The Air We Breathe
By Daniel Morton

Have you ever taken a minute to think about the air you breathe? This air or oxygen is the very foundation of life that keeps us all alive. It’s amazing then, how much we take air for granted. What if you were unable to get that air into your body, can you imagine the nightmarish feeling that would come across you?

Fabrice Muamba learned how this feels on Saturday March 17th 2012. Muamba is a 23-year old, professional soccer player originally from Congo. He moved to England with his father at the age of 11 in order to escape political turmoil in Congo. From there, he progressed through reserve teams for English Premier League Clubs, eventually landing in the starting eleven for Bolton. He even played for the England under-21 national team. He is recently engaged and has a 3-year old son.

During a Football Association (FA) cup game against Tottenham, Muamba collapsed in the middle of the field. Trainers and paramedics rushed onto the pitch. Even a fan, who is a cardiologist, stormed the field to help. Fabrice Muamba had suffered a heart attack. Paramedics reported that he wasn’t breathing as they rushed him off the field, into an ambulance and to the London Chest Hospital.

Everyone who witnessed this tragedy thought the worst. Fans, players, and coaches waited anxiously to hear any news on the situation. Miraculously, Muamba’s heart started beating again; he started to breathe. He spoke in French and English and even recognized his friends and family.

Fabrice Muamba’s heart failure in the middle of the March 17th Soccer game. Doctors reported that Muamba’s heart had stopped beating for 78 minutes. Fabrice was essentially dead.

Many will call this a miracle, a truly extraordinary event. While this may be true, we need to consider this story and take a minute to be thankful that we can breathe the air we breathe.
Imagine yourself in the year: 2014, flying miles above earth’s atmosphere, experiencing views only the best astronauts in the world have seen before. Though those two years don’t seem too far away, there is a sincere possibility that you’ll be experiencing a new kind of adventure tourism, one that takes you straight up into earth’s atmosphere on a commercial jet.

Virgin Atlantic currently has a program for Space Tourism, where you can board the Virgin Galactic for a cheap ticket of $200,000; not too much for an experience that is out of this world… Literally. Unfortunately, right now, you can only register for these “flights,” since they won’t be taking off until 2013.

The US government expects “Space Tourism” to be a billion dollar industry within the next ten years, which makes me think, there is literally an entire new atmosphere to create memorable experiences for our guests. From space birthday parties, to wedding showers, and everything in between, the ability to create memorable experiences outside of our “atmosphere” is only but a few years away. This is an incredible thought.

President Obama is using this new phenomenon to support the International Space Station. As of right now, the US must rely on the Japanese, Russian, and European Space Agency to send crew and supplies to the station.

For now, these futuristic space tourism companies have until 2015 until the Federal Aviation Administration can even begin implementing any sort of safety regulations. So until then, take advantage of your imaginary joyride around the Earth.

Digital Imaging at the Touch of Your Fingertips
By: Ashley Pastino

Forget carrying around digital cameras to capture all your lifetime memories! The new Air Clicker is a Bluetooth-powered finger camera that works by using the classic air motion of your fingers to snap with this invisible camera. This new concept gets rid of the camera and puts digital imaging literally into your fingers. Two small ring-like devices wrap about a user’s pointer finger and thumb. Then by making certain hand gestures and connecting to your smartphone via Bluetooth, you are able to send photos directly to your handset.

For example, by wearing the camera band on your thumb and the shutter button on your forefinger, you can gesture to click a picture. To take videos, simply curve your fingers to mimic a video camera grip and shoot. The tension from the finger movement triggers the shutter button to operate.

As technology becomes more advanced and mechanisms become smaller and smaller, the world can literally be powered by your fingertips. It will be interesting to see what other products will be released using a combination of air and imagination.
As a child, anxiety took control of my mind and body during my first flight to Florida. The turbulence was by far the worst my grandmother ever experienced. With five children on flight, she had to bear in mind she could not show her fear. She whispered, “Imagine you’re at the amusement park on your favorite ride, it will be over soon.” With the fear of falling, I refused to board another plane until I was 13 years old. By that time, I had researched the cause of turbulence to better understand causes and effects of an airplane in flight.

The fear of flying is a psychological anxiety disorder, aerophobia, where a person dreads factors associated with flying rather than the experience itself. Perhaps the traveler is afraid of heights/falling, turbulence, airborne over water, claustrophobia, airplane incidents or past traumatic encounters. Interference of anxiety could prevent a person from vacationing, visiting family/friends, or might destroy a career opportunity because of flight avoidance.

By understanding the components of flying and developing confidence in the pilot to get you to your destination, fear can be minimized. Turbulence is a primary fear factor that passengers have during their flight, which provokes emotional distress and physical unease. Due to air and wind strains, the wings are intended to generate the heavy aircraft’s lift through the air at high speeds to raise and lower elevation, producing a potential bumpy ride. Turbulence is a natural occurrence as a result of wind, heat, clouds and/or jet stream and cannot cause a plane to plummet from the sky. The pilot is in complete control and aware of weather conditions regarding the security of passengers at all times.

As the fastest, most convenient, secure and safe mode of traveling, about 3 million travelers fly daily. Airplanes are designed utilizing advanced technology to ensure intact journeys through the sky. I now know that there is nothing to fear. Every flight creates an experience for all travelers. Embrace the experience!
For those looking to do something fun, perhaps you should consider travelling to New Smyrna Beach, Florida for the Annual Balloon and Sky Fest. This year, New Smyrna is expecting over 30,000 visitors in attendance. The three day show features hot air balloon rides, helicopter and airplane rides, two daytime air shows, food, carnival rides, music and more. The festival is at no cost to guests, but donations are accepted. This unique festival is a fun way for people to get together, and experience flying in hot air balloons, helicopters, and military planes, while experiencing a beautiful evening show of lit up hot air balloons that float through the night sky.

