

# AEROCOM

JOHN D. ODEGARD SCHOOL OF AEROSPACE SCIENCES

SUMMER 2026

TOGETHER,  
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**06**  
**First-ever NSF Research Traineeship Program in North Dakota**



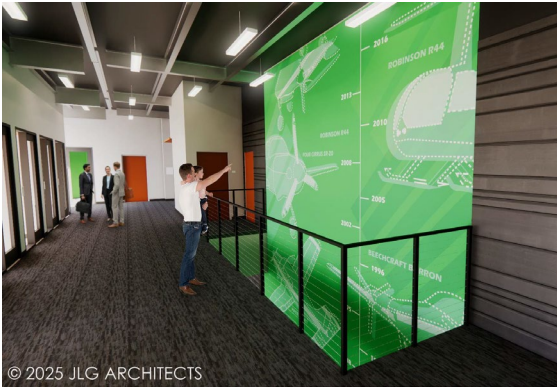
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**MEET OUR CONTRIBUTORS**



**AVERIE EIXENBERGER**

Averie Eixenberger is a senior at the University of North Dakota, where she is pursuing degrees in Commercial Aviation and English. Originally from Idaho, she previously earned an Associate of Arts in General Studies from Idaho State University. Averie is deeply engaged in campus life, actively participating in various student organizations, and has recently been elected President of UND’s Chapter of Women in Aviation. During her freshman year, she launched her own podcasting business, Rosethorn Productions, and continues to grow it alongside her academic pursuits. For the past two years, she has been a writer for JDOSAS, where she combines her passions for storytelling and aviation. Averie aspires to become an airline pilot while also contributing to the field of aviation journalism.



**NATHANIEL LOWELL**

Nathaniel Lowell is a junior at the University of North Dakota, majoring in Commercial Aviation. Originally from Lake Forest, California, Nathaniel found a passion for photography in 2019, working as a freelancer and plane spotting around the country. Since joining UND Aerospace as a student photographer in March 2025, he has captured striking moments throughout the year, including vibrant auroras and powerful lightning storms. In addition to his creative work, he recently earned his private pilot certificate and is now working toward his instrument rating at UND. In his free time, Nathaniel enjoys traveling and exploring new places!

Welcome to the Summer 2026 issue of Aerocom. There is much to celebrate across the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences, and I am pleased to share a few highlights from an especially active and successful season.

Construction of the new Flight Operations Building continues to make excellent progress, with floors poured, walls going up, and windows being hung. This transformational facility will serve our students, faculty, staff, and flight operations for generations. Alumni and friends still have opportunities to join the Flight Donor Society and be recognized on the donor wall.

At Spring Commencement, we welcomed 131 new alumni and look forward to adding at least 60 more this summer. We also awarded a posthumous degree to Andrew Seneker, who was tragically killed in a car accident on New Year's Eve. Andrew was deeply involved across Aerospace and campus, and his presence will be greatly missed.

Our academic programs continue to show strength. Just before graduation, our first 19 Dispatch students successfully passed their FAA evaluations, demonstrating the quality and momentum of this growing program. We also celebrated two additional graduates from our enhanced Air Traffic Control Collegiate Training Initiative program, who are preparing to bid on their first tower positions.

Uncrewed aerial systems partnerships also continue to expand. Faculty, staff, and students are working with government partners on efforts to detect, identify, and, in some cases, counter drone activity in support of security at U.S. military installations. UND Aerospace remains an active participant with the North Dakota National Guard and Grand Forks Air Force Base's Point Defense Battle Lab, further reinforcing Grand Forks as an epicenter for UAS activity.

Our students continue to excel in competition. The NIFA Flying Team finished second overall at SAFECON and earned the top two pilot awards. At the time of this writing, the Frozen Force Air Race Classic team is preparing for its cross-country competition, and our Aerobatic Team will be recognized at EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh with its 12th National Championship Trophy.

In Space Studies, we celebrated Pablo de León as UND's next Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor as he steps down as department chair to focus on research at the Human Spaceflight Laboratory at Cape Canaveral. Our two satellites continue to orbit successfully and are beginning their rejoin sequence, while new radar and habitat research capabilities will support work related to orbital detection and future lunar exploration.

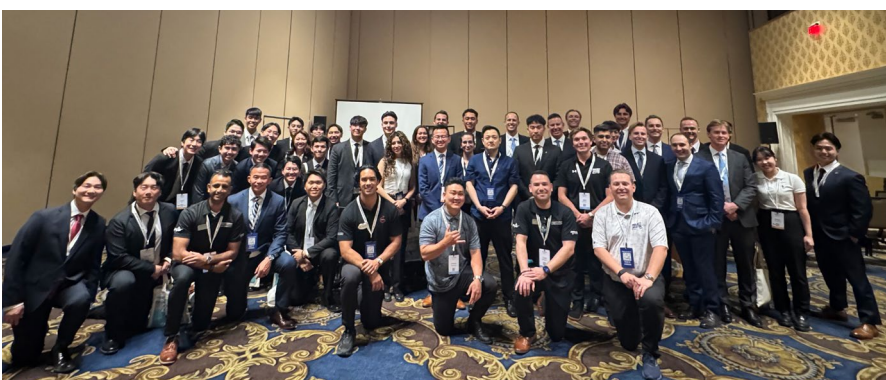
Atmospheric Sciences students and faculty continued storm-chasing efforts across the Midwest and launched a project to improve global forecasting. This fall, during Homecoming, we will celebrate 40 years of Atmospheric Sciences as an academic department. We thank Matt Gilmore for his service as department chair and welcome Aaron Kennedy to the role. Earth System Science and Policy also launched a multimillion-dollar grant effort focused on complex environmental challenges.

In September, a large UND Aerospace contingent will attend the National Aviation Hall of Fame induction ceremony to recognize John Odegard's vision and accomplishments. His leadership built the foundation for the success we continue to experience today.

If you have not been back to campus recently, please consider this an open invitation. We would be delighted to welcome you home, show you the progress underway, and celebrate the people and programs that continue to make UND Aerospace exceptional. Thank you for your continued support, pride, and connection to the Odegard School.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Kraus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Kraus" clearly legible.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## JULY

- 20-26 EAA AirVenture - Oshkosh, WI
- 22 Alumni & Industry Partners Reception - Oshkosh, WI

## AUGUST

- 7 UND Summer Commencement - Grand Forks, ND
- 12-14 Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) Annual Conference - Chicago, IL

## SEPTEMBER

- 14-16 Communicating for Safety - Las Vegas, NV
- 14 Alumni & Industry Partners Reception - Las Vegas, NV
- 17-18 LPA Aerospace Industry Expo - Orlando, FL
- 24 National Aviation Hall of Fame - Washington D.C.
- 26 UND Aerospace Saturday - Grand Forks, ND
- 28-3 UND Homecoming - Grand Forks, ND

