

NDSU

MAGAZINE

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY *spring 2015*





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Lessons from a study abroad

Essay by Matthew Wagenius





EDITOR'S NOTE

I'm hoping you'll read the essay on pages 26-29. It's about a study abroad experience, and while the photographs we used to illustrate it are travelogue-ish, the story this student chose to tell is about what he learned when he was far away from home and everyone he'd ever known. And what he learned was to trust himself.

This is a nice young man who was an intern in our office last year. We sent him on the very long bus ride to Texas for the football team's national championship game that year, and I asked him to write about the trip. He understood that the purpose of an essay is to impart something meaningful, which tends to involve revealing a bit about yourself. He agonized as he complied. He wrote and rewrote and fretted and suffered. He's a good Upper Midwesterner, well aware that talking about yourself is all but taboo.

Then he went off for a semester in France.

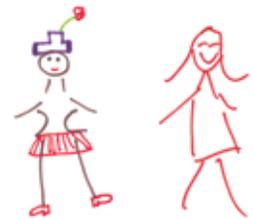
It reminds me of an exercise from my first day in first grade. Mrs. Bender had us draw a picture of ourselves. My self portrait was careful. I used several different crayon colors, had an inexplicably non-human shaped torso with an inverted u on each side and a lovely hat, with a flower poking from the side. We must have stored the pictures somewhere and forgotten about them as we acclimated to being in school. Then on the last day of school, Mrs. Bender again had us draw pictures of ourselves. This time the assignment was quick and easy. A few strokes of a red pencil and done. Dashed it off and handed it in. Had the world by the horns.

Matthew followed this same pattern. His first essay was tightly controlled, but his second one was loose and bold and confident. I actually had to remove a couple of cuss words. (They were descriptive and well placed, but this is a family-friendly publication, after all.) The "old" Matthew would not have dared submit such a thing, but this post-study-abroad Matthew is fearless. What a privilege to observe someone's leap to confidence.

Thank you for reading.

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MARTIN FREDRICKS has an English degree from NDSU and has had a varied career. First, he was editor of a small-town newspaper, then a congressional staffer, held many roles at public relations agencies, and then owned his own communication consulting business. He was a writer for NDSU in the 1990s, and he returned in December 2014. When he's not working on stories or social media posts, he and his wife, Cassi, share chauffeur duties, driving their three kids all over the region for activities.



MATT WAGENIUS is a student at North Dakota State University majoring in public relations and international studies. He is originally from Stillwater, Minnesota, and recently spent a semester in a full-immersion program in the south of France where he desperately missed jumbo portions at 24-hour restaurants. In his free time, Matt works on his creative writing, teaches people how to pronounce his last name and trains hard for marathons (of House of Cards).

ON THE COVER



WALTER PIEHL JR. was born in Marion, North Dakota, the son of a livestock dealer and rodeo producer. He attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and the University of North Dakota for an M.F.A. While there he was encouraged to bring his rodeo experience into his art. “The style of my art could be called Expressionistic, which is in contrast to the vast majority of ‘Western Art.’” Walter has exhibited extensively in the Western United States and has work in many private collections and major museums. He has taught at Minot State University since 1970. He and his wife, Becky, live in the country with horses, cats, coyotes and too many raccoons. Walter has said, “I went to college to get out of the haystack — I like things Western and putting on paint.”

poem on the range

So what if I'm broke and don't have a red cent
Money blowed on a bronc ride is money well spent.

- THE LAST VERSE OF THE FIRST POEM RODNEY NELSON EVER WROTE

In January, the 31st National Cowboy Poetry Gathering drew around 7,000 people to Elko, Nevada, to see poets and musicians, filmmakers, western dancers and saddle makers perform and engage on every stage available in this high desert town.

This is the big show for cowboy poetry, and all of the 54 performers are tied to a western tradition of some kind — they are ranchers, horse trainers, teachers, brand inspectors, barrel racers and bronc riders, working cowboys, and stock contractors. Some are historians or writers, a few are full-time performers and many of them have been some, or all, of those things.

Rodeo, saddle broncs in particular, is what brought Rodney Nelson and Shadd Piehl to Elko and to cowboy poetry. Both men rodeoed for North Dakota State University during their time in Fargo, and rodeo is how they know each other. Shadd's grandfather, Walter Piehl Sr., produced rodeos, and his father, Walter Piehl Jr., announced them. Nelson remembers Shadd Piehl as a little kid at those rodeos, hat tipped back, hanging on the chutes to watch guys like him ride the broncs and bulls Walt Sr. campaigned.

Long before he became a performer on stage, Nelson majored in animal science at NDSU and rode for the college rodeo team — one of the first NDSU cowboys to place in the region and go on to the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association finals. "I really, truly loved rodeoing for NDSU."

And Nelson loves the rodeo life. "It's very hard to quit rodeo. So I didn't," he says. He still rides in old timer rodeos, and runs the Sims Ranch in Almont, N.D., a setup he calls a "starvation operation." He also trains colts, works as a part-time brand inspector and does custom freeze branding in the winter.

He's performed in Elko more than 20 times and no one has more fun at the five-day event. He is tall, lean and weathered, and looks like the Marlboro man with his hat on, but talks too much to be a romantic figure. His comic timing is impeccable and he's a terrible flirt. He claims he can't sleep without his wife beside him, and that's why you'll find him regaling old and new friends until the wee hours of the morning each night of the



poetry gathering. That charisma has made him a popular speaker and entertainer, each year he performs at dozens of events all over the

country and Canada and writes a regular column for the Farm and Ranch Guide.

He's also a very good saddle bronc rider. Piehl remembers watching him ride and admiring how he did it. Piehl followed Nelson down that road, riding saddle broncs for 20 years, winning the Great Plains regional title twice for NDSU. He started writing poetry to pass the time during long hours traveling to rodeos.

Piehl began publishing his poetry while at NDSU. He sent his poems out to a few western publishers and was invited to perform at Elko in 1993. He returned in 1994 and, when they invited him back for the third time in 1995, he brought me along and we got married there.

He was asked to perform again this year, and so we celebrated our 20th anniversary within the larger sweep of the romance of the West celebrated at the gathering in Elko.



Piehl and Nelson have shared the stage a few times over the years in Elko. The featured poets and musicians do several shows over the course of the gathering and the shows are assigned themes — Going Down the Road, Roaming Wild, Horses I Have Known. During January’s Gathering, they took the stage with Bainville, Montana, songster D.W. Groethe for a show called The Big Wide Open.

D.W. sang, and Piehl and Nelson recited poems and swapped rodeo tales and memories. The show highlighted the pull of the road, the horses and the camaraderie of rodeo life.

The romance of Elko is more about the mythic West than love and marriage, but both guys shared stories about their respective elopements, Piehl’s in Elko and Nelson’s in Gallup, New Mexico (“I brought my girlfriend along, and came back with a wife. The justice of the peace almost waived the fee — said we

were the first to come before him and look old enough to make the decision.”).

At another point during the show Piehl removed his hat to uncover his shaved, mostly bald head, and Nelson, similarly barbered by time, did a double take, noting, “It’s been a while since I’ve seen you with your hat off Shadd, but as I saw that, it came to me that it is entirely possible I am your biological father.”

On stage that day they came back to rodeo (they always come back to rodeo), telling a story about a horse they both knew well. It was during Nelson’s NDSU years, he was about 19 years old and having some success as a saddle bronc rider. He’d been rodeoing in Minnesota, and pulled into a Piehl-produced rodeo in Marion, North Dakota, on his way home to Towner.

As he pulled up, he learned he’d drawn the bronc, Big John. This was a tough horse,

Got throwed off a good one
missed him out again
But the next one’s a new horse,
I’m gonna win
No money for fees
but this hot check will spend

- FROM AIN’T NO LIFE AFTER RODEO BY SHADD PIEHL

and at that point no one had ridden him for the eight seconds required to receive a score. Walter Piehl Jr., met him at his car to share the good news.

“I’d kinda put it out there that I’d like to ride that horse,” Nelson remembers. “So when Junior told me I’d drawn him ... I immediately had to go the bathroom. I was just a kid and that horse flat bucked. I was nervous.

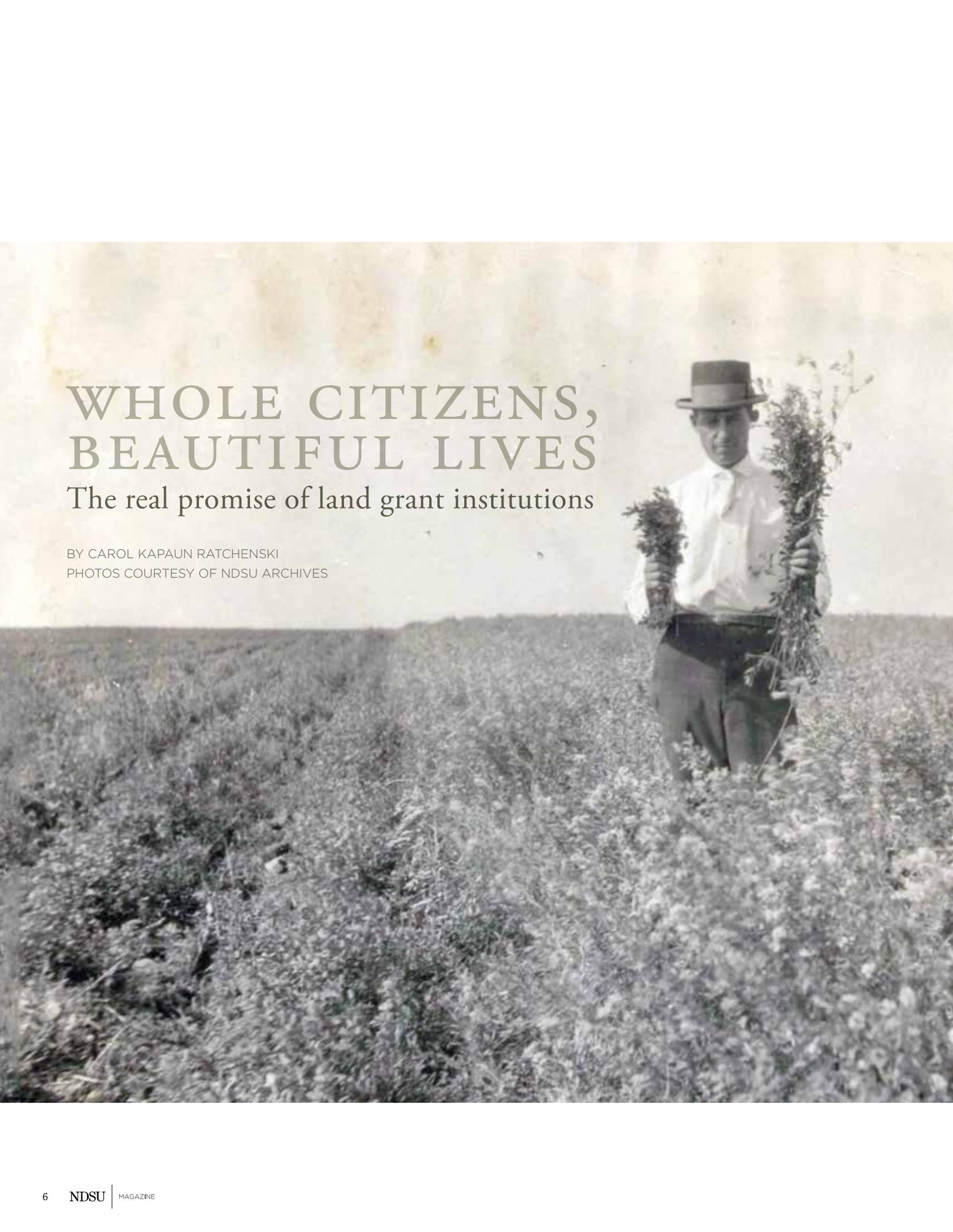
“I did get him ridden and won that rodeo, but I’m not sure how clean a ride it was.”

