History of SIUC Aviation: Celebrating 60 Years

Taken from The Southern Illinoisan, May 30, 2010

In December 1960, the assets of Midwestern Aero Services, a Fixed Base Operator or FBO based at Southern Illinois Airport, were purchased for just over $50,000, including four aircraft, spare parts and their lease to operate at the airport. Southern Illinois University then created the Air Institute and Service to replace Midwest Aero Services as the FBO on the airport and to begin providing aviation education and air transportation services to the university and to the surrounding area.

The Air Institute and Service was not an academic unit but a services unit of the University. The Air Institute didn’t directly employ full-time academic faculty but did teach flight classes from the beginning, using civil service employees as flight instructors. The founding Director of the Air Institute and Service was C. Gene Seibert, and the founding Chief Pilot was Elliott Ketring, both of whom were involved in the ownership of Midwestern Aero Services.

The first aviation degree program that was established at SIUC was the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Aviation Technology (including coursework for the Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic Certificate), which was initiated in the fall of 1965. Its founding Director was E. A. “Tony” DaRosa. This degree was offered under the auspices of the Vocational Technical Institute (VTI) of Southern Illinois University, whose Dean was Dr. Ernest Simon. The program was taught in a brand-new hangar and aviation technology building built at Southern Illinois Airport.

In the early 1970s, the original Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Technology was divided into two degrees, an Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Maintenance Technology and an Associate of Applied Science in Avionics Technology.

In 1973, the Vocational Technical Institute (soon to be renamed the School of Technical Careers) was given permission to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in Technical Careers, and soon thereafter a Specialization in Aviation Management was established to build upon any technical background in aviation. This included the two associate degrees.

continued on page 2
Building on a Strong Foundation, continued

already offered, as well as flight coursework and military or civilian work experience or training in aviation.

The specialization in Aviation Management eventually grew to become a separate major, the Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management, which was approved to be offered in 1984. Also approved that year was an Associate Degree in Aviation Flight, which finally formalized the fact that the university had offered flight coursework since 1960.

In 1989, a special grant received from the Federal Aviation Administration under the Airway Science Program, funded the construction of the addition to the College of Technical Careers Building to house a classroom for Airway Science instruction. It also included a library (the Herbert H. Howell Aviation Management Library), an office and a storeroom.

In 1990, the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved the Aviation Administration Concentration of the Master of Public Administration. This degree was then a joint offering of the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Technical Careers, today, the College of Applied Sciences and Arts.

In 1993, the College of Technical Careers was reorganized into a departmental structure that included the Department of Aviation Management and Flight and the Department of Aviation Technologies.

In 1996, the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved the Bachelor of Science in Aviation Technologies with Specializations in Aircraft Maintenance, Helicopter Maintenance and Aviation Electronics, and, at the same time, merged the former Associate of Applied Science degrees into the new B. S. degree.

In 1999, the Minors in Aircraft Product Support (available through the AVT and the AVM degrees) and Airport Management and Planning (available through the AVM degree) were approved. Also in 1999, the Joseph A. Schafer Helicopter Laboratory was dedicated and officially opened on the west side of Southern Illinois Airport. This facility illustrates a key strength of SIUC Aviation: Its unique offerings in helicopter maintenance and close ties to Bell Helicopter-Textron.

The result is that, today, Southern Illinois University Carbondale offers one of the most comprehensive aviation program offerings available in the nation with Associate of Applied Science degrees, Bachelor of Science degrees and master’s degrees, as well as two minors. Nearly 400 students are enrolled in these programs. In support of SIUC Aviation, the university operates 36 flight training and air transportation aircraft and also has available more than 25 aircraft and helicopters for maintenance programs.

By late 2012, the university is expected to complete construction on the recently-approved $63 million Transportation Education Center, which will include new facilities to support Aviation Management and Flight and Aviation Technologies programs and students.

The future of SIU Aviation

The past ten years since the preceding article was written has been a decade of growth and change for the aviation programs at SIU. We finished construction and moved into our Transportation Education Center, bringing together the three aviation programs for the first time in state-of-the-art new facilities. SIU Aviation overall (all three programs) now totals an enrollment of more than 600 students. Aviation Flight added five new Cessna 172 and 3 new Piper Arrow aircraft to the fleet, achieved reaccreditation through Aviation Accreditation Board International AABI, and developed and implemented a 1000 hour Restricted ATP.

The Aviation Management Program expanded its off campus programs, opening new sites in Beaver County, Pennsylvania and Costa Mesa, California. AVM is currently collaborating with Aviation Technologies on a Master’s of Science of Aviation Management, which will be offered completely online.

