

THE SALUKI FLYER

OCTOBER 2021



SIU signs pact with Delta Air Lines

For aviation students at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, dreams of careers with a major airline are getting a boost thanks to an agreement between SIU and Delta Air Lines.

Under a new five-year agreement, SIU becomes the 13th aviation program in the nation to be part of Delta's Propel Collegiate Pilot Career Path Program, which gives selected students a fast-track to qualified job offers with the airline, a defined career path and accelerated timeline to become Delta pilots.

The pact was signed Tuesday by SIU Chancellor Austin A. Lane and Delta Vice President for Flight Operations and System Chief Pilot

Patrick Burns in front of more than 140 aviation students and instructors at the university's Transportation Education Center at the Southern Illinois Airport.

Burns, who was accompanied at the event by coordinators of Delta's Propel program as well as a number of the company's pilots, including 2013 SIU graduate Courtney Copping, is now a Delta 757 first officer.

"This program will help you get from where you are to where we are," Burns told the students.

To participate in the program, students must go through a rigorous interview and evaluation process.



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Photo courtesy of The Southern Illinoisan

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“This is the first agreement of this type for us with a major airline,” explained Michael Burgener, interim director of SIU’s School of Aviation. “We have programs with regional airlines, but this is a first with a national carrier.”

The new partnership is a boost for both current and future SIU aviators, Lane said.

“This is exactly how we recruit. We talk about the partnerships that we form; we talk about the opportunities and where it will take you in life to places such as Delta,” he said.

“This is a great opportunity for our students,” said



Robert Morgan, dean of SIU’s College of Health and Human Sciences. “It gets them in front of a brand name, a community partner and creates opportunities for them in the workforce. It will give them hands-on experience and training at the higher level and when they hit the job market, they are prepared in leaps and bounds, ahead of students that don’t have opportunities like Delta’s Propel program.”

Even though the focus of the program is students hoping to become pilots, Propel garnered attention from other aviation students as well.

“I’m very interested in learning more about the Propel program. From what I’ve seen Delta is an amazing company,” said Samuel Cwiakala, a junior in aviation management from Palatine. “This looks like an easier way to get into a great company and Delta is 100% on my radar.” *Southern Illinoisan* – Aug. 25, 2021



About Southern Illinois University Carbondale and the aviation program

Founded in 1869, SIU has an enrollment of about 11,000 students, with nearly 36% being minority students. SIU Carbondale is a doctoral research institution enrolling students from throughout the U.S. and around the world. In addition to several colleges, SIU has a School of Medicine and a School of Law. With a commitment to access, the university provides distinctive programs, including aviation, automotive, fermentation science, forensic psychology and much more. SIU is committed to ensuring that students graduate with the knowledge, experience, critical-thinking skills and cultural competencies they need to make a difference in our world.

“This partnership will enhance our continued efforts to train the next generation of pilots from SIU Aviation and connect our students with professionals in the field our young pilots will enter,” SIU Carbondale Chancellor Austin A. Lane said. “This agreement fits well with our strategic plan’s partnership pillar, which includes forging

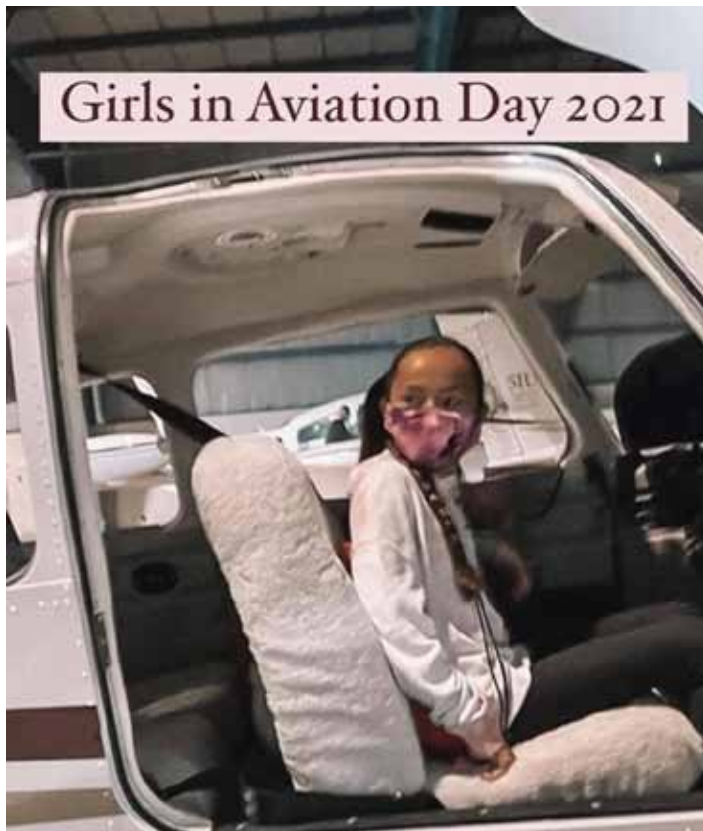
new relationships with key allies. We’re excited about this new collaboration with Delta Air Lines and the opportunities it will provide our students.”

