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Dear Reader,

Thank you so much for taking time out of your day to read our SIU Aviation Newsletter known as Saluki Hangar News. We truly appreciate the fact that we have been given this awesome opportunity by the SIU Aviation Department to show you what we have been up to here at SIU and across the nation.

This edition, the committee really wanted to include some exciting articles from current students and alumni to show how SIU really has been such a benefit to all of us. When we first thought of the theme “Aviation Journeys” we had no idea how receptive everyone would be and how many great articles we would receive from students and alumni across the aviation community.

Included are a couple of articles about two of the classes offered here and how they prepare our students for an intense and rewarding future in or out of aviation, as well as articles from some of our many diverse aviation student organizations. We have also included articles describing some amazing opportunities unique to SIU aviation students in regard to in-person recruitment and partnerships from many notable airlines.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the SIU Aviation’s, Saluki Hangar News!

Sincerely,

SIU Aviation Technologies Ambassadors,
Newsletter Committee
Greetings from Aviation Management and Flight Advisement

By Aimee Lemrise

First, let me briefly introduce myself: my name is Aimee Lemrise. This past August of 2017, I started as the new Aviation Management and Flight Advisor. The passion and professionalism of our students, faculty, and staff have astounded me in the short time I have been here.

Let me take this opportunity to update the community about exciting enterprises in SIU Aviation.

Early in September, Aviation students gained another fast-track opportunity to their careers as commercial airline pilots; SIU and Republic Airline, an Indianapolis-based regional airline, signed a contract to provide interviews with qualifying students before graduation. This early interview process allows students eligibility for employment, $10,000 signing bonuses, or flight-time building where students within 100 hours of their transport pilot (ATP) certificate can have the airline pick up that expense. We value our industry partners, thank you Republic Airline!

Aviation Recruitment:

SIU Aviation is committed to recruiting future aviators. Our recruitment efforts are multifaceted and ongoing throughout the year. We have numerous on-site programming and activities. Our Associate Professor, Lorelei Ruiz, organizes Summer Wings—a summer residential camp for high school students, open to both young men and women. We also hold NASA Wings, a weeklong camp designed to give high school students a chance to explore career in aviation and aerospace by providing ground and flight training at the Aviation facilities. Over the years, several campers have returned as students in the Aviation Program. Furthermore, we offer field trips that involve fun and interactive activities at the Southern Illinois Airport. Finally, our United Airlines Career Day has always been a huge success. Look for updates for the 2018 United Airlines-SIU Aviation Career Day!

Beyond community recruitment events, this past year, just on an individual basis, our advisors and aviation ambassadors have met with over one hundred prospective students. Our personalized tours of the facility and one-on-one time with the advisor, give prospective students a thorough overview of the program. Besides individual tours, our campus-wide Open Houses have remained well attended.

Our industry partners elevate our recruitment efforts. Pipeline contracts bring additional value to SIU’s reputable aviation program. With a high demand industry, every opportunity to pursue employment directly after graduating is invaluable. There is no better time to spread the word to prospective students about the opportunities in the aviation industry. Whether it is a commercial pilot, airport manager, A & P technician, aviation media sales, or operations manager, the opportunities continue to grow. So please know that our students and community are very receptive to in-person presentations, interviews, and career opportunities that will expose them to the industry and aid them in making the appropriate decision for their career goals. We welcome Alumni, Recruiters, and others to come visit and help our students make valuable career connections!

Have a wonderful New Year!

Aimee Lemrise
**Special Olympics Plane Pull**

By Lourin Spregner

It may not be summer, but it sure feels like it standing on the tarmac of Southern Illinois Airport. The early October sun is cooking you on the slowly melting asphalt, your hands so sweaty they slide around in your work gloves losing your ever important grip. On top of the heat, wind gusts of 30 miles an hour threaten to knock you right off your feet.

Despite the obstacles, there is no distraction to the task at hand.

“READY?!” A voice calls. Before you have time to answer, you’re left only with a ringing in your ears, deafened by the blast of an air horn.


Then, it’s over.

What seems like an eternity was just about ten seconds or so. You and your team hugging tightly, reaping the reward of your success.

It’s not every day you come nose to nose with a 75,000 pound beast… and dominate it.

For nearly 200 this fall that’s exactly what happened.

That beast is “The Saluki Express,” an old monster 757 aircraft used as a teaching tool for aviation students at Southern Illinois University. The challenge handed to 18 teams of 10 on October 7th, to tug the beast down a runway as quickly as possible in the name of Special Olympics Illinois at the Southern Illinois Plane Pull.

Each team assigned an honorary 11th team member, a Special Olympics athlete.

For most that you ask that day, the challenge of
pulling a plane down a runway with your bare hands is one they will never forget. But, the takeaway of the event was so much more than just the memory. It was the bond formed with the athletes.

Special Olympics Illinois provides year round sports training and competitions to 23,000 men and women ages 8 and up with intellectual disabilities. More than 1,500 call Southern Illinois home.

Aside from the hugs and high-fives passes along by the athletes that day, more than $10,000 was raised for Special Olympics Illinois. The funds allowing these athletes to continue to compete, inspire and break down societal barriers at no cost to them.

I believe everyone should volunteer for Special Olympics. If you give an athlete a minute of your time, they will give you their heart.


