Descriptive Summary

Creator Information  Eiff, Mary Ann, 1944-

Title  Purdue Air Race Classic Team papers

Collection Identifier  UA 22.02


Abstract  The papers feature Purdue Air Race Classic team photographs, clippings, correspondence, general race information; including participant lists and race results, Purdue team updates provided throughout the races and Air Race Classic programs which document Purdue’s involvement in the races from 1994 – 2005. The papers also contain numerous clippings about the tragic plane crash that occurred at the Purdue Airport in September 1997, which killed Purdue Air Race Classic team member, Julie Swengel, fellow student, Anthony Kinkade and their instructor, Jeremy Sanborn. Included are Sanborn’s and Swengel’s memorial booklets. The materials were provided by Mary Ann Eiff, Purdue assistant professor of Aviation Technology and faculty adviser for Purdue Women in Aviation.

Extent  1 cubic feet (2 mss boxes)

Finding Aid Author  Mary A. Sego, 2013

Languages  English

Repository  Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:  ASC

Access Restrictions:  Collection is open for research.

Acquisition Information:  Donated by Mary Ann Eiff, November 26, 2007.

Accession Number:  20071126
Subjects and Genres

Persons
Eiff, Mary Ann

Organizations
Air Race Classic

Topics
Air Race Classic
Air Race Classic--Purdue University
Flight Archives at Purdue University
Purdue University. Department of Aviation Technology

Form and Genre Types
Clippings
Correspondence
Miscellaneous materials
Photographs--Color
Programs

Occupations
Pilots (Aeronautics)
History of the Air Race Classic

Women’s air racing all started in 1929 with the First Women’s Air Derby. Twenty pilots raced from Santa Monica, CA to Cleveland, OH, site of the National Air Races. Racing continued through the 1930s and was renewed again after WWII when the All Women’s Transcontinental Air Race (AWTAR), better known as the Powder Puff Derby, came into being. The All Women’s Transcontinental Air Race held its 30th, final and commemorative flight in 1977. The Air Race Classic, Ltd. stepped in to continue the tradition of transcontinental speed competition for women pilots and staged its premier race. The Air Race Classic was reincorporated in 2002 into the Air Race Classic, Incorporated.

The early air races were the “on to” type, with noon and night control stops, and the contestants more or less stayed together. In that manner, weather and flying conditions were practically the same for each entrant and the race officials could release standings to the media after each day of racing.

The current race routes are approximately 2,400 statute miles in length, and the contestants are usually given four days, flying visual-flight rules (VFR) in daylight hours, to reach the terminus. Each plane is assigned a handicap speed – and the goal is to have the actual ground speed be as far over the handicap speed as possible. The pilots are thus given the leeway to play the elements, holding out for better weather, winds, etc. The objective is to fly the “perfect” cross-country. In this type of race, the official standings cannot be released until the final entrant has crossed the finish line. Actually, the last arrival can be the winner.

Scoring techniques evolved over the years, and in 1952 the All Women’s Transcontinental Air Race began using the handicap system of scoring. The Air Race Classic has continued to use this type of scoring throughout its history. The 1929-30s races flew shorter legs and made more stops than the current races. Now the legs are 280 to 320 statute miles, and seven or eight control stops are designated for either landing or fly-by. The races are open to all women with fixed wing aircraft from 145 to 570 horsepower. In earlier days, the fastest airplane with no specified handicap was in a good position to win, if it held together over the long haul and there was no big navigational error committed. Now the handicapping system is used – each plane flying against its own speed. Supposedly any entry has an equal chance of victory, depending on the accuracy of the handicapping. All participants are true winners in their own right, flying the best possible race.

Award wise, the Air Race Classic started in 1977 with an $8,550 purse for the top-ten crews, with additional leg prizes for those finishing outside the selected group of ten. The awards have been increased over the years, so that the current top-ten purse is $15,000.

