



# GNV NEWS



News and Information from Gainesville Regional Airport

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## **Eclipse Aviation and Airport Authority Break Ground on New Gainesville Maintenance Facility**

### *New Business at the Airport*

Eclipse Aviation, manufacturer of the revolutionary Eclipse 500 very light jet (VLJ), and the Gainesville-Alachua County Regional Airport Authority held a groundbreaking ceremony on April 3 to begin construction of the Eclipse Aviation factory service center. The Gainesville facility will be part of a network of seven U.S. Factory Service Centers dedicated to Eclipse 500 maintenance and support.

“We are excited to start building our first facility outside Albuquerque. Gainesville and the state of Florida have given tremendous support that will allow us to construct a state-of-the-art factory service center to serve all of our Eclipse 500 customers including DayJet in the southeast United States,” said Eclipse Aviation’s vice president of Sales and Product Support, Michael McConnell. “We look forward to operating out of the Gainesville Regional Airport and bringing economic growth to a business friendly state like Florida.”



McConnell was joined by Florida State Representative Ed Jennings, the Mayor of Gainesville, Pegeen Hanrahan and Ann Collett, Vice President for the Council for Economic Development.



“Having Eclipse Aviation come into our community brings such great economic opportunities for East Gainesville. This kind of growth and development is just what East Gainesville needs,” said Jim Stringfellow, Chair of the Airport Authority.

This new 61,000 square-foot facility will be complete in early 2007 and

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will initially house 15 Eclipse employees, with the ability to expand to over 160. The factory service center will consist of 45,000 square-feet of hangar space that can hold up to 12 Eclipse 500 aircraft at a time. Additional support areas include a 10,800 square-foot maintenance section and a 5,400 square-foot customer service area. The facility will accommodate multiple shift operations. Eclipse technicians at this facility will be able to accomplish all Eclipse 500 scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, including work on the Pratt & Whitney Canada PW610F engines.

“This company, with customers all over the world, will establish Gainesville Regional Airport as an



aviation hub of North Central Florida and have an economic ripple effect throughout our entire region. We are investing in technology and infrastructure for decades to come,” said State Representative Ed Jennings.

### ***The Project***

The \$11.2 million construction project was awarded to Scherer Construction & Engineering of Gainesville, Fla. The project will receive approximately 50 percent of its funding from the Florida Department of Transportation’s (FDOT) Aviation Work Program. The balance of the project will be financed by Compass Bank of Gainesville.

“It’s so exciting that the Eclipse Aviation factory service center will be in Gainesville. They are on the cutting-edge of the aviation industry and we are thrilled that they are bringing new jobs and investment to Gainesville,” said Mayor Hanrahan.

For more information about Eclipse Aviation, visit [www.eclipseaviation.com](http://www.eclipseaviation.com). ♦

## ***Congressman Cliff Stearns Presents \$2 Million Ceremonial Check to the Airport***

The Gainesville-Alachua County Regional Airport Authority met with Congressman Cliff Stearns to receive a ceremonial \$2 million check, representing much-needed funding for runway and taxiway improvements.

The Airport has requested that the FAA allow use of this fiscal year 2006 federal funding for taxiway lighting. With the assistance of Congressman Stearns, all of the Taxiway Alpha lighting will be replaced and a new electrical vault will be constructed.

In fiscal year 2005, Congressman Stearns supported a request for funding of a multi-modal project that resulted in a \$300,000 announcement of funding. ♦



## ***University Air Center Tells 200+ Kids, Teachers and Parents about Aviation***

On April 14 more than 200 Pre-K kids, parents and teachers from Bradford County visited the Airport to learn about aviation. It was an all-in-one field trip; they learned about the fire trucks, helicopters, a UAC training aircraft and a military jet (T-45) trainer. ♦

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Lieutenant Terry McCarthy draws their attention talking about the fire trucks



Captain Kurt Goldacker talks about the military jet trainer during a special trip made from the Naval Air Station in Meridian, Miss for this occasion.

