Jay Rud Has High Hopes for SIU’s Aviation Program

Although he has been an American Airlines captain for more than 18 years, Jay Rud has never forgotten the lessons he learned from pilots who visited the SIU Carbondale campus during his undergraduate years.

The 1983 aviation technology graduate appreciated aviation graduates who returned to their alma mater to mentor students striving to follow in their path.

“It was a source of pride for me because these pilots had a lot of regard for a university that I was attending,” he says. “When you receive support from individuals who have succeeded in the profession, it means a lot to you as a student.”

These memories are a motivating force for Rud, who works closely with fellow captain and alumnus Steve Brainerd, to organize the yearly American Airlines – SIUC Aviation Career Day flight from Chicago-O’Hare International Airport to Southern Illinois Airport. The flight, which began in fall 2005, gives 120 Chicago-area high school students interested in aviation an opportunity to visit SIUC’s aviation department.

American loans a “Super 80” airline aircraft for the flight. Rud contacts SIU alumni working at American to staff the flight.

“Our alumni volunteers assist me in all aspects of preparation, and throughout the day of the event. This wouldn’t be possible without the volunteers, or the cooperation between the University and American Airlines,” Rud says. “We also try to devote considerable time to the students. It all works out really well.”

The University receives in excess of 300 applications for the event, which draws students from as far away as Ohio and northern Wisconsin, in addition to Indiana and Illinois.

The 1983 aviation technology graduate and Illinois.

David NewMyer, chair of the aviation management and flight program, calls it “a huge, positive contribution to recruiting new students to SIU Carbondale.”

NewMyer refers to Rud as “an all-around Saluki supporter.” Rud serves on alumni and advisory boards in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts, in addition to the Captain’s Club, which seeks to raise funds for endowments and scholarships for aviation students at Southern. The Captain’s Club is assisting in raising funds for “The Campaign for TEC” (Transportation Education Center), a project dedicated to consolidating and updating programs at one location – the Southern Illinois Airport west of campus. It also coincides with the 50th anniversary of Southern’s aviation department.

“I suspect that we’re going to start seeing ample support within our group and hopefully, we’ll reach this goal in support of the University,” Rud says. “Our graduates have a lot of pride in the reputation of our aviation department. We have a lot of funds to generate. I will certainly do my part.”

Rud’s initial exposure to aviation came through his father, also a pilot. The elder Rud encouraged his son to take flying lessons, and Jay attained his private pilot’s license in high school. Jay was introduced to SIU through his older brother, Jeff, and friends who attended the University. Southern’s scenic campus and the solid reputation in aviation made an impression. Although he ultimately decided to study aviation maintenance at Southern, Jay accumulated flying hours, which included renting a friend’s plane to fly friends home on weekends. He subsequently earned the status of certified flight instructor and commercial pilot, in addition to an airframe and power plant maintenance rating qualifying him to work on airplanes.

The Newark resident earned his bachelor’s degree before accepting a maintenance job with a skydiving operation in Sandwich. Rud toiled as a mechanic during the week and flew skydivers on the weekend to gain additional flying time. He eventually landed his first small commuter airline position in Arkansas, through fellow alumnus Rick Stall.

Jay Rud is pictured with his daughter, Megan, a junior at Southern who is performing in the University’s elite wind ensemble. “I grew concerned when Megan initially mentioned the possibility of attending SIU. I didn’t want her to go there just because I did,” Rud says. “She went on to explain to me that SIU had one of the top clarinet instructors (Eric Mandat) in the country. When Megan walked in and saw the beautifully, renovated Altgeld, and met Dr. Mandat, it sealed the deal for her.”

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Musician Tim Carr Has ‘Found the Blues’ in Chicago

Making a living as a computer consultant and performing artist would appear to be an interesting mix. But in the life of Tim Carr, the two specialties are very much in harmony.

He specializes in system administration, hardware, and coding for the Huron Consulting Group. But many evenings, Carr is an accomplished trumpet player whose talents are on display in the Chicago Blues Scene including venues such as Kingston Mines, House of Blues and B.L.U.E.S.

While he has an avid interest in computers, he admits that music is his first love.

“It just so happens that the computer industry is much more lucrative than playing the trumpet. That is sad because I’m more gifted with music; but that’s the way it goes,” he says.

Carr discovered the trumpet while attending Music Instrument Day with his dad in the fourth grade. It took him a while to acquire his gift.

“Dad always told me Louie Armstrong was awesome; and, about Dizzy Gillespie’s cheeks when he played trumpet,” he says. “But I remember my mother kicking me out of the house when I first started because who wants to hear a dying elephant practicing in the other room. My neighbors still remember me making gawdawful noises in front of our house.”

