2020-21 Welcome Back!

Dear College of Aviation Students,
Welcome to all new students and returning students! Though things are much different this semester than usual, and as we adapt, change, and keep moving forward, we want to express to each of you how proud we are, what an honor it is to serve you, walk alongside you, mentor you, and value you. We all in CoA wish you every success and happiness in the future. And may you never forget that you are forever a member of the College of Aviation family!
An additional message from Grant to students is this:

- There are only two things within your control...

  *Effort and Attitude.*

- The weather isn’t in your control.

- Your professor isn’t in your control.

- No difficult situation is in your control.

- It all depends on how you handle it.

- You can control your *effort* and you can control your *attitude*.
NEW PREFLT COURSE SHOWS GREAT SUCCESS  DAWN GROH

- The PreFlt Course is available to all new flight students and is taught by peer counselors to prepare them for flight training at ERAU.
- To date, we have 93 new students who are participating in the voluntary course.
- These students have completed over 750 course tasks related to flight operations and preparation for flight.
- Feedback from one of our IPs who was assigned four new FA 121 students who did not attend the PreFlt program reveals that she wishes all students would be required to attend the PreFlt program because those students are infinitely more prepared to begin flight training! She said it’s much more work, time, and money for students who do not complete the program.”

The PreFlt Course

The Aeronautical Science Department, in coordination with the ERAU Flight Department, is excited to reveal our latest innovation in flight education: the PreFlt Course.

The PreFlt Course is a component of the ERAU-PC IFR Program. The IFR Program is a phased approach to integrating incoming students into the flight program. The two major components of the IFR Program are the IFR dates (programmed start dates) and the PreFlt course.

The purpose of the PreFlt Course is to encourage new students to take personal responsibility for preparing for flight training and facilitating their own success in their flight education. Students are expected to attend the Course during their assigned flight block if they do not have a scheduled flight activity. The course is staffed by a cadre of peer counselors who are there to guide and mentor the students through their self-directed activities. Peer counselors are more senior flight students who are employed by the College of Aviation to tutor other COA students on aviation related subjects. Students in the PreFlt Course are given a PreFlt Course Guide and PreFlt Checklist with tasks specifically designed to:

- Engage in daily flight operations processes
- Practice basic preflight planning tasks
- Practice basic flight tasks
- Become familiar with ERAU flight training resources

Activities include everything from conducting walkarounds, taking observation flights and memorizing and practicing checklist flows in aviation training devices. Students learn the value of the resources provided to support their training as well as the importance of independent study for success in the industry. Additionally, students earn points for completing tasks in accordance with the PreFlt Course Guide which are used as one element for assigning flight instructors as they become available. Best of all – the PreFlt Course is provided at no cost to all ERAU Flight students!
Every semester the Unmanned Aircraft Systems degree program partners with Hood Tech Aero. Hood Tech Aero provides state-of-the-art camera technology to our students. Students are trained on the software interface, turret functionality and intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) during a two-week module in the AS473 class. During Hood Tech Aero’s visit, they provide a manned aircraft (surrogate UAS) that holds the camera and orbits around the Prescott area. UAS students then have the ability to direct the aircraft and control the camera via data link. Students are required to execute various scenarios while providing overwatch utilizing the Hood Tech turret and camera.

This training is something that can only be found at the ERAU Prescott campus. Students in the UAS program have reported extreme interest from a number of employers because of this experience. The Hood Tech Aero team will be on campus this semester during the first week of October. If you would like to get a quick look at the technology our UAS students are utilizing please contact Professor Young youngj42@erau.edu.
ALUMNI NEWS BILL O’HARA

CoA Professor Bill O’Hara recently heard from alumni, Randall Cesena, Jr., who has finished up training in Pensacola, FL and is heading to Corpus Christi, TX for primary training. He and his fiancé are doing well. He added he was thankful for all Prof. O’Hara did for him during his time at Riddle.

