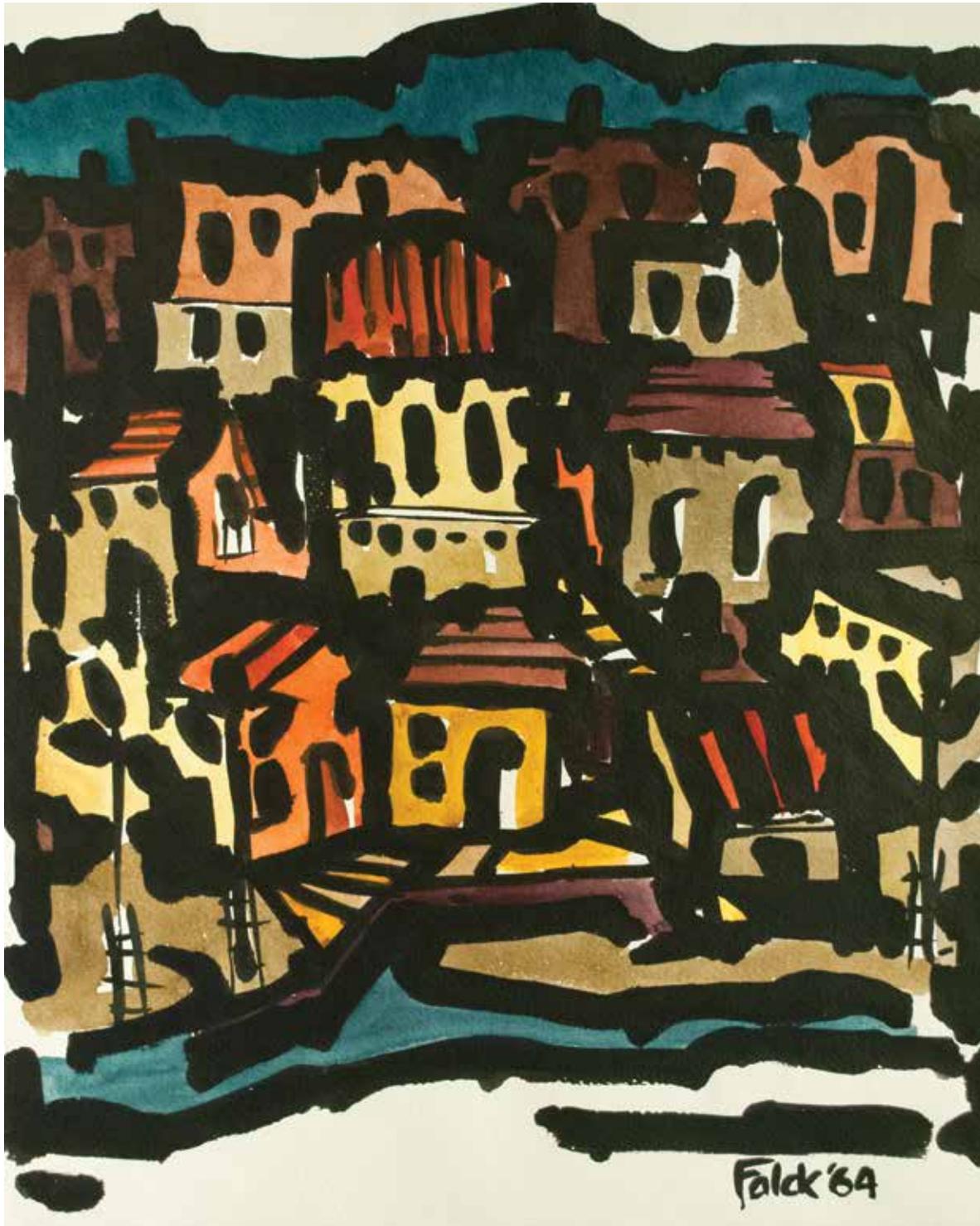


# NDSU

MAGAZINE  
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY *winter 2017*





**A PRESS FOR THE PLAINS AND PRAIRIES**



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**GREENHOUSE TOUR** Fargo Public Schools fifth-graders recently visited NDSU greenhouses to learn about agricultural research. Chiwon Lee, professor of plant sciences, demonstrated hydroponic growing methods.

# NDSU

MAGAZINE  
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY *winter 2017*

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## EDITOR'S NOTE



When she first took up residence across the street a few years ago, we called her Shorty, this little black dog with the long curvy tail who has her eye on all that transpires, who slowly but surely made the entire neighborhood her territory. After many months of watching her watch us, I finally ran into one of her humans and learned her name is Daisy.

We furthered our acquaintance with her by buying a giant bag of puppy treats at the tractor supply store for \$1.99. Those were the carefree days when two (or four) of those cheap treats did the trick. Back then the treats were on the counter in the back of the garage, so she would trot in and head over to the supply area. At first, I kept my distance.

My formative experience was when I was about six, chased by Tina the mutt from four houses down, while on my bike. I was terrified and screaming and pedaling as fast as I could, which culminated in a spectacular over-the-handlebars spill and Tina on top of me barking like crazy. I have a vivid memory of my brothers standing on the front steps relishing the carnage. So not that much of a dog person.

But Daisy. I couldn't resist. She and I have those short legs in common, and here I am, for the first time in my life, in love with a dog.

Especially since she started watching for me to come home from work. If she doesn't get over before the garage door closes, she waits at the front door. I understand that the draw is the treats — now a much more elaborate selection including her favorite salmon snacks and sweet potatoes, but her visits make me ridiculously happy.

Her tail never stops wagging while she's with us, and when she does head home, she always turns to check that we're watching her go. When she frolics with the children next door, my heart melts as they play. I do get a little jealous when I see her trotting up someone else's



driveway, but I doubt their snacks are as good as ours, nor do they have special water dishes for her in the garage and on the back patio. And I don't think they walk her home with a big flashlight if it gets a little too dark while she's visiting.

Sometimes, after she's had a few snacks, she likes to just sit quietly. I sit on a little stool and she lays on the garage floor. For all her sparkle, she seems to know that the very truest of friends enjoy silent kinship. It makes me think of my dad, who also liked the quiet, and spent a lot of time puttering in the garage with a crackly transistor radio and the voice of Herb Carneal doing play by play of a Twins game. I didn't know to slow down and savor those times, but I'm getting a second chance, and I'm taking it. You never know where you'll find an extra ray of sunshine.

May you also have people and pets or neighbor's pets in your life who bring you unexpected moments of joy.

Thank you for reading.

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# CONTRIBUTORS



**TOM ISERN** is professor of history and University Distinguished Professor at NDSU. He earned his doctorate from Oklahoma State University. He is the author or co-author of six books about life on the Great Plains of North America, including *Dakota Circle: Excursions on the True Plains*. He is best known across North

Dakota for his weekly feature, *Plains Folk*, on Prairie Public radio. He has received five major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and also won the Peltier Award for Innovative Teaching and the Fargo Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Professorship. He is president of the Western Social Science Association and is founding director of the NDSU Center for Heritage Renewal.