## OCTOBER

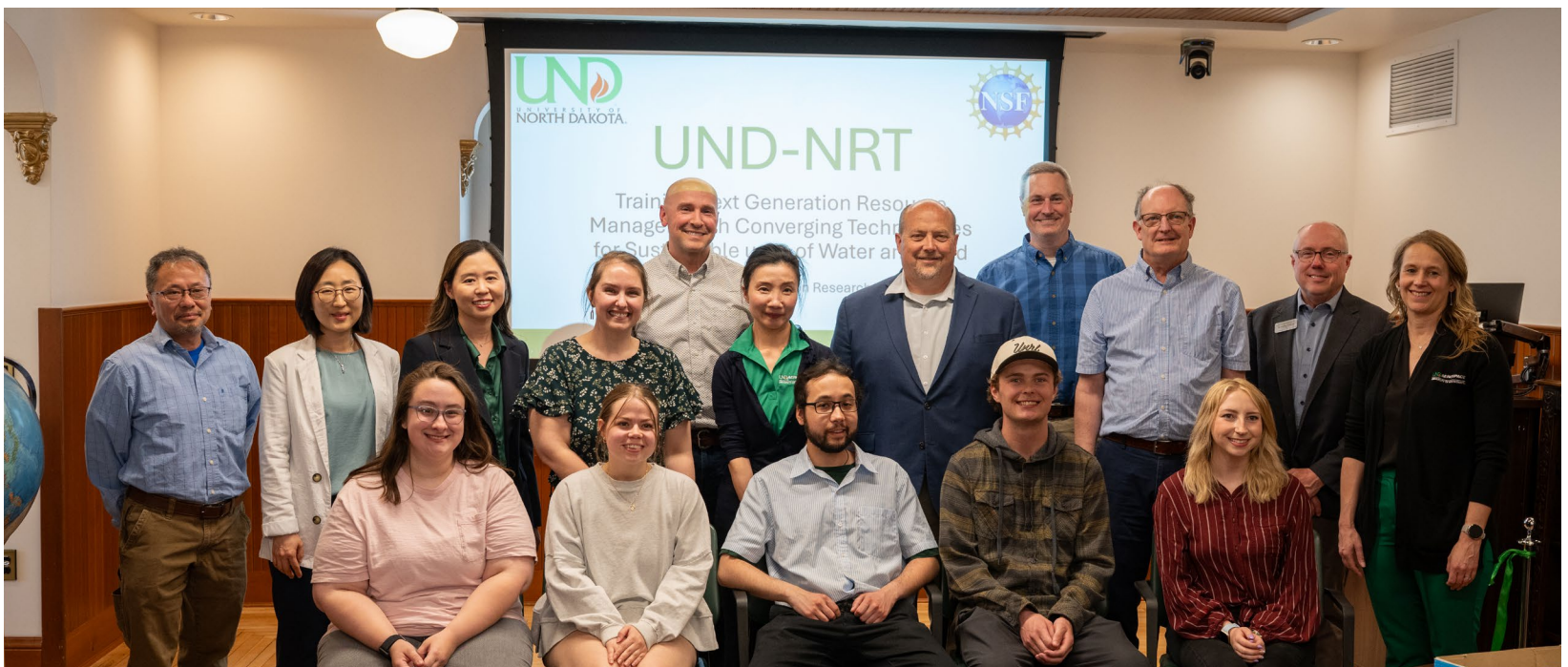
- 2 40th Anniversary, Atmospheric Sciences - Grand Forks, ND
- 2 UND Aerospace Hall of Fame - Grand Forks, ND
- 6 Faces of the Industry - Grand Forks, ND
- 15 UND Alumni & Industry Partners Gathering - Seattle, WA
- 20 Alumni & Industry Reception at NBAA - Las Vegas, NV

## DECEMBER

- 18 UND Winter Commencement - Grand Forks, ND

# FIRST-EVER NSF RESEARCH TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM IN NORTH DAKOTA

Program prepares graduate students to tackle complex environmental challenges through interdisciplinary research, real-world partnerships



The University of North Dakota has officially launched a nearly **\$2 million National Science Foundation Research Traineeship (NRT) Program** — the first award of its kind for UND and the state of North Dakota.

Funded through the National Science Foundation, the program will prepare graduate students to address complex water and land resource challenges through interdisciplinary research, advanced technologies and partnerships with government agencies, Tribal organizations, and research institutions.

The program creates a two-way benefit for both students and stakeholders by supporting graduate students conducting applied environmental research while also helping build a pipeline of highly trained talent for government and research partners across North Dakota and the region.

“The purpose of this grant is really training graduate students by providing career development opportunities while also focusing on interdisciplinary research projects,” said Haochi Zheng, associate professor in the Department of Earth System Science and Policy and principal investigator for the grant.

“Students will gain firsthand experience tackling real-world environmental issues while working directly with stakeholders and agency partners.”

The program is designed to address the ongoing challenges of environmental degradation affecting water and land resources. UND students and faculty will take a holistic, systems-based approach to developing mitigation strategies that improve environmental sustainability and community resilience.

Graduate students in fields including Earth System Science and Policy, Geography and Geographic Information Science, Atmospheric Science, and Aviation & Autonomous Platforms, will participate in the program.

The traineeship emphasizes both technical and interpersonal development. Students will gain experience in Earth systems science, physical geography, remote sensing, autonomous systems, and environmental economics while also developing communication, leadership, mentorship, and cultural competency skills.

The program also includes collaborations with partners such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, North Dakota Department of Water Resources, Turtle Mountain Community College, the University of Adelaide in Australia, and the Tribal Nations Research Group.

Research projects connected to the traineeship are driven by stakeholder needs and developed in collaboration with agencies and organizations across the region.

**“What is special about this one is we are the very first one on the UND campus, and we are also the very first one in the whole state of North Dakota. We are officially making history today.”**

**HAOCHI ZHENG**

“So many of those projects are proposed by our partners,” Zheng said. “Students will finish their graduate studies either with master’s degrees or Ph.D.’s, but at the same time, the agencies and stakeholders receive results from their research that eventually benefit society.”

Andrew Wilcox, an M.S. student in Earth System Science and Policy, joins the first cohort of the NRT program and is already supporting research with real-world applications.

“My project is about modeling the subsidence of the ground along the Dalton Highway in Alaska under permafrost loss, and then estimating the damages to the highway in the coming years,” Wilcox said.

“It’s very impactful. I’m very grateful,” Wilcox said. “It’s helping me a lot with my research. I get to work with a lot of really great researchers at the Arctic lab. It allows me to pursue a project that I’m very interested in personally because I really like permafrost and Arctic research.”

Several other ongoing NRT projects study topics such as flood forecasting, flood risk assessment, algae bloom monitoring, pollination services in the Northern Great Plains, and glacial research in the Northern Rocky Mountains. These initiatives work with regional stakeholders and government partners to develop effective strategies for sustainable management of natural resources provided by water and land.

The National Science Foundation established the NRT program in 2014 to encourage innovative models for graduate education. According to Zheng, NSF has funded more than 130 institutions across more than 40 states, making UND’s award especially significant.

“What is special about this one is we are the very first one on the UND campus, and we are also the very first one in the whole state of North Dakota,” Zheng said. “We are officially making history today.”

The program aims to train 15 graduate students — including five doctoral students and 10 master’s students — through a combination of technical coursework, interdisciplinary collaboration, and direct engagement with community and agency partners.



UND leaders praised the collaborative nature of the initiative and its potential impact on workforce development across the region.

“Exciting opportunity, exciting event, exciting program,” said Brad Rundquist, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. “It’s great to hear about the number of graduate students that we’ll train in this important area. Thanks for all the effort to bring it to UND and North Dakota.”

“I think the uniqueness of bringing such an interdisciplinary group together like this — with the Graduate School, Arts & Sciences and Aerospace — is going to make for great workforce development,” said Elizabeth Bjerke, associate dean of the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences. “The students coming out of this are going to already have that interdisciplinary experience.”

Graduate School Dean, Soojung Kim, said the program will help attract highly qualified students to UND while creating meaningful community impact.

“Our graduate students will be recruited to this institution to be part of this history-making initiative,” Kim said. “The impacts they’re going to receive throughout this education, and the impacts they’re going to make to communities, are very exciting to see.”

The program’s first cohort of trainees will spend the coming year working on research projects and developing professional skills before presenting their work at an anniversary showcase event next spring.



# UND FLYING TEAM 2ND OVERALL & TOP PILOTS

This May, the UND Aerospace Flying Team placed second in the National Safety and Flight Evaluation and Conference (SAFECON), a competition that aims to promote aviation achievement and safety. In addition to the hard work of the entire team, two members of the UND Team ranked in the top spots, with Kaden Robinson ranking first and Andreas Testerman taking second.

“I want to congratulate this year’s Flying Team on another outstanding performance at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association national championships,” said Robert Kraus, dean of UND Aerospace. “Their success reflects countless hours of preparation, exceptional teamwork, and a deep commitment to excellence. We are incredibly proud of the way they represented our college and demonstrated the skill, professionalism, and determination that define our students.”

Those who attend compete in a variety of ground knowledge, simulator, and flying events to evaluate their aviation skills. The UND team traveled with a group of 12, competing to win a spot among the top ranks against teams with far greater numbers.

