



A NEW SCHOOL YEAR, A NEW TEAM

The 2024-2025 school year is beginning, and with it, there are some changes at PUC Flight Center.

Here are a few highlights:

- We have a great team of leaders and flight instructors. **Nathan Tasker** has returned as the Flight Center Director, and **Merilyn Chaffee** as Chief Flight Instructor. We are privileged to have a diverse and experienced group of flight

instructors: **Luke Butler, Anthony Sharobeem, Gabe Navarro, Danny Navarro**— plus another one or two on the way.

- We've overhauled our academic program. The new program will give aviation majors a more rigorous educational experience, while saving them significant money.
- We're returning to our roots: 'Airmanship' and stick and rudder skills are foundational, especially in

the challenging environments our pioneers served.

- At the same time, we're moving to emphasize servant leadership. These qualities are in short supply and essential in humanitarian aviation contexts and the wider aviation industry. God has blessed us with an exceptional number of incoming freshmen and a solid group of returning students. By His grace, we look forward to a wonderful year!

FROM THE FLIGHT CENTER DIRECTOR

As I've recently returned to PUC after 18 years away, I've found it exciting to reconnect with many of our alumni—graduates of our aviation program, community members who learned to fly here, and those who share a love for flying.

This newsletter is a chance for all of us to reconnect—to learn from the past, be encouraged by what God is doing in the present, and dream about His plans for the future. I hope you'll take a few minutes to look through this newsletter—you might even see someone you know. I also hope you'll scan the QR code on the back to reconnect with us. We'd love to hear from you!

—Nathan Tasker
Flight Center Director
2001-2006, 2024-present



AIR EXPO! SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for our 2025 Air Expo
at Angwin Airport

MAY 4, 2025

More details in our
next newsletter.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Kaye Varney

PUC has been a big part of Kaye's life. She worked through her flight training, graduating in 2002 with a B. S. in Aviation. Following graduation, she served PUC as a flight instructor. In 2006, she became Chief Flight Instructor and later Flight Center Director—roles she held until 2016. During these years, she worked with the FAA to develop PUC's Part 141 curriculum for the commercial license. She was also instrumental in developing the associate's degree in aviation and reorganizing the aviation minor.



Since leaving PUC, Kaye has been a pilot instructor in the Cessna Caravan program at FlightSafety International in Wichita, Kansas. She teaches initial and recurrent ground school courses, initial and recurrent simulator courses, and conducts check rides in the Caravan simulator for Part 135 operators and airline transport pilot applicants. She also trains pilots from around the world, conducting proficiency checks for individuals holding pilot licenses from countries such as Peru, Saudi Arabia, India, and the Bahamas.

Kaye is grateful for her time at PUC, where our unique mountaintop airport helped to hone her skills. Over the years, she has enjoyed meeting other former PUC students who have come through FlightSafety, and she finds a special connection with other pilots who have flown out of 2O3.

Jordan Wareham

Jordan has many memories of his time at PUC, ranging from singing in PUC's Gospel Choir and living on "Grainger 3rd" with all his friends to being thrown into the fountain after a music tour. Many of his memories have an aviation theme. He remembers late-night flights to Nancy's 24-Hour Restaurant at Willows Glenn

Airport, landing on Runway 16 at sunset, and flying all over Northern California as a student and flight instructor. Some special highlights were flying to Mobile, Alabama, in the Seminole and the Oshkosh Pathfinder Camporee in the Cherokee.

Since graduating from PUC in 2004 with degrees in Aviation, International Communication, and Spanish, Jordan's career has focused mainly on commercial aviation training and management. For several years, he was a simulator instructor and FAA Training Center Examiner on the Canadair Regional Jet (CRJ 200/700/900). He also served as the head of training for a large commercial training company and Hawaiian Airlines. More recently, he has moved into safety management. He currently serves as the Senior Director of Change Management for Spirit Airlines, supporting their major business transformation project.



Jordan believes PUC set him up for success in these roles. "During my career, I would often work alongside pilots and other instructors who went to some of the biggest and most prestigious aviation colleges and universities in the country," said Jordan. "In many ways, my foundational knowledge and skills were superior to theirs, which I credit not only to the type of flying available at PUC but also the quality of instruction I received as I completed my certificates and ratings. Further, the flexibility and opportunities available to students studying aviation at PUC are unmatched as far as I am concerned. I believe it to be the best location for flight training in the country. It is the perfect mix of everything you

need to be skilled, safe, and competent.”

Academics and flight training aside, Jordan says the relationships he made at PUC had the biggest impact on his life. Twenty years on, he still keeps in touch with many of his friends and professors from his time at PUC. Jordan lives in Florida with his wife, Rachel, and their three children, Zoë, Joshua, and Arielle.

