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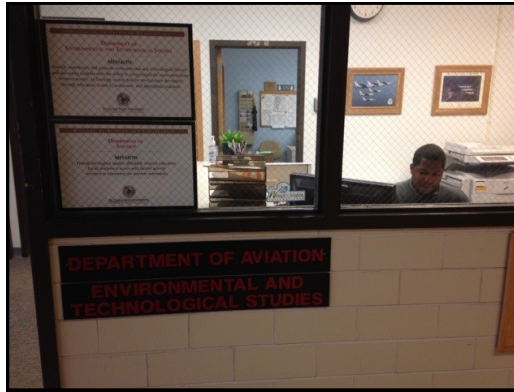
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Flightlines

Volume 21, Issue 1
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In Remembrance of Aviation Education on the SCSU Campus (1940-2014) *by Dr. Jeff Johnson*

FULL STOP EDITION



It was a GREAT flight while it lasted for the SCSU Department of Aviation but, like all things in life, there is an endpoint. Despite 8 formal resolutions of support and support from the community, it just wasn't "meant to be" for the state's only AABI accredited 4-year program. After the department's humble beginnings some 74 years ago, the department is now closed. I've spent 12 years in the department and it has been an honor and a privilege to work with our most cherished asset—our students. Many of these students came here to study aviation at SCSU from around the world. I am so proud of our graduates and at the last banquet, it was exciting to see them working in so many different facets of aviation from pilots, controllers, operations, managers and VP's.

What Could Have Been: The "Four Corner Pillars" of ISELF

The dreamer in me loves to imagine how we can accomplish big things in life beyond the status quo. One of those dreams started as an idea from the advice of former President Roy Saigo not long before he retired from SCSU in 2007. Think about the future of SCSU Aviation—develop an aviation master's degree to meet the needs of the working professionals in the aviation industry.



**Mamie Singleton,
Executive Director**

The "four pillars of ISELF" idea started from my initial involvement last summer with Mamie Singleton, Executive Director of the [Youth Initiative Aviation Academy](#) who has a passion for high risk youth. Through collaborative efforts from SCSU Department of Criminal Justice and the Department of Aviation, Mamie was able to put together an aviation boot camp for high risk youth. I thought to myself, give her a "corner suite" in ISELF along with the St. Cloud NAACP President Denise Fale and Executive Director Lyle Rustad of the [Diversity Foundation](#) and let them unleash their potential in this STEM-related discipline. It wouldn't just have a regional impact, it would have multi-state impact. I call it, "diversity with muscle." The second corner would be for a specialty niche drone program and research-related projects tied to numerous federal grant activities. The

third corner would be the aviation simulation and aircraft operational design. And finally, the fourth corner would be the Dean's Office with heavy emphasis on our "STEM Dean." Combined, the "four corner pillars" would foster mutual cooperation with other academic departments, industry representatives, and other community members. All of this could be tied into the free multi-million dollar [learning jet](#) that St. Cloud lost to St. Paul last year. *Well, it was a great dream while it lasted!*

"So long, SCSU Aviation!"



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"You haven't seen a tree until you've seen its shadow from the sky." - Amelia Earhart

"The Wright Brothers created the single greatest cultural force since the invention of writing. The airplane became the first World Wide Web, bringing people, languages, ideas, and values together." - Bill Gates

Flightlines (1992-2014) was 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. This final issue of *Flightlines* is dedicated to all the students, alumni, staff, faculty and friends of the program. Seventy-four years is a long run; we can only dream of what might have been in the future.

May you enjoy blue skies and a strong tailwind.

“Thanks, Sandy!”



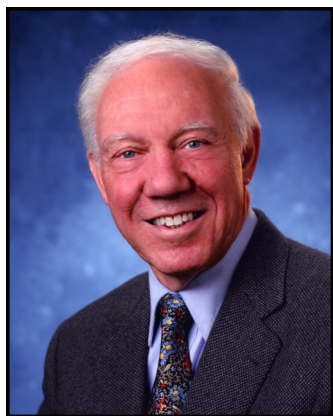
**Sandra Osterholt
Dept. of Aviation
Office Manager**

Sandra Osterholt is retiring from SCSU after 36 years of employment. Thanks for all you've done for us and our students. We will sorely miss you. Happy Retirement!



Special thanks to ALL of our aviation students and graduates from all around the world! What an honor to work with you! Godspeed!

**In Loving Memory of
Congressman Jim Oberstar
(1934-2014)**



Former Congressman Oberstar was the Chair of the US House of Representatives Subcommittee on Aviation and a friend of SCSU Aviation

2014 Aviation Banquet a Success



The keynote speaker for the 2014 “full stop” aviation banquet was Capt. John Hornibrook (left) Chief Pilot for Alaska Airlines and a graduate of SCSU aviation program. Captain Hornibrook is joined by another aviation alumni, Capt. Bill Couette (right), Vice-President for the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA). *Flightlines* would like to thank the following individuals in planning the final 2014 aviation banquet: Dr. Angie Olson, Erin Wolter, Ryan Alexx, Dr. Steve Anderson, and Sandra Osterholt.

