Former PEA Students — Where Are They Now?

NOTE: Sometimes we’re asked where students go after they finish pilot training at PEA – and what jobs they get. The PEA web site [see “What’s New” section] lists the names of recent airline hires, as well as some of the airlines graduates now fly for (there’s many more airlines, but not 100% of former students keep us current).

Here’s what three former PEA students are doing: United Express just re-introduced service to Daytona Beach from Dulles, Washington D.C., this month for the first time in 25 years. It was a big event, with senior airline officials speaking and welcoming the first flight at the gate. And who was in the cockpit? TWO PEA graduates and former instructors, Thanos Nikolakopoulus and Meredith Pinney! They are both flying for Mesa Airlines now, a code share partner with United, Delta, US airways and America West. Thanos has been with Mesa since 2001, and Meredith since 2004. It was great to see them again.

Another recent graduate, Charlotte Johnsen (the ‘Flying Viking”) from Norway, is also already working as an airline pilot. My Travel Airways hired Charlotte to fly the Airbus 320 and 321. She has now completed that training and already has over 100 hours flying passengers around Europe. As Charlotte says “It’s a little strange, little me and 200 passengers?! I like it a lot.” She has also been trained in the Boeing 737 700 in England after leaving PEA in 2005. You might remember reading about Charlotte in a 2005 newsletter article. You can check it out on the PEA web site under “What’s New.”

Check it out — How One PEA Student Feels about His Training

Editor’s Note: Student Matthew Guillot put together a slide show on his pilot training to share with family and friends. He sent it to his Admissions Officer; we thought it was great and have added it to the PEA website. Check it out to see how actual flight experiences look from the eyes of a student. Go to www.pea.com. Click on “What’s New” and look under “Press Releases;” it’s the first entry.
New Simulator to Arrive Soon

Another new flight simulator has just been acquired for student training. The Frasca 142 FTD is a twin-engine flight simulator with handling and performance characteristics similar to actual aircraft, making it ideal for reciprocating engine flight training. It can also be set to replicate a single engine, fixed gear trainer, as well as a twin with advanced avionics.

The flight, engine and systems controls and indicators in the Frasca 142 are modeled after actual aircraft parts for realistic feedback. The Jeppesen continental U.S. navigational database provides real-world training scenarios. The Graphical Instructor Station (GIS) is integrated, as well as other visual systems such as GPS, HIS, operable circuit breakers, Bendix/King Flight Control Systems and Avionics, and EFIS. Ghassan Reslan, Executive Vice President, commented “This new FTD will definitely enhance our program and provide another superb training opportunity for students.” Installation of the new FTD is expected in March. It will join another Frasca 142, a Frasca 141 Visual and a PFC 737 simulator at PEA.

Takeoffs produce more than one-fourth of light plane accidents. Many of those mishaps occur on the ground during the takeoff run – most often the result of the pilot’s loss of directional control.

Loss of control at rotation can result when heading into a crosswind. To avoid this, hold the mains on the ground until deliberate back pressure lifts the aircraft off the runway, allowing for more control as it begins to climb out of ground effect and establishes the proper drift correction.

Also be alert for Propeller slipstream. Anticipate the left-turning tendency of the “slipstream effect” (caused by a corkscrewing prop wash) when you open the throttle. Respond quickly with the rudder and visual cues to maintain the centerline.

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