

In the Spotlight

AIM-Kansas City Hosts First Career Luncheon Event

By Frederick Thomas

AMK and Express Jet Aviation teamed together and presented its first successful career luncheon event in the campus newly designed student commons and break area. The event simulated the “career café” concept in that over 30 students were treated with complimentary lunch and beverages during the recruiting presentation given by Mr. Bill Holtz, Maintenance Supervisor for Express Jet Aviation, Kansas City Operations. Bill has 35 years in the aviation industry and is a former Aviation Department Head of Louisiana State Technical College in Lake Charles, LA.

Holtz spoke primarily about current and future career opportunities for A&P mechanics at Kansas City’s own Express Jet Airlines which recently launched services under its own brand at KCI Airport. He encouraged the attendees both alumni graduates and potential grads to apply by sharing the employment commitment they are making to Kansas City hiring up to 30-35 technical employees and investing more than \$450,000 in airport facilities and equipment in 2011. Several grads expressed interest and have applied for positions locally and throughout Express Jet five facilities in the U.S.



...MORE TO COME!

In the Spotlight



CAPTAIN GEORGE J. DUNMORE, GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE AMK DECEMBER 2010 GRADUATION CLASS

By Frederick D. Thomas

12/15/10 – For the December 2010, graduating class, Aviation Institute of Maintenance had the honor of having Captain George J. Dunmore as their commencement speaker. Capt. Dunmore is the current Vice President and Public Relations Officer for the Hearts of America Tuskegee Airmen Chapter here in Kansas City Metro area and is one of the original members and historian of the Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated (TAI) here in the US. He is a retired military member of the US Army National Guard, USARNG and is a member of the US Army Air Corp. Although Capt. Dunmore is not one of the original 332nd Fighter Group Pilots (red tails), he is a distinguished honorary member of the Tuskegee Airmen Association. Capt. Dunmore is a former reporter of the Pittsburg Courier and is known for his unique archives and extensive history he researched over the years on the renowned “Tuskegee Airmen” and their ground support crew including the “Airmen Maintenance Mechanics”.

The Shadow

By Andrew M. Kohly, Director of Education, AIM Kansas City Campus

While the word shadow conjures up eerie, dark and evil images, The Aviation Institute of Maintenance experienced a shadow of a different kind. On Friday February 11, 2011 the AIM Kansas City Campus had two very special visitors. Ethan Griswold and Smoky Brackett, both students at Liberty Junior High School who were there to participate in their school’s “Shadow Program”, a program in which students select a career field they are interested in and then “Shadow” someone who works in that field.

The students were hosted by Mr. Lyle O’Hara (Above) an AIM Instructor who started off the day with a tour of the facility and an introduction to the landing gear trainer where the students performed a gear swing and learned about setting the switches that limit the amount of gear travel and the hydraulic system that provides power to the landing gear.

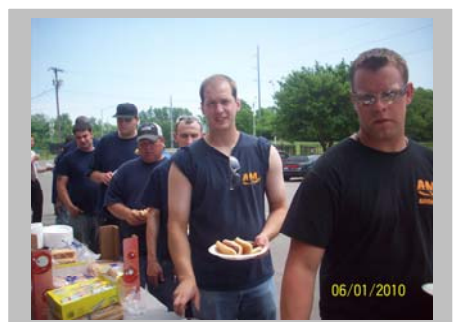
Next it was on to Mr. Jim Dent (Above), another AIM Instructor who walked the students through a sheetmetal project and according to Mr. Dent their riveting was some of the best he’d seen.

After that it was out to the Flight Line and the PT-6 and Mr. McMahan (Far left and Far Right) another AIM Instructor who took the students through pre-flight and operation of the PT-6.

Judging by the smiles on the faces of students and instructor’s alike; the day was a huge success. So, next to time you hear the word “shadow”, it’s not always a bad thing.



In the Spotlight



KICK-OFF TO SUMMER

(6/1/10) - AIM Kansas City held a "Kick off to Summer" barbecue on campus Tuesday, June 1st, 2010. Mr. Meierotto, campus executive director fired up the grill and cooked hot dogs and hamburgers for all the staff and students for both day and evening classes.

2010 Graduation

(5/6/10) - Aviation Institute of Maintenance's Kansas City campus decided they wanted, no needed, a new look for their graduation. That new look was revealed at the latest aviation maintenance technician graduation on May 6th, 2010. Campus Executive Director, David Meierotto, consulted on the design of the new look. They hung new AIM blue curtains that really gave the graduation a more professional look.

The commencement speaker for the event was AIM-Kansas City graduate, Dustin Gooding. He came back to the school to speak about his time at AIM and what he experienced after graduation. Gooding now works at Executive Beechcraft in Kansas City and is also a pilot.

The three graduates were John Kullman, James McBride and Gregory Carlisle. John and James obtained their A&P license within 24 hours of graduating, which is a huge accomplishment. Also, it is needed to get employment within the aviation industry. Gregory took the test in the following weeks.



In the Spotlight

Kansas City Campus' Students Meeting with Scholarship Success

(4/19/10) - With unemployment at an unbelievable rate, many people are finding themselves going back to school to re-tool for a new career. A major concern when making the choice to get additional training is how to pay for it. Along with traditional ways of financing their education through financial aid and personal loans, many students are finding themselves applying for scholarships throughout their time as a student, not just at the beginning. Aviation Institute of Maintenance's Kansas City campus is proud to announce that several of their students are on the receiving end of this scholarship quest.

