College of Aviation forges new hiring agreement with Mesaba

WMU's College of Aviation, which trains pilots for British Airways and other global air carriers, has entered into its first domestic training and hiring agreement with Northwest Airlift's Mesaba Airlines.

The agreement will put graduates of the college's four-year degree program on a fast track to being hired as Mesaba flight officers.

"This is indeed an exciting agreement for the University and our students in the College of Aviation," said President Floyd at an Aug. 19 announcement of the accord. "The fact that Northwest and Mesaba have enough confidence in our training curriculum to create a unique set of requirements for our graduates is further testament to the world-class nature of our program."

Under the terms of the agreement, called "bridge training and hiring program," WMU aviation graduates will have lower Mesaba flying time requirements than outside flight officer candidates. University officials said that after examining its aviation program and curriculum, Mesaba agreed to streamline its requirements for WMU graduates.

"We have found that WMU's aviation curriculum is such that it prepares its graduates exceedingly well for entering commercial aviation," said Richard Lawrence, Mesaba's director of flight operations. "Western graduates are often well on their way to meeting our requirements, which is one discipline," explains Katherine Joslin, director of the program. "Many, it fields involve American issues. This program has grown out of the mutual interests, goodwill and energies of seemingly disparate people. It's an interweaving of those faculty members and their areas of expertise."

Originally a program administered through WMU's Department of History, American studies has changed because of faculty desire to have a comprehensive, interdisciplinary program. Another reason is WMU's "buddies" return to the residence halls.

WMU cracks top 100 in best college listing

Making its 10th consecutive appearance on U.S. News and World Report's list of top national universities, Western Michigan University advanced in the listing this year and is now ranked among the top 100 public universities in the nation.

"This is wonderful news," said President Elson S. Floyd of the magazine's newest listing. "We're delighted to move up in the rankings, but we've set our sights even higher and will continue our efforts to see WMU recognized as one of the nation's top student-centered research universities."

The prestigious annual ranking of U.S. universities appears in the Aug. 30 issue of the magazine. The list includes 147 public universities and 81 private institutions. The top 50 universities are numerically ranked and the remaining universities are listed alphabetically in second, third and fourth tiers. WMU first appeared on the list in 1991 and has been included each year since then. The 2000 listing places WMU for the first time in the third tier of national universities, putting it in the company of only 100 public universities. Among other universities sharing the third tier ranking with WMU are Arizona State University, University of Illinois-Chicago, North-eastern University, St. John's University and the University of Cincinnati.

U.S. News & World Report categorizes national universities as those that offer "a full range of undergraduate majors as well as master's and doctoral degrees." In addition, many national universities "strongly emphasize research."

This fall at the University of Cincinnati, the program in American studies begins fall with programs with participating faculty. Western Michigan University is now ranked among the top 100 public universities. WMU first appeared on the list in 1991 and has been included each year since then. The 2000 listing places WMU for the first time in the third tier of national universities, putting it in the company of only 100 public universities. Among other universities sharing the third tier ranking with WMU are Arizona State University, University of Illinois-Chicago, North-eastern University, St. John's University and the University of Cincinnati.

American Studies Program begins fall with revamped interdisciplinary curriculum

With course work as diverse as the land it covers, it will study, a restructured program in American studies enters a new frontier this fall at the University.

The newly configured American Studies Program will offer an undergraduate major and minor. A master's degree is the latest in interdisciplinary initiatives undertaken by the University.

Bringing together faculty from a variety of departments within the university's College of Arts and Sciences, the program will explore United States history and culture from three perspectives -- regional, national and global. The program will combine American studies courses with those from other departments. Those courses will cover topics including the exploration and settlement, religion, government, literature, popular culture, archaeology, environmental history, and language of America. Among the departments and programs with participating faculty will be anthropology, black Americana studies, English, history, political science, comparative religion, communication, sociology and women's studies."

"Americanists' don't come from just one discipline," explains Katherine Joslin, director of the program. "Many, it fields involve American issues. This program has grown out of the mutual interests, goodwill and energies of seemingly disparate people. It's an interweaving of those faculty members and their areas of expertise."

Originally a program administered through WMU's Department of History, American studies has changed because of faculty desire to have a comprehensive, interdisciplinary program. Another reason is why we have modified our hiring guidelines for these students."

Founded in 1944, Mesaba currently offers more than 900 daily departures from 101 cities in 26 states and three Canadian provinces. The Minneapolis-based air carrier entered into an agreement in 1984 with Northwest Airlines to serve as Northwest's primary regional affiliate under the Northwest Airlink banner. In 1998, Mesaba was named Regional Airline of the Year by Air Transport World magazine.

College will manage Detroit-area airport

Members of the general aviation community in Southeast Michigan will have access to world-class flight instruction and aircraft maintenance, thanks to a new partnership agreement between the Michigan Department of Transportation and WMU.

The University's College of Aviation will take over management of the Romeo Airport, effective immediately, under terms of the new partnership between WMU and MDOT's Bureau of Aeronautics. The move will result in increased services at the airport, increased opportunities for WMU aviation students, and economical and efficient management of the facility, which has been under MDOT control since November 1998. The airport is in northwest Macomb County.

