

## History of Literary Engineers

The founder of Literary Engineers, André A. Lewis, is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Astronautical Engineering (1989) and holds a Masters in Business Administration from Webster University (1997). He is a veteran who served nine years in United States Air Force as a pilot. During this time, he worked with non-profit organizations speaking primarily to middle and high school students to inspire them to achieve their dreams through academic excellence.

After fulfilling his military commitment, Mr. Lewis was hired on as a commercial pilot for a major airline (1998). After two years, he was asked to be an interviewer for the airline, a position that he held for three years. It was here that the concept of customized publishing started to form. Mr. Lewis recognized that candidates who performed poorly in the process appeared to lack a solid foundation on how to communicate their experiences. Mr. Lewis took this insight and delved into a scientific approach of analysis and surmised that he could help most individuals do better in the process by providing them a structured path through storytelling to assist in conveying important information.

Mr. Lewis adapted this concept to work with elementary children – the foundation of our school system. The morals, values, and desired concepts would be encoded into a children's book with a reading level of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade but addressing concepts that could help all. The goal was for each child to be given a book – the tangible object to remember the presentation and also a means to communicate and educate parents and guardians these important concepts could be shared with the parents or guardians when the child went home.

Mr. Lewis published his first book, *I Want to Fly*, in April 2007. This delightful story brings to life the possibilities of one's dream becoming reality. The following year Mr. Lewis released *Alexander & Renee Versus Dr. DeCay*, a story that encourages children to practice proper oral hygiene. In spring 2009 *We Want Computers* was published - an engaging story that highlights the impact of technology on children from all cultures and backgrounds. *The Fitness Challenge*, released in August 2009, addresses the epidemic of childhood obesity and poor nutrition. In fall 2010, commissioned by a school district to educate children, parents, and staff on bullying, he released a book entitled *No More Bullies*. His book, *A Daddy's Dream* deals with the positive relationship between fathers and daughters. He has created a new series of books entitled *Making It Better* to help organizations and older children. He has helped cities such as Richmond, CA with dealing with anti-gang and gun violence by creating a customized book called *Be a Change Agent for Your Community*. Just recently, he helped the National PAL organization celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary by creating a 140-page textbook to speak about the history of PAL, what PAL has to offer today, and several other important PAL concerns.

Mr. Lewis lives in northern California with his wife and three daughters. He continues to dedicate his time to enriching the lives of children, families, organizations and communities across the country. He plans to continue to help organizations create customized literature that deal with difficult topics and issues that are facing children and families everywhere.