

THE SALUKI FLYER

MARCH 2020



First Diversity Lunch a Success

The Aviation Diversity Luncheon was planned by the SIU Aviation Diversity Council to celebrate diversity in the industry and in our university program. The event sparked thought about how organizations define and exemplify diversity, why it is important, and how to remain mindful in this ever-progressing time. The luncheon was held at the Transportation Education Center

Multipurpose Room on February 21st, 2020. Over 100 SIU students, faculty, and industry professionals attended the event.

The luncheon had four speakers from the industry; Tamera Holmes, Kristen Romano, Jordan Jones, and Albert Glenn. **Tamera Holmes** is a SIU alum who is now the CEO of AeroStar Avion Institute, a non-profit that brings aviation to youth who are foreign to the industry. **Kristen**

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Front Row: The Diversity Panel, l to r, Tamera Holmes, Kristen Romano, Jordan Jones, and Albert Glenn. Back row l to r: The planning committee included: Javier Aguirre, Verneceelyn Allen, Olivia Vincent, Theresa Kerouac, Angelina Kapp and Hayden Pegues.



Faculty members Matt Romero and Martin Hebel listen to the panelists.



A large crowd attended the First Diversity Luncheon.



The diversity panelists discussing different topics and questions addressing diversity in the workplace.

Diversity Lunch, continued

Romano is a captain at Exelon, where she also works as the representative for diversity and inclusion. **Jordan Jones** is a member of NGPA and works as an aircraft mechanic at Envoy based at O'Hare. He grew up in Michigan with three siblings, one of whom is also deaf. **Albert Glenn** is a retired Fedex pilot of 44 years. He now serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for OBAP. These speakers shared their insight on the industry and how it is evolving to become more diverse and inclusive.

The organizers of this event are students who make up the SIU Aviation Diversity Council. The council is made up of student leaders Javier Aguirre, Vernecelyn Allen, Angelina Kapp, Tessa Kerouac, Hayden Pegues and Olivia Vincent from the school's NGPA, OBAP, WIA, & AWAM chapters. The organizers first thought to do this luncheon while attending the NGPA Winter Warm-Up February of 2019. Since then, the six students have worked cohesively to plan the event. The organizers plan for this luncheon to be the start of an annual event where SIU students and faculty can be joined by industry professionals to celebrate diversity and inclusion in aviation!

Flying Salukis
compete for National Title at
NIFA SAFECON 2020
May 18th-23rd
in OshKosh, WI

Taco
Tuesday 
brought to you by AHP
11:00 - 1:00 p.m. Every Tuesday

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
Aviation Technologies
Advisory Board Meetings
have been scheduled for
April 25, 2020**

Please RSVP to rferguson@siu.edu.

Important Dates for End of Semester

Spring Break

Saturday, March 7, 12:00 Noon through
Sunday, March 15

Honors Day

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Final Examinations

Monday, May 4 through Friday, May 8

Commencement

Saturday, May 9, 2020



Intersession

Monday, May 11, 2020 through Friday, June 5

Summer Session

Monday, June 8 through Friday, July 31

Spring Career Fair

The Aviation Spring Career Fair will be in the multipurpose room on April 24th from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. So far, we have confirmations from around 30 companies. We expect more to join us before that day.

There will be companies looking for pilots, mechanics and more. Mark your calendar to attend!

Alpha Eta Rho will also be holding their banquet on the same day. The banquet will be in the multipurpose room beginning at 7pm. Food will be served. Ticket prices are \$10 for students and \$20 for non-students.

The guest speaker will be Chief Pilot of Southwest in Chicago, Nick Caufield.



Need Aviation Attire?

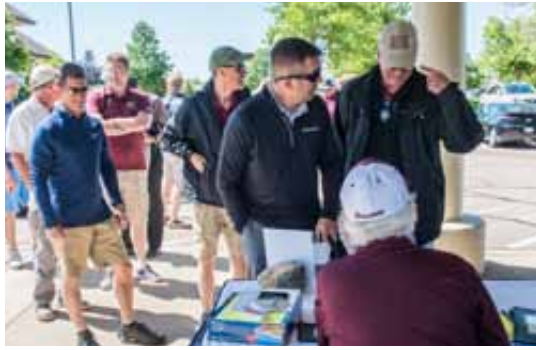
Aviation Management Society has your answer.