James McBride, Stewart Parrish and William Kloepper were all awarded \$1000 each from the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) to help with their educational expenses. The mission of MOHELA is to provide lower cost student loans and other financial and educational resources to benefit a diverse group of students so they can access higher education and to enable them to successfully complete postsecondary educational programs.

Jeromy McCaskey was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Missouri Airports Managers Association (MAMA) to use towards his education. MAMA is an organization comprised of the public use airports in the state. They work toward the improvement of airports in the state through educational and networking opportunities at twice yearly conferences.

"We had four students win a total of \$4,000.00 in one week, which in turn has increased the eagerness amongst the student population to want to find even more scholarships and opportunities," states David Meierotto, Campus Executive Director, "Anything we can do to help relieve the financial stress from students while they are in school and after graduation will help them reach their ultimate goals faster."

All these scholarship winners are taking an active role in their education and future and the effort shows, by this latest round of achievements

AMK HITS A MILESTONE

(5/14/10) - AMK is proud to announce that for the first time in the history of Aviation Institute of Maintenance's Kansas City campus, they have reached a student body of over 200 students.

"As of today, we have a total student population of active students of 211," States Career Services Office, Holly Bontz, "this is a huge accomplishment for not only our admissions staff, but Mr. Meierotto [Campus Executive Director] who when started here one year and six months ago had 89 students."



In the Spotlight

Students and Teachers Honored Nationally

Denise Crall, graduate of the Aviation Institute of Maintenance in Kansas City, has been elected as Graduate of the Year by our accrediting body, the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC). This is the top honor awarded to one graduating student annually from among over 800 institutions ACCSC accredits. The Commission recognized Ms. Crall's significant accomplishments both within school and after graduation, where she maintained a 3.9 GPA, served as a leader within Kansas City's WWI replica project, raised a daughter, volunteered within her community, spoke at graduation, and found a permanent job within her field after graduation. Most remarkably, Ms. Crall accomplished all this while battling cancer and undergoing multiple surgeries while in school. Ms. Crall will be honored at the ACCSC Professional Development Conference in San Diego, CA in September, where she will speak to members of the accredited schools about her accomplishments and future goals.

At our May Education Professional Development Workshop, **Travis Robinson**, recent graduate of Centura College of Norfolk, VA, was honored as our school system Graduate of the Year. While he pursued his certification in Practical Nursing, Mr. Robinson served as the President of the Norfolk campus student body, Secretary of the National Technical Honor Society, an avid volunteer throughout our local community, a mentor to his colleagues, and a brilliant student, graduating *Magna Cum Laude*. At the same event, **Patricia Bamberg** was honored as Instructor of the Year within our schools. Ms. Bamberg first taught at the Centura College campus in Chesapeake, VA and later moved to the Virginia Beach campus. She currently teaches both residential and online courses, and she participates actively in program development, student professionalism, and community service. Ms. Bamberg was honored for her commitment to high educational standards and her compassion for students inside the classroom and out. One student stated, "The influence of Ms. Bamberg, the lessons learned in class, and the heartfelt discussions that have followed me out of the classroom, will always be a part of the professional that I am becoming."

We congratulate Denise Crall, Travis Robinson, and Patricia Bamberg on these significant honors within our community and beyond.

EAA AWARD

(11/24/09) - Aviation Institute of Maintenance (AIM), Kansas City have been working on their Morane Saulnier A-1 World War I replica aircraft as part of an initiative sent out by the company president and vintage aircraft aficionado, Gerald Yagen in 2007. AIM-Kansas City's on-going work and dedication on this project has earned them the Experimental Aircraft Association's award for Contribution to Aviation. Congratulations, AIM-Kansas City on a job well done.



WWI Aircraft Makes Second Appearance

KANSAS CITY, MO (6/30/09) – Father's Day weekend marked the annual Gathering of Eagles GREAT WAR FLY-IN in Gardner, Kansas and once again the students from Aviation Institute of Maintenance wanted to show their progress on their WWI replica aircraft, the Morane Saulnier AI. This is the Morane's second trip to the fly-in and the project plane has really progressed since its last showing at the event. Last year, the recently completed fuselage was displayed with its covering newly installed and painted with a silver finish that resists ultraviolet rays and increases life of the cloth covering. This year, however, the fuselage was showing the camouflage design was originally adorned when flown by pilot Sergeant Rufus Rand over the skies of France in 1918. This year, the engine and propeller were installed and nearly ready to run. Next year maybe they will be able to actually fly in to the event.

This airplane project began with the first piece of tubing being cut to signify the beginning of the construction, on March 1, 2007. The work is being accomplished by students of the Aviation Institute of Maintenance's Kansas City campus with help from their coach and a World War I aircraft specialist, Marvin Story. The instructional staff has been involved in supervision and has contributed hands on time also. Students also get hands-on experience building an aircraft from the ground up.

Eight of the nine AIM schools are in the process of building accurate World War I replica aircrafts. This effort provides an opportunity for students to work on an aircraft that will actually be flown, and one that will end up being displayed as part of the Great War Aircraft collection at the Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach, Virginia. More information and photos of the aircraft under construction can be found at www.aimschool.com

