



Faculty Profile: Ferguson and Olson Join the Department of Aviation



Michael Ferguson (left) and Angie Olson (right) were hired as full time probationary track faculty members in the Department of Aviation last fall.

In the beginning, there was Mattson followed by Anderson. Then, came Johnson. And now, we welcome the arrival of Ferguson and Olson! Is there a connection? Well, you be the judge! The Department of Aviation is pleased to introduce two new full time faculty members this year—Mr. Michael Ferguson and Ms. Angie Olson. They bring an excellent combination of industry and teaching experience into the aviation classroom.

Michael Ferguson is an Assistant Professor of Aviation at SCSU. He has a BA degree in Geography with an emphasis in atmospheric studies and applied meteorology with a minor in aviation from Bowling Green State University and an MS degree in Urban Studies with an emphasis in aviation administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He was previously

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Reflections *by Dr. Patrick Mattson, C.M.*

As I reflect on almost 18 years at SCSU, I pause to remember that very first class I taught here. It was in Headley Hall 214, 6:01 PM March 10, 1987 and I started by saying, "Good evening, my name is Patrick Mattson and this is Technology 407". So began my teaching career at St. Cloud State University. I was hired as an adjunct to teach the Aviation Management class and this was the fourth college-level class I had taught (the others were at a Community College in North Dakota). The students were great about my lack of teaching experience and I think maybe a few even learned a thing or two. I remember how happy I was to be teaching college again. Since that day, I have learned that I am more of a coach or facilitator than a lecturer and that I do not have "all the answers". A sign on my office door reads "everything we ever needed to know we learned in kindergarten," so I am thinking that I have been enhancing that basic knowledge over the years. To this day, I cannot understand why students fear the announcement, "this will be on the test". Although I never kept a record of how many times I said that, even today I still get the same reaction from students: those who were taking notes wrote faster and those who weren't started at the end of my statement.

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

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

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

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Congratulations Dr. Aceves!



Robert Aceves received his Ed.D. degree in School Administration last August from the University of Oklahoma.

Congratulations, Robert!



Congratulations to December Graduates!

Paul Joe Melsness
BS in Aviation
(Operations)



Can You Guess the Professor?

This aviation professor is a licensed scuba diver who is experienced diving on shipwrecks in the ocean. This professor also went on a shark dive!

Who could it be?



Student Organization Updates

The SCSU Aviation Ambassadors have been busy developing a video promoting the SCSU Department of Aviation. The Ambassadors plan on distributing the video which will be dubbed on CDs for free distribution at the upcoming annual EAA Airshow in Oshkosh. The video has short clips of aviation faculty members and students promoting the aviation program at SCSU.

The Women in Aviation (WIA) had a very busy semester! In November, the WIA sponsored an airport breakfast for all students, staff, and faculty. In December, WIA donated time to the Tree of Hope toy drive as a way to provide hospitalized children (away from their families and homes) with Christmas presents and holiday joy. After the Tree of Hope event, WIA went to NATCO (Northwest Aerospace Training Corporation) and members had a chance to fly the B757 simulator and visited the simulators of the DC-10 and the A320. It was a phenomenal experience to tour the NATCO building and WIA members appreciated Captain Spanier (the father of an SCSU aviation student) for taking time for the tour. It was quite the semester and WIA members are excited for yet another chance to provide SCSU aviation students with even more great opportunities! (Editor's note: A big thank you to Shanna Lowe for her hard work!)

Faculty News

Robert Aceves presented a paper titled, *Doctoral Research: Input Quality in Internet-Delivered Education* at the American Association of Collegiate Independent Study conference in Champaign, Illinois.

Jeff Johnson presented a paper titled, *The Respectability of Collegiate Aviation as an Academic Discipline: Have We Arrived Yet?* at the University Aviation Association (UAA) conference in Champaign, Illinois. The paper was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education & Research* last fall.

Steve Anderson attended the Council on Aviation Accreditation (CAA) summer conference in London, Ontario, Canada and the UAA fall education conference in Champaign, Illinois. Steve also completed a two-year term as treasurer.

Steve Anderson was chosen by the CAA to be an educator representative for the current Industry/Educator Forum series on the topic of responding to advances in air traffic management. This highly acclaimed ongoing CAA conference event involves selected industry representatives presenting information, issues, and needs on a topic of current interest at the CAA summer conference and selected academic representatives responding with ideas how academia can help address the issues and needs of industry at the CAA winter meeting.