T-Shirts \$19.99, Polos \$29.99,

Baseball Caps \$19.99 and Decals \$10/\$15

*Items are available at our front reception desk
or online at amssalukis.com*

13th Annual SIU Aviation Golf Scramble



Join us
June 15, 2020

Proceeds benefit SIU Aviation



**Boulder Ridge
Country Club
Lake in the Hills, IL**

SIU
Southern
Illinois
University
CARBONDALE

For more information: Dr. David NewMyer, newmyer@siu.edu or call 618-453-8898.

The Air Race Classic is set for June



SIU's Aviation Department is generously allowing The Saluki Aces to participate in the 2020 Air Race Classic and use a C172R/G1000 aircraft. The race begins June 23rd and ends June 26th. Stops are Grand Forks, ND (KGFK), Pierre, SD (KPIR), Sheridan, WY (KSHR), Sterling, CO (KSTK), Dodge City, KS (KDDC), Ada, OK (KADH), Pine Bluff, AR (KPBF), Mount Vernon, IL (KMVN), Tullahoma, TN (KTTHA), and Terre Haute, IN (KHUF). This year's race is over 2,600 miles long.

Pilots range in age from 17-90 years old, come from all kinds of backgrounds and professions, and fly a wide variety of airplanes. Race teams consist of at least two women who must fly VFR during daylight hours only and are given four days to make flybys at each en route timing point and then land at the terminus. Teams must strategize on how many legs of the race to fly each day based on the weather/wind/terrain/airplane performance/ etc. Teams race against their own 'handicap,' which is an average speed based off of a previous flight.

The Air Race Classic is dedicated to encouraging and educating current and future women pilots, increasing public awareness of general aviation, demonstrating women's roles in aviation, and preserving and promoting the tradition of pioneering women in aviation.

This year, The Saluki Aces consist of flight student Sophie Ottoson and CFI Gabrielle Escudero. Gabby previously raced in 2018 with CFI Rachel Piacentini. Sophie and Gabby are currently raising funds for the Air Race to cover costs such as hotels, transportation to and from airports, and other various things. **To donate, people can visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/TheSalukiAces to see our GoFundMe link - any donation is appreciated!** Anyone who donates over \$100 can submit a company logo to be represented on the back of the team t-shirts that we will be selling later this semester.

Congratulations to Dr. Robertson



Congratulations to Michael Robertson on his promotion to full professor.

Mike has been employed in the Department of Aviation Management and Flight at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) since 1999. During that time, he has been a Flight Instructor and became an

Assistant Professor in 2007. Mike serves the department as an Assistant Chief Flight Instructor, Safety Officer, and teaches Human Factors for Pilots (AF210). He also has taught AVM 377, Aviation Safety Management and independent study courses for the department's AVM off campus program. He received his Master's degree in 2006 and his Ph.D. in Workforce Education and Development in 2017. Dr. Robertson has focused most of his research in two areas, aviation safety and human factors. One of his goals is to conduct research that has relevance in the academic community, benefits the students that he serves as well as the department through his role as Safety Officer.

New Advisor for Aviation Technologies

Please meet Kenea Lee, our new academic advisor for Aviation Technologies. Kenea replaces Rachel Lee, a long-time advisor who left to pursue other interests on campus.

Hello, I am Kenea Lee, the new advisor for Aviation Technologies. I am a double graduate of SIU; receiving my B.S. in Management in 2014 and Master of Public Administration in 2017. I have been an advisor at SIU for a little over a year now coming from Exploratory Student Advisement (undecided students) and I am excited to learn all that I can about Aviation Tech, to be of assistance to you! It is my goal to ensure you are getting the assistance needed while pursuing your Aviation Technologies degree. Please do not hesitate to reach out for anything, I will try my best to assist in any way that I possibly can.