Aviation Technologies developed a new online BS degree in Aviation Maintenance Management. That degree is currently in its third year and has grown every semester since its inception. AVT is also expanding internationally, recently completing its first courses in China per the 2+2 agreement between SIU Aviation Technologies and Shenyang Aerospace University. Aviation Flight and Aviation Technologies together entered into an agreement with Saudia Airlines to train pilots, mechanics, and avionics technicians. This international program has been a success.

Going forward, the two aviation departments, Aviation Technologies and Aviation Management and Flight, will merge and elevate into a School of Aviation. The new school will allow further cooperation between the programs and position us well for the next 60 years!
Then in 1960

Celebrating our 60th Year 2020

Now in 2020
I’m happy to take this opportunity to welcome back students, faculty and staff to another Fall semester at SIU Aviation. This semester, as we all know, will be very different than previous Fall semesters. While flight training and aircraft maintenance labs are being conducted in person, many of our other classes are being taught completely online. Those courses that are conducted on-campus are occurring under strict guidelines of social distancing, mask wearing, and extra sanitation. So far we have had good success in utilizing these precautions. We are also following university guidelines regarding events and have cancelled, or moved online, most events of any size.

Regardless of the temporary hardships, SIU Aviation is enjoying remarkable success. This Fall we enrolled the largest freshman and transfer class of any program in the university, and our overall enrollment is higher than it has been in many years. In late October we will pick up our latest order of new Cessna 172 airplanes and, with the increased number of flight students, these new planes could not come at a better time!

Finally, Aviation at SIU is entering its 60th year. There is a great story in this newsletter about the history of SIU Aviation and we look forward to many more years to come. The university’s academic reorganization should conclude by the end of this semester and we will likely have good news to report along those lines in the next newsletter.

With that, I wish everyone a great semester!
Go Salukis!

Mike Burgener,
Interim Chair, Aviation Management and Flight Chair, Aviation Technologies

Irene Miller

My passion has always been aviation. In June 1993, I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation with a specialization in Airport Management. While studying at The Ohio State University I earned my Private Pilot license.

I wanted to further my education and earned a master’s degree. I started the Space Studies program at UND Aerospace in 1994. I graduated with a Master of Science in Space Studies in 1996. I started the Aviation and Space Doctoral Program at Oklahoma State University in August 2019.

I began teaching classes for the Department of Aviation Management and Flight at Southern Illinois University in September 1996. I am teaching courses at the main campus and off-campus locations. I enjoy teaching and sharing the excitement of education with my students.

I am married to a firefighter and have two kids. My daughter is 18 and I just dropped her off at Illinois State University this week. My son is 15 and will be starting the 10th grade this month.

I enjoy flying, baking, running, and biking.

New Office Support Specialist for AVT

Elizabeth Donaldson

joined SIU Aviation in August as the new Office Support Specialist for Aviation Technologies. She comes to us from Admissions where she was extra help.

Elizabeth’s responsibilities will include handling the prelim testing for the Airframe and Powerplant tests, ordering supplies for Aviation Technologies faculty members, and keeping the FAA grades in order.

Please welcome Elizabeth to Aviation.

New Lecturer Hired

Elizabeth Donaldson

Irene Miller

Mike Burgener,
New Assistant Professor for Aviation Technologies

Thomas Roy has been hired as Assistant Professor in Aviation Technologies. Tom has the following degrees: Certificate in Graduate Safety Studies, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL; M.A.S., Aviation Operations, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL; B.S., Aviation Management, Southern Illinois University; A.A.S., Aviation Technology, Southern Illinois University.

Tom had a distinguished 22 year career in the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army. He joined AVT as a lecturer in July 2016.

Tom’s teaching interests are focused on aviation flight, maintenance and management. These are his most confident skillsets, and where he feels he has the most to offer. Tom never stop learning and growing from everyone around him at SIU, especially his students, but being comfortable within his field allows him to truly enjoy teaching with self-assurance.

New Flight Instructors

Please be sure to say hello and make them feel at home when you see them.

Emily Bennett
Callie Boydston
Skyler Droll
Michael East
Karlie Emery
Abby Lee
Alex Litherland
Connor McDowell
Turner Roberts
Nicole Smith
Ryan Stack
Caleb VanDeGejuchte
Olivia Vincent
Jason Wildbur
Evan Youngblood

Join us
June 14, 2021
Proceeds benefit SIU Aviation

Mark Your Calendars

Boulder Ridge
Country Club
Lake in the Hills, IL

For more information: Dr. David NewMyer, newmyer@siu.edu or call 618-453-8898.
CARBONDALE, Ill. — Instead of wondering now whether the sound you hear is a bird or a plane, a quick glance to the skies will have an indelible Saluki imprint.

