



St. Cloud Air Traffic Control Tower has been Cleared for Takeoff!



The St. Cloud Regional Airport's air traffic control tower officially opened on Monday, November 8, 2004. The tower will be open seven days a week from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm to accommodate the increase in air traffic at the airport. (Photos by Justin Smith. Used by permission)

"Cessna 7-3-7-Kilo-Charlie left closed traffic approved – report base". It definitely was noisier over the airwaves above St. Cloud, Minnesota in the second week in November as the control tower opened for business. Dr. Patrick Mattson says it's a 16-year dream come true! On one of his first visits to the airport, in the fall of 1988, he could only cringe and trust that the pilots' innate sense of safety would serve to keep them apart (it did) as he watched traffic line up for departure on each of St. Cloud's four runways. A veteran of 11 years air traffic tower and radar control, he asked "Where is the tower?" He was told that the St. Cloud airport did not have one and there were no plans to build one. That changed on Monday November 8, 2004.

(see *St. Cloud Tower*, page 3)

Department of Aviation Mourns the Loss of Sean Gonia

A motorcycle accident tragically ended the life of Sean Paul Gonia, 23, of St. Cloud. Gonia graduated from the SCSU Department of Aviation in 2003 and was starting his first year in the department as an adjunct instructor teaching AVIT 351 (Commercial Pilot Ground School). Gonia was also the Assistant Chief Flight Instructor at Wright Aero and was involved in many aviation organizations including the SCSU Aero Club, Aviation Explorers, Ripon Area Flying Club, EAA, and NAFI. As a certified pilot, Gonia held commercial, CFI, CFII and MEI certificates and ratings.



Sean Paul Gonia

"Sean had great potential. It's a pretty sad feeling to know that you just saw Sean and now he's not around anymore," said Jeffrey Johnson, Assistant Professor of Aviation, who saw Sean teaching commercial ground school students two days prior to the accident. "It's a real eye opener because none of us are guaranteed that tomorrow will come. Sean had his whole life in front of him and now he's gone."

Sean is survived by Laur and Sylvia of Fond du Lac, WI; sister Tara of St. Cloud; and countless friends. A scholarship has been established for aviation students in Sean's memory.

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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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St. Cloud Airport Tower Dedication



(L-R) Congressman Mark Kennedy and Representative Dan Severson are shown on the balcony for the dedication of the new St. Cloud air traffic control tower on Monday, August 24 at the St. Cloud Regional Airport.

Congratulations to December Graduates!



Randi Coon

BS in Aviation—Pro Flight
Minor: Computer Networking & Applications

Matthew Dieringer

BS in Aviation—Aviation Mgmt.
Minor: Pro Flight

Jesse Janz

BS in Aviation—Operations

Ryan Law

BS in Business Management
Minor: Aviation—Pro Flight

Greg Mavencamp

BS in Aviation Mgmt.

Megan McRae

BS in Aviation—Pro Flight

Beth Wirtala

BS in Aviation—Operations

Monica Beauchane

BS in Meteorology
Minor: Aviation Operations

*Blessings and best wishes
to all Fall 2004 graduates!*



Department News

The **BS in Aviation (Professional Flight, Operations, and Management tracks)** accreditation was reaffirmed for another five years by the Council on Aviation Accreditation (CAA) during their annual meeting on July 14-16, 2004.

The **BAS in Aviation Maintenance Management** online program was accredited by MnSCU last spring.

Student Organization Updates

The **SCSU Aviation Ambassadors** have been busy recruiting this semester for themselves and the school. They have begun giving tours to potential new students at SCSU of Headley Hall and the airport. The reviews are in and they have been full of praise. The students and parents enjoy being able to ask other students what it is “really” like here at SCSU. This last Wednesday, the Ambassadors, joined by WAI, went to Buffalo Wild Wings for an evening of . . . well, wings! Those of you interested in touring the MSP Tower are in luck. The Ambassadors are planning to tour the tower real soon.

The **SCSU Aero Club** completed construction and started using a 2900 square foot maintenance facility in addition to its hangar at the St. Cloud airport in September, 2004.

The **SCSU Flight Team** earned an invitation to the National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) national SAFECON hosted by Kansas State University in Salina on May 26-30, 2005 as a result of a strong performance at the regional SAFECON.

Faculty News

Tara Harl and Dave Maibe (Target Flight Department Director) were asked by retiring NBAA board member Phil Roberts to write an executive summary for the current NBAA board regarding the program outline and successes for AVIT 413 (Corporate/GA Management). The corporate interface/lab time for AVIT 413 has gained national attention from within the NBAA. The topic was also addressed by Dave Maibe at the November meeting of the board in Atlanta. NBAA is looking at the program for national implementation at other UAA programs.

Steve Anderson joined local, state, and federal politicians for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the dedication of the new St. Cloud air traffic control tower last August.

