A third airport for Chicago?  Building Peotone Airport would benefit travelers and economy

By Mark Reutter

Building a new airport at Peotone, rather than expanding O’Hare, could save travelers $500 million a year and spur economic development in Central Illinois, a UI economist says.

Robert Resek of the UI Institute of Government and Public Affairs estimates that an airport at Peotone, 40 miles south of Chicago’s Loop, would reduce air fares by introducing “real competition” among airlines. This is not likely to happen even if O’Hare is expanded, as proposed by the city of Chicago, because it is so heavily dominated by two carriers, United and American.

What kind of airport?

Robert Resek believes Peotone could best serve Illinois residents as a starting point for travelers living between Chicago’s Loop and Central Illinois, not as a national airport. The proposed site is 85 miles north of Urbana-Champaign near I-57 and the Illinois Central (Amtrak) line. About 2.5 million people live within an hour’s drive of the proposed site.

The airport would offer service to major U.S. cities, such as New York, Dallas, Washington and Los Angeles, but without the network of international and regional flights found at O’Hare.

“It would serve in a fashion similar to the John Wayne Airport in Orange County, California,” Resek said. “It would make air travel more convenient to many residents, but not reduce the level of service at O’Hare, which should continue to grow as a national and international hub.”

Current plans call for a scaled-down airport with a single 12,000-foot runway, a cross-wind runway and a 12-gate terminal that could serve as many as 2 million passengers annually. A future “full-build” option envisions a huge 25,000-acre airport with three runways and 37 gates able to handle 6.2 million people a year. —MR

Although government airport restrictions, known as slot controls, were recently lifted at O’Hare, competition among private air carriers is still limited by the lack of available gates and runway access, according to Resek. “Real competition from a different airport will make a real difference in the prices we pay.”

In addition to increased air competition, an airport at Peotone “will make air travel much more convenient for those who live or work south of the Loop, along with many who live farther downstate. Expansion of O’Hare will merely focus on connecting travelers and current users of the facility who already have extensive service.”

Peotone would probably cost a little more – and perhaps less – than proposed capacity increases at O’Hare, especially when figuring in new roads and other infrastructure needed for either project, Resek said.

A third Chicago airport at Peotone was first proposed a decade ago by Jim Edgar, who was governor at the time, and has won the endorsement of Gov. George Ryan. But Chicago Mayor Richard Daley is adamantly opposed to the idea and wants to use federal and city money to add more aircraft terminals – but not more runways – to O’Hare. Smaller Midway Airport also would be improved.

“Consumers of air travel have been forgotten” in all the political maneuvering, Resek said. He characterized statements by the airlines now using O’Hare that they would not fly into Peotone as a red herring. “If it’s built, the airlines will use it.”

Comet LINEAR may provide interesting nighttime viewing

By Becky Mabry

A comet from a far off distant region of the solar system is going to be passing by Earth from now until the end of the month, according to UI astronomy professor Jim Kaler. And if you’d like to see it, just look north in the evening sky, shortly after sundown.

Comet LINEAR, may well be visible to the naked eye, but using binoculars will certainly improve the chances of finding it, Kaler said.

“It’s not going to be like the last one,” Kaler said. “It’s one of the brighter ones, but it’s not one of those once-in-a-generation comets. It’s not going to be anything spectacular.”

Comet LINEAR is rapidly moving south of the Big Dipper’s handle several degrees a day. By the end of the month it will be out of viewing range, according to Kaler. The comet will be brightest about July 23. It will come within 71 million miles of the sun on July 25.

This is considered to be a new comet and this journey may be its first time into our inner solar system. This one is coming from a long way out, he said.

“Most of the comets like this are in a large cloud called the Oort Cloud and it could easily extend 100,000 times the distance between Earth and sun,” said Kaler. “There are probably a trillion of these comets out there. Most of them will never get into the solar system, but a few of them, like this one, do once in a while. They are debris of the planet formation and they got tossed out into this huge cloud once the planets formed. It may never have been here before.”

Comet LINEAR was discovered in 1999. Its name is an acronym for the Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research system, which is the asteroid research project that discovered it.

“It’ll be passing south of the [Big Dipper] between the 23rd and the 25th and you may be able to pick it up then,” Kaler said.

Finder charts, photos and updated information about Comet LINEAR is on the Web at http://meteors.com/cometlinear. ◆
Financial and administrative systems

