

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**

College of Aviation

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August 2022 Newsletter

Up, Up, and Away with August



Hello Aviation Alumni and Friends,

The dog days of summer are upon us, and the season of the sun is winding down. Soon, we'll be welcoming the Class of 2026, as they begin their aviation journey at Western Michigan University. As mentioned in previous emails, we are also embarking on a new journey of our own – increased alumni engagement!

As part of this, we are hoping that many of you have made plans to join us for our inaugural College of Aviation Alumni and Friends event on September 30 and October 1. Make sure to scroll down for more information!

Our alumni feature this month is an Aviation Management and Operations alumna, Sarah Pagano. Graduating from the program in 2021, Pagano is currently the airport manager at Jack Barstow Airport (KIKW) located in Midland, Mich. Click the link below for the full story, and learn how she followed her dreams, turning a passion into an avocation. Don't forget, check the bottom of the email for additional stories on College of Aviation students, faculty and/or staff.

ATTENTION Matt Bendix! You are July's winner. Remember, in each newsletter, there is a way to register for a prize each month. Make sure you increase your chances by entering each and every month. Matt, please contact tom.thinnes@wmich.edu and I'll get your gift shipped out to you ASAP. If anyone knows Brandon Beers – let him know the clock is ticking. He has until Sunday, August 21 to contact me about his May prize! You snooze, you lose!

News, Events and Save the Dates!

- **WMU Aviation Alumni Reunion and Get-Together**
 - **DATE: Friday, Sept. 30 and October 1**
 - Due to challenges with the schedule, we have had to modify the dates slightly – sorry about that! Here is the tentative schedule. **Registration details are below.**
 - Friday, September 30
 - College of Aviation Social – 5 – 8:30 p.m
 - Tour the new Aviation Education Center
 - Hang out, reconnect, enjoy a beautiful night outside at the College of Aviation firepit!
 - Hors d'oeuvre and soft drinks provided
 - Friends and Festivities – Approx. 9 p.m
 - Gather together for some laughs, levity and libations
 - Location TBD
 - Saturday, October 1
 - Tailgate
 - Location and Time TBD (Game time has not been announced)
 - Burgers, Brats and Hotdogs
 - WMU Football verses New Hampshire
 - Time TBD
 - [Purchase your tickets here!](#)
 - Promo Code: Aviation
 - Room Blocks Available!
 - Hilton Garden Inn/Home 2 Suites
 - [Register here!](#)
 - Delta Hotel Conference Center (Marriott)

- o [Register here!](#)

- o All reservations must be booked by September 15

- **United Airlines Aviate Updates**

- o ANY graduate of the Aviation Flight Science degree is now eligible to apply to Aviate. Visit their [website](#) for more info.
- o United is launching a new, user-friendly pilot hiring application, unique to United. With the new launch, each candidate in the Airline Apps system that is not yet an Aviate participant will need to create a new application to continue through the Aviate selection process.

Thanks for being great supporters! Please let us know how you are doing.
Send updates to tom.thinnes@wmich.edu!

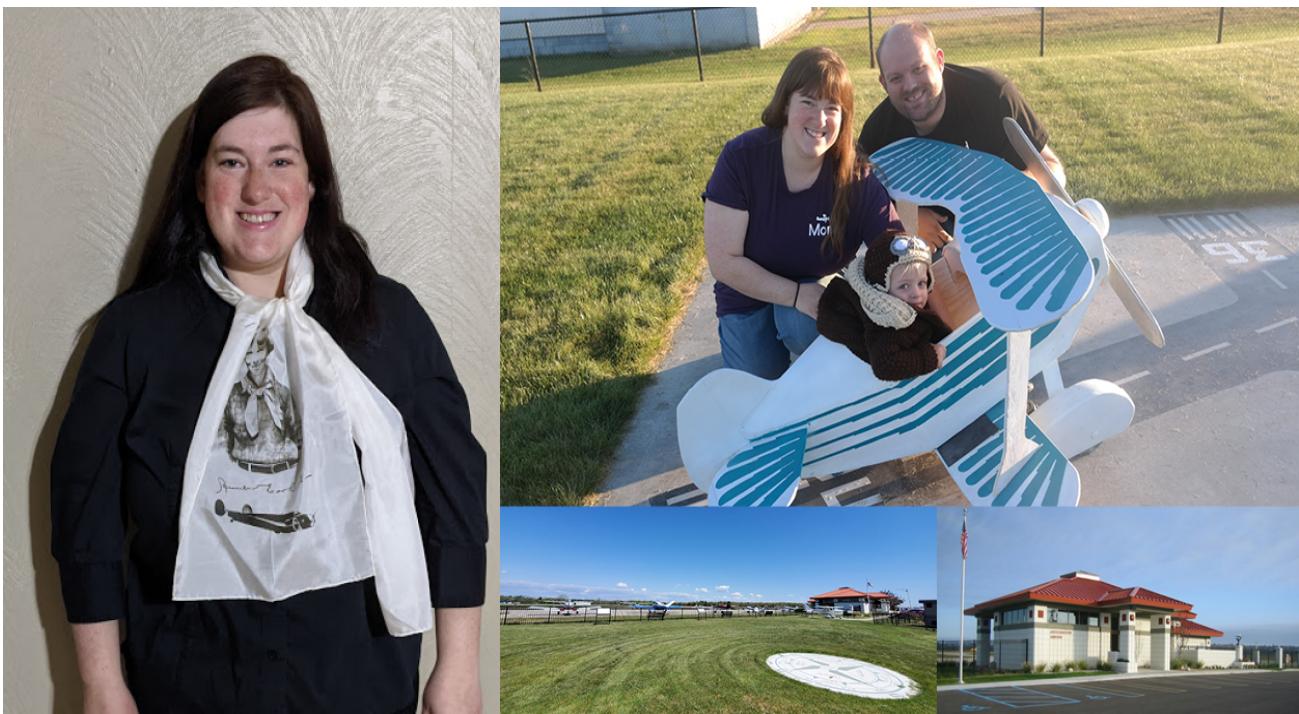
Go Broncos!

Tom Thinnes
Western Michigan University
College of Aviation
Recruitment, Marketing and Outreach

Thanks for making it to the end! Now that you're here, enter this month's prize drawing. We are looking for interest in the alumni weekend. Even if you don't plan on attending, enter your information to be eligible for the prize!

[Click Here!](#)

Magnificently Managing an Airport: Sarah Pagano's Aviation Management and Operations Success



Sarah Pagano kind of grew up near the airport that serves her home community of Midland, Mich., and today she is its "Top Gun" as manager.

But she took a maverick-like path to get there -- an initial dive into a career in health care, a maneuver that made her a later-in-life nontraditional student, and a safe landing on her goal via an innovative knowledge-delivery system.

Pagano was raised in Midland, located in what is called the "Tri-Cities" region of central Michigan. Where is that? Visualize the state's "Thumb" and Midland is roughly where the bottom of the thumb meets the bottom of the index -- or fore -- finger.

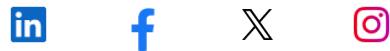
[Read More](#)

- [Take Offs and Touchdowns with Alex Toger – Flying High as a College of Aviation Alumni and Current Endeavor Air Pilot](#)
 - [From Sun ‘n Fun to Air in Alaska – Chris Desmond’s Aviation Aspirations](#)
- [Continue to Soar](#)

So that all may learn

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