



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Thomas Reich, formerly of Shavertown, is the Research Manager at TranSystems Alexandria, Virginia office. TranSystems is a transportation consulting firm with offices across the country. At the age of 27, Reich is one of the youngest people to occupy a key position in aviation consulting.

Tom Reich is living his boyhood dream

When Tom Reich was just 6 years old, his parents took him on a vacation to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., which included his very first airplane trip. Marilyn and Paul Reich had no idea how much of an impression that trip would make on their eldest son.

While waiting for their flight at the airport, the young Reich noticed the flight crew walking through the terminal like a scene right out of a Hollywood movie. From that moment, he knew that when he grew up, he wanted to work in the airline industry.

Airlines were always at the forefront of Reich's mind. At the age of 12, he made his own airline reservations as well as assist family and friends when making theirs. Shortly thereafter, he began flying alone to visit relatives in Atlanta, Ga., a trip he previously was only allowed to take with other family members.

His cousins often referred to him as "The Man with the Plan" because of his keen interest in the aviation industry and the precision by which he planned for his future career. In school, he was often called "Tom Tom the Airplane Boy" or "Wingnut" because of his dogmatic focus on all things related to commercial aviation.

As a teenager, Reich, a soon-to-be Eagle Scout, joined Explorer Post 747 based at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport. There, he began learning more about commercial aviation from the post's leader, the late John Millington, who had a lengthy career working for several prominent airlines.

During this time, Reich spent countless hours collecting airline memorabilia, studying airline timetables and route maps and looking for any airline news he could find in the local newspaper. He could often be found on the observation deck of the old Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport, watching planes landing and taking off, all the while dreaming of his future career. While in high school, Reich built a very large-scale model of a Delta Air Lines Boeing 727-200 from photos and the help of a smaller plastic model. The completed hand-painted model was over three feet long and was on par with the finest professional models seen in airline headquarters.

During the summer between high school and college, Reich created a prototype for an airline, complete with route maps, flight schedules, logos, luggage tags and aircraft fleets.

After graduating from Dallas High School in 1998, he attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida.

One of his favorite activities in college was to compete with his fellow "wingnuts" in identifying aircraft that approached the Orlando International Airport. The students would use their knowledge of aircraft types to see who could first identify the incoming aircraft type.

After an internship with Air-Tran Airways at its headquarters in Orlando where he worked with the Chief Pilot and Director of Flight Standards, Reich accepted

a full-time summer job as a customer service agent with the airline. After graduating from Embry-Riddle in the spring of 2002, he was interviewed by Atlantic Coast Airlines of Dulles, Va., during which time he was asked what experience he had that would qualify him for a position with the company. Reich presented the interviewer with a copy of his airline business plan to illustrate the breadth of his airline knowledge. An offer of employment soon followed.

The position of Scheduling Planning Analyst called for someone with several years of experience but Reich's business plan and scheduling knowledge were an adequate substitute, enabling him to start his career in the headquarters of an innovative airline. When he received his bachelor's degree in the spring of 2002, he was one of only a few graduates with a solid job in airline management awaiting him.

After working for Atlantic Coast Airlines only a few months, Reich took part in the preliminary discussions to transform the airline from its present business as a regional carrier for Delta Air Lines and United Airlines into a low-fare airline similar to Air Tran or jetBlue. He was present during the transformation plan that changed Atlantic Coast Airlines into Independence Air and was put in charge of the flight schedule implementation for the new airline.

Dubbed "America's next great low-fare airline," Independence Air began operations on June 16, 2004 with Reich on board the inaugural flight where he managed to leave his mark on airline history. Independence Air's first scheduled flight was flight 1995 between Independence Air's hub at Washington Dulles International Airport and Atlanta, GA.

Reich scheduled the first flight this way to pay homage to his boyhood trips to Atlanta and to remember his favorite baseball team, the 1995 World Series Champion Atlanta Braves.

Reich went on to accept a position with US Airways, the same airline of that memorable first flight when he was just 6 years old, as Project Manager for Future Schedules. His time at US Airways was short-lived, however, because only a few months into his employment, the airline merged with America West Airlines and began moving the headquarters to America West's Phoenix, Arizona location.

Choosing not to make the move, Reich accepted a more challenging position as Manager of System Schedules with Colgan Air, a small family-run regional airline in Manassas, Va.

