

communication department

news letter

2014

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Communication faculty member Ross Collins, second from left, meets with graduate students Jillene Krause, left, Nancy DiTunnariello and Justin Motto in the department's lounge in Minard Hall.

Move back to Minard Hall complete after 3 years of work

The Department of Communication is home again.

After three years of working in temporary cubicles, the Department of Communication moved into office space in the new north wing of Minard Hall in April 2013. The department

had been housed in a former architecture studio in Ehly Hall. While functional, the temporary space caused some frustration for both faculty and students.

No longer.

continued on next page

NDSU

COMMUNICATION



Minard Hall bustles with student activity again after the renovation.

The department hosted an open house during April to allow students and friends see the department's new home.

Department chair Mark Meister said three keys help make the new office space important:

- **Department togetherness**

For the first time in more than three years, faculty and graduate students share the same space. Previously, communication graduate students had been in Minard Hall while faculty was set up in temporary offices in Ehly Hall. "The benefits to that togetherness will bring about a better sense of commitment to one another; morale will improve. Our research, which has always been very, very good and collaborative, will be even more engaging," Meister said.

- **Sense of legitimacy**

Meister said the new space helps give the department a sense of legitimacy and pride. "The university has provided us excellent space, and I think that's an indication of our legitimacy, and we

should feel some pride for being able to occupy and receive such good space," Meister said.

- **Opportunity for growth**

Meister said the department has a chance to grow into its new space. "It reminds us metaphorically what our responsibilities are to our students, to teaching and research, and to do those things very well to serve the community," Meister said. "Otherwise, we wouldn't have been invested with these resources."

The new teaching space is highlighted by faculty offices on the east and west sides and by new lab space between the offices. The lab space will house two department research laboratories: the Interactive Media Lab, led by Nan Yu, and the Communication Research and Training Center, led by Pam Lutgen-Sandvik. The office space also has increased meeting space and storage space, as well as rooms for academic advising.

The offices also are equipped with wireless Internet access.

Just outside the main office, the department also has access to a media lab that houses 15 Macintosh computers. The lab is shared with the English department.

The space, according to Meister, gives department members a chance to focus on their work and not the limits of their space. Previous office space in Minard Hall and the temporary space in Ehly Hall did not always provide that luxury.

“There’s just some things that weren’t possible in the old Minard,” Meister said. “The other thing about the old Minard is that the space had been modified so much that it became ineffective. You had an office space, but you couldn’t fit more than one student in it. Now we can have two or three students sit in our offices and have a discussion. The major difference between this space and the old space in Minard is that this space provides opportunities for us to do our jobs even better.” | Patrick Schmiedt



Kent Sandstrom, dean of arts, humanities and social sciences, works in his new office in Minard Hall.

Credibility: Our contribution to NDSU’s mission

NDSU is certainly a student-focused, research-intensive, land-grant university. And the role of the Department of Communication in engaging this mission can be summed up in one powerful word: credibility.

In an age of smartphones, text messaging, Skype interviewing, reality TV, social networking and trash-talking celebrities and professional athletes, it may seem that credibility can be self-manufactured. There is plenty of self-promotion, self-congratulatory expertise and self-constructed legitimacy.

In light of these realities, I often wonder about the role of communication educators and researchers and their engagement with students.

The faculty and staff of the NDSU Department of Communication are engaged in teaching and researching how credibility is earned and how it is not self-constructed. It is our work to teach future journalists, Web designers, managers, researchers, advertisers and broadcasters that credibility is earned through engaging our audiences and stakeholders professionally and ethically.

In our research, we address relevant and important questions that intersect the issues of credibility and communication. Credibility is the primary focus of the NDSU Department of Communication and the department’s faculty is earning it through its award-winning teaching, research and service.

Our undergraduate students are recognized for their leadership roles on campus, in the classroom and in their creative pursuits. Our graduate students are earning tenure-track faculty positions all over the United States because of their teaching and researching excellence.

