

MTSU team flies to 3rd in region, lands berth at national event

by Randy Weiler
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MTSU's Flying Raiders competitive flight team is bringing national recognition to the university's aerospace program after placing third in the National Intercollegiate Flying Association 2008 Region VIII competition in Carbondale, Ill., Oct. 29-Nov. 2.

That means the Flying Raiders have earned a berth in the nationals, which will be hosted by Saint Louis University's Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology next May. The top three teams from each region comprise the 30-team field competing for the national title.

This past May, MTSU's flight team finished 17th in the NIFA SAFECON nationals, which were held at Smyrna Airport.

Although MTSU has been to the nationals before, this will be the first time it has earned a spot through merit in more than 25 years, said Paul Mosey, coach and chief flight instructor.

"This is a huge deal," Mosey said of the accomplishment. "They're fired up and already planning for the spring. The investment they will have to make is for the next seven months, where they work out a practice schedule, plan study time and the (student) administrative setup. There's leadership for each event," which includes nine in the regional and more events in the nationals.

"We were pumped, very pumped," added Carl Roby, a senior aerospace major and team co-



FLYING HIGH—MTSU's Flying Raiders flight team celebrates its third-place win in the Region VIII competition Oct. 29-Nov. 1 in Carbondale, Ill., which earned the group a trip to next May's National Intercollegiate Flying Association competition. MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee recognized the team, which is coached by Paul Mosey, the university's chief flight instructor, for its accomplishment when he met with the group and aerospace faculty Nov. 12 in the Business and Aerospace Building.

photo submitted/by Woody Hatchett

captain. "We were very happy. We went out and celebrated. I believe we were more excited about winning third than the other two teams winning first and second."

Perennial region power Southern Illinois again dominated the field with a final total of 152 points. The University of Illinois was second with 112, and MTSU earned its third-place finish with 46 points.

Mosey said a committed group of Blue Raiders have led the charge. "This group started together three to four years ago," he said. "Three years ago, we started to go to the region. I said, 'We're not ready.' We weren't prepared. That seemed to put a fire under a core group. We've reached a point where we're very competitive. It's a year-round commitment."

The team members also earned individual

recognition for their work. Roby earned first place in aircraft recognition. Erin Wadlington earned second place in the simulated comprehensive aircraft navigation ranking. He placed third in the Top Pilot Award individual competition, third in the Top-Scoring Male division and third in the ground-trainer ranking.

Co-captain Eric Christiansen placed in the top 10 in four separate events. Cole Merrick placed in two events, and James Taylor and Kevin Jones each earned a top-10 finish in their individual events.

The regional competition is composed of five ground events—aircraft identification, flight simulator, manual flight computer, simulated comprehensive air navigation and pre-flight—and four flying events, including power-off landings, short field landings, message drop and flight navigation.

the RECORD

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Faculty/Staff Update

Appointments

Dr. Robert B. Blair (business communication and entrepreneurship) has been appointed to the Southern Business Education Association Nominating Committee to select the association's representative to the National Business Education Association Board.

Awards

Dr. L. Robin Lee (psychology) received the President's Outstanding Service Award at the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision meeting and conference Oct. 24 in Houston.

Elections

Dr. Sherry J. Roberts (business communication and entrepreneurship) was elected president-elect of the Southern Business Education Association Oct. 31 in Louisville, Ky., during the NBEA/SBEA business meeting. She takes office Jan. 1. Roberts also presented "Resume and Interview Tips" at the convention and coordinated the event's leadership development seminar.

Panels

Dr. Don Hong (mathematics) was invited to participate for a second time in a National Institute of Health panel review meeting for the Bioinformatics and Software Development Program on Oct. 28 in Bethesda, Md. The panel reviewers evaluated 26 proposals submitted to the program.

Presentations

Dr. Robert B. Blair (business communication and entrepreneurship) presented "International Experiential Learning" at the Tennessee Business Education Association Conference Sept. 26 in Nashville. He also presented a brief session about parliamentary procedure to the New Business Teachers Workshop during the conference.

Dr. Wandi Ding (mathematical sciences) presented "Optimal Control of Growth Coefficient on a Steady State Population Model" Oct. 25 at the American Mathematical Society Southeastern Sectional Meeting in Huntsville, Ala.

Dr. Jennifer Dooley (mathematical sciences) and **Dr. Vivian Alley**, **Dr. Lawanna Fisher** and **Fred Belton** (academic enrichment) presented a paper, "Maximizing Student Potential

Through Special Projects," at the 24th Annual Conference for the Tennessee Association for Developmental Education Oct. 30 in Kingsport. Dooley, Alley and **Dr. David Otts** (academic enrichment) also presented "A Practical Guide to Studying Mathematics" at the event.

Dr. Don Hong (mathematical sciences) made a colloquium presentation at the Department of Mathematics at the University of Central Florida on Oct. 16, speaking on "Multiscale Methods for Proteomic Data Analysis."

Dr. Anhua Lin (mathematical sciences) presented "Numerical Algorithms for Solving MPEC Models Used Analyzing the Potential Impacts of PHEVs on LMPs" at the INFORMS (Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences) 2008 Annual Meeting held Oct. 12-15 in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Alan Musicant (psychology) and graduate student **Lisa Pritchett** presented "The Auditory Expanding Image Effect: Free Field" at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Chicago Nov. 13.