The Air Race Classic is the longest-running all-female airplane race in the world. Purdue University teams have competed in the Air Race Classic since 1994. Mary
Ann Eiff, assistant professor of Aviation Technology was the faculty advisor to Purdue’s chapter of Women in Aviation when Purdue teams first took part in the race. Purdue University hosted the race in 2005.

Sources:
and http://www.tech.purdue.edu/News_and_Events/Stories/?ID=112
Collection Description

Scope

The Purdue Air Race Classic Team papers (1994-2005; 1 cubic feet) document the Purdue Air Race Classic teams’ involvement in the race. The papers feature Purdue Air Race Classic team photographs, clippings, correspondence, general race information; including participant lists and race results, Purdue team updates provided throughout the races and Air Race Classic programs which document Purdue’s involvement in the races from 1994 – 2005. Some of the miscellaneous materials include a pamphlet from the “Round the World Air Race,” which features Margaret Ringenberg, a flyer announcing Putnam County Flying Service, “Pam’s Place,” and correspondence, photographs, and press material from Sheila von Geyso to Professor Mary Ann Eiff and Dr. Gary Eiff, in regards to bronze bust of aviation pioneer, Amelia Earhart, created by von Geyso, upon Earhart’s 100th anniversary, September 15, 1995. There are also obituaries for Amelia Earhart’s mechanic, Ruckins McKneely Jr. and Earhart’s sister, Grace Muriel Earhart Morrissey. The papers also contain numerous clippings about the tragic plane crash that occurred at the Purdue Airport in September 1997, which killed Purdue Air Race Classic team member, Julie Swengel, fellow student, Anthony Kinkade and their instructor, Jeremy Sanborn. Included are Sanborn’s and Swengel’s memorial booklets. The materials were provided by Mary Ann Eiff, Purdue assistant professor of Aviation Technology and faculty adviser for Purdue Women in Aviation. The papers are organized into 7 series and each is in chronological order:

Arrangement

1. Purdue’s First Air Race Classic Team – Krystal Lewis and Heather Penney, 1994 (0.25 cubic feet).
This series documents the first year Purdue had a team in the Air Race Classic. There are 23 team and race related photographs, clippings from local newspapers, newsletters and magazines. Also included are correspondence, race lists, updates, results and an Air Race Classic program. A few miscellaneous items are also contained in this series, such as a pamphlet from the “Round the World Air Race,” which features Margaret Ringenberg and a transparency with the race route and callout for participants.

2. Purdue’s Second Air Race Classic Team – Krystal Lewis and Lauren Nicholson, 1995 (0.125 cubic feet).
Contained in this series are 8 team and race related photographs, numerous clippings, correspondence and a detailed race report from the team. Also included are race result information and updates, press materials, donor correspondence and donation thank-you letters and an Air Race Classic program. Miscellaneous items are also found in this series; a flyer announcing Putnam County Flying Service, “Pam’s Place” and correspondence, photographs, and press material from Sheila von
Geyso to Professor Mary Ann Eiff and Dr. Gary Eiff, in regards to bronze bust of aviation pioneer, Amelia Earhart, created by von Geyso, upon Earhart’s 100th anniversary, September 15, 1995.

3. Purdue’s Third Air Race Classic Team – Lauren Nicholson and Jackie Battipaglia, Winners of Air Race Classic, 1996 (0.125 cubic feet). This series features Purdue’s third team and the winners of the 1996 Air Race Classic. Included are clippings from numerous local newspapers, newsletters and a front cover feature in The International Women Pilots Magazine, general race information, race updates and an Air Race Classic program.

4. Purdue’s Fourth Air Race Classic Team – Jacqueline Battipaglia and Julie Swendel, 1997 and Plane Crash at Purdue Airport, September, 1997 (0.08 cubic feet). In this series are a Purdue Aviation Technology memorandum and Air Race Classic planning notes, cards with the race route, clippings and a race program. This series also contains numerous clippings about the tragic plane crash that occurred at the Purdue Airport in September 1997, which killed Purdue Air Race Classic team member, Julie Swengel, fellow student, Anthony Kinkade and their instructor, Jeremy Sanborn. Included are Sanborn’s and Swengel’s memorial booklets and correspondence sent from Purdue Air Race Classic donors after the accident.

