AEROCOM

JOHN D. ODEGARD SCHOOL OF AEROSPACE SCIENCES

WINTER 2025

UND
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

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COVER PHOTO **LOUIS JAMERNIK V: UND MEN'S HOCKEY CAPTAIN & FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR**

Welcome to the Winter 2025 Aerocom. Each year, the University celebrates Founders Day on February 20 and recognizes outstanding faculty and staff. This year, four members or groups from our school are receiving awards:

- Kirsten Pratt (Aerospace Success Center) as an Outstanding Academic Advisor
- Dr. Montana Etten-Bohm (Atmospheric Science) for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching
- Dr. Aaron Kennedy (Atmospheric Science) for Excellence in Teaching, Research, and Service
- Dr. Pablo De León and Dr. Keith Crisman from Space Studies with Dr. Jesse Rhoades from Kinesiology (College of Education and Human Development) for Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Research and Creative Activity

In Aviation, we welcomed more than 600 freshmen including 150 that had already completed their private pilots license. Flying continues to go well—we had a great fall thanks to Mother Nature and flew our busiest October ever.

The Air Traffic (Control) Management program, which started in 1970, has always been top-notch. Just before the holidays, it was accepted into the FAA's Enhanced Collegiate Training Initiative Program. This means our qualified graduates are eligible to move straight to air traffic control tower positions, bypassing the FAA Training Academy.

Atmospheric Sciences welcomed seven new faculty members or researchers and they've hit the ground running, teaching courses and starting research programs. Dr. Aaron Kennedy is on a year of developmental leave as a Fulbright Scholar in Iceland, continuing his research on blowing snow and ice.

Earth Systems Science and Policy continues to do great work researching sustainability and finding ways to make our lives and planet exist better together.

Space Studies students are preparing to operate UND's first satellite in early summer. This project is called the Rendezvous and Operations for Autonomous Docking and Servicing (ROADS) and will be the first successful separation and rejoin of a university-controlled satellite. We've also added a Saturn 1B rocket engine to our collection as well as one of NASA's Orion test capsules.

You may have heard that an Aerospace Engineering program started in the College of Engineering and Mines. Due to our expertise, Aviation and Space Studies faculty will be teaching three courses for the new program: Flight Mechanics and Aircraft Performance; Engine, Rocket, and Spacecraft Propulsion; and Orbital Mechanics.

While several construction projects are happening on campus, we are in the final planning and major fundraising stage to kick off the Flight Operations Center project later this year. It's an exciting time at UND as we move UND Aerospace into the future.

Our students and alumni continue to lead across the University of North Dakota and the aerospace industry. In this issue, you'll read about a few of them. We thank you for your continued support. We hope you enjoy it and look forward to hearing from you.

ROBERT KRAUS | DEAN, JOHN D. ODEGARD SCHOOL OF AEROSPACE SCIENCES

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

13-16 NGPA Winter Warm Up - Palm Springs, CA

15 Alumni & Industry Reception - Palm Springs, CA

MARCH

2-4 NDAA FLY-ND Conference - Fargo, ND

10-13 Verticon (HAI) - Dallas, TX

11 Alumni & Industry Reception - Dallas, TX

27-29 Women in Aviation International Conference - Denver, CO

27 Alumni & Industry Reception - Denver, CO

APRIL

12 View UND Aerospace Saturday - Grand Forks, ND

24 SAMA Conference - Grand Forks, ND

25 SAMA Career Fair - Grand Forks, ND

25 Atmospheric Sciences Banquet - Grand Forks, ND

26 Aviation Scholarship Ceremony - Grand Forks, ND

26 Aviation Family Weekend Banquet Dinner - Grand Forks, ND

MAY

17 UND Commencement - Grand Forks, ND

JUNE

1-6 AsMA-UHMS Annual Scientific Meeting - Atlanta, GA

2-4 PAPA Expo - Las Vegas, NV

JULY

21-27 EAA AirVenture - Oshkosh, WI

23 Alumni & Industry Reception - Oshkosh, WI

HALL of FAME
AEROSPACE

On Friday, September 27, during UND Homecoming week, the UND John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences inducted two new notable alumni into the UND Aerospace Hall of Fame. This year, UND alumni Todd Lawrence and Todd Gierke were honored at the event.

Todd Lawrence (pictured left) – 1993 Graduate

Todd Lawrence grew up in Minnesota, knowing that he would one day like to fly airplanes. His career took him through many different positions, serving as a customer service representative for Sun Country, a patrol officer in the South Saint Paul Police Department, and a pilot for Sun Country Airlines.

Lawrence currently serves as the Director of Operations at Sun Country Airlines. Lawrence helped to oversee the airline as it grew and facilitated the Airline Bridge Program to help bring UND graduates to the airline as First Officers. The program has helped many UND graduates make the transition from their roles at UND to Sun Country. Lawrence is noted by many for his leadership at Sun Country. He is well respected and regarded for his emphasis on employee wellbeing.

“36 years ago, I made the best educational decision of my life to apply to UND,” said Lawrence in his acceptance speech. “I’ve always wanted to give back to UND and all it has done for me.”

Todd Gierke (pictured right) – 1988 Graduate

Todd Gierke graduated from UND in 1988 with the original goal of going to medical school. However, his passion for aviation led him to a career as a pilot, eventually leading him to his current position at Delta Air Lines, where he remains now as a captain and line check airman.

Gierke has been recognized for his dedication, receiving the Delta Chairman’s Club award for his contributions to customer service. Gierke serves as a Delta Propel Liaison, mentoring UND students and guiding them on their way to a career at Delta. Gierke and his wife Jan—a UND medical school alumna—have continued to give back to UND, supporting the UND CFI of the Month Program as well as establishing scholarships to award students in both the aviation and medical programs.

“I’m incredibly honored; this school just means so much to me,” said Gierke. “When I started med school, I knew it just wasn’t in my heart – I knew aviation is where I truly wanted to go, so I was kind of lost. At the time, UND didn’t hire CFIs that didn’t train in their program, but John Odegard gave me a shot.”

Both were recognized for their contributions to the school and their perseverance throughout their careers. Both Lawrence and Gierke were noted for their continued support of UND long after they graduated, working with students to guide them in their studies and in their careers. Their dedication to their work and their commitment to UND have earned them their place in the UND Aerospace Hall of Fame.

Nominate a UND Aerospace Alum!
aero.und.edu/events/hall-of-fame.html

NEW PROGRAM MAY HELP MAKE MOTION SICKNESS A THING OF THE PAST

Three-day course said to greatly reduce symptoms invites riders prone to queasiness to attend

It's a familiar group of symptoms for many people: the feelings of dizziness, nausea, difficulty concentrating, and sometimes even vomiting when riding in a boat, airplane, or the back seat of a car. However, a program new to UND can help put a stop to those feelings.

The UND Department of Aerospace Physiology is now offering a motion sickness desensitization course. This course, over the last few months, has successfully treated UND students and certified flight instructors employed by the University. Now, program administrators are making this program available to anyone in the region who experiences motion sickness.

