SALINA TO HOST 2019 UAS TECH FORUM

See Page 4
From the CEO

From an economic standpoint, we’ve yet to unlock the full potential of unmanned aerial systems. But as a community, we’ve been laying the foundation for over 10 years and continue to strive to be a global leader, with K-State Polytechnic leading the way.

Part of that vision and work done by community partners has led to the cover story of this newsletter. Those community partners include K-State Polytechnic, Salina Community Economic Development Organization, Salina Airport Authority, Saline County, City of Salina, and Salina Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Unmanned Aerial Systems Cluster Initiative of Oklahoma and Kansas (UASCI), funded through a contract with the U.S. Small Business Administration, accelerates the growth of the Unmanned Aerial System industry in the U.S. by enabling established companies and emerging entrepreneurs in Oklahoma and Kansas to connect, work together, and gain access to national technology, global capital, advanced business models and global markets. The UAS Tech Forum is the annual conference that brings all of these pieces together and we were happy to help land the tech forum in Salina at Tony’s Pizza Event Center.

In addition, the Kansas Legislature and our local elected officials have been very proactive in supporting this emerging technology and through the Kansas Department of Transportation’s Aviation department have invested resources to elevate the state’s position into a prime position as one of 10 participants in a federal pilot program that examines local and national interests in drones.

Kansas State Polytechnic’s UAS program was the first in the nation to introduce flying beyond visual line of sight into college curriculum and was granted the first waiver from the Federal Aviation Administration to perform this type of unmanned operation. The research and work being done in Salina has the potential to create a tremendous economic impact. The biggest impact and areas of opportunities for beyond visual line of sight inspections are with electric utilities, insurance companies, and the oil and gas industry. In addition, there are a plethora of uses for drones including disaster surveying, checking cattle and crops, military applications, long range delivery mechanism, migration patterns, and subscription services to access highly specialized UAS.

According to a study done by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, Kansas ranked seventh out of the top 10 states with major opportunity in unmanned aerial systems. AUVSI also predicted that by 2025, the UAS industry would provide Kansas more than $2.9 billion in economic impact, $29 million in tax revenue and 3,716 jobs.

Because of the forward thinking, vision, and support of the community, Salina is in a position to take full advantage of those predictions by being able to train UAS pilots and also incubate UAS businesses and technologies. The UAS Tech Forum will be a very informative and will again shine a national spotlight on Salina.

Best regards,

Eric L. Brown
President/CEO
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

HERE’S HOW TO CONTACT OUR CHAMBER STAFF

Eric L. Brown, President/CEO elbrown@salinakansas.org
Sandy Cole, Accountant scole@salinakansas.org
Sylvia Rice, Visit Salina Director srice@salinakansas.org
Tiffany Benien, Sports & Events Manager tbenien@salinakansas.org
JoAnn McClure, Convention & Military Manager jmcclure@salinakansas.org
LaCrista Brightbill, Membership and Community Relations Director brightbill@salinakansas.org
Clare Stramel, Tourism Information Manager cstramel@salinakansas.org
Kyle Weiser, Sports & Events Associate kw@salinakansas.org
Delta Bryant, Office Manager dbryant@salinakansas.org
Donna Smith, Office Assistant dsmith@salinakansas.org
Latron North, Talent Initiatives Specialist lnorth@salinakansas.org
Chamber Ribbon Cuttings

**Chiropractic Wellness Center** celebrates their move to a new building located at 1130 E. Cloud Street with a ribbon cutting and Business After Hours event!

**Exchange Bank** moved to a brand new building located at 1720 S. Ohio St. They celebrated by having a Business After Hours and ribbon cutting!

**Rolling Hills Zoo**, 625 N. Hedville Road, celebrated the official opening of their new water bottle refill stations with a ribbon cutting!

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One of our own!

Clare Stramel, Tourism Information Manager for the Chamber’s Visit Salina office, was recently featured in the Salina Journal’s workforce series. Clare has been with the Chamber for just over a year, and is a valuable addition to the team! Here, she assists Sara Hannus, a visitor from Sweden with info about what there is to do in Salina, and directions to Ad Astra Coffee and Book Store. We’re proud of you Clare!

