

## SATCA - Semester Report (Fall 2008)

Fall 08' was a very busy, educational, and informative semester for our organization. We established a lot of connections with ATC professional working in the field and we intend to maintain those connections. We achieved one of the highest memberships in our recorded history, which is crucial to our organization because many of our members are graduating seniors – and one of our goals was to recruit underclassmen to replace them.

We started off the semester by going around to AVIT 100 and AVIT 103 courses in hopes of getting new members. We also sponsored a free barbeque for faculty, current members, and interested members. We chose these methods because they help new members become acquainted with current members – in hopes of them realizing how beneficial, educationally and socially, it is to be a part of our organization. It was also a good opportunity for current and interested members to get to know their new officers. We believe this event was successful.

Around the same time as recruitment, SATCA was invited by National Air Traffic Controllers (NATCA), the ATCs' collective bargaining union, to Miami FL, for their biannual National Convention. We were able to fundraise enough to sponsor 12 students to attend this event, even after being denied financial support from SAC. We left for this trip on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> and when we arrived in Miami we were warmly greeted by NATCA. While in Miami, all of the students who attended made at least one contact with a working controller at the facility at which they intended to attend... as well as hundreds of ATC professionals for the group in general. At the same time, we were able to promote UND and SATCA to interested parties. We also learned a lot about the hiring process and career in general – we brought this information back to share with our members and faculty and students in the ATC program.

We had many presentations from students, controllers, and organizations. One of our members, Colin Godfrey, spoke to us about the Minneapolis Tower/TRACON Internship. Bob Huggins, a controller at KFSD, presented to us the opportunities that could await us if we elected to work at KFSD. Eric Basil, a corporate pilot, presented us a presentation about his experiences as a corporate pilot. We feel those presentations were educational.

Our first community service project was the I29 Highway Cleanup. We had 24 members participate! The I29 Highway Cleanup involves removing rubbish from the roadside, three miles in each direction. We split into groups of four (two current members and two new members) and spent over an hour beautifying Grand Forks.

Another project that SATCA is dedicated to is volunteering for the Blue Line Burger at the UND Men's Hockey games. SATCA asks for six volunteers for each game. We cook, wrap, and serve. We have been doing this project for many years and our members still embrace it. This project is responsible for much of our finances. Without this project, we would not be able to go on our trips.

SATCA was also fortunate enough to obtain another project. We received \$100 each night for working the door at the Drag Shows. This project will provide us with nearly \$900 annually.

We tried to make SATCA enjoyable for everybody. We went to the CanadInn Waterpark on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. We held our annual Halloween Party at Applebees on Oct 29<sup>th</sup>. We played games all semester: namely, FAA Enforcers and Pilots, Aircraft Icing, and Aircraft Recognition. We feel events such as the abovementioned strengthen our bonds.

On Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, SATCA presented our annual Chili Feed. Our wonderful ATC instructors voluntarily cooked and donated chili, which we sold to the masses that passed through Odegard Hall. This event is amazing because it shows the true spirits of our instructors – they compete for the best chili. We sold out of chili two hours before the event ended! We took in nearly \$100 from this event.

Our trip was to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. We spent Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> there. We toured Winnipeg Center. We feel this trip was beneficial to our members because they got to tour a facility that was not of FAA origin.

Overall, Fall '08 was an amazing semester for SATCA. Most importantly, it set us up in a good position to carry on our success into the Spring '09 semester.

#### SATCA - Semester Report (Spring 2009)

Spring '09 was also a very busy, educational, and informative semester for our organization.

It began early with many members volunteering for the Blue Line Burger at the UND Men's Hockey games over the winter break. We were very fortunate to have members able and willing to work these games. SATCA was able to provide a full staff for every UND Men's Hockey Game this semester. We were also able to provide a full staff for the Sugarland concert on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The money we earned from these events is beneficial to our organization because it allows us to finance trips and various other events.

SATCA continued to work the Drag Shows. We received \$100 each night for working the door at the Drag Shows. This project has proven to be extremely successful.

SATCA ventured to Minneapolis, MN for our Spring '09 trip. 12 members participated in this trip. We toured Minneapolis Tower/TRACON, St. Paul Downtown Tower, and Minneapolis Center. We feel that this trip was beneficial to our members because they got to experience both radar and tower environments.

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, SATCA will be touring the Grand Forks AF Base (KRDR). Approximately 12 of our members are scheduled to attend.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, SATCA will be making a journey to Sioux Falls, SD to tour Joe Foss Field (KFSD). We are planning on taking 12 members.

SATCA donated \$1,500 to finance three (3) scholarships for our members that were granted during the UND Aerospace's Parent's Weekend. This year our officers elected to award the scholarships to only SATCA members because they are true leaders, volunteers, and are dedicated to their education. In

previous years, the awards have been open to any and all ATC majors. Our officers hope that the incoming officers will continue this new tradition.

We also hosted an event for NATCA on April 7<sup>th</sup>. NATCA visited UND to speak on becoming a member, what they can do for us, and the current conditions of the industry. They also answered any and all of our questions. This event was open to anybody who wished to attend. Turnout for this event was phenomenal.

We provided assistance in the radar and tower labs to children during a school tour. Assistance in the labs was also provided by SATCA members for the Girl Scouts event. SATCA will also be providing assistance in the labs for the 4H event on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Once again, we tried to make SATCA enjoyable for everybody. We hosted a Valentine's Day party! We provided food (Buffalo Wild Wings) and played a fun game. We played games at our meetings throughout the semester: namely, Aircraft Recognition, Airport Recognition, and a scavenger hunt throughout the town. We are also planning our annual BBQ/picnic on April 6<sup>th</sup>, which is free to all attendees. We hope that this event will be used to reflect on how truly amazing Spring '09 was for us.

Officer nominations occurred on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Officer elections will occur on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, our last official meeting. We will be having an end-of-year event, which the newly elected officers will run. Officer transitions will occur shortly before this event.

Overall, we have been very fortunate through the entire academic year. We hope that next year will prove to be the same for SATCA. We also hope that SATCA will be able to provide for its members, UND Aerospace, and UND as a whole with only the best leadership, service, and dedication to our education.