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Editor's Forum

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EDITOR'S FORUM

Welcome to the spring edition of the *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education and Research*. I hope you are finding that another academic year has been rewarding and interesting. I cannot begin to describe how much I have learned in the last year by teaching. I am sure you can all relate to how educational teaching can be.

We have three educators whom have contributed to our journal this spring. I think we have a couple of articles in our forum that you will find rewarding and interesting.

For those of you who are pilots that perhaps learned to fly and flew a few years back, you can relate to the challenge that came when someone invented the "glass cockpit." I remember well the difficulties I had locating information on a flat screen and I was an experienced pilot holding an ATP certificate. This makes me understand the challenge one of my students has when they have learned on glass and have to transition to "the old round dials."

Our first article, entitled "Digital training to analog flying: Assessing the risks of a stark transition" was submitted by two educators from Western Michigan University. Professor Geoffrey Whitehurst and Professor William Rantz have put together a nice discussion of the pros and cons of "glass" vs. "round dial" and how the learning law of primacy can affect a pilots gathering of flight and other information that may affect workload, situational awareness, and systems management and integration. All the technology in the world cannot save a bad pilot. The concern is can the inability to gather good information fast bring down a good pilot? Enjoy the forum they present.

Our second forum comes in from Benjamin J. Goodheart . Entitled "The Wright Patent Lawsuit: Reflections on the Impact on American Aviation", the forum addressed a fundamental issue that affects us all. Do patent rights stifle progress? In a capitalistic society we all rely upon and are rewarded by the advancement in technology but are the advancements curtailed by the fear of infringing on other inventors rights and the profits they reap? In this article we learn of the possible deterrent in the advancement in aviation as the Wright Brothers made every effort to litigate away the potential advances in our industry, albeit early on.

This article debates the good and evil of freedom vs. protection. A friend of mine recently reminded me that we are the freest country in the world because we have the most laws in the world to which we must adhere to protect our freedom. I think you get my point...

Fly Safe.

William Kohlross

Editor