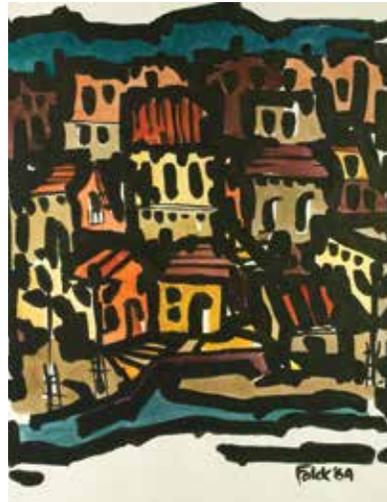
**JEFF KOLPACK** Jeff Kolpack is a 1987 graduate who was lucky enough to have the greatest journalism professor on the planet in Lou Richardson. He learned his life's lessons at the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity house before taking jobs at the Jamestown Sun, Bismarck

Tribune and Forum Communications, where the printed word thing has morphed into online video shows, blogs, radio shows and TV appearances. Funny thing on his way to covering a Division I football program; it came to him when NDSU ditched Division II in 2004. It eventually turned into the book project "Horns Up: Inside the Greatest Football Dynasty" that was released in the fall of 2016. He and his wife, Ruby, also an NDSU graduate, live in Fargo and have three children.



**ANNE ROBINSON-PAUL** works in University Relations at NDSU. She grew up in central Minnesota listening to the grown-ups tell stories over coffee and pie. They were good storytellers. They taught her a lot about character development and narrative arc. She went on

to study writing and literature in college and graduate school and has worked as a reporter, college writing instructor and communication professional. She lives in Dilworth, Minnesota, with her husband, Eric, and children, Jonah and Emma.



19X24" UNTITLED WATERCOLOR, 1964

## ON THE COVER

As the son of a North Dakota farmer, **JIM FALCK** put aside his impulse to major in art. Instead, the Air Force ROTC scholarship student signed up to study architecture, although he did take an art class here and there when his schedule allowed. A tour of duty with the USAF followed his 1953 graduation. From there, he practiced with a number of prominent architectural firms in Denver, Houston, Flagstaff, and then Phoenix, Arizona.

Falck was drawn back to Denver by the opportunity to work for Victor Hornbein, considered the most significant architect in the region — a Usonian-style modernist in the tradition of Frank Lloyd Wright. Throughout this time, he took classes in drawing and painting whenever he could. His artwork attracted interest. He had exhibitions mounted at the Denver Art Museum, The Dallas Fine Arts Museum, several Colorado galleries, and in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

In 1966, Falck relocated to Boston to work in the lead office of Bauhaus founder Walter Gropius. But after five years, Falck made an unexpected shift in his career, becoming chief landscape architect for Boston's Metropolitan Park System, a position he held for 17 years until his retirement in 1988, shortly before he turned 60. What followed for the next 25 years was not so much retirement as personal renaissance, the long-delayed but buoyant career as an artist.

# (Un)still Life



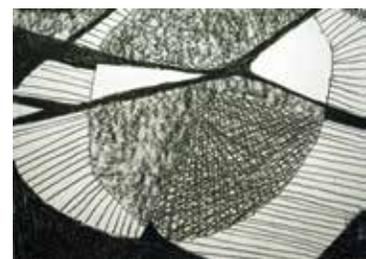
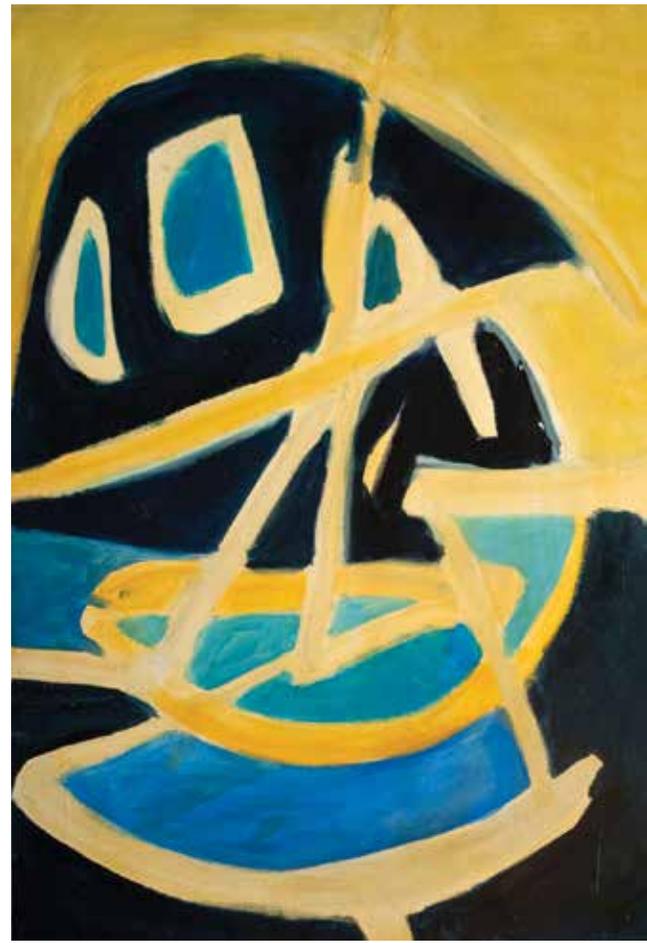
By all means, when you step in front of one of Jim Falck's paintings, take note of his technical execution, compositional unity, the punch and pop to the way he used color. Consider his expressiveness. Recognize nods to the 19th-century masters — Cezanne, Picasso, Matisse, as well as Diebenkorn from the 20th-century — painters Falck especially admired and studied.

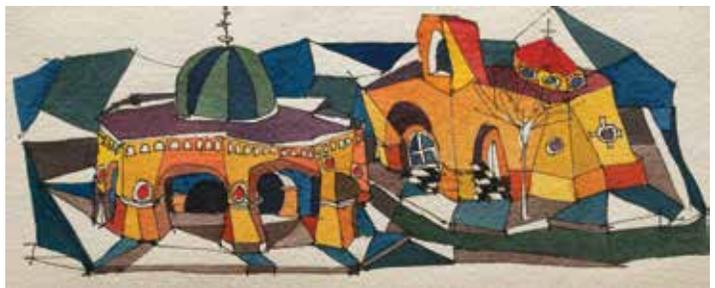
But don't fail to notice that which can't be parsed — one man's profound engagement and pleasure in making art. The romantic myth of the suffering artist has held sway too long in our public imagination. The act of creation insists upon intellect and intuition. Such work, done well and with integrity of spirit, is a robust and renewing undertaking. Imagine Falck, sequestered in his studio, alone with canvas, paints, brushes, and replete in this opportunity at last to focus on the work at hand.



The moment for a determined, uninterrupted conversation with color, texture, line, and balance was a long time coming. Falck had wanted to major in art as an undergraduate in the 1950s. Instead, he followed a more practical pathway as an architect, and later a landscape architect. But, oh, when he retired — well, he made up for lost time.

