

NDSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Leaving the University better than we arrived...



What's up NDSU:
Shadow a Student
Week

Executive Spotlight:
Chad Blank and
Kylee Arndt

Senate Spotlight:
Dahlia Bender

**Organization
Spotlight:** Student
Athlete Advisory
Committee

What's up NDSU: Shadow a Student Week

Shadow a Student Week was an opportunity for faculty, staff, and administration to get a peek into the lives of North Dakota State University students. Administrators were randomly assigned to participating students and attended classes, activities, and events throughout the course of the day. Dr. Laura Oster- Aaland, the Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, had great things to say about the program stating, "Shadow a Student Day was a wonderful opportunity for administrators to demonstrate NDSU's vision of being a "Student Focused" university. When I first heard of this idea through Associate Dean Carrie Anne Platt I knew it was something NDSU should do on a large scale. After the huge success of this event I am hopeful it will continue. My first observation from having shadowed a student is that students are managing a lot of technology in the classroom. In one large lecture style classroom, students had a laptop, a clicker,

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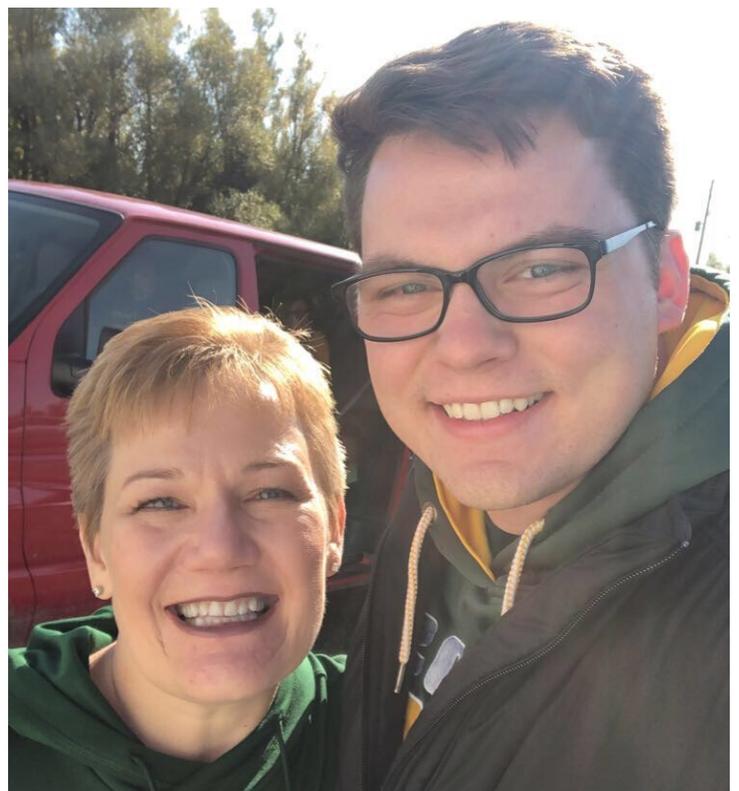
What's up NDSU continued...

a notebook and had to manage the roving microphone that the professor moved around the room to facilitate classroom participation. The level of multi-tasking going on was a stark contrast to the much simpler classrooms that I remember from 30+ years ago when I was a student. I was also struck by how crowded some of the classrooms were as students were managing this technology, plus bookbags and jackets. I appreciated the sense of community I felt in the classrooms as well as study spaces. I followed my student to her regular study time in the library and found that space to be welcoming, comfortable, and conducive to productive work. I also appreciated the breaks the students took to talk about their weekend plans which reminded me of the importance of social experiences as part of college. Finally, it struck me how little my student knew about the work of administrators on campus." Dr. Oster-Aaland also stated that, "This is not necessarily a problem since as long as services are operating as they should, students shouldn't have to worry about what happens in Old Main. However, at the wrap up meeting, one student indicated that they were surprised to learn of the many administrators working behind the scenes to help them be successful. The mutual understanding fostered by this day was valuable to me and I hope to begin conversations soon about plans to repeat the event next year."

Dr. Rhonda Kitch, the Registrar and Interim Director of the Career and Advising Center also had many great things to say about the program. "I was honored to be selected to participate in NDSU's Shadow a Student Day. I was eager to not just observe Joe, but also to see how classroom interactions, faculty pedagogy, and the overall student experience unfolded throughout the day. I was in awe of the many transitions Joe had throughout the day, which he navigated with easy-

he has impressive time management skills! Joe is an outstanding NDSU student and will be an exemplary alumnus. I was truly welcomed into the classes and was able to experience interactive, hands-on, student-focused pedagogy." Dr. Kitch continued on to say, "I will forever treasure the lessons I learned today and consider it one of the best days I have had in my 25+ years working in higher education."

