J. A. Donoghue, Flight Safety Foundation director of publications and editor-in-chief of the Foundation’s monthly magazine AeroSafety World, has received the 2008 Lauren D. Lyman Award for outstanding achievement in aviation journalism.

“Jay’s contribution to the aviation industry spans three decades,” said Jay DeFrank, vice president—communications for Pratt & Whitney, part of United Technologies Corp. (UTC). “His stories on air safety and technical-related developments truly exemplify the standards and skills by which Deac Lyman lived and worked.”

The award is named after Lauren “Deac” Lyman, a Pulitzer-prize winning aviation reporter for the New York Times who later had a distinguished career as a public relations executive with United Aircraft, a predecessor to UTC.

Donoghue, who has more than 30 years experience covering aviation and 3,500 flight hours as a pilot, began his career in aviation journalism in 1976 as a staff reporter for Aviation Daily. Moving to Air Transport World in 1980, he held a number of positions before becoming editor-in-chief in 1991 and editorial director of the ATW Media Group in 2002.

“I am overwhelmed to be included in the ranks of past Lyman award winners,” Donoghue said in his acceptance speech. “As Air Transport World’s third editor-in-chief in its 45-year history, I’m especially pleased to join the Lyman list with Jim Woolsey, the man who hired me and taught me much, especially about the use of photography and graphics in the magazine, and ATW’s founder, the late and unquestionably great Joe Murphy. Also, ATW’s long-time London correspondent, Arthur Reed, now departed.”

Donoghue has won numerous awards for excellence in aviation journalism, including the Royal Aeronautical Society Journalist of the Year recognition in 2004. A former U.S. Army helicopter pilot, his service included a year in Vietnam with the 4th Infantry Division flying Bell UH-1 “Hueys” and Huey gunships. His commercial pilot license includes ratings for helicopters, airplanes and gliders, and he remains an active glider pilot.

Joining Flight Safety Foundation in 2006, he oversaw the transition from seven monthly and bi-monthly newsletters to a new monthly four-color magazine, AeroSafety World, which currently has a circulation of 40,000 hard copies and Web downloads per issue.

First presented in 1972, the award goes to a journalist or public relations professional in aviation who exhibits Lyman’s high standard of excellence. UTC is the long-time sponsor of the award.

“I find the mission of the Foundation to be highly motivating and the quality of what is done there to be inspiring,” Donoghue said. “I couldn’t be having more fun and still get paid for it.

“In the end, I’ve always felt honored to be a member of the aviation trade press and to be a small part of this incredibly exciting aerospace community. The quality of that industry’s journalism makes any award presented by our peers special, and none more than this one.”

Donoghue Recognized for Career Achievements in Aviation Journalism