Aviation Class Notes

Michael ’89 (Aviation Maintenance Management) and Dorice (Gorz) Brennan ’89 are proud to announce that their daughter Lauren (class of 2019) will be attending Lewis to play on the Flyers Softball team this fall. Lauren (Plesko) Whitaker ’14 (Air Traffic Control Management) and Lucas Whitaker were married in Funk’s Grove June 28. Madison is employed at Synergy Flight Center in Bloomington.

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Class Notes

Awards, murders, accomplishments, publications, promotions, birth announcements and just some of the class notes you can submit - and we'd love to share your news! E-mail us at alumni@lewisu.edu.

Lewis University Aviation Student Alumni Seats Available

A group of 20 Lewis University students from the American Association of Airport Executives student organization and six from the Student Operation Management class visited the United Airlines Operations Center in Chicago. Richard Dilibia, instructor of aviation and transportation, led the group on the tour.

The American Association of Airport Executives (AAAЕ) is an aviation-related, student-led organization that is open to any Lewis University student, regardless of major or existing career field. The organization is dedicated to gaining knowledge and building relationships with existing professionals in the aviation field. Those who are interested in becoming an Airport Manager, Air Traffic Controller, or a professional Pilot/Mechanic will benefit from becoming a member.

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Lewis University Flight Team Lands Second-place Finish at Regional Competition

Published: November 6, 2014

This year’s competition, which was held October 28 through November 1 at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill., with Lewis University earning team honors, several other schools include Indiana State University, Purdue University, Purdue University, and ground events. The coaches of the flight team members include Nathan Bennett-Swanson, Kyle Budzewicz, Michael Calloway, George Champa, Geoff Gillson, Daniel Carse, Kevin DeBoissiere, Douglas Jette, Kyle Kuiper, Alex Kozlowski, Cody Marks, Kyle Meyer, Jack Mullin, Ethan Olson, Matthew Pall, Ron Schmidt, Karen Schmaltz, Kayan Todiwalla and Cody Wojcik.

In addition to Lewis University’s team, several Flight Team members earned individual awards. Lewis University's Flight Team Lands Second-place Finish at Regional Competition. Lewis University’s team, including Jack Mullen of Naperville tied in Second Place Overall in Flight Team, concluded with Lewis University’s team, with Lewis University’s team, taking second overall and in flight competition. Lewis University took second overall and in flight competition. Lewis University's team, including Jack Mullen of Naperville tied in Second Place Overall in Flight Team, concluded with Lewis University’s team, with Lewis University’s team, taking second overall and in flight competition.

Lewis University will advance to the National SAFECON Competition in May 2015 at Ohio State University. At the 2013 competition, Lewis University earned the Loring Trophy, which is awarded annually to the outstanding all-around collegiate aviation program in the United States.

“Once again, the Flight Team has shown strong team spirit, fine competence and great effort in achieving excellent results in the national competition,” stated Brother Bennett-Swanson, Dean of Aviation and Transportation Studies. “Their accomplishments reflect the University’s emphasis on academics, aviation skills, professionalism and a comprehensive safety program.”

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In addition to fulfilling the FAA requirements of the classroom and lab, the Lewis University Aviation Aircraft Maintenance Technology students complete full overhauls of the university’s maintenance training aircraft. Four aircraft were chosen for the project, ranging from a wooden winged Turner T-40, a fully aerobatic Christen Eagle, an experimental Super Cub and a twin engine supercharged Avco Commander. The class objective was to make the aircraft engines operational. The interior and exteriors show a significant aesthetic improvement. The students had to do full inspections, document the business discrepancies and repair them utilizing the aircraft’s manufacturer maintenance manuals.

“These incredibly motivated students donated their own time and energy to get these aircraft up and running,” said R. Eric Jones, assistant professor of Aviation and Transportation. “Both sections did an amazing job, and the aircraft ended up looking like new. The students donated all time and energy to get these aircraft up and running,” said R. Eric Jones, assistant professor of Aviation and Transportation. “Both sections did an amazing job, and the aircraft ended up looking like new. The students donated all time and energy to get these aircraft up and running.”

Lewis University Flight Team is a second-year, third-year, or fourth-year aviation student in good academic standing, with preference given to residents of Naperville, Illinois. The Chicago Area Ninety-Nines Dorothy White Endowed Scholarship is awarded annually to a female student enrolled in or taking courses in the Aviation and Transportation Studies department. The Captain Gordon Nelson Scholarship is awarded annually to a junior-level or senior-level student within the aviation program that is also completing a commercial pilot’s license. The Female Flyer Scholarship is awarded annually to an upper-class female aviation student in the Aviation and Transportation Studies department. The Joseph Vieha Aeronautic Endowed Scholarship is awarded annually to a female student enrolled in or taking courses in the Aviation and Transportation Studies department. The Joseph Vieha Aeronautic Endowed Scholarship is awarded annually to a female student enrolled in or taking courses in the Aviation and Transportation Studies department.

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