"People don't need to live with this condition anymore," said Thomas Zeidlik, director of Aerospace Physiology. "We have a tried-and-true program and the latest equipment to help anyone overcome this condition. We've used this program for our students and flight instructors, now we look forward to making it available to anyone in the region."

According to Zeidlik, the motion sickness desensitization course was developed by the United States Air Force for crew members working in the backs of airplanes with no windows. Many of them suffered from air sickness, so flight surgeons developed this program using a spatial disorientation trainer. The program has been used around the world since its development in the 1990s.

The program makes use of a UND spatial disorientation trainer. It exposes people to motion, and they are taught different ways to adapt in a safe and controlled environment. The program takes about three hours over a three-day period. The cost of the course is $400.

The program is administered by Jennifer Watne, an aerospace physiologist and registered nurse. People wanting to use this service can contact Watne directly at jennifer.watne@und.edu or 701-777-7195.

Learn more here!
aerospacephysiology.com

UND HOCKEY: READY FOR TAKEOFF

With pilot Louis Jamernik at the controls, the Fighting Hawks have high hopes in 2024-25.

GRAND FORKS —
It wasn't your typical team-building exercise.

UND hockey captain Louis Jamernik V brought two of the new guys — freshman Andrew Strathmann and sophomore transfer Caleb MacDonald — to the airport this fall. They got into a single-engine Piper Archer.

Jamernik jumped into the captain's seat. Strathmann sat next to him. MacDonald got into the back. The captain took the controls.

He flew over Ralph Engelstad Arena. He landed in a grass field. He took them to Crookston. Jamernik even showed them some flight maneuvers.

"I wasn't nervous at all," Strathmann said. "I have full trust in my captain." MacDonald learned to trust Jamernik, too.

"I didn't really know what to expect," he said. "It was cool to get up there and see all of Grand Forks. It's pretty cool that Jammer knows how to do all that stuff."

Another UND hockey season is about to launch and Jamernik is in the captain's chair.

He's told the team he doesn't want to hear much about the Penrose Cup this season. He's already won that three times.

Everything will be centered around bringing the program its ninth NCAA national championship — something UND seemed destined to do Jamernik's freshman season but fell short in a five-overtime NCAA regional final game.

"I'll never forget it," Jamernik said. "I just got goosebumps thinking about it. We had a hell of a team.

"You need those difference-makers. We had Collin Adams, Jordan Kawaguchi, Grant Mismash, Shane Pinto, Jake Sanderson, JBD (Jacob Bernard-Docker)...it was crazy. This year, I think we can make some of those names again."

Jamernik starts going through the roster. He mentions the highly skilled players like Jayden Perron, Mac Swanson, Sacha Boisvert, Owen McLaughlin and Cameron Berg. He brings up emerging players like Jackson Kunz, Dylan James and Ben Strinden.

He makes no mention of himself. But Jamernik is one of the most unique UND hockey players in recent years. He has spent the last three-and-a-half years going between two worlds. For part of the day, he's Louis Jamernik, the hockey player.

He arrived on campus at Christmas break during the COVID-altered 2020-21 campaign and instantly carved out a lineup spot on one of the country's best teams. Jamernik played all 19 games that season after joining the team.

He's played 135 career games and only missed two. It has been two-and-a-half years since he missed a game.

Jamernik has scored 21 goals, 54 points and has been used in virtually every situation. He's played center. He's played wing. He's played in the top six. He's played in the bottom six. He's played on the power play. He's played on the penalty kill.

"You're always getting his best when he's on the ice," UND coach Brad Berry said. "He doesn't waste a shift. He really sets the bar for the team as far as expectations on how we play as a team."

For the other part of his day, he's Louis Jamernik, the pilot. He's the first UND student in at least three decades to attempt to major in commercial aviation while playing hockey.

UND's famous aerospace program is demanding. Not only does it require attending full-time college classes, commercial aviation majors can spend up to 10-12 hours a week flying, weather dependent. That doesn't include flight planning, pre-flight briefings and post-flight debriefings.

"You take a full course load, 15 credits a semester," said Beth

Bjerke, the associate dean of UND Aerospace. “With aviation, you add on the fight lab. That’s three or four days a week. You could be flying for 12 hours. It’s like a part-time job.”

That’s why, when Jamernik told UND associate coach Dane Jackson during the recruiting process that he intended to major in commercial aviation, Jackson asked a couple of times, “Are you sure?” Jamernik was sure.

> **“It’s been fun to watch his trajectory, he’s flight instructing while finishing his degree and serving as the captain of the hockey team. That’s pretty amazing.”**
>
> **ELIZABETH BJERKE**
> Associate Dean, Professor
> John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences

He completed his first flight in June 2021. Two months later, he completed his first solo flight. Berry drove out to the airport to watch.

Every time he completed a step in the program, he’d call his father, Louis Jamernik IV, and his mother, Kathryn Dickson.

On Sept. 14, 2021, Jamernik’s mother died unexpectedly of a heart attack. “Out of nowhere,” Jamernik said. “Completely out of the blue. Very fit. Very happy. Healthy. I guess there were complications I didn’t know about.” That night, Jamernik tried to grapple with it. “Griffin Ness stayed up with me until 1 a.m., just to hang out and make sure I was OK,” Jamernik said. “Just an unreal guy. That’s how special the guy is.”

When Jamernik earned his private pilot license in November 2021, it was the most emotional step of his journey. “I called my dad and talked to him,” Jamernik said. “Then, I realized I couldn’t call my mom.” Jamernik kept going.

He has since earned his instrument rating, commercial certificate and he’s been certified as a flight instructor. He has spent more than 300 hours in the air and made nearly 600 landings.

In August, Jamernik was hired by UND as a flight instructor. Only about a third of the applicants get hired after a process that includes an application, a written exam, an interview and a sim ride.

“It’s been fun to watch his trajectory,” Bjerke said. “He’s flight instructing while finishing his degree and serving as the captain of the hockey team. That’s pretty amazing. He’s pretty special.”

A typical day

There’s not much free time in a day for Jamernik. On Mondays, for example, he wakes up at 6:10 a.m. He packs everything for the day — his flight bag, a polo and dress pants — before going to the rink.

He arrives at Ralph Engelstad Arena around 6:25 a.m. and reads a couple of bible verses on an app while he waits for the breakfast bar to be set up.

He throws his pan on the stovetop in the team’s kitchen. While he waits for it to heat up, he measures his body composition for sports scientist John Fitzgerald.

Jamernik cooks his omelet with two eggs. He puts it on a bagel to get more carbohydrates. Then, he begins to prepare for daily practice by sitting in the hot tub, taping his sticks and stretching.

At 7:50 a.m., he attends a video session. The team is in the weight room at 8:05 a.m. for warmup drills like jumping rope and hurdles. Every player then does a short bike exercise to test their power — more daily data Fitzgerald uses to assess players’ conditions.

Players get dressed and are on the ice at about 8:50 a.m. Practice officially starts at 9 a.m.

After it ends — sometime between 10-10:30 a.m. — Jamernik works out in the gym, cools down and stretches. He grabs a sandwich from the kitchen to go, drives to the parking ramp alongside Columbia Road and pays to park on a lower level so he can exit as fast as possible. He has class from 11:15 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

After class, he changes into flight instructor clothing in the back of his car — a polo and dress pants — and drives straight to the airport. He arrives around 12:15 p.m. and begins his job as a flight instructor.

