

# YEAR IN REVIEW

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

*CAS Students REACH for the stars*  
*Research, Engagement, Arts, Collaboration, Herd*

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*The College of Arts and Sciences Ambassadors (CASA) is a selective organization that acts as a resource for the advancement of the college. Members work in an ambassadorial capacity between the college and students within the College, alumni of the College, and members of the community. Recruitment for this organization is done in the spring.*

# CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

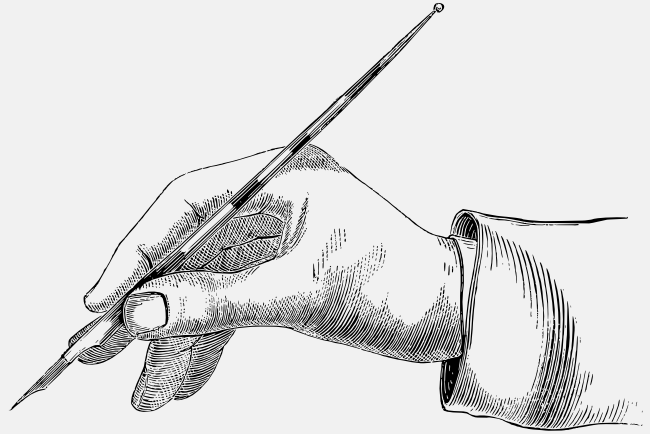
## Editors

Jessica Brown

Ellee Pastwa

Faculty Advisor - Dr. Nadeje Alexandre

Designer - Kelsey Seeba



## Contributing Writers

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Ellee Pastwa, Biomedical Sciences

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Sylvie Winje, Music

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Tyler Weisser, Biological Sciences

Alexia Threatt, Music and Psychology

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Kelbi Pritchett, Political Science

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Sam Lies, Biological Sciences

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Dr. Nadeje Alexandre, Assistant Dean

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Hannah Khan, Alum, Biological Sciences

Jamee Larson, MA, English

Dr. Jenny Linker, Physical Education

Dr. Marinus Otte, Biological Sciences

Dr. Kevin Thompson, Criminal Justice

Dr. Angela Smith, History

Tasha Cary-Waselk, Study Abroad

Aletha Lippay, Interior Design

Dr. Angela Hodgson, Biological Sciences

Dr. Elizabeth Carlson, Political Science



# COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES AMBASSADORS

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**“THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING WE CAN EXPERIENCE IS THE MYSTERIOUS. IT IS THE  
SOURCE OF ALL TRUE ART AND SCIENCE.” -ALBERT EINSTEIN**



# IN THIS ISSUE

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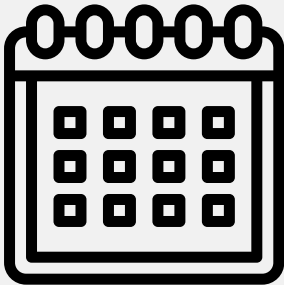
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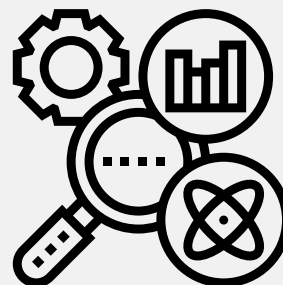
4.

STUDENT  
SUCCESS



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CREATIVITY &  
INNOVATION



6.

SCHOLARSHIP &  
RESEARCH

# DEAN'S FORWARD

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## **End of Semester Reflection: A Message to Faculty, Staff, Students, and Friends**

As we close out another academic year, I want to express my deep appreciation for each of you. In times of challenge and triumph, we've continued to move forward together, driven by people, purpose, decisions, performance, and hope. People are at the heart of our mission. Faculty and staff, your dedication shapes our community, while our students inspire us with your creativity and curiosity. To our friends, thank you for your ongoing support.

Our purpose remains clear: to create an environment where everyone can thrive. This semester has reaffirmed that our purpose extends beyond academic achievement; it's about supporting one another and strengthening our community. Our decisions, large and small, have guided us through unexpected challenges and creative solutions. In every action, we've demonstrated resilience and care.

Performance is more than grades, publications, creative endeavors, or grant dollars. It's about the growth we experience in moments of struggle and breakthrough. Progress may not always be linear, but it's always meaningful. Looking ahead, we do so with hope. The challenges we've faced only strengthen us, and together, we will continue building a future of growth, collaboration, and perseverance. As Maya Angelou famously said, "Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear."

Thank you for your contributions and unwavering belief in the power of education. Let's celebrate what we've accomplished and look forward to a bright future. Wishing you all a restful summer break and an exciting new chapter ahead.

