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School of Aeronautics

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"Aviation is proof that given, the will, we have the capacity to achieve the impossible."
-Edward Vernon Rickenbacker

We who fly do so for the love of flying. We are alive in the air with this miracle that lies in our hands and beneath our feet.
-Cecil Day Lewis

LUSOA Instructor Undergoes PT6 Training

Due to the cost of piston engine fuel, the Pratt and Whitney PT6 turbine engine is becoming a common powerplant on the foreign mission field for Wycliffe Bible Translators and other mission agencies worldwide. Since this is indeed the case and Liberty University has a heart for training aviation technicians to serve on the foreign mission field, Jon Damon, one of our AMTS instructors, participated in a PT6 heavy maintenance course offered at Wycliffe's JAARS center.

The instruction Jon received will be beneficial to incoming students who will be learning about the Pratt and Whitney PT6 through Liberty's maintenance program.

LUSOA Passes TSA Inspection

The Liberty University School of Aeronautics passed the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) inspection with "flying colors." The inspection was administered under short notice and there were no problems or discrepancies.

Congratulations to the following students who earned certificates:

Solos: Jordan Nicholson, Rob Penn, Melissa Whalen, Bryce Kimmel, Amanda Weltz, Matthew Malone, Chad Mortimer, Stephen Sigmon, Aly Boardman
Private: Luke Braswell, Bryan Strathdee
Private Helo: Tom Von Olszewski
Instrument: Ryan Ball
CFI: Bryan Lockhart

Liberty Aeronautics Graduate, "A Great Catch"

Liberty 2006 Graduate Anthony Beckles currently flies for American Eagle Airlines. Dean Dave Young was recently made aware of a compliment Beckles had received. A passenger, traveling on one of Beckles' flights, relayed the following to American Eagle. The businessman explained that Beckles "did a fantastic job of steering us clear of the turbulent weather and navigated a perfect flight." The man was impressed with Beckles personality and stated, "he is a first class guy with a personality that is very delightful and engaging. He carries himself with confidence and a pleasant demeanor. It was no surprise to see many of your employees coming up to say hello to him as they passed by. You should be very proud of his representation of your company and his service to the passengers."

Liberty Aviation Missions Potential go to Heaven's Landing

Liberty Aviation Missions Potential, also known as LAMP, headed to Medley, WV in late March to visit Mitch and Teresa Pennington's Heaven's Landings, an airstrip dedicated to those who love Aviation. Mr. Barnhart explained, "The purpose of the weekend 'get away' was to give Liberty Students the opportunity to interface one on one with missionaries that are presently, or have been, on the mission field in the context of an aviation ministry... Tip Killingsworth and Ed Smither from the LU missions

"...On wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31
Written By: Alessandra Boardman

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department led us in group sessions on these topics and then we all broke up into small groups to continue the discussion with representatives from Mission Aviation Fellowship, JAARs, New Tribes Mission, Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, Evangelical Baptist Mission, AIM Air, and Missionary Aviation Institute.

LUSOA Faculty Flies Glider

Staff members Josh Clark, Jeff Burnham, Greg Turner, Bruce Barnhart, and Pete Spahr took turns flying a glider in April. The faculty members traveled to The Blue Ridge Soaring Society, located in north Roanoke. The trip went "really well" according to Associate Director of Flight Ops, Josh Clark.

Clark also explained, "we met several of the members and established a firm relationship. They were very friendly and invited us back any time. They also asked about our own interest in starting a program and seemed very eager to provide any support they could for that should it get started. It was an excellent trip and one of the most fun things I have ever done flying."

LUSOA Graduates Commissioned into Army and Air Force

Liberty's School of Aeronautics graduates were commissioned into the United States Army and Air Force Friday, May 8th, 2009. Christopher Davis was commissioned into the Air Force.

Drew Martens was commissioned into the Army. Congratulations and good luck in the future!

Congratulations to the 2009 Graduates:

Bryant, Josh; Burnham, Jeff; Davis, Chris; Engel, Shelly; Fenson, Alex; Joachim, Nathan; Keller, PK; Lee, MiRae; Leicht, Braxton; Martens, Drew; Martin, Josh; McClure, Chad; Merritt, Josh; Morton, Andrew; Myers, Levi; Partie, Beth; Respress, Ryan; Romine, Jackie; Schermerhorn, Dan; Setzer, Jeff; Stadtlander, Josh; Vander Wiele, Luke; Violette, Allison; Vorhies, Eric; Williams, Steele

Dean's Comments

As we wrap up our seventh academic year since the inception of our program and graduate a record number of students, I cannot help but reflect on the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. Going from four students to approaching 300; being blessed with quality faculty, flight instructors and students; having tremendous support from organizations like Falwell Aviation and Virginia Aviation, the Lynchburg Regional Airport and the City of Lynchburg; access to state-of-the art aircraft and simulators; earning a full complement of FAA certifications; the support of donors who have made it possible for us to acquire modern equipment; gaining the respect, support and trust of the parents of our students; and above all being blessed with a safe flying record. I believe that our responsibility is to stay faithful and obedient to God, trust in Him and follow His lead.....let Him be our Pilot, and if we do, our best years are definitely ahead of us. This summer will be our busiest yet as we have over 50 students taking flight instruction as well as a record number of high school students enrolled in an aviation camp we support. The summer is also a time to review, to plan and to prepare for next year. If you have suggestions for improvement or creative ideas as to how we can enhance our program, I would love to hear from you. In closing, I would like to thank Miss Aly Boardman, the student who helps me produce this newsletter – she does a great job and I very much appreciate her effort.

-Dave Young