

Textbook Chapters Authored by Associate Professor of Aviation

An associate professor of aviation at Pennsylvania College of Technology has contributed to an avionics textbook. Thomas D. Inman wrote two of the seven chapters for the Avotek Information Resources-published “Avionics: Instruments and Auxiliary Systems”: Chapter 3, covering Air Traffic Surveillance and Warning, and Chapter 4, focused on Weather and Terrain Awareness Avoidance.

It is anticipated that the textbook will be adopted by several colleges and other schools teaching avionics. The work prepares students to earn upcoming National Center for Aerospace and Transportation Technologies endorsements to the Aircraft Electronics Technician certification.

NCATT is part of ASTM International, known for setting a variety of industry standards, including those applicable to the aviation field. Penn College, one of 24 schools accredited by NCATT to provide avionics education, participated in the formation of NCATT and the AET under a grant from the National Science Foundation.

As part of the publishing contract, Inman received a number of copies of the textbooks. He donated 20 to the college’s Madigan Library and had them placed on the reserve list, relieving aviation students of the financial obligation of making purchases.



He holds a master’s degree in instructional technology from Bloomsburg University, a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies from Western Michigan University and an associate degree in avionics from Ferris State University. With numerous professional affiliations and certifications, Inman is a regular contributor to industry publications.





Aviation Instructor Aims High with Hobby

Michael R. Robison, an aviation instructor at Penn College, also happens to be a competitive glider pilot. Robison is a member of the U.S. Soaring Team and will compete for the third time at the World Championships in the Czech Republic this summer. The faculty member's hobby, which grew from the model airplanes of his youth, mirrors the excitement he feels for his day job at the college's Lumley Aviation Center in Montoursville. "The facilities are fantastic. I'm amazed at the different opportunities and equipment," he says in a new YouTube post produced by writer/video editor Tom Speicher. "It's neat to see the students make connections and start to have a passion grow for the thing that I'm pretty passionate about."

Aviation Maintenance Technician Job Growth

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects overall employment of aircraft and avionics equipment mechanics and technicians to grow five to seven percent from 2016 to 2026. The government and industry experts expect air traffic to increase gradually over the coming decade, which will require additional aircraft maintenance, including that performed on new aircraft. Forbes magazine expects airlines to add over 10,000 airplanes to their fleets over the next ten years. By 2026, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects the industry will be creating 15,000 new jobs. Mechanics and technicians in the baby boomer generation are beginning to retire in large numbers, which will increase the need for new technicians.

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Donations Support Aviation Program

Over the past year, the Penn College aviation program has benefited from some important donations. The largest was a Beechcraft A24 Musketeer, donated by Robert Dutton. Although Beechcraft is more famous for producing Bonanzas, Barons and King Airs, the company produced over 4,000 Musketeers from the sixties to the eighties. The version of the A24 donated to the college has six seats, a 180 Horsepower Lycoming engine and non-retractable landing gear. Mike Damiani, an instructor in the aviation program, flew the aircraft to Lumley Aviation Center last fall. Students can use the aircraft in multiple aviation classes.



Helicopter Applicators donated a turbine compressor for a Pratt & Whitney PT6 turbine engine. The PT6 is used on several airplane and helicopter makes and models. This engine component will benefit students in the turbine engines class.

Two avionics companies donated parts and equipment to the program. Bragg Avionics of Jacksonville, Florida, donated several parts and LV Avionics of Allentown donated parts and test equipment. Donations from both companies will help students during the second two years of the bachelor program.



Wildcat Flyer

Penn College Aviation

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Take a Tour

The faculty and staff at Pennsylvania College of Technology's Kathryn Wentzel Lumley Aviation Center are proud of their facility and would like to share it with you. The Aviation Center was completed in 1993, replacing a structure that dated to pre-WWII days. The facility sits on a multi-acre site and boasts 50,000 square feet of space – 11,000 square feet of which is used in the main hangar. In addition, two small structures sit to the west of the Aviation Center and serve as engine-demonstration cells that the students may use to safely start and operate recently overhauled engines. If you would like a tour of the facility, contact the Admissions Office at 800-367-9222. You also may email tinman@pct.edu.



Lumley Aviation Center

Penn College encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Disability Services at 570-320-5225, TTY: 570-321-5528, or fax: 570.327.4501 in advance of your participation or visit.