

FALL 2025



SAC NOTAM

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION OF
THE JOHN D. ODEGARD SCHOOL OF AEROSPACE SCIENCES

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Message from the *Dean*

Aerospace Students,

As we embark on a new semester together, I invite you to reflect on the concepts of balance and equilibrium—principles that are not only fundamental to aerospace, but also vital to our personal lives.

Imagine a marble resting in a bowl. When disturbed, its natural tendency is to roll back to the bottom—the point of stable equilibrium. However, if the bowl is turned upside down and the marble rests on top, any small nudge will send it rolling away—an example of instability.

At times, life can feel like either scenario. The important question is: Can we strengthen our resiliency and create a more stable foundation, so we're better equipped to return to equilibrium when faced with challenges? The answer is yes. Drawing from the 7th Habit of Stephen R. Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, true balance comes from nurturing four key areas:

- Physical: Prioritize your health. Are you staying active, eating well, and making time for rest? Do you have a regular exercise routine?
- Social/Emotional: Build strong relationships and manage your emotions constructively.
- Mental: Embrace lifelong learning and maintain a positive outlook.
- Spiritual: Stay true to your values and sense of purpose—whatever your guiding principles may be.

Each domain is essential, and none should be overlooked. The start of a new academic year provides an excellent opportunity to assess your balance in these areas and set meaningful goals. I encourage you to approach this semester with an "IMSAFE" mindset—not just as a checklist for flying, but for life itself.

By seeking balance, you build resilience to handle whatever comes your way. While it may not eliminate every challenge, it will help you process emotions, support one another, and return to equilibrium more quickly. I am confident that, together, we can soar to new heights this spring.

Wishing you all a successful and fulfilling semester ahead!

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





Message from the *President*

SAAC has spent this semester conceptualizing the future we want to build. UND Aerospace has evolved significantly since the days of John D. Odegard, and with that change, SAAC's role must evolve as well. Through many conversations, we recognized that now more than ever SAAC must care for our students and ensure their voices are heard.

In the coming semesters, you will see meaningful changes in the events we host, the way we conduct our meetings, and how we communicate student concerns. While looking ahead, we also took time to reflect on the incredible people who make our work possible. To every staff member who supports our mission, to the Dean's office for their partnership, to the dedicated professionals at the airport who bring our ideas to life, and most importantly, to the students: thank you. Your willingness to speak up, take initiative, and engage with our council drives everything we do. I am also deeply grateful to my fellow council members who have dedicated countless hours to improving student life this semester.

This semester, we saw one of our highest in-person turnouts at the Ask Aerospace Forum. We moved into the final stages of the Green Seal Project, which will provide CFIs with recognition equivalent to the FAA's Gold Seal. We connected many first-year students with upper-level mentors, helping them grow academically and professionally, and many of those connections began at our CMP Ice Cream Social. We also advanced the development of a new debrief card, modeled from airline standards, to support more effective pre- and post-flight briefings. These are only a few of the many initiatives SAAC continues to pursue to enhance your experience.

As this semester concludes, we look forward to the spring. We are excited to see our projects become reality and to watch the new Flight Ops Building take shape more and more each day. This college is changing, and I encourage you to be part of that change with us. We may not be able to solve every challenge, but we are committed to advocating for you every step of the way.

It has been an incredible honor to serve as SAAC President this semester. I cannot wait to see what the council and this college accomplish next. Never hesitate to reach out; I am here for each and every one of you.

Committed to your success,

ELLA HEDMAN | PRESIDENT
STUDENT AEROSPACE
ADVISORY COUNCIL



SAAC

UND Exclusive Look

Aerospace Flight Operations Center



1 FL



“ The first floor will house dispatch operations along with an open, shared area for students and certified flight instructors. The space is intended to function as both a work area and a gathering place, with a design and atmosphere comparable to the first floor of Robin Hall and the Memorial Union. ”



2_{FL}

“ The second floor will be dedicated to records and a series of briefing rooms for certified flight instructors and students. Modeled after the existing Crookston wing, the floor will include 20 enclosed briefing rooms, each outfitted with marker boards on walls. In addition to these private spaces, the design incorporates open areas with soft seating, as well as high-top tables and chairs positioned to overlook the Bravo ramp. ”

3 FL



“

The third floor will be devoted primarily to office space, housing the chief flight instructor, assistant chiefs, lead instructors, and stage check instructors.