Members of the Southern Illinois University Carbondale aviation shop recently painted “S I U” on the underside wings of two planes used by students in the nationally recognized program. The same maroon lettering in wind-resistant vinyl will be affixed to more than 20 additional planes in the coming weeks.

Highly visible

The unmistakable lettering should be highly visible to anyone in the Carbondale area up to about 1,000 feet, since flight students are usually flying around that altitude locally. Ken Bro, the aviation program’s chief flight instructor, said the lettering also reminds residents in the region of the nationally recognized aviation program.

“I’m a big fan of promoting the school locally,” Bro said.

“Everyone will be aware of where we are and who we are, and SIU has a large fleet of aircraft.”

**Custom foggles**

Bro also praised the aviation shops’ work in making custom foggles for each of the 360 aviation flight students and instructors who will be attending classes later this month. Foggles are eye protection used in flight training exercises for pilots who are learning to fly in simulated foggy or cloudy conditions. The glasses require pilots to learn to fly by instruments.

Due the COVID-19 pandemic, aviation flight students and instructors will each use individual foggles in training exercises. The program purchased clear safety glasses and aviation shop personnel, using a sandblasting machine, were able to cover most of the glasses so students can only view the plane’s instruments when flying. The revamped glasses are much less expensive than if individually ordered, Bro said.

A sandblasting machine is converting clear safety glasses into foggles for each of the 360 flight students who will be part of the SIU Aviation program this fall. Foggles are eye protection used in flight training exercises for pilots who are learning to fly in simulated foggy or cloudy conditions. The glasses require pilots to learn to fly by instruments.

by Pete Rosenbery

Jeremy King, left, and Greg Denbo, right, show the SIU aviation shop’s recently painted “S I U” on the underside wings of two planes used by students in the nationally recognized program. The same maroon lettering in wind-resistant vinyl will be affixed to more than 20 additional planes in the coming weeks. (Photos by Russell Bailey)
Updates

- We will be holding our meeting virtually for now and will update when in-person events and meetings resume.
- The meetings will be held on the second Sunday of each month in the evening. (see flyer on this page)
- Our first event will be September 13th and we have some awesome alumni who will be speaking! We are very excited about this. As of now, I have Rachel Piacentini and Rojean Heimstreet Maddox down to share advice and some of their experiences, waiting to hear back from one of our A&P grads. We can share more info as we get it, and we will be promoting this with our social medias hopefully this week.
- Volunteer opportunities with WIA will also be virtual for now. Information on these will be announced at our September meeting.
- We have some WIA/ SIU aviation swag coming this year, we will let you know when it is closer to being finalized.

Highlights:

- This past March SIU had 15 of our members from Aviation Flight, Management, and Tech attend the international conference!
- Girls in Aviation Day (GIAD) will be virtual this year and we want to encourage everyone to share this information. See the flyer on page 11.
New Planes arrive in October

In October, the Aviation Flight program is picking up 5 2020 Cessna 172S aircraft from Cessna’s factory in Wichita, Kansas. This will bring our total fleet size to 38 aircraft. These aircraft are state-of-the-art, equipped with G1000NXI avionics and integrated GFC700 digital autopilot. These new aircraft will be utilized in the commercial and instrument courses to get students experience with coupled approaches and technically advanced aircraft (TAA). Painted in our Saluki colors and adorned with the SIU logo on their tails, we look forward to welcoming these aircraft to their new home.
Join the Fun!
Saturday, September 26, 2020
Experience #GIAD20 Virtually!

Download the new Aviation for Girls App
Sponsored by U.S. Air Force

The mobile app will be launched on September 26, 2020, for the virtual Girls in Aviation Day and has lots of free and fun content for girls, ages 8-17, all around the world.

- Be Inspired!
- Watch career videos
- Download hands-on activities
- Take virtual tours of aviation museums
- Read Aviation for Girls magazine
- Learn from aviation book authors
- Meet positive role models
- Apply for WAI scholarships
- Engage in social media

Visit the App Store or Google Play and search for WAI Events. For other devices, including Blackberry and Windows, point your mobile browser to: www.core-apps.com/dl/wai or use the QR code above.

Register for FREE GIAD20 Merchandise Kit (while supplies last)
Details at wai.org/GIAD

2020 PARTNERS
(as of August 21, 2020)

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Girls IN AVIATION DAY
A Women in Aviation International® Event
WAI.org/GIAD
It’s Easy to Give to one of our Annual Scholarships

New Scholarship Donation Page

Would you like to help support aviation students, both current and future?

Sure do! How can I help?

Now there is an easy way to make a tax-deductible donation to your favorite scholarship endowment. SIU Aviation has just released our Support Aviation Page at https://aviation.siu.edu/support/. Here you’ll find a comprehensive listing of SIU Aviation scholarship endowments and funds used to support student training and activities.