Jamernik holds a 45-minute pre-flight briefing with his student. He then gives the flight slip to dispatch, part of the process to get a flight launch.“Then, it’s doing the weight, balance, performance,” Jamernik said.

He gets to the plane at about 1:15 p.m. for a 1:30 takeoff. The flying session lasts about two hours. He’ll arrive back at the airport at 3:15 p.m., then debrief.

Jamernik returns to The Ralph at about 4 p.m. for a 90-minute window where he can eat dinner, study or shoot pucks. At 6 p.m., he’s back in class. He has Finance 321 until 8 p.m. After class, he returns home and has a short window to complete homework or study. His goal is to be in bed by 9 p.m.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, instead of flight instructing during the afternoon, he has Aviation 415 and a flight lab until 7:15 p.m. That class will allow him to become a certified flight instrument instructor. “Pretty full day,” Jamernik said.

Even the process of registering for classes each semester is difficult for Jamernik. He blocks out 6:30 a.m. to about noon for hockey. Not only does he have to find afternoon or night classes, he also has to leave space open for flying.

“In the winter, by 5 p.m., it’s dark outside,” Jamernik said. “So, if I’m at class until 4 p.m., I can’t fly (in daylight) that day. I easily spend three or four hours picking my classes each semester, just so I have the right setup to be able to fly.” There hasn’t been much free time.

“I’ve had to miss out on a lot of things — some team things, some time with my girlfriend,” he said. “Watching TV was not a thing. It still isn’t now, but at least I have more fun flying rather than just doing lesson plans.”

When Jamernik is at the airport, or even out in the community, people will ask him how he’s able to do both hockey and aviation.

“I’ve loved every single minute of it,” Jamernik said. “It’s not like I had to procrastinate. I wanted to learn everything, because I knew it would pay off. I give my flight instructors a lot of credit. They made me a top priority. I only had a two- or three-hour block where I could fly, and they made it work for me. I’m super, super lucky.

“It would have been very easy for my flight instructors to say, ‘Oh, I couldn’t get a launch for you.’ They always got it done. And I did my part, showing up prepared, so when it was time to fly, I was sharp and ready to go.”

Jamernik said he’s able to apply some hockey fundamentals to flying.“There are so many parallels between hockey and aviation in terms of your mental preparation and performance,” Jamernik said. “It might sound funny, but I truly believe it. It might not be physically exerting as a pilot. But you have to be so mentally alert. You always have to be ahead of the aircraft. If you’re sitting there doing nothing, you’re probably missing something unless maybe you’re on a long cross-country flight.”

A big year

This is Jamernik’s final year at UND and he wants it to be a big one.

Not only is he working toward his 1,000 flight hours — the bar for most airlines to hire commercial pilots — he’s also determined to push UND deep into the NCAA tournament.

He’s experienced the regular-season titles. UND won Penrose Cups in 2021, 2022 and 2024. But Jamernik has yet to play in an NCAA Frozen Four game.

“Last year, we may have had too much of an emphasis on the Penrose,” Jamernik said. “It felt like after we won the Penrose, we kind of took a breath. We were like, ‘OK, how can we not let that be the peak of the mountain, but just a stepping stone on the way to the national championship? How can we approach that differently?’”

This year, the talk will be about the NCAA regional in Fargo and the Frozen Four in St. Louis.

“It’s about time,” Jamernik said. “It’s been nine years. Let’s go. It’s national championship time. There’s nothing else to talk about.”

LOUIS JAMERNIK TIMELINE

Dec. 26, 2020	Joins UND
Jan. 10, 2021	Makes college hockey debut at CC
Jan. 17, 2021	Collects first point at Denver
March 12, 2021	Scores first goal vs. Miami
June 12, 2021	Completes first flight
Aug. 9, 2021	Completes first solo flight
Nov. 30, 2021	Earns private pilot license
Jan. 5, 2023	Earns commercial certificate
June 17, 2024	Becomes a certified flight instructor
Aug. 5, 2024	Hired by UND to flight instruct
Aug. 16, 2024	Named UND hockey captain

2024 CFIS OF THE MONTH

OUR INSPIRING INSTRUCTORS

January
JOHN METZGER
St. Michael, MN

February
SAVANNA CLAIBORNE
Valencia, CA

March
BRANDON STRIPLING
Canby, MN

April
BRANDON KNAPP
Rochester, MN

May
MERIDATH JACKSON
Rosemount, MN

June
NOLAN PINSKE
Gary, MN

July
ANDREW GARGULAK
South Milwaukee, WI

August
RACHEL FOGELBERG
Stillwater, MN

September
COLLIN FRITCHEN
Fairhope, AL

October
CARRIE SHARP
Hortense, GA

November
BRETT TAIFER
Walnut Creek, CA

December
MIKAILA GILLIS
Phoenix, AZ

BECOME A PART OF OUR FUTURE.

Fundraising is underway for a proposed new Flight Operations Center for the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences at the Grand Forks International Airport. Our goal for 2025 is to break ground on our Flight Operations Center. While we still have a few steps remaining in the process, we are planning to break ground in late spring or early summer on the new Flight Operations Center.

WE OPERATE

18 hours / day	7 days / week
400 student flights / day	
120,000+ hours / year	

The new Flight Operations Center will reflect the quality of the world's leading collegiate flight training program. Located at the heart of the UND Aerospace Flight Operations Complex, the project will:

- Update the connecting hangars and world-class flight instructor and staff building
- Create a modernized space to streamline activities
- Showcase aviation excellence

MAKE AN IMPACT

Flight Operations Center

With 27 new office spaces, the facility will provide our world-class faculty and staff with a supportive work environment to continue their outstanding work and encourage overall wellness.

Sophisticated Event Space

A unique 16,000-square-foot event space will be fully equipped with a kitchen, storage area, and private restrooms – the perfect innovative space for industry and community events.

Innovation in Aviation Technology

UND Aerospace will have the space it needs to create a high-tech connected ecosystem throughout our flight operations facility and management.

MARCHING TO NEW HEIGHTS

UND would not be the same without the presence of the Pride of the North Marching Band. The band's distinct sound can be heard encouraging players at UND hockey, football, and other athletic events, standing as the cultural pinnacle of these games. Amongst the Pride's ranks are over 60 students working toward aerospace degrees, representing 11 different instrument groups and making up around 40% of the band's members. In addition to the games and events the band plays in, these students commit an additional three nights of their week to rehearsals, all while staying on top of their difficult classes. Despite the large time engagement, the members stress how important the group has been to their success in their degrees, allowing them to meet older students who can provide advice and teach them time management skills.

“Aviation can be stressful sometimes and this marching band is a fun and relaxing thing to do. You have more time than you think you do. There are times, especially as a freshman, that you would otherwise just be hanging out in your dorm room. It gets you out there and allows you to make connections. It’s definitely worth it!”