Certified Flight Instruction
By Max Wesselmann

My name is Max and I’m a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) in the Aviation Program at Southern Illinois University. I’m currently a Junior pursuing the Aviation Management Bachelor’s Degree and the Aviation Flight Associate’s Degree. I’m currently serving on the Aviation Management Society Board as the Secretary. It has been my goal to professionally fly airplanes ever since I was a child.

As a junior CFI here I typically get assigned students that already possess a Private Pilot Certificate and I’m training them to become more proficient with their flying before they move on to their instrument rating. SIU is offering to upgrade me to a Flight Instructor - Instrument (CFII) soon, at no cost for me.

I have to thank SIU for the fact that I’m only a Junior but already a CFI because their flight training permits an accelerated progression through the flight courses, due to abilities to fly extra on weekends and during breaks.

In my opinion, SIU’s professional flight and ground instruction, that goes above and beyond of what is legally required, provides a professional and safe training atmosphere and generally produces above average pilots.
Alpha Eta Rho
By Gabrielle Escudero

Alpha Eta Rho Sigma Chapter (AHP) has been working hard to make this semester a great one! We are very proud of what our members have accomplished these past few months. Between touring various airports, museums, and maintenance facilities, volunteering around the community, and getting together with AHP alumni and leaders in the industry, AHP is finishing 2017 strong and looking forward to the spring semester!

Some of the more notable functions that AHP has set up or participated in include touring Cessna’s headquarters and manufacturing facilities in Kansas, touring the Delta Flight Museum and Boeing 747 in Georgia, attending a career fair and recruitment event as a part of the 2017 Alpha Eta Rho National Conference, and hearing from speakers from aviation career development consulting, NATCA, FedEx, and Delta. Sigma Chapter is very excited for the 2018 National Conference in Memphis, Tennessee!

Save the dates! AHP has four major events planned for this spring. The Wings of Hope 5k at Southern Illinois Airport will be on Saturday, March 3rd, 2018. The Hope Flys Golf Scramble will be held on Friday, April 20th, 2018 at Keller’s Crossing at Stone Creek in Makanda, IL. AHP will be hosting the spring aviation banquet on Saturday, April 21st, 2018 at Keller’s Crossing at Stone Creek as well. If you plan on attending both the Golf Scramble and the banquet, let us know when you purchase your tickets by April 5th and a discount will be available. Lastly, the AHP Frasca Fly-In is being tentatively planned for April 2018. More details about these events to come.

AHP will continue to schedule bi-weekly Aviation Study Nights in Morris Library in the spring, and will now be selling Dunkin Donuts in addition to walking tacos on Taco Tuesday! If you are interested in joining Alpha Eta Rho in Spring 2018, please contact Gabrielle Escudero at gabrielle.escudero@siu.edu or Caleb Hall at calebh96@siu.edu.
**Student Experience Within SIU Aviation Technologies**  
*By Jakob Chapman*

My name is Jakob Chapman and I’m from a small town in Northern Illinois called Ashton. I am a senior majoring in Aviation Technologies with a minor in Product Support and a specialization in avionics, and I plan to graduate with a 4.0 GPA.

In my time at SIU, I have joined and held leadership positions in a few student organizations including FarmHouse Fraternity, Interfraternity Council, and the Detail Dawgs aviation maintenance team. For the past two summers I have also worked at an avionics install shop, gaining experience in avionics installs and wiring. I believe that SIU has prepared me for the aviation industry by not only providing me with the proper information to pass the A&P tests, but a strong foundation of knowledge and experience for my future aviation career.

I have had the opportunity to receive firsthand experience in hands on maintenance that is not offered at many other schools. I have also become proficient in searching manuals for information and using that information to troubleshoot various aircraft systems. Outside the classroom, I have used my experience to make money over the summer and even compete in a maintenance competition with the Detail Dawgs maintenance team. This competition gave me the opportunity to make real connections in the MRO industry and receive hands on practice in relevant maintenance procedures used in the modern industry.

Aside from the Aviation Technologies program, I have been able to acquire other various experiences and skills from student organizations at SIU. I have been an extremely active member of FarmHouse Fraternity since I was a freshman and have gained an enormous amount of experience in leading and communicating effectively with my peers. This experience opened the door for me to hold the position of the Executive Vice President on the Interfraternity Council and play a role in leading the entire fraternity community at SIU. My experiences have not been simply limited to the classroom, and that is the exact reason why I believe SIU has been able to provide me the opportunity to excel in the aviation industry.
SIUC Aviation Alumni Chosen for Special Duty
By Joshua Watson

CARBONDALE- SIU’s Air Force ROTC recognizes the accomplishments of not only one but three aviation department Alumni chosen for special training duty as pilots in the United States Air Force.

Special Recognition

Ryan Owens, Phillip Hannon, and Nicholas Creasey all of whom recently graduated SIUC this past spring were recently chosen for specialized pilot training classified as ENJJPT or the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program. ENJJPT is the world's only multi-nationally manned and managed flying training program chartered to produce combat pilots for NATO. Selection into this unique program is incredibly competitive. Of the approximate 300 Cadets Nation-wide who were awarded a manned pilot slot in Spring 16 academic semester, only 45 were selected, and these three individuals made the cut.

