Best of Chicago – the UIUC years (2005-2008)

My good friend Eshan and I made many trips up to ORD and MDW from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). I made only two picture pages from these trips, but my wife Brenda had set apart her favorite pictures from these trips. In 2010, I decided to compile pictures into one summary. Here are the highlights from the pictures that Brenda chose, plus a few bonus ones of my own. Note – most pictures were taken by me, but I believe that some were taken by Eshan.

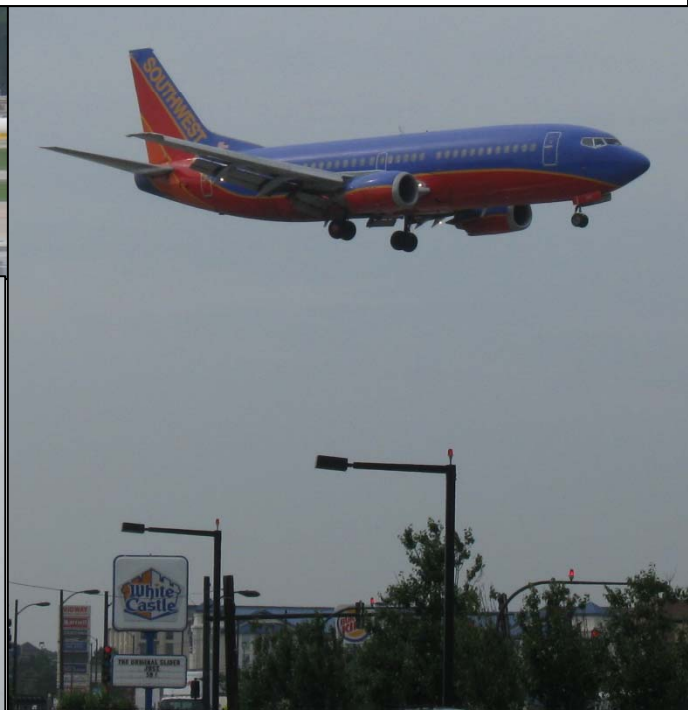
For the next six pages, all photos will be from Chicago O'Hare, or ORD. Above, a United ERJ landing above "Gas Station" (a previous favorite spot for take-off and landings on the now seldom used 14R) and a Continental B737 landing on 28, the new runway of choice for spotting. To the left, a China Eastern B744 Cargo, below, an Air China B744 Cargo and an American B772.

Top left, Eva Air Cargo B744, top right, “Yokoso Japan” JAL B744. Middle left, Atlas Air Cargo B744, middle right, Polar Air B744 Cargo taken over the cemetery (where shortly afterwards, we got kicked out by the police). Bottom left, ANA B773, bottom right, Air France A343.

Left side going downward – Aer Lingus A333 with Chicago's skyline in the background, Iberia A343, and Royal Jordanian A342 with telephone wires (grrr). Above, a Mexicana A320 and Air Canada Jazz CRJ. Below, Northwest Airlines A319 (which alas, is not more ☹), and a special paint scheme US Airways A319.

Above left, an Air India B744, above right, an American MD80. To the right – who says Emirates doesn't have a presence at ORD? Just trucks for now! Below, an MD-10 and A300 of FedEx cargo planes with a plane taking off in the background. Below right, Eshan at "Hot Dog," a convenient abandoned building for spotting on runway 10, now Aviation World – a really cool store devoted to planes and accessories!

As seen in these pictures, European planes have a strong presence at ORD, lucky for us! Above left, an Alitalia B763, above right, a United B757. Left, Scandinavian Airlines A333 and Lufthansa A346. Below, a 35th Year Anniversary special paint scheme SkyWest (probably a Delta flight number from Salt Lake) and an Alaska B737.

Above left, a United B772, above right, a Virgin A343.
Middle left, an Austrian B763, middle right, an Air One A332 from Milan.
Left – Polish LOT B763.
Below left, a Lufthansa B744, below right, a British Airways B744.

Above left, Lufthansa brought in Airbus' A388. We were foiled by the chosen landing runway, so this is the best photo we could get as it was dark when it took off. Above right, Kalitta Air B742. Ever spoiled by O'Hare, Eshan and I did make it to Midway once. While the planes were smaller, and Southwest dominated, it was still a good time. Below, an Airtran B717, Northwest Airlines ERJ, and Southwest B737 waiting for take off. A Delta Connection ERJ, and a Southwest B737 lading over the White Castle (I don't think the In-N-Out Burger at LAX has anything to worry about for iconic eatery while spotting).