”





UND FROZEN FORCE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA.



Four Days, 2,400 Miles, and a Test of Precision

For decades, the University of North Dakota's Aerospace program has cultivated a reputation for precision, discipline and quiet competitiveness. That reputation took shape early. In 1985, just three years after the Center for Aerospace Sciences was founded, the UND Flying Team captured its first national championship under the leadership of Kent Lovelace. What appeared then as a singular triumph soon revealed itself as a beginning.

In the years since, UND Aerospace has built a sustained presence in competitive flying, fielding three teams that compete on the national stage: the UND Flying Team, the Aerobatic Team and the Air Race Classic Team. Together, they have helped establish the program as a fixture in collegiate aviation—less flashy than coastal powerhouses, perhaps, but relentlessly effective.



Antonia Wagener
Assistant Chief Flight
Instructor

Among these teams, none has drawn more attention in recent years than UND's Air Race Classic Team, known as the "Frozen Force." Coached by Katia Peters, a senior lead instructor, and Antonia Wagener, an assistant chief flight instructor, the team claimed a first-place divisional victory in the summer of 2025, marking a historic milestone for the program.

Katia Peters
Senior Lead Flight
Instructor



The Air Race Classic is no ordinary competition. Held annually, the four-day, all-female cross-country race spans roughly 2,400 miles and unfolds entirely during daylight hours, a constraint that places a premium on timing and strategy. Routes vary each year, sending competitors over coastlines, through mountain passes, into congested airspace and across regions prone to convective weather. More than 40 teams often take part.

UND has competed every year since 2013. “It’s fundamentally different from a typical cross-country flight,” Wagener said in a recent interview. “You’re racing against a handicap, not just the clock. Winning isn’t about being first to arrive—it’s about outperforming your aircraft’s predicted performance.”

That distinction shapes nearly every aspect of preparation. Once the team is selected, months of work follow: bonding among the four pilots, coordination with dispatch and maintenance, simulator practice, weather analysis and the crucial handicap flight that determines how success will ultimately be measured. Even the airplane takes on an identity. After a tail number is chosen, the navigator—this year, Lila Knapp—names the aircraft, a small ritual that reinforces collective ownership.

By May, preparation intensifies. Crews practice in advanced training devices, refine crew resource management skills and assemble weather teams to anticipate the challenges ahead. The final rehearsal comes during the repositioning flight from Grand Forks to the race’s starting point, a dress rehearsal of sorts before competition begins in earnest.

Asked what defines a Frozen Force pilot, Wagener did not hesitate. “Adaptability. Resilience. Creativity. Determination,” she said. “They also need to be approachable and professional. They represent more than themselves.” Wagener has been part of the program since its inception in 2013 and has coached the team since 2019. What keeps her returning, she said, is the transformation she witnesses along the way.

“The women who leave Grand Forks are not the same women who arrive at the terminus,” she said. “They grow—not just as pilots, but as people. Watching that happen is extraordinary.” Her fondest memory came last summer, when the team won the 2025 collegiate division—despite skepticism from some observers who doubted a three-pilot crew could prevail. “When they landed, they told us they had already won,” Wagener recalled. “They meant they had won in how they worked together, in the sacrifices they made, in how much they enjoyed the journey. The trophy was just the cherry on top.”

That philosophy—process over outcome—runs through UND Aerospace’s broader approach to student involvement. Participation is strongly encouraged, and opportunities are abundant. Competitive teams, however, demand a deeper commitment, fostering technical mastery, teamwork and professionalism over time. Those qualities are not prerequisites, instructors emphasize, but the result of sustained effort.



