

# NDSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT

*Leaving the University better than we arrived...*



**What's up NDSU:**  
NDSU Throughout the Decade

**Executive Spotlight:**  
Lucas Simmer

**Senate Spotlight:**  
John Morrison

**Organization Spotlight:** Society of Women of Engineers

## What's up NDSU: NDSU Throughout the Decade

By President Bresciani

10 years ago, we had what was quite likely the smallest student scholarship endowment of any major research university in the nation. Over the past 10 years, we have grown our university endowment by more than 170 percent, and I anticipate that within the next year it will well exceed \$250 million. 10 years ago, we had graduation rates at national averages. Now, those numbers trend upward at an unprecedented pace, and they now well exceed national averages and lead our state's public higher education system. 10 years ago, we had graduation rates at national averages. I'll with remorse point out that meeting national averages is hardly a bragging point for a university of NDSU's stature. However, over the past decade, we've seen those numbers trend upward at an unprecedented pace, and they now well exceed national averages and lead our state's public higher education system. We recently got new numbers, and I'm pleased to report that in the last 6 years we've increased our four-year

Continued on Page 2...

What's up NDSU continued...

graduation rate by 15 percent. In addition to these improvements, there were previously few women in full professor and senior administrative positions. We're in a very different place now, with women well represented in virtually every area of our campus' scholarly and administrative leadership, and that's the case in still-increasing numbers. In collaboration with the National Science Foundation's sponsorship of the Advance/Forward program at NDSU, we have become a national model for improvement on that front. NDSU was in the unenviable position of having some of the most run-down and depleted campus infrastructure in the state of North Dakota. Today we have a myriad of new facilities on our campus. The new state-funded A. Glenn Hill Center has become the focal point of campus and is our second-largest academic building on campus along with a renovation and expansion of Minard Hall completed in 2012. The new privately-funded Aldevron Tower addition to the College of Health Professions opened in January, allowing an increase in the college's enrollments and research capacities. In addition, Cater Hall and the Sanford Health Athletic Complex have been a crucial addition to our growing campus. The Sanford Health Athletic Complex, featuring the Scheels Center and Nodak Insurance Basketball Performance Center, is the marquee facility among sweeping privately-funded athletics facilities therein and throughout campus--including the Shelly Ellig Indoor track, renovated Tharaldson Softball Complex and renovated Dacotah Field.



Pictured: The Sanford Health Athletic Complex finished in 2016



Pictured: The A. Glenn Hill Center opened in early 2016

At the same time, centralization and similar improvements to the Dr. Frank and Margie Meyers student-athlete academic advising center have led to dramatic improvements in our athletes' academic performance and countless national academic recognitions by the NCAA. Other facility enhancements sponsored by many generous donors have further enhanced the academic and performance environments of our student athletes. 10 years ago, our per-student state appropriated funding was the lowest of any four-year college in the state and the second lowest of all 11 campuses. We now enjoy what all 11 campuses agree is an equitable performance-based funding formula. As a result, NDSU is now funded similarly and equitably with its state peers. Along with this, NDSU was in a financial position so bad that our accreditation was at risk, and our non-existent reserves were damaging our credit. Today, our Standard & Poor's and Moody's bond ratings remain strong. That's not by accident or luck. We have established and standardized strategic planning, business practices and reserve levels commanding that position.

Finally, a future vision already becoming a reality will be the replacement of the aged and dysfunctional Dunbar Hall and Geosciences Buildings. 10 years ago, if I had suggested a list of achievements like that would be coming in the next decade, you'd have been right to question my sanity. That would have been as ludicrous as suggesting we would win eight national championships in football at the Division I level!



## Executive Spotlight: Congress of Student Organizations

By Lucas Simmer

Hello! My name is Lucas Simmer. I am a Junior studying Agricultural Economics from Rothsay, MN and have the great pleasure of serving as the 2019-2020 Executive Commissioner of the Congress of Student Organizations. Before serving in this capacity I was involved in Student Government as Student Senator for the College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources. I am also a proud, active member of FarmHouse Fraternity. In my free time I enjoy staying up to date on current news, playing board and card games, and exercising (well, if I have A LOT of time on my hands).