That story is one of hundreds shared in Elko that bring a real-life layer to the romance of a cowboy life. Elko has been called the “most honest and open-hearted festival in America,” and it’s not a bad place to celebrate love and marriage. It helps to know though that the love most revered in Elko is the love of cowboy life. For Piehl and Nelson, that life was, and is, rodeo.

“Rodeo is the most fruitless thing I’ve done in my life and if I could do it over, it’s one thing I’d do more of,” Nelson says.

— MARNIE BUTCHER PIEHL

— PHOTOS BY JESSICA LIFLAND



WHOLE CITIZENS, BEAUTIFUL LIVES

The real promise of land grant institutions

BY CAROL KAPAUN RATCHENSKI
PHOTOS COURTESY OF NDSU ARCHIVES



When my son was four years old and into his early days of elementary school he wanted to be a professional football player, a farmer and a poet. It was his standard answer to the silly, cliché question. “So Adam, what do you want to be when you grow up?” Perhaps understandable as interests he saw each of his parents relish, but I think it held a deeper meaning as well. It did not feel incongruous to him. That is, it made sense to be an athlete and to create something beautiful with rhyme and meter and to grow things. He could hold all of this at once inside his small person and his big imagination.

If the world would later tell him that tight ends aren't poets and farmers don't care about meter and rhyme, it wouldn't come from me.

Life may ask us to decide on a major or pick a career path, but that doesn't change the nature of humanity — that we can and do value and honor and practice many things. Perhaps it is even a wiser and broader perspective that can hold more than one love, more than one lens through which to see this complex world, its questions and its gifts.

This indeed is the promise and the contribution of land grant colleges and universities. Established in 1862 by Vermont Senator Justin Smith Morrill and signed into bill by President Lincoln, the Morrill Act changed the face of higher education and in turn the character, opportunity and possibility of this country.

Prior to 1862 higher education was the privilege of east coast upper class white males. The 90 percent of Americans involved in agriculture did not go to school past some primary or secondary country schooling. After the civil war, Morrill and others became committed to making higher education available to rural populations and the growing American middle class, who were facing an increasingly industrial world.

Hundreds of colleges and universities and more than twenty-two million college graduates are the result. Morrill, who served in Congress under eleven different U.S. presidents, is responsible for the democratization of education in this country. Farmers and mechanics, the land grant ideal holds, live wiser, richer and more productive lives when they also study music and literature. Liberal arts and science and technology not only coexist in the land grant ideal, they dance, they complement, they evolve together and together create a stronger society. »

W. A. PECK - ALFALFA DEMONSTRATION 1913

The alfalfa on the right was grown according to Mr. Peck's directions, while that on the left was put in by the farmer according to his ideas.

IT IS POSSIBLE TO LOVE MANY THINGS,
TO BE IN MANY CONVERSATIONS,
TO HAVE MANY ASPECTS OF OUR HUMAN SELVES
ALIVE AND ACTIVE IN ONE LIFETIME.





LEFT TO RIGHT:
 STAGE BAND, 1974
 DANCERS, 1928
 DRAWING CLASS, 1960
 PAINT LABORATORY, 1950s

A 19th century idea with 21st century impact, still today, land grant institutions seek to create citizens, not just workers, not just thinkers or artists, but all that, in each person. True, education benefits individuals and can guide their decisions professionally and personally, but land grant colleges aim for more than that, expecting graduates to contribute to their communities, to the people around them and to the world.

Making higher education accessible and affordable has been an enduring legacy of the Morrill Act, also the education of generations of students who have joined the working world as thinkers and problem solvers, and engaged citizens.

In her February 18, 2015, article in the Washington Post, Loretta Jackson-Hayes, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Rhodes College says, “If American STEM grads are going to lead the world in innovation, then their science education cannot be divorced from the liberal arts. Our culture has drawn an artificial line between art and science, one that did not exist for innovators like Leonardo da Vinci and Steve Jobs. Leonardo’s curiosity and passion for painting, writing, engineering and biology helped him triumph in both art and science; his study of anatomy and dissections of corpses enabled his incredible drawings of the human figure.”

Haile Chisholm, a blacksmith instructor at North Dakota State from 1902 to 1937, was also a poet. Chisholm insisted that his ironwork was no mere utilitarian pursuit, rather a matter of artistic fulfillment. Among his papers, archived at NDSU, is his statement that, “I have never regretted a dollar spent for loveliness.”

Fast forward to this century and the ongoing conversation surrounding the lack of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) graduates nationwide, while concurrently nearly half of all scientists and engineers in the American workforce are nearing retirement age. Barry Batcheller, in an essay in the Fall 2013 issue of this magazine, cited that only 4.4 percent of U.S. born undergraduates are enrolled in STEM programs even though the U.S. expects a shortage of almost a quarter million high-tech workers by 2018.

In a February 2015 Huffington Post article, Carly Fiorina, former CEO of Hewlett-Packard, credits her degree in philosophy and medieval history in helping her become the first woman to lead a high-tech Fortune 50 corporation. The land grant philosophy is alive and well, with modern clothes and start-up energy. Quoted in the same article, Cornell University President David J. Skorton points out that scientists of all discipline require education in the humanities and arts, partly because, “We need the skill to communicate to nonscientists what we do and why it’s important.” Today workers in virtually every field need to apply cross-disciplinary thinking to an incredibly complex world.

NDSU is a land grant institution and its citizenry exemplify Morrill’s vision as well as the 21st century conversation that places high value on and seeks well-rounded scholars and citizens. Like the dreams in the hearts of five-year-olds remind us — it is possible to love many things, to be in many conversations, to have many aspects of our human selves alive and active in one lifetime.

May our children answer our silly question with their minds and hearts wide open. “I want to be a ballerina and a doctor.” “I want to be a farmer and a pastor.” “I want to be an architect and a rock and roll singer.” “I want to be a biologist and a cartoonist.” “I want to be a chef and a computer scientist.”

Let’s assure them that that is exactly what the world needs from them.



END OF A RACE ON DACOTAH FIELD, OCT. 5, 1924



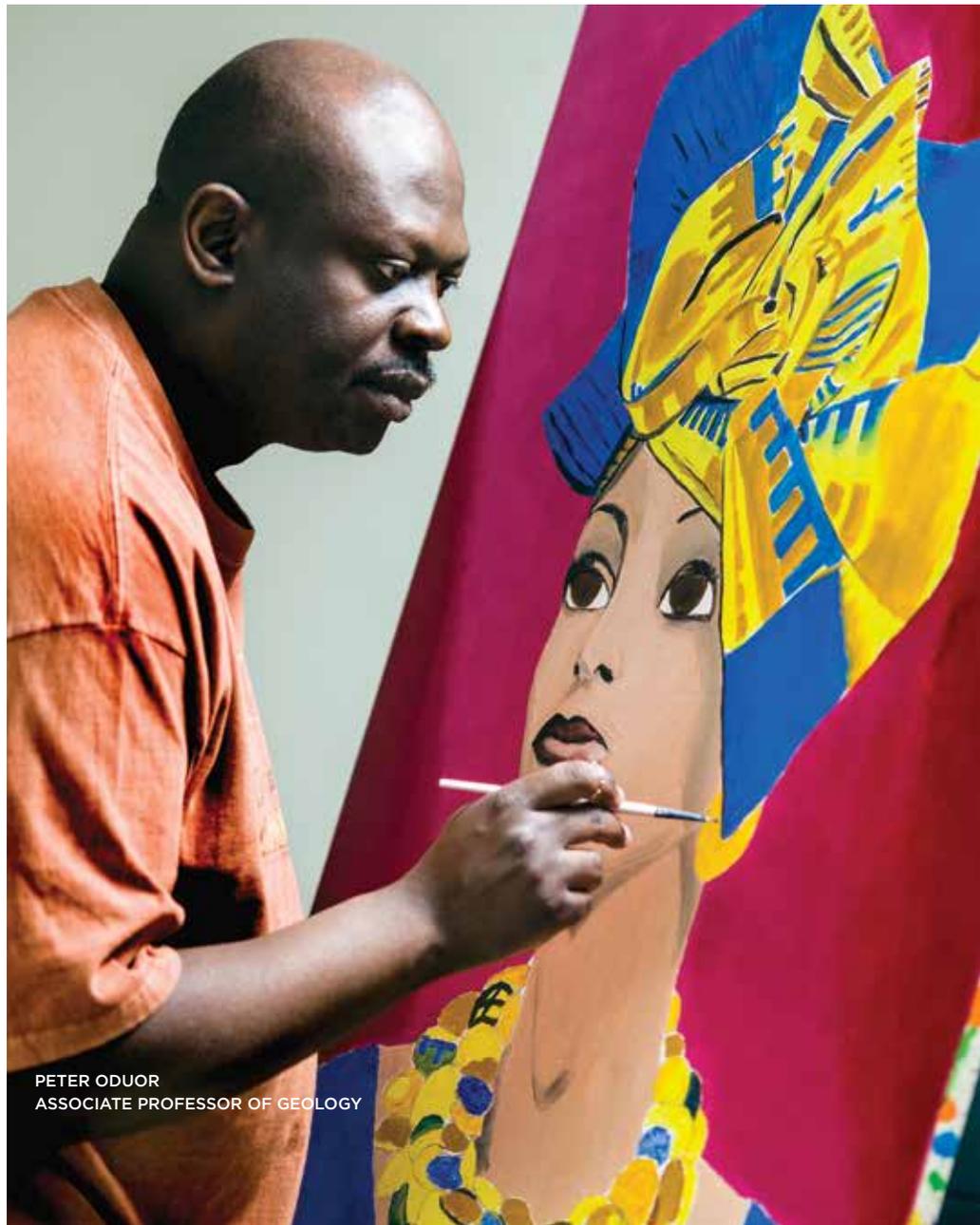
ARTIST AND SCIENTIST

A land grant ideal

Peter Oduor is a playwright, a pianist, a poet, an actor, a painter and a geologist, a father of four, soon to be five, a husband, a son, all at once and in harmony, with joy.