In the pages that follow, I invite you to learn more about the NDSU Department of Communication’s commitment to earning credibility. Review the department’s 2012-13 Annual Report.

In all, you will witness our continued mission of student engagement, public service and research excellence.

You’ll learn how we earn our credibility.

| Mark Meister, department chair

NDSU Department of Communication 2012-13 Fiscal Year Annual Report

NDSU Department of Communication: By the numbers

(July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013)

Students (undergraduate and graduate): 411 • Student academic awards: 5

Undergraduate degree programs: 6 • Tenured-track faculty: 12

Research publications by tenure-track faculty: 29

Percentage of research publications appearing in ISI (Web of Science) journals: 40

Student organizations advised by faculty: 7 • Online degree programs: 4

In 2012-13, undergraduate students in the Department of Communication demonstrated their professional and academic understanding by winning competitive awards in advertising, journalism and public relations. Graduate students earned "Top Paper" research awards at regional and national communication conferences. Undergraduate students also were involved in the planning and organization of the department's first "COMM Week," held in April. The department's 12 faculty members received four teaching awards, published 29 research articles and secured more than \$300,000 in external grant funding. Also, Ross Collins received the Hogoboom Endowed Professorship.

Departmental faculty meritoriously sustained and bolstered its service to the communication discipline, the state and the world by creating and maintaining social media designed to promote the department, university and North Dakota. Social media are used to recruit students and inform alumni, advisory board members and other stakeholders. In all, the Department of Communication continues to increase its percentage of Web of Science publications while maintaining its approximate total of external funding. The department's newly designed website and implementation of social media is expected to bolster student recruiting, alumni interaction and stakeholder engagement.

The department modified the curriculum for COMM 110 (reducing class sizes) and the adjustments began in August.

New initiatives and innovations:

- Faculty collaborated on designing mini-comprehensive exam situations for graduate students. This emphasized the need to articulate our disciplinary beliefs and values through writing.
- New journalism courses created to reflect industry standards: COMM 230 Basic Photography, COMM 450 Magazine Production and COMM 750 Rise of Western Journalism.
- Journalism courses modified to reflect industry standards: COMM 200 Media Writing, COMM 310 Advanced Media Writing, COMM 425 Specialty Writing and COMM 342 On-Air Broadcasting Performance.
- Advertising courses modified to reflect industry standards: COMM 377 Advertising Media Planning.
- Health communication courses modified to reflect industry standards: COMM 380 Health Communication I.
- Core communication courses modified to bolster theoretical, technological and applied understanding: COMM 431 Communication Ethics and COMM 442 Digital Media and Society.
- Graduate courses implementing applied research methodologies: COMM 701 Research Methods and COMM 702 Advanced Research Methods.

NDSU students continue to excel

The Bison Information Network, a student-led broadcasting organization known as BIN, received a \$19,000 grant from the NDSU Development Foundation to purchase remote broadcasting equipment. The equipment allows BIN to broadcast NDSU events – including lectures, fine arts events and other activities – live. The grant will help BIN and NDSU continue to emerge as a regional and national leader in broadcast journalism.

The NDSU National Student Advertising Competition team won an Olson award for “Social Media with a Kick” for best social media marketing, at the National Student Advertising Competition in Minneapolis in April. The client for the 2013 competition was the Glidden Brilliance Collection, available at Walmart stores. The student team integrated concepts related to social media connection in the creative, media, merchandising and branding aspects of the campaign. The campaign slogan was “Connect Life Through Color.” The campaign’s central idea focused on connecting key life events, such as moving into a new home, the birth of a child and sending adult children off to college, with the purchase of a new paint color. Students from North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Minnesota participated in the District 8 competition. The NDSU team was the only team from North Dakota to compete.

