Welcome Event

We began the Fall semester on August 19 with all the freshman on campus and ready to begin the path they planned for their career of a lifetime.

We hosted a Welcome Event for all aviation students, faculty, and staff. It was a great night with food, fun and prizes.

A record has been set at BGSU Aviation with 55 new FTO (Flight) students and 67 continuing; 5 new AMO (Management) students and 23 continuing; and 5 new AET (Engineering) students and 10 continuing. That gives us an incredible total of 165 students in our three specializations.

Welcome to all of you.
We are off to a great start.

“I chose to come to Bowling Green State University because it has very friendly and warm environment. Everybody here wants you to succeed and excel when you are here.”

Nathaniel C.
 Alumni  
Roy Poorman ’08

When I was five years old I saw the movie Top Gun and decided right then and there that I was going to be a military pilot. I am well aware a large number of fellow aviators share this same dream and fortunately, I was lucky enough to see it come true.

My education at BGSU started in the fall of 2002 after having completed USAF Basic Training and F-16 Maintenance Technical School. I had enlisted at the 180th FW in Swanton, OH as a mechanic with every intention of becoming an F-16 pilot. It took me six adventurous years to complete my flight training and education at BGSU due to being pulled away several times to deploy overseas. I received my CFI certificate in August 2007 largely thanks to your current Chief Pilot and had the privilege to work at the flight school as an instructor and check airman.

In the fall of 2008 I was selected as an Undergraduate Pilot Candidate for the 180th FW and then attended Euro Nato Joint Jet Pilot Training from June of 2010 to November of 2011 followed by the F-16 Basic Course at Luke AFB, AZ November 2011 to October 2012.

Since then, I have been working as a full-time Ohio Air National Guard Pilot and as you may suspect loving every minute of it! The jet performs like a rocket ship, excels in every type of mission and is maintained by the best in the Air Force.

I have traveled extensively with the 180th flying the Viper in Alaska, Hawaii, Nevada, Florida, Africa, and Jordan to name a few! My aviation training at BGSU has helped me make it to where I am today as an Ohio Air Guard Captain, F-16 Flight Lead, Mission Commander, and Electronic Combat Pilot.

My advice to current and future students is to make your goals come true. Assume no one will hand you the keys to your future. You need to take that extra effort, ensure you are checking all the correct boxes, and following up on all things important to your career. Be proactive not reactive and have attention to detail that way you can be proud of what you accomplish.

I say I am lucky but that is only part of it. The other parts are great people who helped me along the way, hard work, and dedication. Now I get to live out my dream and fly the Viper over my hometown.

Good luck and don’t forget to check your Notams for TFRs or you might get a visit from me in the air!

Captain Roy “Grease” Poor III

FROM THE CHIEF

Catherine Smith, Chief Instructor

I want to extend a warm BGSU Aviation Family welcome to our new and returning students!! Fall semester is always an exciting one, with great weather helping to get flights off the ground early on.

BGFC and BGSU Aviation are eager to see the entire Piper aircraft fleet take to the skies with a full flight schedule this fall. Remember the adage that the early bird gets the worm… make sure you keep an eye on the schedule and look for opportunities to fly extra while the weather is great. Nights and weekends are great times to get cross country flights and extra lessons in.

Safety remains our highest priority as we start yet another semester of flying. The best hazard prevention is preparation! Don’t be tempted to skip over your preflight preparation steps or become complacent in preflight planning efforts – it will eventually catch up to you. Mitigate risk to every extent possible, rely on your preparation and training to deal with the hazards if they occur, and learn from each new situation how you can perform even better in the future.

It was outstanding to see so many students and staff at the BGFC and BGSU Aviation Fall Welcome Back cookout! If you have questions about student organizations such as Alpha Eta Rho or the BGSU Falcon Flight Team let us know. It is an amazing time to get involved, especially since our Falcon Flight Team is hosting and competing in the 2016 NIFA Region III SAFECON competition this October!

I look forward to getting to know all our new students and catching up with our returning Falcons. It is exciting to share the skies with each of you.

Fly on Falcons. Seize those opportunities.
Summer Semester has come to an end but many of you were involved with your co-ops this summer. I recently visited a student co-op at Corporate Eagle Aviation at Oakland County International Airport (KPTK). Formerly known as Oakland/Pontiac airport, Oakland County International Airport ranks as the 118th busiest airport in the nation with 128,766 takeoffs and landings. There are over 550 private and corporate aircraft based at this airport which translates to a lot of co-op opportunities.

Corporate Eagle operates a fleet of King Air B200’s, Hawker 800XP’s and Falcon 2000’s and services over 40 clients with their fractional program. The true beauty of a company like Corporate Eagle is that they can offer co-op opportunities for students in all of our specializations. Because Corporate Eagle is a full service in-house fractional service provider, there are opportunities for our management and engineering technology students to learn how other aspects of a flight operation operate. Be it in maintenance, scheduling or document management, there is always an opportunity.

Additionally, while at KPTK, I visited Pentastar Aviation, IFL Group, Michigan Aviation, and Corporate Flight. These are just some of the operators at Oakland County International Airport, there are many more opportunities for you to explore.

Go Falcons!
Carl Braun

National Collegiate Flight Association (NIFA) Region 3 SAFECON will be hosted by our own BGSU Falcon Flight Team, October 10–15, 2016 on the BGSU campus. Five collegiate schools will compete in the event, Western Michigan, Kent State University, Ohio University, Ohio State University and BGSU.

Our flight team currently has 15 members practicing for the event. They are looking for more members and for volunteers to help. If you would like to join the flight team or volunteer prior or during the event please contact Ethan Beegle at ebeegle@bgsu.edu.

Follow the flight team and the NIFA event on Facebook at BGSU Falcon Flight Team or visit the website at www.bgsu.edu/safecon2016.

We had several graduates at the end of summer semester. Best of luck to you all.

We also said good-bye to two of our flight instructors moving on to the next stage of their careers. Don Hallett accepted a first officer position with Endevor Air, and Al Paulk to Express Jet. Best of luck to both of them and make us proud!