CONTENTS

2 Editor’s note

3 Contributors

4 A week of writing and art

6 Edible poetry

8 NDSU students capture, preserve history of North Dakota town

14 The first of many

16 A good run

20 Campus news

22 Class notes

26 Tribute: Catherine Cater
On August 1, 2015, a small ad appeared on the obituary page of the local newspaper — one last inspiring and classy note from Catherine Cater, a much beloved faculty member at North Dakota State University since the 1960s. “Dear Friends,” it said. “Please permit me to leave quietly, without ceremony or ado. I thank you for the diverse ways in which each of you has contributed to my happiness and well-being. You have stimulated my thinking, cared about my feelings, and allowed me to be myself. What more can one ask of a life? Thank you, Catherine Cater.”

I suspect she would not approve of my filling many pages of this issue with memories of her, and my counter argument to her would be that’s the very reason we want to remember you fondly.

You’ll see two short essays in this issue about Catherine Cater, and another online. Many tributes appeared in social media. One former student recalled her as a giant intellect and dear friend. Others wrote of becoming a better person for having met her.

She was a person who read the classics in the original Greek, and had all the intellectual ability that goes along with that. But when we met, she wanted to hear about my interests. At the time, I had just started running marathons, and you should have seen her eyes light up talking about something as unintellectual as that. I have an extra fond memory of the moment the word “marathon” escaped her, so she merrily referred to it as “the tournament” as if the tournament were the most entrancing thing to discuss at length that particular afternoon.

I once asked her to impart a bit of wisdom for the readers of this magazine, but she declined, saying that she didn’t really know what wisdom is. I’d say her last published words summarizing the best qualities of life — “You have stimulated my thinking, cared about my feelings, and allowed me to be myself” — are quite wise.

We are not all as gifted as she, but maybe we can keep her words in mind as we go about our daily lives. What could be better.

Thank you for reading.

Email: laura.mcdaniel@ndsu.edu
Twitter: @lauramcdan
ndsu.edu/magazine
LOU RICHARDSON retired in 1993 from teaching journalism classes (and some 7,000 students) at NDSU. She joined her son, Gordon Richardson, at his Fargo restaurant and catering company, VIP, and claims she makes a pretty good pie.

JERRY RICHARDSON came to NDSU in 1963, and during the next 30 years, he reported and wrote stories, took photos, supervised publications and worked to publicize the university and the Alumni Association. He spent much of that time as director of communications and university relations. Following retirement in 1993, he installed two printing presses in his basement and enjoyed years of producing letterpress pieces ranging from bookmarks to broadsides. Now, in 2015, he donated his print shop to the NDSU Art Department and hopes to continue his association with the university through informal visits.

SHADD PIEHL has been a ranch hand, stockyard bird, hog hide shaver, warehouse lumper, teacher and rodeo cowboy. As a saddle bronc rider, he competed for NDSU in intercollegiate rodeo and was twice the Great Plains Region’s bronc riding champion. Piehl is a graduate of NDSU and Minnesota State University Moorhead and has taught English and literature in Belcourt, Casselton, Fargo and Bismarck, and is currently a national online dean at Rasmussen College. He lives in Mandan with his wife Marnie and sons Owen, Wyatt and Ryder.

WES OFFERMAN works in the NDSU athletic communications office, specifically promoting the men’s basketball, cross country and track and field teams. He is a Charles City, Iowa, native who came to Fargo and NDSU in 2012. In three years at NDSU, he’s been lucky enough to witness the Bison compete in numerous NCAA Championship events across multiple sports.
a week of writing and art

The Red River Valley Writing Project at NDSU held a week-long art and writing workshop in Belcourt, North Dakota. The workshop, organized by NDSU’s Kelly Sassi, was for students in grades 7-12 who attend Turtle Mountain Community Schools.

The students tried out all kinds of genres—poetry, short fiction, memoir, oral narratives, print-making, photography, quillwork, slam poetry. The sessions were led by Native American artists and writers, including Lise Erdrich; Denise Lajimodiere, an NDSU faculty member; Hannabah Blue, an NDSU staff member; and Caitlin Johnson, an NDSU graduate student.

By the end of the workshop, the students created enough writing to fill a chapbook and enough artwork to host an exhibition. They also held an Open Mic night for the community.

They will submit their best work to the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, a prestigious national competition that has identified some of the nation’s most accomplished writers and artists, including Andy Warhol, Kay WalkingStick, Truman Capote, Joyce Carol Oates and Robert Redford.

Last year was the first time North Dakota had its own state affiliate for the competition. The Red River Valley Writing Project and the Plains Art Museum partnered to serve as an affiliate, with the goal of increasing participation from North Dakota students. The affiliate also identifies state winners eligible to compete at the national level, where millions of dollars in scholarships are awarded each year.

North Dakota made a good showing its first year, with two students winning at the national level. As the state affiliate gains momentum, the organizers expect to see even more of North Dakota’s talented students get national recognition and scholarship money.

A few poems from the project are on page 5.

ABOUT THE ARTIST
Keisha Sims is 13 years old and is in 9th grade. Things she enjoys include horror movies, financial stability, frozen yogurt and music. Her favorite things to do are drawing and writing. She strongly enjoys doing traditional art above anything else. Her favorite things to write are short stories, and she enjoys reading comic books and action-based novels.

KEISHA SIMS
CAT AND PERSON

Photos: Logan Davis
MY SPECIAL PLACE
Jeryn Marcellais // grade 8

I walk through those doors. I look down where I can see everything. This is where I take a pause, every time. It will always take my breath away. Every basketball court has the same smell; hard work, dedication, sweat, and tears. That is my favorite smell. Every time I walk in, I can’t resist myself. I have to take in a deep breath before I walk down those maroon and grey bleacher steps. The basketball court is so beautiful it could make me cry. On that short walk, I admire the beautiful black, red, maroon, and gold colors on the hardwood floor. I admire every line, the three-point line, the free-throw line, and everything in between. My favorite sight is, though, is the Braves logo right in the middle of the court, reminding me that I represent my hometown and my tribe.

The backboards are the best rectangles in the world. What more can I say? The feeling of a hardwood floor underneath your feet is something I will never forget. It’s the most memorable feeling I can get. The sound of crowds going for you or going against you is one of the most reassuring things you will feel during a game. Well, besides your coach telling you you played a good game. I can’t help but smile when a call goes my way. The referee’s whistle sends a chill down my spine, though. You never know if you’re the one who the whistle is picking on today. The squeaking of shoes is music to my ears. I always try to make a song with the squeaking of my shoes. The song will either be beautiful or horrible, there is no in between. Some people think the only thing you taste on a basketball court is when you face plant and hit the floor. Well, those people are mistaken. The only tastes on a basketball court are the sweet taste of victory and the bitter taste of defeat. The basketball court is a place where I am free. I can show everything I have. It’s my second home. The basketball court reminds me I will always be a Bravette, no matter where I go or what I do. This is truly my special place.

GRANDMA JEANNE
Tanaiah Charbonneau // grade 10

Grandma Jeanne is so nice. She makes me feel like sugar and spice. I love her with all my heart and she makes me feel ever so smart. Grandma Jeanne is my world. I would do anything for her, even if she asked me to rock the world. She always puts a smile on my face when she takes me by the hand to make me dance, and she gives me that happy glance. I LOVE Grandma Jeanne. I will do anything and everything she needs me to do. Always and forever she will be loved.

