



## Could the Looming Airline Pilot Crisis Jeopardize Safety? *by Dr. Jeff Johnson*

Over my lifetime, I have seen airline pilot shortages ebb and flow like the tide. However, this pilot shortage is nothing like I've seen in my lifetime. Although the major airlines can draw pilots from the regional airlines, it is the regional airlines that are going to face this crisis head on.



There are at least seven reasons for this impending airline pilot shortage which amounts to a perfect storm:

1. High training costs: Flight training is expensive and most of it is placed on the student.
2. Low starting Salaries: New first officer starting salary for a regional airline is relatively low from \$14,000 to \$25,000 a year.
3. New generational trends: More young people do not want to "give up their life" to live "out of a suitcase."
4. Huge international demand for pilots: Overseas demand for pilots is very strong. China, for instance, has seen explosive growth. Some countries even offer a tax free allowance for qualified US pilots to fly for them including paid confirmed travel back home.
5. Retirements: Experienced pilots from the Vietnam War are fading from the flight decks. Military pilots have longer service obligations due to high training costs and when they get out, they are highly qualified and often bypass the regional carriers in favor of applying directly to the major airlines like Delta, American, United, etc.
6. Restrictive changes in a federal law increasing the crew rest requirements for airline pilots: More stringent crew rest laws decreasing the amount of flight and duty time a crewmember can service with an airline will affect airline pilot staffing levels.
7. Restrictive changes in a federal law making entry level airline co-pilot positions much harder to obtain: Congress passed a law that takes effect on August 1, 2013 that requires all new airline first officers to hold an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) license. The ATP is the highest license issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). To obtain an ATP, you need to be at least 23 years old and have 1500 flight hours. The current federal minimum for a co-pilot position is a commercial pilot license. Pilots must be at least 18 years old and have a minimum of 250 hours of flight time to qualify for a commercial pilot license. Going from the present minimum 250 hour requirement to the new 1500 hour requirement next year presents a 400%+ increase!

*(see Airline Pilot Crisis on page 5)*

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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, Professor of Aviation, SCSU Department of Aviation, at (320) 308-2107 (email: [jjohnson@stcloudstate.edu](mailto: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, Marlene Stangl!



Marlene Stangl (Office Manager for the ETS Department) is retiring in December after working at SCSU for nearly 40 years.

Marlene has provided assistance to countless people and has also helped the aviation department as needed.

Marlene will be sorely missed!



## Congratulations, Jeanne Duinick!



Happy retirement and best wishes to Jeanne Duinick (Human Resources-Benefits) for her many years of service to SCSU. Jeanne will also be sorely missed as well!

## Aviation Student News

**Jeff Dvorak** received an internship with Hillsboro Aviation in Oregon. Way to go, Jeff!

**Logan Vold** was hired by American Eagle as a station agent in MSP. Congratulations, Logan!

**Peter Zenner** was hired by Delta Airlines as a ramp agent/baggage handler. Excellent job!

**Jared Hicks** received an internship at Southwest Airlines in Dallas. Congratulations, Jared!

**William Brenny** received an internship at the St. Cloud Regional Airport. Congratulations, Bill!

## Aviation Faculty News

**Angie Olson** is teaching a full class of students (Honors 221 - Diversity in Aviation) this spring. She was awarded a grant from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. This grant will be used to take the students on a 45-60 minute flight at the St. Cloud Regional Airport. During this flight, the student's role will be to document (through writing or video) their experience and how it relates to the experiences of the aviators that will be discussed in class. In addition to their flight experience, students will be asked to document how many industries which they observe during their flight are influenced by aviation (medical, agricultural, energy, federal government, state government, local government, military, etc.). This will emphasize the breadth of the industry that will be discussed in class.

**Steve Anderson** attended the University Aviation Association (UAA) conference last September in Murfreesboro, TN. Dr. Anderson also conducted a UAA external audit of a small aviation management program and also attended the regional SAFECON flight team event in October.

