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## Editor's Forum

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**EDITOR'S FORUM**

I'm excited about building on the good work that my predecessor Bill Kohlruss has undertaken to establish the *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education and Research* as an important publication in the field of aviation. I look forward to making sure that the *JAAER* continues to grow and that its articles are more easily accessible.

In 2009, the FAA stated that the U.S. civil aviation-sector generated \$1.3 billion in economic activity and 10.2 million jobs. Aviation education is an important part of the industry as it helps generate innovative solutions to improve how we train our future aviation professionals. The *JAAER* is an important outlet for these solutions.

This edition of the *JAAER* contains interesting articles on various segments of the aviation sector. Our forum section has an article written by Ms. Kelly Whealan-George addressing whether the airline industry should be re-regulated. Ms. Whealan-George's piece, "To Regulate or Not: That is the Question", discusses why it would be extremely difficult and unwise to regulate the U.S. domestic airline industry. Many industry stakeholders, including those who advocate for passenger rights, would argue that the traveling public would be better off if the industry were re-regulated. The author concludes, however, that a decision to reverse a policy that has resulted in lower fares for the traveling public would be a bad decision.

This edition of the *JAAER* has some interesting papers on general aviation. The first paper, entitled "The Perceived Benefits of Airbag Systems in General Aviation Aircraft", discusses the adoption of airbags in the general aviation industry. Author David R. Mulkey explains the concerns that have been raised about airbags being more harmful than helpful in general aviation. Mr. Mulkey has conducted survey research to obtain flying club members' perceptions of airbag use in general aviation aircraft. His study reveals that pilots in those flying clubs generally support the use of airbag systems.

The second paper in this edition of the *JAAER* addresses areas of flight training that often need to be reinforced. Ms. Beth M. Beaudin-Seiler's article, "Private Pilot Progress: Where Do We Fall Down?", examines which training areas are most likely to be failed by students during their private pilot curriculum. Her research finds that that lessons that were given before important milestones such as solo and end of course checks were failed the most. Flight training instructors will certainly find this article to provide tremendous insight.

Our final paper titled, "Assessing Safety Culture within a Flight Training Organization", is co-written by David Freiwald, Carolina Lenz-Anderson, and Erik Baker. The authors of this paper conducted a mixed methods study to examine factors that contributed to aircraft hull losses at a multinational, multi-campus flight training organization. Through their research, the authors discovered a lack of safety culture throughout the organization. As a result, the authors recommended the implementation of a Safety Management System to the organization.

Enjoy this edition of the *JAAER*. As always, I welcome any feedback that you may have about the Journal. Feel free to contact me at [friedend@erau.edu](mailto:friedend@erau.edu).

Fly safe,

Daniel Friedenjohn