For students willing to dedicate themselves, the path is well marked. Each team maintains its own presence on the university’s website, outlining expectations and opportunities. And while championships continue to accrue, the program’s leaders are careful to keep the emphasis where they believe it belongs.

“Our main goal is outreach and visibility,” Wagener said. “Winning is secondary.”

In aviation, as in life, the longest journeys are rarely about speed alone.

Words of Wisdom

from UND Aerospace



Among the many faces that make UND Aerospace great, SAAC asked just a few to share meaningful advice they believe UND Aerospace students should live by. Here they are:



Success in aviation (inclusive of all of our majors) isn't just about natural talent—it's built on grit, determination, and a commitment to continuous improvement. In this field, your progress depends on how much effort you put into mastering your skills and knowledge. Focus on what you can control: your study habits, your flying practice, and your attitude toward learning. Strive to get a little better every day, whether that means reviewing flight procedures, seeking feedback from instructors, or practicing decision-making under pressure. Remember, aviation rewards those who are persistent and proactive.

Dr. Robert J. Kraus

PfMP, CFII/MEI

Dean, John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences

Be resilient. You will earn a "B" (maybe even worse), you will unsat a stage check, you will suffer the loss of a close family member, and you may face issues with your health. Don't be side-tracked by these life challenges. Stay strong. Keep focused. Persevere. Resilient people achieve their goals and find success.



Brett D. Venhuizen, J.D.

Professor of Aviation & Chair



Find what works for you to keep the passion alive in your work. When you love what you do, it makes it easy to keep showing up!

Dr. Aaron Kennedy

Associate Professor





My best advice for flight students is to step out of your comfort zone. While perfect flying conditions are always more comfortable, waiting for them limits your growth. Embracing challenges and getting comfortable with the uncomfortable will better prepare you for success on your next stage check and in your aviation career.

Wes Van Dell

Chief Flight Instructor- Helicopter

Be the calm in someone's storm. A kind word, a patient explanation or a smile can make a bigger difference than you realize. You never know who is watching or listening that may lead to an unexpected opportunity.



Debbie Landeis

Admin Asst.



My biggest piece of advice for any student or instructor is to slow down and truly enjoy your time here. When I was a student, I knew I wanted to be part of UND management, so I made a conscious effort not to rush through the program. Too often, I see people so focused on reaching the next milestone that, once they get there, they realize they wish they had taken things a little slower. Take the time to explore everything UND—and Grand Forks—has to offer. Create your own adventures, appreciate the experiences along the way, and make lasting friendships.

Katia Peters

Senior Lead Flight Instructor

Professionalism in aviation means discipline, respect, and integrity. Always prepare thoroughly, communicate clearly, and act responsibly. Your decisions affect lives—carry that weight with humility and confidence. A true pilot earns trust not just through skill, but through consistent character and unwavering commitment to safety.



Paula Bruse

Chief Flight Instructor-Fixed Wing



As we near the end of the semester and the holiday season I thought it would be appropriate to express my gratitude to the students, staff and faculty of UND Aerospace, you truly are the best!

I know this time of year can be challenging especially for students with all the responsibilities that come at the end of the semester including finals and stage checks. I want to give you all a big shot of confidence to let you know that YOU GOT THIS!

Sanford L. Fogg IV

Director of Safety



Take the 1st step and motivation will follow. Be the same person no matter who you're with. Live humbly. Choose your friends wisely; seek those who will encourage you to live with integrity, be courageous, and always look up!

Paul Snyder

Asst. Chair/ Director of UAS Operations; Associate Professor

Remember that everything in life is a phase—both the good and the bad will pass. Cherish the good moments and learn from the hard ones. Each experience shapes you into a stronger and wiser person.



Andrew Leonard

Assistant Professor

3 pieces of advice.

- 1) Keep a record of your addresses (move-in/move-out dates).
- 2) Enjoy the journey; don't get blinded by the pursuit of getting to your destination – see what the world of aviation has to offer.
- 3) Be smart with your decisions, in and out of the cockpit.