**Jeff Johnson** attended the 37th annual Regional Airline Association (RAA) conference in Minneapolis last May. He spoke with several airline executives about the airline pilot and maintenance shortage.

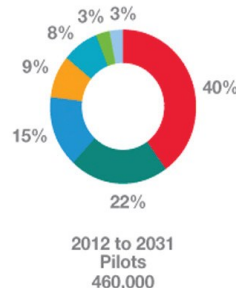
**Jeff Johnson** attended a skilled workforce summit sponsored by MnSCU and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce in October.

**Jeff Johnson** had a proposal titled "Career Opportunities for Minorities: Is Minnesota Going Back to the Dark Ages?" accepted for the 2013 *Power in Diversity Leadership Conference*.

## Airline Demand for Pilots and Technicians

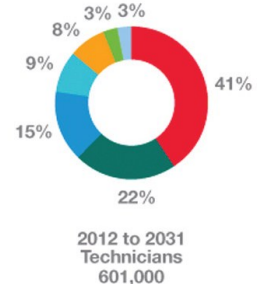
**Pilot & Technician Outlook**  
New pilots by region 2012-2031

Region	Pilots
Asia Pacific	185,600
Europe	100,900
North America	69,000
Latin America	42,000
Middle East	36,100
CIS	11,900
Africa	14,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>460,000</b>



**Pilot & Technician Outlook**  
New technicians by region 2012-2031

Region	Technicians
Asia Pacific	243,500
Europe	129,700
North America	92,500
Middle East	53,700
Latin America	47,300
CIS	18,100
Africa	16,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>601,000</b>





### Aviation Student Organizations



American Association of Airport Executives

*Shajive Jeganathan, President  
Charles Klynderud, Vice President*

### Fall 2012 FOD (Foreign Object Debris) Walk

Aviation & non-aviation students volunteer their time in giving back to the community



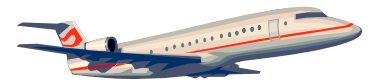
Thank you for making it to today's FOD walk. We braved the weather and cleared the FOD!

### Have You Hugged Your Office Manager Lately?



Aviation alumnus Chris Spaulding with Sandy Osterholt, Aviation Department Office Manager.

Thanks, Sandy, for keeping us together!



### St. Cloud Proud . . . Aviation Graduates on the Move!



SCSU aviation alumni Melanie Pudsey made history by becoming "part of the first group of Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) pilots to earn their fighter pilot wings in the US." Why SCSU? In her own words, "I wanted to play hockey there because they had an accredited aviation program, and I wanted to join the Air Force and become a fighter pilot." [Click here](#) for the complete article.

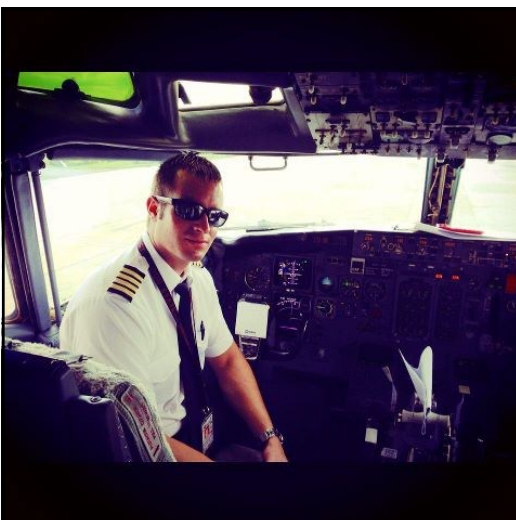
### They Said It!

"Absent a game-changing shift in the supply of trained aviation professionals, particularly pilots, communities even larger than Wichita [Kansas], and certainly those smaller, are in jeopardy of losing some, if not all, their scheduled flights."

Roger Cohen, RAA President  
May 2012

"If the airlines are unable to fill the ranks with qualified pilots, service may be reduced to some small communities and aircraft could be parked." Garton noted that 75% of US cities are served only by regional airlines.

