching, a cash award of $1000, a professional video of their pitch, and a professional photo, in addition to the opportunity to share their story on stage in front of an audience of entrepreneurs, thought leaders, and representatives from nonprofits and businesses.

SVP’s program culminates in a “Fast Pitch” competition, which includes presentations by each of the selected nonprofit leaders. Each of the finalists shares the mission, vision, and impact of their organization with the audience - and has only four minutes to make their pitch.

In his pitch, Capt. Ferguson drew comparisons from his own life and personal struggles to explain how PHASTAR positively impacts local students lives, even in the face of adversity and being told “you can’t do that.” He showed how PHASTAR, through its

(SVP bigBANG!, Cont’d on pg. 3)
PHASTAR kicks off American Red Cross Training Program

PHASTAR became an official Licensed Training Provider for the American Red Cross in Fall 2019, a designation allows us to offer a variety of lifesaving training opportunities to our staff and volunteers, our students at Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School, and other interested members of the local community. In February 2020, PHASTAR kicked off its new American Red Cross training program, providing 10 members of the staff and volunteers from The Foundry with training in Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED.

PHASTAR held its second ARC training course in early March to students in the U.S. Maritime Academy’s USCG-approved Captain’s License class, which was held at PHASTAR's 1776 Columbus Road facility. They took the Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AEd course to fulfill requirements for the captain’s license.

Due to an on-going need for trained lifeguards to work on our rescue boat during the boating season, PHASTAR is hoping to offer a Lifeguarding course this spring and/or summer.

PHASTAR has two American Red Cross certified instructors on staff, who combined are able to teach the following American Red Cross courses: Lifeguarding, Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED, Basic Life Support, Wilderness and Remote First Aid, Basic Water Rescue, Personal Water Safety, and more.

As Licensed Training Providers for the American Red Cross, PHASTAR is able to issue certifications to course participants who successfully complete the courses and pass all requirements and tests. Depending on the course, the certifications are valid for two to three years, after which they may be renewed.

If you or your organization are interested in ARC training opportunities available through PHASTAR, please contact us at info@phastar.org or call us at 216.860.4883.

Welcome Canalway Partners!

PHASTAR’s administrative offices on the 2nd floor at its 1776 Columbus Road facility now have a new tenant - Canalway Partners!

Canalway Partners has relocated their headquarters from Independence, Ohio, to be more centrally located in the Downtown Cleveland Flats.

PHASTAR has made many updates and renovations to the building since its lease began in 2018, and until now, PHASTAR has been the sole occupant of the second floor space. PHASTAR also shares its first floor garage/workshop space with the Cleveland Amateur Boating and Boatbuilders Society.
SVP, Cont’d from pg. 1

shows them that “YES!” they can have a rewarding future in aerospace or maritime.

Capt. Ferguson explained how PHASTAR provides opportunities for students to experience the aerospace and maritime industries, which are out of reach for most urban high school students.

Leaders from three other nonprofit organizations - BigHearted Blooms, Kinnect, and Refresh Collective - also made presentations on the SVP bigBANG! stage. Following the conclusion of the presentations, the audience got to vote on who they thought had the “Most Persuasive Pitch.”

Capt. Ferguson was announced the winner, and as a result of winning, PHASTAR earned an additional $2,500 prize on top of the $1,000 SVP was already giving just for being selected as a finalist. As the top winner, Capt. Ferguson also got the opportunity to make his pitch a second time in front of a larger audience at the “Accelerate 2020: Citizens Make Change” pitch competition that was happening concurrently at the Center for Global Health Innovations.

Speaking of his experience with the SVP bigBANG! Fast Pitch program, Capt. Ferguson says that he has “not stopped talking about the experience and other presenters since starting this adventure.” He adds:

“The Fast Pitch coaches provided meaningful guidance on how to strategically present our organizations. Even though we were competing, it allowed the four presenters to support each other as we face similar nonprofit challenges. bigBANG! also introduced people to the leadership of our organizations. It was the first time I explored who I am as a leader and founder and really delved into communicating my drive in developing PHASTAR.”

Save the Date!