Oduor credits his multifaceted life to several things, his willingness to try new things, especially things that other people warned him are difficult, like physics, his undergraduate degree in an honors program, and the British curriculum of the Kenyan educational system. Arts, debate, and theater were central to that curriculum; also dance festivals, the sciences, African folk tales and the classics of English literature.

After his undergraduate studies at Egerton University in Kenya, Oduor received his Master of Science in geology from Bowling Green University in Ohio and his Ph.D. in geological engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly University of Missouri-Rolla).



PETER ODUOR
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY



LEFT TO RIGHT:
 CHEMISTRY LAB, 1893-1894
 "SWEENEY TODD," 2014
 KAPPA PSI (PHARMACEUTICAL
 FRATERNITY) SINGALONG, 1962

“I TELL ALL MY
 STUDENTS TAKE
 THEATER CLASSES
 ... THEY LEARN
 THINGS THERE
 THAT THEY CAN'T
 LEARN ANYWHERE
 ELSE. IT'S WHERE
 PHYSICS REALLY
 COMES TO LIFE.”

He brings to his teaching and research at NDSU passion and commitment and a powerful belief that the arts belong in the sciences. “I tell all my students take theater classes, take a theater practicum. They learn things there that they can't learn anywhere else. It's where physics really comes to life. They learn to communicate the essence of something important, to manage sound, lighting and space. Really a play is science and art together in one space for the purpose of communicating important ideas. Putting a play together borrows from all the hallmarks of science.”

His own experience with theater involves all of these dimensions and even a stint as a television soap opera actor in Kenya. His religious murals are award winning.

He educates cartographers, educators, and water quality scientists. His own research centers on water purification

and conservation; and geological mapping. His office décor is spiritedly catholic, a statue of the Virgin Mary sits on his desk, a picture of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, a crucifix, a statue of St. Thérèse of Lisieux and a pin that reads, “I'm Spatial.” He is painting with oils these days, partly because he says, “I tried acrylics, but they are too easy.”

Oduor is at home at NDSU because as a land grant academic and research institution it asks students to study a broad-based curriculum. “Those general education requirements mean that my students are learning a sense of everything and most importantly they are learning to communicate intrapersonally and interpersonally in ways that will allow them to have professional impact on the world, and good rich lives.”

— CAROL KAPAUN RATCHENSKI

A single assignment

Nursing graduate leads effort to provide care to the homeless

Alicia Hauff is determined, focused, organized and systematic, and matter-of-fact. If something needs to be said, she'll say it. If something needs doing, she'll take it head on. She had been a cardiac intensive care nurse for a few years, and had begun working on a doctor of nursing practice degree at North Dakota State University when one of her early projects would show her something that needed doing.

For the project, she needed to do an assessment of a population with unmet health-care needs, and Hauff thought the homeless population seemed like an obvious choice. She began by talking with eight community members, who all told her a medical respite care program was one of the greatest needs in homeless health care.

"They all said, heck yes, we need this," she said. "Especially the social workers, because they're the ones who are constantly trying to find places for these people to be safe after a hospitalization."

Hauff had never heard of homeless respite care before that first set of interviews. She understood respite care, of course, but had never considered it in the context of homelessness.

On the other hand, people who work with homeless had known about the need for many years, but making it a reality seemed nearly impossible. Funding, facilities, nurses, staff, training, regulations, cooperation among multiple health organizations and providers — it all needed to be sifted through and coordinated. Someone needed to do the legwork.

Homeless medical respite care provides a stopgap between hospitalization and the

time when people are once again able to care for themselves. It's a place for homeless people who are well enough to be out of the hospital but too sick to be on the streets to rest and recuperate from illness, injury or surgery. They get medical care, but also support services that help with things like setting up follow-up visits and, ideally, finding permanent housing.

As she looked into homeless care for that first assessment, Hauff learned that respite care often is not an option for people who don't have roofs over their heads, let alone insurance to cover the costs. No program or facility exists. The only alternative is shelters that aren't equipped to provide the level of medical care many homeless patients need. Many of the patients also struggle with issues related to mental health, substance abuse and lack of transportation that complicate matters even further.

When it was time for the final project in her program, Hauff started a more comprehensive homeless health needs assessment in Fargo-Moorhead, this time with a focus on formally evaluating the need for homeless respite care. And she dug deeper, reviewing existing research and studying homeless respite care programs in other communities.

"I was learning about complex issues that limit access to care and systemic societal problems that drive these issues for homeless people," she said. "I realized the ways we're doing things now are ineffective. We need to make investments into programs that not only help people, but save society a lot of money."

Homeless people tend to use emergency departments more often than the general

population because they don't have insurance or primary physicians, and stay in hospitals longer because discharge teams can't find places for them to go. Then the lack of respite care after discharge often leads to re-hospitalization.

Programs in cities like Washington, D.C., and Boston have proven their value year after year, helping save hundreds of thousands, and in some cases millions of dollars. Most mid-sized communities like Fargo-Moorhead don't have programs, for any number of reasons.

"When you've seen one medical respite program you've seen one medical respite program," Hauff said. In other words, each program has to be tailored to the specific community with its unique needs, requirements and funding mechanisms.

The second assessment included interviews with physicians, nurses, paramedics, city planners, social workers and the people with the most at stake, Fargo-Moorhead's homeless. Hauff collected data related to homeless health needs, factors that affect them and resources in the community. She finished her report and recommendations in 2013, and immediately began assembling a taskforce to address the problem head on.

After finishing her doctorate, Hauff quickly put together a working group of professionals in homeless health to begin addressing the need for respite care. Then she went to Kim Seeb, director of Homeless Health Services, to ask for a job. She's now a family nurse practitioner who sees homeless patients each weekday morning. Twice a week she also provides outreach care at the Cass County Jail in Fargo.



“Alicia is very compassionate and creative in how she addresses things, like developing a treatment plan for someone with multiple factors contributing to their health issues,” said Seeb, who is a member of the working group. “We’re lucky to have her.”

Hauff also got more deeply involved with the homeless coalition, where she continues to be the driving force for developing a homeless medical respite care program. The coalition now has funding, has been looking at potential sites and hopes to launch a limited pilot this year with basic care and beds for a handful of men at a time.

Another member of Hauff’s working group is Gina Nolte, director of health promotion at Clay County (Minnesota) Public Health. She said the working group wouldn’t have made anywhere near the progress it has without Hauff driving the process.

“This all came about because of Alicia’s research study,” Nolte said. “Without all her focus on that work and engaging and involving all kinds of stakeholders, and how she’s kept it moving even after finishing school, this wouldn’t be happening.”

Hauff is already talking about her hopes to expand the respite care program to take on more complex cases and include beds for women. She also would like to see other North Dakota communities using Fargo-Moorhead as a guide in creating their own programs. After that, there are dozens of other homeless health service needs to address. “It’s complicated,” she said, “but we have to start somewhere.”

— MARTIN FREDRICKS



EXCERPTS

My uncles were very encouraging. They thought it was a good idea, that we need more of our own people going into medicine who can combine traditional culture and modern science. They would always tell me, “Never forget who you are because it is a challenge to maintain your identity as a Lakota man immersed in the non-Indian world.”

What I enjoyed about family practice was the connectivity to people and to community members and having a positive impact on people’s lives.

Doing that for a few years, I was recognizing very clearly that everything I was doing in the clinic was to address preventable issues, but I felt like I needed to work farther upstream.

DON WARNE inherited his Lakota name, Pejuta Wicasa, from his grandfather. It means “medicine man,” and he earned it while studying traditional healing under his uncles on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. He went on to earn a medical degree from Stanford and a master’s in public health from Harvard, and now is the director of NDSU’s Master of Public Health program and the only American Indian Public Health Resource Center in the nation. He’s a national leader in constant demand, especially when American Indian public health practice or policy is on the table. Warne the doctor projects intensity in the face of all the responsibility. When Warne the man speaks of bringing people together, the sacred in everyday ceremony or time with his family, the determined set of his jaw melts into a grin.

It is an honor to be a part of someone else’s healing process. It’s not just a job, you know, it’s not a vocation. It is actually sacred work.

None of us is perfect.

I have learned that modern approaches to medicine and public health can be compatible with traditional perspectives, traditional approaches and tribal communities.

We don’t have to cross an ocean to find third-world health conditions. They are right here in North Dakota.

There are some amazingly strong people in the meekest of circumstances.

There just aren’t enough American Indian physicians and public health officials in the arena, so I am very passionate about American Indian health.

A big challenge is having enough time to do all of that effectively.

I think that quite often we misunderstand each other. When there is misunderstanding, particularly across cultures, what we tend to see are assumptions made about either the perspectives or the motivations of others. Usually with improved communication and genuinely understanding where we are coming from, it turns out, for the most part, we are on the same page.

One area of my life that has been tremendously beneficial has been embracing ceremony. In that process of ceremony you can forgive yourself, you can forgive others, you can understand that we are all vulnerable.

I think we grow the most when we are enduring challenge.

I try not to take simple things for granted, like the start of each day. There are traditional ways of greeting the day and being thankful for every day and acknowledging it through even small ceremony or prayer.

