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# SCSU FLIGHTLINES

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## SCSU AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Industry Advisory Board to the SCSU Aviation Department met on Thursday, October 8, at the St. Cloud Regional Airport Terminal with Ray Rought, Vice Chair, presiding. New Board members Greg Laumann, Dispatch, Sun Country Airlines, and Brian Ryks, A.A.E., Manager, St. Cloud Regional Airport, were welcomed, as were this year's presidents of the student organizations: Amy Becker, AAAE; Rich Enga, Alpha Eta Rho; and Mark Ihlenfeldt representing the Ambassadors. Ryan Mohr, Aero Club President was not able to attend.

John Palanica, DC-10 Captain, Northwest Airlines, reported the airline will be hiring 400-500 pilots annually, largely due to retirements. NWA prefers to hire pilots with 4-year degrees and those with the 2-year degree generally have an A & P certificate. This high number will tax the training capability. He added that in 1994 NWA had 75 female pilots. That number has increased to 200 in 1998. Palanica said that NWA is one of the few airlines that has its own Meteorology department and that most staff have advanced degrees. In spite of outsourcing some maintenance, NWA still needs mechanics. NWA plans to hire 100 flight attendants this year. A college degree is not required. The airline is experiencing difficulty in filling its entry-level computer positions. Some of this work is outsourced due to the shortage. Interested students should have at least a 3.5/4.00 GPA as well as COBOL or FORTRAN programming skills. Palanica also said that NWA has three used DC-10's coming on line soon and that it is likely that the airline will stay with its current aircraft as long as fuel costs are relatively low.

Palanica said that a "flow through" arrangement with Mesaba Airlines has been discussed. Rich Lawrence stated that Mesaba supports this but, to be successful, NWA will need to assign pilot seniority numbers to Mesaba new hires. Mesaba continues to be among the very few regional airlines not requiring new pilot hires to pay for their initial crew training.

Greg Lauman reported that Sun Country has 1,200 total employees including over 200 pilots. It will hire an additional 50 prior to the winter tourist season. In the past, attrition has been confined primarily to young Flight Engineers who move on to major airlines. Now young Captains are moving as well. Sun Country employs 325 Flight Attendants and will hire an additional 120 prior to the winter season. This is due to changes in federal regulations and airline scheduling. Sun Country now is offering scheduled domestic flights and the new charter terminal will facilitate expansion of that role.

Brian Ryks described new developments at St. Cloud Regional Airport and noted that Rod Schreifels, the SCSU student who is an airport intern, was present. Ray Rought announced that the MnDOT Citation business jet is in place and an additional pilot will be hired. He described MnDOT Aeronautics role in the MCOA statewide airport internship program.

The Aviation student organization representatives reported on their respective activities which are described elsewhere in this newsletter. Faculty reported on the status of the Aviation Department

with Patrick Mattson noting that enrollments have increased by 10 percent this year. Ken Raiber announced that the cooperative BA, Aviation Management program was initiated this fall at Metro State University in St. Paul.

## ADVISORY BOARD CHANGES

Gregg L. Laumann graduated from SCSU in May 1989 with a Business Management major and Aviation Management minor. He received his Aircraft Dispatcher License in September 1990 after attending classes at Anoka Technical College. After working in the airline side of United Parcel Service while attending Anoka, Laumann continued to work for UPS for about one year after receiving his Dispatch License. In December 1991 he was hired by Sun Country Airlines as a Crew Scheduler and in 1992 became an Aircraft Dispatcher and in 1994 Manager of Flight Dispatch. In 1996 Sun Country implemented the S.O.C. and Gregg was named a System Operations Controller, the position he currently holds.