NDSU communication student Sam Herder won a regional journalism award for his sports columns in *The Spectrum*. Herder won second place in the sports column writing category of the Society of Professional Journalist’s Region 6 “Mark of Excellence” awards. Herder’s award came in the large-school division, which includes schools such as the University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin, Marquette University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and South Dakota State University. More information on the conference and the award is available at <http://midwestjournalism.com> and www.spj.org/a-moe.asp.

During spring semester, every member of the NDSU Forensics team qualified for both the Pi Kappa Delta and the National Forensics Association national tournaments. Freshman Matthew Donahue placed 20th in prose and junior Kristen Fennell placed 20th in poetry. Each team member also placed in the top three in at least one tournament during the semester, helping to lead to two top-five team finishes. In fall semester, the NDSU Forensics team had students place at every tournament. Notable showings were two fifth-place and one third-place team finishes. Two students qualified for national tournaments. Senior and team vice president Jeff Fricker has already qualified for the National Forensics Association national tournament in extemporaneous speaking, while senior and team president Kristen Fennell has qualified for the National Forensics Association and American Forensics Association national tournaments in poetry and program oral interpretation.



A student controls a camera during a news broadcast at the Bison Information Network television studio.

The Central States Communication Association’s States Advisory Council named an article written by former NDSU communication graduate student Laura Farrell as the Outstanding Central States Manuscript Award for 2012. Farrell’s article, “The role of cyber and face-to-face verbal bullying on adolescent victims,” was published in the *Journal of Communication, Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota*.

Department of Communication graduate students Jai Nautiyal and Andrew Pritchard were named Outstanding Graduate Student Researchers and Emily Paskewitz received the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award at the department’s annual Honors and Awards ceremony.

Paskewitz had her study, “Communication Apprehension in Hybrid and Public Speaking Basic Communication Course Textbooks,” accepted for publication in *Basic Communication Course Annual*.

Nancy DiTunnariello, a doctoral student in the Department of Communication, was recognized with the 2013 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award by the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Former doctoral students Anna Carmon and Amy Miller published their co-written study (along with Kristen J. Brasher), “Privacy Orientations: A Look at Family Satisfaction, Job Satisfaction, and Work-Life Balance,” in *Communication Reports*. Carmon is an assistant professor at Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus and Miller is a faculty member at Bellevue College.

NDSU students rank nationally in public relations competition

Bison Inc., a team of four NDSU seniors, is a finalist in a national student public relations competition.

Danielle Anderson of Cannon Falls, Minn., Nathanael Macy of Fertile, Minn., McKenzie Olson of Mohall, N.D., and Lauren Sobolik of Mayville, N.D., will compete against teams from Loyola University and Kent State University for first place in the Bateman Case Study Competition sponsored by the Public Relations Student Society of America. The team will pitch its “I Stand” anti-bullying awareness campaign via Skype on May 10.

Anderson received the call notifying the team that it was in the top three on April 14. Anderson’s first reaction was shock. Then she jumped up and down with excitement. When she regained her composure, she called her teammates to give them the good news. “The highest NDSU had ever placed before was 16th, and we were proud of that achievement,” Anderson said. “I remember thinking for the rest of the day, ‘Maybe I heard wrong. Maybe we really didn’t get in the top three.’ ”

Anderson, Macy, Olson and Sobolik teamed up in fall 2012 to apply their classroom education to create a public relations campaign. They researched the literature on bullying, interviewed local school administrators, held focus groups and surveyed middle school students before developing their campaign strategy and communication plan.

During February, they implemented “I Stand” at Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Middle School. The campaign focused on bystanders, encouraging students to stand up for people who are being bullied and to stand beside them as friends while showing bullies their behavior is unacceptable. The team used personal interactions, hands-on activities, video and social media to engage students with their message.

During the campaign, the team visited the school weekly at lunchtime for events they called Cafeteria Crashers. For one Cafeteria Crashers activity, students signed a pledge to stand up for other people and received an “I Stand” button as a reminder of their pledge. Another activity involved writing messages about standing up for people on balloons and releasing them. At the end of the month, the class that had demonstrated the most behavior related to the message received a pizza party. The team ultimately exceeded all goals for participation, change in behavior, social media engagement and continuation of the message.