Reinhard Jarschke

If you’ve taken flight lessons or a check ride at Angwin Airport between the early 1980s and the mid-2010s, you’ve probably heard of Reinhard Jarschke. You probably know of his love for aviation and his passion for teaching the next generation of pilots. You know of his boundless energy and dedication to his work.

If you happened to take a checkride from him and were unfortunate enough to be uncertain how to answer an important question, you’ve probably heard him ask, “Do you mean to tell me...?” Generations of pilots have benefited from Reinhard’s thorough teaching and passion for excellence.

Did you also know that Reinhard rebuilt an airplane in his garage before he was even a pilot? In 1963, Reinhard bought an Interstate S1 “Cadet” for \$250 and hauled



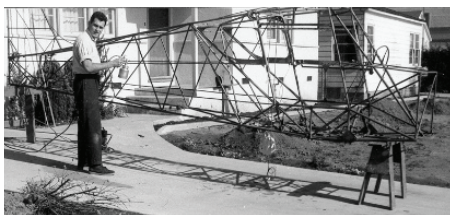
it home in a pickup truck. He described it as a “basket case of an airplane” that hadn’t flown for 16 years. For the next three years, Reinhard spent his free time taking classes in aircraft mechanics and working on his plane. Finally, it was ready, and he asked a friend to take it for a test flight at Chino Airport. It flew well, and Reinhard couldn’t have been happier. He immediately enrolled in flying lessons - and the rest is history.

In his long career as a flight instructor and pilot, Reinhard logged over 15,000 flight hours. He made 16 ocean crossings, ferrying airplanes to Fiji, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, the Philippines, and Tanzania. He also went on mission trips to Mexico, flying doctors and dentists into remote airstrips where they could serve people without access to these essential services. Reinhard’s name appears on the Wall of Honor at the National Air and Space Museum’s Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia, for his contributions to aviation.

During his years at PUC, the flight program grew substantially. The “new” Flight Center building was built under his leadership in 1984-1985. The runway was improved and lights were added. Hundreds of pilots benefited from his ground school classes and flight lessons.

These days, Reinhard, now in his 90s, lives in southern California near one of his daughters. Six months of the year, he spends time with his other daughter in Massachusetts. Although Reinhard no longer flies, he is still able to drive. He enjoys church, visiting air museums, and reconnecting with people he knew in the past.

“Flying is freedom,” Reinhard said in 1996, on the occasion of his retirement. “Freedom from everything below.” Reinhard looks forward to the day when Jesus will come again, and we will all enjoy that special freedom.



Reinhard building his plane; Reinhard's daughter in front of his finished plane.

AN UNEXPECTED GIFT

Jordan Wareham (2004 PUC alum) was scrolling through Facebook one day when he saw an advertisement for a raffle. American Flight Museum in Topeka, Kansas, was giving away a 1968 Beechcraft Musketeer. Jordan thought it was a scam but decided to give it a shot just for fun. He purchased six tickets, with all the proceeds going to aviation education at the museum.

Fast forward to April 2024, and Jordan was in Ohio for his doctoral residency at Bowling Green State University. He saw on Facebook that the raffle winner was soon to be announced and tuned in to watch the live drawing, thinking someone else would be the lucky winner. When he heard the announcer call out his name, he nearly fell out of his chair!

Jordan had 90 days to decide whether to take possession of the plane. For various reasons, he and his wife decided that they were not in the right stage of life to own and maintain an airplane, yet they strongly felt that they had been given this unexpected gift for a reason. What could it be for?

Jordan got in touch with Nathan Tasker, who was in the process of returning to PUC as the Flight Center Director. As it turned out, PUC desperately needed a second primary training aircraft. Through a generous arrangement, PUC is acquiring the Musketeer, N6066N, which will soon work alongside PUC’s trusty Cherokee, N15824. This aircraft will be a huge blessing for PUC’s aviation program as we strive to prepare Christ-centered pilots for lives of service.



REMEMBER WHEN?



PUC flight instructors and students celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' first flight by marching in the 2003 Calistoga Fourth of July parade with PUC's Eagle 150B.



Dedication of the first Seventh-day Adventist Church-owned mission aircraft, the "Fernando Stahl," Angwin Airport, 1963. This aircraft, named after pioneer missionary Fernando Stahl, brought hope and healing to many people in Peru.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- *What did you love most about your time at PUC?*
- *What are you up to now?*
- **Email us at: flightcenter@puc.edu or scan the QR code.**



AVIATION NEWSLETTER



AVIATION
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