Although the festival is in Florida, Philadelphia is actually the birthplace of hot air balloon travel in the United States! The first hot air balloon was launched in 1793 by Jean-Pierre Blanchard. People say that former president, George Washington in attendance!

If you are unable to go to the Balloon and Sky Fest in Florida, you can always take part in the U.S. Hot Air Balloon Team rides from Independence Hall, or at the Philadelphia Zoo. It’s an amazing way to travel through the air and see the City of Brotherly Love from above.

“It’s a Bird, It’s a Plane, It’s a Wingsuit!

By: Ted Elsasser

During the past two decades, adventure and extreme sports have become the go-to activity for adrenaline junkies everywhere. People from all over the world are looking for the next progression of an existing sport. One of these has its origins in skydiving, base-jumping, and bungee jumping. This new level comes in the form of tracking suits, more commonly known as wingsuits.

For ages, people have been wondering what it would feel like to fly like a bird. Now with the invention and perfection of the wingsuit, many people can now experience this. In terms of basic physics and aerodynamics, the wingsuit provides more surface area than the normal human body, and therefore creates additional lift. This lift greatly reduces the flier’s rate of fall and allows him or her to actually glide through the air.

The best part of these wingsuits is the amount of time spent flying. Japanese flier Shin Ito set a world record for flying over 10 horizontal miles with a flight time of almost 5 minutes. This is double the amount of time of a standard freefall skydive. With more people entering the adventure and extreme sport environment, activities such as this will become the standard. Who knows where the next evolution will come from?
When Roy Halladay, on the mound for the Phillies, throws a sinking fastball around 90 miles per hour, his pitch is determined not exclusively by his skill, but also by factors that lie outside of his control. While temperature and weather are major contributors, the forces that predominately act on a baseball are aerodynamic.

As seen through Newton’s first law of motion, a baseball that has been pitched will stay in motion until acted on by an external force, or otherwise, a bat. Newton’s third law of motion also comes into play when dealing with baseball. This law states that, “for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.” When a batter hits a baseball, the force of his swing combined with the velocity of the pitch causes long distance hits, and in most cases, home runs.

In regards to aerodynamics, there are three main components that act as forces on a baseball in motion: weight, drag, and lift. The weight of a major league baseball is exactly five ounces, and the interior consists of a solid core wrapped with string and a stitched covering. Because of this design, weight is evenly distributed throughout a baseball. When a baseball flies through the air, the center of gravity for the ball is the core, which is rotated around by the rest of the ball. The drag is the resistance force that acts upon a baseball, and it moves along with and in the opposite direction of a ball’s flight path. When a ball is pitched, the air resists the motion of the ball. The lift is the force that acts on a baseball perpendicular to its flight path. This is important when it comes to different types of pitches. Depending on how a pitcher orientates the axis of rotation for a ball, the baseball can range from curving in one direction to diving or lofting.

While skills and talent are important to any team, aerodynamic forces are just as major of players on the field. If a player can understand and manipulate these forces, the chances of winning a game increase.

Source: http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/k-12/airplane/ballforce.html

Couch on a Plane?!
By: Aziza Mansour

As of 2010, Air New Zealand has launched a very innovative type of seating called the “Cuddle Class” for its 777-300 airplanes. The “Cuddle Class” features a Skycouch, a trio of economy-sized seats that can be turned into, well, a couch. The design of the Skycouch allows you and your travel partner to actually lie down and cuddle up, by removing the armrests and extending a footrest to become the same size as all three seats. Air New Zealand created this specifically for economy class travelers, who make up the majority of flyers and have been greatly ignored. The executives of Air New Zealand have expressed that they want their customers to be able to sleep on their planes and be relaxed on long flights. The planes currently equipped with these Skycouches are those that fly from Los Angeles to London and Auckland, New Zealand. This is a great improvement for economy class travelers and Air New Zealand executives say that it won’t be long before everyone starts asking for Skycouches. In fact, the airline industry could certainly be seeing more of these spacious seats, as Air New Zealand is now talking about licensing to 30 other companies.
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(RIGHT) A Temple University student is seen here learning how to properly check a victim’s airway at the CPR training event hosted by Senior Seminar on Saturday March 31st.

(LEFT) Montague and Associates employee Aziza Mansour presents Abduallah Allen with a ticket to Casino Night after participating and winning in a promotion held via Facebook. Casino Night is scheduled for Friday, April 13.

(LEFT) Montague and Associates employees pause from a busy day in New York City to take a group photo!
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DID YOU KNOW?

⇒ We breathe approximately 2 gallons of air every minute.
⇒ Air pollution takes 1 to 2 years off the normal human life span.
⇒ Motor vehicles produce more air pollution than any other human activity — One full bus means 40 less cars traveling.
⇒ More hazardous pollutants are released into the air than are released into water and land combined.
⇒ Children are more affected by air pollution because of their size and how much they play outside.
⇒ The health affects of smog have been seen recently in a study of dolphins. The dolphins were found to have black lung, a disease very common in coal miners.
⇒ Pollutants cause smog and acid rain which cause cancer and other serious, potentially life threatening diseases. They also diminish the ozone layer, and play a large role in world climate change.
⇒ Many people do not realize this, but indoor air pollution in your home is a large concern and health risk. In home pollutants include: dust, pollen, mold, radon, carbon monoxide, mold, and chemical fumes.

SOURCES:
Www.tryscience.org
Www.dosomething.org

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