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April 2016 School of Graduate Studies Newsletter

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EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

Ph.D. IN AVIATION *[update]*

EMBRY-RIDDLE
Aeronautical University[™]
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

600 S. Clyde Morris Blvd, Daytona Beach, FL 32114 (386) 226-6748

chair's corner

Message from our Chair

by: Alan Stolzer, P.h.D.

Greetings! I am pleased to announce the Ph.D. in Aviation program has been accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI) (<http://www.aabi.aero/programs.html>). AABI accredits non-engineering programs in aviation and, until 2013, accredited undergraduate programs only. Last month the AABI Board of Trustees voted in favor of a first-ever accreditation of three graduate programs. All are at ERAU, and one of those is our Ph.D. in Aviation. What does this mean to you? Similar to the status ABET holds in the field of engineering, AABI is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as the accrediting body for aviation programs. AABI accreditation is validation of our academic quality and affirmation of adherence to multiple criteria addressing administrative support, curriculum, faculty, admissions processes, advisory councils, and others. This is a terrific accomplishment, and I



Alan Stolzer, Ph.D.

thank all who were involved in this great success. You can take great pride in your program and know that ERAU continues to lead the way!

We have made significant changes in the way some of you will experience the residency, so pay particular attention to the article on that subject in this newsletter. Please contact Dr. Kadie Mullins if you have questions about these changes.

Effective immediately, *Ph.D. in Aviation students' degrees will be conferred, and he or she will be a Doctor, on successful defense of the dissertation*

rather than at the subsequent commencement ceremony. Students will still be strongly encouraged to attend the medallion ceremony and commencement exercises to receive their program medallions and be hooded, respectively; these are very important celebrations for the graduates, their families, and the university. This change in policy allows graduates to begin using their hard-earned honorific immediately upon completion of the program.

Finally, please join us for the two dissertation defenses scheduled for this week – Ph.D. Candidates Fatokun on Wednesday and Velasquez on Thursday. Dissertation defenses are very important to the academic life and culture of scholarship in our department, and are what I consider the most important events we hold. Please plan to attend via EagleVision and support your fellow students.

Best wishes for academic success!

UCAR Congressional Briefing

Keeping Americans Safe in the Air

On Tuesday, February 23, Dr. Hampton served as a panelist at the UCAR (University Corporation for Atmospheric Research) Congressional Briefing. Some 60 individuals attended, including congressional aides, federal agency representatives, and Ed Perlmutter, Colorado congressman. Dr. Hampton spoke about the weather based aviation safety research taking place at ERAU, the Ph.D. program, and the concept of, uses for, and benefit of centers of excellence.

Other speakers included Dr. Michael Thompson, Interim UCAR President; Dr. Bruce Carmichael, Director Aviation Applications Program, Research Laboratory, NCAR; Mr. Doug Olsen, Project Manager, Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center of Excellence, John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences at University of North Dakota; and Captain Joseph Burns, CEO, Sensurion Aerospace. Previous briefings included the Impacts of El Nino, Next-Generation Hurricane Prediction, and the State of the Arctic.



UCAR

UNIVERSITY CORPORATION FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

Are You Ready for the Residency?

We are excited to welcome our students to the Daytona Beach campus for the residency. For new students (701s), it will run from 8 a.m. on Monday, August 15, through 5 p.m. on Friday, August 19. For 702 and 703 students, the residency begins at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, August 16, and ends at 12 p.m. on Friday, August 19. Please remember that **to receive credit for the residency you must attend every session**, so please plan your travel accordingly. **There can be no late arrivals or early departures.**