“I know the team worked very hard to prepare for the National SAFECON, and considering the team size they accomplished a lot,” said UND Professor Kent Lovelace. “It’s a statement about the quality and work ethic of the coaching staff. Most of the larger teams were the usual ones that consistently rank in the top 10. This team and their coaches accomplished more with less.”

Accompanied by Coaches Lewis Liang and Jared Lease, the team worked their way to the top ranks, placing second overall against the over 30 other teams. Their student attendees included Co-captains Andreas Testerman and Maxwell Schimelpfenig, Christopher Coleman, Riley Drea, Cody Jacobson, Myles Lucas, Collin Mallory, Evan Munzel, Jacob Neuhaus, Hailey Olson, Kaden Robinson, and Kaden Young.

“It truly was the result of a lot of hard work by the entire team this year,” said Lease. “A well-deserved recognition of all their hard work.”

# UND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES HOSTS STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE



## GRADUATE STUDENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Owen Meisner, Kayla Kenow, Lynnlee Bestul, Sydney Walters, Alec Szczepanski, Kyle Gillett, Kassidy Kjos.

This April, the University of North Dakota hosted the Symposium for Local Atmospheric Research conference. Referred to as “SCALAR” this two-day conference was facilitated by the graduate students of the UND Atmospheric Science Department, providing the space for students to present their research conducted in the department.

The event itself is entirely graduate student led, planned by a committee of students and supported by faculty and administrators. Students, professors, and researchers from both inside and outside the University have the opportunity to present their work in a lower stakes and familiar environment.

“A big part of doing research in atmospheric sciences is presenting our research at national conferences, which can be intimidating for students,” said Sydney Walters, master’s student in Atmospheric Sciences. “SCALAR is meant to be a

familiar environment that gives students the chance to get experience communicating their science. Because of the timing in the year that SCALAR happens, I personally view it as a great end-of-year wrap-up to the work being done in our department. We have such a wide range of research being done, and it’s often hard to keep up with what all our colleagues are doing, so having two days to hear about what everyone has been up to is a highlight of SCALAR.”

Planning the event itself takes weeks of preparation, but the students involved believed the work is worth it and that this year’s event was a great success.

“It was great to get to work with my peers on something so big and see such a great turnout from our department, community partners and alums,” said Walters. “Just chatting with people during breaks and our reception really drove home

why we were doing this.”

The event hosted a variety of keynote speakers, faculty members, students’ presentations, and panels, presenting diverse research topics to all in attendance. The experience was particularly rewarding for those who helped put the event on.

“Being a part of events like this, I see how the connections to the external participants develop students and opens doors for them,” expressed Walters. “I personally know how much giving a talk at SCALAR last year prepared me to give my first talk at a national conference this year. So, as someone who wants to be a professor, I want to make sure my students always have a place to share their research and science in an environment like SCALAR, as well as have an opportunity to learn about different research from their peers and colleagues beyond the department.”



This May, University of North Dakota students had the opportunity to participate in a 10-day Storm Chasing trip through the course ATSC 320: Storm Experience. Atmospheric Science majors, Noah Shasky and Anya Brenholt, shared their experiences participating in this year's trip.

**Tell me a bit about the class itself. How many people were on the trip? How long was the course? What did your day-to-day look like?**

Brenholt: There were ten students, four TAs, and two professors that went on the trip. The trip itself was a total of 12 days. This consisted of two bootcamp days and 10 days of actual chasing/driving.

Shasky: The class consisted of a 2-3 day "forecast bootcamp", where we would learn the basics of severe weather forecasting, such as the atmospheric parameters you want for tornadoes/hail, as well as model analysis. After the bootcamp, we hit the road on a 10-day trip to wherever the severe weather would be. Each morning, we would wake up and prepare a weather brief for the current day and the following day, where we would analyze the different models and discuss as a group where we would want to set up for severe weather. A good portion of the trip was driving; I would say about 75% of the day was spent either chasing a storm or driving to get into position to

see a storm. On days where there wasn't any severe weather in the forecast, we would go to different state/national parks, or tour local National Weather Service offices or go to local points of interest.

**What made you interested in enrolling in this course?**

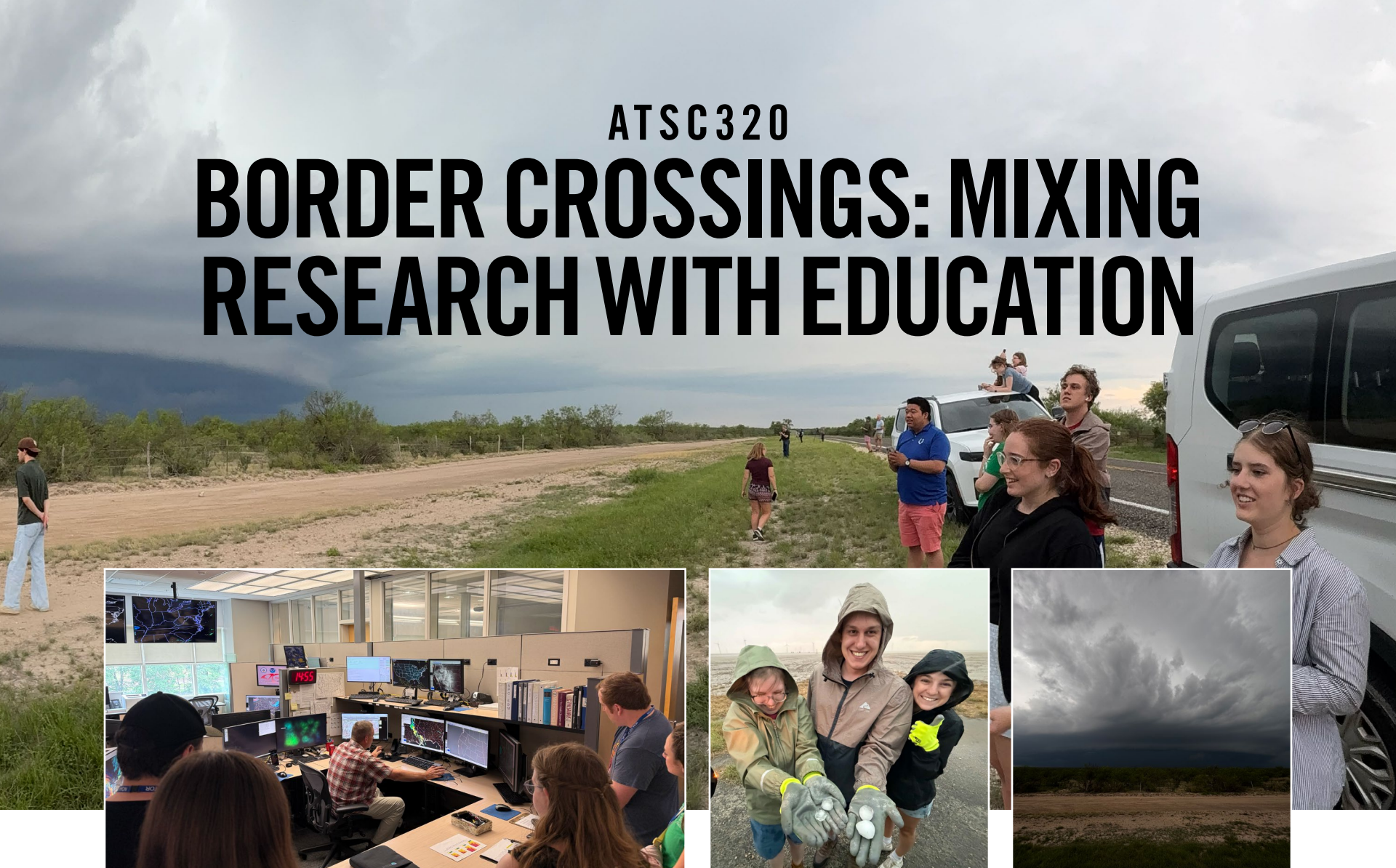
Brenholt: What sparked my interest in this class was my interest in severe weather. At the time, I did not have a strong background in severe weather, so this was a great opportunity for me to take. With a little push from Dr. Aaron Kennedy asking if I wanted to chase some hailstorms, I ultimately decided to go on the trip and take this class.