I COME FROM
Tehya Azure // grade 7

I come from a family who teaches me about my culture. I come from my grandpa who teaches me how to make gallette. I come from a family who teaches me how to sing traditional songs. I come from a place where there are sweats and powwows. I come from a grandma who teaches me how to bead. I come from a grandma who teaches me how to dance. I come from a mother who teaches me how to cook. I come from a dad who teaches me how to hunt. I come from a family who teaches me how to love.

MARSHMALLOW
Seth Belgarde // grade 7

A marshmallow is cylindrical and white. It has a grainy texture. It has no sound. It smells like gelatin. It tastes like gelatin mixed with sugar. What a perfect creation.
It is an auspicious day for the Bread Poet, yet one like any other, and by 8:30 a.m. he has already been at work for a couple hours, taking care of paperwork, helping his first crew set up for the day's production and prep for the day's rush. Jon Lee is short handed this morning, September 15, 18 years to the day after he opened Bread Poets, whose motto, “Where bread is an art form,” informs this morning’s work, because, like for any poet, the art is in the process.

And so this morning, he stands at a large, rectangular wooden table and helps make what will be the second bread produced this day, the Poet’s White, which right now is 32 pounds of dough, weighed, calculated, and placed into a round molder, which shapes and cuts the dough into loaves, which are then put back onto the floured table and flattened by hand. A bun-sized piece is added to make a larger loaf, which is again run through a molder, rolling the loaf before it is again shaped and kneaded by hand, brushed with an egg wash and placed into pans.

His employees, Lee indicates, feel he is a bit militant about the process, but baking for retail is about producing the exact same product day after day, and the time, the weight, the temperature are all factors that can be controlled and replicated.

Bread is bread, he says, it’s like pizza joints. There is a similarity but a difference in the end, and Lee is always striving for improvement, in the systems, in the recipes, in the product: a fresh, stone-ground whole-wheat artisanal bread.

Dressed in a Bread Poets ball cap and polo and wearing a white apron, Lee fits in with his employees in the bakery, though his six-foot two-inches and solid build betray the three-sport high school athlete who won a state title for Bottineau in javelin as a sophomore and who was recruited to NDSU by track and field coach Don Larson.
Lee credits his time at NDSU for really teaching him a work ethic. It was all about the team, he says. “That is where I really learned to work at becoming better, to work as part of a team.”

It is a sentiment that Larson, who has been the head coach of the Bison track team for 37 years, echoes. “I can’t say that Jon was a conference champion,” recalls Larson. “But he was always consistent, always dependable on teams that in the late eighties were deep in javelin, throwers who were often placing first through fourth in meets.”

Indeed during the years Lee was throwing for the Bison, they began a run of 13 consecutive outdoor titles (1987-99) in the North Central Conference.

After competing for four years, Lee left NDSU in 1990 with a bachelor’s in mass communications - public relations, a minor in business, and no plan. He fell into a PR job with a bread company in western Montana that franchised whole-wheat bread bakeries, and soon he was working on the business end and training franchisees.

In 1993, while waiting for a franchise opportunity in Montana, which ultimately fell through, Lee moved back to Bismarck, where he eventually took a job with Hertz Car Rental. In 1995 he transferred to Rapid City, South Dakota, to manage a location there. While on a trip to Hertz corporate headquarters in Utah, during which Lee hit up a couple Ogden-based bakeries, he had an epiphany. He asked himself what he really wanted to be doing. And the answer kept coming down to opening his own bakery in Bismarck.

Lee credits his experience in Montana to opening his eyes to the possibilities of a bread company in Bismarck, he says, but it was his time with Hertz that really prepared him to start and operate his own business. He explains that although the company had tight controls, they were also hands off in terms of letting managers run their own stores, an experience that was invaluable in preparing him for starting and running his own business.

He spent about a year working on recipes for what would become his wheat and white breads and that he initially wanted to call the bakery MoHos after the molasses and honey that he was using in the bread. He laughingly explains that it took him quite a while to realize what a truly awful name for a business that was.

It was after a late-night viewing of one of his favorite films, “Dead Poet’s Society” he started designing courtesy cards with the logo “Bread Poet’s Society.” It took him about a week before he realized that Bread Poets as a name better captured what he wanted to do as an artisanal bread shop.

That seems a lifetime ago, he says. “We were kind of winging it when we started. Since then the base recipe has changed at least 20 times. The base systems have changed another 20. Through trial and error the product we make is dramatically different than it was to begin with, but it has been gradual, and I am not sure if the customers who have been with us over the years have even noticed.”

His Poets Wheat recipe is the formulation that all the other breads they make are based on, and he tests new recipes and product in the afternoons after production. Like Purple Heart, which he describes as an AnthoGrain™ bread high in anthocyanins, which are natural flavonoids that are antioxidants and are responsible for the red, purple and blue hues in flowers, fruits, vegetables and grains. Or Rocky Mountain, which includes the super foods red quinoa and hemp in its recipe.

“What I love about the process is taking a number of raw ingredients and working with your hands and creating something tangible, something greater than its sum,” Lee says. “And today we are pretty sold out, and tomorrow we start again. In this business you make the product, hopefully the customer buys it. You see the end result.”

So on this morning the Poets White has moved into the ovens, Lee and his bakers are starting on Hawaiian buns, and soon he’ll get called away to fill a catering order from their sandwich shop Sonnets, which is attached to the bakery. Then it will be on to making challah, a traditional, Jewish braided bread. For the Bread Poet, the art and the process continues.

— SHADD PIEHL
Organizing the past
for the future

NDSU students capture, preserve history of North Dakota town

The Coleman Memorial Museum sits at the west end of Main Street, not far from one of the two railroad depots Ellendale, North Dakota, grew up around. The Roaring ’20s-era bank-turned-dental office-turned private residence is now a storehouse of the area’s memories. »
The longtime residents have been the stewards preserving this local history, faithfully recording and maintaining stories and artifacts. But as in many rural areas of North Dakota, these local historians are aging and new people will be needed to continue the tradition.

A group of 12 NDSU public history students helped fill that role. They spent two weeks in Ellendale in June, cleaning, digitizing and reorganizing the museum’s artifacts as part of a public history field school. They learned practical skills used by every museum, interacted with members of the community and recorded their work in a documentary.

One of the students is Ken Smith. He grew up in Colorado, but has spent a fair amount of time in North Dakota, including 12 years near Ellendale, teaching at nearby Trinity Bible College. Now he’s working on a doctorate in history at NDSU.

Smith pushes up his baseball cap and leans on a push broom before listing the museum’s loosely assembled exhibits and what the students are trying to accomplish. Their goal is to create a sense of order to a museum in disarray.

Smith and his fellow field workers spend the morning cleaning, painting and removing carpet. They need to get their hands dirty before they can start cataloging artifacts and adding to exhibits.

Smith introduces John Wells, a senior from Baxter, Minnesota. He wears a blue cap with a Superman logo. Naturally, it takes Wells one tug of a claw hammer to pull a side room’s entire false ceiling onto him.

“A quick job,” he jokes.