The agreement reached in July is a two-month interim contract effective through Sept. 30, the end of the state's current fiscal year. The University and MDOT will negotiate a two-year agreement to go into effect on Oct. 1, which will coincide with the state's fiscal year. Funding for the project was part of the state transportation budget signed in July by Gov. John Engler.

The one-time state funding of $165,000 will be used for start-up costs, which include allocation of personnel to the Romeo site.

"This partnership is truly a win-win.

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Health care economics is lecture series topic

The prognosis for the nation's health care industry and the role governments, enterprises and consumers play in its economic vitality will be explored in the 36th Annual Lecture Series topic, "Health care is an issue of growing importance," says Huizhong Zhou, economics, who is looking at health care as a consumption good, people are spending more and more on it when their income grows. At the same time, costs are rising and becoming more and more expensive because medical technologies are now being used to treat more and more cases of chronic diseases. It comes down to a question of who should finance health care.

Jonathan Gruber, professor of economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will kick off the series by addressing the governmental role in health care economics at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 15, in 3508 Knauss Hall.

"What Has Managed Care Done in the Health Care Marketplace?" with Laurence M. Helfer, professor of economics at Stanford University, April 5.

WMU's American studies scholars will be the focus of fall presentations this year. His research has focused on efficiency of farm management, persons should contact Zhou by phone at 7-5550 or by email to zhoush@wmich.edu.

The Department of Economics and the College of Arts and Sciences will sponsor the series with the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. Attending Zhou's lecture will be faculty members engaged in a variety of research areas, including agricultural economics.

The economists, Tesfaye Zegeye, Alemu Hailye and Shiferaw Tesfaye, will describe their research efforts of a team gathering information on more than 600 Ethiopian farmers, as well as other results, will be compiled in a report to be presented to researchers, development organizations and agricultural extension offices.

"Fish for All": The Practice of Public Archaeology on the Great Lakes

Chiarappa and Szylvian will describe their research and study in Ethiopia and other West museums next year.

The program called upon the special interest of students, Alketa Hysenbegasi and Bedassa Tedese, assisted in teaching the use of the data software program.

Diaspora activities ranging from Mormon beliefs to other countries and cultures.


Ethiopian researchers spend seven weeks working with WMU economists to explore agricultural issues

Diaspora activities ranging from Mormon beliefs to other countries and cultures.


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Determining the impact technology had on corn production in Ethiopia was the focus of one of the seven-week programs held at WMU that ended this week when three agricultural economists from that country completed their training.

Thetrainees received instruction in economics, which include input on more than 600 variables to be used to determine why some farmers adopt hybrid seeds for corn production and others do not.

"They had an absolutely fabulous data set," says Higgins. "What they learned here is very sophisticated way to use data to determine what factors impact the choices these farmers make regarding adopting more advanced farming methods. As a result, we, and our graduate student, Sisay Asefa, got a very good experience in applied economics.

"What they learned here is very sophisticated way to use data to determine what factors impact the choices these farmers make regarding adopting more advanced farming methods. As a result, we, and our graduate student, Sisay Asefa, got a very good experience in applied economics.

"One of the major advantages he found was that the methods they used here could be used by policy makers to strengthen components of technological development and dissemination. For example, if the extension service help is good and more credit made available, then the adoption rate will increase."

Higgins explained that the Ethiopian government wants farmers to adopt the hybrid seed methods to improve their yields.

Sisay Asefa, second from left, economics, meets at the end of their stay at WMU with, from left, Tesfaye Zegeye, Alemu Hailye and Shiferaw Tesfaye. The trio of Ethiopian economists spent seven weeks working with WMU's campus in a hybrid seed program. (Photo by Neil Rankin)
Kritzman named one of nation's top 10 businesswomen by professional organization

A 15-year University veteran has been named one of the top-10 businesswomen in America for 1999 by the American Business Women's Association (ABWA). Kritzman's duties have included hiring, training and supervising residence hall directors and developing and implementing programs for female students and student workers.

Kritzman's efforts include planning and supervising special repair and renovation projects, ensuring the security of buildings for purchasing, and gaining and advising activities.

One of only a few women in residence hall management, Kritzman's efforts to pave the way for other women to advance in her field figured significantly in her top-10 selection.

"My middle management career has included forging a path for me as well as being a role model and mentor for young women in our profession—while having very few role models and mentors myself," Kritzman says.

"I'm proud to say that nine young female employees whom I worked have moved into similar positions on other campuses.

Kritzman has been an active member of ABWA since 1991. She has served in a number of leadership positions with Michigan chapters of the organization, including as a past president and adviser for the National Residence Hall Honorary as well as a past president of WMU's professional Association for Student Interns.

Active in professional and community organizations, Kritzman has been a presenter at more than 150 national conferences and is an adviser for the National Residence Hall Nationality as well as a past president of WMU's professional Association for Student Interns and the Kalamazoo Area Women's Foundation.

Kritzman has been honored for professional excellence several times, earning such ABWA accolades as the Office of Residence Life's Innovative Program Award and APA's Outstanding Leadership and Outstanding Professional awards.

