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Linfield Magazine Staff

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The psychology of flying

David Rozovski '05 in the cockpit of a Boeing 747-100. Rozovski had the opportunity to attend 747 ground school and help conduct evaluations of pilots and maintenance personnel during his internship at Evergreen International Airlines last summer.

David Rozovski’s internship took him nearly around the world – 23,000 miles in six days to be exact. Although he saw little more than the flight deck of a 747 on that particular trip, it’s quite an accomplishment for someone who used to fear flying.

Rozovski, a Linfield College psychology major, spent the summer interning in the safety department at Evergreen International Airlines in McMinnville. The position involved a variety of projects, all related to his ultimate goal of working in aviation psychology. His senior thesis explores indicators to help pilots recognize instrument failures more quickly and help avert plane crashes.

“I am looking at human/machine interaction,” he said. “I’ve been able to see everything from systems operation to flight dispatch to flight operations.” He added, “I’ve been able to interact with the chief pilots on all levels of the DC9s and 747s. I’ve been able to see how the menial side of it. He learned the importance of having all kinds of information available.”

The six-day marathon journey, routine for Thompson but new to Rozovski, included stops in Alaska, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Diego Garcia to conduct routine safety evaluations of the pilots and maintenance personnel on the ground. The evaluations included observing in-flight operations and the ground logistics to make sure all procedures – both FAA and Evergreen – were properly followed. During take-offs and landings, Rozovski or Thompson sat right behind the pilots, observing the process.

“Really the high level of work occurs when the plane takes off, gets to cruising altitude and establishes a route,” Rozovski said. “Then the workload drops off significantly until the plane begins its descent and lands.”

Rozovski said his experience at Evergreen was invaluable.

“I’ve been able to look at why accidents occur, and the details that go into investigating an accident,” he said. “I’ve had a lot of freedom to learn as much as I want to learn. I’ve been able to see everything from systems operations to flight dispatch to flight operations.” He added, “I’ve been able to interact with the chief pilots on all levels of the DC9s and 747s. I’ve been able to see how maintenance personnel see things and how the plane operates.”

Rozovski’s internship related to all of that. He sat beside seasoned pilots during a 747 ground school, an annual requirement for them. He also helped develop an assistance program to aid friends and families of employees in the event of an accident. Because of the need to maintain security and keep personnel around the world updated in the event of an incident, Rozovski has also helped develop a secure website that allows Evergreen employees access to information from any computer anywhere in the world via a password.

“David worked on all these different programs,” said Bud Thompson, director of safety and security at Evergreen. “He saw the glorious side of flying as well as the menial side of it. He learned the importance of having all kinds of information available.”

Inside Linfield Magazine

Linfield is known for its strong teaching faculty, who engage and challenge students in the classroom, studio and the laboratory. In addition to our look at Vivian Bull’s presidency, this issue of Linfield Magazine offers a glimpse at some of those faculty. Ron Mills and Barbara May, who were presented with awards last spring for their teaching and research, are profiled. Four faculty members shared their summer reading lists and offered commentary on some of the books. One professor examines his role as teacher following the death of a former student in Iraq, those featured are but a sampling of a faculty that is dedicated to teaching young people to address the complex issues they will face in the future. We plan to tell even more faculty stories in the future.

On the cover:

Vivian Bull chats with students at the activities fair held during orientation in August.

(Tom Ballard photo)

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