



**PIPER MEMORIAL AIRPORT  
353 PROCTOR STREET  
LOCK HAVEN PA 17745**

For Immediate Release:

## **LHU Professor Earns Pilot License**

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**Lock Haven, PA, 19 May 2019** – Sixteen months exactly. That’s how long it took Gerard Martorell to earn his Sport Pilot Certificate at AvSport LLC, the full-service flight school on the Piper Memorial Airport. Prof. Martorell, who teaches international marketing at Lock Haven University, found his progress hampered by both bureaucracy and meteorology.

A citizen of France who has long resided in Spain, Martorell had to jump through the nearly insurmountable hoops erected post-9/11 by the Transportation Security Administration, in order to pursue flight training while employed in the US. After being fingerprinted, photographed, and subjected to an FBI background investigation, he had to wait precious weeks for training approval. “I understand that the intent of TSA rules is to protect the US,” conceded AvSport founder and Chief Flight Instructor H. Paul Shuch, who provided Martorell with his primary training. “Unfortunately, an unintended consequence of these rules is that the US, long the world leader in flight training, may well be losing its position of aviation dominance.”

Ultimately receiving training approval (which is granted for a period of only one year), Martorell had to contend with especially harsh weather conditions throughout 2018. This delay in completion of his training required him to reapply for TSA approval before he could continue with his instruction in 2019. He eventually completed his advanced training with Joe Dougherty, an Adjunct Flight Instructor at AvSport who served as Recommending Instructor. Joe signed Martorell off to fly a practical test with Prof. Shuch, who is also an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner. This change of instructors permitted Shuch to look at Martorell with fresh eyes, evaluating his skills objectively in his role as FAA quality control inspector.

The Sport Pilot license, in which AvSport specializes, is the newest portal of entry into the world of aviation, allowing prospective pilots to become licensed in half the time, and at half the cost, of the traditional Private Pilot license. Sport Pilots fly solely for pleasure, in fair weather, during daylight hours, in simple, low-performance Light Sport aircraft. Piper Memorial Airport is the ancestral home to the legendary Piper Cub, arguably the world’s first sport plane. Modern Light Sport aircraft allow pilots to recapture the bygone fly-for-fun Cub era, with increased reliability and improved safety. Anyone interested in learning more about sport flying is invited to browse the school’s extensive website at <http://AvSport.org>, where a wealth of free training materials awaits.

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTO: [http://www.avsport.org/photos/graduates/Gerard\\_checkride.jpg](http://www.avsport.org/photos/graduates/Gerard_checkride.jpg)

CAPTION: Congratulations to Gerard Martorell, who on May 18 successfully completed his Sport Pilot practical test with FAA Designated Pilot Examiner H. Paul Shuch. Here Prof. Shuch presents Prof. Martorell with his pilot certificate, in the local flight school’s hangar on the Piper Memorial Airport. Behind them is the Czech trainer aircraft in which Gerard learned to fly.