By now, he was living in a large New England house in a town outside Boston. Untethered from the work and career that he had served well, Falck finally became the art student he had wanted to be. He enrolled at the nearby Montserrat College of Art and studied painting, drawing, and art history. He turned his windowless cement-block basement into an unprepossessing studio where he worked prolifically for the next 25 years — at least whenever he wasn't traveling to Italy, Portugal, Mexico, or Spain to study and paint. It was a good life.





In 2013, Falck, diagnosed with cancer and given only a few months to live, asked his niece, Mary Anne, who is married to NDSU Development Foundation Chair Steve Swiontek, to help him set up an endowment for NDSU art students. A man not given to unduly fussiness over his finances — his checkbook lived in his breadbox and his bond certificates among his tablecloths and napkins — he was truly surprised by his net worth. His gift to the Department of Visual Arts, including endowment and artwork, totaled \$3.6 million. With this bequest, he hoped to give aspiring NDSU artists a leg up. Falck, it seems, had never forgotten he had to defer his dream until later in life. Here's hoping the students who gain from Falck's generosity discover in themselves something of the man's spirit, steadfastness, and joy.



NDSU graduate **ILHAN OMAR** is the Minnesota House Representative for District 60B. She made history in November 2016 when she was elected the nation's first Somali-American legislator.

**HOMETOWN:** Mogadishu, Somalia

**LIVES IN:** Minneapolis

**MAJOR:** Political science and international studies, 2011

**Why did you chose your major?**

Those are two areas that are of interest to me, given my background and upbringing. From a young age, I knew that I wanted to be engaged in my local political processes and be an informed global citizen.

**How did NDSU prepare you?**

NDSU provided an open and tolerant learning environment in which I was able to form my own independent and informed opinions with the help of a great faculty, student body and curriculum.

**What led to your current position?**

I fell in love with politics at the age of 14. I acted as my grandfather's interpreter so he could participate in our local Democratic-Farmer-Labor caucus, in the district I now represent. Watching neighbors come together to advocate for change at the grassroots level inspired me to get involved in the democratic process. I came to the realization that I actually wanted to run for the House of Representatives in 2015. There wasn't really one day or one thing that led to me deciding to run for office. It seems like my work with Women Organizing Women, my activism in the community and my progressive values kept pushing me toward this decision.

**What is your biggest takeaway from your campaign experience?**

There isn't anything you can't accomplish if you are willing to work with and surround yourself with a dedicated and hardworking team. You can't always do everything by yourself and don't ever take anything for granted.

**What goals do you hope to accomplish while serving?**

I hope to inspire future generations, especially communities of color that are often marginalized, to continue to be involved in the process and take on leadership roles. I also hope to increase transparency and accessibility in government.

**Do you have any advice for current students?**

Whatever you decide to pursue, be bold and don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do something because you can do whatever you put your mind to. Don't be afraid of failure. Failure often precedes success because you need to make mistakes in order to learn. Success is great and something to strive for, but it doesn't often teach you something. Learning is one of life's greatest gifts.



I hope to inspire future generations, especially communities of color that are often marginalized, to continue to be involved in the process and take on leadership roles.



# A press for the plains and prairies

NDSU Press has a new leader in Suzzanne Kelley, who has set a goal to become a one of the country's top university presses. She's making headway, particularly with the need to increase the number of books published. In the previous 67-year history of the press, it has published approximately 60 books. She'll have published another 13 by the end of 2017.

She's also made it a teaching press. Kelley teaches publishing classes that give students the full experience of editing and publishing books selected for publication by NDSU Press. A recent class worked on a book of North Dakota Poet Laureate Larry Woiwode's poems, including printing and finishing the project on old-time equipment. Another class produced a collection of poetry by North Dakota Associate Poet Laureate Denise K. Lajimodiere, also assembled and printed at the Braddock Letterpress Print Museum.

Kelley is assistant professor of practice for the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. She earned her

doctorate in history from NDSU in 2010 and began working with NDSU Press in July 2015, following previous work with a national literary press and four scholarly journals since 2001. She teaches courses in publishing, directs activities of the press, and pursues scholarly research in the Great Plains, Australia, and New Zealand, discovering connections between memory and place. In May 2017 Kelley was elected president of the Midwest Independent Publishers Association, which serves a 12-state region including North Dakota.

She instituted an annual book launching event, and set the date as the first Thursday in March each year.

"We are making great strides toward becoming the press of choice for scholars of the plains and prairies," Kelley says. The mission of NDSU Press is to stimulate and coordinate interdisciplinary regional scholarship throughout the Red River Valley, North Dakota, the North American plains, and similar regions around the world. NDSU Press is part of the Institute for Regional Studies.



## Music at NDSU

### NDSU Press publication chronicles the history of music on campus

Piano professor and music historian Robert Groves has written a history of music at NDSU. The book charts the rise of music as an academic field on campus, starting from a loose set of singing clubs and private instrument lessons in the 1890s. Groves defines the key stages of leadership over the decades that grew the small service department into today's endowed Challey School of Music. It now offers an array of degrees through the graduate level for upcoming performers and music educators, as well as opportunities for nonmajors to join bands, choirs and staged operas.

He also delves into engaging details such as the origin of the Gold Star Marching Band's name, the opening of band membership to female students and the acoustic merits of the old Festival Hall, and the staging of countless performances, including by legends such as Louis Armstrong and Sergei Rachmaninoff. The book includes more than 200 photographs of the people and ensembles that influenced the deep musical roots at NDSU for more than a century.



# the breathing gym

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Opening convocation this fall for NDSU's performing arts division was one to be remembered. It was the official start of tuba virtuoso Sam Pilafian's role as visiting artist at NDSU.

He brought about 150 students and faculty members to their feet in Beckwith Recital Hall. They rolled their shoulders and shook out their hands. They took in air, held their breath and blew it out. "There's a sound to this," he pointed out as they worked through patterns of breathing.

Everyone opened themselves to it, not the least bit self-conscious about standing shoulder to shoulder, inhaling and exhaling loudly and rhythmically as a group. They focused on their breathing and the ways in which they could control it. Then they performed the "Star Spangled Banner" twice — once just using their breath and breath control and then with their voices, accompanied by Pilafian on tuba.

This is one of the things Pilafian likes about NDSU — people are willing to try things, including arriving on campus early in the morning for what he calls breathing gym. Pilafian leads the musicians, singers and actors through a series of breathing exercises to loosen them up and to teach proper breathing. Practice makes proper breathing automatic, and proper breathing leads to powerful performances. This routine is how Pilafian maintains his fitness as a performer. This routine, he believes, is important for NDSU's performers. "Daily routines allow creative lightning to strike."

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Pilafian loves NDSU. He picked the university for what he calls his last teaching lesson as much as NDSU picked him. He has traveled the world teaching young musicians for 44 years at some of the world's most prestigious music programs.

His visits to NDSU, most recently when the famed Boston Brass came to perform a concert in fall 2015, stood out. "I couldn't stop thinking about this place."

Pilafian saw something special. He saw a school of music at a major research university that had a sense of community and collaboration. He saw a vibrant student body and principled teachers. He saw openness to try new things.