CONNOR DRAKE

Senior, Aviation Studies | Trombone

“Making music with everyone here is just phenomenal. It’s so much fun. I was so scared I wasn’t going to fit in as a freshman, but everyone here was so welcoming. My tenor line really makes a world of difference in my life. They are some of the coolest people I have ever met.”

SAMANTHA FUCHS

Sophomore, Atmospheric Sciences | Tenor Drum

"I like the family I have here. W
especially at hockey games. I ha
opposite schedule of marching
but everyone is willing to work w
with my studies, though. I have
were explained to me in marchi

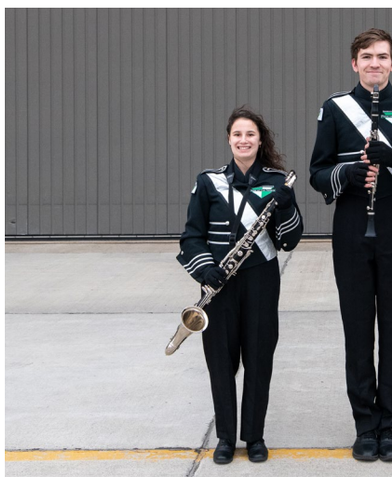
SARAH FRANKSON

Senior, Commercial Aviation, Safe
Music Minor | Bass Drum

"Do what you are interested in and meet people. There are over 250 orgs on campus to join, so get involved. Of course, I highly suggest joining the marching band! We do a lot of things together, like traveling and just enjoying each other's company. It's really like a family!"

JAYDEN ERICKSON

Junior, Commercial Aviation | Clarinet



e have a lot of energy,
ave my flight labs on the
band. This is a big commitment,
with me. It has absolutely helped
people to ask questions. VORs
ng band!"

ety & Dispatch Specialization,

"It's always been a family – truly, any friendship I have had has come from marching band or music. If I walk into a class and see someone from marching band, I instantly know we can get along. It's also a good balance with the arts. If you enjoy it, by all means, do your best to get involved. You make all sorts of connections."

KATHRYN BARNES

Junior, Air Traffic Management & History, Music Minor | Drum Major

UND TODAY | ADAM KURTZ

FAA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AGREEMENT

FAST TRACKS GRADUATES TO FILL NEEDED JOBS

Students graduating from UND's Air Traffic Management program will soon be able to get into the workforce much faster – and fill vital jobs – thanks to a new Federal Aviation Administration program.

On Monday, December 9, the FAA announced that UND had been accepted into its Enhanced Air Traffic – Collegiate Training Initiative (AT-CTI) program. Prior to the implementation of this program, all prospective air traffic controllers were required to attend the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City – even if they had a university degree that trained them to work in a control tower. The FAA's agreement with UND means graduates can bypass the FAA Academy. The AT-CTI program is an FAA initiative to increase staffing in towers across the nation.

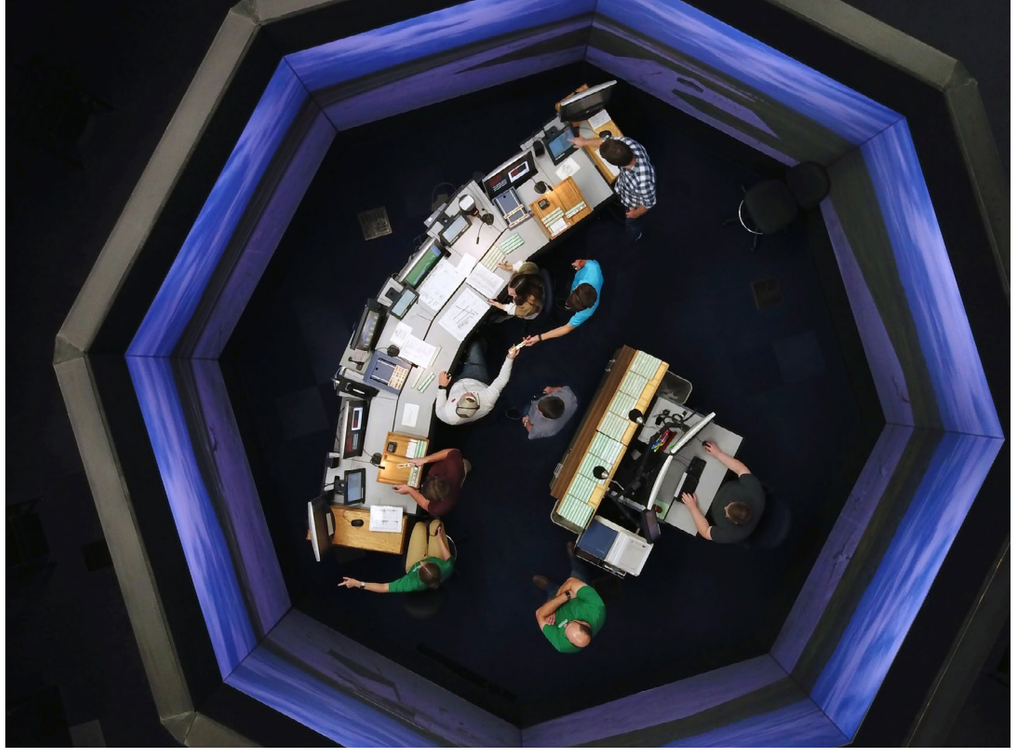
Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., who played a key role in driving the Enhanced AT-CTI program forward, visited UND in March to speak about the initiative. Hoeven said the requirement for controllers to attend the FAA Academy, regardless of education or work experience, creates a "bottleneck" that slows down hiring and contributes to a shortage of air traffic controllers.

"Today, we reach an exciting milestone in our efforts to address the air traffic controller shortage while ensuring UND continues to lead the way across the board when it comes to aviation. We need more qualified air traffic controllers out in the workforce, and it makes sense to leverage the expertise of the John D. Odegard School of Aviation to meet this critical need. That's why, throughout this process, we made the case to the FAA for UND to play a central role in the new Enhanced AT-CTI program," said Hoeven. "Starting in the 2025 spring semester, UND's students will have the opportunity to bypass the FAA ATC Academy in Oklahoma and go directly into the workforce after graduation. That's an incredible value to students and a benefit to communities across that country, whose local economies rely on safe and reliable air service."

UND is among the first universities to be admitted into the program. Other member schools are Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Tulsa Community College, and the University of Oklahoma.

Along with 31 other universities, UND is already a member of the FAA's existing Air Traffic College Training Initiative. The original program confers a number of benefits, such as reducing the amount of time graduates must spend at the FAA Academy by five weeks. The Enhanced AT-CTI program allows those graduates to bypass the 16-week program completely.

Robert Kraus, dean of Aerospace, said that UND has a tradition of deep



commitment to excellence in aerospace education. That tradition will carry on into the future as the University works with the FAA to assess and address changes in the national airspace.

“Since graduating its first air traffic controllers in 1971, UND Aerospace has more than 50 years’ experience in educating and training air traffic professionals who now serve across the industry and around the globe,” Kraus said. “This ongoing commitment continues as we collaborate with the FAA to shape the future of airspace management, including the integration of uncrewed aerial systems (drones) and Advanced Air Mobility platforms.”