**What drew you towards meteorology and storms?**

Shasky: I have been interested in storms since I was very young. The defining moment for me was when an EF3 tornado hit the city of Hugo, MN when I was 6, which was just south of where I lived. The following day, my dad and I biked down there to see the damage, and after seeing the destruction it caused, I became terrified of storms. In order to ease that fear, I began learning as much as I could about storms. As I grew older, I became less and less afraid of them and more and more fascinated and drawn towards them so to say.

# ATSC320

# BORDER CROSSINGS: MIXING RESEARCH WITH EDUCATION



**A research component was added to the class this year – what topics or queries were you researching?**

Brenholt: The topic that we were researching was hail. To study this, we used a hail camera that was originally used for the ICECHIP campaign. When deploying this, we make sure the battery is plugged in, and we attempt to get ahead of the hail core. Once a good spot is found, we take it out of the back of the vehicle, and then we leave it on the ground and quickly drive out. What the camera is doing is it is taking a picture of the whole frame, and it takes 437 frames per second. It then stores those pictures into memory and will determine if there is something there or if it is just blank in the image. With this data so much can be done. I currently work under Dr. Aaron Kennedy and undergraduate student Talia Kurtz, who were both on the trip, and I go through these images determining if they are hailstones or not. An example of what this helps with is in calculating the velocity at which these hailstones are falling at, ultimately helping in the research of hail. With that, it was awesome for me to actually help in the deployment of the camera, versus me just going through the images all the time.

**One of the great aspects of this class is that it has very minimal requirements to enroll. Did you have any background in this topic before the class?**

Brenholt: Before this class, the only relative class I had taken was Atmospheric Sciences 110, which is the only prerequisite for this course. I was a little nervous as most of the class had even taken Atmospheric Sciences 210 or 220, but it was a great way for me to learn some new concepts.

**What was your favorite part? Any fun stories from your time on the trip?**

Shasky: My favorite part was when I got to see my first-ever in person tornado. While it was some 20-30 miles away, there were closer chasers that confirmed it touched down. While it wasn't the most photogenic tornado ever, being able to see one in person for the first time was amazing. Another favorite part was when we toured the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, OK. I have always dreamed of working at the SPC, and it was an incredible experience to meet some of the forecasters and to actually stand in the room where mesoscale discussion and severe weather watches are issued.

# FIRST COHORT FLIGHT DISPATCH STUDENTS

**FAA-approved program celebrates first graduating class and 100% pass rate  
on federal certification exams**



Less than a year after the Federal Aviation Administration approved UND's aircraft dispatcher certification courses, the University's first cohort of students now has the option to enter one of aviation's most critical careers.

That first cohort (made up of 19 students) completed the FAA-required 200 hours of instruction through UND's newly approved dispatch curriculum.

They also became the first group at the University to all pass the written and oral exams required for FAA aircraft dispatcher certification; with the latter taking as long as six to eight hours to complete.

Samantha Ross, an assistant professor of Aviation, led the charge to establish the new program, and worked to help prepare the students for the FAA exams. She placed the success of the new program squarely on the hard work of her students:

"This program would not have been successful without the students," Ross told UND Today. "It doesn't matter how much effort and energy I've put into this. If the students didn't match that energy, it wouldn't have been successful.

The program, housed within the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace

Sciences, was officially approved by the FAA in 2025 after a years-long development and review process. UND joined a relatively small group of institutions nationwide authorized to offer FAA-approved dispatcher certification coursework.

Aircraft dispatchers work alongside airline captains to plan and monitor flights, sharing legal responsibility for flight safety. Dispatchers analyze weather, fuel requirements, routing, aircraft performance and operational conditions before and during flights.

FAA-certified dispatchers can work for passenger airlines, cargo carriers, and corporate aviation operators.

For many students, the dispatch program offers another pathway into the aviation industry beyond the cockpit. It also offers another career pathway to people who may not be medically cleared to be pilots.

Robert Kraus, dean of the Odegard School, said the addition of the program strengthens UND's ability to prepare students for a variety of aviation careers.

"The addition of the dispatch courses and certification at UND provides an

additional opportunity for our graduates to excel in the aviation industry,” Kraus said. “The recent success of our students is a testament to their hard work and to Samantha’s dedication in developing and teaching courses that fully prepared them to demonstrate their skills.”

Brett Venhuizen, chair of UND’s Department of Aviation, said the graduation of the first cohort marks a milestone years in the making for the department.

“It has been a decades-long goal for the Aviation Department to offer a Dispatch Certificate,” Venhuizen said. “Samantha Ross took on this effort and has not only achieved the certification of our program, but also provided such high-quality training to our students that our first cohort achieved a 100% pass rate on their practical exams. Congratulations to all involved.”

Students in the first cohort to pass the FAA exams were not shy about describing their experiences:

“It was a little stressful,” said Sam Stein, a senior from Minneapolis. “But it feels great, just knowing that if I want to do this I can just apply for a job in a few months and hopefully, I’ll be on my way to a career.”

“It feels like I can breathe, with the amount of studying I had to do,” said Indiana native Jacob Ambler. “I want to be a pilot, but it’s not guaranteed. This program offers a great second option that also has made me a better pilot, so it’s been very beneficial.”

“A lot of opportunities are opening up for being a dispatcher, and I’m very excited to explore the industry and very passionate about it,” said Reese Brown, a senior from Texas. “I just found out about this program a year ago and decided to take the class. It was a lot of hard work, but I made it through.”

“It’s been really neat to watch this program progress from an idea to being fully fleshed out,” said, Lucas de Jager, Ross’ teaching assistant and a certified flight instructor. “All of these students having certificates is great.”

Senior Elisabeth Nelson said she would recommend the course to students who have gained some experience in the Aerospace program. “It’s not your typical college course, but it’s definitely a very rewarding course, and it can lead you on to a career in aviation that you’d never expect.”

UND’s curriculum combines existing aerospace coursework with specialized dispatcher instruction covering weather analysis, FAA regulations, air traffic procedures, navigation systems, human factors, and aeronautical decision-making.

Students who complete the UND coursework receive a graduation certificate qualifying them to sit for the FAA practical examination administered either by the FAA or a designated aircraft dispatcher examiner. Successful completion leads to the FAA aircraft dispatcher certificate.

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# UND MOTION SICKNESS PROGRAM EARNS INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

A University of North Dakota program that helps people overcome motion sickness is earning international recognition. Jennifer Watne, who leads UND's Motion Sickness Desensitization Program in the Aerospace Physiology department, was invited this May to present her work at the Aerospace Medical Association Conference, an annual conference that draws an international audience of physicians, aerospace physiologists, military leaders, and astronauts.

"I was honored to be selected to present," Watne said, "It's great to be able to speak about the work I've done alongside the other well established and highly respected Aerospace Physiology Professionals."

Since the program expanded in fall of 2024, Watne has worked with more than two dozen participants, including corporate pilots, UND student pilots, members of the general public, and even travelers who found the program through online searches and drove from out-of-state to attend.

"I've worked with 25 people now, and I'd say at least 90% or more have had a complete resolution of their symptoms," Watne said. "And everybody else has had vast improvement."

Grand Forks resident, Kelsey Leake, told Watne she was able to fly to Alaska with her family and even take a short boat trip — something that would have been extremely uncomfortable before, or even impossible. Watne says such stories are what make the work meaningful.

"I like to get to know the people, and it's fun to be able to hear how they've been able to do these things," she said.

The three-day course uses a controlled, gradual approach inside a simulator chamber. Watne emphasizes that the goal is not to push participants into extreme discomfort. She shared details about UND's simulator-based training,

case scenarios, and outcomes at the conference.

"I had a good turnout and there was a lot of interest in the motion sickness program from both civilians and military personnel at the conference," told Watne. "The military physiologists I spoke with liked the touches I put on program like creating a low stimulation

environment and letting the subjects listen to their favorite music to help alleviate anxiety and also provide a good distraction."

