September 2016 School of Graduate Studies Newsletter

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Ph.D. IN AVIATION
[update]
Amazing! That’s the word that comes to mind when I reflect on our residency and all that we did. A few of you asked me if we look forward to the residency week being concluded, and it really is just the opposite. For me, I find energy in welcoming all of you back to campus, discussing your research ideas, and enjoying the intellectual discourse. We have reviewed the evaluations and we appreciate all the positive comments as well as the suggestions. Congratulations again to Mark McCullins, Rachelle Strong, and Scott Haefelin for winning the best poster gift cards! My most sincere thank you to all our students, staff, faculty, and administration for making it an excellent residency – great job, everyone! And, finally, thank you to those of you who sent postcards. We circulated them at our department retreat the other day and everyone got quite a chuckle!

I hope you all took a well-deserved break for rest and recuperation. Ernest Hemingway once said, “I still need some more healthy rest in order to work at my best. My health is the main capital that I have and I want to administer it intelligently.” Our September term has begun and it is time to get back at it. As I related to our new students during the residency, we’re already proud of you and wish you every success on your transformative intellectual journey. Let me know if there is anything I can do to assist you.
Residency Resources

Another outstanding residency has come and gone. We hope those of you in attendance were able to make connections, prepare for the year ahead, and have a little fun as well. Resources from the residency including copies of posters and PowerPoint presentations, a roster of attendees, and photos from the event are now available on the Ph.D. in Aviation SharePoint site. If you have photos you would like to share, and we hope you do, feel free to upload them or send them to dbphdav@erau.edu to be uploaded for you. Thank you for doing your part in making the residency experience a meaningful one for all of us!
Making an Impact: Journal Impact Factors

Marisa Aguiar

As the University Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. Michael Hickey, stated in his presentation titled Research at ERAU on the final day of the 2016 Residency Seminar: “getting the attention of the top people involves publishing in the top journals” (Hickey, 2016). Your reputation matters. The university’s reputation matters. Where you publish has a profound effect on not only your reputation but the reputation of the university as well. When determining where to submit your article for review and potential publication it is vital to consider that journal’s Impact Factor.

The journal Impact Factor can be defined as the measure reflecting the yearly average number of citations to recent articles published in science and social science journals; therefore, journals with high Impact Factors tend to be deemed more important than those with low Impact Factors (Scijournal.org, 2014). Some journals, especially those within a particular niche of science or social science, are cited so infrequently that they do not have an Impact Factor at all. For example, very few aviation-related journals have an Impact Factor, and if they do, that ranking is typically fairly low.

That is not to discourage you from submitting articles for publication to aviation-related journals or any other journal that would be a fitting outlet for your particular area of research. The goal here is to promote awareness about the importance of doing your research about a particular journal before submitting your article for publication to avoid the potential of publishing in a subpar journal. Just as Albert Einstein is most well-known for only one of his more than 300 scientific works, the concept of quality over quantity cannot be stressed enough in the realm of academic publications. Ultimately, it is more valuable to have one publication in a prestigious journal than to have a high quantity of publications in mediocre journals. Do not sell yourself short when it comes to your work. Do your research and consider journal Impact Factors when making your journal decisions.

For more information and to view the 2014/2015 Journal Impact Factor List visit http://www.scijournal.org/

References

AERIS CENTER
FAA Center of Excellence for Technical Training and Human Performance
Stephanie Fussell

AERIS Center of Excellence is a world-class research consortium dedicated to discovering solutions to improve the technical training and human performance (TTHP) for the Air Traffic Organization as it upgrades through the NextGen program. Comprised of premier aviation and research universities and supported by a strong industry advisory board, AERIS will meet the challenge of enhancing TTHP with research designed to leverage multimedia and interactive devices, training, and simulation with augmented reality, and other strategies to prepare the air traffic workforce of tomorrow.

Fellowship Opportunity

National Academy of Education/Spencer

The NAEd/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship Program seeks to encourage a new generation of scholars from a wide range of disciplines and professional fields to undertake research relevant to the improvement of education. These $27,500 fellowships support individuals whose dissertations show potential for bringing fresh and constructive perspectives to the history, theory, or practice of formal or informal education anywhere in the world. Fellows will also attend professional development retreats and receive mentorship from NAEd members and other senior scholars in their field. This highly competitive program aims to identify the most talented emerging researchers conducting dissertation research related to education. The Dissertation Fellowship program receives many more applications than it can fund. This year, up to 600 applications are anticipated and up to 35 fellowships will be awarded. Additional guidelines and the fellowship application form are available on their website.

The deadline to apply is October 6, 2016.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Program applications are also available for individuals who have graduated between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2015. The deadline to apply for postdoctoral fellowships is November 3, 2016.