Now Wells stands in the museum’s main display room. He gets a knot in his stomach while looking at a Civil War-era musket and bayonet. Its wooden stock is wrapped in duct tape. The homemade repair likely damaged the historical value of the gun.

It’s one of several artifacts needing the students’ expert, caring hands. Horsehair robes. Cowhide mittens. A bugle from World War I. A pristine coal-fired parlor stove. Piles of farm tools. The students are busy identifying all of them.

“The project emphasizes the importance of preserving local history. We all work together to assure this town’s historical remnants are protected, and share our historical findings with a local public audience. At the end of the day, it’s about connecting with human beings and the stories they hold dear.”

ANGELA SMITH
NDSU assistant history professor
Four students are in a classroom of sorts, sitting around computers in the school section of the museum. The technology looks out of place as they work under the stern gaze of a wood-framed painting of a former Ellendale grade school English teacher.

Under the painting of Minnie stands Jeanette Robb-Ruenz, who is a retired schoolteacher and one of the key Ellendale volunteers who keeps the museum running. She remembers and mimics how Minnie would admonish students with a shake of a curled right forefinger. “Now, Richard,” she says, punctuated with a laugh.

Robb-Ruenz is busy. She has to “impart her knowledge” quickly. She sells hot dogs and burgers out of a mobile food truck each Friday and lunch hour starts in 20 minutes. The $4,000 in proceeds she raises each summer goes toward the museum’s operating costs.

She has been the museum’s curator since 1997. She grew up in Ellendale, taught there for 30 years, helped coordinate the city’s 1982 centennial and worked for the Dickey County newspaper. She edited the Ellendale Historical Society’s 125th anniversary book. She also led the efforts to house and feed the NDSU students as part of the field school partnership.

Robb-Ruenz has played an immeasurable role in preserving the area’s history. Her late husband once told her “you’re trying to save Ellendale one building at a time.”

A modest addition has been the museum’s biggest change in the last 20 or so years. The public history students aim to change that, according to Angela Smith, the NDSU assistant history professor who is leading the efforts. Smith’s goal is to add interpretive text to five exhibits and provide signage for self-guided tours by the time the students leave. She also hopes to finalize a volunteer plan, collection policy and several exhibit plans.
She wants to leave the community with a baseline inventory and a method to find, accept and display new items once the students leave.

Wells says he and his fellow students have been able to apply their classroom knowledge. They also have learned a lot in the short time they’ve been in Ellendale.

“It’s about what you do rather than what you know,” he says. “It’s great that you learn the subject, but using that knowledge to do things like working with a small-town museum makes an impact that you wouldn’t be able to do just because you know it.”

The students gather for a group photo on the museum’s front steps. The late morning break provides a brief reprieve from the stuffy confines of history. They take stock, plan their next moves and crack a few jokes.

What was your first impression of the museum?

“It was a worst-case scenario,” says one student.

“It was like grandma’s attic,” says another.

They take turns guessing how many items are in the museum’s collection. The conservative estimate is 10,000. They’ve been cataloging 10 to 12 hours per day since they arrived four days earlier.

The students break for lunch in a roped-off section of Main Street near Robb-Ruenz’s food truck. Former Mayor Don Flaherty stops by during his shift as a longtime EMT on the Ellendale Community Ambulance. He thanks the students for their efforts. They return the thanks and mingle a few minutes more on the first borderline hot day of the summer.

They’re itching to get back to work. They’ll be at the museum again well into the night.

Several students go across the street from the museum to a three-story opera house built in 1909. It’s in the midst of a $3 million renovation. The refurbished main lobby is being used to scan, digitize and archive stacks upon stacks of photos dropped off by area residents.

On top of one pile is a framed photo of politician William Jennings Bryan. He’s speaking to a throng of supporters in Ellendale. A banner serving as a backdrop declares him “America’s Greatest Citizen.”

Lis Fricker, a senior from Fargo, archives photos. A blue bandana pushes her hair back as she slides a photo from its frame and places it onto a high-resolution scanner.

“My father is in that one,” says Ellendale native Ken Schmierer as he gestures to a black-and-white photo of a basketball team from a bygone era. He’s one of the residents helping the students.

Fricker appreciates the connection. “A small group of committed people can change the world,” she says.

In this case, they are changing and perhaps saving a portion of small-town North Dakota history. Schmierer is grateful for their work. He said many years ago the town lost thousands of photos due to a fire at the newspaper office. The students’ work digitizing and archiving the photos online will keep them around forever.
“The project emphasizes the importance of preserving local history,” Angela Smith says. “We all work together to assure this town’s historical remnants are protected, and share our historical findings with a local public audience. At the end of the day, it’s about connecting with human beings and the stories they hold dear.”

As a kid, Schmierer lived in the Nodak Motel his father once owned down the street. The building was demolished in February. It was one Robb-Ruenz couldn’t save.

Schmierer looks through the opera house’s front picture window toward the museum.

“It’s a whole town’s memories,” he says.

Memories that will never be lost thanks to some dedicated students and volunteers who made the effort to preserve them.

The Ellendale History Project concluded with a documentary showing at the Ellendale Opera House. Luke Koran, a senior from St. Paul, Minnesota, led the effort to document and compile the two-week experience. About 40 Ellendale residents turned up to watch the video, which is available at https://vimeo.com/130682478. At least one was moved to tears.

– DAVID NILLES
THE FIRST OF MANY

ALEX TOSTENSON
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
PERHAM, MINN.

ALEX JOHNSON
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
CIRCLE PINES, MINN.

DANIELLE GIRTZ
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT
BECKER, MINN.

THE FIRST OF MANY

ALEX TOSTENSON
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
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ALEX JOHNSON
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
CIRCLE PINES, MINN.

DANIELLE GIRTZ
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT
BECKER, MINN.
Here is the first class of scholarship recipients from the largest endowment in NDSU’s history, donated by Doosan and Bobcat Company. The company’s gift of $3 million was matched by the state of North Dakota, adding $1.5 million to create an endowment that will distribute about $180,000 in scholarships per year in perpetuity. The scholarships go to students in STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics. As Rich Goldsbury, president of Doosan and Bobcat Company, says: “STEM-related fields help fuel innovation, which is exactly what we need to move our businesses and communities forward.”

Congratulations to the students and thank you to Doosan and Bobcat Company and the state of North Dakota.
A GOOD RUN
There was no master plan for Maddie Van Beek.
There wasn’t a clear vision of the future. There wasn’t a grand dream to chase. There weren’t even really any long-term goals for which to aim.

When she arrived at North Dakota State University in the fall of 2010, Van Beek was uncertain in almost every way. She came here from her home town of Perham, Minnesota, undecided on an academic major. While she knew she’d be running for the track and field and cross country teams, she didn’t have any idea what events she might specialize in. Van Beek also didn’t know if she would be able to achieve the same type of athletic success she had in high school.

“I loved competing, and I loved running, but I really didn’t know anything about it,” Van Beek acknowledged in a recent interview. “I didn’t have those sorts of goals just because I didn’t know anything about track other than that I loved running. I knew I wanted to get better, and that’s really all I was thinking about.”

Despite the unknowns, Van Beek was wired for success with three critical traits: a penchant for hard work, nearly unparalleled toughness and a relentless drive to always give her best effort.

