



2003 Spring Aviation Awards Banquet a Success!



William Carlson Memorial Scholarship recipients (L-R) Beth Wirtala, Mike Stearns, and Tiffany Smith.



Dr. Steve Anderson (left) presents the Robert Ryan Scholarship to Jason Jones.



The Captain Dennis P. Johnson Honorary Scholarship was awarded to Ryan Michaud.

The Aviation Department Spring Awards Banquet was attended by over 200 students, family members, friends, faculty, staff, and other guests. The poolside social started at 5:30 PM, followed by dinner at 6:30 PM, and the program at 7:30 PM held at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud. A special thanks goes to Erika Lang, Sarah Simonet, and Randi Coon for their “behind the scenes” work in making this event a success. Outgoing student organization presidents Greg

(see 2003 Spring Aviation Awards, page 3)

SCSU Aviation Professor Accelerates in High Tech Teaching

In recent years, technology has found itself into the modern day university classroom and for Robert Aceves, Assistant Professor of Aviation at SCSU, it has been embraced like an old friend. One type of web based technology used by SCSU and Aceves is WebCT.

“When used properly, there are tremendous advantages of integrating technology in the classroom and WebCT actually reduces my workload while increasing learning efficiency,” says Aceves.

With WebCT, faculty members have the ability to place lectures notes, develop and disseminate quizzes and exams, conduct discussions, and direct student interactions online. In order for students to gain access to WebCT, they must be registered for a specific class and are prompted to enter their user-name and password to gain access to an online WebCT class. How is WebCT accepted by students? Aceves believes that students seem to embrace and even welcome these types of learning technologies. “Using the quiz component of WebCT gives immediate feedback to students unlike traditional quiz assignments,” says Aceves. “I have a quiz bank of hundreds of questions that I can randomly generate for my students. Once they complete the quiz, they receive immediate feedback. Unlike taking a quiz on paper in class, students don’t have to wait for the next class period or later for me to hand grade their work and return it to them. The time savings and immediate feedback is phenomenal!”



Robert Aceves, Assistant Professor of Aviation

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Flightlines is published twice a year as an information source for SCSU aviation students, alumni, Advisory Board members, friends of the Aviation Department and the administration and faculty of SCSU. Article submissions, comments, suggestions, and questions are welcome and may be directed to Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, Assistant Professor of Aviation, SCSU Department of Aviation at (320) 529-6588 (email: jajohnson@stcloudstate.edu).

Editor: Jeffrey A. Johnson

Associate Editor: Pat Mattson

Current and back issues of *Flightlines* can be found on the Department of Aviation website:

www.stcloudstate.edu/aviation

**SCSU Aviation Dept.
HH 216 - 720 4th Ave. South
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498**

**Ph. (320) 255-2107
FAX (320) 654-5122**



The Aviation Career Fair sponsored by the Women in Aviation was a success. Students had the opportunity to network with industry representatives and apply for employment opportunities with various employers.

Did You Know?

Robert Aceves (Aviation) and Patty Aceves (Continuing Education) had a baby girl on April 4, 2003. Arielle Aceves weighed in at 7 lbs. 8 ounces.



Jeff Johnson (Aviation) and Julie Johnson, MD (HealthPartners) also had a baby girl. Hallie Johnson was born on March 27, 2003 and weighed in at 7 lbs. 5 ounces.

Congratulations!

Patrick Mattson was awarded the Aviation Faculty Excellence Award at the 2003 Spring Awards Banquet. Congratulations, Pat!

Aviation Department Updates

The Aero Club purchased a Piper Arrow IV this year to add to its fleet. Did you know the SCSU Aero Club is the largest student organization on campus this year?

The SCSU Women in Aviation: We had a great second semester as a student organization. In addition to expanding our membership to nearly three times its size in September, we participated in and planned several activities. We had several interesting speakers who shared a lot with us. Our two big projects for the semester included our trip to the Women in Aviation, International Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio in March, and the Career Fair during Aviation Week. We took 18 members to Cincinnati, along with Micky Axton, a WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots) from WWII. We had a great time networking, attending seminars, and visiting with other conference participants. We look forward to expanding our activities next year and continuing to provide many opportunities for our members.

Beth Wirtala received the other Airbus Leadership grant. The award is typically given to a woman already established in her career. Beth so impressed Airbus they decided to award it to a student for the first time. Way to go, Beth!

Two aviation management students, **Lawrence Runana** and **Dorcus Chege**, traveled with Professor Tara Harl Odom to the NBAA, (National Business Aviation Association) Leadership Conference in February. The students gave a presentation on the aviation industry in Kenya and Africa and their hopes to return someday to help address those issues. They were the first UAA students ever to speak at this conference. It was quite an honor for the Aviation Department and helped the students make many great contacts within industry.

