



ADAM BROCHU

What is your current position?

I am a Pilot with the corporate charter outfit Chartright Air Group, working for their client in Chatham, Ontario. The primary role is to fly company executives, other employees, and their guests to various locations within Ontario, Quebec, as well as the Northeastern and Midwestern United States. Many of the trips are scheduled well in advance, but remaining on-call on weekdays, when nothing else is scheduled, is required in case of emergencies.

**What History program did you take at Western?
What year did you graduate?**

I graduated in 2006 as a Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies with a Specialization in Commercial Aviation Management and a Minor in History.

How did your History degree prepare you for your current position?

Aviation is an industry that changes constantly. Aircraft, electronics, systems, and procedures are continually being designed and redesigned with each generation of aircraft, and each aircraft, and to some degree each system and set of electronic equipment, needs to be learned separately as variations are the rule rather than the exception. Being able absorb a large manual of specifications and system descriptions and condense it into a form that is intelligible, easily remembered and reiterated is absolutely essential, not only for passing aircraft type examinations, but also while flying; knowing how a system works and why it is designed in such a manner can be the deciding factor in properly diagnosing an emergency or system failure.

By learning history you are also learning the critical thinking skills necessary to condense large amounts of factual information in a manner that can be remembered, reproduced or disseminated to make new arguments and evaluations.

More than that, however, studying history is the ultimate way to learn from the mistakes of others; aviation, like any other field, has been developed largely through the process of trial and error; only by looking back at where we came from, and the mistakes made along the way, can we decide where it is we need to go next.

What would you tell an incoming History student?

I would tell an incoming history student that no matter your reasons for taking history at Western, even if it's only as a minor specialization, you have given yourself a tremendous opportunity to learn how to learn systematically and write persuasively, to apply the lessons of the past to your future, and to challenge yourself with new ideas and points of view. These are not history-specific skills, but ones you will find invaluable in whatever profession you find yourself pursuing, be it graduate studies, aviation, writing, law or hundreds of others. Choose some history courses you're interested in and treat them as opportunities for personal development instead of obligations.

Any other thoughts or comments?

You're here to learn – not just to graduate – so ask questions, engage, contribute to discussions, and talk to your professors during off hours when you need direction. They're here to help.