Her ensuing success was by no means one-dimensional. It reaches far beyond the world of athletics.

She is a 4.0 student with degrees in English and English education, and, an indication of her academic achievement, was selected to give a student address at the winter 2014 NDSU commencement ceremony.

Her amount of campus and community involvement has been staggering — a resume that includes countless volunteer events, student leadership, and serving as the secretary and vice president of NDSU’s Blue Key Honor Society.

Van Beek was twice honored as an Academic All-American. She was selected as NDSU’s nominee for the NCAA Woman of the Year award — a distinction given to the top graduating NDSU female on the tenets of athletic and academic achievement, leadership and service.

Sprinkled throughout the last half-decade, there are multiple examples of Van Beek’s unyielding effort in the athletic arena. One common theme emerges from each tale — a tough young woman who refused to ever give less than her best.

Although the steeplechase — a unique 3,000-meter track race that features 28 hurdles, including seven barriers that splash down into a water pit — has become Van Beek’s specialty, her introduction to the event can be classified as baptism by fire. Then-NDSU head coach Ryun Godfrey entered her in the event at a meet at Duke her freshman season, even though she had never even witnessed it being run. She learned that day — by standing trackside and watching the race before hers.

That initial race wasn’t necessarily pretty — the first foray into the water pit almost never is — but Van Beek made a choice to push forward. She simply kept going.

There was the fall morning in Palo Alto, California, in 2012 when Van Beek became physically ill during a cross country race and...
was forced to stop momentarily. After getting sick, she jumped back in the race and finished, helping NDSU to seventh place in front of numerous bigger schools at the prestigious meet.

While most people might question her decision to rejoin the race, to Van Beek it was the only option. She kept going.

This spring, Van Beek took a fall in the water pit during the steeplechase at the Mt. SAC Relays. She picked herself up, didn’t bother to waste any time dusting herself off, and still managed to beat her previous career-best time.

It would have made sense to step off the track and try again next week. She did not do that. She kept going.

There was the night in Austin, Texas, at the NCAA West Preliminary Rounds when she burst into her finishing kick with 500 meters remaining in the 3,000-meter race. Needing a spot among the top three runners to advance to the NCAA Championships in Oregon, Van Beek suddenly kicked up her pace — not one gear, but two — and raced her way to a qualifying spot. Her time was a new lifetime best by 17 seconds.

Her finishing burst was so impressive that inside the normally silent press box high above the track, an audible buzz broke out as members of the media took notice, pointing out the girl in green and yellow who looked like she wanted it more than anyone else.

She did.

She kept going.

I want to see what I can do.

Whatever paper I’m writing or project I’m doing, I think, ‘When I get done with this, I want to know that I gave it all I had.’
Two weeks later, Van Beek found herself in Eugene, Oregon, and the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships were charging full speed ahead. Both grandstands at historic Hayward Field were packed to capacity, with more than 10,000 people crammed in to watch the nation’s premier college track meet. Thousands more watched on ESPN.

When that point of the collegiate track and field season arrives, the goals and aspirations become almost painfully simple. Athletes who have trained for the better part of a decade suddenly find themselves near the end of their careers — careers that become fragile when years of hard work come down to one race on one day.

Ultimately, it’s the last chance to cement a legacy. Split seconds can decide whether a college career ends unceremoniously or atop an awards stand.

Van Beek is not the type to be intimidated by those conditions. She’s not going to be overwhelmed or shy away from the situation. She’s even less likely to give up when the odds are stacked against her.

Van Beek proved it once more on that June evening at the NCAA Championships. She powered through the national finals with a lifetime-best performance yet again. Nearly 600 women competed in the steeplechase at the Division I level in 2015, and Van Beek finished eighth. She was an All-American.

How did she do it? Hard work, toughness and a relentless drive. She kept going.

“It’s not recognition,” said Van Beek, when asked what motivates her. “It’s nothing to do with getting any awards or wanting other people to know about me. I think it’s just — I want to see what I can do. Whatever paper I’m writing or project I’m doing, I think, ‘When I get done with this, I want to know that I gave it all I had.’ ”

“It’s the same with running,” she continued. “If I don’t win, or if I don’t make it to nationals, or if I’m not an All-American, I may be disappointed because I didn’t reach my goals. But I’m not going to be disappointed in myself if I’ve tried my best. My goal is to always finish knowing, ‘That was all I had. I have nothing left.’ ”

Her list of athletic and academic accomplishments becomes even more impressive when you consider what Van Beek and her husband, Daryl, went through last year. Daryl was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor in April 2014 while Maddie sat out the outdoor season as a redshirt. The following months of treatments and uncertainty meant a withdrawal from heavy track training, keeping things in perspective.

After several rounds of chemotherapy and surgery, Daryl has since been given a clean bill of health.

And Maddie has yet to slow down. “Maddie epitomizes what we want Bison track and field athletes to be about,” said NDSU women’s head coach Stevie Keller. “She’s a great athlete on the track, but she’s an amazing student and an amazing person first. We couldn’t be more proud to have her represent NDSU and our team.”

Van Beek was named the Summit League Championships Track MVP three times in her career, along with claiming the league’s Track Athlete of the Year award for the 2014 indoor season. She also has the validation of her All-American finish in the steeplechase.

But her impact on the program at NDSU likely means much more.

“There’s something almost magnetic about Maddie,” said Keller. “She’s a leader by example, and we couldn’t ask for a better one. She works so hard that she raises the bar for everyone around her. There’s no doubt — her work ethic has left a mark on our program.”

Van Beek’s legacy at NDSU is actually quite simple: with maximum effort and a refusal to give up, anything is possible.

“Throughout all of it, I learned that I’m never going to regret putting my all into something,” Van Beek said. “If it’s important, then you should put 100 percent into something. If you’re not putting 100 percent into it, then it’s probably not important to you.”

“I got more out of NDSU than I ever thought I would,” said Van Beek. “I’ve met the best people here who will be my friends for my whole life. I’ve changed as a person. I became more confident and determined.”

— WES OFFERMAN
Glover named president of NDSU Foundation and Alumni Association

John R. Glover was named president and CEO of the North Dakota State University Foundation and Alumni Association in early September, following a national search. He previously served 13 years in roles of progressive fundraising responsibility with the Iowa State University Foundation in Ames, most recently as assistant vice president of development. Prior to that, Glover worked at the NDSU Development Foundation and Alumni Association from 1998 through 2002, serving as a development associate of current gifts before being promoted to director of annual giving.

Throughout his career, he has supported two land-grant universities, NDSU and Iowa State. He earned his bachelor’s degree in journalism from South Dakota State University, a land-grant university in Brookings.

“It’s an honor to return to NDSU, and I’m humbled to work in partnership with staff, volunteers, philanthropists and campus leaders to advance the mission of North Dakota’s land-grant university. Philanthropy is a life-changing activity, and we look forward to facilitating meaningful and transformative opportunities that make a difference for students, faculty and programs,” Glover said.

NDSU students learn from ESPN broadcasters

Be kind, be tenacious, be engaged and be fun to be around. It also doesn’t hurt to have a memorable name — the career advice on-air talent and producers of ESPN’s “SportsCenter on the Road” gave to communication students during the weekly sports show’s visit to NDSU.