Dan Garton, RAA Chair  
May 2012



Captain Ben Barnes flies for a California based airline.



First Officer Bobby Rommo flies for a Texas based regional airline.





## Congratulations Graduates!



We are very proud of you & will miss you!

**Ryan Alex**

BS Aviation—Pro Flight

**Aaron Anderson**

BS Aviation—Pro Flight

**Nick Bouchner**

BS Aviation—Management

**Steven Hendrickson**

BS Aviation—Operations  
Air Traffic Control

**Nick Housmans**

BS Aviation—Management

**Howard Glockzin**

BS Aviation—Operations

**Jacob Leichtnam**

BS Aviation—Management

**Jamie Melton**

BS Aviation—Operations  
Air Traffic Control

**Greg Naylor**

BS Aviation—Pro Flight

**John Nies**

BS Aviation—Aviation  
Maintenance Management

**Mark Papko**

BS Aviation—Operations

**Jesse Quaas**

BS Aviation—Pro Flight

**Anders Stone**

BS Aviation—Operations  
Air Traffic Control

**Nou Blia Thao**

BS Aviation—Management  
(Airport emphasis)

**Peter Zenner**

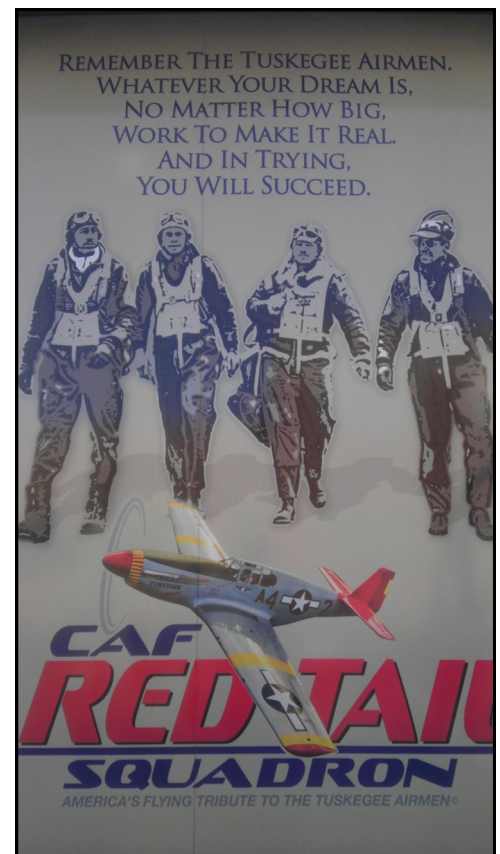
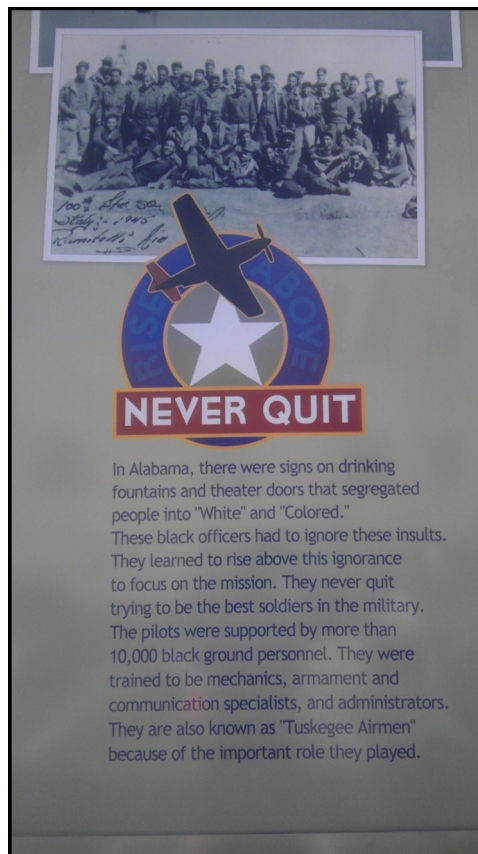
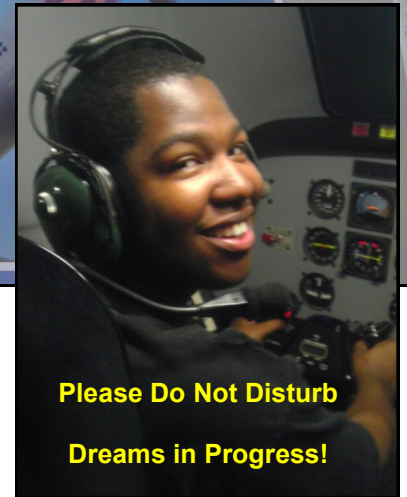
BS Aviation—Operations  
Air Traffic Control