There is a traditional story from the Northern Plains about three sisters who are walking along a river and they see babies in the water struggling to stay afloat. One sister jumps in and says, “We need to rescue these babies and pull them out of the water.” The second sister jumps in and says, “No. We need to teach these babies how to swim, so they can survive when they are in the water.” The third sister just kept walking, and the other two said, “Where are you going? Why aren’t you helping us?” And she said, “I am going to find out who is putting these babies

in the water, and I am going to stop them.” That is public health.

If there are things that I could have learned earlier or done differently, I don’t know that I would because it is all part of the process.

In a number of arenas, there are decision makers and persons in places of authority who either don’t understand inequity or don’t care about it.

It is easy to be passionate about public health because there is so much to be done.

Wisdom is the ability to make the right decisions, and the right decisions not just for yourself personally, but for your family and for your community. Also, are you willing to do difficult things if it is going to improve the lives of those you care about? Knowing how to do that is wisdom.

As soon as we start to believe that the issues or the priorities are us as individuals, that is when things will fall apart.

Connection with family is the most important thing.

One of the more famous traditional healers and leaders was Sitting Bull. He said, “Let us put our minds together and see what life we can build for our children.”

There is an old saying, “You are only as happy as your saddest child.” I believe that.

I want our graduates to make a positive impact both in their own generation and for future generations.

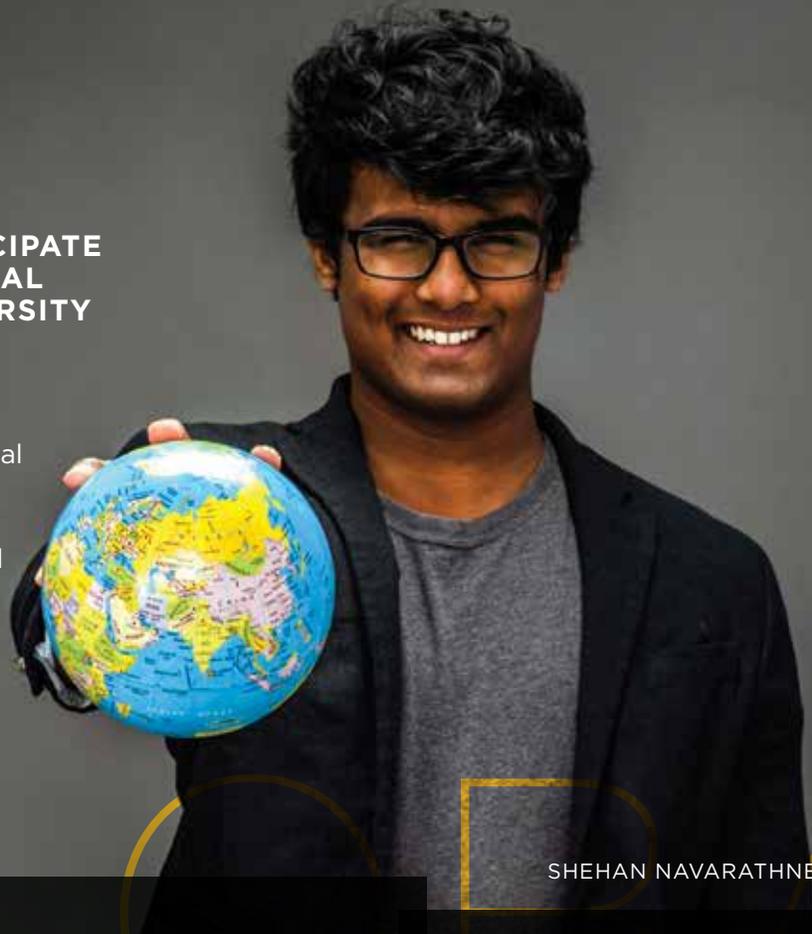
It doesn’t feel like work. I love everything I am doing.

At the end of the day, it is kind of a wonderful feeling to be fulfilled and exhausted at the same time.

If what we are doing here can result in improved quality of life for multiple populations, then that would be a good result of a life’s work.

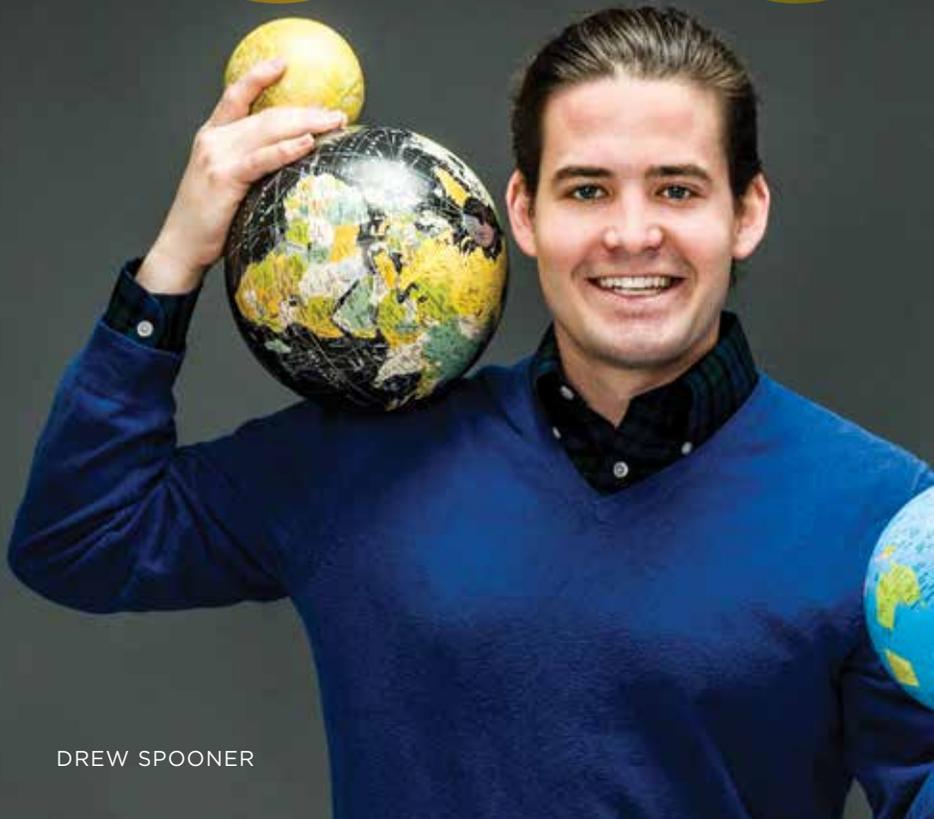
**STUDENTS PARTICIPATE
IN CLINTON GLOBAL
INITIATIVE UNIVERSITY**

These NDSU students were among 1,000 students at an event called the Clinton Global Initiative University, a program established by former President Bill Clinton to create and implement solutions to the world's challenges.



SHEHAN NAVARATHNE

G L O B A L



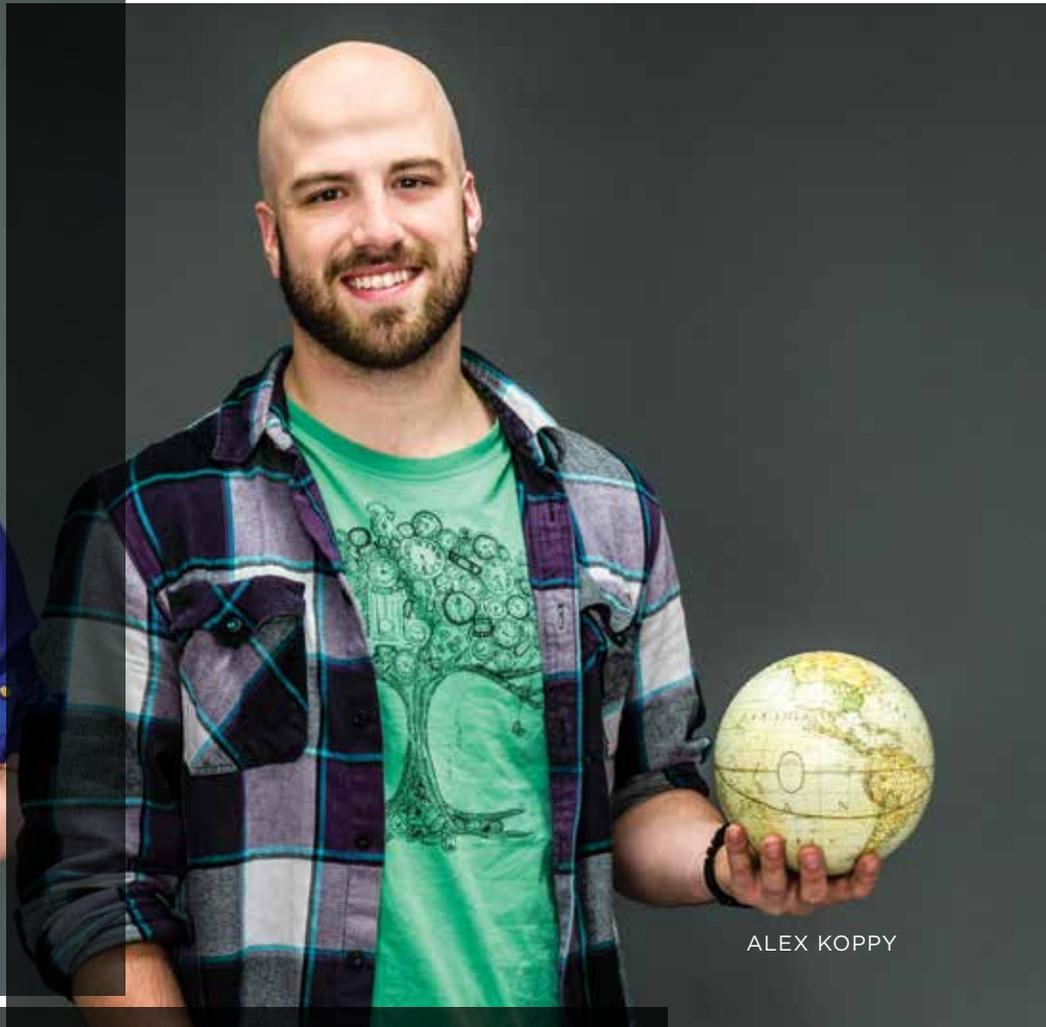
DREW SPOONER



DANINDU UDALAMATHTHA



CAITLIN JOHNSON



ALEX KOPPA

THINKING



DAKOTA QUIMBY

Caitlin Johnson presented a project to provide parents of autistic children with an intervention they can use at home.

