



2004 Spring Aviation Awards Banquet: A Time to Celebrate!



Dr. Steve Anderson (left) presents the Captain Dennis P. Johnson Honorary Scholarship to Randi Coon.



The Kimberly Ritsche Scholarship was awarded to Beth Wirtala (seen above) and also Randi Coon.

The Aviation Department Spring Awards Banquet was attended by over 150 students, family members, friends, faculty, staff, and other guests. The 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. Special thanks goes to Rachel Norman and Beth Wirtala under the direction of the awards banquet advisor Dr. Pat Mattson for making this event a success. Outgoing student organization presidents Greg Mavencamp (Alpha Eta Rho), Beth Wirtala (Women in Aviation) Tiffany Smith (AAAE), Randi Coon (Aero Club),

(see 2004 Awards Banquet, page 3)

Future Pilots: Why Get a Four-Year Degree in Aviation?

Aviation faculty members are often asked the “all important” question from prospective students and their parents, “Why get a degree in aviation?” There has never been a requirement for prospective airline pilots to have a bachelor’s degree in aviation. In fact, a vast majority of major airline pilots have a degree in a non-aviation field. Dr. Jeff Johnson, speaking from a life experience perspective, even recommends that flight students need to find a second area of expertise. Johnson graduated with a B.S. degree in Aeronautical Science from UND in 1988 and could only find employment as a security screener at Detroit Metro Airport. “Quite frankly, I once felt disillusioned for having obtained a degree in aviation,” Johnson admitted. “My friend’s brother had recently graduated with a degree in business at Purdue University. When I asked my friend what his brother was doing, I was stunned to find out that he was working at Wal-Mart!” According to Johnson, “I realized that due to the recession from the first Gulf War in 1990, graduates in other fields were also having difficulties.” Johnson was able to secure a position as an A&P technician working on Learjets. “My first love was flying, but I am thankful I had a ‘second area of expertise’ which was aircraft maintenance. Now, I really push my flight students to find a second area of expertise in case pilot hiring drops off or a medical condition develops.” So, why get a degree in aviation? “Aviation is a small world and internship opportunities within the aviation industry will give students a competitive edge over students in other fields of study. I’ve noticed that aviation students often form strong bonds with one another,” according to Johnson. “There are networking opportunities that often open doors for job opportunities after graduation. You may not have these opportunities if you are in another field of study. Besides, aviation is just ‘plane’ fun. I’d do it all over again!”

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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: jajohnson@stcloudstate.edu).

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

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Minnesota Business Aviation Association



(L-R) Ms. Tara Harl Odom, Ryan Guckenberger, Mike Simons, Bryan Plank, Randi Coon and Dr. Jeff Johnson attended the Minnesota Business Aviation Association (MBAA) meeting at the St. Paul Flight Center in April. The event was hosted by Raytheon.

Congratulations to the Class of 2004!

*Blessings and best wishes
to all 2004
spring graduates
as you start a new chapter
in your lives!*



Hot off the Press!

New Corporate Internship for SCSU Aviation Students

Jet Corp of St. Louis, Missouri will hire one to two students per year to rotate among its various departments to learn the workings of a full service center. Students will be paid a small stipend. Jet Corp is looking for this internship to become a pipeline for future employees to their organization.

Student Organization Updates

The Aero Club had a great year as many developments have occurred. This past fall, we decided to expand our hangar for maintenance. Construction is set to start in May with Gary Engler (past Aero Club President) assembling the building. In late December, we said farewell to our beloved C172 - N4910G. With this sale, we hope to eventually update our fleet of C172s. One of the goals that the Aero Club would like to establish over the next few years is the addition of our mission statement. We would like to focus our members' attention on joining our organization for a common interest in aviation rather than renting our aircraft. A mission committee was selected this past year to create such a mission statement and it will be published in the revised by-laws. As I leave the Aero Club President position this year, I feel the club is in good hands and expanding profitably. ~ Randi Coon, Past President

The SCSU Women in Aviation completed its second year at SCSU. In the fall, we helped the Girl Scouts create a brochure for the Women's Shelter and carved pumpkins. To end a stressful week of finals in December, we went ice skating at the National Hockey Center. Although we attempted to go snow tubing in January, March, and April, we were unsuccessful due to the warm weather. Eleven members attended the Women in Aviation, International conference in Reno, Nevada, March 10-13. Although none of our members received scholarships at the conference, some members got to fly in a Cirrus and one member won an airline ticket! In May, we elected a new board who are excited to start our third year for Women in Aviation at SCSU. ~ Beth Wirtala, Past President

Faculty News

Patrick Mattson and Zachary Sundquist took the written exam to become a Certified Member, AAAE, which is the first stage in becoming an Accredited Airport Executive.

