

Spring 2007

## Flightlines, Vol. 14, No. 2

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Department of Aviation  
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# ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

## *Flightlines*



Volume 14, Issue 2  
Spring 2007

### Students Honored at 2007 Awards Banquet!



**Dr. Steve Anderson (right) presents the Kimberly Ann Ritsche Scholarship to Merisa Kendall (left photo) and to Malisa Yang (right photo).**

#### *Inside this issue:*

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The “Annual” Aviation Awards Banquet was attended by almost 200 students, family members, friends, faculty, staff, civic leaders, and other guests. The social at Blackberry Ridge Golf Club started at 5:30 PM, followed by dinner at 6:30 PM, the awards program at 7:30 PM, and entertainment commenced at 8:30 PM. The banquet was, as usual, a success and a good time was had by all!

The entertainment highlight of the evening featured Bill Brama, Alex Dauphin, Mr. Ferguson, Todd Christopherson and Steve Osojnicki belting out a spirited (and slightly off-key) rendition of “You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feeling” a la Top Gun!!! Photographic evidence of the event is available for those seeking to blackmail Mr. Ferguson!!!

*(see Awards Banquet, page 3)*

### Safety Focus: Thunderstorms

*by Mr. Michael D. Ferguson*

Once again (and thankfully) Spring is upon us! This is good news for most of us who have been anticipating the arrival of warmer weather and its accompaniment of enjoyable outdoor activities. However, the advent of Spring also means meteorological change as the atmosphere transitions from Winter, and thus the arrival of Spring also heralds the return of thunderstorms and the possibility of severe weather outbreaks.

Although most of us are at least somewhat familiar with the inherent dangers of the thunderstorm environment, the prudent pilot (and person) will recognize the value of refamiliarization, and the severe weather environment is no different. This factor becomes especially important when considering that approximately 19% of General Aviation (GA) fatalities are weather-related, according to the AOPA.

With regard to flight operations in the vicinity of thunderstorms, the best rule of thumb to follow is this: **In general, an aircraft is no match for a thunderstorm.** The primary point that I am trying to make is this: avoidance of thunderstorms is paramount to the safety of aviation flight operations. Remember, you can always fly another day or perhaps even at a later time on the same day after the storm system has passed. With this factor in mind, here are some things to do to help keep you safe during thunderstorm events.

*(See Thunderstorms, page 2)*

*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 Mr. Michael D. Ferguson, Assistant Professor of Aviation, SCSU Department of Aviation, at (320) 308-2107 (email: [mdferguson@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:mdferguson@stcloudstate.edu)).

**Editor:** Michael D. Ferguson

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

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## Summer 2007 Aviation Classes

There is still plenty of time to register for Summer flight courses and other aviation courses! Sign up today!!!



## New Certificates & Ratings

**Bill Brama**  
Private Pilot, SEL

**Todd Christopherson**  
Commercial

## Student Internships/ Scholarships

**Lisa Wixom**  
ASRC Research  
Minneapolis

**Jeremy Fox**  
Dane County Regional Airport  
Madison, WI

**Craig Johnson**  
Express Jet Airlines  
Houston, TX



## Can You Guess the Professor?

This aviation professor was born on the edge of a runway in the middle of a snowstorm on Kodiak Island, Alaska!

*Who could it be?*

## Faculty News

**Tara Harl** has become a member of a National Academies of Science- Transportation Research Board panel in Washington, D.C. The panel of industry experts will award and have oversight of a \$5,000,000 research project which will address the impact of NEXTGEN aircraft on airports and the management of airports in the coming decades.

**Tara Harl's** AVIT 413 NBAA national initiative has taken another step forward in implementation to other UAA collegiate aviation programs. A meeting has been scheduled by the Dean of the College of Aviation at Western Michigan University for consideration of implementation within the WMU program.

**Tara Harl** presented the ongoing status of the AVIT 413 initiative and national implementation along with techniques industry can utilize to mentor the collegiate aviation professional to the NBAA leadership conference in San Diego this past February. The NBAA awarded Ms. Harl a grant to attend the conference.

**Michael Ferguson** and **Jeff Johnson** wrote a paper titled, *Cost and Perceived Value in Obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Aviation Professional Flight: Will Collegiate Aviation Price Themselves Out of the Market?* The article has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education & Research*.

**Michael Ferguson** has expanded the scope of AVIT 411 - Airline Management. The class is in part being conducted in the form of a hypothetical airline named North Star Airlines, Inc. Each student has been assigned a specific position of leadership in the airline. The airline exercise has also included simulated event conference calls with members of the airline industry. The class also features an online airline simulation where each student creates and runs their own airline.

**Michael Ferguson** is again teaching AVIT 496 - The Current State of the Aviation Industry during the 2007 Intersession. There are only a few more seats available in the class, all aboard for another exciting Intersession of industry tours and highly-interactive learning!

