



New Faculty Profiles: Prof. Harl Odom and Johnson



New faculty members: Professor Tara Harl Odom (left) and Dr. Jeff Johnson (above).

If you think Harl Odom & Johnson sounds like a fancy law firm, guess again! The Department of Aviation is pleased to introduce two new faculty members this year—Professors Tara Harl Odom and Jeff Johnson. They bring excellent industry experience into the aviation classroom.

Tara Harl Odom is an Assistant Professor of Aviation at SCSU. She has an M. Ed. in Aerospace Education from Middle Tennessee State University and a B.S. in Aviation Management from the University of Dubuque. She holds an ATP SEL/MEL rating and is typed in the CitationJet. She has international experience in Challengers, Hawkers, and Westwind jets. Harl

(see Harl Odom and Johnson, page 3)

Chairman's Report

Aviation program enrollments have remained steady with about 325 students taking classes during the 2001-2002 academic year. There are approximately 100 new and transferring fall 2002 students. The majority of current Aviation majors are in Professional Flight with the rest split evenly between Operations and Management. Graduate follow-up surveys indicate that (of those responding alumni) graduates are finding employment in the aviation industry, albeit tougher time than a two years ago. Flight positions, air traffic control, airport management and operations, and aviation-related consulting appear to be the career areas that offer the most employment opportunities. Internship and entry level opportunities are still available to students and graduates but we are seeing these becoming more competitive.

Airport News

The St. Cloud Regional Airport runway was expanded to 7000 X 150 feet and was completed in October 2001. The bids for engineering and site management contracts were signed for the new control tower ground breaking is scheduled for April 2003. The tower should open in early Fall 2003. The General Accounting Office issued a report this past summer (www.gao.gov/new.items/d02591.pdf) which indicated that the FAA will likely need to hire thousands of controller candidates over the next decade due to increase in air traffic and controller retirements. Training controllers for the private towered airports was a major topic at the Contract Tower Workshop in Washington, DC (July 2001) which Pat Mattson attended.

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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).

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

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St. Cloud Regional Airport Manager Bill Towle (left) visits with Atlantic Southeast Airlines (ASA)/Delta Connection's Regional Manager Michael Ferguson.

Did You Know?

SCSU Dept. of Aviation's very own Steve Anderson received his Ph.D. degree in Education from the University of Minnesota in the summer of 2001 & was promoted to Associate Professor.



*Congratulations,
Dr. Anderson!*

Hiring Update!

Despite the tough economic state of the major airlines, many regional airlines and fractional carriers are hiring new employees and placing new aircraft orders!

Aviation Department Updates

The Aviation Ambassadors traveled to the Oshkosh Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) convention July 2002 to tell the SCSU Aviation story with the many thousands of aviation fans.

The Aviation Department accepted delivery of two new Frasca flight training devices (FTD) – a single and turboprop to replace the ATC 610 and 920D last January. The 141 is located at the airport and the 241T is placed in Headley Hall 120; both FTDs have 100 inch visual screens to enable the pilot to view realistic scenery.

AAAE Student Membership is up from the past few years reaching almost 20. On November 4th, AAAE members worked on a community outreach project raking leaves for area senior citizens. In addition, the AAAE club is in full swing working on adopting the St. Cloud Airport. AAAE members are also planning on more volunteer work to pay for a trip to the national AAAE conference in Los Angeles.

The SCSU Women in Aviation is the newest organization in the aviation department. The Women in Aviation is part of the national chapter which encourages women's involvement in aviation. The SCSU Women in Aviation Chapter already has almost 20 members and has become involved in the Girl Scout program.

Faculty News

Patrick Mattson has completed all coursework, the comprehensive exam and had his dissertation proposal (*Analysis of Aviation Faculty Attitudes About Information Technology and On-Line Education*) accepted by committee. This study examines aviation faculty attitudes in order to provide evidence of how they think about information technology and online/distance education for postsecondary coursework. A nonrandom convenience sample of the 270 professional members of the University Aviation Association is surveyed. Published results of this study will provide insight to curriculum planners and program directors on how those issues are related to various faculty characteristics. Mattson expects to complete his Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in spring 2003.

Jeff Johnson and **Tara Harl Odom** invited Regional Manager Michael Ferguson of Atlantic Southeast Airlines (ASA)/Delta Connection as a special guest speaker in several aviation classes. Ferguson spoke about the state of the airline industry and about the tremendous hiring that ASA is currently going through as they obtain more routes from Delta. Through the use of role playing and student volunteers, Ferguson also offered very helpful "do's and don'ts" for students who plan on interviewing with an airline.