Executive Transportation Hires New Pilot



Hello! My name is Rachel Piacentini and I am the new Executive Transport Pilot. I graduated from SIU with a B.S. in Aviation Management in 2017. I was then hired at SIU as a Full-time Flight Instructor. After flight instructing for about a year and a half, I

transitioned to Check Instructor, instructing and conducting end of course tests. While being at SIU, I have competed in two Air Race Classics, one as a student and one as an instructor, allowing me to exercise all I have learned through SIU's flight program. I am excited to take on a new position at SIU and further my knowledge of aviation while helping the department grow. Go Dawgs!

New T/TT Faculty Member



Thomas Roy is a Lecturer within SIU-C's Aviation Technology program teaching courses in aircraft structures, helicopter powertrains and unmanned aircraft systems. Following a 22-year military flying career, Thomas flew commercially for four years

before returning to SIU, his alma mater, to teach in 2014.

Thomas truly enjoys teaching students the fundamentals of aircraft structures including light-weight composites, structural welding and paint finishing, along with studying helicopter powertrains and inspection methods. His newest course is an introduction to unmanned aircraft systems, focusing on the design, operations, and maintenance along with the rapidly expanding applications for "UAS" in our national airspace system.

NGPA Group attends Conference

Seven students and faculty attended the National Gay Pilots Association Winter Warm Up and Industry Expo in early February in sunny Palm Springs, CA. The Industry Expo took place on Friday where over 75 companies from across the industry attended to recruit over 900 candidates of all backgrounds. United, American, and JetBlue had hiring briefings that, at times, reached over 200 attendees. Students also assisted with the SIU exhibit, the first time SIU Aviation has attended an NGPA event as an exhibitor. SIU students and faculty spent the rest of the weekend taking the opportunity to network with alumni, attend a luncheon sponsored by Envoy where they were given free swag, and many other activities like the Queen of the Fleet event. One student in the Aviation Technologies program, Mathew Just, was awarded the United Airlines Tech Ops Scholarship totaling \$5,000. The NGPA Winter Warm Up and Industry Expo is one of the largest career expos in the world with over 1,100 aviation professionals in attendance.





Upcoming Events

ExpressJet AP3 program to sponsor event

Ian Kalips, ExpressJet recruiter will be taking student members of the ExpressJet AP3 program out to laser tag in late March. Any Flight student can enroll in the program. All you have to do is email Ian Kalips, ian.kalips@siu.edu or visit <http://www.expressjet.com/careers/pilots/ap3/> to sign up.

Trip to FedEx being planned

Aviation Management Society is planning a visit to the FedEx hub in Memphis sometime in April. Dates have not been set, so stay tuned.

AHP Spring Aviation Banquet - April 24, 2020

7:00PM – Multi-Purpose Room at the Transportation Education Center.

NOTAM

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.

Alumni Veronica Nkunde Flys Into the Wild of Zambia

After graduating from SIUC in December of 2017, I got a job as an Operations and Security Coordinator at Aspen Pitkin County Airport in Colorado. After spending 9 months there, I moved back home to Zambia.

I interned at the Zambia Civil Aviation Authority and most recently got hired to be a pilot for Niner Juliet Logistics Limited. Niner Juliet is a logistics company that serves as an aviation consultancy and a Fixed Base Operator that focuses on aviation management for the general aviation and wildlife sectors.

My position as a conservation pilot has me flying vets, conservationists and other national park workers to various National Parks in the country that are in remote areas with gravel runways.

A big part of flying into these strips is ensuring that there are no animals on the runway prior to landing. Animals on the runway is a common occurrence at these strips. Being a conservation pilot also involves doing low level flights searching for poacher camps, poachers and dead animals (likely killed by poachers).

It's a rewarding job because I feel like I am contributing to something bigger and vital in my country. It has only been a couple of months on the job, but I am learning so much and excited for what's ahead.