As awareness grows and demand increases, UND leaders are already discussing the future of the program. Expansion — and possibly additional staffing — could be on the horizon if interest continues to build. For Watne, however, the focus remains on helping individuals participate in experiences they once avoided — whether that's flying an aircraft, sitting in the back seat of a car, or finally joining family on the water.

"It's been kind of neat," she said, "to be a part of somebody's journey like that."

The program is being administered exclusively by **Jennifer Watne**, aerospace physiologist and registered nurse. People wanting to use this service can contact Watne directly at [jennifer.watne@und.edu](mailto:jennifer.watne@und.edu) or 701-777-7195.



# JEREMY ROESLER HONORED WITH NATIONAL AVIATION AWARD



Jeremy Roesler, director of flight operations at UND Aerospace, has been recognized with a national award from the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI).

Roesler received the 2026 AABI Chairperson Award, an honor presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to collegiate aviation and the broader aviation education community. This award acknowledges leadership and service supporting advancements in aviation education.

Roesler was recognized for his work representing collegiate aviation interests in efforts related to modernization of Federal Aviation Administration Part 141 training regulations, which govern structured flight school programs. He was specifically recognized for his work in bringing AABI-accredited schools together during the modernization process.

“Revisions to these FAA pilot training regulations do not happen very often. The last major revision was in the 90s. It is great that UND had one of the few seats at the table for this process,” Roesler said.

“It is an honor to recognize Jeremy Roesler with the AABI Chairperson Award for his outstanding leadership and meaningful contributions to Part 141 modernization,” said Julie Speakes, chair of the AABI Board of Trustees and associate dean at Liberty University. “His deep operational expertise and commitment to collaboration strengthened collegiate aviation and helped shape regulatory improvements that will benefit flight training programs nationwide.”

Founded in 1988, AABI is dedicated to advancing the quality and standards of aviation education. The Chairperson Award is among AABI’s distinguished honors, highlighting contributions that have a lasting impact on the aviation academic community. Roesler’s recognition reflects both his individual leadership and UND’s continued role in shaping the future of aviation training and standards.



## UND Proud Award

The **Ken & Toby Baker UND Proud Award** is presented to a UND staff member who, through extraordinary public service, has made lasting contributions to the external community, over and above the expectations of their regular University position.

This award was presented to **Jeremy Roesler**, director of Flight Operations.

# FLIGHT OPERATIONS CENTER

**17,002+ commercial pilots have  
earned their wings with us.**

The Flight Operations Center is slated to celebrate its grand opening in spring 2027. Opportunities to support the new facility through charitable giving are still available. Previous gifts may be counted toward advancing your giving level within the Flight Training Society. We still have Briefing Rooms and other spaces available for naming opportunities.

On March 13, 2026 the final steel support beam of UND's new Flight Operations building was hoisted into position – marking the project's approximate halfway point to completion.



## FLIGHT OPERATIONS REDEFINED

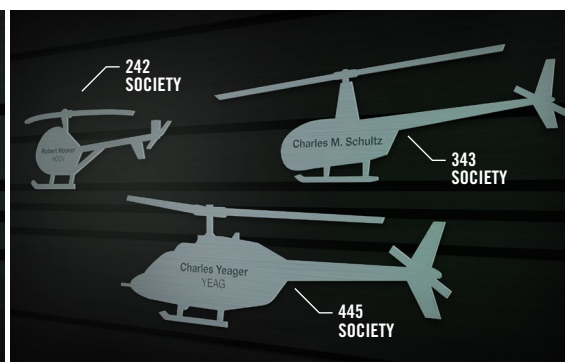
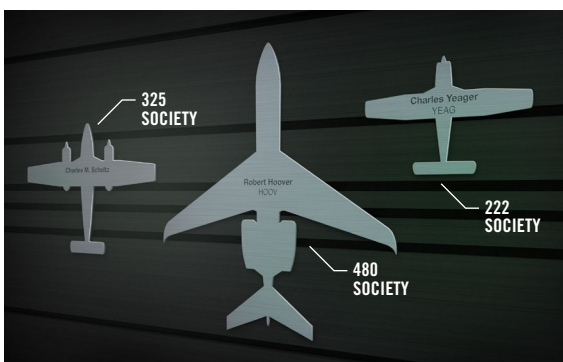
|                | Old Building | New Building |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Fireplace      | 0            | 1            |
| Elevator       | 0            | 1            |
| Soft Seating   | 7            | 75+          |
| Windows        | 14           | 175+         |
| Square Footage | 18,749       | 28,500       |

## Flight Training Society

Become a part of the Flight Training Society by **October 4, 2026** to have your plaque included during the grand opening of the Flight Operations Center.



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Scan the qr code or visit  
[aero.und.edu/flight-ops-center/](https://aero.und.edu/flight-ops-center/)  
to learn more about our  
Flight Training Society.



# BACKCOUNTRY FLYING WITH THE WILDERNESS PILOTS ASSOCIATION

This April, 12 members of the UND Aerospace's Wilderness Pilots Association ventured on a two-day camping trip in Ely, Minnesota. Those participating got to see firsthand backcountry flying operations, exposing students to new applications of the skills they gain here at UND.

"I think the most interesting part of the trip for me at least is really just seeing a different world of flying there," said student Dane Jensen, Vice President of the WPA. "They do some very interesting backcountry operations in the boundary waters flying Beaver airplanes that are on floats in the summertime and on skis and wheels in the wintertime. They do search and rescue, fire mitigation, ecological surveys, land management, and just very interesting operations up there. So, we got to really hear about their operation and what all they do down there to protect that area."

WPA was founded as a way of giving students the opportunity to explore the local area outside of Grand Forks. Throughout the year, the organization takes trips to Turtle River, goes skiing in Montana, and hosts monthly meetings where members can gather and get to know each other.

"I got interested in joining WPA because I've always been involved in the outdoors," explained Jensen. "I'm a big skier, mountain biker, runner, backpacker—pretty much anything outside. That's been my passion growing up, so when I got to UND, I wanted to find an organization and group of people that liked doing that. I ended up joining on a camping trip, my freshman year, and really enjoyed it."

"Our priority is getting people outside," he continued. "We like to do camping trips, skiing trips, we go hiking, we've done backpacking, and rock climbing.

We've also put on wilderness first aid and survival courses in conjunction with the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. We do quite a bit of professional development as well."

This year's trip to Ely has been the second year that the organization has gone. The trip includes both a professional development portion, where students got to meet pilots who help with the backcountry flight operations, as well as a traditional camping experience under the stars. At the end of the day, though, the students find that it's the connections they make with each other and the surprises along the way that makes the trip special.

"We always have a very good time once we get to camp," told Jensen. "We set up a campfire, we cook hot dogs, s'mores, listen to music, tell stories, you know, whatever people like to do. On this particular trip, the weather was horrible. Right as we got to camp, the skies just opened up and started hailing.

So, we got a tarp set up, got a fire lit, had dinner, got everybody's gear set up, and I think everybody stayed mostly dry and warm for the night."

"I really encourage anybody who has any interest in the outdoors to get involved with WPA," he concluded. "You know, if you talk to any of our members, most people really find that it's not just a normal professional development type organization and there's a great balance where you get to go on fun camping trips and skiing trips and go explore the area because the upper Midwest really does have a great offering of outdoor adventures. You get the professional development side of it, and you come out of it with a great group of friends."