Polish defense ministry award goes to Targowski

Anna Targowska, assistant director of WMU's Center for Disability Services, has received a medal from the Polish Ministry of Defense in recognition of outstanding achievements and co-authored on the defense of Poland.

Other co-authors of the book, Polish Defense and National Security: Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security advisor to President Jimmy Carter. Other contributors include a deputy prime minister and secretaries of defense and foreign affairs.

Targowska was a regular weekly column for the defense ministry's magazine. She came to WMU in 1980 from Warsaw where she worked on the defense ministry's magazine. She is the author or co-author of a dozen books on computers and information systems.

Legal expert is first visiting scholar of academic year

A University of Chicago legal scholar will spend the 1999-2000 Visiting Scholars and Artists Program with a Thursday, Sept. 16, lecture on the need to guard against injustice incurred by irrational feelings of disgust.

Dr. Martha C. Nussbaum will describe "Second思es of Vice: Disgust, Bodies and the Law" in a free public lecture at 7 p.m. in the Patney Auditorium, 1010 Fetzer Center West, also known as the former Human Resources Information Systems (HRIS) building.

Nussbaum is the author of nine books, editor of 10 others and has written more than 100 articles in such areas as ethics, aesthetics and visual arts, and the philosophy of literature. She is currently president of the American Philos-

She is being coordinated by the Department of Philosophy and also is part of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society's Fall 1999 lecture series.

Research scientist directs the WMU Career Center

An enhancement of WMU's Career Services, the WMU 1999-2000 Visiting Scholars and Artists Program that describes services available in consultation, design, and development of graphics, multimedia and written and presentation skills for faculty and staff in support of instruction and research. Its URL is <http://www.wmich.edu/career/.

The ET Center is available to faculty for technology consultation and instruction. It is also available to students. The ET Center is part of the College of Education and Human Resources.
American studies

for reconfiguring the program, according to Joslin, was increasing interest by under-graduate students in interdisciplinary study. The proposal was introduced by Joslin, who said: "The revamped program had a trial run of sorts this past summer when Joslin, Brian C. Wilson, comparative religion, and John Saullant, English, conducted an insti-tute on American Studies at WMI for foreign educators from 18 different coun-tries. The structure and content of the insti-tute were based on faculty members who spe-cialize in various aspects of American cul-ture. Sponsored by the Office of the Prov-ost, the American Studies program and the College of Arts and Sciences, the lec-ture series will take place every other Fri-day during the semester from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Meader Rare Book Room in Waldo Library." The lecture series will allow us to introduce the new program and feature the talents of many of WMU's faculty mem-bers. This way students, faculty and staff can get to know each other's work and see the variety and depth of the current re-search being done in American studies," Joslin says.

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Virtual instrumentation is seminar topic

The seminar topic for the Virtual instrumentation seminar, "Computer-Based Tools for Scientists and Engineers," on Friday, Sept. 10, will be featured Saturday, Sept. 11, when WMU takes on Central Michigan University at 6 p.m. A major part of the festivities will be the Ultimate Student Tailgate, a free, non-alcoholic celebration for students.

Romeo Airport

"Support for Systematic Transformation," Vyacheslav Karpov, sociology, Lee Hon-ors College Lounge, 7:30 p.m.

"There is a huge demand for flight in-structions for MDOT, WMU and users of WMI's air transportation system," says William E. Gehman, deputy director for MDOT's Bureau of Aeronautics. "This is an exciting opportunity to merge two of our highest priorities—airport preserva-tion and aviation education. MDOT and WMU have a long history of innovative partnering for the advancement of aviation in the state." The college will provide a professional, full-time manager who will supervise two student intern airport managers per semes-ter. The students will be upper-level stu-dents in the college's operations manage-ment degree program. Acting under super-vision of professional staff, the student interns will also assist in aircraft mainte-nance and flight instruction. The college intends to provide a full-time aircraft me-chanic to provide maintenance services for local pilots and has dedicated a Cessna 172 aircraft and professional flight in-structor to the facility as well. "There is a huge demand for flight in-struction for the general public and it's been some time since it's been available at that facility," says Mark A. Serbenski, di-rector of the facility as well. The College of Aviation will oversee the college's activities at the Romeo site. "That's just one of the services that we're forward-to providing to the public in South-east Michigan."

Other services that will be offered to the public will be the lease and/ or sale of hangar space, fuel and pilot supplies for local aviators and those flying through the area. The bureau and college anticipate that revenue from services offered at the airport will cover future mainte-nance and expansion needs as well as op-erational expenses that will be covered for the first two years by the start-up funding that has been allocated.

The bureau took over management of the Romeo airport following the state's purchase of the airport in November 1998. Shortly after purchasing the property, the bureau began examining ways to enhance operations at the facility and effectively provide for day-to-day management. Ne-gotiations with WMU came to a head recently when it was determined that the partnership could provide both top-notch management and opportunities for students to get practical experience in the manage-ment of a small, regional, non-commercial airport that is critical to the area and is to be the first of its kind in the nation.