Background

This exercise is an event that cadets rated to become pilots compete for yearly and is a distinguished opportunity even among the pilot career field. With the program being led by seasoned USAF personnel, officers from all 14 participating nations fill subordinate leadership positions throughout the wing. Five nations -- Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway and the United States -- provide instructor pilots based on their number of student pilots. an example of this totally integrated structure, an American student pilot may have a Belgian instructor pilot, a Dutch flight commander, a Turkish section commander, an Italian operations office, and a German squadron commander. This is an extremely diverse and rewarding program for participants and having three SIU aviation alumni chosen for its ranks is a proud reflection of the Aerospace studies and aviation department.

Pictured Above: SIUC Alumni chosen for Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training

2nd Lt. Nicholas Creasey 2nd Lt. Phillip Hannon 2nd Lt. Ryan Owens
Wings Over Southern Illinois Fly-In
By Abbie Parsons

Wings Over Southern Illinois was the first annual fly-in put on by the Aviation Technologies Ambassadors, and it was a huge success! We had a great turnout of 14 airplanes that flew in for the day, along with two helicopters that were hauling rides. There were about 400 people from the surrounding communities and campus that came out to support us, and everyone had a great time!

The Young Eagles were able to give rides to 48 children over the course of the day. For some, this was their first exposure to aviation, and I think they had the makings of future pilots. There were also Discovery Flights available for adults who wanted to go for a ride, and some even got to fly for a little bit!

Haute Wheels Food Truck did an excellent job, and the food was terrific! They provided a free lunch for all of our volunteers, which was greatly appreciated! Saluki SAE Team was there, and they were able to show off their stock car.

None of this would have been possible without the help of our amazing volunteers! I know that some things didn’t run as smoothly as we had hoped, but we learned from the mistakes, and will make it better and more efficient next time!

I also want to thank Gary Shafer and Patrick McDonald. They gave a lot of their time to us to get this organized, and make sure everything was safe. They also donated more resources than I ever could have imagined.

So thank you to everyone who participated in this event, I enjoyed working with all of you, and I hope to see you all at the next Wings Over Southern Illinois Fly-in!
2017 has been a very productive year for the Aviation Management Society (AMS). Under President Dalton Thompson’s leadership, interesting meetings were held on a weekly basis, discussing current events in the aviation industry. The RSO also hosted several popular airlines that came in and talked to SIU students. Additionally, AMS organized field trips to tour the flight operations of American Airlines at Chicago O’Hare International Airport, FedEx Express training facilities at Memphis International Airport, and operations at Saint Louis Lambert International Airport.

In November 2017, AMS hosted their annual career fair and invited 30 companies to talk to students interested in pilot, mechanic, or management careers. AMS also organized the annual banquet, sponsored by American Airlines, which had the best attendance in a long time, close to 300. During the banquet, many SIU flight students received scholarships to help them cover costs for their flight training.

AMS plans for another eventful year in 2018, with possible field trips going to the American Airlines Headquarters in Dallas, FedEx Express in Indianapolis, and many more. Also, there are already talks with another major airline about sponsoring the next AMS banquet.
I had somewhat of a non-traditional path into aviation. I was interested in planes and flying from a young age, but in college I studied engineering and construction management at Western Kentucky University. I struggled to make a career out of that, especially during a poor economy. I took some flying lessons and loved it, but quickly realized just how expensive it would be as a hobby. So I thought, why not make a career out of this and get paid to fly. After some research I discovered SIU was nearby, and the aviation program had a great reputation in the industry. The fall of 2012 I enrolled in some of the ground training classes and worked on finishing my private pilot training at Flightline. The following spring I started flying at SIU in AF199 and went from there to earn the rest of my certificates and ratings. In the summer of 2015 I got my flight instructor certificate and completed the associates degree in Aviation Flight. I left to instruct at a flying club in my hometown, but a short time later came back to SIU, where I instructed for about two years.

Now I'm a first officer at SkyWest Airlines. I'm qualified on the CRJ-200, 700, & 900, operating for the American Eagle, Delta Connection, and United Express brands. I'm Chicago based, although I still live in Carbondale.

My time at SIU built a great foundation to get me where I am today because of the knowledge and experience I gained as a student and instructor, as well as the lifelong connections I made. A common thing you will hear about airline training is that it's like drinking from a firehose of information. Having a good base of knowledge helps to be able to keep up. Since SIU is a higher academic institution, you're not just learning the bare minimums to be able to pass a checkride now, you’re gaining knowledge to be able to make correlations later in your career. Being a CFI just ingrained that knowledge, because teaching is where the real learning occurs. You only understand something as good as you can explain it on a basic level, and when you teach, for example, max holding speeds or different category circling radii over and over, you're not going to forget them. Also, Airline flying is incredibly standardized, as it has to be to be able to take 2 pilots who have possibly never met each other, and be able to work in a crew environment. Coming from the structure of SIU's 141 program definitely made it easier easing into the 121 structure. I'm thankful for my time with SIU Aviation, and that I can continue to be a part of it in some small way while continuing to look forward to the journey ahead in the airline world!
National Gay Pilots Association
By Dristin Rose