Joseph Vollmer agreed that Shadow a Student Week was beneficial for all involved. Joe stated that, "Being able to show Dr. Kitch around campus and into classes she has never taken was both fun and rewarding. Most colleges don't take the time to look in to the individual lives of students so they never really understand what it is we do daily. Without experiences like this, there can be a lack of understanding and change on behalf of the students. I am very grateful that NDSU cares enough to take the time to do this every year."



Pictured: Dr. Rhonda Kitch and student Joseph Vollmer



Executive Spotlight: Finance

By Chad Blank

The Finance Department has two Executives that work to distribute the Student Activity Fee, the Executive Commissioner of Finance, which is currently held by myself, and the Assistant Executive Commissioner of Finance which is currently held by Kylee Arndt. I oversee the distribution of the \$3.8 million Student Activity Fee to various departments and Student Organizations in collaboration with the Kylee and the Finance Commission. I also chair the Finance Commission and Finance Advisory Board. In addition to this, I serve as a member on the Student Fee Advisory Board and Great Rides Bikeshare Board of Directors. Kylee's main responsibility is to work with our Tier II Student Organizations for their funding questions, requests, and reimbursement. Kylee also serves as secretary of both the Finance

Commission and Finance Advisory Board and relays the minutes and documents to Senators.

Outside of our jobs as Finance Executives, I am active in Sigma Alpha Epsilon and the Plant Sciences Department on campus, and aspire of eventually become a Certified Golf Course Superintendent at a reputable golf club. Student Government has taught me valuable soft skills as well as the importance of sound budgetary and fiscal responsibility. In fact, one of my favorite aspects of NDSU is how students can grow and learn from the impact they make on campus. In the event that I find myself with free time - I enjoy reading any sort of book, practicing photography, golfing or simply decompressing with my parents' cats or a friend's dog. As for Arndt, she states that she, "is actively involved in Engineering Ambassadors, the Society of Women Engineers, Circle K International, and Kappa Alpha Theta." In previous years, she was also a Bison Guide, Senator for the College of Engineering, and an Orientation Leader. Additionally, when she graduates, she hopes to either work in Energy Generation and Transportation, or with the Aerospace Industry with her major in Electrical Engineering. When able to, she enjoys watching theater, playing the viola, taking portraits and abstract photography, touring museums, traveling, and watching/reading biographies.

If you have any questions about Finance, we would be more than happy to answer your questions at ndsufinance@ndsu.edu.



Kylee Arndt giving a presentation to Student Organization leaders



Senator Spotlight:

Dahlia Bender, Senator for the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

My name is Dahlia Bender and I am a second year in the NDSU architecture program. Within Student Government, I serve as a Senior Senator for the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences where I help lead a small group of Senators. I also am a part the Academic and Student Affairs Commission and actively work on projects that can help my fellow students and community. This year I have been specifically working on a project called Bison Talk. Bison Talk was created to address Faculty and Student relationships as well as showcase our University. Bison Talk will start as media-based presentations, similar to a TED Talk. These presentations will be Professors, Students, or Alumni who have something to share about their research, projects, or life lessons. The idea is to have speakers from each college share their advancements or advice to past, present, or even future students. Having 10-12min presentations will allow our NDSU community to grow stronger as we learn more about what makes NDSU the college we know and love. Bison Talk will also highlight the values of our University and allow us to see what it means to be a part of a Student focused, Land Grant, Research University.

If you are interested in speaking click [HERE](#) or follow us on social media @bisontalk to learn more!  

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Organization Spotlight: Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is made up of two athletes from every sport. The goal of the group is to help enhance the overall experience of student-athletes, at the campus and national level. Every year, SAAC and NDSU student-athletes focus on how to give back to the Fargo-Moorhead community that gives so much to Bison Athletics. Annual events we host include a food drive (twice a year), a toy drive, and a blood drive. Along with these events, SAAC also organizes group community service projects. This year, we worked with Project Linus to make tie-blankets. Student-athletes also accumulate THOUSANDS of hours of community service every year. At the end of November, SAAC wrapped up the first week of the Summit League Food Fight. December 6th-16th, we will begin our 5th Annual Toy Drive. All proceeds from the drive will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House of Fargo. Student-Athletes will be at all sporting events during that time, accepting toy donations, cash donations, or Venmo donations (@NDSU-SAAC).

For more information about upcoming events, how to donate, or general information go to GoBison.com or on Twitter (@NDSUSAAC).

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