

Winter 2005

Editor's Forum

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Editor's Forum

Welcome to the winter rendition of the Editor's Forum in which I will attempt to inspire dialog via the Forum of the *"Journal of Aviation and Aerospace/ Education and Research"* (JAAER).

As we begin 2005, the aviation industry continues to progress much as the year before, some great news and some bad news. Many of the major air carriers continue to struggle to make a profit. As the dynamics of our industry continue to evolve we see differing efforts to address these challenges.

In one of our forum articles the author, Professor Les Westbrooks, discusses how some air carriers are addressing the issue. With limited ability to raise revenues, air carriers are searching for ways to reduce costs. Professor Westbrooks does a magnificent job in exploring how some air carriers are attempting to reduce costs and deal with the varying price of fuel by "Fuel Hedging".

Professor Westbrooks provides a detailed look at the pros and cons of this financial practice. With differing methods, air carriers hope to gain a financial advantage on supplying themselves with the lowest cost fuel available. I think you will find this article very interesting and informative. This information can be used in real practice and or in the educational realm, to provide business students with strategies that will help them and their employers succeed in the future.

In our other forum article we have another useful paper that helps in the educational arena. Professor Randolph Reynolds provides an excellent argument on the use of low speed wind tunnels for undergraduate students. Professor Reynolds describes the construction and use of these devices along with the various apparatus that provides the feedback data for aerodynamic experiments.

The article contains a detailed procedure for using the devices in the classroom environment. Whether the devices are used in group projects or individual studies, Professor Reynolds concludes the experiments are not only accurate but the learning experiences of the students are very rewarding. For undergraduate students to have an opportunity to have hands on learning is an educational tool that will impact the learning for a long period of time.

Join me in enjoying the reading of this issue's forum articles. I am confident that you will find these educational and rewarding. Feel free to provide feedback in your own written dialog by contributing to the forum of the *"Journal on Aviation and Aerospace/ Education and Research"*.

Sincerely
William Kohlruss
Editor