Alex Koppa and Robbie Suppa (not pictured) co-founded the Mathematical Enthusiasts Society, a group of math and math education students who volunteer as tutors and create a network of math enthusiasts. Drew Spooner, a marketing major, also joined the group.

Dakota Quimby worked on a campaign to shift university dining budgets toward community-based food, and Shehan Navarathne and Danindu Udalamaththa were on a team dealing with a micro-loan system to support international students.

The immaculate little room looks like someone's well-kept kitchen.

The walls are painted the color of fresh butter. The space is outfitted with a refrigerator, freezer, microwave, toaster and toaster oven. An impressive variety of baking mixes, noodles, soups and rolls fill the freezer and pantry. A sign on the wall reads: "Keep calm and eat a cupcake."

The difference is that this isn't a family's kitchen, but a special, gluten-free room at NDSU's Residence Dining Center. The baking mixes are made from ingredients like chickpea flour. And anyone who eats cupcakes in here will keep calm only if they know they don't contain a speck of wheat.

GLUTEN-FREE FOR ALL

NDSU Dining caters to needs
of allergy-sensitive students

NDSU added the gluten-free room in 2011 in response to students who had specific dietary needs. It's just one example of the 21st-century college dining center, which offers wood-fired pizza ovens in a restaurant-like setting and a more inclusive attitude toward students with food allergies.

The university's dining division has actually taken a fairly progressive step in declaring the entire Residence Dining Center as an "allergy-sensitive" and "peanut/tree nut-free" facility. And the staff takes its gluten-free mission seriously. The center's gluten-free room is accessible only to the 27 of the 3,000 students on NDSU's meal plan with diagnosed gluten allergies; they must use a special keycard to gain entry.

Even most food-service staff can't enter the room, lest a flour-covered apron contaminate the wheat-free zone.

While "gluten-free" has become a bit of a buzz phrase, people with severe gluten allergies view it as anything but a fad. When someone with full-blown celiac disease eats gluten (a protein found in wheat, rye and barley), his or her body kicks

into an immune response that attacks the small intestine. In the process, the villi — the finger-like projections lining the small intestine — are damaged, which causes malabsorption and nutritional deficiencies.

Some people are so allergic to gluten that they must avoid anything that contains the tiniest trace of it, including toothpaste, lipstick or glue on an envelope.

Others may have a gluten sensitivity, which means the protein can still trigger unpleasant or downright painful symptoms. The difference is that people with gluten sensitivity don't seem to experience intestinal damage.

Roxanne England is the licensed registered dietitian who is responsible for ordering the room's provisions and counseling students with dietary issues like allergies.

Part of England's job is to meet with students to discuss their allergies and help them develop a meal plan. She also is willing to meet with parents before their student starts school. Some students have multiple allergies, which can make their food choices especially complex.

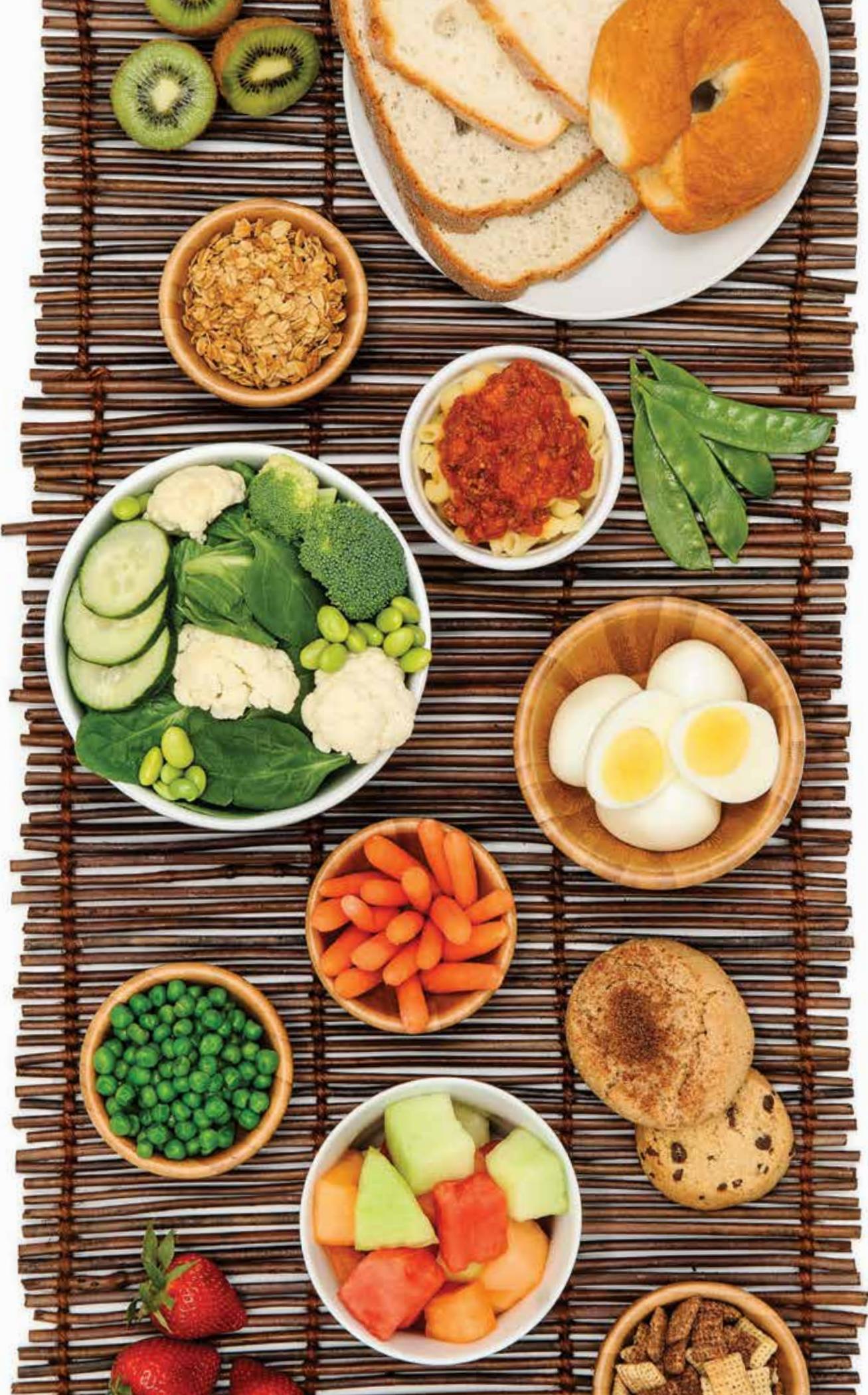
England works to ensure that even the most food-sensitive of students has options. The good news is that the gluten-free market has exploded — estimated to grow from \$10.5 billion in sales in 2013 to \$15 billion in 2016 — so the variety of products keeps growing.

The room's pantry, freezer and refrigerator are stocked with gluten-free soups, cereals, pasta, chicken strips, cinnamon rolls, tater tots, ice cream cones, waffles, pizza crust and pumpkin pie. The sandwich bar uses the same bread used in national sandwich chain Erbert & Gerbert's gluten-free subs. "It's delicious," England says.

Students can heat up a ready-made treat or use the toaster, microwave, toaster oven and frying pan to make their own meals. A white board offers a place where they can jot down special food requests.

"This is probably better than home," England says, smiling.

— TAMMY SWIFT



BASKETBALL TEAM MAKES IMPRESSION IN TOURNAMENT

NDSU made it to the NCAA men's tournament for the second straight year, competing as a No. 15 seed against No. 2 Gonzaga. Seeding didn't matter to the Bison, especially NDSU sophomore forward Dexter Warner. There was no hesitation in the 6-foot 6-inch forward, who took it right at Gonzaga's 7-footers all night, scored a career-high 22 points and was trending on social media. NDSU kept it competitive throughout, and while the score wasn't in our favor at the final buzzer, we gained respect among fans of The Big Dance.



Four championships. Four championship rings.

It took a more than 80-yard drive with about a minute and a half left to overcome a 27-23 deficit against Illinois State for NDSU to win the Division I Football Championship Subdivision title. Freshman RJ Urzendowski made an amazing catch on a third and 10, and quarterback Carson

Wentz punched in a touchdown from the 5-yard line to give NDSU a 29-27 lead. Still, less than a minute remained on the clock.

Head Coach Chris Klieman wasn't worried. Later he told reporters, "With our guys, I never saw any doubt."

After linebacker Esley Thorton intercepted a pass with 45 seconds to go, no one else doubted it either.

NDSU is the first team in history to win four straight FCS national titles.



NDSU sophomore is a cultural ambassador for Native American tribes

Cheyenne Brady wants to empower and motivate Native American children, and she's now in an excellent position to do it.