It got better. In seventh grade, Carr took lessons with his trumpet teacher. He performed in his church and progressed to a point that he became the first-chair trumpet player in his high school band. The Carbondale native subsequently decided to attend his home university and pursue a degree in music education. He also attended camps hosted by the School of Music.

“I credit Dr. Robert Allison (SIU trumpet instructor) for being instrumental in my progress as a trumpet player. He is the best teacher I have ever come across,” Carr says. “His ability to get around the horn is better than performers I’ve seen in the symphony. He loves teaching. It’s obvious that he has a passion for it.”

Carr also pays homage to Mike Hanes, longtime director of the Marching Salukis, who recruited him and provided early tutelage during his freshman year on campus. The 2006 graduate received initial experience while playing in the orchestra pit for productions at McLeod Theater.

With the Marching Salukis, Carr’s fondest memories include performing in the pep band at Saluki games. He also did a solo in the “Saluki Salute to America” at the Edward Jones Dome, home turf of his beloved St. Louis Rams, and received a congratulatory pat on the back from star running back Marshall Faulk.

Additionally, Carr is thankful for computer experience he received while through a student job with the Center for Environmental Health and Safety on campus, in addition to the Carbondale Police Department.

“When I moved to Chicago and made my computer knowledge known, I was able to find employment fairly quick,” he says. “That is due to the opportunities I had at Southern.”

Carr, who continues to perform in various Carbondale venues, initially moved to Chicago to attend the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University … a decision he didn’t regret.

“The school and teachers at Roosevelt are just phenomenal. I studied with Todd DeLarson, who is the fourth trumpet in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra,” Carr says. “He is a phenomenal trumpet player who helped me get involved in the classical music scene.”

Carr’s work with DeLarson helped him land gigs with regional orchestras including the Northwest Indiana Symphony, Skokie Valley Symphony, and Oak Park Symphony. He just recently decided to expand his horizons beyond the classical genre. Carr, with trumpet in tow, visited Kingston Mines and was given an opportunity to perform on stage. He quickly made an impression with the club manager.

“I was invited to play with his band after a jam session at Kingston Mines. “He proceeded to ask me to perform with his band with on various dates around the city,” he says. “We’re typically at the same venue on Friday and Saturday, whether it’s Blues Chicago, B.L.U.E.S., or Kingston Mines. I really enjoy playing blues music.”
George Jensen’s Successful Balancing Act

While heading a property management and preservation business in Mokena, George Jensen’s philosophy is the same as it was during his days as a student at Southern. Simply stated, Jensen’s thinking is: “Work hard, but make time for fun.”

And he’s not shy about sharing this with his 15 employees.

“My philosophy is to get eight hours worth of work done in six hours so we can have fun,” he says. “If we get it done in eight, you don’t have as much fun. If it takes more than eight … oh well.

“Many of our clients have three-day turn around on work orders. We try to get projects done as quick and precise as possible,” he says.

The 1982 SIU Carbondale agriculture graduate established the Geo Group in 2005. It was initially a property management and landscaping company, but it has also handled construction projects. Geo has now morphed to a point that the largest portion of its business entails property preservation.

“A lot of units in the associations we manage were foreclosed and the winterization and preservation wasn’t handled properly. So I would call companies who had placed foreclosure notices on the door,” he says. “I conducted some research and discovered that there were national companies that required similar services. We’ve been doing that for years. We like to diversify.”

Jensen specializes in supervising and maintaining property. He previously served as the superintendent of parks for the Plainfield Township Park District and later serving a stint as president of the park board. His stepfather hired him to handle operations for Advance Bancorp buildings in south Chicago and suburbs. He handled maintenance, construction, rentals, security, transportation, and purchasing for seven years.

The Mokena resident credits this success to his upbringing on the South Side.

“My family owned Jensen Landscape. So I had the pleasure of working in a family business at a young age,” he says. “I was also very active in Boy Scouts achieving the rank of Eagle. We enjoyed camping and outdoor activities that tied in with landscaping.”

Jensen attended Morgan Park High School and competed on the swim team, serving as captain his senior year. He began applying to attend various universities, and was accepted at some Division III swimming schools. However, the D-III schools were expensive and didn’t offer athletics scholarships.

He became aware of SIU through his sister, who had transferred from Northern Illinois University. He visited the campus with his father, and knew it was the place for him.

“Being an outdoorsy type, SIU was a good fit. It was better than the other places I had been,” he says. “Then there’s the Shawnee National Forest. It was a big factor, too. It’s hard to beat that.”