# The Day the Sky Went Silent



*August 2, 2023, began before the North Dakota sun had fully risen. I remember the stillness of the morning and the excitement within. My alarm went off in my quiet dorm room, but I was already awake. That day was different. I was going on my very first solo cross-country flight.*

*I was only two months into flight training with forty-five hours in my logbook. The day prior, I had taken and passed my written exam, so everything was fresh in my mind. I had moved through my private pilot training very quickly, and suddenly the milestone that once felt distant was here. My flight plan was simple: leave Grand Forks, fly 71 nautical miles south to Fargo for a touch-and-go, turn directly west to land in Valley City, then return home to Grand Forks. What could go wrong?*

*The sky that morning was a pilot's dream. Not a cloud in sight, light winds, and unlimited visibility. Learning to fly in the time of paper charts, I completed every weight and balance calculation and takeoff and landing distance, checked weather, NOTAMs, and fuel requirements. My instructor endorsed me and said, "Have fun! I'll see you when you get back," gave me a confident nod, and said goodbye.*

*When I started up and taxied out alone, the cockpit felt bigger and quieter once again without him. When I took off Runway 35L, the nerves turned into excitement and confidence. The leg to Fargo was smooth and quiet. Fields stretched endlessly below me in perfect squares—after all, that's really all you see in North Dakota. After timing my checkpoints, I began to rehearse what I would say to the controllers in Fargo. Their towered airspace felt intimidating, but nothing I hadn't done before. Within a few minutes, I had completed a quick touch-and-go, climbed out, and made an immediate 90-degree turn west toward Valley City.*

*This leg meant the most to me. My grandparents were waiting for me. They had never seen me fly before. After 20 minutes, I spotted the airport. It is a particularly beautiful airport as it sits up in the middle of a valley surrounded by the North Dakota landscape. Looking out for radio-less crop dusters, I landed and taxied over to the FBO, shut down, opened the door, and stepped into the warm morning air.*

*My grandparents were smiling and waving. I hugged them tightly. My grandpa handed me a bag of cookies and snapped a photo beside the airplane. Pride radiated from them, and from me. I was no longer just learning to fly. I was becoming a real pilot.*

*Then something small shifted...*

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KATHLEEN'S FULL ARTICLE ONLINE

[airfactsjournal.com](https://airfactsjournal.com)



# IMPROVING UAS APPLICATIONS



Almost 20 years after graduating the first UAS Operations Aviation student, the UND Aerospace Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations program is thriving. With research and continued opportunities for students majoring in UAS Operations, faculty and staff have been engaged in joint training exercises and experimentation that continues to benefit the state as well as the UAS Operations students.

## **Counter-UAS and “Red Teaming”**

Beginning January 2025, UND established a Memorandum of Undertraining with the North Dakota Air National Guard and North Dakota Army National Guard for Counter-UAS and Advanced Air Mobility collaboration. This relationship has resulted in several joint training efforts to advance UAS operations. One such goal effort has created training exercises where all participants gain experience in counter-UAS operations. Counter-UAS can be broadly defined as efforts related to countering either nefarious or unintentional aircraft including UAS, from entering an area that could cause harm to people or damage equipment.

In these operations, UND has acted as the adversary, better known as the “red team,” creating realistic encounter with the NDANG to allow them to respond accordingly and learn from each experience. UND’s understanding of red team tactics has grown, enabling them to not only better challenge the NDANG team, but also help prepare for the test and evaluation of new and future counter-UAS systems. This relationship benefits both parties, as the UND team gets practice in hands on applications while aiding the military as they practice using new technologies and techniques to deter adversaries or those who enter into an area unintentionally.

“Working with such world-class organizations has helped us to increase our own professionalism and mature as a UAS unit,” said Paul Snyder, assistant chair and director of UAS Operations. “It has really improved us as educators and as researchers. UAS is still really new—we started in 2009 with our first graduate but the industry is still learning how to integrate UAS into the national airspace system. The fun thing but also the hard thing is that we are constantly having to adapt to change and be attentive to what is ‘now’ and what could be. These kind of things enable us to remain on the leading edge of UAS education and help train our students for the future.”

**Search and Rescue**

Since August of 2025, these operations have shifted from exclusively counter-UAS operations to now also include a series of joint training exercises to improve UAS applications to disaster response efforts. These exercises aimed to find gaps in the current operations and improve how disaster teams interact.

“We have people from all over the state come together to do training and experimentation,” explained Snyder. “Those collaborations that are happening enable us to work with industry and government to help solve problems and move the ball forward in everything from detect and avoid technology, new sensor capabilities, disaster responses, or counter-UAS. Regardless of how good your technology is, if you don’t have inoperatibilliy of the technology or the knowledge to operate it, you won’t get far. It really has been exciting to see how far we have come.”

Additional industry and governmental partners have participated in these operations including members of the Civil Air Patrol, ND Highway Patrol, GK Northeast UAS Team, Grand Forks Water Safety Team, NDeavor, Vigilant Aerospace, NASA, AFRL, North Dakota State University, and more.

“We have witnessed a growing interest in being a part of one of the largest statewide initiatives for disaster response and preparedness,” said Snyder. “In the last year, additional governmental and industry partners have joined the effort. The first major training exercise was conducted in September 2025, involving the NDANG, the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, local first responders, and UND. This exercise simulated multiple lost-person scenarios and served as the first comprehensive event to identify interoperability gaps among emergency response organizations.”

Further events are planned for the future, including one this September to simulate first responder operations to a large-scale natural disaster in Western North Dakota. These continual efforts aim to make these operations run smoother to improve response efforts in the event such a disaster were to occur.

“This all started with six people in a room and now over 12 agencies are involved in a coordinated response effort,” told Snyder. “Together we’ve developed this really awesome opportunity to do joint training but at the same time have experimentation with new environments and technologies.”

**FEMA Courses**

In addition to these training exercises, the UAS program also offers courses funded through ASSURE to provide first responders and emergency managers with FEMA approved courses on how to use UAS in disaster responses, as well as demonstrate how to take data gained from drones and make it actionable for decision makers.

**Giving Back**

Student learning and real-world applications always remain at the forefront of the UAS Operations program’s goals. However, UND UAS also aims to have the work they do benefit the public and give back to the community whenever they can.

“The Armed Forces serve us everyday,” expressed Snyder. “Here we have an opportunity to serve those who protect our freedom while also improve safety for everyone.”



**UND TODAY STORIES**



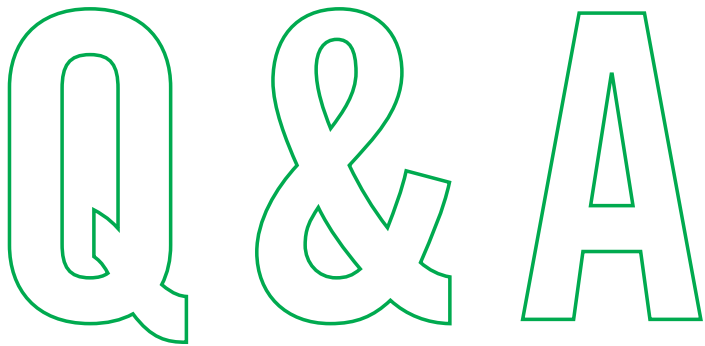
**Modern Technology Solutions donates uncrewed aircraft to UND Aerospace**

Partnership will supplement region’s UAS ecosystem, provide experiential learning opportunities, say UND & local UAS leaders



**Only in North Dakota: Flying unmanned aircraft statewide**

First-in-the-nation FAA partnership enables statewide drone flights, strengthening UND and North Dakota’s aviation leadership



## STUDENT AVIATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

*Our writer interviewed the student organization's faculty advisor, Dan Malott, and student organization President Jack Usiak and asked them to share where the organization stands today and what they look forward to in the future.*

The Student Aviation Management Association was founded in 1975 to support Airport Administration majors. In the decades since its founding, it has expanded to include all aviation majors at UND Aerospace, promoting aviation professionalism and networking.

**Q What are the goals of SAMA as an organization?**

MALOTT: SAMA is an organization that welcomes students with an interest in aviation from all backgrounds and majors, to come together to participate in numerous events and camaraderie. Students also have substantial opportunities to serve both the organization and the school through their largest event, the SAMA Conference and Career Fair. These events foster growth. Finally, SAMA is a phenomenal way to network with both other students, and industry representatives through the work the organization does for the events.

**Q SAMA has seen many graduates over the decades. Where have you seen SAMA alum go after their time at UND?**

MALOTT: SAMA alum have gone to every corner of aviation. SAMA members and officers serve as airline pilots, aircraft sales professionals, aviation executives, entrepreneurs, pretty much every avenue that aviation and business have to offer; you can find SAMA alum. Again, this makes the networking opportunity substantial.