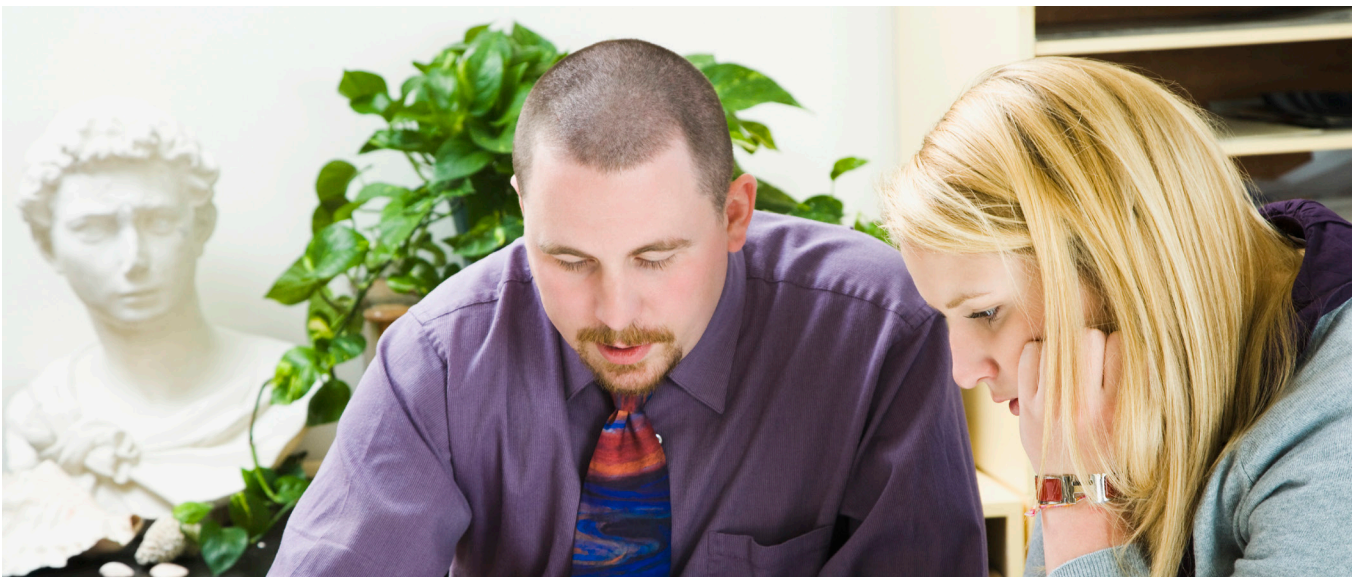
We attempt each year to incorporate student and faculty feedback into the residency. Based on that input, while many facets of this year's residency will feel familiar, significant adjustments to the agenda and the prospectus-presentation process have been made. These changes will help streamline the dissertation process and make it more efficient.

In DAV 701 Residency Seminar I, students will receive candid critiques of research ideas presented via the posters. When we see issues, we're going to provide feedback and guidance toward constructing more feasible approaches.

In DAV 702 Residency Seminar II, in lieu of a formal prospectus presentation, each student will meet **with his or her academic advisor** at various scheduled times throughout the residency to work on the prospectus. The goal is, by the end of the residency, for each student to have a solid prospectus leading toward a dissertation proposal.

For DAV 703 Residency Seminar III, each student must submit an updated prospectus to Dr. Stolzer by July 1, preceding the residency. Based on that prospectus and other factors, **each student will then be assigned a dissertation advisor.** In lieu of a formal presentation during the residency, students will meet at various scheduled times with their dissertation advisor to work on Chapter 1, with the goal of having it completed by the end of the week. This is a substantial departure from the previous process, but we believe it will enable much greater progress on the dissertation.

We look forward to seeing you at the residency this summer!



Ready. Set. Research.

The residency is a unique opportunity to connect with faculty and students, build content and skill knowledge to aid in your successful completion of the program, prepare for the next phase of your Ph.D. in Aviation career, and, we hope, have a little fun as well. The pinnacle of your Ph.D. program, one that we begin to discuss as early as your first residency, is your

dissertation. Our aim is to provide ample time for you to receive feedback, ideas, and advice from experienced faculty, industry advisors, peers, and graduates. Through your poster presentations and prospectus papers, you create the foundation of what may ultimately be your dissertation research. While we understand the difficulty of completing courses while simultaneously

working on the residency pre-work requirements, we hope you are able to use the time between terms, your course assignments, and discussions with your program advisors to build a strong prospectus, setting you up for success once you enter the dissertation phase. Whether you're a 702 or 703 student, the dissertation is right around the corner. Ready. Set. Research.



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