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KSN Summer Road Trip

Visit Salina’s Clare Stramel and Kyle Weiser welcomed the KSN Summer Road Trip crew to Oakdale Park on July 22!
Salina to Host 2019 UAS Tech Forum

The Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Tech Forum is a gathering of entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, tech transfer professionals, economic development officials and other service providers in the UAS industry. Forum participants will have the opportunity to participate in sessions featuring industry experts discussing all the hottest topics related to unmanned aerial systems, access vetted investment opportunities, make quick pitches and the chance to connect with the most sought-after industry partners and leaders.

Regarded as the anchor event for the Unmanned Aerial Systems Cluster Initiative of Oklahoma and Kansas (UASCI), a program funded through a contract with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Tech Forum attracts a wide array of public and private sector professionals and leaders involved in the unmanned aerial systems industry.

Two days of nationally known keynote speakers plus varied other sessions highlight this event that also emphasizes networking opportunities and two important co-located events (see sidebar).

Local agencies partnering on the event include K-State Polytechnic, Salina Community Economic Development Organization, Salina Airport Authority, City of Salina, Saline County, Kansas Department of Transportation Aviation Department and Salina Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Local Tie

K-State Polytechnic’s Applied Aviation Research Center (AARC) is a leader in the unmanned aircraft systems industry. The AARC staff is comprised of subject-matter experts focused on enabling UAS innovation and influencing the commercialization of UAS. Centrally located in Salina, the AARC enjoys a permissive environment for access to the National Airspace System and access to diverse flight operation locations.

The AARC has a large and diverse fleet to support research, training, and consulting initiatives. Consisting of more than 40 aircraft, the fleet is made up of fixed-wing, rotary-wing and hybrid aircraft.

AARC is a core member of the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) UAS Center of Excellence Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence. Staff participates at the national level, and is a key partner for the Kansas Department of Transportation Integration Pilot Program (IPP), established to excel the UAS industry through real world, pragmatic, and expanded operations and experimentation in the National Aerospace System. With expert flight instructors, diverse aircraft, and unique flight instruction locations, the AARC provides unparalleled UAS training, offered at the Polytechnic campus and other locations across the country.

Salina is honored to have been chosen to host the UAS Tech Forum. Learn more about the event at www.uascluster.com
Good Sports

A brand new event for Salina, NEVER SURRENDER MMA: FULL BATTLE RATTLE, is coming to Tony’s Pizza Events Center’s Heritage Hall on Saturday, September 14 at 7:30 pm.

NEVER SURRENDER MMA is a new amateur and professional combat association that focuses on bringing awareness to, and assisting veterans who are experiencing PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). NEVER SURRENDER MMA is also a veteran owned business that provides live entertainment for the public, veterans and active duty military personnel. The organization has partnered with MVP (Military Veteran Project) to create “Never Give Up, Never Surrender, 22-0,” a veterans’ suicide awareness program which helps veterans with PTSD. An estimated 22 military veterans commit suicide each day. Proceeds from the event and donations collected assist veterans in buying gym memberships and equipment used in their PTSD therapy.

For more info, contact Marjorie Anderson at marjorie.anderson@spectraxp.com or call (785) 833-5174. Tickets for the event are available at the Tony’s Pizza Events Center Box Office, and online at tonyspizzaeventscenter.com

Another Great KKOA Leadsled Spectacular in the Books!

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. When it comes to the KKOA show, pics of the beautiful artwork on wheels, the wonderful people, and the dedicated Visit Salina/Chamber staff and volunteers is worth a million! Thanks to everyone who stepped up to host this wonderful group once again. The weather was perfect, and the show and surrounding events went just great! We look forward to helping them celebrate their 40th anniversary during the July 2020 event!
Kansas Employment Exploration Program

Latron North, Talent Initiatives Specialist for the Chamber, has scheduled two upcoming events focusing on the recruitment of military personnel to choose Salina as the next step in their careers. Persons leaving the military often possess talents and attributes valuable to diverse employers, and some are highly skilled in areas that could benefit very specific industries.