The Congress of Student Organizations is the official term for CSO, which is how it is most usually referred to. I chair the CSO Commission which is the governing body, made up of student Senators and at-large members, charged with determining the status and recognition of student organizations.

One of the most important roles of CSO deals with granting official recognition to student organizations. If students want to create a new student group, club, or organization, they correspond and meet with the commission. Additionally, I work on behalf of the commission to help maintain the status of NDSU's more than 270 student organizations. Because there are so many organizations, I try to offer helpful resources and information that is generally applicable. This is accomplished through two main opportunities: Leadership Series and Large Group. Leadership Series, or Student Organization Success Seminars (SOS) are events sponsored by CSO that are informational forums about relevant topics for student organizations. There were three events this fall and more planned for next semester. Large Group is a presentation that contains some crucial information that all student organization officers should know. It has recently been accompanied by a quiz that ensures that the content is being learned and understood. I want to make sure that our student leaders are aware of the opportunities that are available to them. A few other CSO initiatives are the Bison Leader Awards (recognizes outstanding student leaders and organizations), The Student Involvement Expo, and serving as the liaison between student organizations and other NDSU departments and entities. Moreover, a new program that I have spearheaded is an increased level of CSO outreach. Each of my commissioners has been assigned a list of 55 student organizations as well as their contact information. I try to have them reach out to each of their 55 organizations sporadically to offer advice, request feedback, or send reminders about various opportunities.

If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns please reach out to me. If you have CSO related inquiries please contact <ndsug.sg.cso@ndsuedu> You can also reach me at, lucas.simmer@ndsuedu



## Senator Spotlight:

John Morrison: Senator for the College of Business

I am a Junior studying Finance with minors on Agribusiness and Accounting. I joined Student Government as a Senator for the College of Business as an opportunity to make a difference on campus and to make NDSU an even better place to attend. I have enjoyed my time thus far as a Senator getting to know other Student Government members and work with them on various tasks. I am currently serving on the Environmental Sustainability Committee, Appointments Committee, and Finance Code Review Committee.

I am also working on a project to add another water bottle filler at Barry Hall. Barry Hall only has one water bottle filler in the faculty area of Barry Hall that closes and is inaccessible to students after 5:00pm. Students have expressed to me that they would like the opportunity to have access to a water bottle filler when they are at club meetings or studying in Barry Hall. I am currently working with facilities and maintenance to hopefully add an additional water bottle filler in the early part of the upcoming semester.

If you have any changes you would like to see around campus please feel free to reach out to me at email- [john.p.morrison@ndsu.edu](mailto:john.p.morrison@ndsu.edu).

**“I joined Student Government to make a difference on campus and to make NDSU an even better place to attend.”**



## Organization Spotlight:

### Society of Women Engineers

Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is a non-profit organization at NDSU comprised of students that are pursuing engineering or science. In this organization, we attend conferences, host several outreach events, and learn about career development. The conferences we attend include both a regional conference and a national conference - at the national conference we have had companies like Space X, NASA, Northrop Grumman, Google, and Texas Instruments attend the giant career fair. In addition to the career fair, the conferences are a great way to network and listen to women in the industry and their success. For outreach events, we host events such as Tech Girls, Dads and Daughters Do Science, Mommy, Me, and SWE, and Tech Teens. The girls will learn to engage in science and engineering by making slime, programming, or making a mechanical hand (depending on the age). Our outreach events allow us to encourage girls at a young age that they too can pursue a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) field. Our career development includes several areas: a lunch and learn, resume building events, and monthly speakers from the local industry.

If you have any questions about NDSU's chapter of SWE, feel free to visit [ndsuswe.org](http://ndsuswe.org).

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