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The Editor's Forum

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THE EDITOR'S FORUM

Welcome to the Spring 2008 edition of the Editor's Forum of the *Journal of Aviation and Aerospace Education and Research*. As we wind down another academic year it is a great time to reflect on all we have discovered this year. We have had a banner year on submissions of manuscripts for peer review and a healthy contribution of articles for the forum.

This spring we have two articles in our forum, I am sure you will find interesting. The first explores the human factors issues associated with the age old pilot error of trying to salvage a landing out of an unstable approach. As pilots we learn early on that the key to a good landing is the approach, yet we have all (yes me too) pushed an airplane through an unstable approach to affect some kind a landing that we rationalize as being acceptable. We are trained to ignore our pride and "go-around" but sometimes the very essence of being a pilot gets in the way and we continue to the landing. The authors of our first article use an accident review as the basis for this attitude and suggest using safety models to help pilots overcome the desire to continue an approach when the only desire should be to go-around and try again. Enjoy and learn from this writing.

The second article also relates to human factors in the pilot realm. This discussion of "The Flight Crew and Automation" explores the advantages of automation on the flight deck in what it can do to assist pilots in flying the aircraft and also the disadvantages it may present as the use of technology erodes our basic piloting skills and distracts us from maintaining awareness of what is happening in lieu of what the technology is telling us. Personally I have been teaching Human Factors for Pilots (CRM) for many years and have seen the advent of technology do many things to help our flight crews and many things that may hurt them.

At what point will automation have so much input and control that we will have a new category for accident blame, "Automation Induced Pilot Overload". Let our readers know how you feel about automation by submitting your ideas to the forum section of the *JAAER*.

Fly safe.

William A. (Bill) Kohlruss
Editor