NDSU was where he wanted to try his big ideas for the future of music education, that last lesson he never got to pursue when he retired abruptly from the University of Miami.

He quit because his wife Diann had the opportunity for a potentially life-changing procedure. They had been waiting for this call for 30 years as she dealt with the effects of early-onset Parkinson's Disease. When the couple learned she qualified for surgery, within three days, Pilafian left his job and they moved to Phoenix, Arizona, to have treatment at the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center. The procedure was a success.





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*“Why don’t singers spend more time with instrumentalists?”*

*Why don’t composers talk more with musicologists?”*

*Because that is not what is taught.”* — Sam Pilafian, tuba virtuoso and visiting artist

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Pilafian’s ideas for advancing music education were on his mind again, and he knew where he wanted to pursue them.

NDSU students and faculty have the opportunity to work with a renowned musician and teacher whose career has only been on an upward trajectory since he was a teenager. Pilafian was a young man when he caught the attention of Leonard Bernstein and played at the world premiere of Bernstein’s “Mass” at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He is a founding member of the world-famous Empire Brass Quintet. He has recorded and performed with Pink Floyd, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Bernadette Peters and the Duke Ellington Orchestra, among many others.

∞

Pilafian is a master with an impressive resume. But what’s most interesting about him is his deep love of music and his insatiable desire to be better. He will try just about anything to improve his artistry.

As a 20-year-old college student, he spent four days living with friend and pianist Mike Gerber, who is blind. By this time, Pilafian was already an accomplished musician who had earned prestigious fellowships from Dartmouth and Tanglewood and performed a solo on “The Ed Sullivan Show.” But he observed his friend’s heightened sense of hearing and the profound effect on his musicianship.

Pilafian decided to bandage his own eyes.

The first day was scary. He was disoriented and wouldn’t leave the room.

The second day was better. He could almost see the room through sound, and he and his buddy spent all their time playing music.

The third day was even better. “I was hearing more and could almost see the world I was not seeing.”

The fourth day brought a breakthrough. Pilafian realized he was truly listening for the first time in his life. He could play back anything Gerber played on the piano.

“Nothing was the same after that.”

∞

Pilafian took those same powers of observation to every city, college and university he visited. He noticed patterns and what was working and not working. He learned things he used to push himself as a music teacher the same way he pushed himself as a musician. As an individual performer, he can do whatever unconventional thing he wants, like blindfolding himself for four days. The amazing performance is the end game. Trying to influence the status quo of the musical world is a different story.

He co-wrote a book called “The Breathing Gym” outlining the exercises he uses to keep himself and students in top performance shape.

The ideas weren’t new — they were a technique taught by Arnold Jacobs, an orchestral tuba player who was best known as the principal tubist for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Pilafian and co-author Patrick Sheridan took his teachings and turned them into fundamentals methods for beginning music students. The idea was to make it fun, so the students would continue playing.

People were skeptical when the book was published 15 years ago. However, the techniques have now been adopted by musicians at every level and are a mainstream part of music education.

Pilafian lives by the old saying about first being ignored, then laughed at, then fought against, before you win. And Pilafian wins in the name of good music and good music education.

∞

The NDSU Challey School of Music, with Pilafian’s help, is engaged in a three-year project to enhance the curriculum and to perhaps create a new model for music education. The faculty have started documenting the process and plan to release findings along the way.

For the next three years, Pilafian will spend several days a month at NDSU and participate in rehearsals and other activities remotely when he’s at home or traveling with the Boston Brass. During his time on campus he attends classes and rehearsals, bringing his insights as a lifelong student of music and 44 years as a college teacher.

He sees music education as too compartmentalized and constantly challenges everyone to find the commonalities between the musical disciplines. “Why don’t singers spend more time with instrumentalists? Why don’t composers talk more with musicologists? Because that is not what is taught,” he says. He theorizes that the more artists see each other and spend time together, the more they will collaborate, which will lead to new ideas, new types of music and new ways of performing.

He spends hours and hours talking with faculty members and students — about their ideas, about the connections they see. “The conversations have been totally interesting,” he said. “They always start with, ‘is this a wild and crazy idea?’”

— ANNE ROBINSON-PAUL



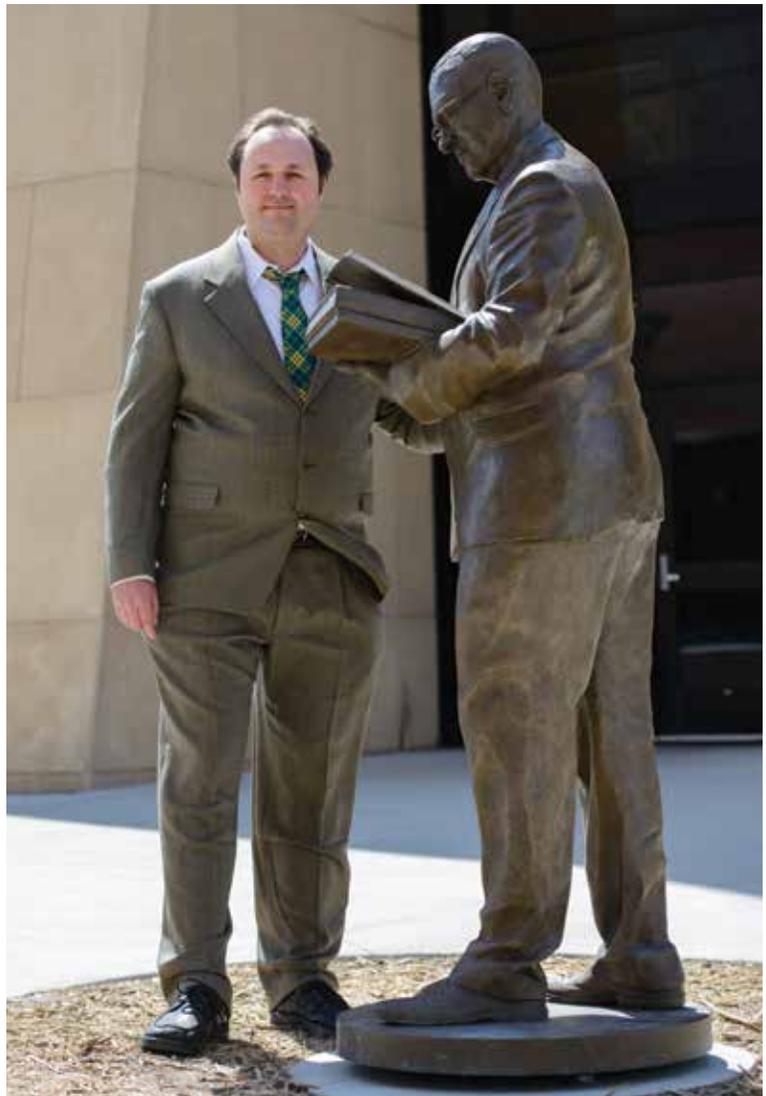
solving for x

*searching for a statue stand-in*

Ben Bernard is a computer specialist in architecture, a job he has loved and nurtured for the past 12 years. His role is to help faculty and students teach and learn better. Over the years, he's been asked for all kinds of favors, so perhaps he was more prepared than some for a call last spring asking him to agree to be a body double for a statue. Can't tell you who or why or even when, but will you pose? Yes, happy to help in any way I can, he says.