## ***Delta Connection/ASA Talks to Students from Chiles Elementary about Careers in Aviation***

**L**aDonna Hudson and Tony Zangrilli with Delta Connection/ASA talked to five classes about aviation at Chiles Elementary School's Career Day in April.

"The children were attentive and asked some very good questions," Hudson said. "They were intrigued by the adventures of the airline industry and really liked the fact that we can fly for free." ♦



## **AIRPORT EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*May 11:*

The Airport will have a booth at the Chamber's Business Showcase.

*May:*

University Air Center will have a new look in its customer service area, with new hard wood floors, a flat screen TV and new furniture.

*July (Day TBA):*

Phase 2 Terminal Renovation Groundbreaking

*July (Day TBA):*

Pancake Breakfast Fly-In

*July:*

Capt. William A. Pokorny Jr. will begin his new position as the General Manager of University Air Center. He is a retiring Navy ROTC Commander at UF. He was an F-18 pilot and graduated from UF in 1976 from the inaugural Navy ROTC class. Capt. Pokorny served in the U.S. Navy for 30 years.

*September:*

Gulf Atlantic Airways Inc. dba University Air Center will celebrate 25 years in business.

For more information on these events, please contact the Airport at 373-0249.

## ***Gator Basketball Team Arrives at the Airport as National Champions***



## *A Few Words From the Airport Authority...*

As many of you already know, in April a tragic accident occurred at the Airport taking the lives of three residents in our community. Sunday, April 16 is a day that will not be forgotten for many.

Our hearts go out to the families and friends of those lost in this tragedy. To all those who had a hand in assisting the Airport, I would like to say... Thank You.

Rick Crider  
Chief Executive Officer

## *Airport's Chili Cook-Off and WalkAmerica 2006*

Gainesville Regional Airport has been a proud supporter of the March of Dimes, coordinating numerous events to help this worthy cause. The Airport hosted its 4th Annual Chili Cook-Off on March 9 in the airport lobby. We had 11 chili entries! The event was a huge success and raised approximately \$500.

The airport had 7 walkers participate in the 8.6 mile walk on March 25. Employees of the Authority, Delta Connection, and US Airways Express manned the spirit station and encouraged the parade of walkers. The spirit station supplied walkers with refreshments and snacks, provided by Canteen Vending. The Airport received an award for raising more than \$5,000 for the March of Dimes.

### **Gainesville-Alachua County Regional Airport Authority Board Members**

James L. Stringfellow, Sr. Chair  
Marilyn L. Tubb, Vice-Chair  
Kinnon Thomas, Secretary/Treasurer  
Billy Brashear  
Joe G. Dunlap  
Peter L. Johnson  
W. E. "Mac" McEachern  
Jon D. Morris  
Colette M. Taylor

**A special thanks to...** Canteen Vending Corp. for providing all the snacks for the Airport Spirit Station, and to Delta Connection/ASA for raising \$1200 in "shoes" and for helping at the Spirit Station. We exceeded our goal for this year and look forward to continued success in 2007. ♦



*The 06' Judges:  
Left: Jason Berger (Northwest Airlink) Bob Rose (Bob Rose Show), Ken Williams (Delta/ASA) & Tate Fisher (Airport)*



*The winners of this year's chili cook-off: 1st, Joyce Coughlin, 2nd, John Kelley and 3rd, Denise Sheppard.*

## *Airport Booth at the Gainesville Home Show*

*Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the Airport's booth at the 2006 Home Show on March 4 and 5. People were genuinely interested to hear and see what's happening at the Airport*



This Newsletter is brought to you by the Gainesville-Alachua County Regional Airport Authority. For comments, suggestions or article ideas, please contact Michelle Danisovszky, Manager, Public Relations and Governmental Affairs, at [michelle@flygainesville.com](mailto:michelle@flygainesville.com) or 373-0249.