With gratitude and hope,

Kimberly Wallin, PhD  
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

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# A LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

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Dear Readers,

We are delighted to share this issue with you. This publication, thoughtfully assembled by the College of Arts and Sciences Ambassadors (CASA), offers insight regarding the work and achievements within our college throughout the year. Featuring stories, events, and highlights, this review provides a holistic perspective of the intellectual and creative aspects and opportunities that make our college so dynamic.

We feel honored to have been able to lead this organization and witness firsthand the meaningful impact of our efforts. Throughout the year, we have had the opportunity to grow as leaders, enhance our communication skills, and deepen our understanding of the significant role of our college, not only within NDSU, but also the Fargo/Moorhead community. We are incredibly grateful for the experiences that have shaped our paths.

We hope that this publication will not only inform but also inspire others to have a similar sense of admiration in the accomplishments of the students and faculty of our college. We aspire to represent the dedication, power of education, creativity, and engagement within our community that our college aims to portray. We would like to extend our appreciation to all the support and opportunities that have allowed us to contribute to the growth of our college, as well as its accomplishments.

With sincere appreciation,

Ellee & Jessica

Co-Presidents, College of Arts & Science Ambassadors



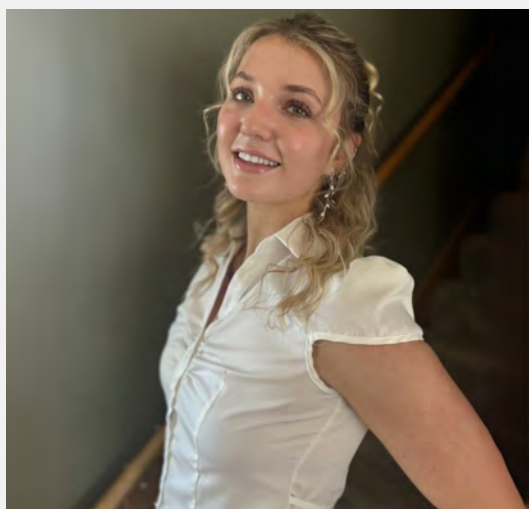
# CASA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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## JESSICA BROWN, CO-PRESIDENT

I AM SERVING AS ONE OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AMBASSADORS THIS YEAR! I AM CURRENTLY A JUNIOR PURSUING MY BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY ALONG WITH MINORS IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND CHEMISTRY. I AM ALSO ONE OF THE PEER MENTORS FOR THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AND INVOLVED IN PRE-PA CLUB, BLUE KEY HONOR SOCIETY, AND WORK AT SANFORD AS A PATIENT CARE TECHNICIAN. IF NOT ON CAMPUS, YOU CAN FIND ME OUTSIDE, ON THE LAKE, TRAVELING, OR AT A COFFEE SHOP DURING COLDER MONTHS. I LOVE THE COMMUNITY NDSU HAS BROUGHT ME AND THE OPPORTUNITIES I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GAIN FROM STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS!



## ELLE PASTWA, CO-PRESIDENT

I WILL BE GRADUATING THIS SPRING WITH A BACHELOR'S IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES WITH A CHEMISTRY MINOR. THROUGHOUT MY UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE, I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING AS A HOME CAREGIVER, A LEARNING ASSISTANT, AND A RESEARCH COORDINATOR. I HAVE ENJOYED BEING INVOLVED WITH THE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY THROUGH BEING CO-PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE AMBASSADORS, AS WELL AS MY INVOLVEMENT WITH PRE-MED/AMSA, AND INTRAMURAL VOLLEYBALL. AFTER GRADUATION, THE NEXT STEPS OF MY ACADEMIC CAREER INCLUDE MEDICAL SCHOOL. I AM CURRENTLY INTERESTED IN SURGERY OR ANESTHESIA BUT AM VERY EXCITED TO SEE WHERE LIFE WILL BRING ME LOCATION AND SPECIALTY-WISE. IN MY FREE TIME, I APPRECIATE SPENDING TIME WITH MY LOVED ONES (ESPECIALLY MY GOLDEN RETRIEVER/LAB, SUMMIT), BEING OUTSIDE, WORKING OUT, EXPLORING NEW MUSIC, READING, AND COOKING.