SIU’s nationally recognized and comprehensive aviation program recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. Since the university purchased a fixed-based operator at Southern Illinois Airport in December 1960, the program’s growth includes multiple degree programs, a state-of-the-industry facility and more than 600 students. Currently the School of Aviation encapsulates aviation technologies, aviation management and aviation flight programs with multiple degree offerings.

Information about SIU’s School of Aviation can be found at <https://aviation.siu.edu/>.

The above information was taken from the Delta website.

Welcome to Fall Semester



Saluki Aviators held Girls in Aviation Day at the airport on Sept. 25th, 2021. It was a very successful day and the kids who attended had lots of fun in the simulators, looking at the planes in the hanger, building bottle rockets, and making a picture frame out of sheetmetal. Women in Aviation also participated with Women in Automotive Transportation Technology (WATT) on Sept. 26th, 2021 to clean up Airport Road. We were able to collect a lot of litter that day and help make the airport a more clean and safe learning environment.



I'm happy to take this opportunity to welcome back students, faculty and staff to another Fall semester at SIU Aviation. This is the first semester under the new structure that came out of university reorganization.

Where before we were two departments of aviation, now we are a united School of Aviation with all the aviation programs under one school. Where before our departments were housed in a College of Applied Sciences and Arts, now our school is housed in the newly created College of Health and Human Sciences.

This semester, thankfully, we are back to holding classes and labs in person rather than online. While we are happy that we are back to in-person classes, we remain vigilant against the spread of Covid-19 by maintaining our safety protocols and limiting large events.

Regardless of the hardships, SIU Aviation continues to enjoy remarkable success. This is the fourth year in a row with increasing enrollment, this year marks a nearly 5% increase over last year. Because of these increases we continue to hire more faculty and staff and purchase more airplanes. We received approval this spring to buy 7 new Cessna 172 aircraft. These will join the 5 new Cessnas we purchased last year and the two Cessnas we purchased this summer on the used aircraft market. Our next challenge will be finding hangar space for all the new planes!

Last month we signed a new pipeline agreement with Delta Airlines called Delta Propel (story inside) and we are in the process of negotiating a similar deal with United Airlines Aviate program.

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

*Michael Burgener
Interim, Director of School of Aviation*

The School of Aviation announces a new Master of Science degree

Starting Fall of 2022, Aviation will begin its Master of Science degree. The Master of Science in Aviation Management is designed to prepare working-professionals and full-time students for advancement in the aviation industry. The online delivery affords working professionals the ability to maintain their professional and personal lives while completing the degree that builds on previous experience and education. The objectives of the program are to produce graduates who are prepared to acquire

management positions within the aviation industry and who are able to pursue continued education or demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning.

The M.S. in Aviation Management prepares graduates to begin or advance their careers in the aviation industry with organizations such as airlines, aerospace

manufacturers, aviation consulting firms, government agencies, and more. Graduates of the program are qualified for management positions throughout the aviation industry such as: safety coordinator, security manager, project manager, flight operations manager, maintenance control, quality assurance manager, among many others.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The MSAVM program accepts students on rolling admission for each academic term (Fall, Spring, Summer). The course sequence affords this flexibility by offering the capstone course AVM580 each semester. In order to be eligible for admission to the MSAVM program, prospective students must hold a bachelor degree prior to application, or seek the 4+1 completion option, where credit for up to 9 hours of undergraduate 400-level courses will count towards the master degree. Students seeking 4+1 completion may complete 400-level MSAVM coursework as “senior with degree,” or during the completion of their bachelor degree.