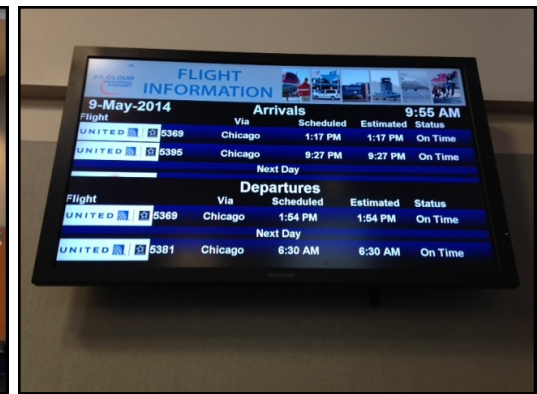


(Left-Right) Rebecca Simmons, Logan Vold & St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis



It was estimated that close to 150 people were in attendance at the aviation banquet at DB Searles

Scheduled Airline Service Returns to St. Cloud



On May 6, 2014 a dream became reality when Skywest Airlines began twice daily round trip flights between the St. Cloud Regional Airport and Chicago O’Hare airport. Skywest uses the 50 seat CRJ-200 jet to provide non-stop service to O’Hare to provide connecting flights around the world. Skywest is committed to St. Cloud for one year. “All aboard to Chicago!”



A Word from Our Aviation Alumni

Thank you SCSU Aviation and Alumni! I can't thank everyone enough for all your help and support through the years. The program dedication in producing the best aviation professionals in the world will deeply be missed by many. Thank you.

Ryan Fiorito, Class of 2004
BS in Aviation
(Professional Flight)
First Officer
Southwest Airlines



I've been flying a CL-605 and Boeing BBJ for Boeing's Executive Flight Operations based in the Chicago area since 2006.

Dan Kennedy, Class of 2001
BS in Aviation
(Professional Flight)

(See *Aviation Alumni*, page 4)



St. Cloud Control Tower

As I reflect on the many years that SCSU offered aviation classes, my thoughts go out to the many students, now alumni, who made Headley Hall part of their journey. To see the alumni's success in their chosen career fields gives me a satisfied feeling that we did "something right". Their success is, I feel, a small testament to the faculty and staff in Headley Hall but to a larger extent to the Aviation students' goal-focused drive and ambitions. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your journey.

Papa Mike, SCSU 1987-2010
Professor Emeritus

Love Your Freedom?

Please thank our military personnel and our vets!
Freedom isn't free.

FLASHBACK IN TIME

Melanie Pudsey
BS in Aviation
Class of 2005

"I wanted to play hockey there [SCSU] because they had an accredited aviation program, and I wanted to join the air force and become a fighter pilot."

Graduating with the first group of RCAF pilots, Melanie Pudsey received her Canadian and American fighter wings.



Congratulations, Graduates!



Zachary Armstrong
BS in Aviation-Operations

James Blair
BS in Aviation-Operations

Brandon Cook
BS in Aviation-Operations

Marcin Dabrowski
BS in Aviation-Operations

Michael Dew
BS in Aviation-Operations

Jeffrey Dvorak
BS in Aviation-Management

Antwone Gills
BS in Aviation-Operations

Austen Gray
BS in Aviation-Operations

Adrian Harris
BS in Aviation-Operations

Justin Murray
BS in Aviation-Operations

John Otremba
BAS in Maintenance Mgmt.

Nicholas Pederson-LeRoy
BS in Aviation-Operations

Jennifer Schurr
BS in Aviation-Operations



Congratulations and Best Wishes for a Bright Future. We are Very Proud of You!





The SCSU Aviation program was fundamental in developing my formal knowledge which allowed me to enter the airport business. Extracurricular aviation activities at SCSU did not also expand my practical knowledge but made aviation a career and a hobby, not just a job for me.

Right after graduation, I began working in Operations at Yuma Intl (AZ) where I stayed for about 5 years and was the Ops Director before leaving for bigger challenges at the Guayaquil Intl Airport (GYE -Ecuador). Here I have been for over 11 years, now as the airport supervisor, overseeing the activities of the private airport operator as well as being part of the team involved in the future GYE airport project studies. It is hard to see the end of SCSU's aviation program, which has formed industry leaders for decades. I wish fellow aviation alumni the best of luck.

*Mark Råde, Class of 1998
BS in Aviation (Flight Ops)*

I was hired at NetJets the night before commencement in 2005. The faculty's support at St. Cloud State's Department of Aviation was pivotal to starting my aviation career with NetJets, and is something I'll always remember with fond gratitude.