FROM THE ARCHIVES MELISSA GOTTWALD

Richard G. Snyder is an internationally known research scientist who studied human impact tolerances and trauma mechanisms, biomechanics, forensic anthropology and anthropometry, crash protection, and transportation safety. Included in the Snyder collection in the Archives are a number of safety artifacts, including examples of restraint systems (lap and shoulder belts as well as airbags), control yokes, smoke hoods, and calculators.
Two ERAU College of Aviation students recently received word they were selected to be work directly with the NTSB on a project with NTSB training center. The project was originally envisioned to be one person but after the interviews NTSB Training Center Director Paula Sind-Prunier sent a notice to the students stating “Both of you had such impressive qualifications and outstanding enthusiasm to match—and learning that you’ve worked together in the past, we figured a collaborative, team approach to the project could work out well!” The students selected are Piper Forcier and Eli Murphy and they will be working with both the NTSB as well as faculty from the Safety Science Department. A key factor in being selected is that the College recently acquired the same laser scanner the NTSB utilizes and students are being trained in its use. Another factor is the UAS program utilizes similar platforms and software for the photogrammetry reconstruction. A summary of the project is below.

The NTSB would like to document the wreckage using three-dimensional (3D) laser scanning and photogrammetry. The goal of the project would be to create a database with the scanned information along with some form of presentation that would allow students in accident investigation courses to view and (if possible) interact with a 3D representation of the data.

The Intern would assemble and register individual laser scans to form a complete representation of the reconstructed wreckage, including photographs from stationary and drone-mounted cameras. The Intern would determine options to merge the laser scans and photogrammetry results, and to create fly-through videos to display the results. The Intern would research options (such as 3D .pdf files) to allow students to interact with the data through a website (the Smithsonian Museum has one method for doing this) and propose an approach(es) for approval by NTSB. Once the plan is approved, license(s) for software needed would be provided by the NTSB.

This in another example of how key purchases of industry leading technology is paying dividends for our students and the University.
A STORY THAT BEARS REPEATING... Dr. Dorothea Ivanova

A dream for many of our Applied Meteorology students is working with severe weather events, forecasting big thunderstorms, chasing tornadoes, but on top of the list is: becoming a hurricane hunter. This is the ultimate dream job, especially if you are an Air Force ROTC student and will commission at graduation as a second lieutenant of the US Air Force and have requested to serve as a weather officer or a pilot.

A month ago we received e-mails from 2 of our alumni, husband and wife: Jennie and Davis White that they have achieved the dream! Both have been chosen for positions in the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron: more famously known as the "Hurricane Hunters." This was a bucket-list dream they thought was dead when Davis became a nuclear missile operator in North Dakota and Jennie joined him at the same Air Force base as a weather officer in charge an year later. Prayer, hard work, and willingness to take a risk paid off, and they both are moving to Mississippi in 2019 to become hurricane hunters. Davis White is a 2015 ERAU- Prescott Applied Meteorology graduate and Jennie White is a 2016 ERAU- Prescott Applied Meteorology graduate. They met at Embry Riddle and got married at Jennie’s graduation. Jennie was always interested in tropical meteorology and worked with me as a NASA Space grant undergraduate research scholar to study the North American monsoon and modelled a case study of 2014 hurricane Norbert and the devastating Chandler, AZ flash flood. Davis was also very interested in hurricane meteorology. Both of them participated in our King Air STAR NSF-funded project as student-scientist during the King Air educational and research flights in Prescott in the spring of 2013. We wish them good luck in this amazing endeavor!

This week another amazing e-mail from a notable alumna from our first graduating Applied Meteorology class in 2018 arrived. Joyce Hirai has been hired by a unit she has always wanted to be a part of...the same 53d Weather Reconnaissance Squadron as a Hurricane Hunter! Joyce started her U.S. Air Force career in Germany as a weather officer, forecasting for the Space Shuttle emergency landing sites in Europe. Joyce reached the 3 round applying for a NASA astronaut. She also served in Japan and forecasted for the Air Force during Fukushima earthquake and tsunami nuclear disaster. This was followed by service in Korea, Dubai and most recently Turkey, and now the dream – 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron.

I want to emphasize that it is very prestigious and difficult to become a member of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, it is a tough competition, but we got 3 of our alumni there, and I consider it a big achievement for our