**Jeff Johnson** was elected as a Trustee to the University Aviation Association last January.

**Jeff Johnson, Angie Olson, Michael Ferguson, and Patrick Mattson** wrote a paper that has been accepted for publication in the *Collegiate Aviation Review* titled, *Gender and Multi-Cultural Curriculum Issues for Undergraduate Aviation Students*. An invitation has been extended for the paper to be presented at the fall University Aviation Association conference in San Jose, California.

*(see Faculty News, page 4)*

## Thunderstorms (continued from page 1)

- Be alert to the weather at all times, especially when preparing to fly
- Learn as much as you can about thunderstorms and severe weather
- Pay close attention to weather watches and warnings and plan accordingly
- Use sound judgment; if storms are forecast, suspend operations until all clear
- Exercise caution in decision-making about flying in adverse weather conditions
- Use all available weather resources well before your scheduled flight
- Often the best decision is to **WAIT** and fly after the system has passed out of the area
- Beware of the five hazardous attitudes that you may exhibit: Macho, Anti-Authority, Resignation, Impulsiveness, Invulnerability

Remember, by waiting you can always fly later and you may actually live to fly another day, as the saying goes. Be safe and wise about thunderstorms and flying!



**Awards Banquet** *(continued from page 1)*



Dr. Steve Anderson (right) presents the Aviation Excellence Award to Bill Brama.



Dr. Steve Anderson (right) presents Todd Christopherson the Aviation Excellence Award.



Coleman Schelitzche won the Sean Paul Gonia Scholarship presented by Tara Gonia, sister of the late Sean Paul Gonia who was the chief flight instructor and adjunct faculty member.



Dr. Steve Anderson (right) presents the Aviation Excellence Award to Nick Hoeschen.



Cindy (center) & Barbara Ryan (right) present Craig Cance with the Robert Ryan Memorial Scholarship.



Dr. Steve Anderson (right) presents the William L. Carlson Scholarship to John Brunns.

**Other Awards**

Rebecca Jurek won the Aviation Excellence Award.

**“Quotable Quote”  
about  
Dr. Dale William’s  
Retirement!**

*“We wish you the best  
of everything, Dale!  
You will be missed!”*

**Thank You So Much  
For All You Have Done  
For Us, Dale!**



**Congratulations  
Graduates!**



**Bill Brama**  
BS in Aviation—Management

**Jeremy Fox**  
BS in Aviation—Operations

**Alex Dauphin**  
BS in Aviation—Pro Flight

**Kristi Pangrac**  
BS in Aviation—Pro Flight  
Minor: Business Mgmt

**Steve Osojnicki**  
BS in Aviation—Management

**Jason Clark**  
BS in Aviation—Operations

**Peter Livieri**  
BS in Aviation—Operations

**Craig Johnson**  
BES—Aeronautical Studies

**Nate Altmann**  
BS in Aviation—Management  
Minor: Pro Flight

*Blessings and Best Wishes  
to all 2007 Graduates! We  
will miss you!*

*(see Awards Banquet, page 4)*



## Awards Banquet *(continued from page 3)*



**Dr. Steve Anderson (right) presents the Associate Dean of COSE, Dr. Dale Williams, with a plaque in honor of Dr. Williams' impending retirement and in recognition of his support that he has shown to the aviation department over the years. Thanks Dale, we are going to miss you!**



**Dr. Steve Anderson (right) presents Coleman Schelitzche with the Gerald Johnson Scholarship.**



**Dr. Steve Anderson (right) presents Dylan Melin with the Gerald Johnson Scholarship.**



**Dr. Steve Anderson (right) presents Malisa Yang with the Gerald Johnson Scholarship.**



**Kristi Pangrac was awarded the Gerald Johnson Scholarship.**

## Faculty News *(continued from page 2)*

**Steve Anderson** attended the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI) winter conference in Melbourne, FL. He participated in a one-day workshop on AABI new outcomes-based accreditation standards, various committee meetings, and the industry-educator forum on the pilot supply pipeline.

**Steve Anderson** attended a workshop on the FAA FITS (FAA-Industry Training Standards) concept in Dayton, OH. This workshop was designed to help teach how to design FITS programs and teach others how to use FITS. FITS is a new concept for flight training that moves away from maneuver/hour-based training and uses scenarios to emphasize decision making and judgment. He also attended the UAA spring board meeting while in Dayton.

**Steve Anderson** will be attending the NIFA National SAFECON with the SCSU flight team May 7- 12 in Columbus, OH.

# Best of luck to the SCSU Flight Team at the NIFA competition in Columbus, OH, May 7 - 12!!!

Special thanks to the following 2007 Aviation Banquet sponsors:  
**David Clark**  
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**Wright Aero**

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## We Would Like to Hear from YOU!

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