After finishing their time at UND, Air Traffic Management graduates must then pass the FAA’s Air Traffic Skills Assessment (ATSA), meet medical and security requirements, and pass performance verifications before taking up work in a control tower or other authorized work environment.

Many aerospace students at UND are taught by Craig Carlson, assistant chair of UND’s Air Traffic Management program. Carlson applauded the FAA team that set the Enhanced AT-CTI program in motion. The program, he said, will help ensure the safety of U.S. airways.

“I look forward to providing the FAA with highly qualified UND graduates to help alleviate the current air traffic controller shortage,” he said. “This program is just what we need to grow the workforce and keep air passengers safe.”

And safety is always on the minds of those both at UND Aerospace and at the FAA. According to a news release, the agency has a year-round hiring policy for controllers coming from private industry and the military. The agency is also making use of new simulators to help train newly hired controllers. The Enhanced AT-CTI Program is the most recent effort meant to address workforce issues for controllers.

The new FAA program will also put UND in a position for growth, Carlson said. At present, there are about 100 students in the Air Traffic Management program, but that number could triple in the coming years when prospective students learn they can join the workforce much more quickly after graduation. Such growth would also require UND to hire additional faculty members to accommodate students in the program.

Faces of the Industry:
DISCUSSIONS IN AVIATION DIVERSITY

On October 15, the University of North Dakota College of Aerospace hosted the 4th annual Faces of the Industry Summit. This celebration of diversity and inclusion in the aviation industry is led by student representatives from the LPA, NGPA, OBAP, PAPA, and WAI UND chapters.

The All Angles of Industry, Allies in Aviation, and Future of Diversity in the Industry panels highlighted speakers from all different backgrounds and featured important discussions of diversity in the aviation industry. The event was concluded with a keynote address by Captain Theresa Claiborne, the first Black woman pilot in the United States Air Force.

The event brought in speakers from all over the world to share their experiences and give advice to students. This year, the event saw record attendance, with over 600 students, faculty, and staff turning out to hear from these aerospace professionals.

The event began in the morning with the All Angles of the Industry panel, which looks to highlight diverse careers in aerospace and discuss overcoming adversity as a minority within the industry.

The group discussed obstacles they faced, how they balanced familial pressures while pursuing their dream careers, and where they hope the industry will go in the future in regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion. These women gave students insight into how they have seen the industry adapt and how to deal with unprofessionalism in the workplace.

The second panel of the day was the Allies in Aviation Panel, focusing on LGBTQ+ allyship and promoting inclusion within the aerospace industry. This panel discussed obstacles like finding community and acceptance in the industry, fears of discussing family life with coworkers, and mental health. The speakers of this panel explained that what may seem like small remarks to some can have a major impact on others.

The final panel of the day was the Future of Diversity in the Industry, which featured both students from aviation schools around the country and those here at UND. This panel stressed the importance of student involvement on campus and encouraged students of all backgrounds to attend meetings at each of the affiliated student organizations. It recognized how a lifelong commitment to DEI starts with students and how a change in the industry can only happen if students push for it.

A major highlight of the event was the illustrious Captain Theresa Claiborne's keynote address. A trailblazer within the industry for diversity and inclusion, as the first Black woman pilot in the United States Airforce, Claiborne gave her address to a room full of student, faculty, and industry attendees.

Claiborne's personable nature shined through in the second half of her address when the floor was opened up to questions. Students got the opportunity to ask Claiborne directly about her experiences and for advice.

"That's what you ought to be wanting to do – to inspire," advised Claiborne. "Any group that you belong to, inspire. It's a great thing."

Claiborne stressed to students the importance of working hard and fighting for your place in this industry. She advised students to strive to be the best and to know that they belong in this industry.

"I think that as pilots, we have that mindset that we have to be good the first time. But get it together, because you are going to have to fight for everything you have. Don't give anyone an opportunity to tell you that you aren't good enough," stated Claiborne.

Group Photo Front Row (left to right): Skyler Baquero, Kristofer Fedje, Heidi Nam, Yuko Thomas, Captain Theresa Claiborne, Maho Tsukamoto, Chiharu Shuai, Koiula Lau, Alicia Makoutz **Second Row:** Averie Eixenberger, Shanelle D'souza, Thomas Bullock, Olivia Farnsworth, Sydney Fago, Tracey Curtis-Taylor, Evelyn Jordan, Kallen Wachi **Back Row:** Mark Anthony Alvarez, Alexander Shetty, Jacquelyn Emery, Vanya Voskresensky, Claudia Betten, Abraham Akinbobola, Dr. Caitlin Milera

Watch on YouTube!
2024 Faces of the Industry

Dr. Jordan Christian

Dr. Daile Zhang

Striking Up New Opportunities

Dr. Daile Zhang is originally from China and earned her doctoral degree in atmospheric sciences from the University of Arizona. She spent time working as an assistant research scientist at the Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center (ESSIC) located at the University of Maryland. Her research focuses on lightning and atmospheric electricity. Her current research evaluates and assesses lightning data from different lightning locating systems, including ground-based and satellite-based networks. She is particularly interested in mitigating damage from natural disasters and lightning safety.

Zhang chose to continue her research at UND because of the Atmospheric Science program. She cited that there are many opportunities for doing observations and instrumentation. UND also offers field campaigns, something that Zhang has a particular fondness for. She also finds that UND students are very passionate about their studies, adding to the appeal of the program.

Zhang looks forward to starting her first field campaign proposal at UND. She also hopes to start a new atmospheric electricity program in the future. Outside of her work, Zhang enjoys music, playing both piano and organ. She also enjoys reading, sports, and traveling.

In just her first semester here, Zhang has already made advances in her research. She recently received funding for her proposal made to the Early Career Scholars Program, which “aims to support new faculty and other scholars on campus to develop multidisciplinary teams, build important network connections, receive mentorship, and conduct research that will lead to external proposal submissions.” Zhang expects to begin her work on this program in the coming year.

Tackling New Climate Extremes

Dr. Jordan Christian is originally from Oklahoma City and attended the University of Oklahoma, earning a bachelor’s and doctorate in meteorology and a master’s in atmospheric sciences from the University of Wyoming. His research interests are sub-seasonal weather and climate extremes with an emphasis on flash drought. Through his studies, he has investigated flash drought frequency, evolution, drivers, and impacts on communities, utilizing a combination of reanalysis data, satellite observations, and climate models.

Christian originally chose to come to UND because of the “fantastic” group of faculty and students present in the Atmospheric Science Department. He also liked UND’s location and enjoys cold weather, making Grand Forks a great area to move to. His spouse, Katy Christian, also had the opportunity to work out of the Grand Forks

FORECASTING THE FUTURE OF ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

Meet the department's new faculty

Dr. Jacob Carstens

National Weather Service Forecast Office, providing the opportunity to move.

Christian has enjoyed teaching his first three courses at UND and appreciates the opportunity to show undergraduate students how to run numerical weather models. He has also enjoyed his time outside of work, running along the Greenway in the colder weather.

"In the coming years, I am looking forward to developing a research program here focused on weather and climate extremes here at UND and in the Atmospheric Science department, and I am excited to see what collaborations develop over the next several years."