Jeff Johnson will be the interim chair for the Spring 2005 semester while **Steve Anderson** goes on sabbatical.

Tara Harl and **Jeff Johnson** attended the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) meeting in Las Vegas along with aviation student Randi Coon. The annual event attracts individuals from aviation/aerospace companies from around the world.

Tara Harl was asked to chair the Career Development Committee (a subcommittee of the Corporate Aviation Management Committee) for NBAA this past summer.

Patrick Mattson attended the Airport Land Use and Airport Operations/Management seminars on October 26-27, 2004 in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. He was able to gather information to share with students and faculty; plans are underway to incorporate more hands-on material in the airport operations and management classes.

Steve Anderson attended the University Aviation Association fall education conference in Toronto, Canada, on October 6-9, 2004, and presented a research proposal on *A Continued Investigation into Factors Influencing Men and Women in Becoming Professional Pilots*.



St. Cloud Tower *(continued from page 1)*

According to the St. Cloud Times, “William Towle, Airport Director said St. Cloud pays for the building's operation and maintenance and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) pays the salaries of the four air traffic controllers and manager employed by Midwest ATC” (Lawrence Schumacher, November 11, 2004).

The tower has already recorded a traffic count of over 400 operations per day. One landing or takeoff is a single operation; a pilot completing a touch-and-go would be counted as two operations. The controllers’ presence enhances the safety of airport operations and provides new learning opportunities for aviation students and faculty. Students no longer have to travel to Duluth, Rochester, Fargo or even the (often intimidating) class “B” airspace of Minneapolis to practice flight maneuvers at a towered airport. Students and faculty have included tower visits in their class work this fall. The tower is open from 7 am -11 pm every day and the published radio frequencies are 118.25 (Local Control), 121.6 (Ground Control), and 119.375 (ATIS). ASOS (112.1 or 320-240-8781) and Unicom (122.7) are operational when the tower is closed. Congratulations to all who helped make this possible.

~ Dr. Patrick Mattson

SCSU Aviation Student Scholarship Update *Dr. Patrick Mattson*

Have you ever wondered if any SCSU Aviation students ever get those scholarships? Yes, they do! During this past year, three SCSU students were awarded national scholarships with a total value of \$13,000 (\$5,000, \$5,000 and \$3,000 each). Most organizations sponsoring scholarships and grants must give their money away. Why not have them give it to you, the student, to help pay for a college education? Need money to fly? The money can often be used for flight training. Surprisingly, several of these organizations receive few applications for their scholarships and the money is not awarded at all. It is quite possible that an applicant will have a one in three chance of winning the scholarship. A student can apply for as many scholarships as they think they are eligible for during the application period. Most often, a resume, essay, transcripts, and letters of recommendation are required to complete the application. Some tips:

- READ and COMPLY with the eligibility requirements
- ALWAYS type the application
- ASK someone to help you review the essay
- Make sure that your application package is NEAT AND CLEAN
- The DEADLINE is important – miss it and you don’t get considered

Several organizations now make the forms available in Adobe Acrobat so you can type right on the page. You will need the full version of Adobe Acrobat in order to save the document although the Adobe Reader will allow you to type and print the form. With some time and effort, your college expenses may be covered so that you can focus on your studies. For information on scholarships, check the “Scholarships” link on the SCSU Aviation homepage or go to <http://web.stcloudstate.edu/prmattson/scholarships/index.htm> on your web browser. Over the years, SCSU aviation students have been awarded these national scholarships (# won - \$ value each):

- American Association of Airport Executives (4 - \$1,000)
- Air Traffic Control Association (1 - \$1,500)
- Airports Council International (5 - up to \$3,000)
- Aviation Insurance Association (1 - \$5,000)
- Charlie Wells Aviation Scholarship (1 - \$1,500)
- Airbus Leadership Award (1 - \$2,000)
- Charlie Wells Aviation Scholarship (1 - \$1,500)
- Women’s Transportation Seminar (1 - \$20,000)

**Mark Your
Calendars!**

July 30, 2005

**SCSU Alumni-Student
Reunion**

Oshkosh, WI

First Lady Laura Bush Visits St. Cloud



First Lady Laura Bush briefly visits with Dr. Jeff Johnson (not shown) at the St. Cloud Regional Airport in this video grab image on August 10th.

New Certificates & Ratings

**Blake Anderson
Private Pilot, SEL**

**Matthew Dieringer
Commercial Pilot, SEL**

**Robert Naramore
Private Pilot, SEL**

**Alex Nelson
Private Pilot, SEL**

**Kyle Nestor
CFI, CFII, MEI**



**Congratulations
Dr. Mattson!**

Dr. Patrick Mattson, C.M.
passed the AAEA Certified
Member written exam
last April.
Way to go, Pat!

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to join the aviation List Serv and to view previous issues of Enroute and Flightlines!

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

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