Preference is given to students with a bachelor degree in a related field and/or active employment in an aviation profession.

Important Dates for End of Semester

Veteran's Day

Thursday, November 11, 2021

Thanksgiving Break

Saturday, Nov. 20 through Sunday, Nov. 28

Final Examinations

Monday, Dec. 6 through Friday, Dec. 10

Commencement

Saturday, December 11, 2021



Winter Intersession

Monday, Dec. 13 through Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022

Spring Semester Begins

Monday, January 10, 2022

Teachers of the Year 2020-2021



Congratulations to the School of Aviation Teachers of the Year. Lorelei Ruiz for Aviation Management & Flight and Karen Johnson for Aviation Technologies.





Dr. Samuel Pavel, Professor in the School of Aviation, will be chairing the University Aviation Association Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. October 6-8, Dr. Pavel will be at the helm of his fourth conference.

The annual collegiate aviation conference is the premier gathering place for college and university educators focusing on the collegiate aviation industry.

This year won't bring the complete recovery for face-to-face meetings that many have hoped for a year ago. UAA is being creative, innovative, and safe while bringing collegiate aviation together for this year's conference.

This year's conference will have a reduction in attendees (125 faculty from 32 colleges and universities) and a reduction in sponsors and exhibitors (20). We will hold the same standard of educational programs. Keynote speaker is **Lt Col Olga Custodio** (USAF ret, American Airlines CA ret); Olga broke barriers as the first Latina to complete USAF military pilot training in the US Air Force, and the first Latina commercial pilot and captain for American Airlines.

Sessions include a full day safety infoshare, 5 workshops, education sessions on COVID-19 impact on flight training, creating classroom engagement, faculty salary surveys, modern flight training, and diversity in education, as well as research roundtables and professional paper sessions.

We are practicing flexibility and continue to monitor the shifting landscape of public health meeting guidance while still following the most current pandemic protocols to keep all participants safe.

Hilton Hotel in Memphis has partnered with RB, makers of Lysol® & Dettol®, to help deliver an even cleaner stay for our guests with the creation of the Hilton CleanStay program.



Delta Visits Avionics

Representatives from Delta Airlines visited to speak to Avionics faculty about opportunities at Delta. They reviewed our specialization and provided recommendations for the avionics program to better meet their needs in the area of circuit board troubleshooting and repair.

While here, they were given the opportunity to speak to students and met with the reciprocating engines students.



New T/TT Faculty Member



Irene Miller was introduced as a new Lecturer in a past edition of *The Saluki Flyer*. Irene was recently hired as a Tenure/Tenure Track faculty member. Irene has been teaching for the Department of Aviation Management and Flight at Southern Illinois since September 1996 at off-campus sites.

Congratulations Irene, on your promotion.

All-women aviation teams join Air Race



The teams were Abby Lee and Vernecelyn Allen, Gabby Escudero and Sophie Ottoson, and Meadow Boden and Rachel Piacentini. Pictured above: front - Gabby Escudero, from left - Meadow Boden, Rachel Piacentini, Vernecelyn Allen, Abby Lee and Sophia Ottoson.

The aviation program at Southern University Illinois Carbondale is breaking barriers with the help from a group of women representing female pilots.

Meadow Boden is a SIU aviation student. She recently placed in the top ten out of 85 teams in a competition.

New Program Assistant in Flight Operations



Peter Merlin has joined the School of Aviation as a Program Assistant in the Flight Operations section.

Peter has a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Studies/Management. His past employment in California included positions in history, communications, and education

at NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center, and supporting flight testing at Edwards Air Force Base.

Please welcome Peter Merlin to the School of Aviation.

“Don’t ever let someone look you in the eyes and say, ‘Oh, you can’t be an engineer. You can’t be a pilot. You can’t work on aircrafts,’ because that’s just not true,” Boden said.

Boden along with six other women from SIU competed in the 2021 Air Race Classic. It’s the only women’s air race in the nation.

“There’s a huge stigma about men being pilots and women can’t be pilots,” Boden said. “It’s slowly going away, but it’ll take more time for women to become interested.”

Currently, 15% of the students within SIU’s aviation program are women.

Meadow’s instructor and partner at the competition, Rachel Piacentini said that’s nearly double the percentage of women in the industry.

“It’s great to see that number growing,” Piacentini said. “That younger generation has that support. We want to make this a more diverse field in all different aspects.”

