



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

For Immediate Release:

LHU Professor Overflies Campus

**For more information, contact Prof. H. Paul Shuch, Chief Flight Instructor
Office (570) 748-3725, Cell (570) 419-1229, email fly@AvSport.org**

Lock Haven, PA, 14 October 2018 – AvSport of Lock Haven, the sport aviation school on the Piper Memorial Airport, is pleased to announce that yet another of its primary students has just achieved his first solo flight. Gerard Martorell, a professor of international business at Lock Haven University, today demonstrated his competence to safely fly a Light Sport aircraft as its sole occupant, by viewing his campus from above. Gerard came to Lock Haven to teach last Fall, and this January began flight training at Piper Memorial Airport, in pursuit of a lifelong dream to become a pilot.

Originally from France and until recently a resident of Spain, Martorell's desire to initiate flight training was delayed for several months while awaiting an FBI background investigation and approval from the Transportation Security Administration. These requirements were implemented following the September 11, 2001 attacks, and have significantly hampered the flight training industry nationwide.

Martorell is receiving training from AvSport founder and Chief Flight Instructor Dr. H. Paul Shuch, himself a retired professor. Today's first solo flight makes him what Shuch likes to call an "airplane driver." He will now begin to receive advanced training which Shuch says will "take him from airplane driver all the way up to licensed pilot."

Upon completion of this successful first solo flight, Shuch cut the back off of Gerard's t-shirt, and autographed it to mark the occasion. This ritual dates back to the Golden Age of aviation, when barnstormers frequently had to patch rips in their fabric-covered aircraft with pieces of their own garments. Martorell's shirt is now displayed on the wall of the AvSport office, proudly joining 19 others representing the students who have achieved this same milestone over the past eight years.

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/solo/Gerard.jpg>

CAPTION: AvSport Chief Flight Instructor Dr. H. Paul Shuch performs a ritual that dates back to the Golden Age of Aviation, by cutting off the back of Prof. Gerard Martorell's shirt following the latter's first successful solo flight. That piece of fabric was signed by Shuch, and now adorns AvSport's office wall, along with shirts of other successful solo pilots trained at AvSport of Lock Haven.