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June 18, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FLIGHT TEAM TO COMPETE IN NATIONAL
COMPETITION**

NORMAN, OK – A flight team from The University of Oklahoma will represent OU in the 2013 [Air Race Classic](#) (ARC), a four-day transcontinental flight event competition for female pilots. The OU Flying Sooner team, which consists of OU pilots Robin Torres and Keenyn Duncan, are competing June 18-21 against 44 other teams. This is the third ARC event OU has participated in since 2009. OU Assistant Chief Flight Instructor Julie Orrick is the group's faculty advisor.

Each ARC aircraft is judged against its own handicapped cruising speed. Teams must follow the route as closely as possible while improving their average speed. This format focuses more on piloting skills and decision-making than on speed alone.

The OU ARC team will compete against teams from 12 other university flight programs. This year's race began June 18 at Tri-Cities Airport in Pasco, Wash. From there, the racers navigate and check into airports in nine cities on the 2,458-statute-mile route, completing their journey at Drake Field Airport in Fayetteville, Ark.

“We are very proud of our OU flying Sooner teams,” said Ken Carson, Director of OU Aviation. “Robin and Keenyn have worked very hard to prepare for this event, and they have worked with our maintenance team and our flight department staff to get their aircraft in perfect shape and to get themselves ready. When you look at Robin and Keenyn, you see the fabric of our OU aviation students. These are students who are committed and motivated to not only succeed but to excel – just like our programs safety motto – ‘Fly, Control and Manage like a Champion Everyday!’”

The women were chosen for this prestigious opportunity by the University of Oklahoma Department of Aviation selection committee. The two pilots were selected based upon their piloting skills and professionalism along with their knowledge of aviation, safety, navigation, meteorology and crew resource management. The Flying Sooners ARC team will pilot one of the department’s Piper Warrior III aircraft from OU’s training fleet.

Torres, a native of Norman, Okla., also flew in the 2011 national ARC event as a junior. She has over 800 flight hours and is an OU FAA Certified Flight Instructor. She graduated OU in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science with a Professional Pilot concentration and a minor in Air Traffic Management.

Duncan is from Fairfield, Calif. and holds a Private Pilot certificate obtained through the OU aviation program. She is an active duty Air Force veteran where she served as an E-3 AWACS airborne mission specialist as a communications systems operator. She currently serves in the U.S. Air Force reserves while pursuing her Bachelor of Science at OU with a Professional Pilot concentration.

The Air Race Classic was originally known as the Powder Puff Derby when it was established in 1929 and is held annually. The race is sponsored by Air Race Classic Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public awareness of general aviation, promoting the tradition of pioneering women in aviation, demonstrating women’s roles in aviation and encouraging current and future women pilots. For more information, visit www.airraceclassic.org.

For more information about The University of Oklahoma Department of Aviation, visit aviation.ou.edu.

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