Brian D. Ryks, A.A.E. became Manager of the St. Cloud Regional Airport Manager in October 1997. Ryks, a 1988 graduate of St. Cloud State University, is delighted to be back in Minnesota after holding positions out of state for the past seven years. Prior to arriving in St. Cloud he served as the Airport Director in Aberdeen, SD where he completed over \$13 million worth of airport capital improvements. Before Aberdeen, Ryks spent five and a half years as the Director of Noise Abatement at Stapleton and Denver International Airports. He was also Project Manager for the installation of a \$2.1 million noise and operations monitoring system at DIA, and was directly involved with construction of the new Denver Airport. Before moving to Denver, Ryks held positions in the Airport Directors and Noise Abatement Offices of the Metropolitan Airports Commission at MSP. He's excited to be in St. Cloud and looks forward to starting a number of projects in the coming year including construction of an ARFF facility, upgrading security fencing, updating the airport's master plan, and extension of the primary runway.

Dale Palmer, long time member of the Advisory Board to the Aviation Department, has resigned from the Board. Palmer, retired NWA pilot, continues to work as a consultant to the airline, giving simulator check rides to prospective new hires at Northwest Aerospace Training Corporation (NATCO). The increasing work load at NATCO plus plans for extensive work on the Palmers' lake home near Brainerd have made serving on the Board difficult during the past year. The Board and the Department are grateful for Palmer's contributions, particularly the information he provided regarding hiring trends in the airline industry. The Department is especially appreciative of the B747 Simulator Experience for advanced Aviation students which he initiated several years ago. Last year Palmer assisted in the establishment of the Karen Seaton scholarship. This award is given annually to a female Aviation student for advanced flight training. Sincere thanks and best wishes from the Advisory Board and the Department go with Dale Palmer.

### UNIVERSITY AVIATION ASSOCIATION

The Hilton Hotel Minneapolis North was the site of the annual fall professional meeting of the University Aviation Association, September 23-26, 1998. Northwest Airlines was the major host. Manager, Applied Human Factors, NWA. The Department assisted Dr. Guy M. Smith, local UAA conference chair with the planning and provided help during the conference. Students attended the conference on Thursday, September 24, which was designated "Student Day."

### COUNCIL ON AVIATION ACCREDITATION (CAA)

The Aviation program with its three emphases--Professional Flight, Management and Operations--was the sixth baccalaureate degree aviation program in the country to be accredited by the CAA in 1994. Every five years each accredited program must be re-accredited with a self-study undertaken by the program faculty followed by an on-site visit by two faculty members from similar collegiate aviation programs and one representative of the aviation industry. The purpose of this process is to insure the continuing quality and integrity of the program. The department will submit its self-study to the CAA in November and a site visit will follow in the spring. The re-accreditation of the three emphases offered within the baccalaureate degree Aviation program will be acted upon by the CAA in June, 1999. The SCSU Aviation degree is the only CAA-accredited aviation program in Minnesota.

### AVIATION AMBASSADORS

The Aviation Ambassadors attended the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) weeklong convention in Oshkosh, WI again this year. The Ambassadors also organized the annual St. Cloud Airport Day, attended the University Aviation Association (UAA) convention and helped the SCSU Admissions office at the National College Fair in Minneapolis. Other events included a fundraiser and several social events. A ski trip, broomball game, and sledding outing are all in the planning. The Ambassadors give tours of the St. Cloud Airport to community groups, elementary and high school students and also visit high schools and career fairs. Members of the Ambassadors can receive volunteer hours (credit) by giving tours and attending conventions and career fairs.

### ALPHA ETA RHO

The co-ed Aviation Fraternity welcomed 15 new members to the organization. These fifteen have shown a remarkable interest in becoming involved in the organization. The board would like to thank them for this. The goals for the fraternity this year are to develop better communication between its members and alumni (*Alumni if you have not received a newsletter in a while please contact us so we can update your address*), develop a greater sense of brother and sisterhood, and having a good time while learning through tours and speakers. So far this year AER has had a busy schedule. Pledging occupied most of the time in September with such activities as an Anoka tower tour, movie nights and other activities in which we could get to know the pledges. The organization is now in the process of planning a spring break trip to Cancun that is new this year, Fund raising activities, and many community events, including adopt-a-block and the food shelf.