Prairie Public Broadcasting plans to share the team’s videos for a new project titled Stand Up: How to Stop Bullying. “I am very impressed with the quality of the NDSU Bateman team’s effort,” said Meg Luther Lindholm, producer of Prairie Public’s statewide “Stand Up” project. “They put a lot of good thought and energy



NDSU’s Bateman Team includes seniors Lauren Sobolik, Danielle Anderson, Nate Macy and McKenzie Olson.

into how to reach middle school students.” The videos will be posted to the Stand Up Facebook page and @standupnd.

The team is thrilled their message will carry on. “We never looked at it as winning a competition,” Olson said. “We looked at it as making a difference.”

The team said creating the campaign and working through challenges without the structure of a class was good preparation for their careers. “Basically, it was us,” Olson said. “If we didn’t do it, it wasn’t getting done.”

Some days that meant asking for donations or going to UPS to track down a delivery they needed immediately.

“This community is awesome,” Sobolik said. “I really don’t think our campaign would have caught on as well and received such positive support anywhere else. “DGF, NDSU and Fargo in general have all been great to us. We all agree this has been the best way to end our college careers.”

Anderson is a public relations major. Macy is double majoring in management communication and political science. Olson and Sobolik are public relations and advertising majors.

NDSU is recognized as one of the nation’s top 108 public and private universities by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education.

Comm Week focuses on student accomplishments

In one room, NDSU students gave a presentation about their public relations campaign designed to stop bullying. In another room, students broadcast a live television show. Nearby, students talked with recent graduates about the highs and lows of the mass communication profession.

And this scene was just the first day of the inaugural Comm Week.

For the first time, the NDSU Department of Communication hosted Comm Week from April 15-19, 2013, putting an emphasis on student work and activities of student organizations completed throughout the academic year.

"Comm Week shines the light on our undergraduate students, our undergraduate programs and the six department-affiliated student organizations," said department chair Mark Meister.

The weeklong series of events, organized by department leaders and student organizations, also helped connect undergraduate students with professional alumni.

"The students were forefront in this, and that's what it's going to continue to be," Meister said.

Student groups arranged panels, discussions and events throughout the weeklong event. NDSU's Ad Club, Public Relations Student Society of America and Society of Professional Journalists

student groups, NDSU Forensics team and the Bison Information Network each scheduled events during Comm Week.

"Comm Week shines the light on our undergraduate students, our undergraduate programs and the six department-affiliated student organizations."

Mark Meister, department chair

In all, the department and the groups had about two to three events per day, highlighting such topics as advertising, public relations and journalism.

"We'll continue making Comm Week about engagement with our students, with our department, faculty, staff, students and alumni, with Fargo-Moorhead and others," Meister said. "It's all about networking. The reason we're doing Comm Week is to network and to promote our students and their skills, talents and abilities with potential employers."

The second annual Comm Week is scheduled for this spring.

| Patrick Schmiedt

Department of Communication 2013-14 scholarship recipients

Steven R. Berrell Memorial Scholarship

Amanda Breen
Chelsey Engelhard
Josie Eyers
Mercedes Pitzer
Amanda Stopera
Victoria Thelen