Stating with a couple people in a small town in Key West, Fla. and Provincetown, Mass., airline, military, and aviation enthusiasts gathered on a first name basis, using only shirts with airplanes on them to identify each other. That small group has grown into over 4,000 members, made up of all types of aviators that call NGPA a safe place, a home, and a family. NGPA has achieved many milestones throughout its history. We have gone from the fear of losing flying jobs in the military and airlines to hosting one of the largest aviation recruiting expos in the U.S., the NGPA Industry Expo. NGPA always wants to help aspiring aviators so that we may share our love for flying with others. Through scholarships funded by our membership, and more recently named airline scholarships, the NGPA will be helping support the most students in our history with up to $81,000 in scholarships awarded, which includes our first B737 type rating. The NGPA-SIU chapter is the newest of all four-university chapters in the organization. Founded in fall 2017 with the help of faculty and staff, the local group has grown to a total of 8 members. It is our goal to foster an LGBTQ+ friendly campus and provide inclusion to all students in each aviation department. Beginning in the spring semester of 2018 the chapter will begin tours of several facilities within the region to expose students to different fields of aviation. The group will also be attending the Palm Springs 2018 Career Expo presented by United Airlines in February of next year.
Being a first generation American, getting a college degree was not only important to me but also to my family. In 2010 I would become the first of my family to graduate from college, a precedent that had yet to be set since 1486 in Melzungen, Germany. The college that I chose to propel myself as well as my family into academia was Southern Illinois University. In retrospect, I was probably the kid that should have taken a gap year. I came to SIU unsure of what I wanted to do with the rest of my life, but what 18 year really does? I started as a management major and after a semester realized it wasn’t for me. Throughout my tenure at SIU, I would change majors faster than I could change my mind. I even did a stint at John A. Logan to obtain a cosmetology license because I thought that the beauty business was my calling. Now I did enjoy being the Phi Kappa Tau in-house hair stylist for a while but I soon realized the industry as a whole was more of a hobby than a career for me. So there I was with 180 credit hours under my belt on the precipice of graduation not knowing fully what I wanted to do with my life. To make matters worse I was entering the work force during the middle of one of the country’s worst economic recessions in decades. The first job I applied for was for a management position at a health club’s salon and spa. The job description entailed running the entire department and the salary was $19,000 per year. No….that’s not a typo. Thanks, baby boomers.

Starting from a young age, all the signs pointed to a career in aviation. Every so often planes from Scott AFB would run drills over the campus and each time my eyes were always drawn toward the skies. I grew up less than a mile from what was then called Palwaukee Municipal Airport. I also come from an aviation family. My mother was a gate agent at O’Hare Airport in Chicago for 36 years before retiring in 2003. My Uncle retired in 2015 as a 24 year A320 pilot and my aunt is currently a flight attendant for United with 45 years of seniority, 25 of which were spent in inflight. My father even offered to pay for flight school when I was 14. I turned him down with dreams of becoming a Radio City Rockette, we see how that turned out. With over 100 years of combined seniority at United Airlines in my blood, growing up listening to small airplanes fly around my house, and then choosing one of the finest collegiate aviation schools in the country to attend, it’s a wonder why I didn’t realize what my life’s calling was sooner. It wasn’t until I left SIU that I realized travel and aviation were what I wanted to be a part of. I realized that the experiences I had meeting people of different ages, races, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds was what I was missing the most after college. In September of 2012 I interviewed With ExpressJet Airlines to become a Flight Attendant. I had been warned previously that Flight Attendant interviews and aviation interviews in general were unlike any I would ever do. I sat in a room in the Aloft Hotel in Chicago with about 75 other hopefuls. This was one stop of 4 on the recruitment team’s tour so I can only imagine how many other people they spoke to that week. The advice I was given about interviews was right. A group
The interview was followed by one on one interviews that led to fingerprinting and then an immediate drug test. During the one on one portion, I realized that this airline was a match for me. The interviewers were relaxed and made me feel at ease. I never once felt judged or lesser. I felt like I was joining a family. Cut to October of 2012 and I began an intensive four-week training course with daily exams. Each exam had to be passed with a 90% or higher or you were sent home. Of the 57 I started training with only 46 survived. After four weeks of learning everything about aircraft specifics, emergency equipment, self-defense, CPR, first aid and how to evacuate an airplane in under 90 seconds from only two exits, my class and I were ready to start flying the line. I spent two years strictly flying the line. This is where I would meet my new, weird little family. After those two years, I interviewed and was able to join the in-training department. I was so impressed with my training during initial new hire and annual recurrent training that I knew it was a role I felt passionate about. I wanted to help my coworkers succeed and become the best they possibly could. I met pilots, flight attendants and maintenance personnel every day flying the line and in the training center. After so much time together relationships were formed and now the best part of this industry is running into those friends at their new job at a major airline. Regional airlines are meant to be a place for you to grow and learn. You gain experience and make lifelong friends. This may be a big industry on paper but it is quite small once you’re a part of it. While it makes me sad to see my friends go, I’m always so happy when they move on. It lends credence to the fact that I chose the right airline; that this airline is preparing me for a great future in this industry and this is only the beginning of a long career. The best part of my job is the mobility and ability to change departments. Currently, I am working as a pilot recruiter. The opportunity to go to places and meet people I never would have otherwise, has presented itself. I was recently part of a team that brought an ExpressJet Embraer 145 to SIU for the day. I rode in the flight deck jump seat while on final approach and looked at my alma mater in a way I never saw there for school. Seven years after graduation I had forgotten just how beautiful the landscape was at SIU. We were about to land and I got a view of the narrow runway and it was in that moment that I realized that SIU prepared me for my future in a way I never knew about before. I didn’t know it then but I was learning more than just what my professors and textbooks were teaching me. I was able to take such a wide variety of classes and meet people from all over the world who took interest in so many things that I didn’t even know how much I was absorbing. College is about more than the degree. It’s expanding your horizons in ways you never thought possible. Having the experiences I did at SIU prepared me for my role as a Flight Attendant and even more as a pilot recruiter. In addition to meeting pilots, the variety of personalities prepared me to understand people better as a whole. I learned interpersonal communication skills that help me every day. I learned to be aware of how people’s upbringings could affect how they viewed me. I learned that what matters most is the content of person’s character. While these may seem like small things it wasn’t until I started a career in aviation that I realized just how important they were. This industry is one of worldwide significance in which being tolerant is key. Every day you will meet people from all over the world who may be nothing like you. Just because I work for a regional does not mean I am exempt from meeting any group of people. Whether they’re a group of hopeful pilots trying to navigate the current industry climate or a couple from China who has never flown before on their way to their son’s wedding in Wichita, Kansas, SIU taught me that each person matters. Each encounter matters. And our actions have the possibility to change lives.
**Aviation Industry Career Development – AVM 402**