Our next PHASTAR Task Force Meeting will be

June 12, 2020
Location and Time: To Be Announced
As the Discover Aviation Center Flying Club enters its seventh year of operation, we continue to grow and inspire pilots and aviators of all ages! With winter winding down we are busy preparing for the 2020 flying season. We enter the new decade with more than thirty active members, three aircraft and new missions for our Club and the Discover Aviation Center to pursue.

Our members are the heart and soul of our Club and they bring a wide variety of professional and life experiences to our day to day operations. With their support we have been able to grow the Club more than three fold since our meager beginnings in 2013. Last year we had four members earn their Private Pilot Certificates and two more members earn advanced pilot ratings. Our wall that holds the traditional shirt tails of our student pilot’s first solo flight is growing crowded and we will need a new wall soon! As this year gets going in earnest we have yet another crop of aspiring student pilots, from actual high school students to older adults pursuing their life-long dream of learning to fly.

As last year came to a close we added a third aircraft to our fleet, this time a Piper PA-28-180 Archer. Known and loved for its smooth operation and classic low wing design, the Archer is a great addition to our fleet and will serve as the perfect $100 hamburger flyer. Our Piper Tomahawk continues to serve its designed purpose as a primary trainer with all of our student pilots having completed their training in the aircraft this past year. Our beloved “FrankenHawk”, a highly modified 1963 P172D, has become a popular instrument trainer and cross-country aircraft with its advanced avionics and power to spare. At times every aircraft has mechanical breakdowns and thanks to the generous support of our service provider, PHASTAR Corporation, we have been able to keep our fleet of aircraft in excellent condition as well as adding important upgrades including meeting the FAA’s ADS-B mandate with time to spare!

The future of the Discover Aviation Center Flying Club is bright. As always we have members that come and go, but we are very proud of the fact that the majority of our members choose to stick

(DACFC, Cont’d on next page)
around for the long term. As we begin 2020, we look forward to our annual Discover Aviation Days in May, our cooperation with our local EAA Chapters/Young Eagles program and many Friday night cookouts under favorable skies. We expect to have our first Club aircraft attend Oshkosh this year by joining the 10,000 other aircraft that make the annual pilgrimage to the center of the aviation universe in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Currently our Cessna is undergoing a major upgrade that will add a brand new digital autopilot to this aircraft that is a huge step forward in capability and safety for our members. We continue to work on a flight simulator for our members to use that ultimately we hope to have certified for flight training purposes. Our membership grew this year with several new flight instructors joining the club and we even count a certified Airframe and Powerplant mechanic among our ranks.

Perhaps the most important accomplishment for our Club over the past seven years is that we continue to have and actively promote an incredible culture of safety among our Club membership and local flying community. Our members utilize a safety management system tailored for a flying club and we promote a self-reporting error management system that allows our membership to learn from their mistakes as well as the mistakes of others. It is through this shared culture of safety that our Club has been and continues to be successful at promoting aviation safety, producing new pilots and providing a social gathering place for people of all ages.

The future of our Club and the Discover Aviation Center is indeed bright and we could not have gotten this far without the help and support of our membership, associate members, local community leaders and the supportive cast of characters that keep the operations running day to day out at the Lorain County Regional Airport!

The Discover Aviation Center Flying Club was founded in 2013 by Paul and Vicki Koziol.
Discover Aviation Day is May 16th at Lorain County Regional Airport

If you haven’t done so already, clear your calendar for Saturday, May 16, 2020, for Discover Aviation Day! This annual celebration of the aviation/aerospace industry is put on by the EAA 1252 at the Discover Aviation Center at the Lorain County Regional Airport each spring.

Aviators, aviation and aerospace enthusiasts, and those just looking for a fun, family-friendly event, are all invited to join us at Discover Aviation Day this spring. Fly in or drive in to this event!

Discover Aviation Day will begin at 9am and will run through 2pm. Kids won’t want to miss the Young Eagles Rally, which includes free airplane rides for kids ages 8 to 17 (parent must be present, registration ends at noon).

There will also be a pancake breakfast, flight simulators, various aircraft displays, and plenty of fun, hands-on activities for children.

For more information, visit EAA 1252’s website at eaa1252.org or call 440.236.6594.

Davis Alpha Flight Group Takes Off

The Davis Alpha Flight Group has begun their flight training with Capt. Mike Hill. Demeiko, Sydney, and Damone are all working on their Private Pilot Licenses.