During college football season ESPN does a live morning broadcast featuring the hometown team. In addition, the show’s anchors and producers each week schedule a session with local students to tell their personal stories and share advice about breaking into broadcast journalism.

The event continued NDSU’s long-standing tradition of bringing the top professionals in their fields to campus to teach students. From renowned composers and musicians to Nobel Prize-winning chemists and the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, NDSU has provided students access to some of the world’s great minds.

The chance to learn from ESPN broadcasters led NDSU senior and Spectrum sports editor Pace Maier to show up early and grab a front-row seat.

“I wake up every morning and watch these people on television,” Maier said. “Sitting 10 feet away from people I look up to was very special. This was a great chance to get insight from a group of broadcasters that has reached the highest level.”

The question-and-answer session featured ESPN anchors Sara Walsh and Matt Barrie, reporter Marty Smith and producers Don Skwar and Jonathan Whyley.

NDSU graduate student Stephen Daniel said the advice was more far reaching than sports journalism.

“I’ve never had a chance to do anything like this before I got to NDSU,” Daniel said. “Since I’ve been here I’ve been able to do this and to work for a marketing firm during the ESPN ‘College GameDay’ trip to Fargo last year. It’s unbelievably helpful to learn from professionals with ESPN’s credentials. But some of the biggest things I’ve learned were about how to interact with people and really listen.”

“SportsCenter on the Road” broadcast in front of a few thousand students and fans at the Fargodome from 6 to 8 a.m. on Saturday, prior to the NDSU football team’s Homecoming victory against Northern Iowa. It was the first time NDSU and Fargo hosted “SportsCenter.” ESPN “College GameDay” broadcast from downtown Fargo in 2013 and 2014.
Modern art, vintage distribution

A woman stands in front of a vintage vending machine. She’s initially uncertain about why the restored relic is in a modern shopping mall. But she deposits $5, pulls a lever and watches a small box drop to the bottom. She smiles as she unwraps the box and sees the handcrafted, one-of-a-kind piece of art she just bought in the time it takes to pick out a candy bar.

The art vending machine at West Acres in Fargo was put there by faculty from NDSU and Concordia College in Moorhead. It’s part of a national project called Art-o-mat, which aims to make quality art more accessible and affordable. It also gives students experience creating work for a general audience.

It’s a mission to educate and entertain.

These are common themes at NDSU. Students often get experience outside the classroom that helps them successfully compete with peers. And NDSU has focused on giving the community access to affordable art of many kinds for decades.

“As artists, we try to make our work accessible and to remove the intimidation factor,” said Su Legatt, NDSU visual arts assistant professor of practice.

“Art is a different form of entertainment. And this is a way to showcase some of our great artists.”

The West Acres Art-o-mat holds work from seven artists, including NDSU students Emily Tucker, Mathew Bergier and Shelby Biffert. Legatt and Concordia’s Jeff Knight have used the machine as a tool to help students hone their artistic vision.

“Artists submit a prototype of their project to the sponsor of the national Art-o-mat group for its approval. It’s a selective process. Only the most progressive, personal and approachable projects move forward. The national headquarters agreed to help NDSU and Concordia students by providing feedback to help them improve their pieces.

Art-o-mat has been a powerful experience for Tucker, who created transparent photos of North Dakota landscapes placed between two pieces of clear plastic. The photos project onto almost any surface when backlit.

“This helped me as an artist because it made me think about exactly how to make things easily accessible to the public and how to present my art in a way that would be appealing to the eye and enjoyable,” said Tucker, whose Art-o-mat project was recently added to a machine in Vienna, Austria.

“It’s given me a lot of encouragement because I now know I can make something that people want.”

The response to the West Acres machine has been positive. The goal was to sell 10 to 15 boxes a week. The average is 23 a week. They’ve even had to twice reorder a new batch of boxes from the most popular artists.

Legatt and Knight funded the project through the West Acres Regional Showcase Program, which highlights art of all kinds to entertain visitors at the mall.

Art-o-mat started in North Carolina in 1997 as a restored vintage cigarette machine filled with the work of artist Clark Whittington. There are now more than 100 machines across the country.
CLASS NOTES

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

'50s

DARROL SCHROEDER, BS '52, animal science, honorary doctorate '08, retired from his position as co-chair of the Fargo AirSho. He held the post for more than two decades.

JIM OZBUN, BS '59, MS '61, soil science, was named interim president of Dickinson State University by the North Dakota Board of Higher Education. He is a former president of NDSU.

'60s

DAVID EMSLIE, BS '63, agricultural economics, is a competitive weightlifter and has established 82 United States All-Round Weightlifting Association records. He earned four Show-Me Games medals and set the dead lift record in the 80-kilo class in the 70-74 age group. He and his wife, Dorothy, recently moved to San Antonio, Texas.

RICHARD GREEN, MS '63, physical chemistry, was named interim president of The Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. He previously was interim provost for St. Cloud State University.

'70s

GARRY C. BOPP, BS '71, mechanical engineering, retired from Delta Air Lines as a captain. During his 36-year career, he amassed more than 22,000 flight hours. He served as flight engineer on the B-727 and copilot on the DC-9, B-737, B-757 and B-767. He was promoted to captain in 1990 on the MD-88 and retired as a lead line check pilot on the 767-400. He lives in Covington, Georgia.

JOEL DAVY, BArch '71, architecture, received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the North Dakota chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He is owner and principal at JLG Architects, Fargo.

MARY KNOX-JOHNSON, BA '71, English, MA '00, speech communication, was inducted into the West Fargo High School Hall of Fame. She taught at the school for 31 years and directed and designed more than 85 plays. She was North Dakota One-Act Play Coach of the Year four times and also was named North Dakota Creative Artist of the Year.

DUANE LILLEHAUG, BA '71, social science, was named Boss of the Year by the Fargo-Moorhead chapter of the National Association of Legal Secretaries. He is an attorney and shareholder with Maring Williams Law Office, Fargo.

JAMES G. HALL, BS '73, industrial engineering, retired after 31 years at 3M working in engineering and supply chain positions and 11 years as a financial adviser with LPL Financial.

MARY KNOX-JOHNSON, BA '71, English, MA '00, speech communication, was inducted into the West Fargo High School Hall of Fame. She taught at the school for 31 years and directed and designed more than 85 plays. She was North Dakota One-Act Play Coach of the Year four times and also was named North Dakota Creative Artist of the Year.

MICHAEL S. JORGENSEN, BS '75, zoology, is a flight test engineer at the Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division, China Lake, California. He tests computer hardware and software in the F/A-18 Navy fighter plane. He is approaching 32 years of government service and accumulated more than 3,000 flight hours in B-52s while on active duty in the U.S. Air Force.

BRENT EDISON, BS '78, business administration, joined the Vogel Law Firm's Fargo office. His practice focuses on civil litigation, trial and appellate practice, professional responsibility and liability and natural resources litigation.

CYNTHIA (SHUCK) SANFORD, BS '79, home economics, food and nutrition, earned the Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service. She is the customer service office manager for Job Service North Dakota in the Williston customer service office.
‘80s

KATHRYN (BAUER) WILTSE, BS ‘80, art education, joined the North Dakota Soybean Council as an administrative assistant in the group’s Fargo office.

