

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, April 14, 2009
Contact: Michael Thomas
Tel. 562.230.2285
Email: michael.thomas@und.edu

AgCam Partially Setup and Activated, Tuesday

Grand Forks— The Agricultural Camera (AgCam) was partially setup and activated Tuesday after a several-hour joint operation between astronauts aboard the International Space Station, NASA personnel and the AgCam team at the University of North Dakota.

Connected via a live video feed broadcasted on two large screens, AgCam Project Lead Doug Olsen along with seven Console Operators watched as astronaut Michael Barratt worked through the difficult task of assembling and installing the sophisticated camera inside of the US Laboratory onboard the station.

Working from the AgCam headquarters in the Science Operations Center (SOC) on the west side of the UND campus, Olsen and his team were in constant contact with astronauts orbiting over 250 miles over the earth during the set up of AgCam.

And while AgCam personnel worked intently from within the SOC, passersby got a unique and unprecedented view into the microgravity environment of the International Space Station.

AgCam personnel will reconvene with NASA and astronauts on Thursday to continue with the installation process and will soon begin testing, configuring and operating the camera.

AgCam was launched to the International Space Station in November aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour. It was designed and built completely by UND students and faculty and in the coming months, AgCam Console Operators will begin capturing high resolution images of Earth to be used by farmers, ranchers and scientists.

###

For more information regarding AgCam or the Upper Midwest Aerospace Consortium, visit www.umac.org.