

Aviation students recognized



Front row (l to r): WCC co-op students: James Revette, Alisa Williford, Steve Gurley, Rose Fulcher and Tom Holland.

PHOTO: JACQUELYN RANDALL

Back row: Air Frames Division supervisors: Bob Powers, Greg Ehrls, Richard Harrell, George Gibson, and Charlie Eaton

Club offers students chance to fly

By MARTIN COX

The Flying Bisons, a little known Wayne Community College club, exists for students who want to learn how to fly.

The club has been inactive since 1989 because of lack of interest, according to Wilbur A. Kauff, WCC aviation instructor.

The Flying Bisons was started in 1974 by a group of aviation maintenance students.

According to Kauff, it was advantageous for aviation students to learn to fly.

Many would go on to work on general aviation aircraft and a pilot's license would enable them to test-fly the planes.

Kauff added that currently most aviation students go on to work for the airlines where there would be little advantage to a pilot's license.

Kauff said the club's current inactive status can be attributed to the lack

of demand for the license and to rising costs of fuel and other influences of the recession.

The club is open to all WCC students, not just aviation students.

He said a number of slots exist for non-students who want to learn to fly at a reduced rate.

Club members can attain a private pilot's license at about half the going rate, making it a relative bargain.

He said there are plenty of students who would love to learn to fly but few who can afford it.

The club uses and maintains a Cessna 150 for flying lessons when it is active.

The current plane is the club's third 150, the first 2 having been stolen and crashed.

Costs incurred by the club include insurance, maintenance, aviation gasoline and instructor fees.

Kauff said that some of those costs, especially the instructor fees, may be curbed by having the club use the Mt. Olive airport.

Those interested in getting involved with the Flying Bisons can contact Kauff at his office at the Goldsboro/Wayne Municipal Airport at 735-5151 ext. 304.

By MARTIN COX

Three students from Wayne Community College's Aviation Maintenance Technology Program have recently received recognition for the outstanding job they did in their co-op experience.

They worked for six months at the Naval Aviation Depot (NADEP), Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, Jacksonville, NC, according to Jacquelyn Randall of the Cherry Point public affairs office.

Rose Fulcher, Aircraft Repair Shop Supervisor said that Steve Gurley, James Revette and Alisa Williford were real assets in the shop's A-4 aircraft line.

A government hiring freeze and Operation Desert Storm created staff shortages in the shop.

Each student received a plaque that read, "You are a credit to the sheetmetal/electrician trade, an asset to the Naval Aviation Depot, an inspiration to your peers, the pride of your supervisors, an example to other co-op students, and a friend to all of us. We will miss you."

Co-op students from WCC complete 7 of the 8 quarters required for graduation before working full time at the NADEP.

Currently 11 Wayne students are enrolled in the NADEP co-op program.

The co-op program enables eligible high school and college students in different trades to earn money and gain experience in their chosen career field by working for the federal government, according to Randall.

