President's Perspective

I want to begin this month’s edition by thanking our students and staff for making 2009 a great year. Our great year is defined by continuing to deliver quality aviation education and placing our graduates into the industries we serve. Our team responded to the economic challenges facing the country with tenacity and that Spartan “never give up” attitude. The results have been impressive to say the least. We saw an overall increase in new students starting the program and we saw an increase in starting pay for our graduates. These blended successes tell me that we are headed in a great direction.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you in the Spartan family a wonderful holiday season and happy new year. Thanks again to each of you for raising the bar in 2009 and I am optimistic that 2010 will prove to be even more successful as we further execute on our initiatives and the economy continues improve. The best is yet to come!

Jeremy D. Gibson
CEO/President
Spartan College

ALUMNI CORNER

JOE MANGUAL - CLASS OF JUNE 1982

This quarter we feature 1982 alumnist Joe Mangual. Joe was born and raised in New York City. His mother and father were originally from Puerto Rico. Joe’s father decided to move to New York to find a future for his family. They ended up in the Harlem area of New York City. Joe attended public school for a short while and then continued his education in the Catholic school system. Joe continued on to attend Aviation High School in Queens, New York.

He had always had an interest in aviation and wanted to be a pilot or something in the aviation business. Joe graduated from high school in 1978. Upon his graduation he went to work as an elevator mechanic, working in downtown Manhattan. Joe said he was working full time and making decent money, but his heart was just not into it. That’s when Joe decided to pursue his dream of aviation and he enrolled at Spartan School of Aeronautics. So in the summer of 1979, with $500 from his parents, Joe left New York City for Tulsa, Oklahoma. Joe stated he had a preconceived idea about the Midwest. He expected to see cowboys and indians.

Upon arriving in Tulsa, Joe’s first experience was not real positive. You see, he received a $25 jaywalking ticket on his first day in Tulsa. He went back to his room feeling a little dejected, called mom and dad and said this may have been a mistake. With some encouragement from his parents, Joe decided to stick it out. In June of 1982 Joe graduated from the A&P program at the then Spartan School of Aeronautics.

Joe received two employment offers upon his graduation. One from American Airlines and one from the Cessna Aircraft Company. So Joe started his aviation career in Wichita, KS. Joe then moved to a position with East Systems in Greenville, TX. He started at East Systems as a mechanic building radio racks and consoles for four years. He then was sent to the hangar for six years as an aircraft mechanic. And then received an opportunity to become the supervisor for the hangar dock and line. Joe acted in this supervisory role for six additional years.

In 2002 Joe went to work for L3 Communications in the position of Supervisor of Navy Programs. He worked in the Navy program for two years and was awarded the Tribute to Excellence for Business Performance Award in 2004. Shortly after, he became the manager for the Navy Program. In 2007 Joe went to the Korean program and was approached by the Vice President of L3 about his interest in a Director’s position. In February of 2009, Joe was promoted to the position of Director of Maintenance with L3 Communications.

Spartan would like to thank Joe for his ongoing participation with College activities such our career fairs and his classroom discussions. Joe’s career is a classic example of how hard work and determination lead to a positive outcome. Joe states, “I came a long way from the streets of New York City.”
Take the Time to Stop and Fix It
By Tom Arko, Senior Vice President of Education

With almost a year under my belt as Spartan’s VP of Education, I have noticed members of Spartan College, student and staff alike, to bypass issues that do not fit directly into their job description. On the other hand, I have also noticed a lot of folks who jump in and try to solve the problem directly or vector the problem to those who can. Which one are you? Let’s take a quick test and see where you fall.

Do you notice a plastic bad lodged in a bush and wonder what the heck the maintenance guys are doing or do you go over and grab the article that is keeping Spartan from being a perfect institution?

Do you see a plastic bad lodged in a bush and wonder what the heck the maintenance guys are doing or do you go over and grab the article that is keeping Spartan from being a perfect institution?

Do you leave your cup sitting on the desk, ledge or bench or do you take the extra time to make sure it is empty and put the article in the trash receptacle?

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There is no need to publicly announce your score. If you are the type that helps solve problems rather than sidestep the issue, CONGRATULATIONS. You are a doer, be amazed at your effectiveness, influence and pride you feel when the wrongs are righted. You directly impact Spartan.

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Season’s Greetings

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology we want to wish you and yours a very safe and joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year.
SPARTAN PRIDE
By Damon Bowling, Vice President Admissions

Over the last few months I’ve had the opportunity to travel for business and fly on commercial airlines. I’m always excited about traveling with the airlines and anticipate bumping into a Spartan graduate. I make sure I wear a shirt with a Spartan logo or my Black Cat pen on my jacket hoping a Spartan graduate will notice and strike up a conversation. Whether checking in at the gate, boarding the plane or checking in at a hotel near the airport, it’s a rare occasion when I’m not running into a Spartan graduate. I know Spartan has graduated over 90,000 pilots and technicians but it never ceases to amaze me how many Spartan graduates one person can bump into traveling with the airlines. Spartan pride runs deep within the aviation industry and community and it’s easy to understand why Spartan graduates can be proud not only because they have joined the ranks of many pilots and technicians that have gone before them but for completing a vigorous training program requiring commitment, desire and sacrifice.