Howard Binford Mass Communication Scholarship

Brittany Gefroh

Dorothy Collins Memorial Scholarship

Samuel Herder

Forensics Service Award

Matthew Donahue

Forum Publishing Company Scholarship

Josie Eyers
Brittany Gefroh

Brian D. Hansen Memorial Scholarship

Stephen Anderson
Bryn Nelson

Tony Hanson Memorial Scholarship

Alyssa Langaas

Betty Critchfield-Herm Journalism Scholarship

Lindsey Kaufmann

Arthur C. and Vera Johnson Speech Scholarship

Annis Montplaisir

Harry and Levoyne Littlefield Forensic Scholarship for Speech

Kristen Fennell

Paul E. Nelson and Judy C. Pearson Scholarship

Nancy DiTunnariello

Donald F. and Lois B. Schwartz Communication Scholarship

Travis Mack

Abner O. and Anne Selvig Scholarship

Lindsey Kaufmann

John and Shirley Tilton Memorial Scholarship

Peta-Gaye Clachar

E. James Ubbelohde Scholarship

Stephen Anderson
Matthew Donahue
Kristen Fennell
Annis Montplaisir

Frederick G. Walsh Scholarship in Speech

Peta-Gaye Clachar
Travis Mack

New advising program helps students succeed

The NDSU Department of Communication has implemented a new undergraduate advising program. The program, initiated in spring 2013, offers expanded scheduling, an increased website presence and a new assistant adviser position to give students additional help in preparing their schedules for the academic year.

The new advising program implements both online and face-to-face opportunities for students.

The biggest change came in face-to-face scheduling, where department faculty set aside times for two weeks to allow “drop-in” student advising. During those times, at least two faculty members were available to any department student who wanted advising, with no prior scheduling necessary.

“Rather than having students contact individual advisers or faculty members one at a time and try to set up hundreds of individual appointments, that process now happens in a couple dozen group sessions, where people can just drop in and there will be a number of staff advisers and faculty available to help them,” said Andrew Pritchard, undergraduate adviser and internship coordinator. “That’s really cut down on the amount of time that goes into scheduling.”

The drop-in sessions also speed up the time in which students can talk to an adviser.

“It greatly speeds up the amount of time students are able to see someone about their schedule,” Pritchard said. “Now we’re getting people in the next day, sometimes the same day, that they want to talk to somebody, so that’s been a great improvement.”

Pritchard said an academic advising “bottleneck” tends to happen each year, as advising is not spread evenly throughout the semester. However, the new scheduling has helped the department efficiently advise 400 students in the span of a couple weeks.

“My worry in the back of my mind is what about that student who hears, ‘Well, I’d be glad to meet with you sometime next week,’ and thinks, ‘Forget this, it’s not worth my time to come in at all,’ as opposed to being able to tell them, ‘Here are six or seven times in the next three days that you can stop in and somebody will be here,’” Pritchard said.



Student Corrie Dunshee, left, meets with undergraduate advising coordinator Andrew Pritchard.

In addition to the Department of Communication website, the new advising program has a group on Blackboard that helps students investigate the department’s curriculum, provides information about academic requirements, lists graduation responsibilities and lists potential internships and jobs.

The program also has the added benefit of an assistant academic adviser to help with the workload. The two advisers are available to students on a drop-in basis and rotate office hours throughout the year.

The new program also encourages students to contact their academic advisers through an “orchestrated and advertised promotional campaign,” according to Mark Meister, department chair.

“Students have not always seen the value of meeting with an academic adviser, and that’s something the department hopes to change,” Meister said, noting flexible, visible and immediate availability have helped make advising better fit student schedules and needs. | Patrick Schmiedt

Faculty achievements punctuate 2013



Robert S. Littlefield, professor of communication, in cooperation with Michael D. Bartanen, professor of communication and chair of the department of communication and theatre at Pacific Lutheran University, Parkland, Wash., published the first book-length history of forensics in America. Titled "Forensics in

America: A History," the book shows how forensics, as practiced in the United States, was an uneasy fusion of contradictory premises that began as a significant part of the tradition of American public address. The book provides a context for understanding the role forensics may play in the 21st century. The book expands the study of American public address, focuses on the pedagogy of forensics training and explores cultural dimensions of forensics activities.

Littlefield was the invited keynote speaker at the South Dakota Communication Association's annual convention in September. He also provided a workshop for high school participants at the convention on improving the quality of adjudicating debate contests and a session for collegiate participants on successfully navigating the publication process.

