



New Tower Construction Under Way! *Dr. Pat Mattson*



Construction is currently underway for the new control tower at the St. Cloud Regional Airport.

The St. Cloud, MN regional airport is getting a control tower - finally. I had to wait 15 years for the ground breaking ceremony held on July 27, 2003 but it finally happened. The facility will be located on the south side of the airport near where the VOR had been for many years. Bill Towle, airport director, says the location will provide the controllers an excellent view to monitor aircraft movements. The tower will cost approximately \$2.4 million to build and is scheduled for completion in February 2004. The new tower is a much needed addition to the St. Cloud airport. With over 85,000 annual aircraft operations, the airport is slated to become the second busiest commercial service airport in the state. It is anticipated that the city will participate in the FAA Contract Tower Program and operational costs will be split between the federal and city governments. Currently, we are exploring the possibility of starting a tower training program for SCSU students. You can view the tower construction progress on the web at http://web.stcloudstate.edu/prmattson/ATCT_pictures_STC_building_2003.

NTSB Report: Wellstone Plane Accident was Pilot Error

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) findings about the plane accident killing U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone and seven others was released last November. The probable cause was "the flight crew's failure to maintain adequate airspeed, which led an aerodynamic stall from which they did not recover" (NTSB, <http://www.ntsb.gov/publictn/2003/AAR0303.htm>). The NTSB did not find any mechanical abnormalities that contributed to the accident. The report found that both pilots had serious aeronautical skill deficiencies and the captain was even called "dangerous" by another pilot.

"This accident could have been avoided," according to Jeff Johnson, assistant professor of aviation at SCSU and a former employee of the Nebraska Republican Party, who used to fly mid-to-high level politicians and other political candidates including U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel (R-Nebraska). "By its very nature, flying politicians is very demanding. When I found out the co-pilot on the Wellstone flight had less than 700 hours of flight time, I was absolutely stunned," said Johnson. "Senator Hagel's staff made it clear that anyone flying the senator

(see NTSB Report, page 3)

Inside this issue:

<i>Aviation Department Updates</i>	2
<i>Faculty News</i>	2
<i>Mattson Receives Doctoral Degree</i>	2
<i>Many Thanks!</i>	2
<i>Announcements</i>	2
<i>Chairman's Report</i>	3
<i>Save the Date!</i>	3
<i>Thanks, Sandy!</i>	3

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) 308-6588 (email: jajohnson@stcloudstate.edu).

Editor: Jeffrey A. Johnson

Associate Editor: Patrick R. Mattson

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

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/aviation>

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

**Ph. (320) 308-2107
FAX (320) 308-5122**

Congratulations Dr. Mattson!



SCSU Dept. of Aviation's very own Pat Mattson received his Ed.D. degree in Leadership-Higher Education from St. Mary's University in October & was promoted to full professor.

Congratulations, Pat!

Many Thanks!

A special thank you to our aviation students who are serving our country in the U.S. Armed Forces. Several student had to leave school for active duty.



*Thank You
& God Bless You!*

Did You Know?

Dr. Pat Mattson handed the department chair reins to Dr. Steve Anderson last fall. Thanks for all your hard work, Pat!!

Aviation Department Updates

The Aviation Department was asked by FOX 9 News to provide technical expertise in attempting to recreate the Paul Wellstone accident. The FOX 9 News crew spent two days filming a simulation using the Aviation Department's Beech 1900 simulator under the supervision of Dr. Jeff Johnson.

The Aviation Ambassadors traveled to the Oshkosh Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) convention July 2003 to promote the Department of Aviation to thousands of aviation fans.

AAAE Student Membership is up from the past few years to 25 members. On November 24th, AAAE members worked on a community outreach project ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. Members are also planning on attending the national AAAE conference in Las Vegas.

The SCSU Women in Aviation was officially recognized last November and is now an official chapter of WIA International. In October, WIA members worked with a local Girl Scout troop and helped them design a brochure for the Women's Shelter while working on computer interest project patch. WIA members are currently planning for a March 2004 trip to the Women in Aviation, International conference in Reno, Nevada. About 15 members are planning to go on this trip and are in the process of fundraising. In January, WIA members will start planning for the aviation career fair in April and hope it will be bigger and better this year.

Faculty News

Patrick Mattson was awarded an Ed.D. in Leadership-Higher Education from Saint Mary's University in Minnesota early this fall. He successfully defended his dissertation, *Analysis of Aviation Faculty Attitudes about Information Technology and On-Line Education* on August 19, 2003. The paper was the result of a study that examined aviation post-secondary faculty attitudes in order to provide evidence of how they think about information technology and on-line distance education course work. There are at least fifteen similar studies, but none had been accomplished in the aviation domain. Questionnaires were sent to the professional members of the University Aviation Association. The results of the study demonstrated that aviation post-secondary faculty exhibit attitudes similar to those held by their colleagues in other domains.

Tara Harl Odom and **Jeff Johnson** attended the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) conference in Orlando last October. Harl Odom was nominated and accepted onto the NBAA-CAMC (Corporate Management Committee) late last spring and was asked to be on the PDP subcommittee and also the Leadership Conference planning committee of CAMC.