## Unsung Heroes: A Salute to the Tuskegee Airmen!



SCSU aviation student Antwone Gills has a lifelong dream of becoming an airline captain!





## Airline Pilot Crisis *(continued from page 1)*

Last July, the Regional Airline Association (RAA) President, Roger Cohen, made this statement: "Absent a game-changing shift in the supply of trained aviation professionals, particularly pilots, communities even larger than Wichita [Kansas], and certainly those smaller, are in jeopardy of losing some, if not all their scheduled flights," Cohen cautioned. "This could cut off communities from today's global economy where airline service is as important as an Internet connection." If that does not convince you we have a pilot shortage, listen to the RAA Chairman Dan Garton's comments from last May and again, I quote: "If the airlines are unable to fill the ranks with qualified pilots, service may be reduced to some small communities and aircraft could be parked." Garton noted that 75% of US cities are served only by regional airlines. According to a Boeing report, here is the breakdown of pilots and maintenance technicians needed by 2030:

<http://www.aviationtoday.com/the-checklist/77099.html>

1. Asia Pacific – 185,600
2. Europe – 100,900
3. North America – 69,000
4. Latin America – 42,000
5. Middle East – 36,100

### New Technicians by 2030

1. Asia Pacific – 243,500
2. Europe – 129,700
3. North America – 92,500
4. Middle East – 53,700
5. Latin America – 47,300



## Airlines Face Acute Shortage of Pilots

*The Wall Street Journal (November 12, 2012)*

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203937004578079391643223634.html?mod=WSJ\\_LEFTTopStories](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203937004578079391643223634.html?mod=WSJ_LEFTTopStories)

## Airlines Face Worst Pilot Shortage in Decades

*Time Magazine (November 14, 2012)*

<http://newsfeed.time.com/2012/11/14/airlines-face-worst-pilot-shortage-since-the-1960s/>



**Congratulations, SCSU Flight Team!**

(L-R) Dr. Steve Anderson (advisor), Rudy Ghazal, Mark Schwichtenberg, Logan Vold, Lee Olson, Mitch Brutter, Justin Murray Norton, Ryan Alex (not pictured).

**Message Drop:**  
Rudy Ghazal (Pilot),  
Lee Olson (Drop Master)

2<sup>nd</sup> place  
Mark Schwichtenberg, Power Off Landings

3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Logan Vold (Pilot),  
Rudy Ghazal (Drop Master) – 4<sup>th</sup> place.

## In Remembrance



### Anne Nolan

*Heartfelt sympathies goes to the family and friends of Anne Nolan. In her bid for the Minnesota House of Representatives (District 14A) here in St. Cloud this year, Anne publicly defended the Aviation Department as an important community asset.*

*Thanks for fighting for us, Anne! We miss you!*



### New Certificates & Ratings

**Aaron Anderson**  
Private Pilot, SEL & MEL

**Rudy Ghazal**  
Commercial, SEL & MEL

**Ryan Morrell**  
Instrument Rating

**Justin Murray Norton**  
Private Pilot, MEL  
Instrument Rating

**Logan Vold**  
Flight Instructor, SEL  
Instrument Instructor





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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 \_\_\_

If you would like to get our newsletter twice a year via email, please email us at [aviation@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:aviation@stcloudstate.edu)

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