Luca Morellini

Chief Ground Instructor & Instructor of Aviation



Time Management.

Have a balance between work and play. Know what you need to get done, be proactive about it, and dedicate the right time to get your work done properly. Make sure and take the time for breaks and time with family and friends. I've always liked the Nike slogan – Work Hard. Play Hard.

Jeremy Roesler

Director of Flight Operations





Airbus

From De-ice to Touchdown: A Day Inside Airbus's Cold Weather Operations

At UND, we are no strangers to the cold weather operations that keep our fleet running. But how are cold weather ops handled at the airlines? I had the incredible opportunity to speak with the Senior Standards Captain at a major airline, who walked me through their entire process.

Cold weather flying at a major airline starts long before pushback. The crew meets in flight planning to study the weather, runway condition reports, NOTAMs, and deicing delays, building extra fuel and time into the plan and talking through the “threats” of the day: contamination on the runway, holdover limits, icing on departure, and braking action on landing. They lean heavily on their winter-ops procedures, performance tools, and apps that calculate holdover time and runway performance, so they aren’t relying on memory alone.

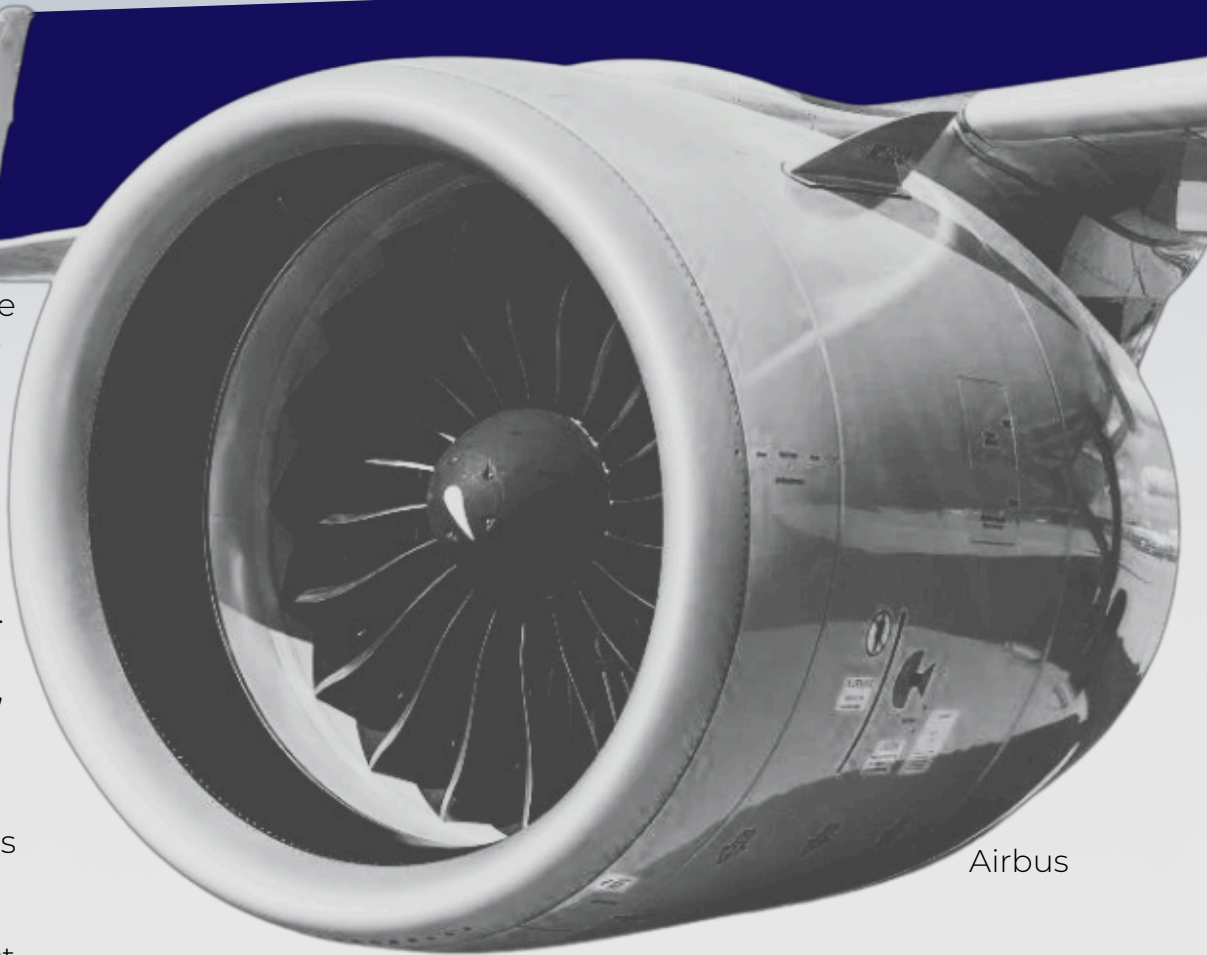
Out at the airplane, the focus shifts to making sure the jet is completely clean and stays that way. The crew inspects the wings, tail, and engines for ice or snow, coordinates deicing and anti-icing with the ground team, and uses tools like U-EHOT and ACARS to determine exactly how long their anti-ice protection will last before a new treatment or wing inspection is required. It is essentially capable of providing the pilots with a preliminary hold over time or HOT.



