

Flying high in key post

New Plattsburgh State business dean not a bad pilot, either

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Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH — Dr. Colin Read holds one bachelor's degree in physics and another in economics, three master's degrees, a PhD and a law degree.

He's a seasoned pilot with a plane in his driveway, one in his garage and another on pontoons in the lake behind his house.

And he also sails.

But if you guessed he was some sort of international spy or an adviser to the president, you would be mistaken. Read, in fact, is dean of Plattsburgh State's School of Business and Economics, and that lake behind his house is Champlain.

GROWING

In June 2005, Read took over the leadership post for the school and its five departments, which account for nearly one-sixth of Plattsburgh State's students. Since that time, he and about 30 full-time faculty have been moving the school and its programs forward.

"We're now having more students apply to our programs than we can possibly take," Read said.

That creates competition for acceptance and boosts the school's image.

At the same time the school is seeing high application levels under Read's leadership, it is also expanding its programs.

"What I really like about my job is the ability to create new programs," Read said.

The school has already accepted majors to its new global-supply-chain-management program.

The program is about the sort of business many in the North Country are familiar with — those that oversee the moving of goods and services over international borders.

Read said the program was developed specifically to be relevant to the North Country.

The school is also developing a graduate program in cooperation with Concordia University in Montreal that



P-R Photos/Rachel Moore

Dr. Colin Read of Cumberland Head (photo above) shows off his Cessna 180 as it rests on the shore of Lake Champlain (photo below). Read, the dean of the School of Business and Economics at Plattsburgh State, owns three planes.



would grant two master's degrees in two years of study.

FLYING IN ALASKA

Before taking the leadership role for the School of Business and Economics, Read was dean of the School of Business at Central Connecticut State. He joined that

school after retiring from a 15-year tenure at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, where he had started as a professor and eventually was named associate dean of the school's business program.

It was in 1989 that the Vancouver native moved to Alaska and immersed himself in

everything to do with flying. He started to learn to fly when he was an undergraduate student and finished in graduate school.

At one point, Read was working on his law degree at the University of Connecticut and teaching in Alaska. He said he would spend the first part of the week at UConn, taking between 25 and 28 credits — students at most schools take between 12 and 15 credits to be full-time students.

Read would then fly to Alaska to teach two or three classes for the second half of the week.

"I really believe anyone can do anything for a short time," he said.

Read's love affair with education has driven much of his life, keeping him either at the front of the classroom or somewhere in the back.

"I just love learning about new stuff," he said.