This is perhaps when Jensen began developing his “balancing act.” He enjoyed participating on intramural sports teams and held jobs throughout school. Jensen drove to the Blue Bell Packing Company in Du Quoin, where he collected pig ovaries for SIU’s School of Medicine. The School would pay him $20 per liter of pig ovaries.

“The worst thing was after seeing what transpired there, going back to the dorm and discovering that we were having pork for dinner,” he laughs.

Jensen completed an internship with Chicago Botanic Gardens during his junior year, after returning to Carbondale where he was a bouncer and bartender at American Tap, before being promoted to night manager.

“I met fellow students who were smart and devoted all of their time to studying. But they struggled to interact with others,” he says. “You have to discover various activities to diversify yourself, otherwise, you miss out. That is what I try teaching my kids, too.”

And Jensen wants to support future SIU students who do the same. He has pledged $25,000 to endow a scholarship fund that benefits undergraduate students in the College of Agricultural Sciences. Preference will be given to Southland Chicago applicants who balance school with intramural sports and part-time employment.

The scholarship fund will benefit students who major in traditional or non-traditional studies in the College. These non-traditional studies include Landscape Horticulture, as well as, Forest Recreation and Park Management.

George and his wife, Janet, have five children. One of the five is attending college, while the others have discovered their career of choice via different routes. “Janet and I figured we want to see someone else use a boost or opportunity,” he says. “We want to honor well-rounded students. You need to try everything and profit from the whole experience.”
Young Business Graduates Raise Money for Scholarships

Some alumni of Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s College of Business are wasting no time in offering financial assistance to support students who are following in their footsteps.

Recent graduates of the college – Candice McCloud (business management in 2007), Xavier Mims (management in 2008), and Janaya Tucker (accounting in 2007 and master’s in business administration in 2008) - have in short order made a commitment to establish scholarships and offer additional assistance to current students.

Michael Haywood, Director of the Office of Minority Affairs in the College, says these alumni were recipients of scholarships and are eager to return the favor now that they have launched their careers.

“These individuals endured some economic trials to attain their own education. They were grateful for receiving scholarships and want to support others,” he says. “Additionally, they take note of the College’s limited resources and want to give back. This isn’t anything new … we’ve had similar commitments from our alumni for close to 25 years. But recently, we’ve had people giving back much earlier in their careers.”

Haywood says all three alumni assumed leadership roles on campus, pursued opportunities to attain experience in their chosen field and worked hard to live up to the scholarship requirements. Each worked for Haywood in some capacity as a student at Southern.

McCloud was inspired after speaking with Mims (The Chicago Egyptian, Oct. 2009). Mims, a Chicago native, approached Haywood; Tammy Cavarretta, Director of Development for the College of Business; and Dean Dennis Cradit shortly after graduation about creating a scholarship to help new students. Mims was the beneficiary of scholarships and financial assistance and wanted to help others. Therefore, he and Haywood selected two students to receive brand new laptops; purchased by Mims, executive district manager for Aldi, Inc., in Chicago. The students were recognized at the 2009 College of Business Honors Day ceremony.

McCloud took the initiative to follow suit. The Schaumburg resident established the Gloria Dean Battles Scholarship, named after her late grandmother, who was a teacher for 30 years. McCloud is honoring her grandmother’s lifelong commitment to education.

“My grandmother was the matriarch of our family. Education has always been important in my family and she instilled that in us,” McCloud says. “My mother attended college and attained a master’s degree. She received the “Teacher of the Year” award in O’Fallon in just her second year. My brother and sister attended college as well.”

McCloud named the scholarship after her grandmother so other family members could contribute. She would like to expand it beyond the current $1,000 amount. The award is geared toward students in the business college who have a 3.0 grade point average or higher with preference given to minority students.

McCloud’s mother, and her father, an Air Force Lieutenant Colonel who has served 22 years in the military and recently returned from duty in Iraq, paid their way through college. She had to do the same because she was not eligible to receive financial aid.

“I want to help people who don’t receive as much financial aid. But I don’t want that to be the only criteria,” she says. “They have to earn good grades, work hard, and be successful.”

The SIU graduate is quite a success herself. McCloud has been a key account manager for the Coca-Cola Company in Niles since June. She previously served as a district manager and recruiter for Aldi, Inc. in Batavia.

“SIU laid a strong foundation for my career and I learned a great deal. The college prepared me to take that step into the professional world,” she says. “I grew and learned the importance of time management and prioritizing.”