## KATELYN HANSON, VICE PRESIDENT

I AM A SENIOR, GRADUATING WITH MY BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY AND MINORING IN SOCIOLOGY. I HAVE BEEN A RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN THE PATHS LAB (PERSONALITY AND TRAJECTORIES FOR SLEEP AND HEALTH) SINCE MY FIRST SEMESTER IN COLLEGE. I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT HELPING OTHERS THROUGH MY RESEARCH, JOB EXPERIENCE, AND FUTURE CAREER. WHEN I AM NOT WORKING AT NORTH DAKOTA AUTISM CENTER AS A REGISTERED BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN OR FOCUSING ON MY ACADEMICS, YOU CAN FIND ME GETTING COFFEE OR SHOPPING WITH FRIENDS AND OUT ON THE LAKE (DURING THE SUMMER:))

# CASA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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## KATRINA CYSEWSKI, VICE PRESIDENT

I AM A JUNIOR MAJORING IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES WITH MINORS IN CHEMISTRY AND PSYCHOLOGY. IN ADDITION TO CASA, I AM ALSO ON THE CHEER TEAM. I LIKE BEING A PART OF CASA BECAUSE IT GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN MY ACADEMIC COLLEGE AND GIVE BACK TO AND SUPPORT OTHER STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE. I PLAN TO APPLY FOR AND ATTEND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (PA) SCHOOL AFTER I GRADUATE FROM NDSU NEXT YEAR. IN MY FREE TIME I LOVE TO SPEND TIME WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY, TRAVEL, SKI, AND BAKE.



## RHYS O'BRIEN, TREASURER & SECRETARY

I AM A SENIOR MAJORING IN BIOLOGY WITH A MINOR IN CHEMISTRY. SERVING AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY REWARDING. IT HAS ALLOWED ME TO SHARE AN AUTHENTIC AND WELCOMING PERSPECTIVE WITH PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS WHO WANT TO EXPERIENCE WHAT LIFE AT NDSU IS REALLY LIKE. MY TIME AT NDSU HAS BEEN FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH, FROM JOINING CLUBS AND ATTENDING EVENTS TO FORMING CONNECTIONS WITH FELLOW STUDENTS. I'M ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE PRE-DENTAL CLUB AND WORK AS A RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN THE UNIVERSITY'S BIOLOGY LABS. AFTER GRADUATION, I PLAN TO PURSUE FURTHER EDUCATION IN RESEARCH OR THE MEDICAL FIELD, CONTINUING MY PASSION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY.



## CADENCE KLINE, PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

I AM A JUNIOR MAJORING IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND MINORING IN CHEMISTRY. AFTER GRADUATION, I PLAN TO PURSUE MY MASTERS IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES. AS A MEMBER AND OFFICER OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AMBASSADORS (CASA), I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT SUPPORTING FELLOW STUDENTS IN THEIR ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL SUCCESS. I ENJOY ORGANIZING EVENTS THAT HELP ALLEVIATE THE CHALLENGES OF COLLEGE LIFE WHILE FOSTERING A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY. BEING PART OF CASA HAS ALLOWED ME TO CONNECT WITH SOME OF MY PEERS AND CONTRIBUTE TO A SUPPORTIVE AND ENGAGING CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT. OUTSIDE OF CASA, I AM ALSO A PEER MENTOR FOR THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES. IN MY FREE TIME, I ENJOY WALKS OUTSIDE, READING, AND COOKING.





# CASA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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## DR. NADEJE ALEXANDRE, FACULTY ADVISOR

NADEJE IS THE ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENT SUCCESS AT THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, WITH OVER 20 YEARS' EXPERIENCE MENTORING STUDENTS. SPECIALIZING IN STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND ADVISING, NADEJE USES HER KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES TO HELP STUDENTS FIND A SENSE OF PURPOSE AND JOY, WHILE LEADING BALANCED AND HEALTHY LIVES.

DEDICATED TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF HER STUDENTS, NADEJE EMPOWERS STUDENTS BY HELPING THEM TO DEVELOP THEIR SELF-AWARENESS, EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS.







# ADVICE FROM AMBASSADORS

SIRI FROILAND

“Don't be afraid to get involved! Also, remember the things work doing are going to be hard, but don't let that stop you from doing what is right.”

ABRIELLE MANN

“Leave your comfort zone! Sign up for an intermural sport, go to a club meeting that you know little about, explore all the fun places and things the Fargo area has to offer. Undergrad goes by so quick, so make the most of every semester!”

ELLEE PASTWA

“Embrace the challenges that you are faced with and use them to aid your growth. Utilize every opportunity that arises – even if you're scared. Do it scared.”

JESSICA BROWN

“Get involved and try new things. You never know what opportunities may present themselves if you do not try things out and discover your passions. Additionally, appreciate every moment and thing you get to do because it goes by so fast. Meet new people, go to events, volunteer, and do anything else you have an interest in. You will never regret doing more things during your college time.”

KATELYN HANSON

“Step outside of your comfort zone, and get involved!! Be okay with changing your mind and know there is no “correct” time line for college.”

RHYS O'BRIEN

“Do not be afraid to get involved in clubs and activities you are interested in. It is a great way to meet people and to discover more about yourself!”



# ADVICE FROM AMBASSADORS

SAM LIES

“Don’t overwork yourself during your time in college. While academic success is important for the future, it’s also essential to take a step back and breathe. Don’t overload yourself with credits or work too much. Make time to do something you enjoy and spend time with people who make you happy. Taking these breaks will not only benefit your well-being but also make the college experience much more enjoyable.”