He would soon learn that the project involved creating a statue of Professor A. Glenn Hill, for whom NDSU's new STEM building was to be renamed. Professor Hill, a faculty member in the Department of Mathematics from 1927 to 1967, had a profound impact on generations of scientists and engineers who graduated from NDSU. The dedication event where the statue was to be dramatically unveiled was six short months away. No time to dilly dally.

Finding a company that does this sort of work proved to be easy enough. But creating the model for a sculptor can be a long process when the subject of the statue is not available. The sculptor could have viewed as many photographs of Professor Hill as possible and started from scratch. The short cut was to find someone who looked a bit like the professor who could pose for a full-body scan. The person assigned to find someone — though thinking this was a needle-in-a-haystack assignment — decided to look at employee photos on the NDSU website, alphabetically by department. Luckily, Bernard is in architecture.



Bernard traveled to the studio, got into a suit a bit like Professor Hill's, and struck a few poses. A favorite was selected. He then had to hold very still for about two minutes as the scan was made with a surprisingly small handheld device. From the scans, a laser cut a large block of blue foam to match, as the basis for the sculptor to add a little here and subtract a little there, and turn Ben Bernard into Glenn Hill.

Professor Hill wrote three textbooks, which he holds in the bronze version. Bernard, who admits he has a little theater in his background, not only channeled one of his mathematics professors from his undergraduate days, he also brought his own college math textbooks as props. A bit of getting into character. The studio guys remarked that he projected the Midwestern stoic in a way that just worked. "In my undergraduate days I had a math professor with some of the characteristics Dr. Hill may have had," Bernard says. "Faculty have a certain deliberateness to them."



# Butterfly Dreaming

## REMARKS FOR GROUNDBREAKING, CATHERINE CATER HALL

NDSU, 12 SEPTEMBER 2017 | Tom Isern, NDSU Distinguished Professor of History



Twenty-four-hundred-odd years ago the Chinese philosopher, Chuang Tzu, awoke from a vivid dream. He had dreamt he was a butterfly. It had seemed so real, so carefree. “Now I do not know,” Chuang wrote, “whether I was then a man dreaming I was a butterfly, or whether I am now a butterfly, dreaming I am a man.”

This is a butterfly year in the Red River Valley of the North. More specifically, we are graced this year with fluttering clouds of painted ladies, butterflies spangled with dots and colors suited to the autumnal scheme. There is a logic to this. Painted ladies, it seems, are capable of reproducing on the foliage of corn and beans, and our landscape today is almost wholly garbed in those crops. In a Roundup-Ready countryside we have no more bobolinks, but we have the painted ladies; something is lost, something is gained.

In 1982 the Faculty Lecture at North Dakota State University was delivered by Catherine Cater, who began her talk, on the power and pervasiveness of myth, by quoting Chuang Tzu. Catherine’s was a life that diverged from her original plan. Perhaps something was lost. Certainly something was gained. In just a few minutes I would like to reflect with you on loss, gain, and the life of Catherine Cater. And then, as we break ground, I hope we can resolve to build, here, upon the legacy she left us.

Yesterday, in an elevator, I mentioned to one of our department heads that I was putting together some remarks about Catherine’s life, and he allowed that he had never heard of her. I might just refer you to the program for biographical basics, but let me supplement those with my own remarks.

Catherine Cater was born a century and a few months ago in New Orleans. She earned her bachelor’s degree at the institution where her father was professor and dean, Talladega College, a historically black, liberal arts college undergoing integration. She experienced both the historical trauma and the literary richness that resulted from competing myths about the lineage and fate of Southern society.

This experience led to her 1945 doctoral dissertation at the University of Michigan, which explores the social attitudes of five Southern novelists — Faulkner and four others — as revealed in their fiction. Therein Catherine writes,

“Like Chekhov’s cherry orchard, the South is a composite of myth and memory, of beauty and of sordidness, and if the beauty lies in the warmth of courtesies and of hospitalities, much of its sordidness lies in the widespread economic poverty ... of the people gathered about the courthouse square on a Saturday morning, or peering out of the mill windows late of a Saturday evening.”

The Southern novelists, Catherine argued, although enmeshed in a past that still bound the region, were aware that things were stirring, and that the transitions of the postwar era would pose possibilities as well as dangers.

Catherine wanted to be a part of that, possibly through a career in social work, possibly through some sort of activism. She wrote a poem entitled “Here and Now,” which was picked up by Langston Hughes and included in his landmark anthology of 1951, *The Poetry of the Negro, 1746-1949*. From that work I now read.



## HERE AND NOW

By Catherine Cater

*If here and now be but a timely span  
Between today's unhappiness, tomorrow's  
Joys, what if today's abundant sorrows  
Never end, tomorrow never comes, what then?*

*If youth, impatient of the disrespect  
Accorded it, yearns to be old,  
Age chafes beneath the manifold  
Losses of its prime and mourns neglect;*

*So let it be for here and now, my dear,  
Not for the when of an eternity;  
No gazer in the crystal ball can see  
The future as we see the now and here.*



I am not accustomed to lingering over images of butterflies in my speeches, except when, in my History classes, my adherence to chaos theory moves me to invoke the butterfly analogy.

That reference, however, might now be appropriate. For I cannot tell you just what turned Catherine Cater from overtly social and political preoccupations into a literary and philosophical path. I know there were some rocks along the way, having to do with anti-communist hysteria and with the generally restive character of the academy in the 1950s and 1960s, turmoil extending from her early teaching years in Michigan and New York through her thirteen years at Moorhead State College. So in 1962 she crossed the river to NDSU, where she remained even after her official retirement in 1982; she had a hard time quitting, thank God.

It is possible I have overstated the turn in Catherine's life. Here at NDSU, she still sought, every day, to change the world. She sought to change the world by quickening and influencing the minds of young men and women. I do not have to reiterate the

testimonials of Catherine's students who benefited from her instruction and guidance in her classes and in the Scholars Program; those declared sentiments are the reason we are naming a building for her, and talking about her today. Her pride, if ever she were guilty of such a sin, derived from seeing all those young people take wing and leave her.

A dedicated teacher and conscientious scholar, surely, but I would be remiss if I were to leave the matter at that. We should remember, today, what Catherine Cater stands for.

First — the liberal arts — the liberal arts as the intellectual heart of the land-grant university and as the basis of a good life. The mandate for the liberal arts in the land-grant university has been unequivocal since 1862. A century later, when Catherine came to NDSU, the university was in growth mode, but neither then, nor in the several decades that followed, were the liberal arts accorded respect and resources commensurate to the mandate. I would say that even today, with the general efflorescence of our research university, and with a president who voices unprecedented understanding of the liberal

arts mission in the twenty-first century, it is still a struggle — but I say this, of course, as an unabashed proponent of the liberal arts. Catherine carried the torch. I declare today my sincere homage to her faith.