PHASTAR extends huge thank you to Capt. Hill for his tireless efforts and dedication to making this program come alive.

The Bravo Flight Group has already formed.

Please donate to the PHASTAR Future Pilot Fund.

Photo: Davis students Sydney (right), Damone (left), and Demeiko (not pictured, flying) begin flight training.
U.S. Coast Guard formally recognizes PHASTAR as Search and Rescue Asset

PHASTAR’s Marine Safety Operations continue to grow. Captain Carl Walker and Captain Drew Ferguson have kept busy in the off-season.

PHASTAR was exploring a possible Search and Rescue (SAR) Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Coast Guard in an effort to formalize the roles and responsibilities of PHASTAR’s on-water safety assets. These discussions came to the conclusion that the U.S. Coast Guard’s existing operations would accommodate the desired designation. As a State of Ohio certified EMS/Rescue agency, PHASTAR Marine Safety is now a recognized asset in the U.S. Coast Guard’s “Rolodex”.

On-call Captains will carry a duty phone that provides 24/7/365 response to U.S. Coast Guard requests for assistance. Our vessels will be staffed with a U.S. Coast Guard Certified Master (Captain), a Medical Crew Member, a Water Rescue Tech, and deck crew. The level of response and medical care is greater than currently available and enhances safety in the regional waters.

The opportunity provided to our Davis A&M students is incredible. Our Davis crews are actively involved in the mission, gaining valuable insight into the maritime industry, providing service to their community and building their time at sea. With more than 235 ship escorts and 13 water rescues in the 2019 season, we are anticipating an exciting and productive 2020 On-Water Season.
U.S. Maritime Academy Finishes its 2nd Captain’s License Class at 1776

PHASTAR has had the pleasure of hosting the U.S. Maritime Academy and its U.S. Coast Guard-approved Captain’s License class at its 1776 Columbus Road facility three times per week from January to early March. The class, which consisted of 15 students, is led by instructor Captain Jim Dale.

This is the second Captain’s License class that the U.S. Maritime Academy has offered at 1776, with the first one being in early 2019.

On February 24, 2020, Lt. Cmdr. Steven Elliott from the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Cleveland attended a special gathering where he administered the Merchant Mariner’s Oath to the future Captains, fulfilling a key requirement in the USCG’s application process for a captain’s license. Also in attendance that evening were the students’ friends and families, as well as many members of the Cleveland maritime community.

The evening was capped off with a special presentation by one of the students, retired maritime attorney Henry Billingsley, who gave a presentation on the ill-fated Edmund Fitzgerald.

Congratulations to all of the students, who successfully passed all of their tests and will begin the process of applying with the USCG for their captain’s license:

Dave Adkins
Henry Billingsley
Kim Brandenburg
Augustina Harris
Beth O’Kain Kilbane
Joseph Masters
Robert Muniak
Constance Murzyn
Zachary Reynolds
Woody Richmond
Michael Schmidt
John Sima
Todd Starr
Lawrence Visnic
James Watkins

The U.S. Maritime Academy is planning to hold another captain’s license class at 1776 beginning in May. For more information, visit their website at www.northcoastcaptainclass.com.

Photos: (Left) Lt. Cmndr. Steven Elliott speaks to the class, and (Right) Lt. Cmndr. Elliott administers the Merchant Mariner’s Oath.
A whole lotta boatbuilding is going on on Columbus Road!

The workspace at 1776 is alive with the sounds of saws, sanders, scrapers, and rasps.

The Davis A&M after-school boatbuilding club is prepping a 16 ft. wooden sailboat for paint and varnish. Earlier this year they fabricated its mast by gluing and tapering two Douglas fir planks. A late Spring launch is on the horizon.

The Cleveland Amateur Boatbuilders (CABBS) wrapped up their Boatbuilding Basics Workshop in which twelve students built three Six-Hour Canoes over five Saturdays. Construction is completed but for the three lucky students who won the boats, more sanding, finishing and painting awaits.

Two CABBS members have ongoing boatbuilding projects at 1776. Both are built upside down from western red cedar strips that are glued together piece by piece, and covered inside and out with a layer of transparent fiberglass.

John Potter is building a 14ft. solo canoe and Henry Billingsley, an instrumental friend of PHASTAR, is building a 15ft. performance rowing boat for use on the Cuyahoga.