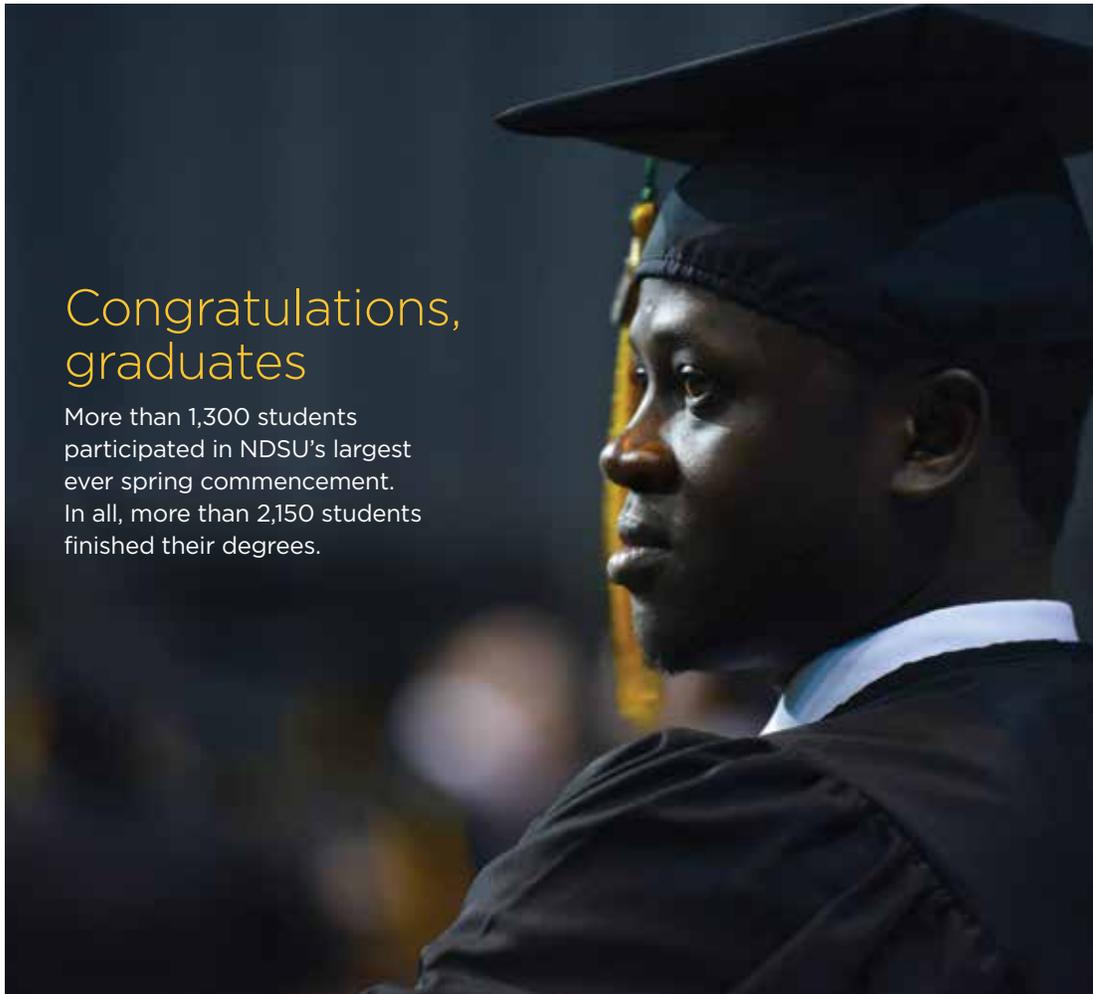
Brady is an NDSU senior in psychology and member of the Sac and Fox/Cheyenne/Tonkawa tribe. She was crowned 2015-16 Miss Indian World during the 32nd annual Gathering of Nations at the University of New Mexico on April 25. For the next year she will travel extensively and serve as a cultural ambassador for the Gathering of Nations.

"This is not about me," Brady said. "I'm a vessel for all our tribes to get out there and raise awareness."

Brady was selected from among 21 Native American contestants. Contestants for the title are judged on tribal knowledge, dancing ability, public speaking, an essay and personality.

Congratulations, graduates

More than 1,300 students participated in NDSU's largest ever spring commencement. In all, more than 2,150 students finished their degrees.



CLASS NOTES

To read the most current class notes and obituaries, and to submit information, visit ndsu.edu/classnotes.

'50s

JOHN BOLLINGBERG, BS '55, agricultural mechanization, was inducted into the North Dakota Agriculture Hall of Fame. He was a founder of the Northland Seed Company and a long-time member of the N.D. Ag Coalition, representing the North Dakota Edible Bean Growers Council. He has served on numerous state and national boards, including North Dakota Farm Bureau, National Corn Growers Association and American Oat Association.

'70s

DONALD J. HOMUTH, BA '70, speech, wrote a book, "Being Fargo," that was released in Fargo in December. The memoir includes his time at NDSU from 1962-70, including the Zip to Zap, being Spectrum editor and other NDSU-related subjects. He lives in Salem, Oregon.

STEVEN BERSETH, BS '71, physical education, MS '73, educational administration, was inducted into the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Hall of Fame during the 2014 National Athletic Directors Conference in National Harbor, Maryland. The award honors retired members who had exemplary careers in athletic administration. He was employed by the Brookings, South Dakota, School District for 39 years.

ROBERT DALZELL, BA '74, philosophy, classical languages, was nominated for the 2015 California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists Outstanding Chapter Leader Award by the Redwood Empire chapter of the organization. He is the chief financial officer of the chapter. He lives in Sebastopol, California.

GREGORY HOLTE, BS '74, agronomy, joined the Steffes Group, West Fargo, as a sales representative for online, live on-site and consignment auctions.

CURTIS W. STOFFERAHN, BS '75, social science, received the Thomas Clifford Faculty Service Award at the University of North Dakota Founders' Day Banquet. A professor and chair of sociology at UND, he was recognized for his service to the university, Greek community and various rural and agricultural organizations. He was honored for his work as University

Senate chair, chair-elect, past chair and senator; faculty adviser to Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity; board member of the Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society; and committee member for the Dakota Resource Council.

KATHLEEN (DEKREY) VANDERVORST, BS '76, home economics education, textiles and clothing, joined the West Fargo Public Library as the adult services librarian. She previously displays coordinator and reference and teen librarian at the Bismarck Public Library.

JILL (BURINGRUD) WEIGEL, BS '76, economics, retired as supervisor of taxpayer services for the North Dakota Office of State Tax Commissioner after 38 years of service. She and her husband, Norman, live in Bismarck, North Dakota.

ALICE R. SENECHAL, BS '77, communication disorders, was appointed as a full-time federal magistrate judge, serving in Fargo and Grand Forks.

'80s

JULIE (NEWMAN) ROKKE, BArch '80, architecture, joined the board of directors at Creative Care for Reaching Independence, known as CCRI, in Moorhead. She is a principal and owner of YHR Partners in Moorhead.

DUANE MAATZ, BS '82, agricultural education, was named executive director of the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association, which represents 2,700 growers in the region. He has 17 years of experience in managing growers' associations and lobbying in Washington, D.C. He spent six years as the executive director of the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association and more than 10 years as president of the Northern Plains Potato Growers Association in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

ROBERT WILLIAM FERN, BArch '85, architecture, formed the architectural firm of RW Fern Associates in Duluth, Minnesota. After graduation, he started work with Thomas and Vecchi Architects and, after retirement of one of the original partners, became vice president of John Ivey Thomas Associates in 1998.



TIM DUFAULT, BS '86, architectural studies, BArch '91, architecture, was named president of the American Institute of Architects Minnesota board of directors for 2015. He is president and CEO of the Cunningham Group in Minneapolis.

STEPHEN C. GLASS, BS '86, corporate and community fitness, published a book, "Kinesiology for Dummies," that covers biomechanics, exercise physiology and sport psychology. He is a professor of exercise science at Grand Valley State University in Michigan.

JOHN ZETOCHA, BS '86, agricultural education, was named president of the Oakes, North Dakota, market for Starion Financial. Since 1984, he has operated a corn, soybean and small livestock operation in the Oakes area.

TODD CYMBALUK, BS '87, agronomy, was promoted to senior agriculturist for American Crystal Sugar Co.

TODD FRY, BS '88, psychology, BS '89, speech communication, opened a Sunbelt of North Dakota office in Fargo. The Sunbelt franchise specializes in sales aligning business buyers and sellers across a range of markets.

KERRY MESKE, BS '88, construction management, was promoted to senior project manager at Industrial Builders Inc., Fargo.

STEVEN J. SWANSON, BS '88, business administration, was hired as vice president/financial adviser for Bell Investments, the Cetera Investment Services program at Bell State Bank and Trust.

KEVIN G. NELSON, BS '89, civil engineering, joined Wenck Associates Inc. in Mandan, North Dakota.

'90s

MARC CONNELLY, BS '90, agricultural mechanization, was named agriculture operations manager for American Crystal Sugar's Hillsboro district. He has worked for the company since 1998 and lives in Hillsboro, North Dakota.

JAMES MERCIL, BS '90, hotel, motel, restaurant management, joined the board of directors at Creative Care for Reaching Independence, in Moorhead. He is the owner of the Speak Easy Restaurant in Moorhead.

RENE PHILIPPOT, BS '90, construction management, joined Ulteig's Fargo office as a project engineer. He previously worked for Roers Construction, Fargo, as a senior project manager.

DANIEL M. OLSEN, BS '91, electrical and electronic engineering, joined Packet Digital in Fargo as vice president of sales and marketing.

RICHARD D. OLSON, BS '91, mechanical engineering, was promoted to president and chief operating officer for Home Heating, Plumbing and Air Conditioning, Fargo.

MICHEAL L. DOEDEN, BS '92, crop and weed science, joined American Crystal Sugar Co. as an agriculturalist in the Hillsboro, North Dakota, district.

CARLA KRETCHMAN, BS '92, business administration, joined Intelligent InSites, Fargo, as director of engineering for applications.

ROY J. MARTENS, MS '92, crop and weed science, was appointed to the Texas State Seed and Plant Board. He is the U.S. product development lead for RiceTec Inc.

CHRISTOPHER MARTIN TORING, BS '92, business administration, is president of EnVision Insurance Marketing, in St. Michael, Minnesota.

LYNN BUSCHETTE, BS '93, microbiology, was promoted to lab analyst at American Crystal Sugar Co., Moorhead. She has been with the company since 1996.



MICHELLE MONGEON ALLEN, BS '93, environmental design, BArch '93, architecture, was named president-elect of the American Institute of Architects Minnesota board of directors for 2015. She is principal architect for JLG Architects in Minneapolis.

DEON STOCKERT, BS '93, civil engineering, was named regional client program leader for the western region of Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services Inc. He is a licensed professional engineer in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Minnesota and Texas.

JASON EIDE, BUS '95, university studies, was promoted to manager of Enterprise Systems at NDSU's Information Technology Division.

ROBERT TRENDI, BS '95, statistics, was hired as an accountant for the RLE Group, Fargo. The firm is an architecture, interior design and marketing company.



GREGORY COOPER, BS '96, environmental design, BArch '96, architecture, was named secretary of the American Institute of Architects Northern

Minnesota Chapter board of directors for 2015. He is an architect for TKDA Architects. He lives in Duluth, Minnesota.

THOMAS ENANDER, BS '96, plant protection, and Cornelia (Jonk) Enander, BS '97, plant protection, received the National Potato Council's Seed Grower of the Year Award. They operate the Enander Seed Farm at Grenora, North Dakota.

BRENT HAUGEN, BS '96, agricultural engineering, was promoted to maintenance engineer with American Crystal Sugar Co. at its Hillsboro, North Dakota, factory.

KEVIN HOLM, BS '96, environmental design, BArch '96, architecture, was named president of the American Institute of Architects Northern Minnesota Chapter board of directors for 2015. He is an architect and manager for LHB Inc. in Duluth, Minnesota.

SHELLY GUSTAFSON, BS '97, psychology, was hired as payroll analyst for TMI Hospitality, Fargo.