Educating our Future Broadcasting Meteorologists

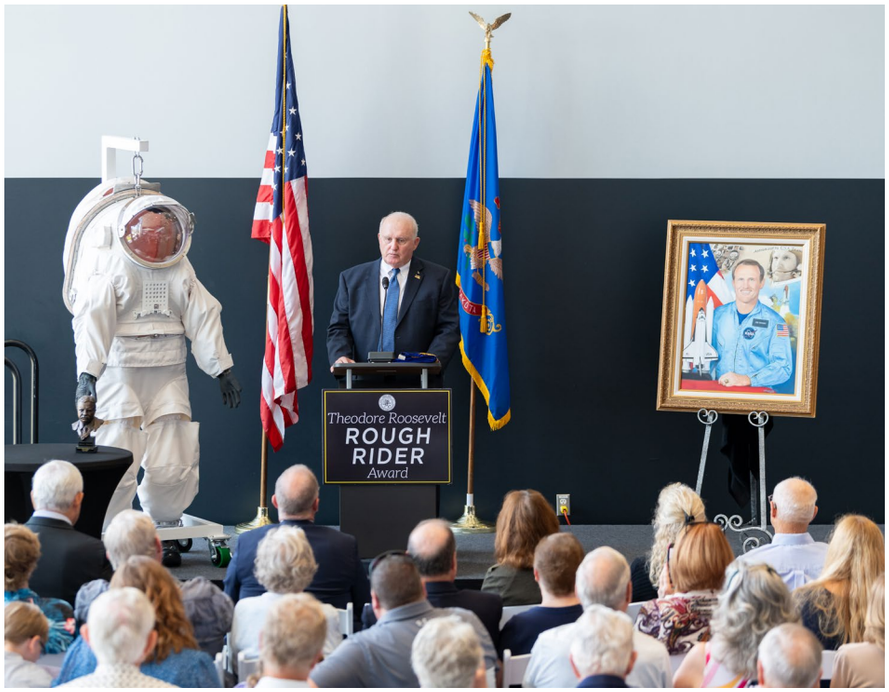
Dr. Jacob Carstens grew up near Chicago and attended Florida State University, where he graduated with his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate in Meteorology. His research focuses on tropical meteorology, focusing on hurricanes, including how they form, how they interact with their environment, and how they might change in the future. He also has an interest in tropical thunderstorms and broadcast meteorology. Specifically he wants to understand how people of diverse backgrounds process and respond to weather and climate information and making a complex science more accessible to all audiences.

Carstens chose to begin teaching at UND for a variety of reasons. He felt drawn to the growth the Atmospheric Sciences department has shown. He chose to become a professor in order to empower students and provide excitement and intrigue of atmospheric science in his classroom. UND provided a balance between impactful research and commitment to education, as well as an opportunity to work with students of all levels and backgrounds. In addition, Carstens felt excited about working in a new weather environment in North Dakota.

Carstens looks forward to the camaraderie he felt from the first movement he came to campus and wants to grow relationships with faculty and students alike. He especially looks forward to advising the UND Weather Update student organization. He feels that so much can be gained from students studying broadcast meteorology and looks forward to helping students in this field.

"It's a golden chance to help students break out of their shells and find their voices while also building UND up as a national leader in weather and climate communication."

UND TODAY | ADAM KURTZ



JIM BUCHLI

FIRST NORTH DAKOTAN IN SPACE, HONORED WITH ROUGH RIDER AWARD

On-campus ceremony recognizes Buchli, former Marine aviator and space shuttle astronaut, for service to state, nation, and UND

On July 30, a ceremony in UND's Robin Hall bestowed the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award, North Dakota's highest civilian honor, upon James Buchli, a former NASA astronaut and U.S. Marine aviator.

Buchli, a native of New Rockford, N.D., attended the U.S. Naval Academy and served as a Marine infantry officer in Vietnam. As an astronaut, Buchli completed four space shuttle missions, becoming the first North Dakotan to fly in space.

Over the course of his career as both a Marine aviator and NASA astronaut, Buchli received many commendations, including a Defense Meritorious Service Award and NASA Distinguished Service Medal.

Along with Buchli, the event was attended by elected state officials, including North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum and Secretary of State Michael Howe, as well as current and former staff of UND's Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences, including Dean Robert Kraus. Several of the guests gave talks reflecting on Buchli's achievements, and his commitment to the state and the University.

Buchli has maintained close relations with both the state of North Dakota and UND. This was in no small part due to his friendship with former dean and namesake of the UND School of Aerospace Sciences, John D. Odegard.

In a video message, Odegard's widow, Diane, recalled the evolution of Buchli and Odegard's friendship.

"Jim was a trusted confidant of John's; they really worked beautifully together," she said. "He helped UND Aerospace, especially with the evolving Space Studies program."

She described Buchli as a "great friend to UND Aerospace" and remarked that his relationship with her late husband was anchored by a mutual love of fishing.

"Fishing is a passion for Jim, and it was a passion for John. I think that was part of their bonding," she said. "They came together at Oak Lake,

and they fished, they talked about the school and space, and everything evolved. Some magical things happened on the fishing trips."

Buchli would continue to attend annual fundraisers hosted by the School of Aerospace Sciences long after Odegard died, helping the school raise hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for first-year aviation students.

Buchli's longtime connection with UND was part of what launched his nomination for the Rough Rider Award. Bruce Smith, former dean of the School of Aerospace Sciences, spoke at the ceremony and recounted how Buchli's nomination came to be.

The process, Smith said, started in January. That's when Buchli contacted him asking for information about UND's online graduate programs on behalf of his daughter, Jennifer, an ISS program chief scientist for NASA.

After connecting Buchli with Robert Kraus, Smith brought the conversation up to his wife, Ann.

"At that point, Ann knew about Jim but didn't know about his background and accomplishments. So, I Googled his bio, and we looked at it together, and that's when the lightbulb went on," Smith said.

Inspired, Smith began drafting his letter of nomination for the Rough Rider Award that afternoon. Soon, he reached out to others to write letters of recommendation, including Kraus and Pablo de León, chair of the UND Department of Space Studies. Karen Nyberg — UND graduate, astronaut, and member of the UND Aerospace Foundation board of directors — also helped with the nomination package.

Burgum, who introduced Buchli, commended the astronaut for his lifetime achievements as a Marine, aviator, and astronaut and thanked him for the "generations of students" whom he inspired throughout his career. He then read a letter from NASA Administrator Bill Nelson, who seconded his sentiments.

"It's impossible for a person to orbit the Earth 319 times, as Jim did during his four space shuttle missions, and not come down a changed person," Burgum read. "Yet, part of the gift that Jim provides humanity is what he did when he returned to Earth for good. That's through his decades of commitment to this place where you have gathered today, the University of North Dakota."

After Burgum's introduction, Buchli offered thanks to his wife and family for their support before offering attendees a final message of hope for the next generation of astronauts.

"For years, I've talked to a lot of young people in universities, a lot of kids in classrooms, and I really think that our country is in good shape," he said. "Many of these kids are a lot smarter than we ever were. I think that if we push forward in our space programs and other programs, there are going to be big years to come for our country."