Once on the page, simply enter the amount(s) you wish to donate, and click [Continue]. You will be directed to the SIU Foundation’s website where you can confirm your selections and enter your name and payment information. It’s just that easy!

WHEW! That’s a LOT of choices!

Want to help, but not sure which fund you want to support? You can learn more about each of the listed scholarships and funds at https://aviation.siu.edu/support/descriptions.php, where detailed descriptions of each endowment for our Aviation programs are provided.

But does my little donation really make a difference?

YES! Every donation, large or small, is very much appreciated. Remember that when we all give a little, it adds up to a lot. During the past calendar year, we were able to award over $75,000 in scholarships to deserving Aviation students. Please help us build our endowments to continue assisting more students well into the future! We look forward to your support.

Aviation Management and Flight Endowments

C. Gene and Robbi Seibert Aviation Management Scholarship 306333
George J. Priester Memorial Scholarship 306328
James and Helen Newby Aviation Scholarship 306501
Kevin Duffy Moore Endowed Scholarship 306997
Joseph A. Messina Scholarship 302990
Larry Byerly Memorial Scholarship 306738
Matthew K. Meier Faith Family Friendship Fortitude Future Aviation Management Scholarship 301115
Michael R. Peters Aviation Interviews.com Aviation Scholarship 301058
Ryan McShane Hope FLYs Scholarship 306689
Frasca International Scholarship 306863
Jerry L. Kennedy Aviation Career Advancement Scholarship 301977
Steven Staples Memorial Aviation Scholarship 306763
William R. Norwood Aviation Scholarship 301538
Ray Plote Aviation Scholarship 306484
50th Anniversary of SIUC Aviation Scholarship 306683
Bill Garton Memorial Aviation Scholarship 306619
Herbert H. Howell Aviation Management Scholarship 302210
LuAnn Gatewood and Gina Gatewood-Trover Memorial Scholarship 302721
Victor Davis Memorial Aviation Scholarship 301686
Dr. David A. NewMyer Scholarship (NEW) 306913

If you are interested in establishing a separate scholarship endowment to benefit students in any of the SIU Aviation programs, please contact the Foundation directly at 618-453-4900

From all of us in the Department of Aviation Management and Flight,

Thank you!
**Coming this Fall 2020. . . .**

**Announcing the David A. NewMyer Scholarship for Aviation Management and Aviation Flight students**

We’re excited to announce that this fall semester will mark the first awarding of the Dr. David A. NewMyer Scholarship. This scholarship was established by the SIU Aviation Captains Club to honor Dr. David A. NewMyer. Dr. NewMyer’s career with SIU began in 1975 when he served as a part-time instructor for SIU’s School of Technical Careers Off-Campus Programs. In 1979, he moved to Carbondale to become a visiting assistant professor in the Aviation Management program. In 1993, he was selected to lead the Department of Aviation Management and Flight and led the department for over 20 years.

Dr. NewMyer is recognized for his many years of teaching, his extensive research efforts, and his service to organizations at all levels from local to international. Among his lasting contributions to the SIU aviation programs are the annual airline career days offered in conjunction with United Airlines and American Airlines, multiple aircraft fleet upgrades, and long-term planning efforts toward the construction and realization of the Transportation Education Center.

Students in the Aviation Flight or Aviation Management program who are active in aviation organizations and have a demonstrated willingness to help their fellow students learn and develop are strongly encouraged to apply.

**To give:**
https://aviation.siu.edu/support/
Dr. David A. NewMyer Scholarship

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**Did you know.......**

A Boeing 747 is made up of six million parts. The Queen of the Skies is the most well known wide-bodied commercial airliner in the world. This aeroplane is famed because it was the first huge body aircraft ever produced. These six million parts are all controlled by a few pilots sitting up front with switches and buttons under their fingertips.

The first women flight attendants in the 1930’s were required to weigh no more than 115 pounds, be nurses and un-married.

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**Important Dates for End of Semester**

**Election Day**
Tuesday, November 3, campus holiday

**Veterans Day**
Wednesday, November 11, campus holiday

**Thanksgiving Break**
Saturday, November 21, 12:00 Noon through Sunday, November 29

**Final Examinations**
Monday, December 7 through Friday, December 11

**Commencement**
Saturday, December 12, 2020
Jobs & Internships

Be sure to watch the website for any internship possibilities and for jobs upon your graduation. These are updated regularly, so keep an eye out.

Be Heard!

Have something to share with students of SIU Aviation? Send the information to Rhonda Ferguson at rferguson@siu.edu to be included in the next edition.

Emails

Please check your emails regularly to stay informed of any upcoming events such as airline visits, workshops, and other student or RSO events that pertain to aviation.

Follow SIU Aviation on Social Media

[Facebook and Instagram icons]