In addition, Littlefield was elected to the National Forensic League's Hall of Fame. North Dakota's first inductee, he was recognized for his 46-year commitment to the league at the national tournament in Birmingham, Ala., last summer.



Stephenson Beck, assistant professor of communication, served as editor of a special forum on interdisciplinary collaborations in the April 2013 issue of *Small Group Research* and is serving as program chair of the annual conference of the Interdisciplinary Network for Group Researchers. Beck is co-writing a new

textbook on group interaction that will be published by Pearson Publishing in December 2014.

Beck was recognized with the 2013 "Students' Choice" Teaching Award by NDSU undergraduate students majoring in communication.



Ross Collins, professor of communication, was selected as the 2013-14 Dale Hogoboom Presidential Endowed Professorship. The recognition is awarded to an NDSU faculty member, with the rank of professor, who has a balanced record of demonstrating excellence in teaching, research and service.

Collins was invited to present his research at the prestigious National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial in Kansas City,

Mo. Collins' November presentation was part of the museum's inaugural centennial special exhibition, "Road to War: World Power and Imperialism, 1904-1914." Collins is an internationally renowned scholar in the study of media history and World War I press and propaganda. For more information on his presentation, visit <http://www1ha.org/2013symposium/ross-collins.html>.



Zoltan Majdik and Carrie Anne Platt, assistant professors, presented their co-written essay, "Digital Voices in an Age of Artificial Intelligence: IBM's Watson and the Disturbance of Traditional Apodictic/Phronetic

Sources of Argument," at the 18th Alta Summer Conference on Argumentation in August.

Majdik also was recognized with the 2013 "Students' Choice" Teaching Award by NDSU graduate students in communication.



Pam Lutgen-Sandvik, associate professor and director of the Department of Communication's Center on Applied Communication Research, was a keynote speaker at the Workplace Bullying Institute in August. Lutgen-Sandvik has written numerous research articles and books, including her

forthcoming book, "Workplace Bullying—A Nasty Piece of Work: Translating a Decade of Research on Non-Sexual Harassment, Psychological Terror, Mobbing, and Emotional Abuse on the Job."



Charles Okigbo, professor of communication, edited a book on health communication on worldwide health communication. The book, "Strategic Urban Health Communication," has contributions from Okigbo

and 30 other researchers from across the world, including

Elizabeth Crawford, an assistant professor of communication at NDSU.



Nan Yu, assistant professor of communication, was recently nominated and selected to be the Teaching Committee co-chair for the Mass Communication and Society Division at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Yu will collaborate with Seihill Kim from University of South Carolina

to lead the committee from 2013 to 2014. Yu also oversees the development of the Interactive Media Lab headquartered in the Department of Communication.



Yu and former doctoral student **Abby Gold** recently published their co-written study investigating the effectiveness of communication tools in food-safety education for new U.S. immigrants in the *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*.



Associate professor and chair **Mark Meister's** essay, "The Rainmaker Persona," was accepted for publication in the spring 2014 issue of *Relevant Rhetoric*.



Associate professors **Amy O'Connor** and **Mark Meister** and doctoral student Andrew Pritchard were nominated by NDSU students for the second annual Awards for Excellence in Academic Advising of Undergraduates. The awards were established in 2012 by the Office of the Provost to highlight the importance of academic advising at NDSU.

O'Connor and doctoral student Katherine Gronewold's article, "Black Gold, Green Earth: An Analysis of the Petroleum Industry's

CRS Environmental Sustainability Discourse," was published in the *Journal of Management Communication Quarterly*.

Department of Communication administrator **Kelly Paynter** was awarded the Department of Communication's 2013 James E. Ubbelohde Departmental Service Award for her outstanding service to faculty and students.

