



# CGAR QUARTERLY 2011

## ***Researcher Highlight:*** ***Jim HIGGINS***

Volume 7, Issue 1  
Spring 2011

Jim Higgins, M.S., ATP, has accumulated over 4,000 hours in Part 121 line operations. He is a former airline captain with American Eagle Airlines. During his tenure at American Eagle, Captain Higgins served as an Initial Operating Experience (IOE) Line Check Airman. In this capacity, he supervised all flight crewmembers as they transitioned from the training environment to passenger-revenue operations. As part of his duties, he also conducted line checking events.

Captain Higgins was also the Master Executive Council (MEC) Chairman with the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) at American Eagle Airlines. He was responsible for both the daily oversight and long-term strategic planning of all union activities. He concurrently served as the Chairman of the Negotiating Committee for the pilots at American Eagle Airlines.

Upon leaving the airlines and union activities, Captain Higgins joined the faculty in the Aviation Department at the University of North Dakota. He has taught the following undergraduate courses: Crew Resource Management, Airline Operations and Management, Transport Category Aircraft Operations, Advanced Aircraft Operations, Long Range Navigation; and the following graduate courses: Airline Labor Relations and Law, and Statistics.

In addition to his duties in the classroom, Professor Higgins also instructs in the Canadair Regional Jet Level 6 Flight Training Device. Professor Higgins has served as the faculty advisor for the UND Flying Team. He was the faculty advisor and Head Coach of the UND Flying Team during their National Championship years of 2004, 2006, 2009 and 2010. He has also been the faculty advisor for both SAMA and Alpha Eta Rho in past years.

Professor Higgins is also actively engaged in research activities. He is the current Principal Investigator in a funded CGAR project pertaining to Flight Data Monitoring (FDM) and General Aviation. He has participated in many previous funded research activities including the development of an aviation crisis response manual (funded by the National Academy of Sciences) and a pilot aging study (funded by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association).

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# Highlighted Project

## UAA Experimental Lighting

An exciting airport improvement that Napaimute was fortunate to receive in 2010 was the installation of a demonstration lighting system designed for remote airfields. The Native Village of Napaimute is partnering with the University of Alaska Anchorage Aviation Technology Division with support from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University on this important project.

The system is a combination of intense reflectors and low-powered LED lights for safe night operations on remote fields. The LED lights mark the four corners of the runway. Napaimute Homesteader, Brandon Leary, who has been involved with Napaimute's airport development from the beginning, installed the system and did the initial testing. Tall trees at each end of Napaimute's 75' X 2,600' airfield prevent testing under very dark conditions. However, this lighting system has proved invaluable in twilight. Napaimute's leadership is currently negotiating with land owners at each end of the airfield for the removal of a limited amount of timber to improve safety and allow for additional lighting tests.



*LED Lights that mark the corners of the Napaimute Airfield*



*November 18, 2010: Reality UAA Experimental Lighting Test – plane lands in the twilight to medivac a sick Napaimute resident (picture has been brightened)*

The true value of this lighting system was proven on November 18<sup>th</sup> when an Inland Aviation aircraft enroute from McGrath to Aniak was able to divert and come into Napaimute's airfield to pick up a critically-ill resident well after sunset. The pilot was very impressed by the lighting system having been able to see the outline of the runway from several miles away.

This reality test clearly demonstrated the effectiveness and value of this lighting system. It is one of those important safety items; that may sit for days unused, but at critical times when it is needed, it's there, and makes all the difference. Even between life and death.

# ***CGAR 2011 Annual Meeting***

This year's annual conference will take place on the Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach Campus in Florida from May 24 to May 26, 2011.

The conference will bring together many research topics and presentations including SMS, flight data monitoring, helicopter lighting systems, and more.

Visit



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## ***Upcoming Events for 2011***

**37th Annual Sun-n-Fun International Fly-In & Expo**  
March 29 – April 3  
Lakeland, FL



**AA&S 2011**  
April 18–21  
San Diego, CA



**CGAR 2011 Annual Conference**  
May 24–26  
Daytona Beach, FL



**2011 Air Venture**  
July 25–31  
Oshkosh, WI

**56th ATCA Annual Conference & Expo**  
October 2–5  
Washington, D.C.



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