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Liberty University

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"Why fly? Simple. I'm not happy unless there's some room between me and the ground."  
- Richard Bach, *A Gift of Wings*, 1974

"To most people, the sky is the limit. To those who love aviation, the sky is home."  
- Anonymous

### **Commercial Pilot Speaks at All Aviator's Meeting**

In the March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 All Aviators Meeting, the father of one of our students, Captain Jim Annable from American Airlines, spoke to the students of the School of Aeronautics. Capt. Annable flies 737s and gave advice to students interested in going into commercial aviation. Capt. Annable said that it was "a pleasure to come and address fellow pilots of all different stages in their journey. Commercial Aviation is a profession with a bright future, and it was a privilege to meet others who will be part of it. Keep the blue side up!"



Capt. Jim Annable and son, Andrew

Annable encouraged students to follow their dreams and to not give up.

### **International Association of Missionary Aviation Comes to Liberty University**

Liberty University will be hosting The International Association of Missionary Aviation (IAMA) annual meeting on May 20-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 for the first time. This is a great opportunity for our missionary aviation students to learn more about their chosen career. The conference will take place in the Town's Alumni Hall.

### **Students Hike to Sharp Top**

Students in Professor Walt Reichard's classes took a trip to Sharp Top, a mountain close to the Liberty campus. A B25D Mitchell Bomber



crashed into the mountain in 1943 and remnants and a memorial are found at the

crash site. Reichard uses the accident to illustrate in-flight situational awareness. When asked about lack of orientation around mountains Reichard stated, "The mountain wins every time." It is important for aviation students to experience and learn about their surroundings and what to do in case of an actual emergency.

### **Congratulations to the following students who earned certificates:**

*Solo:* Josh Moerman, Luke Sarchet, Mackenzie Bauman, Scott Plummer, Tyler Duncan, Charis Haldeman, David Christopher, Eric Bell, Hamilton Stamper, Jake Obert, Jared Groenewegen, Jon Garnett

*Private:* Matthias Wrede, Richard Cannie

*Instrument:* Jeff Schlautd

*Commercial:* John Wallace



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

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## First Helicopter Student Earns Private Pilot's License

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Tom von Olszewski, the first Liberty University helicopter student received his private pilot's license. When asked what he thought about helicopters and his training, he simply replied, "runways are for beauty queens."



Tim "Tango" Tillman, the programs flight instructor said, "I could not be more proud of Tom for setting the bar for future Liberty students. Tom is a natural pilot with persistence and did not let the things that could have discouraged him from completing get in his way. Tom is the first unrestricted aviator that Liberty has trained in both the fixed wing and the Rotorcraft. God blessed me with Tom!"

### Dean's Comments

It is hard to believe that in a month we will graduate our fourth class from the School of Aeronautics. Twenty of our exceptionally well trained pilots will be entering the world of aviation. More importantly, armed with a set of godly values, they will not only make their mark as pilots, but more importantly, they are prepared to make a difference

as Christian young men and women in a world which needs their influence and leadership. You will find them serving in the Armed Services, the missionary field, the business world, at the National Transportation Safety Board, as flight instructors and in commercial and corporate aviation. We are very proud of their accomplishments and wish God's blessings on them as they begin their aviation careers.

It was only a couple of years ago when we had 30 or so students flying each semester, as the spring semester ends we will exceed that number in our summer program alone as we evolve into a 12 month training program offering our students the opportunity to train year round. We are continuing to upgrade our aircraft, in addition to the C-172 glass cockpit aircraft we added to our fleet to support the increase in students, we have just put a Cessna 206 into the lineup. The C-206 will be a great addition to our missionary aviation training concentration. One of the challenges we have faced is the sale of our leased multi-engine trainer. This has been frustrating for our students who are pursuing a multi-engine certification. We are in the process of acquiring another twin trainer and hope to have it operational very soon. Until next month, Keep 'Em Flying and Fly Safe.

-Dave Young



New to our Fleet, C-206

### Chairman's Comments

We had twenty-one students hoping to pursue aviation as their career at our most recent College for a Weekend this April. After attending classes and visiting the flight line, a sense of excitement filled their faces. Prospective students were informed to get their applications mailed in soon because thirty-one of the seventy-five seats for next fall are filled. Prospective students, their parents, or friends of Liberty aviation are always welcome to visit at anytime. Give Laura a call at (434) 582-2183 to set up an appointment.

-Ernie Rogers



The 2008-2009 NIFA Team will compete in the national flight meet in St. Louis in May!

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