Both of these events are part of a state initiative entitled, “Kansas Employment Exploration Program” (KEEP). The KEEP program allows service members and their families the opportunity to explore employment opportunities and visit cities across Kansas. Based on historical data, 86% of transitioning service members will leave Kansas. Latron will represent Salina along with local employers in an effort to reduce that statistic, and bring some of that talent to our community.

The first event will be held on the Ft. Riley Military installation, Home of the Big Red 1, on August 20th, 10am-1pm. Latron will continue that recruitment campaign with the Salina Industry and City Tour, on September 27. This tour will bring 30 – 40 transitioning service personnel and their spouses to Salina from 8am-4pm to experience the community, and tour several local industries and campuses and hear from community leaders as well.

For more information about Workforce Development, contact Latron North at the Chamber, lnorth@salinakansas.org or (785) 827-9310, Ext. 127.

Partner News

Salina Airport Authority

Great news was shared recently regarding the enplanements on the United flights at Salina Regional Airport. Below is a comparison of enplanements, January through June for both 2018 and 2019.

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Continuing to increase enplanements and capturing more and more of the market are the most important steps in working toward additional air service for Salina. Remember to Fly Salina! Got to United.com to make reservations for future plans.

New Members

JAB IT PC  
Jason Bathon • 2055 S. Ohio St  
(785) 577-1659

COMFORT HEATING & AIR  
Tucker Hilbert • 720 N. Broadway  
(785) 822-7550

SIP, LLC  
Alan Hale • 400 N. Chicago • (785) 825-6663

JUNK IN THE TRUNK LLC  
Mary Shelton • 147 S. 4th Street  
(785) 577-9258

LADY IN RED  
Nicole Deatherage & Candi Gwennap  
P.O. Box 3541 • (785) 201-8095

BRAVO SLIDERS-N-BITES  
Benjamin Lee & Jazmine Hill • 1402 E. Iron  
(785) 577-4574

In The News

SALINA COMMUNITY THEATRE, 303 E. Iron, received accolades for their production of Lauren Gunderson’s Silent Sky - more awards than any other production at the national American Association of Community Theatres Festival (AACT-Fest) in Gettysburg, PA. “Silent Sky” was nominated along with three other theatres for Best Production. The five awards garnered by our talented artists include Best Director, Chaz Coberly; Outstanding Acting in a Featured Role, Vicki Price; Outstanding Acting in a Featured Role, Vickee Spicer; and Best Sound Design, Quenton Todd, plus a National Award of Excellence in Acting for Eric Cole. SCT is one of only three theatres ever to return to the National AACT-Fest. Congratulations SCT!

KANSAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY announces four new members were recently elected to serve three-year terms on the KWU Board of Trustees: Michael P. Gonzales (KS), Marilyn K. Kirk (IL), Steven B. Michel (KS) and Dr. William McCreary (UT). They join a distinguished group of 21 civic and business leaders that oversees the university and sets its future goals and priorities. The following officers for 2019-20 were also elected: Chair: Jeffrey H. Bieber (KWU 1971-CO); Immediate Past Chair: Emily-May Richards (AZ); Vice-Chair: Barry Weis (KWU 2010-Salina); Treasurer: Jon Starks, Salina; and Secretary: Jane A. Philbrick (KWU 1980-KS).

Auditions for the following SALINA SYMPHONY positions will be held Tues., Aug. 20, in room 215 of Pioneer Hall on of Kansas Wesleyan
Steve Murrison, Agent with Farmers Insurance - Steve Murrison Agency. Steve has been an Ambassador for three years. “Steve does a great job connecting our new members. I am very glad to have had him on our team for so long,” said LaCrista Brightbill, Membership and Community Relations Director. Steve will receive a $25 Smoky Hill Silver gift certificate for his work! Congratulations Steve!

