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Looking Forward and Looking Back - Reflections on a First Year

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EDITORIAL

LOOKING FORWARD AND LOOKING BACK - REFLECTIONS ON A FIRST YEAR

The first volume of *The Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education and Research (JAAER)* is now history and the all important first year of the publication is now over. There have been successes and failures; fortunately, the former greatly out-number the latter. Of primary importance, however, is to reflect for a moment on some of these events and share several observations with the readership.

One area of surprise this past year was the number of manuscripts submitted for review and possible publication. There was, particularly during the period prior to the first issue, some concern among the editorial staff as to whether there would be a sufficient number of quality articles. It appears that this concern was unfounded and the *Journal* is serving the aviation community as a forum for the exchange of ideas and as a means to disseminate the results of scholarly endeavors.

The increased breadth of manuscript submission has necessitated increasing the size of the editorial board. Joining *JAAER* as board members and reviewers are Gerald A. Fairbairn and Thomas Q. Carney.

Dr. Fairbairn is Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty at Daniel Webster College. He earned his M.S. in Business Management from California State University, and his Ph.D. in Business Administration from the University of Santa Clara. In addition to holding multiple aviation certifications, and being a flight instructor, Dr. Fairbairn's involvements include

aviation related management, consultation, and computer based coursework development. He has had numerous papers and reports published.

Dr. Carney is Professor and Associate Department Head of the Department of Aviation Technology at Purdue University, with direct responsibility for all academic and fiscal matters pertaining to the Purdue flight Program. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the University Aviation Association, and is actively teaching Aviation Meteorology and Aviation Operations. He earned an M.S. in Aviation Climatology, and a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science, both at Purdue University.

Both individuals bring a wealth of aviation experience and expertise to the editorial staff of the *Journal*.

It may be of interest to share with you a brief overview concerning who subscribes to *JAAER*. The range of experience, variety of interests, and location of subscribers has been surprising. The publication has become, in little over a year, truly international. There are subscribers in Canada, Great Britain,

Spain, Nigeria, and Australia, and we've had a recent inquiry from Israel. Although the majority of current subscribers are either faculty or administration personnel at educational institutions of higher learning, there are many readers of *JAAER* in various allied aviation fields. These subscribers include airline executives, state aviation department officials, members of aviation interest groups, and federal government aviation employees. A growing group of *Journal* readers are students who have access to the publication through their institutional libraries.

In looking back at what has been accomplished with the establishment of *The Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education and Research*, it is clear that the time for it is here. We fill an important gap in aviation and aerospace education. The developmental tasks associated with occupying such a niche have been challenging but not insurmountable. To say at this time that the *Journal* will endure may be somewhat premature but looking to the future, things look bright. HRL