*By Dr. Jose Ruiz*

What is an Aviation Career Search Plan? What is an Aviation Career Portfolio? How can these products contribute to identifying and attaining my career aspirations? These questions and other aviation career related issues are discussed in the course offering - Aviation Industry Career Development (AVM 402). Course objectives are designed to equip the student with the knowledge and skills needed to successfully secure employment in the aviation industry.

All students receive personal interviews, and also have the option to participate in an online and telephone interviews. Résumés and cover letters are comprehensively discussed and students receive assistance in the creation of these two essential products. Guest speakers are a vital component of the course. Guest speakers are current aviation professionals that represent a variety of occupations in the aviation industry and provide career advice, mentorship and guidance. In addition, a representative from SIU Career Services provides career advice, and introduces students to many of the services provided by SIU Career Services.

Students create an Aviation Career Search Plan (ACSP). An ACSP requires that a student identify his/her top three career choices. However, at least one of the career choices cannot require an aeronautical medical certificate. This restriction is in place to address the possibility of not being able to maintain a medical certificate. Each career choice is thoroughly researched and explored. Students also create an Aviation Career Portfolio. An Aviation Career Portfolio is a collective series of bound documents that provides the reader with a comprehensive portrayal of a student's education, certification, experiential learning activities, accomplishments, etc. It is an impressive document for use in a personal interview.

Faculty and staff have determined that AVM 402 can play such a potentially significant role in student occupational success that it has been identified as an Aviation Management degree program core course. When should students consider enrolling in AVM 402? As the faculty member instructing the course, I would recommend enrolling in AVM 402 during a student's junior year. This will allow the student to employ many of the lessons learned in the course while having easy access to Aviation Management program and university resources, including a strong support system.

AVM 402 cannot guarantee employment for graduates of the Aviation Management program. However, students will leave the program equipped, informed and prepared to negotiate the challenges associated with seeking employment and managing a career.
SIU Alumni: General Electric
By Collin Wece

My name is Collin Wece. I was born and raised in Carbondale, IL and now live in Lafayette, IN. Ever since I was young I have been obsessed with all things aviation. So as a result I began attending SIU in August of 2015 and I graduated in May of 2017 with my bachelors in Aviation Technologies, as well as my FAA Airframe and Powerplant mechanic license. After I graduated in May I moved to Indiana to start my career at GE Aviation.

GE Aviation opened the Lafayette Engine Facility in Lafayette, IN towards the end of 2015. This plant was built for the sole purpose of manufacturing the CFM LEAP-1A/1C and LEAP-1B engine. This engine is the replacement for the fabled CFM-56, which has been in production since the late 1970s and some 30,000 engines were built. My job title at GE is an Assembly and Test Technician. Essentially that means I am hands-on, building the engines. At the plant we receive boxes of individual parts, and it is our job as technicians to assemble them into a completed core or full engine. I am on a team that builds the core of the LEAP-1A engine. The core consists of all the “high pressure” components of the engine; high pressure compressor, combustor, high pressure turbine, etc. Once we finish a core, it is shipped to France to be finished by SAFRAN, the second half of the joint venture that creates the CFM name. To be able to start at the beginning of this new engine’s life has been very rewarding and challenging. Because the engine is so new, it is constantly undergoing design changes. Being a part of these changes and seeing the engine grow has opened my eyes to a whole other side of aviation that you don’t necessarily know about while in school.