5. Purdue’s fifth Air Race Classic Team – Amanda Zerr and Raegan Frazier, Rookie Award Winners, 1998 (0.08 cubic feet). Included are an Air Race Classic newsletter, card with race route, clippings about the Purdue team and their race updates, general race information, banquet program and an Air Race Classic program. Also included are 1 year anniversary newspaper clippings honoring those killed in the Purdue Airport plane crash in 1997. Miscellaneous items include an obituary for Amelia Earhart’s mechanic, Ruckins McKneely Jr. and Earhart’s sister, Grace Muriel Earhart Morrissey.

6. Purdue’s 2004 Air Race Classic Team – Tina Lukas and Allison Martin, 2004 (0.08 cubic feet). This series only contains one newspaper clipping about the team from the local J&C Weekly.

7. Purdue’s 2005 Air Race Classic Teams - #5, Tina Lukas and Katherine Conrad and #6, Sarah Andersen and Kirsten Korkus; Purdue Hosts Race, 2005 (0.25 cubic feet). This series contains clippings about the Purdue teams and Purdue serving as hosts for the Air Race Classic. Also included are race updates provided by Mary Ann Eiff, advisor to the teams.

Descriptive Rules
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information
Materials have been placed in chronological order. All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves, acid-free folders, and acid-free boxes. All newsprint has been
photocopies and original newspaper clippings have been retained for display purposes, with photocopies made available for research.
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Box 1  Purdue Air Race Classic Teams 1 – 3, 1994-1996

Series 1. Purdue’s First Air Race Classic Team – Krystal Lewis and Heather Penney, 1994
(0.25 cubic feet)

Folder
1. 23 Photographs of Purdue’s first Air Race Classic team, Krystal Lewis and Heather Penney, 1994
2. Clippings, Correspondence, Race Lists, Materials and Updates, March 1994 – June 1994
   Item
   2. (Spring 1994, Issue no. 10). First Purdue Team Participates in Air Race Classic. Purdue University technology today: A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of the School of Technology. p. 3. [1 copy of entire newsletters, along with copy of the article]
   5. List of donors to Women in Aviation Air Race Classic, race data, sample donor correspondence from Krystal Lewis and Heather Penney, and order form for race memorabilia, 1994
   6. Air Race Classic, Purdue University Competition Team UP-DATE, authored by Mary Ann Eiff, Advisor, June 20, 1994 – June 27, 1994 [2 copies of updates]
   8. Cover sheet for fax transmission to Indianapolis Star for race update and “PR” for Purdue’s Air Race Classic team, from Gary Eiff, June 24, 1994


Item
2. Correspondence, from Mary Ann Eiff, Advisor, Purdue Women in Aviation to Ms. Pauline Glasson, Air Race Classic, July 17, 1994 [2 copies]
3. Correspondence, from Mary Ann Eiff, Advisor, Purdue Women in Aviation to Amy M. Carmien, Women in Aviation, Incorporated, July 22, 1994
5. Pamphlet (photocopied) featuring Margaret Ringenberg, Round the World Air Race, 1994

Series 2. Purdue’s Second Air Race Classic Team – Krystal Lewis and Lauren Nicholson, 1995

(0.125 cubic feet)

Folder

5. 8 Photographs of Purdue’s second Air Race Classic team, Krystal Lewis and Lauren Nicholson, 1995
6. Clippings, Correspondence, Race Lists, Updates and Miscellaneous Materials, 1995

Item

3. Correspondence, Race report, from pilot, Krystal Lewis and co-pilot, Lauren Nicholson to Dean Gentry, School of Technology, July 3, 1995
4. Various race result information, press material and donation thank-you letters, circa July 5, 1995
5. Press release transmission from Mary Ann Eiff, Advisor for Women in Aviation to Victor Herr, Business Writer, Purdue University, July 6, 1995
7. Correspondence from Diana Nichols, to Susan P. Havas, career
development and jobs information, November 2, 1995