**Q With over 50 years running, I'm sure some things have changed over time. How does the current organization look in comparison to the first few years it existed?**

USIAK: Many things have stayed the same; trips across the country have been a part of the club's identity from the very beginning, and the SAMA conference and career fair has been happening for quite some time now as well. The exact schedule and execution of the SAMA conference have shifted a little bit. Back in the early 2000s the conference was a multi-day event and SAMA weekend was not connected to aviation family weekend.

**Q Where do you hope to see SAMA go in the future?**

MALOTT: I see SAMA continuing to host the annual Conference and Career Fair as its largest event. One of the critical challenges we face is that as the industry swings in different directions, attendance and interest at those events can also swing. I'm optimistic that in 5 or more years, SAMA will be hosting another large-scale event, bringing in 35+ companies to meet and get to know our students and alumni. I also see the students getting involved in more trips and site visits with companies.

**Q What annual events or activities does SAMA participate in?**

USIAK: SAMA usually takes one large trip to a major aviation operation each year. This year we visited Delta Air Lines' JFK and LGA operations to get a behind the scenes look at what it takes to run an airline. We also often take smaller, more accessible trips like the Fargo Jet Center. Finally, the largest event SAMA takes part in is the SAMA Conference and Career Fair. This event is entirely student ran and features companies from across the industry. It is a chance for all students at the college of aerospace to network and talk with recruiters and representatives of the industry. The conference features hour-long presentations from speakers across the industry who give students a unique view into their careers that may not be as easily accessed in the classroom.

**Q Tell me a bit about this year's SAMA weekend. What was it like preparing for it and how did it turn out?**

USIAK: The planning process for this weekend starts months in advance. There are a lot of logistical considerations for these kinds of events, so getting a head start was vital. Our process consisted of weekly meetings with the Dean's office, reaching out to companies and industry partners, and ensuring that the event itself ran smoothly.

MALOTT: It was a huge success. This year in particular, we had to make a large pivot in the location of the Career Fair. Due to the new Flight Ops building construction, we had to move the event on campus to Robin Hall. Everyone from the student leaders to the Dean's office staff helped come together to make it a great event. Many years ago we hosted the event in the halls of Odegard and Clifford. So, all of us who had been around for a while knew what to do to help foster the on-campus event.

**Q Do you have any fun stories from your time in SAMA?**

USIAK: Yes, a ton! My number one will always be this year's trip to New York City. The team at Delta truly blew it out of the water. Our members got to see an Airbus A330 up close and go into JFK tower, which is a very rare experience. It was very rewarding to see so many members enjoy this unique experience; it makes the work that goes into planning trips like these totally worth it.

**Q Student organizations can have a big impact on the students who participate. How has being in SAMA had an effect on your time at UND?**

USIAK: Being in SAMA has had such a positive impact on my time here at UND. As president, I learned so many things about leadership and professionalism that I would not have had I not gotten involved. Besides my own professional development, I have made genuine connections with people throughout the industry. SAMA, and the university as a whole, have so many alumni who are incredibly passionate about mentorship and their careers, and to have access to those people has made a positive impact on my life.

**Q As the advisor to such a large organization, what is something you would like its members to know?**

MALOTT: It's funny – I wasn't in a single student organization when I was in college. In fact, I was just about the worst student you could imagine, other than my flight-related courses and activities. Now, everyone pokes fun at me that I'm involved in too many things. But SAMA is one of the unique organizations where the students truly do a phenomenal job of running their own organization. I'm always happy to provide context, examples in the past, and suggestions, but I always tell the leaders from the beginning that it's their event. They can succeed or fail, and it's all on them. It's the same with being a captain at an airline, or president of a company. And somehow, they always pull it off and it's fun to be a part of that. I'm happy to call most of the senior SAMA leadership friends, and I love watching them grow in their lives and careers after graduation. I'm proud of all the SAMA students and leaders who I've been able to advise, and excited for the next page and the next chapter.

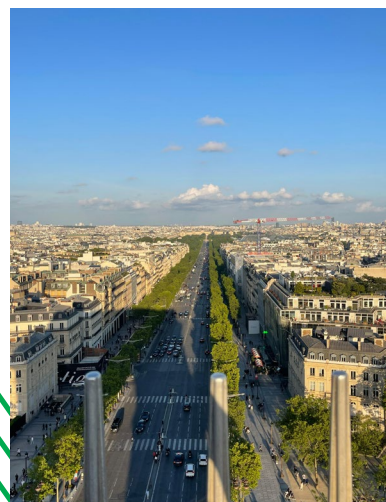


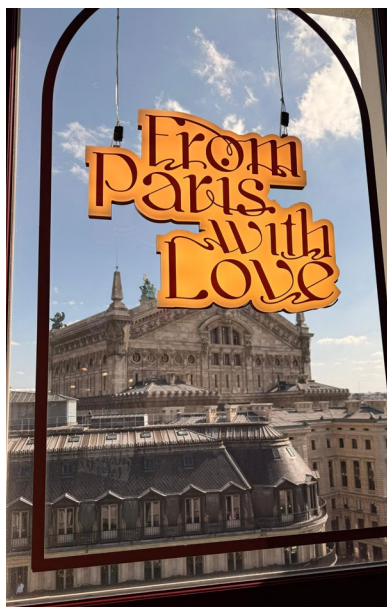
# Study Abroad

## D-DAY PLUS 82 YEARS:

### AVIT 372 VISITS NORMANDY & FRANCE

This summer our students in AVIT 372: Global Perspectives in Aviation History, went abroad to France! This specific section of the class focused on D-Day and the air war over Normandy. Bringing their semester-long studies to life, the class visited historic landmarks including Omaha Beach, Pointe du Hoc, and many more, allowing them to experience history firsthand.





# PABLO DE LEÓN

## 2026 CHESTER FRITZ DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR



On February 19, Professor Pablo de León, Space Studies department chair, joined the ranks of those awarded UND's highest honor for faculty.

De León learned of the honor via Zoom while attending a conference in Orlando, with Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Randi Tanglen, Provost Eric Link and UND President Andrew Armacost on the call.

"One of the most joyful things I can do as the president of UND is to recognize the accomplishments of our faculty members and to also bestow upon them certain honors that are due to them," Armacost said.

Regarding the honor, one recommender wrote that de León's record "exemplifies the ideals envisioned by Chester Fritz." Moreover, noted the recommender, de León's "internationally recognized contributions to human spaceflight engineering, dedication to student mentorship and leadership in expanding UND's global academic presence make him an exceptional candidate for this distinction."

During his time at UND, de León has founded the Human Spaceflight Laboratory and developed the North Dakota Experimental (NDX) series of spacesuit prototypes. He also developed the Integrated Lunar/Mars Analog Habitat (ILMAH), where participants simulate

living and working on the Moon or Mars. Approximately 65% of thesis-track Space Studies students conduct research connected to the habitat.

Additionally, another nominator highlighted how de León's work and research have made a difference beyond the University, citing the integration of his work in NASA-funded projects.

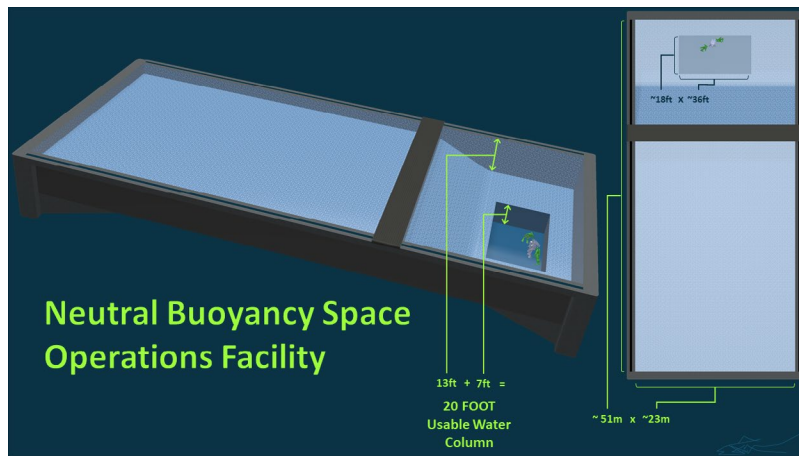
**"His work demonstrates a rare combination of visionary design, operational realism and commitment to rigorous testing and documentation," the nominator wrote. "Few faculty members have so effectively translated university-based research into outcomes recognized across the aerospace community."**

On the call, de León expressed gratitude for the honor — and for the University's support — surrounded by colleagues in the conference room in Orlando.