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Council on Aviation Accreditation (CAA)

Dr. Steve Anderson is coordinating the department's CAA self-study process and we will submit the completed document to the CAA in early spring 2003. A site visit will follow in the fall. The re-accreditation of the three emphases offered within the Aviation program will be acted upon by the CAA in February 2004. The SCSU Aviation degree is the only CAA accredited aviation program in Minnesota. 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 reaccredited 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.



Harl Odom and Johnson *(continued from page 1)*

Odom has extensive experience in the King Air 90/100/200, the Cheyenne I & II, the Turbo Commander 800 and 980 and MU2s. She holds CFII-ME with Basic and Advanced Ground Instructor Certificates. For fun, she acquired her Commercial SES rating. Ms. Harl Odom is a second year doctoral student in Educational Leadership at St. Mary's University of MN. Her area of research and interest is in attracting more African Americans to aviation careers, especially the corporate world. She is active in the NBAA, WAI, UAA, and MBAA.

"Developing a professional image and maintaining industry contacts is crucial in order to succeed in the corporate world of aviation," says Harl Odom. Outside the world of aviation she is an NOV (National Operations Volunteer) for Girl Scouts USA based out of their national office in NYC.

Dr. Jeff Johnson is an Assistant Professor of Aviation at SCSU. He received a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Bowling Green State University, a Master of Aeronautical Science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and a B.S degree in Aeronautical Studies at the University of North Dakota. He holds an Airline Transport Pilot with a Beechjet/Mitsubishi Diamond jet type rating, Certified Flight Instructor (Single and Multi Engine), Certified Flight Instructor Instrument, Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor, and Airframe and Powerplant Maintenance Technician certificates. He has prior experience flying Beechjets, Falcon jets, and Beech 1900s for various regional, cargo, and fractional carriers. He has maintenance experience on Beech 1900s and Learjets. Dr. Johnson is a member of the University Aviation Association and was the 1999-2000 secretary. He has published numerous articles in refereed journals and was the associate editor and founder of the *Student Learner in Focus* (SLIF), a learning outcomes assessment newsletter. Johnson was also an airport authority member.

"Aviation is an exciting field. One of my goals is to bring real life aviation experiences into the classroom. Our students can benefit from the integration of real life experiences into aviation academia," says Johnson. When it comes to getting a job after graduation, Johnson encourages aviation graduates to be optimistic despite the economic turndown. "Regional and fractional carriers are going gangbusters in hiring new employees. It is far more efficient for a major carrier to remove an old gas guzzling 727 or DC-9 on a specific route and have a regional code share partner fly a fuel efficient regional jet."

Johnson's research interests are in the areas of aviation education, pilot training, and aviation security. Originally from a dairy farm in northwest Wisconsin, Jeff Johnson is married to Dr. Julie Johnson, a family practice physician at HealthPartners.

Faculty News *(continued from page 2)*

Patrick Mattson and **Steve Anderson** attended the University Aviation Association (UAA) Fall Education meeting held in Orlando, FL, in September. They were able to present two research proposals and interact with colleagues from across the nation. Mattson was elected chair of the UAA Distance Education Committee for the 2003 calendar year.

Tara Harl Odom and **Jeff Johnson** attended the Postsecondary Aviation conference at the Minnesota Department of Aeronautics. Lisa Roddy of Northwest Airlin/Pinnacle Airlines gave an industry employment update on the hiring of pilots, mechanics, and flight attendants. She said the media has portrayed an inaccurate picture of the airline industry. Despite the economic downturn of the major airlines and resulting layoffs, Pinnacle Airlines and other regional carriers are actually hiring pilots, mechanics, flight attendants, and ground support personnel in addition to placing more aircraft orders. Many regional carriers have assumed routes from their mainline carriers because regional jets are far more efficient.

Congratulations!



Professor Ken Raiber retired last May after serving the Dept. of Aviation since September 1980. He continues to teach the Beech 1900 systems class part time.

Thanks, Ken, for your many years of dedicated service!

Save the Date!

The Aviation Department Spring Awards Banquet has been slated for April 12, 2003 in the Grand Ballroom, Kelly Inn of St. Cloud. Social hour starts at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30, and the dance starts at 9:00. Hope to see you there!



In Memoriam

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the families of Jeremy Collins and James Gay. Jeremy was a senior in the SCSU Aviation program and James graduated with a B.S. in Aviation Management in May 1998.

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