MELANIE KAY (ROSENCRANS) COLE, BS '98, psychology, was certified as a wound ostomy continence nurse. She is a registered nurse for University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Construction engineering grad oversees \$494 million medical center

Joanna Slominski is the construction executive overseeing the \$494 million Sanford Fargo Medical Center being built in south Fargo. She's the big-picture person keeping one of the country's largest health-care construction projects on time and on budget in a region fraught with unpredictable weather.

Slominski graduated from NDSU in 2004 with a degree in construction engineering. She works for Minneapolis-based Mortenson Construction.

She has several large projects on her resume: a \$50 million expansion and renovation of the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis; the \$63 million Grand Casino Hinckley and Welcome Center in Hinckley, Minnesota; the \$40 million renovation of Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis; and the \$254 million TCF Bank Stadium at the University of Minnesota.

But the Sanford Medical Center is one of her biggest. It has enough doors that you'd need a key ring five feet in diameter to hold all of its keys.

More than 500 workers, including dozens of NDSU alumni, are involved each day.

Slominski has overseen all of the project's major milestones, from groundbreaking to completion of the central concrete elevator shaft to the final steel beam being welded in place.

The 11-story project is expected to be finished in 2017, but her day-to-day role is about much more than bricks and mortar.



"So much of our business is about people," she said. "It's not just about building. A lot of people have the talent to build. It's about getting them to work together to produce a final product."

Slominski is helping NDSU students use the project as an on-site learning lab. She has offered tours and mentors construction and engineering students. She also serves on the department of construction management advisory board.

In May, Slominski received the Horizon Award from the NDSU Alumni Association. The award honors a graduate of the past 15 years for early career accomplishments or exceptional service to their community.

MATTHEW ERICKSON, BS '98, animal and range sciences, and his wife, Patricia (Seidler) Erickson, BS '99, veterinary technology, of Fertile, Minnesota, were among 10 finalists for the National Outstanding Young Farmers Award. The Ericksons are partners in Matthew's 2,730-acre family farm, which produces corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and cattle.

JENNIFER HANLEY, BS '98, civil engineering, was promoted to technical manager for the civil transportation team at Ulteig in Fargo.

DAVID K. MARTIN, EDS '98, educational administration, was named director of the North Dakota Small Business Development Center at the University of North Dakota College of Business and Public Administration.

JENNIFER (KARSKY) MEHRER, BS '98, business administration, joined Intelligent InSites in Fargo as a quality assurance engineer.

RONALD OFFUTT, honorary doctorate '98, was inducted into the North Dakota Agriculture Hall of Fame. He is the founder and Chairman Emeritus of the R.D. Offutt Company, the nation's largest

producer of potatoes. He also founded RDO Equipment Co., which owns the largest network of John Deere construction and agricultural dealerships in the country, with more than 80 locations in 10 states. Internationally, RDO Equipment has dealer partnerships in Russia, Ukraine and Australia.

DR. CHAD VANDROVEC, BA '98, zoology, joined the surgical and specialty care service line at the Fargo VA Health Care System.

CLASS NOTES

CODY EILERTSON, BS '99, construction engineering, joined Houston Engineering's Fargo office as the director of operations. He has more than 15 years of professional experience and has worked for the private and public sectors.

RANDAL MELVIN, BS '99, agricultural economics, and his wife, Kristi (Uglen) Melvin, BS '04, elementary education, were national winners at the 59th annual National Outstanding Young Farmers Awards Congress in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The couple was among four national winners selected for an award based on progress in their agricultural career, extent of soil and water conservation practices and contributions to the well-being of the community, state and nation. The Melvins operate a 1,800-acre farm near Buffalo, North Dakota.

MICHAEL SCHELLIN, BS '99, environmental design, BArch '99, architecture, is president-elect for the American Institute of Architects Minneapolis Chapter board of directors for 2015. He is an associate with Kodet Architectural Group Ltd. of Minneapolis.

RENA STENSETH, BS '99, business administration, was promoted to director of human resources and benefits for Choice Financial, Fargo.

WADE WHITWORTH, BS '99, corporate and community fitness, joined KLJ, an engineering, surveying and planning firm, as a right-of-way agent. He is based in the firm's Fargo office.

'00s

CLAY BROSZ, BS '01, business administration, was hired as a business banker by BNC Nation Bank in Bismarck, North Dakota.

RYAN PERREAULT, BS '02, MS '05, mass communication, was inducted into the Fargo American Legion Post 2 Baseball Hall of Fame in January. He played for Post 2 from 1997-98. He is associate director of athletic media relations at NDSU.

CHAD ENGELS, MS '03, environmental engineering, received the 2014 Steamboat Award from the Red River Joint Water Resource District. He is a

professional engineer and certified flood plain manager at Moore Engineering in West Fargo. He also is the engineer for the Southeast Cass Water Resource District and the Bois de Sioux Watershed District.

ANDREW EROVICK, BS '03, agricultural economics, is a software engineer for Sundog, a Fargo-based marketing and technology company.

LINDSEY RENDLEN LATZKE, BS '03, mass communication, was promoted from manager to director of employment practices and policy for Graybar Electric Co. Inc., a Fortune 500 company headquartered in St. Louis. She previously practiced management-side labor and employment law with McCarthy, Leonard and Kaemmerer L.C., located in St. Louis.

SHAUN ROGERS, BS '03, mechanical engineering, joined Widseth Smith Nolting, a regional company that provides engineering, architecture, land surveying and environmental services. He is a coordinator and designer for heating, ventilation, air conditioning and plumbing projects.

SHERI STEIDL, BS '03, zoology, was hired as the residential and commercial closing officer at FM Title, Fargo.

COLLIN AUWARTER, BS '04, agribusiness, received the Distinguished Achievement Award for Professional Staff during the annual meeting of the North Central Weed Science Society. He is an NDSU research specialist in the Department of Plant Sciences.

JUSTIN ASKIM, BS '04, natural resources management, was promoted to natural resources services leader in the Mandan, North Dakota, office of Wenck Associates Inc.

DAVID BOLL, BS '04, computer science, BS '06, software engineering, was hired as a senior developer at Stoneridge Software, Barnesville, Minnesota.

ERIK KANTRUD, BS '04, management, joined CoreLink Administrative Solutions, Fargo, as a project manager.

JON KITZMAN, BS '04, computer science, is a software engineer for Sundog, a Fargo-based marketing and technology company.

KARI TEWS, BS '04, mass communication, was hired by Gate City Bank as the training and development specialist at the bank's corporate office in Fargo.

JOSHUA ANDRES, BS '05, accountancy, joined the NDSU Development Foundation and Alumni Association as controller.

MARK GLENNON, BS '05, civil engineering, joined Advanced Engineering and Environmental Service Inc. as a project engineer.

NEAL HINES, BS '05, child development and family science, was named a case manager for the New Life Center in Fargo. He recently worked as the pastor of congregational care at First Assembly Church in Fargo.

JESSICA HOPPE, MBA '05, business administration, has joined the board of directors for the Plains Art Museum in Fargo as treasurer. She is a relationship manager at Alerus Financial.



JACINTA (KUEHN) RIEDINGER, BS '05, human performance and fitness, MS '07, health, nutrition and exercise sciences, was promoted to manager of Wellness Services in the marketing division at Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota in Fargo.

AMANDA (THIESCHAFER) SMOCK, BS '05, human performance and fitness, won her fourth consecutive indoor national title in the triple jump at the USA Track and Field Indoor Championships in Boston. It was her seventh American title in the triple jump. Along with the 2012, 2013 and 2014 indoor crowns, she won the outdoor championship in 2011, 2012 and 2014.

SAMUEL WILKE, BS '05, civil engineering, earned his structural engineering license by passing an exam administered by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying. He is the structural division manager for Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services Inc., known as AE2S.

KURT KRUMWIEDE, BArch '06, architecture, was promoted to vice president at Wild/CRG, an architecture and construction firm with offices in Fargo and Bismarck, North Dakota. He has worked for the company for nine years on commercial, financial and residential projects.

KURT LYSNE, BS '06, civil engineering, was promoted to project manager in the water resources department of Moore Engineering in West Fargo.

JILL (DOWS) STROMSBORG, BS '06, child development and family science, joined Dawson Insurance in Fargo as a commercial lines account assistant.

KATIE (GROSZ) GRANT, BS '07, agricultural economics, joined Bell State Bank and Trust as a correspondent credit officer at the bank's south Fargo office.

CHRISTOPHER GROSS, BS '07, civil engineering, was promoted to project manager in the water resources department of Moore Engineering in the company's West Fargo office.

ANGELA (TUCKER) MATHERS, BA '07, mass communication, MS '10, sociology, was selected for the 2015 United Way 35 under 35 Women's Leadership Program. She is the director of student engagement at Minnesota State Community and Technical College.

ASHLEY MYHRE, BS '07, business administration, has taken on a new role as integration analyst at Discovery Benefits in Fargo.

HEIDI EUKEL, PharmD '08, pharmacy, was appointed to the editorial advisory board of Pharmacy Today, a publication produced by the American Pharmacists Association. She is an assistant professor in the NDSU Department of Pharmacy Practice.

NATHAN SAFE, BS '08, business administration, is the southeast area representative for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. His work focuses on youth-oriented areas of ministry.

MARK HONZAY, MArch '09, architecture, was named project architect and project manager at JLG Architects.



AARON VOLMER, BS '09, civil engineering, was promoted at Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services Inc. to the position of operations manager of the firm's Maple Grove and Eagan, Minnesota offices.

'10s

CHRISTOPHER HEIDRICH, MArch '10, architecture, was named project architect and project manager at JLG Architects.

JUSTIN MARUSAK, BS '10, electrical engineering, is an engineer in the power group of KLJ, an engineering, surveying and planning firm in Fargo.

JACOB STROMBECK, BS '10, civil engineering, MS '14, environmental engineering, earned his registration as a professional engineer after passing the Principles and Practice of Engineering Exam. He is a project engineer for Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services Inc.

ASHLEY (ZIRBES) CHRIST, BS '11, accounting, joined the staff of Fiebiger, Swanson, West and Co. as an in-charge accountant in the firm's Fargo office.

STEPHANIE GRAMLOW, BS '11, human development and family science, MEd '14, counseling, is the new bereavement specialist at Hospice of the Red River Valley, Fargo.

LEAH LEHN, BS '11, marketing, was promoted to manager/senior account management strategic partnerships at Discovery Benefits, Fargo.

CASEY THIELGES, BS '11, finance, was promoted to assistant vice president at Gate City Bank. He is the personal loan officer at the bank's Southpointe office in Fargo.

