Welcome to the October 2019 issue of the Navigator, the official newsletter of the College of Aviation—ERAU Prescott Campus. Our goal is to inform our students, faculty and staff as well as our alumni and members of our Industry Advisory Board of exciting developments and events in the college. Highlights in this issue are Archives, Speakers, FAA, Airshow, Alumni, and more! So sit back, relax, and see what all is going on just this month!

CoA Welcomes New Chancellor and Vice Chancellor!

Dr. Holt led a tour for Prescott’s Chancellor Anette Karlsson, and Vice Chancellor, Rhonda Capron, of all College of Aviation facilities and labs. It was a great day for meeting students and highlighting our programs.
From the Archives — Airlines War Training Institute
Melissa Gottwald

During World War II, the Air Transport Command (ATC) faced difficulties first in obtaining a sufficient number of transport aircraft and then—once that issue was solved—in finding enough trained personnel. In order to meet training needs, ATC commander Major General Harold L. George called upon the airlines and their expertise in training personnel. At a July 1942 meeting, nineteen airlines agreed to form the Airlines War Training Institute (AWTI) under the leadership of Samuel J. Solomon.

Solomon, who was taking on the job of AWTI president and director of training on top of his duties as president of Northeast Airlines, knew that he would need a top-level assistant to help oversee AWTI's operations. He turned to Jerome Lederer, who was chief of the Civil Aeronautics Board's Safety Bureau, to serve as vice president and head of AWTI's administrative section.

In addition to supervising the training work being performed by the different airlines and ensuring conformity in the curriculum, AWTI also undertook the task of preparing an extensive array of training manuals. Solomon wanted to ensure that the manuals would be as useful as possible, saying "I decided that if we expect these boys to learn in a hurry we have to give them books that they'll read with some interest."1 His approach was to design manuals that were written in a simple and straightforward manner (avoiding technical and military jargon as much as possible) and illustrated by clever cartoons.

The Airlines War Training Institute formally operated from August 1942 to October 1943. Over the course of fourteen months, AWTI had trained approximately 12,000 flight crew and 35,000 ground personnel, and also produced nearly thirty training manuals with hundreds of thousands of copies distributed not only to AWTI participants but also to ATC personnel and anyone else—military or civilian—who had an interest.

The Jerome Lederer papers in the Aviation Safety and Security Archives contains copies of the AWTI manuals, including both Jerry Lederer’s and Sam Solomon’s personal bound sets. The Archives is located in RASC II (Building 22). For more information, visit archives.pr.erau.edu or contact Melissa Gottwald (gottwalm@erau.edu; 928-777-3907).

The College of Aviation welcomed industry speakers into our classrooms, including our first-year course UNIV-101. Two alums, Roland Vera and Jacob Clymo came to the classroom of Merrie Heath, one of the UNIV-101 instructors, on Thursday, October 3rd, to discuss what life is like as a pilot, each sharing their experiences of being a flight student at ERAU Prescott campus. Roland and Jacob each took different paths and now one is a first officer with FedEx (Roland) and the other is a first officer with United Airlines (Jacob). Students asked some great questions and learned about the value of networking as a student, why it is important to get involved in volunteer work, and how much the aviation industry has changed over the past ten years. Overall message... the future is very bright for current pilots in training here at ERAU Prescott!
Juan Merkt was invited to brief the FAA Airman Certification System (ACS) Working Group on “Energy Management Standards and Guidance” on Wednesday, September 25th, 2019, in Washington, DC. The ACS working group, made up of 40 industry and 35 FAA reps, provides recommendations to the FAA regarding standards, training guidance, test management, and reference materials for airman certification purposes. Merkt’s presentation, in collaboration with FAA test pilot Dave Sizoo, was well received. Mismanagement of mechanical energy (altitude and airspeed) is a contributing factor to a wide range of accidents in aviation. Recognizing the importance of energy management, the FAA Airman Certification Standards (ACS) now require for the first time that private, commercial, and airline pilot candidates demonstrate knowledge of energy management concepts and the ability to mitigate risks associated with failure to manage energy state. Unfortunately, neither the ACS documents nor the references listed in them adequately define “energy management”, explain the relevant principles, or suggest how they should be taught to—or demonstrated by—pilot candidates. Thus, the main goal of the briefing was to make specific recommendations for developing FAA guidance materials that will support the new energy management standards. The presentation provided a roadmap and examples on how to develop such guidance. As a result of the briefing, the FAA has asked Merkt to write a series of articles on energy management in the FAA Safety Briefing magazine. His first article is to appear in the January/February 2020 issue of the magazine. Merkt has also been invited by the FAA and PSI (which administers FAA Knowledge Tests for pilot certification) to participate as a subject matter expert in a two-day meeting for reviewing and updating content materials for the Private Pilot, Instrument Rating, Commercial Pilot, and Airline Transport Pilot knowledge tests. Finally, Merkt and Sizoo expect to collaborate with an FAA team to write the necessary energy management guidance for pilots in FAA handbooks and other reference materials. Merkt, Sizoo, and co-author Matthjis Amelink are putting final touches to their paper “Energy Safety Management: Mitigating the Risks of Mismanagement of Energy in Flight” to be submitted for publication. This paper will provide a foundation for the guidance that the FAA is seeking. The materials in their paper have also provided the framework for Merkt’s Embry-Riddle course “Safety Principles of Aircraft Energy Management”, a one-of-a-kind course on energy management for pilots.
Starting at ERAU Prescott in 1997, Alum Eric Wiskus had zero flight experience. By the time he graduated in the spring of 2000, he had earned ratings all the way up to his CFI. Eric was a competing member of the Golden Eagles Flight Team from 1997-2000 when the team won 2 National Championships. After graduation, Eric flight instructed for only 3 months at KSNA – John Wayne Airport, before being hired at Express Airlines, which would later become Pinnacle, then change again to Endeavor. Flying the Saab340 for only a year, he was transitioned to the CRJ200 after 9/11. Over the next 11 years, Eric upgraded to Captain and became a Check Airman. In 2012, Jetblue Airways offered him an E190 slot in Boston. In 2014 he was finally able to be based at home by transitioning to the A320 based in Long Beach CA.

Currently, Eric is the Asst Chief Pilot for the LAX/LGB bases. He lives at home in Huntington Beach CA with his wife Carey, and 2 kids, Madison and Carson. Eric loves spending time at the beach, going to church, relaxing in Maui, and just being around his friends and family. This past June, Eric was asked to pick up Jetblue’s first A321 NEO from the Airbus factory in Hamburg Germany, and deliver it to JFK.
WINGS OUT WEST AIR SHOW!
Most schools have a football game for homecoming... we have an airshow!

Young and old alike enjoyed the show!
WINGS OUT WEST Continued...

CoA Prof. Sarah Nilsson & Shawn

A shot from Brian Roggow's look-out point in the ATC tower (Brian is our Aviation Safety Program Manager)

Michael Brady checking out a 1941 Piper J5-A Cruiser owned by CoA’s Bob and Ardeth Moser

Dept. Chair Juan Merkt and wife, Lanette, along with CoA Admin Dawn Marcuse and husband, Arno.

ROTC volunteers were invaluable

It’s A Bird. It’s A Plane...