MARK OBERLANDER, BS ‘81, agricultural economics, was promoted to senior agricultural banker at Dacotah Bank, Valley City, North Dakota. He has been with the bank for 16 years.

LONNIE LAFFEN, BArch ‘82, architecture, BA ‘82, architectural studies, is president of JLG Architects. The Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal recently ranked JLG fifth on a list of the top 25 architectural firms in the Twin Cities.

RALPH MANLEY, BS ‘82, physical education, was inducted into the Fargo South High School Hall of Fame. He was the swimming and diving coach at Mandan High School, where he won four state girls and three state boys championships.

ROBERT J BECKLUND, BS ‘83, electrical and electronic engineering, was inducted into the West Fargo High School Hall of Fame. He is the former commander of the North Dakota Air National Guard’s 119th Fighter Wing, known as the Happy Hooligans. He is chief of staff for the Air National Guard in Bismarck, North Dakota.

KAREN (ORTH) O’LEARY, AD ‘83, nursing, is a writer and editor in West Fargo, North Dakota. She has published poetry, short stories and articles in a variety of venues including Frogpond: A Hundred Gourds; Haiku Pix; Sharpening the Green Pencil 2014; Now This: Contemporary Poems of Beginnings, Renewals and Firsts; and Creative Inspirations. She also edits an online poetry journal called Whispers at http://whispersinthewind333.blogspot.com.

MICHAEL DESCHAMP, BUS ‘84, university studies, wrote “One Egg or Two,” a collection of short stories that explores family, friendship and tragedy. It is available on Amazon.com. He has taught high school and college English for more than 25 years.

TODD LORENZEN, BS ‘84, construction engineering, joined Big Sky Civil and Environmental Inc. as a geotechnical engineer/project manager. He manages the firm’s branch office in Missoula, Montana. He also serves as assistant football coach at Missoula High School.

JOHN OXTON, BS ‘84, physical education, was inducted into the Fargo North High School Hall of Fame. He has been a teacher and coach for 31 years. One of his teams won the 1989 Class C State Championship in Montana, and another squad won the Minnesota State Class AAAA Championship.

JEFFREY SLABY, BS ‘84, zoology, MBA ‘04, business administration, joined Moore Engineering as chief financial officer. He previously was with CoreLink Administrative Solutions, Border States Electric and Cargill’s North American Financial Service Center in Fargo.

KIMBERLEY (BRATHOLT) WOLF, AD ‘84, nursing, was named vice president of Service Line Development for Essentia Health West Region. She lives in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

RUSSELL PETERSON, BS ‘85, architectural studies, BArch ’86, architecture, was elected president of the Minnesota Chapter of the Association of Licensed Architects. Peterson and MARCIA STEMWEDEL, BArch ’86, architecture, recently merged their architecture firms and founded Clever Architecture LLC, St. Paul, Minnesota.

DOREEN M. SAYLER, BS ‘85, pharmacy, and NATALIE SAYLER, BS ’97, pharmaceutical sciences, PharmD ’99, pharmacy, of Central Avenue Pharmacy in Valley City, North Dakota, received the Health Mart Community Health Care Excellence Award. It was one of 10 pharmacies across the country to receive the award, which recognizes outstanding care and services.

JULIE GARDEN-ROBINSON, BS ‘86, MS ’89, food and nutrition, PhD ’94, cereal science, received a 2015 Regional Excellence in Extension Award. She is an NDSU Extension Service food and nutrition specialist and professor of health, nutrition and exercise sciences.

MICHAEL D. TOKACH, BS ‘86, animal and range sciences, received the Nonruminant Animal Nutrition Award for his achievements in the swine industry from the American Feed Industry Association and American Society of Animal Science. He is a professor and state leader of Extension at Kansas State University.

ROBERT B. RUUD, BS ‘87, electrical and electronic engineering, MBA ’06, business administration, and SUSAN (HANSEN) RUUD, BS ‘83, MS ‘87, bacteriology, opened Prairie Rose Meadery in south Fargo.

DANIEL P. SMITH, BS ‘87, electrical and electronic engineering, was inducted into the Fargo South High School Hall of Fame. He is considered a key member of a team from Red Canyon Software that designed and verified large programmable chips for the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle spacecraft.

KENDALL BOHN, BA ’89, art, sells 24 of his own coloring books. His designs include abstract patterns and his interpretation of mandalas, dinosaurs, butterflies and fairy princesses.

MERRIE SUE (DUBBS) HOLTAN, MA ’89, speech communication, was named director of Minnesota State University Moorhead’s Marcil Center for Innovative Journalism. She is an assistant professor in the university’s School of Communication and Journalism.

LAURIE (OLSON) SCHWARTZWALD, BS ’89, pharmacy, was named the 2015 National Preceptor of the Year by the National Community Pharmacists Association Foundation. She is co-founder of GuidePoint Pharmacy in Minnesota and serves as vice president of the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy.

‘90s

LYNN WOLD, BS ‘90, business administration, was appointed president and CEO of UnityPoint Health – St. Luke’s in Sioux City, Iowa.

ANTHONY ELLERTSON, BA ’91, MA ’01, English, is director and clinical associate professor of the games, interactive media and mobile program in conjunction with the College of Innovation and Design and the Division of Research and Economic Development at Boise State University.

CHRISTOPHER C. MYERS, BS ‘92, sociology, was named interim U.S. attorney for North Dakota. He has served in the office for nearly 14 years.

RYAN TAYLOR, BS ‘92, agricultural economics, mass communication, was appointed North Dakota state director for U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

LISA (CHRISTENSON) DYBDAL, BS ‘94, child development and family science, is a paraprofessional in the special education department at Morris (Minnesota) Area Elementary School.

MERIDETH SHERLIN, BS ’94, MA ’02, mass communication, was named director of admission at NDSU, following a national search. She joined the NDSU Office of Admission in 1997 as coordinator of outreach activities and created NDSU’s tele-counseling program, Tele-Student. Following several promotions in the office, she was named associate director in 2003 and appointed interim director in 2015. The admission team has contributed to steady enrollment growth in the freshman class from slightly more than 1,500 students to 2,500 students. The office receives approximately 9,000 applications each year.

DAWN (MORSETH) BRENAMEN, BS ’95, nursing, MBA ‘11, business administration, joined Noridian Mutual Insurance Co. as manager of health informatics.
PETER S. JOHNSON, BS ’96, business administration, joined Town and Country Credit Union, Fargo, as an executive mortgage officer. In 2012 and 2014, he was named the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency Champion of Affordable Lending Loan Officer and was a 2014 Platinum Lender with Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

SHANA PETERMANN, BS ’97, MS ’01, microbiology, was named Educator of the Year by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System. She is a microbiology instructor at Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Moorhead.

HEATHER (EVANS) KREHLIK, BS ’98, physical education, was named Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. She is the physical education department chair at Derry Area School District.

KEITH BERGSETH, BS ’99, business administration, was named general manager of Bergseth Bros., a wholesale beer distributor.

MATTHEW BLAUFUSS, BS ’99, agricultural economics, joined IAB Financial Bank of Fort Wayne, Indiana, as an agribusiness lender.