8. Correspondence from Lauren Nicholson, Purdue Air Race Classic Team to Mr. Douglas Voss, Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., (request for funding) November 9, 1995


10. Flyer, “Announcing Putnam County Flying Service,” “Pam’s Place” noted, Bill Sanders, undated

11. Correspondence, photographs, and press material from Sheila von Geyso to Professor Mary Ann Eiff and Dr. Gary Eiff, in regards to bronze bust of aviation pioneer, Amelia Earhart, created by von Geyso, upon Earhart’s 100th anniversary, September 15, 1995


Series 3. Purdue’s Third Air Race Classic Team – Lauren Nicholson and Jackie Battipaglia, Winners of Air Race Classic, 1996 (0.125 cubic feet)

Folder

8. Clippings, Correspondence, General Information and Updates, 1996


3. Purdue University Competition Team, ’96 Air Race Classic, UP-DATE, authored by Mary Ann Eiff, Advisor, June 17 – 24, 1996


7. Correspondence from Rosemary Emhoff to Pamela O’Brien, July 1, 1996

8. Correspondence from Betty Vinson to Mary Ann Eiff, July 3, 1996


11. (Fall 1996, issue no. 15). Purdue Students Win Air Race. *Purdue
University technology today: A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of the School of Technology. p. 3.


Box 2 Purdue Air Race Classic Teams 4 – 5, 1997-1998 and 2004 – 2005


(0.08 cubic feet)

Folder
1. Clippings, Correspondence, General Information and Memorial Service Programs, 1997

Item
1. Aviation Technology Memorandum and Air Race Classic planning notes, May 16, 1997

2. Cards with Air Race Classic route, June 24 – 27, 1997 [2 copies]


12. Webster, Jessica; Priest, Jim. (1997, September 15). Tragedies strike campus: Plane crash kills Purdue students, instructor Friday.


16. Correspondence from Pamela S. Ritter, Director of Development, School of Technology, Purdue University, to Mr. and Mrs. Edmund F. Bell, September 15, 1997.


24. Correspondence and copy of poem, “The Sound of Wings,” (by Amelia Earhart) from Virginia B. Ball to Pamela S. Ritter, Director of Development, School of Technology, Purdue University, October 7, 1997


**Series 5. Purdue’s Fifth Air Race Classic Team – Amanda Zerr and Raegan Frazier, Rookie Award Winners, 1998**

(0.08 cubic feet)

**Folder**

3. Clippings, Correspondence, General Information and Updates, 1998

**Item**

3. Resumes and cover letters for Amanda Zerr and Raegan Frazier, 1997
10. Correspondence, to “Pamela” from Eileen Skudberg, June 10, 1998
11. Air Race Classic general information and results, June 1998
15. Wolff, Christine. (undated). Females only...family only: 3 generations fly in 1 plane. *The Cincinnati Enquirer*. Includes a photograph of Amanda Zerr. page unknown.

Series 6. Purdue’s 2004 Air Race Classic Team – Tina Lukas and Allison Martin

(0.08 cubic feet)

Folder
5. Clipping, 2004
Item
Series 7. Purdue’s 2005 Air Race Classic Teams – #5, Tina Lukas and Katherine Conrad and #6, Sarah Andersen and Kirsten Korkus; Purdue Hosts Race
(0.25 cubic feet)

Folder
6. Clippings and Updates, 2005
Item
2. (2005, June 20). Headlines – Making History: Walking in the footsteps of Amelia Earhart, four Purdue women will race in airplanes to be the best female pilots in a national competition. For the first time this long-honored tradition, Purdue will host the event. *The Exponent*. Front page. [3 copies]
6. Purdue University Competition Teams, 2005 Air Race Classic, UP-DATE, authored by Mary Ann Eiff, Advisor, June 21 – 24, 2005