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The Editor's Forum

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THE EDITOR'S FORUM

Welcome to the first 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).

In the fall edition we have two great papers in our forum section. The first paper, authored by Patrick Ross and Janet Cosman-Ross, addresses the "Andragogical Methods for Teaching Advanced Cockpit Flying Skill to Professional Pilots." This paper struck my interest in that it addresses the teaching of flying skills, necessary to operate a modern computerized aircraft, to adult learners. As a college professor I often wonder, at what point my students make the transition from adolescent to adult. I have a difficult time identifying a chronological age for this transition, as some of the freshmen I deal with seem more mature than some of the seniors. If there is someone out there that has knowledge or has done studies of chronological age verses maturity please share with others through the JAAER. It would seem easy to teach the freshmen as children and the seniors as adults but that does not often work. Sometimes I think that the really good professors have the ability to adjust their teaching style to match that of the student. If anyone has done research in this area, we would like to hear from you also.

The second paper in the forum addresses concerns that the actions of well meaning administrators are undermining collegiate level aviation programs. In this day of "raising the bar" and "what have you done lately" the author Donald Smith investigates concerns that university administrators, lacking an aviation background, do not understand the importance of maintaining aviation as a specialized program. Have you, as aviation oriented faculty members, experienced this trend at your university? Are there grave concerns that aviation programs will fail as a result of efforts to make them fit a traditional model of academics? If you have thoughts or ideas in this area, respond via the forum of the JAAER. This could result in an interesting dialog.

I attended the Council on Aviation Accreditation annual meeting this summer and was excited by the discussions that took place at the Industry/Educator Forum. The first of two main topics concerned the technological future of aviation and aircraft. We heard wonderful dialog on ideas like the "Electronic Flight Bag" and how new people entering the field of aviation need to be "computer savvy" and must be "flexible learners" in order to keep pace in aviation's rapidly changing environment and technological advances. The other main topic was security. Since September 11 the aviation industry has changed and will never be the same. We are all feeling the crunch and scramble to deal with the consequences. Perhaps someone posses the expertise to provide us with the direction that will get us through the initial stages of this paradigm shift. The forum of the JAAER could be the perfect venue to share these ideas and guide our industry through the new millennium.

Both of the topics outlined above would make excellent dialog in the forum of the JAAER. Perhaps some readers have conducted research in these areas or have expertise they would care to share with our readers. We certainly need to share our thoughts concerning the integration of security issues into our curricula.

Till the Winter Edition - Fly Safe.

Bill Kohlruss
Editor