Several faculty and graduate students from the Department of Communication attended the annual convention of the National Communication Association. A total of 14 research panel presentations, panel responses and research discussions were delivered by representatives of the department. The annual convention was held Nov. 19-22 in Washington, D.C. In addition to their presentation duties, graduate students and faculty participated in the Graduate School Recruiting Fair during the convention.

Departmental faculty served as editors, review board members and guest reviewers for 23 different professional journals. Combined, the faculty served on 18 different civic, service or church-related boards, including the Dakota Medical Foundation, YWCA, Big Brothers and Big Sisters and Forum Communication's Citizen's Advisory Board.

Calendar sales raise funds for scholarships

NDSU communication professor Ross Collins turned his fascination with how people use smartphones into a way to raise funds for student scholarships.

With help from the NDSU Department of Communication, Collins created "Smartphone Universe," a 2014 calendar featuring 12 full-color photographs of smartphone use around the world. All proceeds, about \$828, went to the Dorothy Collins Memorial Endowment to fund scholarships for communication students who work at the Spectrum, NDSU's student newspaper.

2014 SMARTPHONE UNIVERSE

Based on the perhaps popular Facebook series

A calendar by Ross F. Collins,
North Dakota State University, Fargo
www.rossfcollins.com



Communication department adds 3 faculty members

After three intense nationwide searches, NDSU Department of Communication hired three renowned communication scholars, boosting the department's reputation for a faculty focused on teaching, research and service. Pam Lutgen-Sandvik, Catherine Kingsley Westerman and David Westerman started teaching at NDSU in August.

"All three of our new faculty are excellent teachers," department chair Mark Meister said. "They wouldn't have been hired at NDSU and certainly not in our department if they weren't very good teachers, and they are. But they also bring a national and international reputation as very strong and recognizable scholars within the communication discipline."



Pam Lutgen-Sandvik

Lutgen-Sandvik comes to NDSU from the University of New Mexico, where she developed international renown as a researcher of workplace emotion and workplace bullying. She teaches courses in organizational communication and has previously taught at Arizona State University and the University of Alaska.

Prior to teaching, she worked as an administrator of nonprofit social service agencies in the fields of women's advocacy and drug addiction treatment.

Her research focuses on emotion in the workplace; she has studied workplace bullying and the influence of positive emotions at work. "For me, the big change is working in a department where what I study is a central area of interest in the department," she said.

One of NDSU's big appeals for Lutgen-Sandvik was doing work that's tied to the community – and the mission of the department, college and university to be involved in that community.

"There's this thread of translational research, taking the research that's done in the ivory tower and bringing it to people," she said.



Catherine "Cat" Kingsley Westerman

Kingsley Westerman comes to NDSU from the University of Tennessee, where her research concentrated on group communication with a focus on workplace safety. She previously worked for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and has conducted

research focused on mine safety.

She earned her doctorate from Michigan State University in 2008.

Part of what drew her to NDSU is the chance to teach in the same department as her husband, David. The two openings at NDSU were of particular interest because of the nature of the positions. "It seemed like there were two jobs that fit us well in terms of our specializations," she said.

She has joined an adult soccer league in Fargo. "That's a nice way for me to settle in," she said, noting she also has enjoyed taking part in Friday Afternoon Club activities and in sharing her baking skills with others in the department.



David Westerman

Westerman comes to NDSU from West Virginia University, where he conducted research on how people use technology to accomplish communication goals – specifically with online impressions and presentation. His research looks at online profile management and how that affects

a person's sense of experience.

He earned his doctorate from Michigan State University in 2007.

Coming to Fargo and NDSU was not where he thought his career might take him. "I don't think it ever entered my mind before I came here," he said. However, Westerman said he has embraced both Fargo and NDSU because of the strength of the department, the chance to work with his wife and the opportunities "to do cool stuff."

"I feel like we got pretty lucky in being able to come to a place that seems like a good fit," Westerman said. "I do feel lucky that it happened at a place I think I'll really enjoy."

communication news
department letter

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