For senior Sophie Ottoson, it’s all about paving the way for more women to enter the industry.

“It’s really important for me because I feel like a lot of girls might not even look at aviation as a career,” Ottoson said.

It’s a male-dominated field that these women are trying to propel into and allow for others to take off alongside them .

This marked the first year that SIU was able to send more than one team to the Air Race Classic. WICS/WRSP-TV – July 22, 2021

IT'S BACK...

Taco

Tuesday



brought to you by AHP

11:00 - 1:00 p.m. Every Tuesday

Congratulations to Lorelei Ruiz



Congratulations to Lorelei Ruiz on her retirement. Lorelei has been at SIU since she attended as a student. In honor of all the work she has put in over the years, a plane was named in her honor. Aviation students and employees enjoyed a table full of refreshments and cake while sharing “old” stories with Lorelei. Enjoy your retirement, Lorelei.



New NTT Faculty Member



Gail Avendano joined SIU in August, 2021. She comes to us with a Master’s in Education with a focus on curriculum and instruction.

In Gail’s words: “SIU Aviation is a great landing spot for me after spending over twenty years in collegiate aviation at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah. My husband, Orlando, and I are having fun exploring southern Illinois and enjoying our new empty nest status as our three adult children are off making their own pathways.

In addition to teaching and developing writing and research courses, internship experiences, and senior seminars, I enjoy helping programs develop assessment plans and work towards accreditation goals.

In addition to being involved with WAI and UAA, I serve on the Board of Trustees for the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI). Professional interests include education/industry collaborations, student success and retention, career development, and DEI efforts.

I’m happy to be here! Thank you for all the warm welcomes I’ve received”.

If you haven’t already, please welcome Gail to the School of Aviation.

Flying Salukis

compete at

NIFA REGION 8

October 13-16

in Terre Haute, IN

Local Students tour the Schools of Aviation and Automotive

On Wednesday, September 22 the Transportation Education Center hosted a tour for over 120 students from 7 local Southern Illinois high schools. The high school students were enrolled in the school's career tech classes and were excited to see the technical education programs, Aviation Technologies, Automotive Technologies, and Aviation Flight, available to them at SIU TEC. The tours included demonstrations from both Automotive and Aviation Technologies labs and flight simulator rides. The event was coordinated by the working advisory committee set up through the DOL-DRA grant project ran by Karen Johnson of Aviation Technologies and ManTraCon of Marion, Illinois. The purpose of the grant is to build virtual reality simulations for use in Aviation Technician training that can aid in developing a more robust workforce pipeline in the Southern Illinois region. The high school students also had a chance to try out some of these newly developed sims during the tours.



Wear Maroon on Friday

Each Friday throughout the year, faculty, staff, students, alumni, community members and friends are encouraged to show their Saluki pride and wear SIU maroon.



Saluki Aviators

KMDH Stickers and Magnets Available Now!

Email sarah.cada@siu.edu to place your order



JACKSON COUNTY, IL (WSIL) -- Southern Illinois Airport is adding more than \$25 million worth of new improvements, one of the airport's largest expansion projects in the last decade, and it's not the last.

Grants and private funding are attracting more aviation-businesses to the region with more than 500 jobs on the line, 150 expected within the next year.

Southern Illinois Airport manager Gary Shafer says, companies see the long-term value of a growing labor pool through Southern Illinois University's Aviation School next door.

"These new companies found an advantage in coming here," explains Shafer. "Not only because we were able to provide them space--funded by these new grants, but they also realize that there's a large labor pool here of talented young people that the university is producing."

Several large-scale projects have been under-way for the past year-and-a-half, they've constructed six new buildings, expanded two and installed a 14-acre solar farm.



Recreation and businesses outside aviation are taking notice of the site's developments with established businesses expanding, and new ones moving in. A

Airport expansion project opens more doors for SIU Aviation students

"Total value about \$26 million," says Shafer. "And that added to what we've been spending in this decade has us spending about \$110 million over the last ten years."

The SIU Aviation program and SI Airport have a "symbiotic" relationship, says Associate Professor of Aviation Technologies Karen Johnson. She says it is one thing for an instructor to try explaining the jobs available in the market, it is another to walk across the street where those jobs are waiting.

"It provides a whole lot of local opportunities for our students that upon graduation, if they want to stay local, they can," says Johnson.