Second — dignity — the demonstrated capacity to steer herself with grace and aplomb through difficult straits. Catherine carried several bundles that others might have categorized as burdens or disadvantages. She had none of that. She expected to be taken on her own terms, as a scholar, a teacher, and a person. She got on with it.

Third — an unwavering faith in the potential and humanity of our young people. Be a good teacher — model the scholarly life, place your moral compass on exhibit, give your heart to the students who ask for it, and some who do not — and their flight will be your reward.

Today we make a place for another generation of students, scholars, and citizens. God help us to provide them not only with bricks and mortar but also with the elevating wind on their wings.

# Construction begins on new residence hall



A new residence hall under construction will be named Catherine Cater Hall, to honor the much-beloved late professor emeritus of English.

The \$39 million project will feature 440 beds. The suite-style residence hall is intended for second-year students.

“This building is important to NDSU and the state of North Dakota,” said President Dean L. Bresciani. “Students who live on campus perform dramatically better on an academic level than students who don’t live on campus. Keeping sophomores on campus is an important piece to our retention and graduation success, and our state never before has more needed NDSU graduates to get their degrees and go into the workforce than what we are experiencing today.”

Each residence floor of the 148,000-square-foot building will have a huddle room, study room and a lobby. The first floor will feature a two-sided fireplace, media room, games room and conference space.

Cater joined the NDSU faculty in 1962. She established and directed NDSU’s Scholars Program, served on numerous university committees, chaired the graduate program in English and helped develop NDSU’s first interdisciplinary courses.

She was required to retire at age 65, but continued to teach philosophy, direct humanities tutorials and mentor students on a volunteer basis for many years. During more than five decades of teaching, she received almost every teaching award at NDSU. She died in 2015 at age 98.

“When you met Catherine Cater, you walked away feeling like a better human being,” Bresciani said. “She was someone who could quietly, subtly, but firmly and strongly instill in you a better sense of being.”

Tom Isern, University Distinguished Professor of history, described Cater as a dedicated teacher, scholar and mentor who was committed to the liberal arts. He said she had dignity and an enduring faith in the potential of young people. “She sought every day to change the world,” Isern said.

Catherine Cater Hall is scheduled to open in fall 2019.



## Expansion planned for Sudro Hall

The College of Health Professions and the NDSU Foundation and Alumni Association have launched a philanthropic campaign to expand and update Sudro Hall for 21st century learning and research.



Churchill residents, 1934



Churchill residents, 2017



An expanded and updated Sudro Hall will accommodate collaborative learning, where students work within interdisciplinary teams just as they will in hospitals, clinics and other health care settings.

Sudro Hall received minor renovations and two modest expansions in 1969 and 2002. The building cannot support all of the college's growing programs, and it was constructed

in an era when health care education was delivered very differently than today.

The Sudro Hall expansion project will support an increasing student enrollment, nurture collaborative learning and research, and bring together all of the college's growing health care programs: the School of Pharmacy, School of Nursing, Department of Allied Sciences and Department of Public Health.

Inside Sudro Hall's laboratories, promising research is underway by faculty and students whose work is attracting highly competitive, national grants. The expansion project will build the college's research capacity and include safety and security improvements.

Since 1995, the college's enrollment has grown from 650 students to more than 2,000 students, making it NDSU's

second largest college by enrollment.

For the past five years, about 92 percent of NDSU nursing graduates have reported their intentions to seek a license to practice in North Dakota, and about 90 percent of North Dakota's practicing pharmacists are NDSU graduates.

The image above is an early rendering of a possible design for the expansion.

## Churchill Hall renovation complete

A newly renovated Churchill Hall was rededicated at Homecoming.

- Built in 1930, it is NDSU's oldest residence hall.
- The \$11 million interior remodel includes new mechanical and electrical systems, flooring and an elevator.
- The building houses 207 male, first-year students.



## CAMPUS NEWS

### PAINTING THE TOWN

A group of 15 NDSU students spent a recent weekend in Zeeland, North Dakota, painting Zeeland Hall, a 1936 Works Progress Administration building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The students were led by Tom Isern, University Distinguished Professor of history.

"This paint job is important, first, because we are helping to restore and revitalize a great, historic building, a North Dakota treasure," said Isern, who wrote the building's nomination to the National Register along with Heather Fischer, a lecturer in architecture and environmental design.

"It's always a good thing when you can put our students to work shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of a North Dakota community; it teaches citizenship in the most direct way possible," Isern said. "This is a history lesson, too. Students are learning the importance of heritage buildings to small towns, and hearing about the rich history of community life that takes place in them."



# Bresciani encourages young scholars at school visit

It's fairly common practice for k-12 teachers to introduce their students to other states and universities, judging by the many requests we get from schools all over the country asking for T-shirts and banners and NDSU memorabilia. And as NDSU has become more well known, more such requests. We love them all.

One request a few years ago from Julie Kunitada in Mesa, Arizona, included a description of her kindergarten students. "Wonderful students whose eyes are brightened by all they learn," she wrote. But she'd noticed a trend. When she asked her kindergarten kids what they want to be, most described jobs that don't require education beyond high school. Her goal was to plant the seed that they could succeed in college and beyond. "This year," she wrote in the summer of 2012, "I would like to start a new unit that will be taught throughout the year. I would like to introduce a 'University of the Week'."

Her request of President Bresciani was modest. Could he send a few items with the school name on it, and if possible a T-shirt, size medium, that she could wear during the lessons. "With these items I will teach social studies classes on your university and state. I will tell them about all the great options your university has to offer."

Her request went directly to the soft spot in the educator in him. "We receive many such requests," Bresciani wrote back, "but few that touched me as much as yours." And of course he sent plenty of items for the class to have during the unit on North Dakota State University. Bresciani's first letter back closed with a request to stay in touch, and expressed the hope that they could "ignite a future scientist, engineer, agriculturalist or performance artist ..."

Sometimes the small acts of kindness and connection are the best.

They have indeed stayed in touch. NDSU has been part of Kunitada's class each year, and this spring while on a visit to Arizona, President Bresciani teamed up with Kunitada to teach one of the classes in person. It's hard to say whether the kids were more excited to meet him, or he was to be teaching a class of sweet, eager kids.

The dedication of the teachers to show these kids, especially these kids who may not otherwise be encouraged to envision bright futures, strikes a chord for Bresciani.

"It's important for me that NDSU keeps showing up to make sure those kids know that door is open for them."



President Bresciani visited Julie Kunitada's kindergarten class in Mesa, Arizona, to talk about NDSU and to teach the students how to share their Bison pride. Horns up!

# H. Roald Lund awarded honorary doctorate



Longtime NDSU faculty member and administrator H. Roald Lund was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Agriculture during NDSU spring commencement ceremonies.

An honorary doctorate is the most prestigious award presented by a university and recognizes distinguished contributions to a specific field or service to society. Lund is the 161st recipient of an honorary doctorate from NDSU; the first was awarded in 1939.