Faculty News

Patrick Mattson is stepping down after four years as department chair this fall to pursue ATC efforts. Steve Anderson will assume the role as department chair.

Steve Anderson had a research paper titled, An investigation into factors influencing men and women in becoming professional pilots accepted for publication in the *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education & Research*.

Robert Aceves has completed the finishing touches for an online Bachelor of Applied Science in Aviation Maintenance Management at St. Cloud State University.

(See Faculty News, page 3)

Graduation—Time to Reflect *Prof. Pat Mattson*

Aviation education has had its ups and downs over the past two decades as the industry has contracted and gone through significant financial problems. Most of the industry experts I have spoken with over the past few months tell me that aviation will return - in perhaps a much leaner shape. SCSU aviation enrollments remain steady even with the airline layoffs we have seen over the past few years. Each industry goes through this roller coaster ride, as it is a normal part of the business cycle. The Taub Urban Research Center, New York University, stated, "Reductions in airline employment are partly a consequence of the recession but are also due to the restructuring of the industry which has caused the demise or decline of several carriers based in New York or with substantial operations here." This article discussed the industry in 1990-91 and was based on data from 1979 to 1989. There are even airlines expanding service as others reduce routes and frequency. And after several years of minimal hiring the FAA is starting to plan for the training of thousands of air traffic controllers over the next decade.

(See Graduation, page 3)



2003 Spring Aviation Awards *(continued from page 1)*



Kimberly Ritsche Scholarship recipients (L-R) Rachel Norman and Randi Coon.



Aviation Department Excellence in Aviation Leadership Award recipients (L-R) Lawrence Runana (Management); Beth Wirtala (Operations); Kate Mehr (Management) and Mike Stearns, Randi Coon, and Rachel Norman (Professional Flight).

Mavencamp (Alpha Eta Rho), Rachel Norman (Women in Aviation), Sarah Simonet (AAAE), Tom Hansen (Aero Club), Kelly Vaughn (Aviation Ambassadors), and Mike Stearns (Flight Team) gave an overview of their organizations and introduced the new officers. Professor Tara Harl Odom presented the scholarship and award announcements with the assistance of Dr. Steve Anderson. The event was completed with an aviation slideshow and a dance.

SCSU Aviation Professor *(continued from page 1)*

WebCT is also friendly on the environment. Aceves is very close to a virtual paperless classroom. “Unquestionably, using WebCT technologies saves a tremendous amount of paper and the cost savings can really add up over the course of a semester.”

Faculty News *(continued from page 2)*

Tara Harl Odom received the Boeing Career Enhancement Scholarship and the Airbus Leadership grant at the Women in Aviation International Convention in Cincinnati in March. This was the first time anyone had won both awards in the same year. Harl Odom was also nominated to be on the CAMC, Corporate Aviation Management Committee, with the NBAA. She received notice in March that she had been accepted and has also been asked to help plan the Leadership Conference for next year. Congratulations, Tara!

Graduation *(continued from page 2)*

What does all of this mean to SCSU aviation alumni, recent graduates or current students? It means that you must be able to project yourself as the best candidate for the job or make sure that your employer has several reasons to keep you. The only constant in the aviation industry is change, and in order to survive in your chosen profession you must adjust and adapt to the changing environment. Reality fact: no company is going to phone or email you or knock on your door and offer you a job! Find out as much as you can about the organizations you want to work for and then prepare for your next move. Companies seldom hire a person based on the degree and/or flight hours alone. The only thing between you and that dream job is – your attitude, appearance, and credentials. I have said many times over the years – to succeed in the aviation industry, you must first get in and then you can make your move. Don’t ever give up. Have a great summer!

News Flash!



Julie M. Johnson, M.D., a family practice physician at HealthPartners and a certificated private pilot, was selected to become St. Cloud's newest Aviation Medical Examiner (AME). Upon completion of her training in Oklahoma City, Dr. Johnson will be qualified to issue 2nd and 3rd class medical certificates this fall. Other AMEs in the St. Cloud area include Drs. David Van Nostrand, Gregory Mc Auliffe, and Basil Le Blanc.



“Here’s Micky!”



Micky Axton is a living legend when it comes to being an active WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots) from WWII and the first woman to fly the B-29. Her enthusiasm is contagious and occasionally, she can be found as a guest lecturer for Professor Tara Harl Odom’s Women in Aviation class.

Thanks, Micky, for giving your time to the Aviation Department!

**SCSU Aviation Department
HH216 - 720 4th Ave. South
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498**

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**SCSU Aviation Department
Headley Hall 216 - 720 4th Ave. South
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498**

**Telephone: 320-255-2107
FAX: 320-654-5122
Email: aviation@stcloudstate.edu**