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The Editor's Forum

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THE EDITOR'S FORUM

Welcome to the winter edition of the *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education and Research*. As we are in the middle of winter and with the NTSB about to release information on the Colgan Air Flight 3407 accident, I can't help but think of the impact on the future of aviation this all might have.

At the summer 2009 Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI) meeting the discussions focused around this accident and the concern over what regulatory changes may be coming down concerning our profession. The fall 2009 University Aviation Association (UAA) meeting was no different and again we all wonder where this will all lead. I am hoping that through the forum of the JAAER that our aviation educators and researchers will deliver some insight into the future. I am sure that this accident, and the resulting regulatory changes, will be researched and scrutinized closely to determine those future effects. Perhaps the forum can be your venue to sharing ideas and knowledge on this issue.

We have in our winter edition a forum article from Dr. Michael Wetmore, Lt. Col. Brett Jackman, and Dr. James Savard titled "Organizational Capacity and Progress Plateaus in the Flight Training Environment." This paper will be of particular interest to those involved in professional aviation education. The effort here is to increase training "capacity" by identifying the learning plateaus that are typically realized by flight students going through the normal training sequence. Ideally, if these plateaus (stagnant advancement of learning) can be identified, the managers and flight instructors can modify the learning experience so as to continue the advancement in learning. This will better utilize the resources necessary for flight training which can reduce cost and increase the number of students flowing through an aviation training program. I think this forum will go a long way in assisting us all to advance aviation training.

In today's aviation environment of high costs and low public interest in flying, anything we can do to enhance professional aviation education must be explored. If you have other ideas like the one presented in our forum, please share this with our readers through the forum section of the *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education and Research*.

Fly Safe

William Kohlruss
Editor