**Natural sentences extracted from the image:**

- The Office of Business and Financial Services (OBFS), formerly known as Business Affairs, is offering free workshops for university financial and administrative systems. These sessions, which promote continuous improvement of campus financial management, are offered to department heads, as well as departmental business office staff members. Selected refreshers training every other week is recommended. Workshop locations will vary.
- Reservations may be made by phone at or the OBFS Web site, www.obfs.uiuc.edu. Class descriptions and the most current workshops also are on the Web.
- **The workshops:**
  - **Allowable Costs**
    - 10:30-mon. Oct. 25; Judy Lubben, 244-4748.
  - **Cash Handling**
    - Classes held for departments upon request. Jane Brown, 333-6623.
  - **Contracts Policies and Procedures Update**
    - 2-4 p.m. Oct. 19; Judy Talbot-Jones, 333-0560.
  - **Electronic Order System (EOS)**
  - **Electronic Standard Time Report (ESTR)**
    - 9:30-11 a.m. Oct. 5; Mary Shobe, 333-5895.
  - **Gift Processing and Stewardship Services**
    - 9:30-11 a.m., Oct. 13; Teresa Brown, 333-6623.
  - **Internal Controls, The Essentials of**
    - 9:11 a.m. Nov. 8; Ed Mascorro, 333-9900.
  - **Invoice-Vouchers**
    - 10:30-11 a.m. Oct. 12 or Nov. 16; Bobbie Pittman, 333-0780.
  - **KEY/MASTER**
    - 9:30-10:30 a.m. Oct. 26; Mary Shobe, 333-5895.
  - **KEY/MASTER—Receiving for Students Accounts Receivable**
    - Individually arranged; Alice Lofus, 244-2924.
  - **Ledge 3 Accounts**
    - 8:30-10 a.m. Oct. 19; Marcia Miller, 333-4568.
  - **Property Accounting—Custodial**
    - Responsibilities
      - 9:11 a.m. Nov. 15; Cheryl Ballinger, 244-0039.
  - **Property Accounting—Introduction/Acquisitions**
    - 9:11 a.m. Nov. 8; Cheryl Ballinger, 244-0039.
  - **Property Accounting—PAS On-line (New)**
    - 3-4:30 p.m. Oct. 12; Mary Shobe, 333-5895.
  - **Proprietal Systems Access**
    - 1:30-5 p.m. Sept. 21; Judy Lubben, 244-4748.
  - **Proprietal Systems Access**
    - 10:30-noon, Oct. 4, Nov. 1 or Dec. 6. Alana Bennett, 333-6232.
  - **Sales Invoice/General Accounts Receivable**
    - Individually arranged; Donna Fogerson, 244-6022.
  - **Stores Service Voucher and Transfer Voucher Preparation**
    - 1:30-3 p.m. Sept. 20; Marcia Miller, 333-4568.
  - **Transportation Functions**
    - 10:30 noon. Oct. 12; Robin Fenner, 333-3561.
  - **Travel Vouchers, Completion of**
    - 9:10-3 a.m. Sept. 19 or Nov. 9.
  - **Travel Vouchers, Policies and Guidelines**
  - **UFAS, Introduction to**
    - 9:30-11 a.m. Nov. 15; Marcia Miller, 333-4568.
  - **UFAS, Online**
    - 1:30-3 p.m. Oct. 18; Marcia Miller, 333-4568.
  - **University Payables (New)**
    - 9:11 a.m. Sept. 26; Bobbie Pittman, 333-0780.
  - **University Library E-mail notices now being used**
    - The University Library is now able to distribute notices to faculty and staff members and graduate students through e-mail.
    - Undergraduate students will begin receiving their library e-mails by e-mail in August.
    - E-mail notices are currently being sent to the "uiuc.edu" accounts of faculty and staff members and students. People who wish to receive e-mail through another account, such as a departmental server account, an AOL or Yahoo account, can have their mail forwarded to that account by contacting their preferred address via the e-mail field of the Electronic Directory listing (also known as Ph). Instructions for doing this can be found at www.uiuc.edu/ccost/pubs/all/ 2000ed/index.html. The e-mail listing will continue to receive library notices in print format.
    - E-mail notification covers all types of notices, including overdue reminders, recalls and notification that materials are available for pick-up.

**Krahnert Center for the Performing Arts**

Building improvements continue

Krahnert Center for the Performing Arts building continues this season as it has for the past three summers. As this season’s performances come to an end, renovation activities have been increasing.

The Krahnert Center ticket office will be closed to walk-up business from July 23 through Aug. 13. In addition to renovations to the ticket office, a new ticketing system is being installed. Patrons can still place orders by mail, on the Web (www.kcpa.uiuc.edu/kcpa) or by telephone.

Krahnert Center’s lobby floor is being fully repaired and refurbished. This process is under way and will be completed by mid-September, Sept. 10. The Promenade Shop and Intermezzo remain open during the month of July; the final phases of work on the lobby floor may result in a short period of closure for both.

Additional lobby-area improvements include new tables and chairs for Intermezzo and for the Krahnert Room. Additional perimeter benches and the expansion of Intermezzo will provide more seating in the lobby, and coat check will now be completely enclosed within the Paterson Service office area.

Krahnert Center’s four theaters are being repaired and painted, as are Level 3 rehearsal rooms and classrooms. In addition, the Colwell Playhouse lighting infrastructure is being upgraded.

Building improvements are supported by the UI and College of Fine and Applied Arts, the Krahnert Center Building and Equipment Fund, the Studio Renovation Fund and corporate sponsors.
A big part of your job is answering questions about plants. Do people just call you? Yes, actually they do. We advertise that we are available if people have questions. That’s probably one of the big things — just letting people know we’re here.

