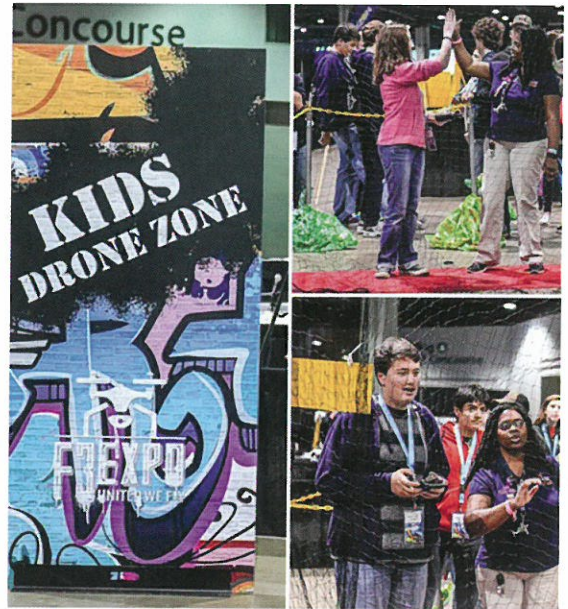


feet of meeting and event space, and includes a four-star restaurant, The Carillon, which features an award-winning culinary team focused on utilizing seasonal, sustainable ingredients. Going forward, ATTEECC has announced the construction of another building as part of the conference center. Robert B. Rowling Hall, which will open in July 2017, will feature a 15,000-square-foot ballroom plus 5,000 square feet of pre-function space and a 5,500-square-foot banquet kitchen.

The Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center also completed major renovations to its meeting facilities this spring and has enhanced the guest experience by renovating the hotel's 129 guest rooms, including 15 suites, during the past year, Kastner said. Additionally, renovations of the property's restaurant and bar components, including the fine-dining Lakeview Room, are scheduled to be completed early this summer. ▶

Serious Fun: Drone Adventure

When groups are ready for the "serious fun" part of their conferences, Meeting Expectations, an Atlanta-based meeting-planning company, suggests a unique team-building activity that uses drones in a variety of educational and scientific applications. According to Christine Hilgert, CMP, a senior vice president of Meeting Expectations, "We have planned components of an outdoor festival that includes a drone exhibitor expo, educational presentations and a drone demonstration cage. These types of participant engagements often work particularly well with an education- or tech-focused conference." ■



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