*Ben Quinn, Class of 2005
B.S. Aviation Management
Senior Aircraft
Performance Analyst
NetJets, Inc.*

A Word from Our Aviation Alumni (continued from page 3)

After attending St. Cloud State University, I've had many aviation opportunities. I credit my knowledge, preparation and success to the aviation department and it's professors. As a proud alumnus, I am very sad to see the program come to an end. I wish everyone the best in their future endeavors.

*Randi Pederson, Class of 2004
Charter Pilot, Landmark Aviation in Sioux Falls, SD*

I am a Major with the Minnesota Air National Guard, flying C-130H3 aircraft for just over 10 years now. As a civilian, I've also been an aircraft refueler, a flight follower/dispatcher, a System Operation Controller (SOC), and Safety Manager. SCSU gave me a great start, teaching me about aviation, introducing me to awesome people, and fostering leadership through involvement in Alpha Eta Rho and the Aero Club. I am sad to see the program closing but thankful for all the amazing experiences.

Scot Wilcox, Class of 1997

I am Ryan Michaud, and I am a Second Officer for Cathay Pacific on the 777 based out of Hong Kong. If it were not for SCSU, and more importantly, the outstanding professors, I would not be where I am today!

*Ryan Michaud, Class of 2003
BS in Aviation (Professional Flight)*

I am an Airport Operations Supervisor at William P. Hobby Airport in Houston, TX. The education and experience I gained from the aviation program shaped me both professionally and personally. I will be forever grateful for those experiences and the people I met along the way.

*Tiffany D. Smith, Class of 2004
BS in Aviation (Operations)*

I am currently the Airport Director at Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport and I will always cherish my experience at SCSU. Go Huskies!! It's a crying shame that SCSU is dropping the Aviation program, because that is the exact opposite thing the industry needs right now. A mass shortage of pilots is on the near horizon and we need more aviation programs, not less.

*Jeremy Keating, Class of 2001
BS in Aviation (Management)*

Hello my fellow Aviation Alumni. We are now unique in our history as aviators because no one else will be graduates of the finest program in the Midwest and in the US. I loved my time at SCSU and without a doubt I would not be a successful military Christian pilot had I not attended SCSU. SCSU set me up for an amazing journey in aviation which I see no end to. Thank you teachers, staff, and alumni who made that possible.

*Todd Christopherson, Class of 2006
CW2, US Army OH-58D Pilot*



A Word from Our Aviation Alumni *(continued from page 4)*

I am a Combat Systems Officer (C-130 Navigator) with the MN Air National Guard and Transportation Broker for Brenny Transportation. I hate to see the aviation department go, but so goes the world. I'll never forget the times I had and the friends I made through the department and Alpha Eta Rho. Until I see you all again, "May your airspeed be high, your landings be soft, your beer be cold, and..." my brothers, you know the rest.

Jeremy Sarder, Class of 2006
BS in Aviation (Operations)



SCSU's aviation program enabled me to meet great people and go places I likely would not have. It's faculty were of the highest integrity and always looked out for their students. Likewise, I met other positive aviation students who embarked on new adventures. I sincerely thank you all. The effects of SCSU's aviation program will reverberate long after it's gone.

Mitch Mickelson, Class of 1993
BS in Aviation (Operations)
Dispatcher, Seaborne Airlines



I am currently employed by DOT/FAA, working at MKE ATCT as an air traffic controller. I have been doing this for 16 years. I am ever thankful for the SCSU Aviation program, because if it wasn't for my dorm neighbor Mollie Abelson, I wouldn't have taken any Aviation classes. And if it wasn't for Pat Mattson, I wouldn't have gotten into air traffic control. This career has allowed me opportunities that I would not have normally seen, and afforded me a very comfortable lifestyle and the ability to provide well for my family. I attribute it all to SCSU. If you fly into or near Milwaukee, say Hi!

Annie Quirk (Zidar), Class of 1997
BS in Aviation Management



I am currently a Captain on a Gulfstream G550 for UnitedHealth Group out of St Paul. SCSU's Aviation Program helped prepare me for an exciting career in corporate aviation. I am truly grateful for the education and guidance I received as well as the relationships I made. It's a shame to see such a well respected program come to an end. I wish all my fellow Alumni the best of luck and look forward to seeing you wherever our travels may take us. Best Wishes!

Brian Bross, Class of 1996
BS - Business Management
Minor - Aviation Technology



It has been an absolute pleasure to have been a part of the SCSU aviation program. A great team, a great staff, and a great start to what now has been a great 24 year career where the sky is the limit. Special thanks to Pat Mattson. Everyone fly safe!