Tell me about the Master Gardener program. What is it? It’s 55 hours of training that is held once a week for four months. Before they train 10 hours of training is finished, they do 70 hours of internship. And a lot of that time is spent in the office answering questions from the public. We also have some community gardens that the Master Gardeners plant and maintain. Our big project is the Idea Garden on South Lincoln Avenue. That project is a major endeavor for the Champaign County Master Gardeners. They plan it, they plant it, they design it, they maintain it, they raise funds for it. They do everything. And it’s a wonderful resource for the community and people just love it. We try to keep all the plants labeled so people can take notes and put the plants in their own gardens.

We also have a community garden at the Champaign County Nursing Home for the Alzheimer’s unit and we also have a speaker’s bureau that provides Master Gardeners for meetings and programs.

What’s your background? I grew up in the UI. My bachelor’s is in ornamental horticulture and my master’s is in education, with a heavy emphasis on horticulture because I always knew I wanted to do education with horticulture. But my family literally lived all of their lives in Illinois. I was the greenhouse coordinator for the UI greenhouses and its horticulture department, back in the day. We had a head of the department. And then I was a landscape designer for Greenview Companies, and was a plant propagator for Wandells. I got a lot of practical experience in horticulture and that’s helped immensely in what I do now.

Where did you grow up? Were you raised on a farm? I grew up at Farmer City. My dad was a pharmacist and had the local drug store but we lived in a small farm. It was sort of a hobby farm, I guess they call them now, but it was a great way to grow up. We had animals and a barn and I got interested in gardening there.

You’re frequently on television and radio. What kinds of those things do you do? In this area we have really good support when it comes to TV and radio.

You are the ‘Master Gardener’. I appear every other month or so, sometimes serving as substitute host. On WILL’s ‘Focus SBO’ we do a show like ‘Illinois Gardener’ where people call in and ask questions.

And I have a column every Saturday in the News-Gazette, that we also run on our Home Extension Web page. I get all kinds of questions from all over the world.

What about family life? Are you married? Yes, my husband is Mike Richards, the Renaissance Art Studio and he does stained glass and antique furniture restoration.

Do you have children? No, we have no dogs. They were all orphans. We never planned on having three dogs but they ended up finding us. And they’re great company.

Where do you and your husband live? We live outside Monticello on about 2 acres. About 15 minutes from the UI, and property where there was just a barn and a small shed. We love being out in the country and it gives us plenty of space for gardening.

Here’s the big question. What’s your garden like? My garden? It is magnificent ... in my mind. This is my busy season at work so I spend a lot of time at work and I’d love to spend more time in my own garden. I probably get about 15 minutes at work and I’d love to spend more than that.

Do you have a compost pile? Yes, I have a compost pile. And my husband is building me this really nice garden shed and we’re going to have a greenhouse attached to it. One of my dreams has been to have a small greenhouse of my own because I like to start my own plants.

What kinds of things do you do for fun? Probably garden. But my other great love is hiking. We do some camping and I like to hike. And certainly my other love is some of the natural areas around here. Allerton Park is one of my absolute loves. If I’m not in my own garden I’m probably hiking around Allerton Park, it’s magnificent.

Do you like working for the UI? I love the university. There are all kinds of people I can call if I have got any questions about any insects or diseases, plus almost any kind of thing. The UI encourages and provides those kinds of learning opportunities and I like to take advantage of that.

— Interview by Becky Mabry
It’s a wrap

Bill Geist was on and around the Quad July 18 during a taping of a video that the present’s office will use to promote the Urbana campus. Geist spent the day exiting familiar buildings and delivering lines from various locations on the Quad for the videotape. Geist, a UI alumnus, wrote the “About New York” column for The New York Times before moving to CBS, where he is a regular commentator for “Sunday Morning.” The CBS Evening News” and “30 minutes.” He has written several books, including the best-selling “Little Lone Confederate.”

July 20 to Aug 6

Barefoot in the Park. 7 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.
27 Thursday

“Tennessee Women.” 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.
22 Friday

“Tennessee Women.” 7 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.
26 Wednesday

“Barefoot in the Park.” 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.
27 Thursday

“Murder at the Howard Johnson’s.” 7:30 p.m. 101 International Studies Building. In Romanian with subtitles. Russian and East European Center.
28 Friday

“Tennessee Women.” 7 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.
29 Saturday

Marathon of Music Recital. Akiko Konishi, piano. 5 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Master of Music Recital. Huyn-Feong Lee, piano. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.
30 Sunday

“Songs and Dialogues: An Evening of Vocal Music.” 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Students of Eric Dalheim.

topics

death


calendar of events

July 20, 2000

Inside Illinois

Entries for the calendar should be sent 15 days before the desired publication date to Inside Illinois Calendar, News Bureau, 807 S. Wright St., Suite 520 East, Champaign, MC 314, or to insideill@uiuc.edu. More information is available from Marty Yeakel at 333-1085. The online UIUC Events Calendar is at www.uiuc.edu/uicalendar/cal.html.