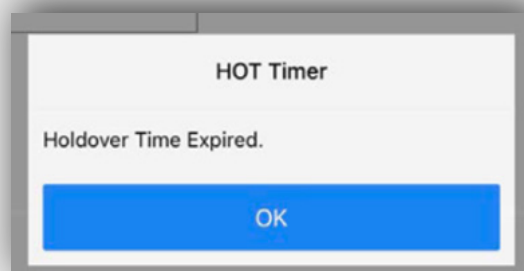
Flaps are kept up until just before takeoff to keep fluid on the critical surfaces, and taxi is slow and deliberate, with required engine run-ups to shed any internal ice before they commit to the runway. This slow taxi isn't just important to prevent sliding but also prevents the shearing of anti-ice fluid. Pilots also avoid large tiller inputs to prevent potential sliding. They are careful to maintain adequate following distance, as jet blast from other aircraft can blow snow and ice onto their aircraft, which can impact the effectiveness of the de-ice.

Once airborne, the airplane looks like any other Airbus flight to the passengers, but the crew is constantly managing icing and performance. They use engine and wing anti-ice, delay flap extension, and adjust approach speeds when ice is present. Before starting down, they pull the latest

runway condition report and braking action data, then re-run landing performance and crosswind limits, often choosing conservative assumptions on purpose. After landing on a slick runway, they use firm but controlled braking, careful reverse thrust, and very slow taxi speeds to avoid a slide-off, sometimes leaving the flaps extended so maintenance can inspect for ice before the next leg. From de-ice to touchdown, it's a tightly managed system built on procedures, technology, and disciplined crew coordination to keep winter flying safe and predictable.



Airbus



**LEFT TO RIGHT, Fall 2025****Nawin Bravo**, Director of Student Outreach**Ethan Mathews**, Council Member**Lucas De Jager**, Director of Industry Relations**Riley Zarm**, Secretary**Zachary Hagenruber**, Vice President**Ella Hedman**, President**Logan Harden**, Treasurer**Greyson Orne**, Director of Technology**Frankie Samuels**, Director of Programming**Franka Boesch**, Director of Public Relations

At the end of this academic semester, we say goodbye to council members **Riley Zarm** and **Ethan Mathews** who will be completing their term on the council. We thank you for your service to the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences and wish you the best on your future endeavors!

We are pleased to welcome **Evan Daneke**, **Lucius Birkholz**, and **Cooper Hodgon**. Congratulations on your appointment.

SAC

STUDENT AEROSPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL

JOIN US AT MEETINGS


Sundays @ 4:00PM | Robin 136

Have a suggestion?
Let us know!



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ADVISORY COUNCIL

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