### AAAE

AAAE welcomed 20 new and returning members this year.

Activities include hosting the Aviation Picnic in September and Adopt-A-Highway in October. Ray Strege, Professional Engineer, from Short Elliot Hendrickson Consulting was a guest speaker at the September 23 meeting. Next on the agenda is to work on doing some serious fundraising to help members pay for the trip to the National Conference in May, 1999 in Phoenix, Arizona. Along with fundraising SCSU AAAE chapter will be sponsoring some Christmas charity event to benefit the community. Group meetings are every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 5 PM. New members are welcome!

### AERO CLUB

This year has meant some changes for the Aero Club. The club has had to restructure a little with the change from quarters to semesters, and make some other amendments to the by-laws. The group currently is working on a fleet change. The membership last year voted to sell a 152 and purchase a third Cessna 172 Skyhawk. It has been slow finding a buyer, but there are some leads and hopefully it will not be long before there will be another 172 on line. It is another year of well over 100 current members and the airplanes are flying more than ever. The Skyhawks are coming down for 100 hour checks nearly once every two weeks. The weather has been good and the airplanes rarely down. We owe a lot to our mechanics who keep them going. Members are to be congratulated on maintaining an outstanding safety record. Even with the increased flying, there has not been any sort of accident or even hangar rash for a long time. Check out the Aero Club web page!

### FLYING SAINTS

The Flying Saints, SCSU's flight team, placed third at the Region V NIFA SAFECON October 22-24 in Mankato, MN. Faculty Advisor is Steve Anderson. The National Intercollegiate Flight Association (NIFA) Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference (SAFECON) consists of flight and ground competitions against other college flight programs. About thirty flight teams are expected to compete in NIFA national SAFECON next May.

### IN MEMORY OF

Katy Smiles, Aviation junior, and her parents lost their lives when their Piper PA-28-181 crashed in Massachusetts on June 3, 1998. The family had flown from their home in Wisconsin to attend the graduation of Katy's older sister from an Eastern college where she had earned a graduate degree. Katy, a private pilot, had flown the airplane during much of the flight east but her father was flying on the return trip. Several Aviation students attended the memorial service in Wisconsin.

### INTERNSHIPS

The Aviation Department's internship program continues to expand with the following placements made over the recent past: *Summer, 1998*, Metropolitan Airports Commission Amy Becker, Becky Blaska, Amy Chard, Dennis Mishler; Erin Higgins at Northwest Airlines Dispatch; Michael Doherty, Northwest Airlines Flight Operations; Michael Armstrong, Northwest Airlines Human Resources; Mike Luetgers Globe Airport Security Services; Ryan Zimmerman, United Airlines Flight Operations (Denver).

*Fall 1998*, interns include Rodney Schreifels, St. Cloud Regional Airport; Erin Higgins, Metropolitan Airports Commission (Landside); Kim Conyers, Northwest Airlines Dispatch; Brian

Chenvert, Globe Airport Security Services; Carolyn Sack, Frontier Airlines (Denver).

#### FACULTY NOTES

Steve Anderson, Jim Goke, Ken Raiber and Hope Thornberg attended the Fall Professional Conference of the University Aviation Association held at the Hilton North, Minneapolis, September 23 - 26. Anderson attended the pre-conference seminar - Marketing Your Aviation Program.

Pat Mattson attended the Digital Aviation Conference in Seattle. This conference featured a day-long session on NASA research work some of which has been done at SCSU. Mattson also attended the annual COMDEX computer show to research new technologies that could be used in the aviation program.

Ken Raiber, Steve Anderson, Jim Goke attended the Fall PostSecondary Aviation Education conference November 4 at the Minneapolis International Airport tower conference room. This annual conference is sponsored by MNDOT Aeronautics.