Stop in to see what is going on. The builders love to give a tour!

For more information or to join the Cleveland Amateur Boatbuilding and Boating Society, visit: www.cabbs.org
PHASTAR, Davis A&M Represented at Cleveland Boat Show

Both PHASTAR and Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School were represented this year at the 2020 Progressive Cleveland Boat Show and Fishing Expo that was held at the I-X Center from January 16th through 20th.

The 2020 Cleveland Boat Show, the 63rd annual, was considered to be one of the biggest boat shows held in Cleveland in over a decade.

Highlights of the show included fishing demonstrations, musical performances by Put-in-Bay musicians, a new Kids Zone, and more. You could even get some of the Boardwalk’s authentic, shipped-in-from-Put-in-Bay lobster bisque. The scuba diving tank is always a favorite of the Davis students at the Boat Show.

PHASTAR’s search and rescue boat, PHASTAR 2543 was also on display at the event. Liddle Blue got a lot of attention, and caught the eye of boaters who remembered seeing her on the river during the summer.

PHASTAR staff and volunteers helped man the two booths. Groups of students and teachers from Davis got a chance to come down to the show during the school day, as well as on the weekend, and helped to work at the booths as well as enjoy all that the boat show had to offer.

It was an excellent opportunity to spread the word about both Davis A&M and PHASTAR, and we plan to be back again next year at the 2021 Cleveland Boat Show!
More photos from the 2020 Boat Show:

Photos: (top left) students and staff pose in front of Liddle Blue, (top right) Capt. Ferguson tries out a boat simulator, (left) Pretending to get attacked by a giant fish, (below) students and staff at the main entrance to the 2020 Cleveland Boat Show.
Project YESS recruitment event at Davis A&M a success

On February 1, 2020, PHASTAR helped put on a successful recruitment event at Davis Aerospace and Maritime High school for the Rotary Club of Cleveland’s Project YESS (Youth Empowered to Succeed through Sailing) program. There was a healthy turnout for the event, which was a great opportunity for potential applicants to the program to learn more about Project YESS and to participate in some fun, hands-on activities.

Project YESS is a legacy program that was developed by the Rotary Club of Cleveland. Students in the Project YESS program work to develop teamwork, leadership and navigational skills during an extraordinary 5-session land-based curriculum that includes a boot camp, water safety, seamanship, celestial navigation, environmental awareness and a Cleveland sailing experience.

Graduates of the program are then given an amazing opportunity to sail away on a weeklong adventure aboard the S/V Denis Sullivan tall ship on the Great Lakes and apply all the skills they learned in the program. The Rotary Club of Cleveland covers all of the expenses of this trip, so it is completely free for students to participate in.

Applicants must be between the ages of 13 and 17. Project YESS selects approximately 15 students to participate in the program annually through a competitive application process that includes submitting references and a 15-minute interview.

In addition to the Project YESS students and the crew of the S/V Denis Sullivan, each year, two chaperones are also enlisted to join the weeklong sailing trip. This year, a teacher from Davis A&M is applying to be a chaperone on the trip.

PHASTAR provides maritime safety training and support for Project YESS, and hosts the recruitment session at Davis A&M.

Applications for Project YESS are due March 23, 2020. Interviews will be held in April, with an orientation for selected applicants in early May. Participants will complete a community service project in late May, and training will begin in June. The Great Lakes sailing trip will run July 2nd through 8th.
PHASTAR Hosts Great Lakes Maritime Educators’ Conference at Davis A&M

On Tuesday, February 11th, PHASTAR Corporation hosted our 3rd Annual Great Lakes Maritime Educators Conference. This meeting occurs annually on the morning before the start of the Great Lakes waterways conference. This pre-conference gathering has maintained strong interest and participation from educators, industry and government representatives from the Maritime Industry.

The format to this year’s meeting was a round table discussion. After each participant introduced themselves, Capt. Drew Ferguson introduced topics and questions to the group. This conversation lasted for three hours.