Tara Harl presented at the UAA fall conference about NBAA's CAMC (Corporate Aviation Management Committee) plan to implement the AVIT 413 initiative in three other regions/collegiate aviation programs nationally. This "first in the nation" program has attracted a great deal of interest in the SCSU aviation program by NBAA. Tara Harl and Dave Maib (Director of Flight Operations for Target Corporation) are scheduled to speak about the new initiative at the MBAA (Minnesota Business Aviation Association) in January, 2006 and the CAMC Leadership Conference in February, 2006. Tara Harl continues to co-chair the Professional Development Committee for CAMC.

Tara Harl passed her comprehensive exams for her doctoral degree this fall and will be working on her doctoral dissertation.

Patrick Mattson attended the "Beyond Boundaries" Conference October 6-7, 2005 at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND. The goal of this conference is to provide attendees the latest in information technology as it relates to instructional and research missions.

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Faculty Profile *(continued from page 1)*

employed at Atlantic Southeast Airlines (ASA)/Delta Connection as the Manager of Safety—Ground Operations. Prior to becoming the Manager of Safety, Michael held the position of Regional Manager – Airport Operations, and Station Manager in Gainesville, Florida. He also has many years of experience in other areas of the aviation industry as well. Michael’s expertise is in airline management and safety. He teaches occupational safety; aviation safety and human factors; aviation, airport and airline management; and airport planning and design courses. Michael holds a Private Pilot certificate (SEL rating) and is also a certified Ground Instructor with Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor ratings. Michael enjoys playing hockey, golf, racquetball, tennis, and is a huge fan of THE Ohio State Buckeyes. He also loves music and is an avid bass player. When the opportunity presents itself, Michael also enjoys acting and has appeared in several different productions over the years. He is married and has three sons.

Angie Olson was also hired as an Assistant Professor of Aviation. She has a BS degree in Aeronautical Studies and a minor in German. Angie graduated last summer with an MS degree in Technology Education from St. Cloud State University. She was previously employed by the SCSU Department of Aviation as an adjunct faculty member. She also flew for Sun Country Airlines as a flight engineer and a first officer on Boeing 727 aircraft. Angie’s specialty is flight operations and she teaches commercial ground school, advanced aircraft systems, air carrier operations, and aviation electronic systems. Angie holds the following certificates and ratings: Commercial (SEL & MEL), Instrument, Multi-engine, Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor, and Flight Engineer. She is married and has two children—Bailey (age 7) and Lars (age 5). Angie loves to play with her “very active” kids and run or ski with their pet dog, Sven.

Reflections *(continued from page 1)*

I had a few goals when I arrived (listed in no particular order): more student organizations (the Aero Club and Flight Team were the only ones, today we have six!); to see the St. Cloud control tower open (it did in November, 2004); add more air traffic control classes (SCSU went from none to two overnight); add technology in classrooms (all have overhead LCD projection systems); increase underrepresented populations (Dr. Hope Thornberg and I started the first Women in Aviation course in the nation); to gain national accreditation (first given in 1994 and reissued each five years); and see the program grow from 50 to over 300 students and two to seven full time faculty. And to think that I almost did not give myself the opportunity to complete any of this list. You see, I was disappointed in the job after my first year and had returned to my old job in June, 1989 for a short summer assignment at a substantial pay increase! Around August 1, I had applied for my old position and was told (on the Friday before Labor Day, 1989) that I could return. I decided not to take the offer and remained at SCSU because I believed that you gave the employer at least two weeks notice. Had the offer been made before August 15, I doubt that I would have stayed at SCSU. But then again, that company went out of business (in 1991) and I remained here at SCSU looking forward to a retirement check. You see, the grass is not always greener over there. The conclusion to this story will be published in the Spring 2006 edition of *Flightlines* (perhaps my favorite memories and stories at SCSU).

Faculty News *(continued from page 2)*

Michael Ferguson has arranged for his students in AVIT 429 (Airport Planning and Design) to work on four different projects for the Army National Guard base which will be built at the St. Cloud Regional Airport. The class is divided into four teams, each of which will study force protection, sound attenuation, environmental controls, and hot fueling.

Angie Olson took her advanced aircraft systems (AVIT 421) students to the Sun Country hangar at the MSP airport. The field trip provided a hands-on tour of the systems studied in class this semester. Angie is also developing an Aviation Electronics course to replace the current electronics course.

First Annual FOD Walk a Success!



SCSU aviation students, faculty, and friends under the direction of Michael Ferguson sweep the airport for foreign object debris (FOD) at the St. Cloud Regional Airport on October 22nd. Over 60 people attended the event.

New Certificates & Ratings

Ben Lawler
Commercial Pilot, MEL
Flight Instructor, SE

Kevin Weiss
Private Pilot, MEL
Instrument Rating



Way to Go, Todd Christopherson!

Todd Christopherson, the Events Coordinator for the Aviation Ambassadors, is developing a promotional video for the SCSU Department of Aviation.

Thanks, Todd!

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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 ___

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