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Dean's Comments

We are off to a great start this year as our enrollment remains strong with a record number of new students and our aviation classes are filled. However, it is more challenging for our flight students. Even though we have been able to keep the costs stable, the economic times in which we find ourselves make it more difficult for our student pilots. We are exploring, and implementing, a variety of actions to keep flight costs as low as possible and to ensure that every minute spent in the aircraft is fully maximized for training. I am pleased to report that the progress we are making toward bringing into reality our School of Aeronautics facility at the Lynchburg Airport is moving along nicely. The environmental assessment and site engineering planning are well underway. The next steps are to seek and secure federal and state funding for the ramp and taxiway as well as continued financial support for the facility and equipment. I think you will agree from viewing the artist's rendering of the facility below that once it is raised it will be fitting of one of the finest aviation programs in the country. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we move toward the construction phase.

-Dave Young

Chancellor Meets with LUSOA and School of Engineering

On September 18th, Liberty Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. hosted a meeting of federal, state, and local government officials as well as representatives from industry to present Liberty University growth plans for the School of Aeronautics and School of Engineering. LU's move into offering technical degrees was well received and noted.

LUSOA Tailgate a Success

The annual football season opener on Saturday, September 12th, was the site of a large tailgate party for the entire School of Aeronautics. The Tailgate was quite a success, complete with hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and soda. A total of 175 people attended to celebrate the kickoff of the 2009 L.U. football season and to show support for Liberty University football.

October College for a Weekend (CFAW) a Success

The October College for a Weekend (CFAW) brought fifty-two visitors to attend classes and tour the Liberty flight line. In addition to CFAW, guests are always welcome to visit our campus and see how God is blessing the University.

-Ernie Rogers

WRITTEN BY: ALESSANDRA BOARDMAN

LUSOA Recertified

Liberty University Aviation received a two year renewal of our FAA Part 141 certification. The school also "recently received approval from the FAA to begin using a new scenario-based private pilot syllabus. The new syllabus emphasizes critical thinking skills and real world experience to better equip and prepare students for future jobs in the aviation industry."

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Students Travel to Aviation Education Expo

Fifteen School of Aeronautics students traveled to Winchester, VA on October 13th, 2009 to attend an Aviation Education Expo hosted by ProJet Aviation. This event allowed our students to network within the aviation industry. Liberty University also manned a display booth. The booth allowed prospective students and interested individuals to receive information about Liberty and the Aeronautics program.

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LUSOA Student Receives Internship

Congratulations to Collins Friddle for being selected for the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) internship. He will be responsible for assisting airport managers across the country validating their airports list of based aircraft, updating national data bases, and generating a monthly report. As an intern, he will see the federal government and aviation industry at work during meetings with members of Congress, Federal Agencies, and other aviation companies.

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AOPA Seminar

School of Aeronautics Professor Kurt Reesman has been traveling the country with AOPA speaking on behalf of the Air Safety Foundation. The AOPA Air Safety Foundation offers more than 200 free safety seminars every year throughout the United States. On October 27th, 2009, Liberty University will host the "What Went Wrong?" seminar from 6:00-8:00 PM in the Towns Alumni Lecture Hall. Kurt Reesman will be the seminar presenter. "Sometimes the cause of an aircraft accident is obvious. Other times, it takes everything from CSI-style forensics to old-fashioned sleuthing to figure out where things went awry. The Air Safety Foundation's latest seminar looks at general aviation accidents through the eyes of the investigator--starting at the scene and working backward to reconnect the shattered links of the accident chain." So, why attend a seminar? Pilots attending the AOPA Air Safety Foundation's safety seminars receive free safety education while enjoying the company of fellow aviators. The AOPA Air Safety Foundation's safety seminars qualify toward AOPA Accident Forgiveness and the FAA WINGS program.

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LUSOA Visits JAARS

School of Aeronautics Dean, Dave Young, Associate Director of Flight Operations, Pete Spahr, and Senior Helicopter flight instructor, Tim Tillman recently attended a Jungle Aviation and Radio Service (JAARS) day at Waxhaw, NC. A close relationship with JAARS was made closer as staff members shared training experiences for both fixed wing and helicopter aircraft. Training pilots and mechanics for the mission field is a major purpose of our program. The School of Aeronautics seeks close relationships with all missionary aviation organizations in order to meet their needs.

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LUSOA Visits VHA

Members of the School of Aeronautics attended the October Virginia Helicopter Association (VHA) meeting. Dean Dave Young and Tim Tillman presented our FAA Part 141 helicopter program to the assembled group of helicopter pilots. The president of the VHA invited Liberty to join the organization and to become an active member. This offer was accepted and the SOA is looking forward to helping promote rotary wing aviation in the Commonwealth of Virginia.