Summer 2018

Aerocom: 1968-2018 Anniversary Issue (Summer 2018)

John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences

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# AEROCOM | SUMMER 2018

**PRESIDENT** Mark Kennedy  
**DEAN** Paul Lindseth  
**ASSOCIATE DEAN** Elizabeth Bjerke  
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Aerocom is published for alumni and friends of the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences. Aerocom welcomes your suggestions, story ideas, alumni profile information and photos for use in future publications. Permission to reprint any portion of text or photography may be granted upon request. Visit our website at aero.UND.edu.
“Fulfilling dreams and creating opportunities for students is what made my dad tick. It is what he dedicated his life to. Everything he did had a singular focus...and that was students.”

JOHN ODEGARD JR.
We are having a fantastic start to our 50th anniversary celebration at the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences!

Our Community Open House, held in early February, was a huge success with approximately 2,500 people attending. Over 130 UND Aerospace employees volunteered their Saturday to make the event, as one kid wrote in his feedback form, "the best day of my life!"

In April, our SAMA Conference/Career Fair and Alpha Eta Rho Family Weekend was also a tremendous success. Over 40 industry representatives attended the Career Fair, and the weather cooperated for the family flying. We were privileged to have two distinguished alumni give inspiring speeches to a packed banquet crowd: Karen Ruth ('82), a Delta A330 captain and John Odegard Jr. ('89), co-founder, QS Partners.

In 50 years we have had 8,000 students graduate from our aviation program. At UND's commencement ceremony in May, the Odegard School had the distinct honor of awarding honorary doctorate degrees to both Si and Betty Robin, two great UND Aerospace benefactors. It was the first time the University has awarded honorary doctoral degrees to a husband and wife at the same time!

If you find yourself in Oshkosh for the 2018 EAA AirVenture show, help us celebrate our 50th anniversary by attending our UND Aerospace Alumni and Industry Reception.

Finally, please join us for our 50th Anniversary Celebration event during Homecoming weekend, September 21-22nd. More information on these events is available at aero.und.edu/50th.

Thank you for your support of the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences!

Paul Lindseth | Dean, John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences
THE VISION OF
JOHN D. ODEGARD
1941-1998
INSIDE THE SCRAPBOOK

1968 FLYING CLUB

Where it all began...

THESE ARE YEARS OF GROWTH

The University of North Dakota Flying Club at Grand Forks has achieved its greatest growth in the last three years and these few pages are evidence of its active promotion of flying and related activities.

This year the club has 150 members and in the past three years 60 student pilots have received private licenses largely through the club. Many times that number have received instruction to the point of solo.
The 1967-68 year was highlighted by the addition of a stylish clubhouse next to the Flying Club hanger. It will serve as a lounge for all members to discuss up-to-date aviation.
“My fondest memories of the UND aviation program were as a young assistant professor in the mid-1980s and being mentored by John Odegard. Teaching fifteen credits of classes per semester, coaching the UND Flying Team, conducting stage checks, giving flight instruction and advising Alpha Eta Rho. It was so rewarding working with all of those students.”

KENT LOVELACE
“Alumni, remember Professor Lovelace’s military battle scenarios in the classroom?”
KEN POLOVITZ
“In 1974 John Odegard had the vision to start a small meteorological research group to work with the US Bureau of Reclamation in the area of weather modification. This initial core has grown into an academic department that provides advanced education and has attracted tens of millions of dollars in cutting edge atmospheric research. It has attracted top quality students and faculty and provided weather flying opportunities for hundreds of UND pilots.”

MIKE POELLOT, CHAIR
1987  M.S. Space Studies program established
1990  North Dakota Space Grant Consortium and ND NASA EPSCoR established
1992  Construction of UND Observatory
1996  Space Studies offers online courses via space.edu
1996  Space Studies earns Outstanding Teaching Award
1997  Final Courses taught at Minot and Grand Forks Air Force Bases
1998  Space Studies becomes largest graduate program at UND
1998  First online graduating class
1999  Chuck Wood awarded Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor
2004  Human Spaceflight Laboratory established
2005  Space Studies earns Outstanding Teaching award
2008  Mike Gaffey awarded Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor
2010  UND Observatory renovations and expansion complete
2012  Ph.D. in Aerospace Sciences established
2012  25th Anniversary of Space Studies
2013  Completion of first habitat module and first crewed analog mission
2014  Santhosh Seelan awarded Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor
2014  Space Studies earns Outstanding Teaching award
2017  First graduate in Aerospace Sciences Ph.D. with Space Studies focus
ESTABLISHED 1986
COMPUTER SCIENCE

An FAA Airway Science grant allowed for the construction of Streibel Hall and the addition of the Computer Science department to UND Aerospace.