Lund was born on May 15, 1933, and his family farmed near Hillsboro, North Dakota. He attended grade school in Christine, North Dakota, and high school in Nome, North Dakota.

He graduated from what was then called North Dakota Agricultural College with his bachelor's degree in agronomy and agricultural education in 1955. He continued on campus, earning his master's degree in agronomy in 1958.

After military service in the Army, Lund returned to NDSU and was named an assistant professor of agronomy and assistant breeder for the Hard Red Spring Wheat Breeding Program. He later earned his doctorate from Purdue University and again returned to NDSU as an associate professor and corn geneticist.

Lund was named assistant dean of agriculture and assistant director of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station in 1969. He became associate dean and associate director in 1974, and, in 1979, he was selected as dean and director, a position he held for 15 years.

Many important projects became reality through his vision and leadership, including Hultz Hall, Van Es Laboratory, Robinson Hall, the North Dakota State Seed Department building, Northern Crops Institute, Loftsgard Hall, Industrial Agricultural Communications Center and the USDA-ARS Northern Crops Science Laboratory.

Lund served on several committees of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, held leadership positions in the North Central Regional Association of Experiment Station Directors and was a committee member on the Council of Administrative Heads.

Lund retired from NDSU in December 1998, after spending more than 37 years at the university as a teacher, researcher and administrator.

He was honored with the Harvest Bowl Agribusiness Award in 1998, and he was recognized in 2013 when the atrium of

Loftsgard Hall was named the H.R. Lund Atrium. The H. Roald and Janet Lund Excellence in Teaching Award is presented annually in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources. In addition, Lund established the H.R. Lund Freshman Plant Sciences Scholarship.

"Dr. Lund had an outstanding career leading the College of Agriculture and the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station for more than 25 years," said Ken Grafton, vice president for agricultural affairs, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources and director of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, who nominated Lund. "His can-do attitude, his vision on the future trends in agriculture and his ability to convince others to support projects and programs benefitted the entire state. He laid the foundation on which we have attained continued success."

Lund's commitment to NDSU and the agriculture industry are well known. "Looking back during Dr. Lund's tenure as dean and director, it is obvious to see that his vision of agriculture that required our faculty to have access to modern facilities so we could apply and conduct research utilizing new technologies was very forward looking," said Richard Horsley, professor, department head and barley breeder. "What will be the next big break for agriculture? I don't know, but maybe we should ask Dr. Lund as he has been right for over four decades."

Neal Fisher, North Dakota Wheat Commission administrator, said, "Dr. Lund and his wife, Janet, continue to be enthusiastic ambassadors for all things NDSU, through their dedicated involvement in a broad range of campus activities, programs and regular participation in student scholarship events. Dr. Lund is very deserving of this great honor."

Lund's many honors include awards from Alpha Zeta, FarmHouse, the U.S. Durum Growers Association, North Dakota Crop Improvement Association and the North Dakota Grain Growers Association, and State and Honorary Farmer Degrees.

# Teacher of the year!



Fargo South High School language arts teacher Leah Juelke was named North Dakota's Teacher of the Year for 2018. Gov. Doug Burgum and Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent of Public Instruction, presented the award during a ceremony at the school.

"I'm kind of still in disbelief," said Juelke, who has taught at Fargo South since 2013 and was named the district's 2017 Teacher of the Year in March. "I am truly honored."

One of Juelke's writing projects, called "Journey to America," helps her immigrant students strengthen their English skills while also helping other teachers and students understand their cultures and backgrounds. Some of the students wrote about refugee camps or having family members who were killed.

The Journey to America project led to more than 30 South students' stories being included in a book, "Green Card Youth Voices: Immigration Stories from A Fargo High School," published by Green Card Voices, a nonprofit organization in Minneapolis.

Juelke earned a bachelor's degree in English education at NDSU in 2006, and a master's degree in education in 2012.

## Coach: Living my childhood dream

On March 18, 2017, the Roseau, Minnesota, girls' basketball team completed a perfect 32-0 season, and won the Minnesota Class 2A state championship. Not surprisingly, Coach Kelsey Filpula-Didrikson was honored as Minnesota's Girls Basketball 2A Coach of the Year.

All the while her team is winning basketball games, Coach's broader focus is to develop young women who are confident, compassionate and dedicated leaders who will be team players as they go on to college, career, family and the future.

Her personal aim is more in the here and now. "I just love being an English teacher and coach," she said. "I'm living my childhood dream."

Filpula-Didrikson earned a bachelor's degree at NDSU in 2008 in English education, and came back for her master's in education, which she completed in 2016.

As an NDSU student, Filpula-Didrikson was active in Bison Ambassadors, Blue Key and Campus Crusade for Christ. The many lessons she learned during her time at NDSU seem close at hand, whether she's teaching or coaching.

"I had a wonderful college experience at NDSU for both my bachelor's and my

"Everyone at school knows I love the Bison. ... I just loved the emphasis on family, a strong culture, pride and team. I wanted to share those things with my players and develop that same philosophy within my program."

master's degrees that leave me very prepared for my work in the classroom," she explained. "Everyone at school knows I love the Bison. During the 2015-16 season, when we'd watch film as a team, I'd always show the clips from Bison football promotional videos – especially the one going into that season's football championship game. I just loved the emphasis on family, a strong culture, pride and team. I wanted to share those things with my players and develop that same philosophy within my program."

Clearly, she's succeeding. "It's humbling knowing how special and rare it is to be a part of an undefeated state championship. It's an honor to represent the community of Roseau; in a small town, the whole community is along for the journey," she says.

When she's not teaching English in the classroom, Filpula-Didrikson has led Roseau to three section titles in the past three years, compiling an impressive record of 78-15 during that stretch.



"We're still hungry," she said of her squad. "Piggy-backing off of the Bison's 'Stay Hungry' theme, our slogan for the upcoming season will be 'Still Hungry.' We'll keep showing Bison clips, keep talking about family and servant leadership and keep building our program's culture."

Filpula-Didrikson and her husband, Thor Didrikson, who earned a degree in animal and range sciences in 2008, have three children — Jonas, Marley and Elin.

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To read class notes and obituaries, and to submit information, visit [ndsu.edu/classnotes](https://www.ndsu.edu/classnotes).



# The perfect conclusion

It was during my 25th high school reunion when Christina Baker Kline left me with a thought about book writing that lasted. Conclusion, said the wife of Dave Kline, my classmate, and author of great reads like “Orphan Train.” You need a conclusion. All good books have a conclusion.

It would be almost 10 years later before the reality of what she meant hit home. The funny thing about writing “Horns Up: Inside the Greatest College Football Dynasty” was in retrospect, I almost screwed up the advice of one of America’s greatest authors. The fact there was a conclusion to this football book was in reality a stroke of luck.