Two years later, TranSystems, one of the premier aviation consulting groups in the nation, offered Reich a position as Research Manager in its Alexandria, Virginia office. In this position, he oversees analysts and works with multiple airlines, airports and related clients, advising and recommending, financial, operational and scheduling improvements, cost savings and business planning.

Part of his job is to make business case presentations for prospective and established clients while cultivating working relationships with them to ensure their business needs are met and their interests secure.

Currently residing in Alexandria, Va. with his wife, Diana, Reich is enrolled in Virginia Tech's Pamplin School of Business on his way to completing his MBA.

"The Man with the Plan" is truly living his childhood dream.

FRANIA'S WORK ON EXHIBIT AT BERWICK HOSPITAL CENTER



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Berwick Hospital Center is presenting the premier exhibit of artworks by 12-year-old Ryan Frania, of Shavertown. Frania, the son of John and Linda Frania, has studied art for the past four years with Dallas-based artist Sue Hand. He has won numerous prizes in competitions, including many blue ribbons and Best of Show awards. The exhibit includes his drawings and paintings created in the past three years in the mediums of oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastel, ink, graphite and colored pencil. Frania enjoys the intricacies of architecture and animals but he also excels in landscape, seascape, still life, portrait and abstract. The public is invited to view Frania's work through June 26 at the Berwick Hospital Center, 701 E. 16th St., Berwick. Frania is shown here with Marilyn Muehlhof, past president of the Berwick Health & Wellness Auxiliary, left, and Sue Hand

DALLAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE QUARTER HONORED



The Dallas High School PTSO Steering Committee, in conjunction with the guidance department, held a Student of the Quarter Breakfast in honor of the 16 students of the quarter for the 2007-2008 school year. State Senator Lisa Baker and State Representative Karen Boback presented certificates of recognition to each student of the quarter. From left, seated, are Molly Gilligan, Boback, Baker and Kristina Toussaint. Second row, Virginia Reinert, Hannah Grube, Katie Confer, Chris Wilson, Cory Conrad and Jenna Stanish. Third row, Kris Harger, Matthew Glicini, Bruce Sobocinski, Jason Darling, David Carey, Andrew Judge, Mike Tonart, Stacey Stepiak and Superintendent Frank Galicki.

Stucker Tours 655-8458
www.stuckertours.com

BERMUDA CRUISE R.C. SEPT. 6-11 \$929
YANKS/ORIOLES OVERNIGHT AUG. 23-24 \$239
N.Y. CRUISE & LITTLE ITALY AUG. 2 \$112
WILLIAMSBURG, VA. SEPT. 25-28 \$499
TENN. XMAS NOV. 10-16 \$899
NIAGARA FALLS CANADA JUNE 20-22 \$399
MAINLY MAINE, (FEW LEFT) AUG. 14-17 \$559
CHARLIE PROSE DINNER SHOW OCT. 1 \$119

Pamper Dad with a Caring Visit!

• Housekeeping • Transportation
• Meal Prep • Bathing

(570) 824-3005

CAREGIVERS AMERICA

www.caregiversamerica.com

CABINETRY FOR ALL AREAS OF THE HOME

55% DISCOUNT
Offer good til 6-30-08

34 YEARS EXPERIENCE
EXPERT DESIGN, INSTALLATION AND SERVICE
"100 REFERRALS PROVIDED"

ANSTETT'S KITCHENS
12 EAST CAREY STREET, PLAINS, PA • 570-825-7530

Alpine Flooring America
With you every step of the way.

a better way to... **shop at home**

Carpets and Floors Brought Right to your Door

Now, at no extra cost, enjoy the time-saving convenience of our **Shop At Home** service. Just call us to schedule an appointment. Our design consultant will bring beautiful carpets and floors from your neighborhood store right to your door when it's convenient to you!

1230 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort
714-2900
www.alpineflooringamerica.com
CARPET • HARDWOOD • LAMINATE • CERAMIC

High-Paying Jobs with an Affordable Two-Year Degree

Through an Innovative Program at Lackawanna College and Johnson College

- Thousands of \$\$\$ in financial aid available
- Degrees prepare you for entry-level technician jobs
- "Hands-on" training

Call 504-1586 or email paparelij@lackawanna.edu

Learn MORE at

Open House
for students & parents

Wednesday, June 18, 5:30 PM
Johnson College

IC Johnson College THE GREATER SCRANTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TOBYHANNA CARM