Attending SIU has been a huge help to me already during my short time in the industry. Although a bachelor’s degree was not a requirement for my current position at GE, having that degree sets me up very well for career advancement in the future. As I have come to find out, there aren’t a lot of aviation schools that offer bachelor’s degrees, so this is a huge plus for SIU and certainly something that sets SIU apart from the rest. The connections I made with SIU alumni helped immensely when I was searching for a job prior to graduation. As students we had contacts made available to us in most aspects of the industry, and I now look forward to hopefully being one of those contacts for future students. Along with the connections SIU provided me as a student, the relationships I built within the Aviation Technologies department have enabled me to stay in contact with instructors and students. Overall the “networking” that SIU enables you to do as a student is greatly helpful when learning your way around the industry. My roots to SIU and Carbondale run deep, and I am excited for my future and also excited to stay involved with the Aviation Technologies department and its students for years to come.
**Saluki Flight**

By Alek Bergman

Saluki Flight is SIUC’s newest aviation registered student organization. Founded late last Fall by Jared Ver Mulm, Alek Bergman, and Peter Fox, Saluki Flight continues to thrive and introduce SIUC students to the world of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). Saluki Flight helps bridge SIUC with CAP.

Everyone knows CAP because of the Search and Rescue (SAR) services they provide, but they actually do a lot more. On the aviation side of things, pilots practice SAR operations, fly transport missions in disaster relief zones, fly aerial photography missions for all sorts of reasons, and even give cadets free flights in CAP aircraft, many of whom have never flown before. Cadet programs are another big goal of the Civil Air Patrol. Many cadets have brilliant minds and look forward to going to a service academy and serving in the military as an officer. One last main goal for CAP is aerospace education. This is pretty much just getting the word out and teaching the community about aviation, as it’s vastly overlooked. I remember volunteering in a public library in Chicago back at my original squadron and the kids loved it. Hopefully we inspired them.

Since Saluki Flight’s start up, we had many members join the Civil Air Patrol and become pilots, which is one of our main goals. The process of becoming a CAP pilot, as well as just learning the new organizational procedures and lingo, can be challenging, and that’s why we are here. On top of helping SIUC pilots becoming CAP pilots, we teach many different ground roles for members interested in that.

Currently, we are teaching members how to become CAP pilots. There is an online test you will have to take, as well as filling out a one-page questionnaire about the aircraft you are wanting to fly with CAP. An oral and check flight will also be given, and after that will you be a qualified CAP pilot. On top of that, we are also teaching members how to be mission scanners. When CAP goes on a SAR mission, the scanner looks out the window and uses specific procedures to help find a downed aircraft. As a CAP pilot myself, I find the non-piloting activities pretty interesting, and it definitely makes you more versatile.

In the future, our goal is to introduce and add more members to the RSO. Not only will we be able to have more pilots and put more hours on the aircraft, but we will have numerous non-aviation roles to teach. Specifically for the Spring 2018 semester, we plan on teaching members how to become mission observers. They act as the mission commander onboard the aircraft and tell the pilot where to go. The best part of all this is most of the flying is free, and it adds a spice to your resume.

We definitely would like students, both aviation and non-aviation, to come check us out during the Spring 2018 semester as we have lots in store!
**SIU Alumni: A&P**

*By Joseph Schuster*

Joseph Schuster is an A&P licensed aircraft mechanic who graduated from Southern Illinois University in 2005 with a B.S. in Aircraft Technologies. He has worked numerous roles of increasing responsibility for a large maintenance repair overhaul and completions facility in St. Louis for the past 12 years. He joined Midcoast Aviation in 2005 as an A&P technician working large corporate aircraft manufactured by Gulfstream, Bombardier, Falcon and Hawker. After gaining the necessary experience over several years he was promoted to a crew lead for the Gulfstream and Global aircraft. To support business needs at the time he transferred to the completions line of business, managing several Global Express interior completions projects. He then took an opportunity to work government contracts as supervisor of the C-20 depot. Five years later he was promoted to manage the engine and component repair and overhaul business lines. The facility was recently rebranded as a Gulfstream service center where he leads a team of employees as a service team manager. As a service team manager for Gulfstream, he is responsible for several aspects of a service center visit including safety of personnel, quality of work performed, manpower planning, overall project/schedule management and labor performance in addition to communication with the customer.

Joseph believes the SIU curriculum prepared him with a solid foundation of knowledge allowing him to grow quickly within the industry. In addition to the knowledge and mentoring he gained while at SIU, he believes that hard work, passion and attention to detail are required in the demanding field of aviation. Joseph is thankful for the great mentors he has along the way and is passionate about paying it forward. Several years ago, his involvement was key in the government's donation of the GIII to the SIU. He continues to support the College of Applied Science and Arts by sitting on the board of counselors and the department of Aviation Technologies by sitting on the advisory committee. He looks forward to the opportunity to build a strong relationship between Gulfstream and SIU.
SIU Aviation Scholarship Recipients

Thanks to the generosity of numerous donors and sponsors, the Department of Aviation Management and Flight was able to award over $50,000 in scholarships during the Aviation Management Society banquet held in the SIU Student Center Ballrooms on November 10, 2017.