Attendees starting by recognizing the hazard to industry and individuals with the age out of large number of current Merchant Mariner and Pilots, AKA the Silver Tsunami. Currently resources are being focused on recruitment instead of education. With the increasing enrollment in maritime primary and secondary education programs across the county, it is clear interest is there. The industries that will benefit from young people being properly educated should be more involved in making sure the training and experience is the highest quality and readily available. More pathways for exposure are needed for younger kids, starting as young as elementary school, to inform young kids about the recreational and career opportunities in Maritime. College is cost prohibitive; educators and industry need to develop working pathways through college. There are other options besides going to college, trade schools still offer great opportunity, developing skills, making a living. All agreed that we should look for broader support from the Port Authorities, tow companies, shipping companies, marinas, yacht clubs and supply companies.

In closing, we discussed the upcoming initiative by the Department of Transportation Maritime Administration to designate multiple port cities across the US as Maritime Centers of Excellence. With some hefty lobbying and coordination between PHASTAR, CMSD and local community colleges, Cleveland could become the Great Lakes Center for Maritime Excellence. Stay tuned!!!
Recruiting the next class of Davis students

School recruitment season is once again upon us. Earlier this year, PHASTAR and Davis staff members, along with current Davis students, promoted Davis at the annual CMSD High School Choice Fair.

Over the course of three days, eighth grade students from every school in the district visited East Professional Center to learn about their options for attending High School. As one might imagine, many of the eighth graders were excited to learn there is a high school in Cleveland where they can learn to fly airplanes, drive boats, and learn technical skills that will make them both college-ready and job-ready.

If you or someone you know has a student interested in attending Davis A&M for the 2020-21 school year, reach out to the school at info@DavisAM.org

PHASTAR Spotlight: Kymaia Gadsden

Meet the newest PHASTAR team member, Kymaia Gadsden (pictured right). Kymaia is a Junior studying middle school math and science education at Cleveland State University. She loves to spend time making things, helping others, cooking, performing, and spending time with her almost 2-year-old daughter and her father. Kymaia is excited to be part of the PHASTAR Team at Davis!

Davis A&M on Instagram

Get a behind the scenes look at what life is like as a student at Davis A&M by following their IG: @therealdavisam
Recent projects from the Davis Fabrication Lab

Check out some of the cool projects that the students at Davis A&M have been working on:

(Photo above) Mrs. Santos, Davis A&M’s maritime science teacher, collaborated with the FabLab team to create specially designed ship hull cross sections that let students explore the effects of various loading conditions on a ship’s stability in a small scale wave tank.

(Photo below) Davis students created Mandalas like the one shown here, adorned in graphical representations of what was important to them in their lives. Using the Laser Cutters, students turned their designs into physical momentos.

(Photo left) Owen, an 11th grade FabLab Assistant, has taken on learning to use the CNC router. A prototype of a custom guitar body designed by Owen is shown here.

(Photo above) The Davis FIRST robotics team has taken over the electronics lab as they push to complete the school’s first ever competition ready robot. The team competes at the Wolstein Center on March 26, 2020.
The PHASTAR Board of Directors

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Giving to PHASTAR

As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, PHASTAR relies heavily on the generosity of others to offer high-quality programs and initiatives for the area’s youth and most vulnerable residents.

Donations can be sent to:
PHASTAR
1776 Columbus Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of Greater Cleveland youth, and will have a direct impact on their lives.

You can also make a donation on our website at www.phastar.org. Contact us at 216.860.4883 for other arrangements, or to set up a recurring donation. Other ways to give include volunteering your time, talents and/or services, or the donation of tangible goods. We are happy to discuss your possible donation.

HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IMPACT LOCAL YOUTH:

$50 = 1 hour of boat time on the water for up to 4 students at a time
$100 = 1 hour of flight time for a student interested in flying
$250 = 1 day of access to Fabrication Lab outside of school (weekends & holidays) OR 1 hour of safety vessel operation with full crew
$500 = 1 day field trip for up to 60 students
$1,000 = 1 month of utilities at PHASTAR facility providing educational opportunities
$5,000 = 1 year of support for Davis A&M’s Drone Racing Team
$10,000 = 1 private pilot license for a Davis A&M student
$25,000 = 1 CNC machine enabling high level design and manufacturing
$50,000 = 1 FAA Certified Flight Simulator allowing students to log flight time and advanced instrument training
$100,000 = 1 Mobile Mariner Ship Simulator providing qualification, certification, and credentialing to students, government, and industry partners