The flight activity from the school provides an additional bragging right for the airport, ranking it the third busiest in the state, says Shafer.

"There's about 800 students that go to school out at the airport everyday," says Shafer. "The airport as a result of all this activity ranks number three now in the state of Illinois in terms of aviation activity."

medical marijuana cultivator expanding its footprint, as well as Yates Awning Company, and St. Nicholas Brewing Company, a Du Quoin business with three locations, is opening a pub with a view of the brew and the runway too.

The aircraft mechanics graduating from SIU in the Spring are likely to see new employers Galaxy Aviation and Crucial Aviation up and running. Construction on their properties are expected to be completed by fall. Johnson says she expects others in the industry to take notice and set up shop, which she says translates to more doors opening for SIU students.

"We certainly have a lot of hope that the industry that's coming in will attract more industry," says Johnson. "That would be our hope, that this is just the beginning."

SIU's School of Aviation is adding 12 new aircraft to its fleet, part of its commitment to expanding the services of its aviation program. *WSIL-TV - Aug. 19, 2021*

Saluki Pride: José Ruiz' passion is being a mentor to both students and faculty



September 9, 2021 by Pete Rosenbery

José Ruiz's aviation career has lasted more than four decades, including the last 26 years with SIU's nationally recognized program. He's earned numerous accolades, including leading the University Aviation Association and chairing national panels on runway safety issues. But his passion is helping students realize their full potential and mentoring faculty. Seung-Hee Lee, a professor in the School of Architecture's fashion design and merchandising program, recalls that during her first year as a new faculty member, other faculty recommended Ruiz to assist her. It was "due to his excellent guidance and full support" that she was able to have a successful start, she said.

Get to know JOSÉ R. RUIZ

Name: José R. Ruiz

Department/title: School of Aviation, professor

Years at SIU Carbondale: 26 years

Give us the elevator pitch for your job:

Aviation has played a significant role in my personal and professional development for more than 43 years. Prior to my association with SIU, I served as a non-commissioned and commissioned air traffic control officer in the United States Air Force. I also hold a commercial pilot certificate with instrument and multi-engine ratings. I transitioned to collegiate aviation education upon leaving the military and I have never regretted that decision. Assisting my students in realizing their potential has been my passion for more than 26 years. During that time, I have had the good fortune of having worked with my students in a variety of capacities; as a faculty member, an academic adviser, a career counselor, a mentor, a friend, and a

sounding board. Our graduates hold careers as airline pilots, corporate pilots, military pilots, airport managers, air traffic controllers, aircraft accident investigators and a variety of other aviation-related occupations throughout the U.S. and around the globe! I could not be any more proud of what our graduates have been able to accomplish! I have remained at SIU as an aviation educator for only one reason – to serve my students.

What is the favorite part of your job:

The favorite part of my job as a faculty member is holding mock interviews with my aviation industry career development students. I learn more about a student's character during a 30-minute mock interview than I may be able to observe in a 16-week semester.

Why did you choose SIU?

I chose SIU because of the outstanding national reputation enjoyed by its aviation program. I also fell in love with the local area. The Southern Illinois region is beautiful!! I enjoy the outdoors and this region is an outdoorsman's paradise!

I'm happiest when I am ...

I am happiest when I am engaged in any recreational activity with my family, whether it be grilling, kayaking, playing board games or renting an aircraft and going up for a quick flight. As long as I am with my family...I know it will be great!

What is your favorite song? Why do you like it?

I actually have two favorite songs because they represent a special connection between my daughter, my son and me. "Vienna" by Billy Joel for my daughter, Allison, and "Indian Summer" by Chris Botti for my son, Joshua.

News around Aviation



Two former Salukis in a CRJ. Captain Garrett Connelly on the left and First Officer Guillermo Ortega on the right. Both are working for Air Wisconsin and recently had a trip together.



Saluki pilots and students have been busy attending some local events to promote the School of Aviation. Top picture is in Fulton, KY at the recent educational event at the airport and the bottom picture is at the Air Show in Decatur, IL. Our crews were also seen at Sun N Fun in Florida and OshKosh, Wisconsin this past spring and summer.

It's always nice to see alumni and prospective students visit our table.



Our new T/TT instructor, Irene Miller, won her age division in the Murphysboro Appletime 5K on September 18. Gail Avendano was there to support Irene. Congratulations, Irene. Keep up the good work.