A total of nine students were selected to receive the Michael R. Peters AviationInterviews.com Aviation Scholarship. Recipients pictured here with Mike Peters, left, include (L to R):

Zachary Rawlings, a junior studying Aviation Management and Flight
Mark Acosta, a senior studying Aviation Management and Flight
Schuyler Parks, a junior studying Aviation Flight and Aviation Technologies
Nicholas Higgin, a senior studying Aviation Management and Flight
Ryan Linton, a senior studying Aviation Management and Flight
Brett Baker, a senior studying Aviation Management and Flight
Xavier Blake, a senior studying Aviation Management and Flight
Recipients not pictured include:
Joseph Alonso, a junior studying Aviation Management and Flight
Natelie Chappell, a junior studying Aviation Management (SIU Extended Campus Academic Program at the Community College of Beaver County, PA)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Name</th>
<th>Recipient Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>The C. Gene and Robbi Seibert Aviation Management Scholarship</td>
<td>Alexander Bergman, a senior studying Aviation Management and Flight, pictured with Dr. David NewMyer.</td>
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<td>The Larry B. Byerly Memorial Aviation Scholarship</td>
<td>Kaston Keith, a junior studying Aviation Management, pictured with Dr. David NewMyer.</td>
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<td>The George J. Priester Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Ryan Linton, a senior studying Aviation Management and Flight, pictured with Mike Burgener.</td>
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<td>The Mathew K. Meier Faith Family Friendship Fortitude Future Aviation Scholarship</td>
<td>Nicholas Higgin, a senior studying Aviation Management and Flight, pictured with Dr. David NewMyer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The James and Helen Newby Aviation Scholarship</td>
<td>Tucker Shepherd, a junior studying Aviation Management and Flight, pictured with Dr. David NewMyer.</td>
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<td>The Kevin Duffy Moore Endowed Scholarship</td>
<td>Andrew De Zanek, a sophomore studying Aviation Flight and Aviation Management.</td>
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<td>The Jerry L. Kennedy Aviation Career Advancement Scholarship</td>
<td>Travis Schofield, a senior studying Aviation Management and Flight, pictured with Thomas Kennedy, Janice Kennedy Wray, and Tina Landon.</td>
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<td>The Steven Staples Memorial Aviation Scholarship</td>
<td>Dalton Thompson, a senior studying Aviation Management and Flight, pictured with Captain Susan Staples.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Joseph A. Messina II Aviation Explorers Scholarship for Aviation Students</td>
<td>Joshua Cargille, a junior studying Aviation Flight and Aviation Technologies, pictured with Captain Joe Messina III.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The William R. Norwood Aviation Scholarship</td>
<td>Dalton Thompson and Angel Cochran, a junior studying Aviation Flight, pictured with Mike Burgener.</td>
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SIU Alumni: Airport Operations
By Anthony Thatcher

My name is Anthony Thatcher. I was born and raised in Waukegan, Illinois and from a young age I knew I wanted to be affiliated in aviation somehow or another. I was just a young kid when I went on my first airplane ride in my Uncle’s company aircraft. It was a Piper Cherokee and we flew it to Madison, Wisconsin where he and my other family lived. Once we got to cruising altitude he let me take over until we were on approach for the airport. From that point, I was hooked. I made it a goal to someday receive my Pilot’s License and pursue a career in aviation. As time went on, I joined the Illinois Army National Guard in 2004 as a Chinook repairman and deployed overseas in 2007 as a crew chief/door gunner. I got out of the service in August 2009 went back to community college to get back on track with the goal I set as a young kid. I applied to SIU in the spring of 2012 and started classes the following fall semester. Since graduating in 2015, I have worked as an airfield maintainer at Mcghee-Tyson Airport (KTYS) in Knoxville, Tennessee and am currently an airport operations officer at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport (KGSP) in Greer, South Carolina. During my time at KTYS, I did everything from cutting grass in the airport operations area, conduct airfield inspections, painted taxiway and runway markings and repaired cracks and holes on movement and non-movement areas of the airport. All this had to be done to keep the airport within Part 139 regulations. Having that experience made my job at my current airport a lot easier especially when I am performing an airfield inspection. Knowing what to look for really helps when making the decision to write something up as unsatisfactory or to NOTAM close a particular part of the airport. When I am not walking the terminal or out conducting an airfield inspection, I also work in the airport’s dispatch center. I dispatch calls to the police, ARFF station, and operations as well as monitor security programs via our electronic badging system and CCTV. This was something I was not expecting when looking for an operations job. It was kind of like being a police officer, but it helped me understand the layout of my airport a lot better by recognizing certain areas via camera.

The question asked of me was “How did SIU help me prepare for where I am at now?”. Well credit
needs to be given where it is due and that is to every flight class, professor, and the internship I did at Dulles International Airport (KIAD). Without any of the before mentioned, I would not have had a foundation to build a career on. I came to SIU with the intentions to become an airline pilot or to get my commission upon graduating and going back into the U.S. Army. But taking classes like Airport Management, General Aviation Operations, Aviation Management Writing Communication, Aviation Industry Career Development, Aviation Security Regulations & Management really opened my eyes to other avenues in aviation career fields.

Explaining how each of those classes prepared me for what I do now would turn this write-up into a novel. Instead, I will share the moment that changed my career path when I was a student. I remember sitting in class one evening and Mr. Shafer started the class with an announcement about Dulles having an opening for an operations intern position. He spoke about the Alumni that worked there and how much of a benefit it would be for someone to apply if they were interested in airport management. With some persuasion I applied and got the internship, which started in May 2014. It was both a challenging and rewarding experience and I really enjoyed putting forth what I had learned into motion thus far from my education. The Alumni were great to work with and they made the internship very enjoyable and educational. It was during that internship which changed my outlook of aviation. Even though I did the maintenance part in the Army and I had just finished my Private Pilot course before leaving for Dulles, seeing and doing what I did there greatly influenced me to change direction. I will never forget responding to an alert with one of the duty managers for an aircraft that had engine problems. Once it landed and ARFF deemed it safe to proceed to the gate, the duty manager and I were still clearing the scene for FOD on the connecting taxiway when a British Airways 747 landed on the runway in front of us. He said, “This is why I love my job. It’s the best view in the world.” I have carried that mindset with me wherever I have gone and have had some great views when working out on the airfield. In my opinion it is a perk of the job.