Many graduates I meet wonder how they can continue to be involved with Spartan and stay in touch with the college. The easiest method today is through the internet. Another way is through rekindling the Spartan Alumni Association. The Alumni Association existed for many years to help alumnus stay in touch with Spartan and other alumnus, host and organize class reunions and raise funds for Spartan scholarships. The Alumni Association disbanded a few years ago due to lack of participation and volunteers for leadership. The association would require volunteer hours and officer positions to operate. Any alumnus interested in rekindling the association and volunteering for leadership positions should contact Ron Worthington, Vice President of Students Services at rworthington@mail.spartan.edu. I would love to see the association rebuilt.

Another way alumnus can stay involved is by referring interested students to Spartan. Spartan currently has a referral program called the “Black Cat Squadron” program. This program allows Spartan to show appreciation for graduates and students referring others to Spartan. The program works by a student or graduate contacting Spartan’s admissions department with the name and contact information of someone they believe would qualify as a Spartan student. Once the student begins school the graduate will earn a black cat jacket. The jacket is a parachute type black flight jacket with the black cat 13 logo on the back. The department of education will allow you to earn one jacket per year. Please, only refer candidates you would want working or flying you somewhere some day.

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Spartan Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup Volunteers

Spartan would like to take the opportunity to say thanks to student volunteers who took their time to participate in the Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup program. On Saturday, November 21, they undertook cleanup efforts from Pine St. to Highway 169. Part of being a complete corporate citizen is to always give back to the community. Spartan is proud of the leadership they have shown and their willingness to provide their time and services for a worthy cause. On behalf of Mr. Gibson and all the faculty and staff here at the college we wish to thank the following students for their act of kindness in giving.

William Dewar • Joshua Barker
Paul Malvaney • Clayton Budingter
Michael Trent • Damien Trafton
Robert Dobkowski • Adam Rouse
Joe Slosar • Heath Amon
Debron D. Young (with a foot cast too!)
Joey Steele

Members of the Student Council assisted in the installation of the new student message boards. These boards are located in the north campus cafeteria, by the TV and at the main campus cafeteria. They will be in operation upon your return from the holiday break. Please be sure to check the message boards frequently for updated information.

Christmas Potluck Dinner
December 25th – 4:00 p.m.
Main Campus Cafeteria

We are fast approaching tax filing time. We wanted to send a reminder to all students that the 10/11 FAFSA will be due May 1st, 2010. You should plan to file your 2009 Federal taxes as early as possible. If you are considered (by the Department of Education) a dependent student, your parents should plan to do the same. You should be able to file as soon as you/parent have received all W-2 forms for 2009. This usually occurs by the end of January.

The 10/11 FAFSA will be available for completion on-line at the beginning of January, 2010. You/parent should complete your FAFSA as soon as you/parent have completed your 2009 taxes. Please go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete the FAFSA.

Please stop by the Financial Aid office to speak with your Financial Aid Representative about any questions you may have.

Technical Students
Last name beginning A-K
see Mary Salas - Main Campus
Last name beginning L-Z
see Ashley Fleming - Main Campus

Flight Students
See Mandy Cockerhan
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
- Main Campus
Wednesday - Flight Campus

Council Meeting Schedule
The Spartan Student Council meets every Tuesday at 2:45 at the north campus cafeteria. NOTE: For now, the last Tuesday of every month the council meets at the main campus cafeteria.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved with campus related activities. Become a part of a growing and active group of student leaders. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings and from all the student council members we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

STUDENT COUNCIL CORNER
STUDENT COUNCIL HALLOWEEN PARTY
On Friday, October 30, the Student Council hosted a Halloween party in the cafeteria at the main campus. There was food, games for the kids, music and a costume contest. Mr. Fester’s computer seemed to be one of the hot topics of the night...! The costumes were creative and definitely fit the spirit of the evening. A good time was had by all. Special thanks to students and staff for assisting in this evening of fun. Special props to you, Luis, you did an awesome job. (Far left in the picture.)

For Your Information. . .
Members of the Student Council assisted in the installation of the new student message boards. These boards are located in the north campus cafeteria, by the TV and at the main campus above the windows in front of the bookstore. The message boards will provide general information and reminders of activities around the college. They will be in operation upon your return from the holiday break. Please be sure to check the message boards frequently for updated information.

POOL TABLES!
Pool tables are being installed in the north and main campus cafeterias for your enjoyment. Each game will be 50¢ with the proceeds going to the student council and to the student emergency food bank. Please take care of the tables and enjoy.

Spartan Adopt-a-Highway
Cleanup Volunteers
By Christina Foster

As a Spartan alumnus myself I realize it may be easier or more exciting to follow a football team from your college winning a national championship but I’m proud to know that Spartan graduates are winning personal and professional championships on a daily basis as they continue to achieve successes they never imagined possible until they obtained their Spartan education. I hope each of you have the same pride as I do in being a Spartan alumnus.