BRIAN POST, BS ’99, civil engineering, was elected section president for the Chesapeake Section of the American Society of Highway Engineers. He is a transportation project manager and serves as Gannett Fleming’s Highway Group manager in Baltimore.

’00s

JASON HUCK, BS ’01, computer science, and BERET HUCK, BS ’02, humanities, started Project 1:17, a nonprofit organization, to help Ethiopian citizens support their families and raise healthy children.

TODD KNAIN, BS ’03, management, MBA ’10, business administration, was promoted to director of planning at Noridian Healthcare Solutions, Fargo.

JORDAN (ZELLMANN) SCHRUPP, BS ’03, veterinary technology, received the AVTE/Wiley Blackwell New Teacher Award at the Association of Veterinary Technicians Educators biennial symposium in Niagara Falls, Ontario. She is a lecturer in the NDSU veterinary technology program.

KASSIE FAY SWENSON, BS ’03, speech communication, was named director of strategy and system alignment for Federal Way Public Schools in Federal Way, Washington.

CORTNEY (WARD) CHRISTENSEN, BS ’04, elementary education, was named the Fargo Marathon’s women’s 10K in a time of 41:38. She lives in Hallock, Minnesota.

SARAH (BAERTSCH) LUTZ, BS ’05, child development and family science and pre-elementary education, was named the 2016 South Dakota Teacher of the Year. She is a third grade teacher at Stanley County Elementary School in Fort Pierre, South Dakota.

CHANDRA (JOHNSON) NILSSON, BS ’05, veterinary technology, received the Emerging Leader Award from the South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association. She is a member of the Groton, South Dakota, Veterinary Clinic and is a mixed-practice veterinarian.

CALLIE JEAN NORDAHL, BS ’05, business administration, has founded a nonprofit titled Students Abroad Sexual Assault Resource Initiative.

DR. SUSAN SAFRATOWICH, MS ’05, zoology, has joined Lifetime Vision in Grand Forks, North Dakota. She graduated from the Illinois College of Optometry in 2009.

KRISTIN (MCDOUGALL) SHARBONO, MEd ’05, counseling and guidance, joined The Village Family Service Center in Fargo as a family-based therapist.

TYLER TRACY, BS ’05, recreational management, MS ’13, health, nutrition and exercise science, was named activities director at Park Christian School in Moorhead.

SANDRA GILBERTSON, MEd ’09, educational leadership, was named executive director of human resources at North Dakota State College of Science, Wahpeton. She previously was chief executive officer at Circle of Nations School, Wahpeton.

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT PATERSON, BUS ’08, university studies, finished his first season as manager of the Sioux Falls Canaries of the American Association. He reports he will return to the team next season for his seventh year as a professional baseball manager. He also is entering his fourth season as a scout for the Miami Marlins baseball club. He lives in Yucaipa, California.

DANIEL SCHWANDT, BS ’08, electrical engineering, MS ’11, electrical and computer engineering, joined John Deere Electronic Solutions in Fargo as a software design engineer.

TEANNA ADDUDELL, BS ’09, veterinary technology, received the Outstanding Veterinary Technician Award from the South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association. She is a vet tech at Noah’s Ark in Rapid City, South Dakota.

CHRISTINE DIMMER, BS ’09, interior design, passed the National Council for Interior Design Qualification exam. She lives in Fargo.

‘10s

RYAN BACON, BS ’10, industrial engineering and management, was promoted to director of operations at JDP Automation in Moorhead, Minnesota. He has worked with the company since 2007.

TRISH GLASS BAUMAN, BS ’10, management, was named a member of the 2015 Executive Council of New York Life Insurance Co., which recognizes the most successful of the company’s sales force. She lives in Linton, North Dakota, and is associated with New York Life’s Fargo office.
Innovative engineering grad named to prestigious ‘30 Under 30’ list

Andrew Dalman was named one of the nation’s top “30 Under 30” in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. SME Advanced Manufacturing Media selected honorees based on nominations from around the United States. The list appeared in the July 2015 issue of “Manufacturing Engineering.”

He earned his bachelor’s degree in manufacturing engineering from NDSU in May 2015 and is now an NDSU master’s student in mechanical engineering. Dalman said he was honored to be selected and recognized for work he loves.

“I just really want to do cool stuff, whatever that happens to be,” Dalman said. “Some people paint, other people play music. I do stuff like this.”

David Wells, NDSU professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering, nominated Dalman. “When I think of what a student who is going to be a professional engineer should be like, I think of Andy Dalman,” Wells said. “He’s creative, curious and highly intelligent, and he’s also very driven. Everything he’s accomplished so far bears that out.”

Dalman was selected for the prestigious University Innovation Fellow program through the National Center for Engineering Pathways to Innovation as a junior. At the time, he was a member of a Bison Microventure team working to develop a ceramic artificial jaw implant. Dalman designed the 3-D printing techniques, or additive manufacturing techniques as they’re called in the industry, for creating the outer shell. The team has filed for a U.S. patent for the process.

The same team is now developing an artificial bone material that will allow for accurate testing and development of medical devices and training for surgical procedures. Their work could lead to the ability to create replicas of bones so surgeons can conduct destructive surgical tests before making any incisions into patients. The material also could lead to more precise customization of implants for patients.

In a separate project, Dalman was part of a four-person team at NDSU that created a myoelectric prosthetic arm for kids that includes a wrist, elbow, hand grasp and a pinch. The team designed the arm for a three-year-old, and it can be 3-D printed at any scale as the child grows. It costs about $400 to print the arm’s parts, compared with similar prosthetics that can retail for more than $30,000.

The project was one of only 10 in the world to receive an inaugural OZY Genius Award, which included a $10,000 stipend for developing it further. OZY Films documented the NDSU team’s work throughout the summer for inclusion in a documentary.

MARY A. BERG, BS ’10, animal science, was named Communicator of the Year by the North Dakota chapter of the Association for Communication Excellence and NDSU Communication. She is the NDSU Extension Service livestock environmental management specialist at the Carrington Research Extension Center.

JOSHUA MCALLISTER, BS ’10, business administration, was promoted to personal loan officer for Gate City Bank at the bank’s West Fargo location.

ELISE PFORR, MS ’10, child development and family science, was promoted to program director at Boys and Girls Club of the Red River Valley in Fargo. She joined the organization in 2012 and was a program coordinator overseeing multiple sites.

SCOTT STRENGE, MEd ’10, educational leadership, was named the North Dakota Middle School Principal of the Year. He is the principal at Wyndmere, North Dakota.

JILL MCMULLEN, DNP ’11, advanced nursing practice, was hired at Saint Joseph’s, an outpatient mental health clinic in Fargo.

BETHANY JOHNSON, BS ’12, human development and family science, was promoted to program manager at the North Dakota Autism Center, West Fargo.

RAMESH SINGH, BS ’12, computer science, MBA ’14, business administration, was hired by Stoneridge Software as a senior consultant.

ANDREW D. SMITH, BS ’12, history, joined the Vogel Law Firm in Fargo as an attorney. He practices in the areas of civil litigation, business law, real estate law and environmental law.

AARON TOLLEFSON, BS ’12, agricultural economics, joined RDO Equipment as an internal auditor.