STEVEN WOOD, BS '11, accountancy, joined the staff of Fiebiger, Swanson, West and Co. as an in-charge accountant in the firm's Fargo office.

ARI ANDERSON, BS '12, environmental design, MArch '13, architecture, joined the architectural design and planning firm of Sclater Architects in Seattle. He is an intern with the company.

NATHAN M. ANDERSON, BS '12, accounting, MAcc '14, accountancy, received the 2014 Elijah Watt Sells Award from the American Institute of CPAs. The honor is presented to candidates with a cumulative average score above 95.50 across all four sections of the Uniform CPA Examination on their first attempt. Out of more than 91,000 individuals nationwide, only 60 candidates met the criteria for the award. Anderson is employed at Deloitte in Minneapolis.

SARA BAKKEN, BS '12, marketing, joined Flom Property Group, Fargo, as a marketing coordinator.

ALISHA NORD, BS '12, agricultural communication, is the 2015 North Dakota Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet winner. She works at NDSU for the Ag Experiment Station doing public relations and marketing for researchers on campus and at research centers throughout western North Dakota.

RACHEL JACQUELINE POND, BS '12, criminal justice, is a 911 dispatcher for the Minneapolis Emergency Communications Center. She works directly with the Minneapolis Police Department, Hennepin County Department, Hennepin County Ambulance Dispatch and North Memorial Ambulance Dispatch.

TUCKER RICHARDSON, BS '12, industrial engineering, joined Appareo Systems, Fargo, as a business analyst.

DAVID J. BOOTH, MArch '13, architecture, received an honorable mention from the St. Paul chapter of the American Institute of Architects for The St. Paul Prize Design Competition. He works for LHB as an architectural designer in the Integrated Building Design Group out of the firm's Duluth, Minnesota, office.

LAURA ENGELMAN, MEd '13, educational leadership, joined the Rochester (Minnesota) Downtown Alliance in Rochester, as its community engagement manager.

GRANT KOENIG, MArch '13, architecture, and **BLAIN MIKKONEN**, MArch '13, co-own Grain Designs, a West Fargo company specializing in custom reclaimed wood furniture and décor.

AUSTIN NGUYEN, BA '13, computer science, is an online design specialist at Bell State Bank and Trust, Fargo.

BERGEN OLSON, BS '13, business administration, appeared on the 26th season of the television show "The Amazing Race" on CBS. The show premiered on Feb. 25. He lives in Sunnyvale, California.

ELLY PETERSON, BS '13, health communication, was promoted to government affairs and advocacy coordinator at the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber. She also will co-manage the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, a program designed to involve middle and high school students in the process of establishing and running their own business.

NATALIE LEAVITT THOMPSON, BS '13, nursing, was named director of quality and education at Bethany Retirement Living, Fargo. She previously was employed as a certified nursing assistant at Villa Maria in Fargo.

DANIEL UGELSTAD, BS '13, electrical engineering, joined John Deere Electronic Solutions, Fargo, as a software design engineer.

PAUL BERVIK, BS '14, civil engineering, is a graduate engineer in the civil department in Ulteig's Fargo office.

CARI BLOMMEL, BS '14, civil engineering, was hired as an engineer in the construction management group in the Fargo office of KLJ.

ERIK DIEDERICH, BS '14, construction management, is an assistant project manager at Industrial Builders Inc., Fargo.

KAYLEY ERLANDSON, MA '14, mass communication, is a WordPress and digital marketing specialist for Western Products, Fargo.

JAKE GERMUNDSON, BS '14, accounting, was hired at First International Bank and Trust in Fargo as a community banker. He works at the bank's south Fargo location.

ESSAY BY MATT WAGENIUS

new friends, new views

LESSONS FROM A STUDY ABROAD



In the modern language, chance has two culturally accepted ideas. We can either take a chance or something can happen by chance. I have found the most meaningful moments in my life occur when those two definitions overlap. I took a chance and spent the last semester abroad in the south of France and during my time there I met some amazing people and had some life-changing experiences.

I did a full immersion program, which means that for the length of a semester I was away from my friends, family, culture, language (most of the time), and everything I have ever known to be normal.

I found two things to be true: first, taking away everything else, I was left with who I truly am. For those of you who spend years and years soul searching, I'll save you some time: channel your inner Eat, Pray, Love, move to a foreign country alone and your true self will come out in no time. Trust me, it is terrifying at first, but you just have to embrace it.

The second thing I found is that when I was vulnerable and opened myself up to new experiences, amazing things happened. The following is my attempt to take the three most significant people I met abroad and apply their lessons to my life.

Brigitte Bonnefoy, or Madame Bonnefoy as we would address her also using the formal vou form, was my language professor for



twelve hours a week. She was very intimidating, but not in the sense that she was scary, I could tell she just had experienced a lot in life and knew confidently what she did and did not want. She was short, middle aged and always wore black, usually accompanied with a fur scarf and a matching hat. She was the typical chic south of France woman of that age and always looked at everything from people to objects questioningly as if she was trying to find its deep ulterior motive.

One day in October, we were going over a past tense that doesn't exist in English and I was having trouble grasping the idea. She realized I was having trouble, so she stopped the whole class and went back over it with compassion and care, as she did for any students who were struggling.

Madame Bonnefoy was my supplementary language teacher, which in U.S. terms could be considered my main teacher. On top of that, I had alteriers or electives taught by

other teachers. For the most part, I found French teachers prefer to teach with a stiff hand, which, as someone with a strong personality, didn't sit particularly well with me. My French teachers were not very sympathetic to problems with the language and would talk condescendingly if I didn't instantly understand what they were trying to say. My theater teacher called me a "catastrophe" and failed my first test. Madame Bonnefoy had heard about this after she saw the paper on my desk. She stopped our class, marched out, and yelled at the other teacher.

Madame and I grew very close over the semester. She was crying when we were saying goodbye and we used the informal tu form.

Anna Nazarova was a student in my language small group taught by Madame Bonnefoy. Anna has a major badass vibe and I think she is the coolest person I have ever met. Anna was born in St. Petersburg and moved to San Francisco when she was 10.



I always saw her in class but was too intimidated to talk to her. About half way through the semester, we sat next to each other for the first time and started talking. It didn't take long to realize she had the same sarcastic dry sense of humor that I did, so obviously we became best friends.

I think we were still on our 'friendship fence' when she asked me about *Mt. Sainte Victoire*, a mountain just outside of Aix that I had climbed with some other friends earlier in the semester. I enjoyed doing it so much my first time that I suggested that we climb it together. We spent the entire time talking about the future and struggles back home. As with all good conversation, time melted together and we got to the top in what felt like only an hour.

She is stylish and insanely artistic, and has an attitude about life that I found intimidating while at the same time, envied. Anna provided me with a backboard for my thoughts. I could shoot ideas off of her and she would support me and together we would plan how to make our ideas possible. She was the first person in my life I felt like I could share anything with. No matter what, she was there to encourage me to be myself, despite how terrifying that might be.

Coming down from the mountain, we decided to go out to eat as a reward. We went to this little Italian place in *Le Centre-Ville*. They had divine homemade pasta and tiramisu. We continued to go there, at least twice a week, every single week. Our relationship truly blossomed over food. Slightly embarrassing, but what more could you want?

Jazz is a very talented and well-trained artist who has stared down the face of adversity almost her entire life. She lived all over Europe, speaks five languages, and is currently teaching herself Mandarin. Jazz ran a student bed and breakfast out of her 14th century Venetian house, just north of *Piazza San Marco* and that's how I met her.

The following is a conversation I had with her one afternoon in Venice. My travel mates were exhausted; we had been traveling for a week across Italy so they were taking a nap in our suite while Jazz and I shared some of her favorite tea. We were able to speak mostly in French since it is her native language.

Before Venice, Jazz owned an art shop in Paris. She lived in Paris for a long time, but one day packed up her things, sold her art shop and moved to Venice. All the money she had was wrapped up in the art shop, which naturally sold very quickly in the fast moving Parisian *arrondissement* she was located in.

Jazz was in Venice, patiently waiting for her money to come. But it never did. Jazz is from the Central African Republic. As a minority immigrant, her buyer saw her as an easy target and scammed her for her money and property. But what could she do? She had no money to sue them with. Jazz moved on with her life. Trying not to harbor any hate.

Venice is known for its beads and jewelry, Jazz jumped through hoops and worked to pay for and get admitted to a renowned art school there. She practiced and practiced and was considered a star student in her class. Once she finished her training and earned her degree, she was approached by one of the jewelry companies and instead of being offered an artist position, she was offered a cleaning job.

After again being rolled over by racism, she moved on and tried to not let it bother her. She knew there were good people out there. She kept her upbeat and positive attitude and opened her bed and breakfast. She has since spent years welcoming hundreds of people into her home.

Close to the end of our conversation, she told me that we were the last guests she would ever have. She was packing up her things and moving back to Africa later that week. She is going there and opening an orphanage and school.



Like I stated at the beginning of the story, when I was abroad, all these experiences just seemed to blend in with all the other seemingly unreal things I was doing. But now that I am back and have had time to reflect on these experiences, these are the lessons that stood out.

Madame Bonnefoy showed me how little acts of kindness can go a long way.

Anna taught me that it is ok to love myself. She also showed me that I shouldn't have to live my life in fear of being ridiculed for every thought and issue that comes across my mind. Just that little reassurance does wonders for a person.

Jazz cares so much for everyone, including people she hasn't met, that she is willing to give up everything and risk her life to help. In just the few days I spent with her, I could feel love and compassion coming from her in everything she did.

I started this essay by talking about two types of chance. But the type of chance that I want to finish with is a third type and that is the chance of something happening in the cosmic sense. If one little thing had changed, I would have had a whole different experience and maybe never would have met any of these people. If I had chosen a different university, if I would have gotten a few more questions wrong on my placement exam, if I had chosen a different hostel, my experience could have been very different. Be happy with where you are right this moment, reading this, because if one little thing would have changed, you might not be, and you might not have met the greatest people or had the greatest experiences of your life.



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DAN KOECK

BIKE SHARE PROGRAM IS A BIG HIT NDSU Student Government joined forces with Great Rides Fargo, a nonprofit group, to launch a bike share program in March. Users can unlock a bike at one station and drop it off at another. NDSU students automatically are enrolled as members in the system, and memberships also are available to the general public. In the first two months, the bikes had been used 43,317 times.