



**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
College of Aviation

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March 2023 Newsletter

## **From Furious February, to March Madness – There is a lot to Unpack in this Month's Newsletter**



Hello Aviation Alumni and Friends,

As you receive this, I know we may be competing with the return, and final season, of Ted Lasso (Haven't watched? I strongly recommend!). However, I'm hopeful you'll take the three minutes it will take to catch up with what is going on at the College of Aviation.

### **Alumni Feature**

Kicking it off, this month we are excited to feature Aviation Alumna Ashely Lucas. Having earned her aviation science and administration degree in 2011, she is currently the Operations Manager for the Gerald Ford International Airport Authority in Grand Rapids. Read more about her journey and story by clicking the link below! Remember, scroll to the bottom of the email for additional stories on College of Aviation students, faculty and staff.

**WMU Giving Day – Wednesday, April 12**

Begging for bucks is not normally my thing, but Wednesday, April 12 is Western Michigan University's Giving Day. Because we don't believe in giving "something for nothing," the College of Aviation will be providing gifts to those of you that donate on Giving Day. Not only is this our little way of saying, "Thanks!" Your generosity can also help us secure more funding from the WMU Advancement Office.

As part of Giving Day, the Advancement Office has instituted challenges, which can boost the amount of support offered from the Advancement Office towards the specific department. The College of Aviation will be participating in the following challenges:

- 5K for 50 – looking for donations from all 50 states
- Golden Bronco – the department with the most unique donors
- Personal Record – the top three departments with the largest % increase from last year
- 1903 Challenge – the 1903 gift will get an extra \$1,903 to their cause
- Final Countdown – during the final two hours of WMU Giving Day, there's \$10,000 up for grabs for the top five designations with the most unique donors between 10 p.m. and Midnight

**WMU Giving Day – Wednesday, April 12 If you are kind enough to help us during Giving Day, here is what we will be providing you to celebrate your generosity.**

- \$5 donation - we will send you a WMU College of Aviation license plate
- \$25 donation – you will receive a WMU College of Aviation t-shirt
- \$50 donation - we will send you a College of Aviation package (t-shirt, license plate, and remove before flight keychain)
- \$100 donation – your gift from us will be a WMU College of Aviation sweatshirt
- \$250 donation – you will soon be wearing a WMU College of Aviation Flight Outfitters fleece
- \$1000 donation – for your generous gift, you will be given one of our WMU College of Aviation Flight Outfitters Bush Jackets
- \$1500 or more - we'll send you one of each!

Here is the [link for Giving Day!](#)

### **Alumni Survey**

The College of Aviation is conducting an anonymous survey for alumni that received an undergraduate bachelor's degree from the College of Aviation. All

graduates are invited to participate in this short survey. Data collected is anonymous and will be used by department administration and faculty to ensure current, and future, students have a meaningful experience while at the College of Aviation. Thank you for your time and continued support of the College of Aviation and WMU. It's a great day to be a Bronco!

**ATTENTION BROOKE SEMLER.** You are February's winner. Congratulations! Every month you can enter into the monthly drawing. All it takes is a click or two! For our winners, please contact [tom.thinnes@wmich.edu](mailto:tom.thinnes@wmich.edu) and I'll get your gift shipped out to you ASAP.

### **News, Events and Save the Dates!**

- **SIGN UP NOW- The 2023 WMU Aviation Golf Outing**
  - Monday, June 12- we are only about three months away!
    - [Register today.](#)
  - With three courses to choose from, all playing abilities are welcome! Remember, all proceeds from the event help to grow the Alumni and Friends Scholarship.
- **SAVE THE DATE- Aviation Outlook Day**
  - Friday, April 7
  - If you know of companies that may be interested in hiring Broncos, please connect them with [tom.thinnes@wmich.edu](mailto:tom.thinnes@wmich.edu)
- **SAVE THE DATE- WMU Aviation Fly-In: Hosted by Alpha Eta Rho**
  - Saturday, April 8
- **Looking for Nominations**
  - Do you know a worthy individual that has left their mark on the field of aviation and had a connection to WMU? The College of Aviation is currently accepting nominations for both the [Excellence in Diversity Award](#) and the [Hall of Honor](#)
- **Upcoming Industry Events**
  - Are you planning on attending any of the following events? If so, make sure to stop by the WMU College of Aviation booth. You never know? Maybe we'll have a gift or two for you!
    - Sun 'n Fun: March 23 – April 2, Lakeland, FL
    - Professional Asian Pilots Association Conference: May 18-19, Las Vegas, NV
    - EAA AirVenture: July 24-30, Oshkosh, WI

- Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals Conference:  
August 9-11, New Orleans,
- LA Latino Pilots Association Conference: September 13,  
Kissimmee, FL

Lastly, we are looking for volunteers that are interested in presenting to various school programs. We get a lot of requests for speakers from the industry in our general area. If you are local, or willing to help, I am need of several volunteers from all aspects of the aviation industry who would be willing to donate their time to present to middle and high school students. If you are interested, please email me at [tom.thinnes@wmich.edu](mailto:tom.thinnes@wmich.edu).

Thanks for being great supporters! Please let us know how you are doing. Send updates to [tom.thinnes@wmich.edu](mailto:tom.thinnes@wmich.edu)!

Go Broncos!

Tom

Tom Thinnes

Western Michigan University

College of Aviation

Recruitment, Marketing and Outreach

Thanks for making it to the end! Now that you're here, [enter this month's prize drawing](#).

**[Airport and Aviation Extraordinaire: Ashley Lucas](#)**





While working her way through the WMU College of Aviation, Ashley Lucas admits that she had almost no time for the extra-curriculars that would have helped launch her career with the thrust of a turbo jet.

[Read More](#)

### **Join us for WMU Night at Comerica Park in June**



Spring is on the way and it's time to start making warmer weather plans! Join your fellow Bronco friends and family in Detroit for WMU Night at Comerica Park. The

Tiger's will be playing the Twins on Friday, June 23. Get your tickets!

[Read More](#)

### **Don't miss out on getting a pair of Giving Day 2023 socks**



When you make a gift of \$65 or more to any one of the 2,000 funds at WMU on Giving Day, you'll get this exclusive pair of WMU socks.

[Read More](#)

- [Pursuing airport and operational opportunities: Ricardo Escalante-Villalta is catapulting from AZO to an aviation career](#)
- [Joshua Yoweni's voyage of vowels: aviation, excitement, Indonesia, obstacles, and university](#)
- [Multiply your impact with Giving Day challenges](#)

**MAKE A GIFT**

## So that all may learn

Donations made today are an investment in providing unique opportunities for students and pave a pathway for generations to come, ensuring that 'all may learn' at WMU.



[College of Aviation](#) | [University Advancement](#)

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