My time at SIU set me up for great success in the long run. The professors I had were very knowledgeable and were professionals in their field. The connections I made while a student with people in the industry and fellow students has benefitted me very well and when I go to conferences I always run into a fellow Saluki that will take some time and talk about what they do now since graduating. It’s always great to hear their success stories. I wear my maroon SIU Aviation Ambassador polo every Friday when I am at work because I am proud of our program and our accomplishments.
Aviation Electronics Control Systems – AVT 318
By Don Morris

It seems that computers are everywhere these days, and the modern cockpit is no exception. Interacting with the pilot through computer screens, these so-called glass cockpits are changing not only the way that people fly, but also the way that the aircraft acquires and processes data. Modern avionics rely heavily on a network of embedded computers and digital sensors. AVT 318 introduces students to the components behind this revolution – single board computers and the microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) that feed them data.

The class is very hands on. Low cost electronics components are used in place of the avionics computers. This allows students to do hands on projects and labs without fear of ‘letting the smoke out’ and causing financial ruin. Several completed lab projects are shown in the photos.

So what did students think of the class? I asked last semester’s students how the class would affect their ability to work on avionics. Jacob Chapman reported that the class gave him a valuable introduction to “how the ‘smoke in the box’ works.” He also said that the class “will give me a new perspective when troubleshooting problems. I will more likely be able to understand when components aren’t talking to each other.” Evan Kasamias reported that he now has “a better understanding how a system works. If you know how it was written and what it’s supposed to be doing, you can also figure out why it’s not doing it.”

Troubleshooting electronic problems is a big part of the class, where we often note that to err is human, but to really screw up requires a network. Miles Grief had this to say after completing the class. “I’ve never worked with computers or chips before, so almost everything in this class was new to me. One thing I plan to use on the job is the ability to troubleshoot computer issues. I have run into many issues while running programs in the class, and I feel that it has been beneficial because I have a better understanding of how to troubleshoot them.”

I can say that I have had a lot of fun teaching AVT 318 for the last two years. I hope that it shows. If you are interested in the cutting edge of Aviation Electronics, I hope to see you there.
This Arduino is hooked to a MEMS pressure sensitive microchip and reports altitude that is accurate to the nearest 5 feet.

Pitch, roll, and yaw data driving a “glass cockpit” display on a laptop computer through a high speed serial connection.

A student assembled ADSB-In data acquisition system powered by a Raspberry Pi shows location and other air traffic.
Flying has always been a dream of mine since I was 3 years old. After high school I enrolled to a flight school called Pinnacle Aviation Flight Academy in Carlsbad, CA. I began flying and when I was 21 I had finished my flight training going from a private pilot to a multi-engine commercial pilot. I paid my flight lessons by training horses with my dad which gave me the opportunity to do the two things I love most in life.

I finished flight training in March of this year, and my goal has always been to fly for a major airline. The way I thought I would build time was by being a flight instructor, so I began my CFI training. As I was working on my CFI one of my good friends got hired by a commuter airline called SurfAir. He told me how great it was flying the Pilatus PC-12 and how the company was hiring new First Officers. I sent in my resume and after one month I got a reply and I was called in for an interview! I showing enthusiasm and my knowledge, three days later I got the call from the company they were interested in hiring me and of course I said yes!

I began ground school three weeks later in Los Angeles ground school at SurfAir was two weeks. Finishing ground school I was sent to sims in Dallas, TX at Flight Safety International. It was a great experience being able to fly a Level D simulator. I learned a lot from my instructor each day, grilling me on standard operating procedures (SOPs) and emergency procedures. The training was fantastic lasting a whole week and I took my checkride on the weekend. Once I passed my checkride I got sent to Santa Barbara to begin my Initial Operating Experience (IOE).

My IOE went well lasting two days. Now I am flying on the line which is fantastic, I get to fly with new captains each day who I get to learn a new thing from every one. My experience at SurfAir is great I’m getting a great deal of experience on Crew Resource Management (CRM) and instrument procedures more than what I would of gotten if I had been a CFI. The schedule is great enabling me to attend school on the weekend to allow me to finish my degree here at SIU. It takes patience and commitment to accomplish goals but, with sacrifice and the ability to always want to learn anyone can reach their dreams.
We would like to give a special thank you to all the contributors. This newsletter was made possible by all the article authors above. These articles showcase the talent, intelligence, and drive of all SIU Aviation students, staff, and alumni. Our program is truly one of the finest in the nation.

Thank you for taking the time to read through all of these amazing contributions.

Sincerely,
Sophie LeGore, Chairperson of the Newsletter Committee
Thomas Swehla, President of Aviation Technologies Ambassadors
Rhonda Ferguson, Aviation Newsletter Co-Coordinator

Have a question, comment, or want to see something in our next newsletter? Email us at, siuavnewsletter@outlook.com