Tara Harl Odom has integrated the aviation industry into her AVIT 413 class (GA & Corporate Operations). The students divided into ten groups and went to the Twin Cities to work with corporate flight departments on a management issue. The departments were Target, 3M, Cargill, Elliot, USBank, Signature, Regent, General Dynamics, and General Mills.

(See Faculty News, page 3)

Announcements

Attention Students! Many course numbers in the Department of Aviation have changed! You can go to the aviation department website at <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/aviation> and click on "Student Handbook" for more information. Many new changes start in January 2004.

The second annual **Dennis P. Johnson Honorary Scholarship Award** will be available for professional flight students during the spring. Further details to be announced in late January.



NTSB Report *(continued from page 1)*

had to be experienced. In addition, Hagel's staff would not allow Senator Hagel to fly in single-engine aircraft and all flights had to have two pilots. To allow a co-pilot with less than 700 hours to fly a U.S. Senator is just plain irresponsible." Johnson argued that "although the value of every citizen of the state is important, be it a homeless person or a high-ranking government official, citizens of the state have a vested interest in their U.S. senator. Every effort should be made to mitigate any chance of an aircraft accident when transporting U.S. senators on corporate or chartered aircraft. Clearly, this did not occur in Paul Wellstone's case."

High profile accidents have the ability to greatly impact regulatory change. In the case of the Wellstone accident, the NTSB recommended that a panel of aircraft design, aviation operations, and aviation human factors specialists, including representatives from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration should be convened "to determine whether a requirement for the installation of low airspeed alert systems in airplanes engaged in commercial operations under 14 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 121 and 135 would be feasible." This NTSB recommendation has not been well received by some members in the aviation community. According to Johnson, "Aircraft flown under Parts 121 and 135 already have a low airspeed alert system called the stall warning horn and some even have stick shakers/pushers. Even the best technological innovations enhancing safety in the aviation industry will never replace aeronautical skill deficiencies by flight crewmembers. In aviation, the 'weakest link' can kill you!"

Chairman's Report *Dr. Steve Anderson*

Enrollment in our aviation programs has increased slightly this year despite sluggish hiring trends from the major airlines and the recent slow economy. Hiring in the aviation industry as a whole remains somewhat slow, but there are still many bright spots. Many of our graduates have found excellent employment opportunities with corporate flight departments, airports, support companies (i.e., airport planning consultants), and regional airlines that are taking over routes from major airlines. Advice from industry experts and the signs of a general economic recovery suggests that there are and will be good aviation jobs, but graduates will just need to be more persistent and will need to consider less traditional career paths (i.e., corporate flight careers vs. major airlines).

The department faculty recently completed a long review of its programs and courses and made changes to the curriculum that will go into effect Spring 2004. The main changes include replacing the LOFT and flight engineer courses with a new sequence of courses focusing on advanced aircraft systems and operations.

Faculty News *(continued from page 2)*

Robert Aceves has provided a unique community service component into AVIT 407 (Aviation Management). In conjunction with the university's new community service programs, 20 students from AVIT 407 spent the day before thanksgiving assisting passengers waiting in security lines at the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport.

Jeff Johnson presented a lecture in October entitled, *The One Year Anniversary of the Death of U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone: A Pre-Accident Analysis* at the SCSU Miller Center. About 80 people were in attendance including the media from WCCO 4 News, KVSC, UTVS, St. Cloud Times, St. Paul Pioneer Press, University Chronicle, and Associated Press.

Steve Anderson started serving as department chair this past fall and also represented the department at the summer CAA conference in Montreal, Canada.

Words to Fly By!



"Remember, when you start multiengine training, you will need a credit card for each engine!"

~ Advice given to Dr. Jeff Johnson when he was an aviation student by his father

Save the Date!

The Aviation Department Spring Awards Banquet will be held during the latter part of the Spring 2004 semester in the Grand Ballroom, Kelly Inn of St. Cloud. Details to be announced.



Thanks, Sandy!

A big, hearty, sincere THANK YOU goes to Sandy Osterholt, Office Manager in the Department of Aviation, for all of her hard work in serving students, faculty, and staff. We appreciate all the "behind the scenes" work you do to make our lives just a little bit easier!

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

St. Cloud State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer.
St. Cloud State University is a part of the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities System (MnSCU)

We Would Like to Hear from YOU!

Graduation? Career change? Promotion? Retirement? Anything else going on in your life? Please take a moment and give us an update. Can we feature YOU in our next newsletter? Yes ___

Name _____ Year Graduated _____ Major _____

Address _____

Employer _____ Position/Title _____

Email Address _____ Telephone _____

Please check here if this is a new address ___ Please check here if this is an updated address ___

Can we count on you to make a donation to the Department of Aviation? Yes ___

If you would like to get our newsletter twice a year via email, please email us at aviation@stcloudstate.edu

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

**Telephone: 320-308-2107
FAX: 320-308-5122
Email: aviation@stcloudstate.edu**