Jeff Johnson had a research paper titled, An Approach to Determine the Need for Expanding Small Airports: A Case Study accepted for publication in the *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education & Research*.

Robert Aceves and Steve Anderson attended an aviation security conference in the Twin Cities sponsored by the University Aviation Association. Several SCSU aviation students attended the conference as well.

Robert Aceves is continuing to integrate strong community-based service learning components into his classes. His students have volunteered at airports and other aviation-related activities.

Tara Harl Odom and Jeff Johnson invited Regional Manager Michael Ferguson of Atlantic Southeast Airlines (ASA)/Delta Connection as a special guest speaker in several aviation classes. ASA will hire 100 pilots in 2004 and an additional 200-300 pilots in 2005. Ferguson, who is being promoted to Manager of Safety—Ground and Maintenance Operations for ASA, is submitting a proposal to develop two internship opportunities for SCSU aviation students.

Tara Harl Odom and Jeff Johnson attended the Minnesota Business Aviation Association (MBAA) meeting along with six aviation students. The event, sponsored by Raytheon, was hosted by the St. Paul Flight Center. Students had the opportunity to visit with corporate flight department managers in addition to other professionals in the aviation industry.

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)



2004 Awards Banquet *(continued from page 1)*



Zach Sundquist (R) received the Excellence in Aviation Leadership award for aviation management.



Marissa Grajewski (R) received the Excellence in Aviation Leadership award for aviation operations.



Joe Melsness (R) received the Excellence in Aviation Leadership award for aviation pro flight.

Josh Melhorn (Aviation Ambassadors), and Jason Jones (Flight Team) gave an overview of their organizations and introduced the new officers. Ms. Tara Harl Odom presented the scholarships and awards with the assistance of Dr. Steve Anderson. Eric Gates (not shown) received the Excellence in Aviation Leadership award for the BAS program. Numerous prizes were also awarded and the event was completed with an aviation slideshow and a dance.

Chairman's Report *Dr. Steve Anderson*

Spring semester found the Aviation Department not only busy with classes, student events, and other activities, but we also were hard at work getting ready for the Council on Aviation Accreditation's (CAA) site visit to review our programs in flight, management, and operations for accreditation renewal. The site visit team arrived at the beginning of April and conducted a thorough review of our programs. At the time of this writing, we have not received the official report on the program review, although it looks like the reviewed program's curriculum is completely in line with the CAA standards. We also learned, once again, that it is good to have a good outside review as the CAA did notice some minor procedural items that we need to think about and redesign.

Interest in our programs and aviation appear to remain good as our projected fall 2004 enrollments look strong. There also appears to be more movement taking place in the job market with even the regional airlines hiring at a faster pace than the recent past. Many of our recent graduates have been getting regional airline interviews and flying jobs in the past several months and next year looks even more promising. Congratulations to all of our graduates and have a wonderful summer!

Faculty News *(continued from page 2)*

Tara Harl Odom has provided a great industry connection for AVIT 413 (Corporate Management) offered for the May interim session. There will be groups of three rotating among three major corporate flight departments in the cities. Students will work to solve an issue presented to them by industry. Students will also be given the chance to participate in mock corporate interviews to test their skills in interviewing. The class will end with all groups presenting their findings to the corporations. A business luncheon, underwritten by the corporations, will wrap up the day and give students a chance to polish business communication, etiquette, and social skills. Harl Odom continues to work on the CAMC (Corporate Aviation Management Committee) with NBAA. She has been asked to move to the People HR committee within CAMC to continue her work with industry reach back to universities.

Steve Anderson attended the Council on Aviation Accreditation (CAA) winter meeting in Miami, FL in February.

In Style!



"Every girl crazy 'bout a sharp dressed man!"

(L-R) Ryan Guckenberg and Jason Jones were (most definitely) the star attraction at the awards banquet. Jones was also awarded the excellence in aviation leadership award (Professional Flight).

Well Done, Zach, Marissa & Dr. Pat!

"Kids Color St. Cloud" is an art and airport experience bringing the artwork of children throughout St. Cloud, to the KCSC exhibit at the St. Cloud Airport.

Thanks to Zach Sundquist, Marissa Grajewski & Dr. Patrick Mattson for coordinating the event!



In Memoriam

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the family and friends of Timothy K. Olinger. Timothy was a senior majoring in professional flight.

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