Curt Vainio, Class of 1990
BS in Aviation (Flight Ops/ATC)
Senior Airport Operations Duty Manager
Washington-Dulles International Airport



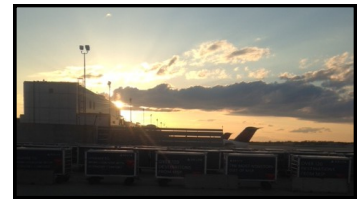
I am now a 7th year First Officer at Delta Airlines. I'm based in MSP flying the Boeing 757/767.

Hans Meyer, Class of 2001
BS in Aviation (Professional Flight)



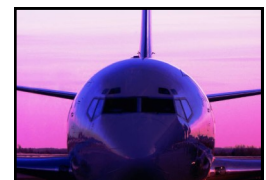
I am currently a First officer for Menards flight department based in Eau Claire, WI. I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a student in the Aviation program at St. Cloud. I wish the best for everyone.

Nick Bartel, Class of 2010
BS in Aviation (Management)



I am so grateful for the SCSU Aviation program. From day one, I was introduced to the camaraderie that is the aviation community. It also allowed me to learn leadership and meet some of my lifelong friends. From Minnesota, I moved to Phoenix to Flight Instruct and then fly tour groups over the Grand Canyon. From there, I flew cargo in Los Angeles. I am currently a Captain at home with two young aviation enthusiasts, and hope to return to the sky. Blue Skies for wherever the mile of runway may take you.

Angela (Stearns) Jarman, Class of 2002
BS in Aviation - Operations



"I am extremely displeased with the short-sightedness of SCSU leadership and MNSCU. This will affect my decision for future monetary donations to the school."

Comment from an SCSU Aviation graduate

Editor's Note: Word has been received that at least 2 millionaires will no longer be donating to SCSU due to the aviation program closure.

I am currently a Captain with Republic Airways. I am forever grateful for the experience I gained during my time in the aviation program at SCSU. It has made me the pilot I am today, and it is with pride that I tell people I graduated from St. Cloud! I will never forget all the great faculty and students of the program, my time spent there was some of the best years of my life. Thanks for the memories!

*Bryan Peterson
Class of 2003
BS in Aviation
(Professional Flight)*

My name is Lisa Wixom and I'm an Air Traffic Controller at Charlotte Douglas Intl. airport. Thank you SCSU Aviation Department for preparing me for a successful career in Aviation!

*Lisa Wixom
Class of 2008
BS in Aviation (Operations)*

A Word from Our Aviation Alumni *(continued from page 5)*

I graduated in 2001 and upon reading Pat Mattson's post about submitting an email to you for the final newsletter, it brought me to tears, as SCSU was so important to me...My name is Katie Oldakowski and I'm currently a Captain for Wiggin's Airways, flying a Beech 99 under a UPS contract. I was brought to tears to really realize that the aviation dept is going away soon. I have made life-long friends from my time at SCSU, and thank the aviation dept for shaping my future. I have lived all over the country, in every time zone, flying to places I never thought I would (and some I wish I wouldn't have had to fly to :). I want to thank all the professors, past and present, for sharing their passion and continuing to promote the industry. This is such a dynamic, ever changing industry. I cherish my time at SCSU Aviation and would not change a thing. Thank you to my classmates, friends, teachers, mentors and fellow aviators.

*Keep the shiny side up,
Katie Oldakowski, Class of 2001
BS in Aviation (Aviation Ops)*

I am currently employed as a Production Test Pilot for Dassault Falcon Jet in Little Rock, AR. I am PIC qualified on the DA-EASY, and DA-7X

*Thomas Hansen
Class of 2003
BS in Aviation (Professional Flight)
Production Test Pilot
Dassault Falcon Jet*

I'm currently a Manager of Finance at American Airlines & am forever indebted to the wonderful folks in the SCSU aviation department. Wishing everyone all the best in their future endeavors!

*Pascal Lawrence, Class of 2010
BS in Aviation (Management)*



From Our Archives: 2003-04 SCSU Flight Team

Special Thanks to the Aviation Faculty and Staff!

Dr. Tara Harl, Chair
Dr. Steve Anderson
Mr. Michael Ferguson “Mr. Ferg”
Dr. Jeff Johnson “Dr. J”
Dr. Angie Olson

Dr. Patrick Mattson (Faculty Emeritus)
Mr. Ken Raiber (Faculty Emeritus)

Adjunct Faculty

Mr. Donald Cunningham
Judge James Hoolihan (ret.)
Dr. Matthew Quinn, Esq.
Mr. Steve Szymanski
Dr. Janese Thatcher
Mr. Bill Towle
Dr. David Van Nostrand
Dr. David Weeres
And many countless others!

Staff: Sandra Osterholt and Michael Terhune



“In life, everything must make that final flight . . . to the west.”