The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of Buchli's portrait, which will be displayed in the Capitol, along with those of the 48 previous Rough Rider Award honorees.

The full ceremony can be viewed on UND Aerospace's YouTube page.

Watch on YouTube!

James Buchli | 49th recipient of Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award

UND TODAY | ADAM KURTZ

UND UNVEILS SPACE CAMERA, WITH JUST A TOUCH OF KLINGON

The UND-designed International Space Station Agricultural Camera is now on display in Clifford Hall

Through a live feed from the International Space Station, people walking past the North Dakota Space Grant Consortium on the second floor of Clifford Hall will be able to see the Earth the way an astronaut does: from space.

And once they look away from the monitor, the passersby might want to study the unique installation below it, as the display is yet another part of UND's long history of working with NASA.

The installation, complete with a model of the International Space Station set atop it, is called ISSAC, or rather, the International Space Station Agricultural Camera. The camera was built by UND students and faculty members across multiple colleges in a project supported by the NASA Office of Education. After ISSAC was launched to the ISS on Nov. 15, 2008, it was operated by UND students working from a small control center on campus.

ISSAC was unveiled at a ceremony in Clifford Hall on Thursday, Sept. 26. Robert Kraus, dean of the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences, kicked off the ceremony, which was attended by several UND faculty members along with Doug Olson, a retired Aerospace professor who worked on the project.

It turns out ISAAC, once it had been returned to campus from the International Space Station in 2013, had been sitting in storage until someone wondered, "Why not show it off?"

"I've been here a couple of years, and I've heard great stories about the ISS Agricultural Camera," Kraus said. "Then we wondered, 'Where is it? Why don't we have it on display?' It's been sitting in a closet in the Department of Earth System Science & Policy.

"So we said, 'We need to showcase this.' And what better place to do that than right here?"

It took a few months, but Olson, working in conjunction with faculty members, mounted ISSAC inside a housing meant to mimic what it looked like while aboard the ISS. People viewing the installation can read ISSAC's history, printed on the outside of the housing.

According to Olson, ISAAC had a dual purpose: "One was to be an educational project for the students, and the other was to get rapid response imaging for agriculture in this region," he said.

Prior to ISSAC, farmers could pay for images from a government-owned satellite called "Landsat," but it could take only county-sized photos that took weeks to deliver. With ISSAC, farmers could get quality images of their fields in just a few days.

For Olson, the ISAAC project represents something bigger than being a student-led project that turned out useful data (both noble ideas). It's about cross-campus collaboration, he said, as the ISAAC project likely helped pave the way for the collaborative nature that now permeates UND.

"We learned a lot about how Aerospace here and Engineering across campus and other organizations throughout the University can work together on a big collaborative project," he said. "Those lessons learned are still put to use today on current and future projects that are going on, whether in unmanned aircraft systems or national defense. I think ISSAC helped lay the groundwork for some of the great things that are

going on and will continue to go on."

Visitors can stop by the installation and learn more about the project either by reading its housing or using a QR code posted there to take them to an informational website.

Fans of the long-running TV franchise "Star Trek" also may have something to learn.

While aboard the International Space Station, ISAAC was mounted inside a special module, from which it did its job. That module was called a "WORF," otherwise known as a "Window Observational Research Facility." And as "Star Trek" fans know, Worf was a beloved Klingon character who served aboard the USS Enterprise in "Star Trek: The Next Generation." He later went on to appear in "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine."

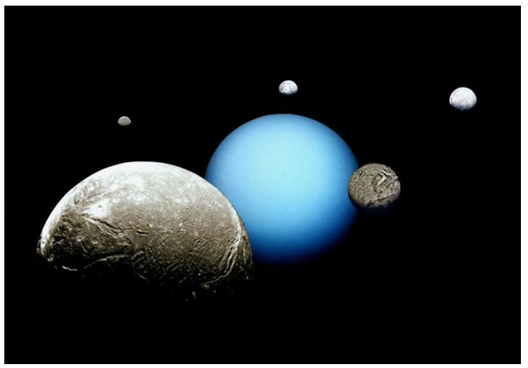
According to Olson, a NASA scientist involved in the project contacted the movie studio Paramount, which owns the rights to the "Star Trek" franchise, to request permission to use official Klingon font on the WORF housing on modules on the ISS, including ISSAC.

The Paramount official refused to believe they were speaking to a NASA scientist. It wasn't until a higher-up at NASA reached out that Paramount granted permission to use the font.

"Since 2011, there's been a spacecraft circling this planet with Klingon font," Olson said.

Along with Olson, UND faculty involved with the ISAAC project included George Seielstad, retired Benediktson professor of Astrophysics; Soizik Laguette, associate professor of Earth System Science & Policy; Richard Schultz, professor of Electrical Engineering; and William Semke, professor of Mechanical Engineering. In addition, more than 80 students across 11 departments at UND participated, as did dozens of employees at NASA.

SPACE STUDIES HIGHLIGHTS



UND ASTRONOMERS HELP UNCOVER MYSTERIES OF MIRANDA

A recent study suggests Uranus' moon, Miranda, may harbor a water ocean beneath its surface, a finding that would challenge many assumptions about the moon's history and composition and could put it in the company of the few select worlds in our solar system with potentially life-sustaining environments.

"To find evidence of an ocean inside a small object like Miranda is incredibly surprising," said Tom Nordheim, a planetary scientist at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, a study co-author and the principal investigator on the project that funded the study. "It helps build on the story that some of these moons at Uranus may be really interesting — that there may be several ocean worlds around one of the most distant planets in our solar system, which is both exciting and bizarre."

STUDENT SPACEFLIGHT EXPERIMENTS PROGRAM (SSEP)

SSEP gives students the opportunity to experience a real-world research process. It started with 10 student groups; three moved on to present their research idea in front of NASA and NanoRacks. One research project was chosen to be completed by astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS). This fall semester, the research equipment was launched to the ISS.

Simultaneously, an exact copy of the experiment was completed at UND to assess any difference that 1g and microgravity may have on the germination of black beans. The selected student group will be comparing primary root growth (radicle and possible hypocotyl), density, and the overall appearance of the sprouts.

LIFTOFF! UND HOSTS INAUGURAL SPACE OPERATIONS SUMMIT

In late October, UND hosted its inaugural Space Operations Summit — an event bringing together academics, military leaders, and innovators — to discuss the myriad opportunities and challenges posed by the domain.

In his welcoming remarks, UND President Andy Armacost called the summit a "catalyst for the University's sense of wonder," referring to a key pillar of UND's vision statement that seeks to cultivate an engaged citizenry of lifelong learners.

UND's Department of Space Studies, Armacost added, has a more-than-40-year history of educating students in fields including propulsion, space law and agriculture and designing and testing satellites.

HIGHLIGHTS

UND TODAY

UND'S TRAILBLAZING AEROSPACE SCIENTIST DECEMBER 12, 2024

Meet Pearl Young, UND grad and the first female technical employee at NASA's precursor agency

Thirteen years before any other woman joined the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics – or the NACA, NASA's predecessor – in a technical role, a young lab assistant named Pearl Young was making waves in the agency. Her legacy as an outspoken and persistent advocate for herself and her team would pave the way for women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for decades to come.