"I can't think of a bigger honor," he said. "Coming from a farm outside Buenos Aires in Argentina, and always dreaming of working for human spaceflight, UND gave me that opportunity."

He continued: "It has been an honor for me to work at UND for 22 years trying to bring good things to the university and have UND recognized as a center for human space flight, and I hope to be able to contribute for many more years to come and bring new and good, interesting things to UND."

# NEUTRAL BUOYANCY SPACE OPERATIONS FACILITY



The Neutral Buoyancy Space Operations Facility (NBSOF) will operate under the Human Spaceflight Laboratory while being physically located within the Altru Sports Complex. The complex will feature two swimming pools, the largest measuring 23 meters by 51 meters, with a maximum depth of 13 feet. The NBSOF will be situated within the deep end of this pool.

Within this space, an approximately 18 × 36 foot section will be extended by an additional 7 feet in depth, creating a total 20-foot water column. This environment will support research in human spaceflight, human-centered design, and automated uncrewed aerial systems (UAS).

The pool's mobile bulkhead will allow operations to access the entire deep end, providing flexibility for a wide range of activities. Additionally, suited participants and equipment will be able to access the full depth of the NBSOF using a 5-ton, roof-mounted beam hoist.

Personnel will also have access to dedicated briefing and debriefing areas, as well as storage and maintenance spaces within the complex.

Dr. Pablo de León serves as Director of the Neutral Buoyancy Space Operations Facility, and Dr. Keith Crisman serves as Chief of Dive Safety and Underwater Operations. Together, they aim to maximize the facility's use, ensuring that UND remains at the forefront of human spaceflight research as we advance toward the Moon and beyond.

SAVE THE DATE

## UND SoS 2026 SPACE OPERATIONS SUMMIT

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2026

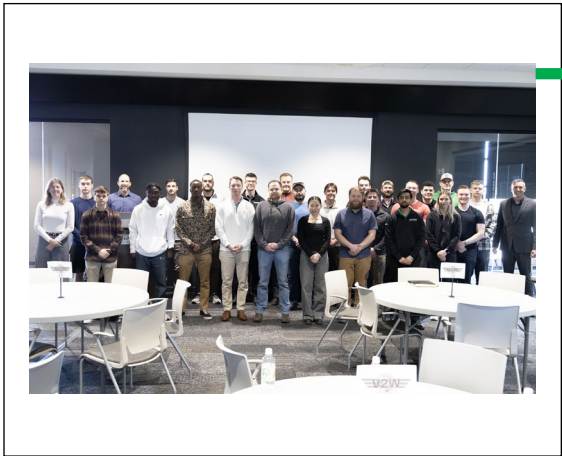
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# UND TODAY HIGHLIGHTS



## Vets2Wings program extended through 2030 with additional federal funding

UND's Vets2Wings program will continue helping veterans and National Guard members pursue aviation careers through 2030 following a new \$3 million federal investment secured by Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D.

The additional funding extends a program that launched in late 2022 through a partnership between UND, the Federal Aviation Administration and congressional leaders. The program is intended to address a nationwide shortage of commercial pilots while supporting military veterans transitioning into civilian careers.



## Remembering Suezette Bieri, co-founder of 'Time Out'

When Suezette Bieri of Grand Forks passed away on May 2, 2026 many tributes to her noted her extensive contributions to the Space Studies program at UND. After all, Bieri —who held three degrees from UND, was one of the first to earn an M.S. in Space Studies here, retired after helping to lead the North Dakota Space Grant Consortium for 21 years and was awarded, along with her husband Mike Jacobs, the Sioux Award for Distinguished Achievement & Leadership in 2024 — “was probably the sole person who made possible that UND now has a space suit program,” said Pablo de León, professor, department chairman and Human Spaceflight Laboratory director, to the Grand Forks Herald.



## UND joins universities across North America supporting global weather forecasting effort

The University of North Dakota is among 16 universities across North America participating in the Coordinated University Sounding Program for Atmospheric River Reconnaissance (CUSP-ARR), a collaborative research effort aimed at improving global weather forecasts.

Read full stories  
at UND Today  
[blog.UND.edu](https://blog.UND.edu)





## HONORING THE PAST: REFLECTIONS OF JOHN ODEGARD FROM THOSE WHO KNEW HIM

Take a trip down memory lane as we celebrate John D. Odegard being inducted into the 2026 National Aviation Hall of Fame. In a live special of AeroTalk during Aviation Family Weekend, Stephanie LaDue, Odegard's daughter, led a conversation with Kent Lovelace, Ken Polovitz, Karen Ruth, and Larry Martin about the incredible impact and legacy John created.



**John D. Odegard** will be enshrined into the National Aviation Hall of Fame on September 24, 2026 at The Anthem in Washington D.C.



### Flight of the Odegard

Available for purchase at AeroStop online or in store!

AeroTalk launched in September 2025 as the official podcast of UND Aerospace, hosted by Matt Opsahl. New episodes are released every Monday and explore a range of topics within the field of aerospace. The show takes listeners beyond the classroom through conversations with alumni, career insights in aviation and aerospace, and practical advice for students. Since its release, **AeroTalk has reached the top 25% of global download status for podcasts**, according to Buzzsprout data. We are so grateful for our listeners and their continued support!

Tune in with AeroTalk every Monday—streaming on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, and YouTube!



# AEROSPACE CONNECTIONS



08



01. Steve Williamson '84, a B787 Captain at American Airlines and Peter Greer '04, a First Officer, flew from London Heathrow to Chicago O'Hare and reshared memories from UND.

02. Brothers, Chad McIlquham '04 and Dustin McIlquham '06 shared their last flight at Spirit Airlines before heading off to paths at United and Delta Air Lines.

03. Captain at Alaska Airlines, Eric Eknes '88 & '90, and First Officer, Jessica Storm '10, have frequently crossed paths over the years through their work in pilot recruitment and mentorship programs. In this photo, they flew together from Seattle to Washington, D.C.

04. Alec Cote '19, an A320 First Officer at United Airlines, happened to run into two fellow UND alum at the DFW airport, Will Grodahl '20 B737 Captain at United Airlines and Keith Zorn '20 A320 First Officer at United Airlines.

05. FedEx Captain, Rick Irgens '92 and Shannon Doe '91 a Captain at Southwest Airlines, saw each other on a FedEx flight from OAK to IND.

09



06. UND roommates Joseph Hendron '15 and Steven Howard '15 caught up during a flight from Wilmington, Delaware to Palm Beach Florida! Steven is a First Officer at United Airlines and Joseph is a Captain at Avelo Airlines.

07. During a brief in the pilots lounge at JFK, three UND alum all found out they went to the same school! Jeremia Feyrer '02, Eric Kost '89, and Brady Johnson '05 met at the briefing tables in the pilot lounge for a Delta Air Lines flight from JFK to Accra Ghana. Before heading out to the aircraft, the crew realized they were all UND alumni when Captain Kost mentioned he was disappointed to be missing the matchup between UND and UW in the Frozen Four.

08. Walmart Aviation Chief Pilots, Julie Hall-den Boer '02 & '10 and Stephen Brack '04, flew a Learjet 45 together on a trip to North Dakota!

09. Endeavor Air Captain, Kunal Sujani '19 and First Officer, Parker Wakefield '22 flew together from LaGuardia to Rochester. Back in the day, Kunal was Parker's instructor during his flight training at UND.

10. Dominique Lord '18 and Benjamin Flores '17 have been friends since high school. They've grown up together, from playing HS football, attending UND, flying at SkyWest Airlines, to now one seniority number apart at United Airlines! This was their first flight together at United after Dominique upgraded.

10



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**UND AEROSPACE**

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