Jay and Sharolyn Wagner are the owners and have been a member of the Chamber since June of 2014. Both Jay and Sharolyn graduated from KU then returned back to the area in the late 1980s to farm full-time and to raise a family. They both felt strongly about giving back and “building community”, so salvaging the antique Soda Fountain in Bennington was the perfect project!

The Linger Longer is very unique that it is one of the very few remaining authentic soda fountains in existence and is in the original 100+ year old building with its beautiful tin ceiling, marble soda fountain and back-bar. They continue to do it the old-fashioned way mixing soda drinks by hand, blend thick malts on the Hamilton-Beach, and create oldie but goodie treats like Green Rivers, Cheery Phosphates, and Chocolate Root Beers. After enjoying dessert or a sandwich be sure to browse the second largest collection of Dr Pepper antiques in the world, play some pinball or ping-pong while listening to a tune on their player piano. This place is definitely one of a kind!

Before summer is over, take a step back in time and treat your sweet tooth to The Linger Longer Soda Fountain and Sandwich Shop!

Liberty Hotel Group is having a Ribbon Cutting at the FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES, 2455 Virginia Avenue, on Wednesday September 4 at 4pm. Open House to follow Ribbon Cutting with food & beverages provided by Burger Theory, tours of the property, and fun drawings for prizes.

SMOKY HILL EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER announces a powerful event to be held October 14 9am-3:30pm at Webster Conference Center. Darrell Scott is the father of Rachel Scott, the first student killed in the 1999 Columbine tragedy. Since, Scott has been directly involved in issues of school violence, and the creation of “Rachel’s Challenge” a bullying and violence abatement program. The event is for educators, mental health professionals, law enforcement and community members. The cost is $65 per person. Contact Diane Mann at DMann@smokyhill.org for info, or register at register@smokyhill.org to attend.

This spring, KANEQUIP, INC. reached an agreement with Straub International to acquire their five locations in Great Bend, Hutchinson, Pratt, Wichita, and Salina. Larry Straub, CEO of Straub International, noted that they are excited to pass on their legacy as well as the care and support of their customers to the KanEquip organization. The five new KanEquip locations will continue to sell and service equipment from Mahindra, CrustBuster, Great Plains, and Land Pride. Polaris recreational vehicles will continue to be sold and serviced by the Salina location.

The July Ambassador of the Month is Steve Murrison, Agent with Farmers Insurance - Steve Murrison Agency. Steve has been an Ambassador for three years. “Steve does a great job connecting our new members. I am very glad to have had him on our team for so long,” said LaCrista Brightbill, Membership and Community Relations Director. Steve will receive a $25 Smoky Hill Silver gift certificate for his work! Congratulations Steve!
Right place. Right reason. Right now.

Salina Area Young Professionals

The Salina Area Young Professionals had a busy July and expects an even busier August! YPs kicked off July with another student loan repayment drawing! This quarter, applicants emailed the education chair their contact information as well as their favorite college memory. Our winner of this quarter’s drawing was Corey Egger from Coperion KTron. Congratulations Corey!

Last month, YPs were finally able to participate in the high/low ropes course event that was originally scheduled in May. Participants chose which course they wanted to undertake, then attempted the rock climbing wall. This event was a hot one but it was well received by all. Thanks for everyone who came out!

Last month was also the kickoff of the new YP book club. The kickoff included discussions on ways to get the book, introductions, drinks and snacks. Participants are encouraged to read at their own pace and meet again on August 12th for the book discussion meeting at the co-working space in The Temple. This meeting will give readers the chance to discuss the book and other topics with their fellow YPs.

Mark your calendar for this month’s social event: Thirsty Thursday at Johnny Rottens! Join us for drinks and a good time on Thursday, August 15th at 5:30pm!

Last month’s Lunch club was at Blue Skye Brewery & Eats. Attendees enjoyed their lunch break with pizza and fellow YPs. The next Lunch Club will be August 8th at Bogey’s. It’s always a great day for burgers and a shake!

***As of July 1st, all Young Professional Memberships and Sponsorships are ½ off! Please go to www.salinakansasyp.com for more information***