KAYLIN SHEETS, BS ’14, human development and family science, was promoted to Super Stars head teacher at the North Dakota Autism Center, West Fargo.

JACOB STEVENS, BS ’14, accounting, joined Widmer Roel, Fargo, as a staff accountant in the audit department.

NATALIE AUGHINBAUGH, DNP ’15, advanced nursing practice, joined Sanford Health as a nurse practitioner at the West Fargo Clinic.

DIANNE KAPPELMAN BEYER, DNP ’15, advanced nursing practice, joined Sanford Health Broadway clinic in Fargo as a nurse practitioner.

SARAH CROOK, MArch ’15, architecture, was promoted to architectural designer with the Integrative Design Team in Duluth, Minnesota. Crook also is a U.S. Green Building Council LEED Green Associate.

SAMANTHA KRAMER, BS ’15, dietetics, joined Medical Weight Loss Specialists, Fargo, as a registered dietitian.

CARLY SCHINDLER, BS ’15, human development and family science, was promoted to Little Stars head teacher at the North Dakota Autism Center, West Fargo.

SHELBY SORUM, BS ’15, interior design, is co-owner of 701 Design + Events that recently opened in downtown Dickinson, North Dakota.
1917 CATHERINE CATER 2015
Farewell to a friend of the world

When she crossed the border in the early ‘60s, she came in something of a huff. Years later Catherine Cater hinted that the Moorhead State College administration had issued a requirement that she either couldn’t or wouldn’t comply with so she and her friend and housemate Delsie Holmquist packed their bags and found employment in the English Department across the Red River at North Dakota State University.

And there she remained, bringing intellectual stimulation to decades of students until and well beyond her retirement. Although she was forced to take mandatory retirement when she was 65, Dr. Cater took her emeritus status seriously and continued to shepherd the Scholars Program she had started years earlier and to mentor and advise dozens of students through the next 30 or so years.

Jerry and I came to Fargo in 1963, Jerry to run the news bureau in the NDSU Communications Office and I to enter the English Department’s graduate program. Within two weeks of arrival, I was enrolled in Dr. Cater’s Southern Literature course.

Note the date. Catherine was born and educated in Alabama in a mixed-race family. She earned her bachelor’s at Talladega College in Alabama where her father was a dean at the college. She continued her education at the University of Michigan where she received a Ph.D.

Catherine was a child of the South. We studied Faulkner, Welty, Caldwell and Carson McCullers in her literature class. But we also discussed the Civil Rights movement that was sweeping through the South. Catherine rarely added personal anecdotes to her lectures, but in subtle ways she was shaping the attitudes of her North Dakota students.

Later I joined the NDSU faculty in the Communication Department and Catherine, Jerry and I became colleagues and friends. Our children became her students and they studied in the Scholars Program she had initiated.

Those who knew Catherine will agree, I believe, that her focus was always on the intellectual and philosophical and rarely on outward appearances. Her office, her house and later her garage on 10th Street North were filled with an accumulation of thousands of books.

Because she never learned to drive and didn’t own a car, she usually walked to her office in Minard Hall even during bitter cold winter days. She wore a long, very warm trench coat and sturdy shoes. Not all that stylish, but very practical.

A Spectrum reporter during the ‘80s interviewed a number of fashionable coeds about their definition of style. And included, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, Catherine among the commenters. Of course, her remarks were sensible, defining style as that which is most appropriate to the occasion.

She, Catherine, would continue to wear clothing that was comfortable, decent and clean. When she attended a gathering of her friends and colleagues (including President Dean Bresciani) on the occasion of her 94th birthday in 2011, she wore a pretty outfit and bedroom slippers. Perhaps her feet hurt.

Catherine loved to travel and took every opportunity to explore the corners of the world. Occasionally she took tours but most often she and Delsie would plan their own itinerary. She claimed not to have been at all intimidated when she left a tour group in Hong Kong to slip alone over the border into Communist China, but the tour guide was a bit upset.

During her 90s, Catherine had a serious heart attack that demanded medical care for the rest of her life. Eventually she moved into Bethany Homes on University Drive where she continued to receive former students, faculty colleagues and friends.

Dr. Cater moved through intellectual circles for most of her life, conversing with some of the country’s great minds, chairing seminars, and inspiring students. Toward the end of her life she took up the study of The Brain, accessing information from her computer and accumulation of books.

But downstairs in the Bethany dining room, she met new friends and delightedly accounted how she was learning a new vocabulary from a table mate with the tongue of a sailor.

How we miss her, this delightful, inspiring woman who with great compassion claimed the world her friend.

– LOU RICHARDSON
The phone rang in my office in Ceres Hall just minutes past 8 on a Monday morning in 1984.

"Am I interrupting you?"

"No."

"You're sure I'm not interrupting?"

"I'm sure."

The caller was Reuben W. Askanase, calling from his office in Houston, Texas. It was not unexpected. The calls came predictably on Monday mornings. Of course, I didn't tell him that part of my job was talking to NDSU’s alumni and friends and taking his call was never an interruption.

Askanase, a Fargo native and former NDSU student who by then was a successful businessman in Texas, had previously made a substantial challenge gift to the university that resulted in the building of Askanase Hall in the 1960s. Acting-President Bob Koob had suggested he might be interested in contributing to another project and asked me to convey the idea.

Askanase and his wife, Hilda, had met Dr. Catherine Cater on one of their visits to Fargo and the three had become good friends. Perhaps the Askanases would like to establish something in Dr. Cater's honor.

Koob suggested establishing an honorary professorship in her name.

"How much do you think that might cost?" Askanase asked me. When I queried Koob, he said, "Tell him half a million dollars."

Askanase: "That's way too much! What else can you suggest?"

Koob backed down the request: "How about a series of prominent guest lecturers? He could peg that at any level he feels comfortable with."

The idea suited both the Askanases and Cater. She had been instrumental in bringing guest speakers to the campus before, including University of Chicago President Robert Hutchins and anthropologist Ashley Montagu in the early '60s.

Now with the Catherine Cater Humanities Lecture Series established, she was able to help select and invite distinguished humanities educators to NDSU.

The first lecture was given in October 1987 by NDSU graduate Patty Dodge Stocker, then associate dean of business at the University of Maryland, followed over the next 10 years or so by University of Chicago President Hanna Gray, Stephen Toulmin of Northwestern, Frederick Bernthal of the National Science Foundation, Bard College President Leon Botstein, Brown University President Vartan Gregorian, Yale historian Howard Lamar, Sheldon Hackney of the National Endowment for Humanities, psychologist Richard Voss, North Dakota historian Clay Jenkinson and others.

That Catherine was instrumental in bringing this group of noted humanities scholars to NDSU was typical of her dedication to what she eloquently termed "the life of the mind." She was an extraordinary teacher and until the end of her life at 98 she never wavered in her pursuit of knowledge.

– JERRY RICHARDSON
MUSIC WITH A MASTER  NDSU music students had the chance to work with Grammy Award-winning composer Eric Whitacre in October. He is composer-in-residence at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, United Kingdom, and was the keynote speaker for a national choral symposium on campus, which was organized by the NDSU Challey School of Music, the American Choral Directors Association and American Composers Forum. Whitacre spent time working with NDSU’s choral ensembles and conducted a concert featuring the choirs.