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Reflections on a First Issue

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EDITORIAL

REFLECTIONS ON A FIRST ISSUE

The need for a scholarly journal in the field of aviation and aerospace has been a topic of conversation in collegiate aviation circles for many, many years. In addition, the aviation psychologists, a prolific group of writers by avocation, have wrestled with the task of founding a refereed publication for their profession for well over a decade. Nonetheless, there has been little that has ever come of these oft times quite impassioned discussions other than just a great deal of well intentioned but very unproductive talk. Everyone wants there to be an outlet for the publication of research findings, innovative classroom teaching methods, or the most current academic thought on issues of concern to the aviation and aerospace profession. However, no one wants to take the time to endure the trials and tribulations required to establish and support an academically focused publication for the profession. Well, as Bob Dylan so aptly said more than 20 years ago, "the times they are a changing."

With the publication of this issue of the *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education and Research (JAAER)*, a vehicle now exists for the sharing of scholarly ideas with others in the field. **JAAER** is a publication primarily for educators, however, it is not concerned solely with issues that relate to post-secondary aviation and aerospace education but wishes to also serve elementary and secondary education. Additionally, it is envisioned that the aviation industry will have a strong presence as a supporter of and contributor to the *Journal*. While this may seem to represent a very broad base of interests, these segments of the industry are more closely related than ever before.

Although **JAAER** has until this point assumed a very low profile, numerous letters and phone calls have been received already at the editorial office. This unexpected response and the kind words of encouragement are extremely heartening particularly when the series of pre-publication tasks associated with bringing a first issue to press seemed to get no smaller each day.

It is not too soon to think of the future of the *Journal* beyond this issue--you can play an extremely important part in these events if you wish. The *Journal* needs your help as a contributor and you can do this in one of many ways. We need your support financially in the form of subscription dollars. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU), the current **JAAER** host institution, has played a significant role in *Journal* development. However, ERAU support should be considered as only catalytic and this publication must become self-supporting as soon as possible. Your help is needed as a possible author; you may wish to assist us by preparing a manuscript and submitting it to the *Journal* for review and consideration for publication. But most importantly, we must have your help in making **JAAER** known to your colleagues and friends; it is imperative that you share the existence of this publication with others. Perhaps the words that best capture this final need are those of Daniel Coit Gilman, the first president of Johns Hopkins University, who over 100 years ago said " . . . It is one of the noblest duties of [an educator] to advance knowledge, and diffuse it not merely among those who can attend the daily lectures, but far and wide."

HRL