Tucker is the latest former student to follow in this path. She derived inspiration from Mims and McCloud and established her own scholarship to assist current students in the College of Business. Tucker funded scholarships in the amount of $1,000 just three years after graduation.

An experienced associate with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Chicago, Tucker established the scholarship in appreciation for the education she received at Southern, which she says prepared her for a career in public accounting. She expresses appreciation for financial support earned that eased the financial burdens associated with attending college, and the guidance she received as a student at SIU Carbondale.

“I was not awarded financial aid, so my education was funded through multiple avenues including my parents, student work positions, scholarships, and assistantships from the College of Business, as well as external sources such as the Illinois CPA Society and American Institute of Certified Public Accountants,” she says. “The funding I received allowed me to focus on my education and develop the knowledge and skills which I utilize on a daily basis in my career. Therefore, it’s only appropriate for me to give back.”

Tucker will fund her scholarship on an annual basis, with aspirations of increasing the amount in the future. The Janaya D. Tucker Scholarship will target an undergraduate majoring in accounting with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Preference will be given to an African American student.

“Hopefully, my scholarship will help ease the financial burden of attending college for current students, and in turn, allow them to focus on their college education. I do not want current students to be discouraged from earning their degree(s) from the College of Business due to the financial burdens associated with being a college student,” she says. “Also, I hope my scholarships will inspire other alumni to give back to the College of Business.”
John LaPine, who deals in rare books and manuscripts at Printers Row Fine & Rare Books on Dearborn Street, is offering SIU alumni a 25 percent discount off any purchase at his store.

The two-degree SIU alumnus launched a rare books website on Aug. 15 that he spent the previous three years designing and developing. The site features an array of collections ranging from Arcrombie’s Illustrated Book of Genesis, to Martin Luther’s personal notebooks and Ernest Hemingway’s letters. In LaPine’s words, “It’s the finest antiquarian and rare books website on the planet.”

The web address is: [www.chicagorarebooks.com](http://www.chicagorarebooks.com) or [www.printersrowbooks.com](http://www.printersrowbooks.com). Customers are also invited to the Printers Row Fine and Rare Books facebook page. LaPine encourages customers to e-mail him with ideas at: [johnlapine@mac.com](mailto:johnlapine@mac.com).

“Anything and everything that has any kind of literary value whatsoever will be listed on the site – provided that we have it in stock,” he says.

Additionally, LaPine estimates that he has 50,000 items stored in cardboard boxes on warehouse pallets. The books haven’t been catalogued yet because LaPine has been busy launching his site.

“We can store and list up to 12 million unique items. So there is plenty of space for expanding inventory and content,” he says.

“I welcome suggestions from anyone. This will be a spectacular website.”

Rud’s primary passion is mentoring young people, including a nephew who is a graduate of Southern’s aviation program. He and his wife, an elementary school teacher, are committed to supporting education. Rud inherited a small plane from his father-in-law that he utilizes to continue a legacy of teaching young students how to fly. He also maintains seven planes for others, with the assistance of these students.

“I enjoy watching these kids light up and utilize this knowledge at their respective universities – whether it’s Southern or elsewhere,” he says. “Aviation has been a very rewarding career for me and I want to pass that on. Young people are our future. It’s just something I’m passionate about.”

If you would like to contribute to the “Campaign for TEC” in support of SIU Carbondale’s Department of Aviation, please visit the SIU Foundation website at: [www.siuf.org](http://www.siuf.org), and click on “Make a Gift.” You can designate “College of Applied Sciences and Arts, and type “Campaign for TEC” in the comments section. For more information, call Kevin Lister, development officer for CASA, at 618.453.4934.

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Can you help identify the students in this photo? The alum who correctly names the most students will win a prize. To submit your guesses, contact Tracee Norris at [tnorris@siu.edu](mailto:tnorris@siu.edu).

Alumni are also invited to return to Carbondale, April 7-8, to participate in the symposium, SIUC Synergetics 2011: Where Innovation and Sustainable Development Meet, and its concurrent design alumni reunion on April 8 at the Bucky Fuller Dome on Cherry Street. We will be developing strategies and procedures for fostering innovative, sustainable development with a variety of sessions, workshops, and social events that will provide ample opportunity for the exchange of ideas, strategies, and stories. On Friday, April 8, following the Symposium, the School of Art & Design will host a reunion of all the design alums. Come join us for reminiscing and talking about how we can better prepare our design students for the real world and what opportunities are available for them. For more information about the reunion, please contact Tracee Norris at [tnorris@siu.edu](mailto:tnorris@siu.edu).

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“Campaign for TEC” in support of SIU Carbondale’s Department of Aviation.