ESTABLISHED 2004
EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE & POLICY

In 2010 the ESSP graduate program was approved as a full academic department.
1968-2018

UND starts flight training with two Cessna 150s, including this one, N50405

UND's DC-3 flies officials to Bismarck and the hockey and basketball teams to out-of-state games

UND buys its first of many Cessna Citation jets, N77ND, used for weather research. Citation N83ND was purchased in 1983

After a short time using Robinson helicopters, UND starts training in Schweizer 300s

Bell 206 JetRangers were used for helicopter training at UND from 1985 to 2017

Three Socata Tampico TB-9 aircraft are used for primary flight training through 1997

1968
John Odegard and students with a Schweizer SGU2-22, one of many gliders flown by UND over the years

1970
UND files its first multiengine trainer, a Cessna 310, pictured here with Don Dubuque on the day he passed his multiengine checkride

1973

1978
UND starts flying two Hughes 500 helicopters that were used in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, CA

1984
UND begins to replace its Cessna fleet with Piper Cadets (later, Warriors), Arrows, and Seminoles

1988

1991
China Air, the new program, two Beechcraft C172s
From 1996 to 1998, UND operates a fleet of 22 Diamond Katanas, both A1 and C1 models.

1996

The UND Aerobatics Team is formed, flying two Super Decathlon aerobatic aircraft.

2002

Four Cirrus SR-20 aircraft are utilized for the first glass-cockpit instrument training conducted at UND.

2008

UND has operated the Beechcraft King Air since 1991, most recently the C90GTi.

2013

UND begins replacing the Skyhawk fleet with delivery of two new Piper Archers.

2016

1995

For ten years, UND conducts multiengine flight training and air service flights in two Beechcraft Barons.

2005

UND has flown several float planes over the years, the latest a Top Cub donated by James Ray.

2010

UND takes delivery of four glass-cockpit Cessna 172 Skyhawks, flying a fleet of 75 by 2015.

2017

UND first flies the Insitu Scan Eagle unmanned aircraft system (UAS) in support of flood relief operations near Oslo, MN.

UND acquires its first Robinson R44 Cadet helicopter.
“The foundation of loyal UND aviation alumni was laid in 1978. That dedication and spirit continues today across the entire globe.”

JOEL AIKEN, ’92
PRESIDENT, UND AAAB

Resolution
of the Aviation Alumni Chapter of the University of North Dakota Alumni Association

Whereas, a special camaraderie exists among University of North Dakota Alumni who have majored in aviation, and

Whereas, there is a desire among Aviation Alumni to maintain communications among each other and the faculty of the University of North Dakota Aviation Department, and

Whereas, it is the desire of the Aviation Alumni to promote, strengthen, and encourage the continuing development of the aviation program at the University of North Dakota, it is therefore,

Resolved, by and between those persons whose signatures are set forth below, that on October 20th, 1978, there shall be formed the University of North Dakota Aviation Alumni Association, the purposes of which shall be set forth in its Constitution and By-Laws.

The persons whose signatures appear hereto shall be forever known as the Creators and Charter Members of the University of North Dakota Aviation Alumni Association.

Dated this 20th day of October, 1978, at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

[Signatures]
DEANS
JOHN D. ODEGARD 1968-1998
BRUCE SMITH 1998-2016
PAUL LINDSETH 2016-PRESENT

AVIATION CHAIRS
JOHN D. ODEGARD 1968-1984
DON SMITH 1984-1985
BILL SHEA 1985-1989
GEORGE HAMMOND 1989-1994
KENT LOVELACE 1994-2014
ELIZABETH BJERKE 2014-2017
JIM HIGGINS 2017-PRESENT
UND AEROSPACE  
AIRPORT FACILITIES

In 1968 John Odegard leased a dusty corner of the old Grand Forks Airport quonset ("the Barn") from the city, without university permission, to support his fledgling aviation department. Since then, the operation has expanded to a sprawling sixteen-building flight training complex of more than 300,000 sq. ft. on over 13 acres.
“Hard to believe I have been at UND for over 30 years. I guess it is true that if you’re having fun it’s not really work. John Odegard talked me into coming over to help manage in the Fall of 1979. I told him I would try it for a year because I was not sure it was the right fit. Yes, the rest is history.”