Pat Mattson continues his work on the NASA funded research project to modify and test the Controller Communication and Situational Awareness Terminal (C-CAST) system, a computer workstation that sends datalinked messages to the test aircraft, a B757. This phase of the project involves analysis of data collected at Atlanta airport in August, 1997, and preparation for the next test at Dallas/Ft. Worth International airport in summer, 2001. The project is a joint effort between Ohio University and the SCSU Aviation Department.

#### ANNUAL AVIATION SPRING BANQUET

The Department of Aviation, along with the Aero Club, Alpha Eta Rho, Aviation Ambassadors, and AAAE student chapter, held the 1998 Aviation Spring Banquet on May 1. The banquet was part of the Fourth Annual Aviation Week held April 26 to May 2. At the banquet, numerous scholarships and honors were awarded out to outstanding students. Three Excellence in Aviation Awards were given. The Excellence in Aviation - Flight Award was given to Chad Depoint. The Excellence in Aviation - Operations Award was given to Rich Svardahl. The Excellence in Aviation - Management Award was given to Missy Volkl and Julie VanAert. Over \$8,000 in other scholarships also were awarded. The Karen Seaton Scholarship award went to Jody Hallada. Jenny DeMers, Laurie Goosens, and Lindsay Dyer received Kimberly Ritsche Scholarship. The Pioneer of Flight Scholarship went to Dan Treba. The SCSU Aero Club Scholarship recipients were: Diane Palanica and Paul Mandala who received the Rowland Anderson Award, and Hans Meyer won the Robert Stieler Award.

#### RECENT GRADUATES

- Floyd Ballentine, Dispatch, Wright Aero, St. Cloud
- Jeff Blackmore, Human Resources, Mesaba Airlines
- Kevin Buechler, CFI, Crystal Airport
- Jen Chard, Sales & Marketing, Thunderbird Aviation
- Jim O'Connell, CFI, Wright Aero, St. Cloud
- Kevin Paulus, CFI, Wright Aero, Maple Lake
- Mark Rade, Operations, Yuma, AZ airport
- Jennifer Schultz, CFI, Wright Aero, St. Cloud
- Steve Unzen, CFI Shamrock Aviation
- Melissa Volkl, Marketing, Mesaba Airlines

#### CHANGES

- Molly Abelson, Operations, Jetways Charter
- Brad Bachand, Safety, NWA
- Robert Bostad, Captain Saab 340, Mesaba Airlines
- Kevin Cencer, B-727 FE, Sun Country Airlines
- Matt Cole, First Officer, Saab 340, Mesaba Airlines
- Wendell Dekruiff, Pilot, TWA
- Dray Engquist, Captain, American Airlines
- Matt Hayes, Pilot, Continental Airlines
- Kim Hoffbeck, Scheduling, Mesaba Airlines
- Richard Inthisone, CFI, Anoka Flight Training
- Brenda Johnson, Airport Operations, Madison, WI
- Sjohnna Knack, Noise Abatement Coordinator, Reno, NV
- Lisa Leet, Training Specialist, Rockwell Automation
- Tony Loftus, Captain-Dash 8, Mesaba Airlines
- Chad Makovsky, Operations Supervisor, JFK IAP
- Chad Paffel, Manager-Crew Scheduling, Mesaba Airlines
- Lisa Peasley, First Officer, Skyways Airlines
- Kyle Scapple, Operations, MAC MSP
- Todd Siedel, First Officer, Saab 340, Mesaba Airlines
- John Soderlund, First Officer, Great Lakes Airlines
- Knut Thomassen, Captain-Saab 340, Mesaba Airlines
- Wendy Weghorn, Accounting Midwest Express Airlines

Flightlines is published twice each year as an information source for SCSU aviation students, alumni, and friends of the Aviation Department. You can find this publication at [www.stcloudstate.edu/aviation](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/aviation). Flightlines is written by Dr. Hope Thornberg & Mr. Patrick Mattson with assistance and contributions from the Aviation Department Faculty, and Organization Presidents: Amy Becker, Rich Enga, Ryan Mohr, and Laurie Goosens. *Please send news for the Spring 1999 issue to the department NLT March 30, 1999.*