Let me explain:

The process started in the fall of 2013 during the week of my mother’s funeral. During all that went on that week, my oldest brother from Seattle and a 1977 NDSU graduate, Bruce Kolpack, mentioned something about writing the sequel to dad’s book. That would be Ed Kolpack’s “Bison football: Three Decades of Excellence” that details the rise of NDSU football in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

Although intrigued about writing some sort of book, and most writers probably feel the need at some point, I wasn’t feeling the wave of enthusiasm of doing something about NDSU’s rapid rise to success in Division I FCS football. But with the brothers (Dave the middle brother included) getting on board, I made the following pitch sometime before the 2013 playoffs began: if the Bison win four in a row, I’ll tackle the

project citing a rare instance of a program winning four straight championships. It made for a decent book angle, I figured.

Everybody knew that 2013 team was loaded and a third-straight title was probably imminent. But four in a row? The Bison graduated a boatload of talent from that ’13 team including Brock Jensen, the all-time winningest quarterback in FCS history. In 2014, they would have a new quarterback in Carson Wentz and although he showed promise to those of us covering the team, he was still untested.

It wasn’t a great start to ’14, either, with a so-so game against Weber State where Wentz threw two very-at-fault interceptions. But the Bison put it into overdrive when it counted, especially in the playoffs, and found themselves in the title game against Illinois State. I knew what was in it for me personally sitting in the press box at Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas: a win and the book project starts. A loss and it’s shelved.

And when Tre Roberson went 58 yards for a touchdown with 1:38 left in the game, giving the Redbirds a 27-23 lead, the no vote was looking good. But Carson did what Carson does: he drove the Bison 78 yards in six plays and his five-yard touchdown run with 37 seconds remaining gave NDSU a fourth-straight FCS crown. Afterward, the brothers let me know about the bet. Fair enough.

So about a week after Frisco, I just started. No reading a book about how to write a book; no advice from accomplished authors; just go with it with the following promise to myself: do something every day, whether

it was five minutes or 500 words, just do something.

So over the course of four to five months, I held to that edict with a self-imposed deadline of mid-July if I wanted to get it out before the start of the 2015 season. Most of the project was written in that time frame, but one issue remained: getting in touch with former head coach Craig Bohl.

Craig was the architect who designed and built the dynasty. Writing a book without his influence seemed incomplete, at the least. Now the head coach at Wyoming, trying to figure out how to get face to face was problematic, so much so that by July, and with no Craig, I decided to postpone the book until after the 2015 season.

In retrospect, it wasn’t complete anyway. There was no real concrete conclusion. Four straight college football titles is good, but it’s not unprecedented.

Five straight? Never been done.

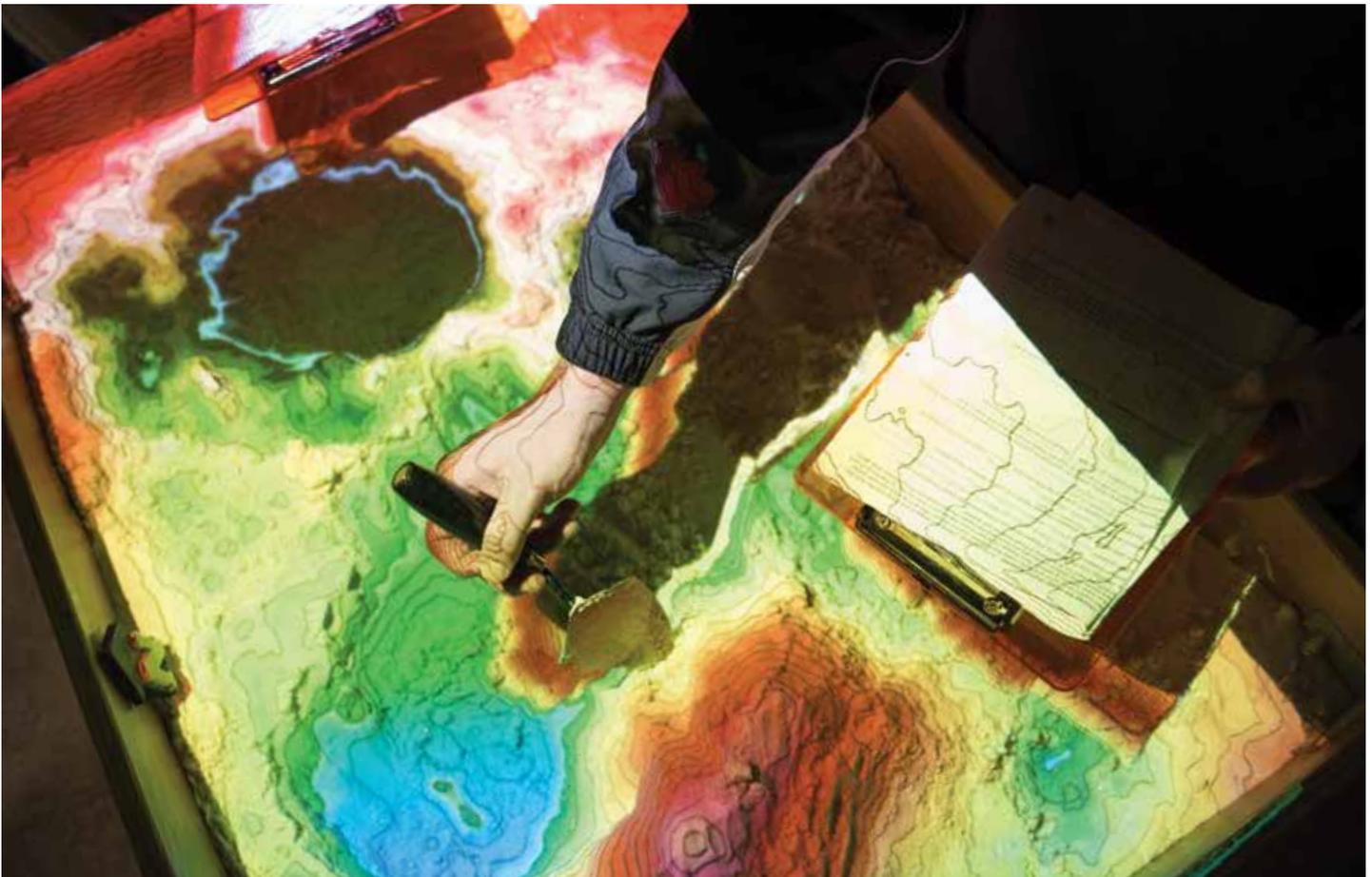
And it wasn’t looking promising when Wentz hurt his wrist halfway through the 2015 season. If that injury derailed the Bison train, then the feeling was all of the work on the book up until then would go to waste.

Who puts out a book on FCS titles after not winning a title?

But Easton Stick went 8-0, Wentz returned to the lineup for the title game against Jacksonville State and the run of five straight was complete.

It was time to finish the project. With the hope that Christina Baker Kline would approve of the conclusion.

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JUSTIN EILER

**HIGH-TECH SANDBOX** Freshman geology lab students use four augmented reality sandboxes to learn beginner-level geology concepts. The tool acts as a living map. In a dark room, tinted lights projected on the sand move and change colors as students manipulate the landscape with hand tools. Lifelike water and mountain formations appear through colorful projections on the sand and black lines indicate changes in elevation. The class uses the sandboxes to engage students with hands-on learning.