DON DUBUQUE (left)

“I joined a group of six flight instructors which included Jean Haley and Al Johnson. I also had the privilege of becoming an FAA designated pilot examiner - a position I proudly held for 35 years. In 1995 I left my director position, put on a safety hat, and built the safety department currently in place today.”

DANA SIEWERT

“Al Palmer (2nd from left) was coined ‘Al Air’ for his leadership in developing the ab initio flight training curriculum called Spectrum.”

KEN POLOVITZ, ASSISTANT DEAN
A huge part of the Aviation Department’s initial success was made possible by the financial sacrifice and dedication of flight students and their families. This is still true today. Flight fees are part of our history and will be part of our future. The average cost of the private pilot course at UND today is $12,595.
LYING FUN IS inexpensive with the U.N.D. LYING CLUB.

Add adventure to your life with the new Cessna Skyhawk.

BANK LOAN

- Total Costs: $500.00
- Down Payment: 50.00
- Net to Finance: $450.00
- Interest and Fees: 45.00
- Total amount of note: $495.00

Cost of Finance: 6% on $450 for 18 months - Payments over 18 months period @ $27.50 per month.
“I started working with John Odegard and the aviation faculty in 1979 as a UND Enrollment Services counselor. John knew the importance of recruiting prospective students from around the country to keep the program growing. In October, 1985, he asked me to join the Aviation Department faculty and staff and establish what we know today as the Student Services Office. Today, the Student Services team coordinates new student recruitment, academic advisement, industry relations, communications and alumni relations. Thanks to John, I’ve never looked back and have thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful career with the Odegard School!”

KEN POLOVITZ, ASSISTANT DEAN, STUDENT SERVICES (right)

“John Odeard often asked students to volunteer their skills for the betterment of the Aviation Department, and I was happy to oblige by painting a mural on the wall of the simulator room at the airport.”

JEAN HALEY HARPER, ’79

“I always enjoy representing UND around the country (Oshkosh ’98). It’s a great opportunity to reconnect with our aerospace alumni!”

ELIZABETH BIERKE, ’99
“John had the vision. Not only for teaching kids, not only for training pilots, but he had the vision to create jobs and for getting young people from North Dakota into the industry. This place means an awful lot to me — it has since the fall of 1968. Happy 50th anniversary to the Odegard School, to the staff and to the students. Keep up the good work.”

LARRY MARTIN, ’71

“If you can fly in North Dakota’s weather you have the experience to fly anywhere.”

KAREN RUTH, ’82

“The beautiful North Dakota sunrises and sunsets are hard to beat. During this time we get a few minutes where the sky is vibrant, the temperature is perfect, the winds are calm, and the attack of the mosquitos hasn’t yet started. Here, one of UND’s Cirrus SR20s is reflecting that magical moment.”

SAMUEL WAGENER, ’06

“It’s been a great ride since showing up as a green 16 year old South Dakota farm boy.”

JEFF KAPPENMAN, ’83
“Students come from all over the world to experience UND Aerospace. Thanks to the extraordinary support of our friends, true legends and leaders in aviation, UND Aerospace is home to an internationally respected aviation training program.”

CHUCK PINEO, CEO (right)
“This was an outstanding event! My family had a great time. It was very well planned and organized, with lots of information and family fun! Thank you to all who made this happen for the community of Grand Forks!”

MIKE DELOHERY
“Family. In addition to your own families who have helped you get to where you are today, you are now a part of the UND Aerospace family and that is something really special.”

JOHN ODEGARD JR.
YOU’RE INVITED!

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Save the date and register for your tickets online. We can’t wait to see you!

SEPTEMBER 21ST @ 5:30 | ALERUS CENTER

SOCIAL SHORT PROGRAM DINNER DUELING PIANOS

ONLY 600 TICKETS!

UNDalumni.org/aero50

Thank you to the past and present donors over the last 50 years!