UND AVIATION STUDENT RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS SANFORD HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP DECEMBER 10, 2024

Commercial Aviation student Ali Moses earns the scholarship, but she has to put out a fire before getting the check

With a shocked smile on her face, Ali Moses, a junior and military police officer with the North Dakota National Guard, was presented with a $5,000 scholarship from Sanford Health on Thursday afternoon. The rural health system has a veterans and military scholarship program, and this year, Moses is one of four scholarship recipients.

SUCCESSFUL DRONE TEST FLIGHTS ADVANCE MEDICAL DELIVERY | OCTOBER 10, 2024

For rural areas and tribal communities, medical deliveries by drone may become regular occurrence, test flights suggest

Regular drone flights for medications are now a step closer to reality for the Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nation in North Dakota. The MHA Drone Team successfully completed a pair of proof-of-concept flights across Lake Sakakawea between Elbowoods Memorial Health Center in New Town, N.D., and Twin Buttes, N.D. Normally, people living in New Town would have to make a nearly two-hour drive to the health center to receive medications.

Read full stories at UND Today
blog.UND.edu

LEADER IN AEROSPACE

ANTHONY WARD, ‘12

Manager of the Delta Connection’s Project Management Office

Growing up in Southern California, Anthony Ward’s interest in aviation crashed down right in front of him - literally. He discovered aviation by accident when a hot air balloon landed on his street. The pilot of the balloon told Ward of a local fly-in and encouraged him to attend.

“I got my license in high school,” said Ward. “Before I could even fully drive a car, I could fly a plane by myself and go solo.”

Ward decided to attend UND after researching it online. He wanted to go to a school that was both reputable and cost-effective. Originally, he attended as a commercial aviation student with the goal of becoming a pilot.

“It was much more than just a college education,” stated Ward. “Definitively, UND gave me that foundation of knowledge, but it was also a lot of life lessons. It really taught me personally a lot about self-discipline.’”

It wasn’t until after he completed his commercial multi-engine rating that he chose a different route, after discovering management and leadership in aviation. He graduated in 2012 with a degree in aviation technology and management, with a specialization in dispatch.

“Dispatching really is kind of a hidden career in aviation,” says Ward. “I got a job dispatching for what was then Pinnacle Airlines, now Endeavor Air. I dispatched for about 2 years, going through different roles before ending up leading their operations and control center.”

Ward joined the Delta team in 2019 after receiving a call asking him to lead a team of schedulers. Having no prior experience as a scheduler, Ward felt apprehensive about the new position but expressed that it helped him grow as both a person and leader. The real challenge came a year later when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

“Having that experience really made me grow as a leader,” said Ward. “Despite everything winding down, our department remained busy. I quickly learned how to schedule as I saw my team drowning, trying to get pilots where they needed to go. I didn’t want my team to be alone in that, so I sat down alongside my team. It was quite the experience.”

Later, Ward went on to work as an operations manager for Delta Connection. In this position, he worked with the regional airlines that Delta works with, building relationships with these airlines and helping to drive change. This led him to his current position as manager of the Delta Connections Project Management Office, where he oversees the Delta Connection Portfolio, working on everything from maintenance to finances.

“I really shifted to looking at our long-term strategy,” said Ward. “We look at the future of what we might look like in years to come – what planes we should buy, what engines we should invest in. We want to be proactive rather than reactive in our decisions. It has been a good run so far and has helped to jump-start my career.”

Ward looks forward to creating a consistent product for consumers. His position is a new role at Delta, one that allows him to work with several different departments. Ward attributes a great deal of his success to a piece of advice he got during his freshman year at UND from his mentor, Ken Polovitz.

“He had this thing called the five main ingredients that he preached,” told Ward. “First was an educational foundation, which I got at UND. The second was being hands-on. I did that through internships and building relationships in various roles. The third was experiences, making sure to get out there and be involved. I got to do that in my time as a dispatcher and crew scheduler. The fourth was always medical, meaning not just your pilot’s medical but your overall health. That became very forefront for me. The last thing he preached was personal attributes – your work ethic, your character, and the self-discipline I learned at UND. That advice really cemented me and led me to where I am now.”

AEROSPACE CONNECTIONS

1. United Airlines Captain **Mitch Hagen '82** had his retirement flight on June 17th, 2024. His son and first officer, **Nate Hagen '14**, flew with him from ATH to ORD..

2. Air Traffic Management graduates **Logan Gloss '13** and **Matt Bartelt '09** were on Team 12 of Oshkosh Air Traffic in 2023. Pictured: working together at the iconic Fisk Arrival..

3. Captain **Brian Marschall '96** and First Officer **Nick Syverson '19** at Frontier Airlines on the ground in Phoenix after flying together, describing themselves as "just two graduates living the dream."

4. **Brady Anderson '06** and **Scott Kanlyn (Ludwig) '06** flew from New York to Dallas and back. Anderson recalls the unique day, stating, "My first officer had been pulled off our trip to cover another leg. I get to the gate area and see none other than the one and only Scott! I didn't even realize Scott was flying for Delta, so it was a great surprise and blast from the past!"

5. First officers at JetBlue Airways, **Alec Davis '13** and **Bryce VanLandingham '20**, flew together from Paris to Boston. Alec was Bryce's mentor in the JetBlue University Gateway program, and this was their first flight together.

6. Together, United Airlines Captain **Paul Maus '91** and First Officers **Curtis Oberbroeckling '17** and **Tina Druskins '16** crewed a flight from London to Chicago. The flight deck was bleeding green!

7. Long-time friends **Jeff Frane '85** and **Rick Irgens '92** are both FedEx Express B767 standards check airmen. Frane described their flight from Miami, FL, to Bogotá, Colombia, as "not work at all" after flying with a friend of 25 years.

8. **Erin Wehrman '06** is a flight dispatcher at Delta Air Lines and caught up with UND Professor **Leslie Martin '01 & '04** during a tour of Delta Operations Control Center and Atlanta alumni event!

9. UND grads **Brian Willis '03**, **Ben Mettler '08**, **Cassie Schroer '07**, **Clayton Leith '09**, and **Nate Just '08** volunteered this winter at the Delta Air Lines "Pilots For Kids" event in KMSP.

10. **Jason Leach '02**, an ATC supervisor at Duluth Tower, and **George Reisdorf '07**, an air traffic controller at MSP Tower, were recipients of the "Controller of the Year Award / Charles 'Chuck' Adams Award of Excellence" at the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh award ceremony. Jason was the recipient of the award in 2022, and George was the recipient in 2023.

11. Delta Air Lines Captain **Todd Gierke '88** flew with his Delta Propel mentees, First Officer **Mike VandeWaa '20** and Captain **Kaelyn Knox '21**, on a summer flight from KMCI - KMSP.

12. **1991-2024** Atmospheric Sciences alumni gathered at the American Meteorological Society's annual meeting in New Orleans.

SEND US YOUR ALUMNI PHOTOS!

STAY CONNECTED!

Join our **UND Aerospace Alumni** Facebook group!

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