



Lei Morales and Adrienne Johnson (top), and Bob Getz, Peder Sarsten, and Shane Falz, (above) were all affected by, but weathered the storms.

An Airborne Exodus

After Charley twisted the tail section of one of its planes like a pretzel and damaged dozens of others, the university didn't hesitate in evacuating its Daytona Beach fleet of 65 training aircraft as Frances approached. Instructor pilots flew the planes to safe airports in Anniston, Gadsden, Huntsville, and Montgomery, Ala., and Rome, Ga.

With Ivan hard on the heels of Frances, the plan was to leave the planes where they were, but when the storm changed course and charged toward the Florida Panhandle and Alabama, 30 were quickly relocated to Russellville and Hot Springs, Ark. During Hurricane Jeanne, the aircraft remained in Anniston, Gadsden, Huntsville, and Rome. They finally returned to the Daytona Beach flight line Sept. 28.

With the planes back, training rebounded quickly, said Richard Theokas, chairman of the flight-training department. "We've expanded the training day and we're offering students the chance to fly during the holiday breaks if they are able to do so. We're back up to 450 flight-training operations a day now, half of them in the air and half in simulators."

Back on Schedule

On the rest of the campus, the provost and faculty lengthened Tuesday and Thursday classes to 80 minutes and designated a study day and exam day in December as class days. "We've also given instructors the flexibility to schedule evening and weekend class meetings if it's convenient for their students," said John Watret, associate chancellor for academic affairs.

After the nine-day interruption, most students were happy to be poring over textbooks, studying notes, and learning about something other than storm tracks and wind speeds. The end of hurricane season was still several weeks away, but nobody wanted to contemplate the possibility of more. They'd already had enough. ➔

High-Flyers

Tim Brady Tapped to Lead Accreditation Group

Tim Brady, dean of the College of Aviation at the Daytona Beach campus, has been appointed to a two-year term as president of the Council on Aviation Accreditation.



Tim Brady

Hydrogen-to-Mars Plan Puts Students on Top

A group of Embry-Riddle students surpassed teams from Georgia Tech (second place) and Ohio State University (third place) to win the annual undergraduate space design competition sponsored by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

The students, who are majoring in engineering physics at the Daytona Beach campus, designed a system for delivering 150 metric tons of hydrogen to Mars in a 30-year period starting in 2018.

The team members were Eric Alderson, Richard Browning, Michael Campola, Michael Cline, Michelle Closen, Carl Hippner, Will Mudge, Afroz Nissar, Jon Smith, and Amir Tal. Their faculty adviser was Mehmet Sözen, associate professor of engineering physics.

The students made good use of what they learned in their engineering physics courses, Sözen said, "and in many instances, they went a step beyond."

Other competing universities were Virginia Tech and the University of California-Davis.

David Shannon Wins NASA Award

David T. Shannon, recently appointed director of Embry-Riddle's new Centers for Engineering Research, has received NASA's top technology-transfer award for a project he led while at Langley Research Center. He and other members of the Acoustic Fetal Heart Monitor Team were presented with the 2003 Paul F. Holloway Non-Aerospace Technology Transfer Award on Aug. 13.



David T. Shannon

As a technology-commercialization project manager at Langley, Shannon oversaw NASA and Veatronics Inc. researchers' conversion of technology used to measure airflow over airplane wings into a portable, noninvasive fetal heart monitor for use at home by pregnant women. NASA granted Veatronics a license to market commercial products based on the technology.

Shannon was also on the team that won the award for 2001. In that project, techniques used to measure brain activity in NASA pilots during flight simulation were incorporated into a video game used to improve mental awareness, particularly for those with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

At Embry-Riddle, Shannon is working to open up the university's research in aerospace engineering and technology to businesses. Partnerships are expected to lead to innovations that enhance the university's revenue through patents and licenses.