UTAH

U. courts future Edisons

CAREERS » U. of U. engineering students and faculty encouraged high schoolers to enter the field during “Meet an Inventor Day” on Saturday. Engineering is invention, and it can change the world, one speaker said.

Brother: Pilot of N.Y. plane was no risk-taker

Plane on autopilot

The plane was on autopilot until just before it went down in icy weather, indicating that the pilot may have ignored federal safety recommendations.

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
The Salt Lake Tribune

When he thinks of the last moments of flight 3407 to Buffalo, N.Y., Melvin Renslow sees his brother struggling to right the plane and, failing that, trying to crash it without hurting anyone.

“I know that he and everyone in that cockpit tried to even things out and tried to land the plane,” Renslow, a 43-year-old computer programmer from Pleasant Grove, said. “That’s my opinion, that all of those pilots in that plane were doing everything they could to bring the plane back to stability.”

But it won’t be. The aircraft crashed Thursday evening, killing one person on the ground and all 49 aboard, including Renslow’s brother, Marvin Renslow, 46, of Lutz, Fla., a suburb of Tampa.

“My brother was not one to take risks. It was always by the book. Everything had to be in order,” Renslow said. “He took his flying very seriously.”

Marvin Renslow started as a reservation officer in the airline industry shortly after graduating from high school with plans to become a pilot. His brother, Melvin, worked for Southwest Airlines as a flight attendant.

Donations

Donate to college fund for Marvin’s two children:

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Renslow Family

Immigration bills: They ask the fearful to call their legislators

By SHEENA MCAFARLAND
The Salt Lake Tribune

Enrique Castaneda fled from his home in Chiapas, Mexico, to escape the violence that filled the streets there.

He knew his family wouldn’t be safe, and that his children had little chance of a successful future if he stayed. He recently settled in Midvale, and finds himself yet again fearing for his children’s futures. “All these plans that I have for my family are going to be canceled because I can’t be stable in my work,” Castaneda said through an interpreter. “It’s hard to be focused because I don’t know if I’m going to get caught today or tomorrow or the next day. I just try not to think about these new laws because it terrifies me.”

That fear is prevalent throughout much of the Latino community. Documented and undocumented immigrants fear racial profiling will increase and will their chances of being targets of racial discrimination. Some are frustrated at failed attempts in the past to have their voices heard, but even they are still encouraging fellow Latinas to make their voices heard. Please see IMMIGRATION, 82

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From left, Lone Peak High School juniors Collins Cochran, Morgan Ruesch and Robert Olsen craft 
snowboards at the University of Utah on Saturday during an activity designed to teach about 
the effect of friction on various materials.

Chris Leirich / The Salt Lake Tribune

Birds hit plane at Salt Lake City airport

A Cessna Citation airplane encountered a small flock of birds shortly after it took off 
from Salt Lake City International Airport on Sunday after-
noons, prompting the plane to turn back to the airport.

said airport spokesperson Barbie Gann. 
Now hit the engine, but the 
pilot turned back to the airport as a precaution. 
– Lindsay Whitehurst

U. engineers reach out through 
arm-wrestling and bike slaps

They hope to inspire 
high schoolers to enter 
the barren discipline. 

By MARIA VILLASEÑOR 
The Salt Lake Tribune

Azadeh Pourssaid remembers 
the early exposure that 
helped her become an engineering student at the University of Utah.

There was her dad, an engineer, 
and then there was that professor who visited her class 
in high school and spoke about bioengineering.

Now Pourssaid wants 
high schoolers to know they have 
the same opportunities.

Saturday, while two Alta High School students arm-wrestled, Pourssaid described 
the spikes of electricity produced 
when they flexed their muscles.

"It's not something out of your reach. You could be making 
this fiving in a few years," she said. She 
told them about the electronic system 
that reads the signals measured 
from the electrodes 
hooked up to the students' biceps.

Down the hall, mechanical engineering students spoke about their homework: making 
robots and a sled that's a cross between a bike and a ski.

The presentations were part of Meet an Inventor Day, 
to showcase the possibilities 
within mechanical, chemical, civil, electrical, computer and 
material science engineering 
and bioengineering.

The event is funded through 
a five-year, $2 million grant 
from the National Science Foundation 
to encourage 
American students to study in those fields.

While China and India are 
graduating engineers at more than double the rate of the United States, electrical engineering 
professor Cynthia Furse said, three times as many business students graduate 
from the university than those in engineering.

"How long can we maintain our strength in science if our kids aren't going into engineering?" she said.

There are several factors that can keep students from pursing degrees in engineering, 
Furse said not really knowing what it is and an anxiety 
toward math.

Engineering is inventing, 
she said, and those changes 
can change the world.

One of the reasons she 
became an engineer was that she 
was interested in helping people. 
If she were a doctor, she would 
be able to treat a few individual patients a day. As an 
enGINEER, she said, she can build 
machines that will help cure thousands of people each day.

And students don't have to be perfect or genius.

"Mediocrity is good enough," Furse said of math skills. 
"What they really need is creativity and dedication."

Bioengineering seems like a possibility to Maddle Frommelt, an Alta High School junior, 
who had been thinking of medical school.

She came to the event because "it's 50 points extra credit" in her chemistry class, 
Frommelt said, but "it's actually pretty cool."

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Chris Leirich / The Salt Lake Tribune

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