KATRINA CYSEWSKI

“Explore as many opportunities as you can! It can be intimidating trying new things sometimes, but college goes by so fast and you never know when you will find new things or people that could make a big impact on your life!”

TYLER WEISSER

“School is only going to be as fun as you make it, so try to make it your favorite place in the world.”

EVAN KNOLL

“Don’t underestimate the impact of their class schedule and to devote the correct amount of time to ensuring that it is optimized for them. Your schedule will ultimately determine much of your life for a whole semester, so it is definitely worth spending an extra hour looking at the class schedules and available class options.”



# A WORD FROM ADVISORY BOARD PRESIDENT

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## GREETINGS FROM THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES ADVISORY BOARD!

BY JOSH BOSCHEE, PRESIDENT



The Advisory Board was originally chartered under the College of Science and Math to engage alumni and friends of the College with Dean Wallin's vision. When the College of Arts and Sciences was established through President Cook's NDSU Transform initiative, board members decided it was important for us to continue supporting Dean Wallin and the newly formed College's students, staff, faculty and researchers. Last year, we focused on updating our bylaws, learning more about the various departments in the college and identifying opportunities to diversify the make-up of the board.

We are thankful for the time and expertise that our outgoing Board members, Sharla Steever and Dr. Robert Startz (1977) provided over the past several years.

They were instrumental in providing a solid foundation for the Advisory Board. This year, David Clouston (1990), Dr. Anthony Dutton (2014), Dr. Aaron Feickert (2014 & 2018) and Brian Lynch (2015) join the Board as we embark on our next chapter.

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## BOARD OF ADVISORS

### SHARON BERRY, PhD, ABPP

SHARON EARNED HER BS IN PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION ('75) AND A MS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY - HEALTH & BEHAVIOR THERAPY ('83) AT NDSU. SHE WENT ON TO EARN HER PhD IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY. SHE IS THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING FOR THE NATIONALLY ACCREDITED DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP IN CLINICAL CHILD/ADOLESCENT PSYCHOLOGY AT CHILDREN'S MINNESOTA





# BOARD OF ADVISORS

## GRANT HENRIKSEN, VICE PRESIDENT

MY COMPUTER SCIENCE DEGREE FROM NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY LED ME TO A CAREER IN THE COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE INDUSTRY. I'VE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF STAYING IN NORTH DAKOTA SINCE GRADUATING FROM NDSU, STARTING WITH AN INTERNSHIP AT GREAT PLAINS SOFTWARE WHICH THEN TRANSITIONED TO A CAREER AT MICROSOFT CORPORATION. I RETIRED WITH OVER 22 YEARS OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE, MOSTLY WORKING ON ERP SOFTWARE FOR MIDMARKET AND ENTERPRISE CUSTOMERS. I EARNED A MINOR IN ECONOMICS FROM NDSU AND ALSO HAVE AN INTEREST IN AREAS INCLUDING ANTHROPOLOGY, OUTER SPACE, HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY IN GENERAL. I GREW UP IN MINNESOTA AND CURRENTLY RESIDE IN FARGO, ND.



## MIKE JOHNSON

MIKE JOHNSON GREW UP ON THE WINDY PRAIRIE OF NORTH DAKOTA IN THE CITY OF JAMESTOWN AND RECEIVED A DEGREE IN CHEMISTRY FROM NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY IN FARGO, EVENTUALLY WORKING IN REGULATORY AFFAIRS FOR 3M PHARMACEUTICALS AND MEDTRONIC, PLC. HE SITS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR TWO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, DADSFIRST AND HEART OF A WARRIOR. HE AND HIS WIFE OF 40+ YEARS HAVE THREE MARRIED CHILDREN AND SEVEN GRANDCHILDREN. THEY MAKE THEIR HOME IN SHOREVIEW, MN, A SUBURB OF ST. PAUL.



## DOUGLAS MAHONEY

DOUG EARNED HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MATHEMATICS ('91) AND A MASTER'S DEGREE IN APPLIED STATISTICS ('93) FROM NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY. SINCE GRADUATING, DOUG HAS WORKED AS A BIOSTATISTICIAN AT MAYO CLINIC-ROCHESTER AND HAS ACHIEVED THE RANK OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOSTATISTICS. MOST NOTABLY, DOUG IS A CO-INVENTOR OF THE NON-INVASIVE COLON CANCER SCREENING TEST USING DNA FROM STOOL COLLECTED AT HOME AND IS MARKETING UNDER THE NAME COLOGUARD. CURRENTLY, MUCH OF DOUG'S RESEARCH IS SPENT ON DEVELOPING AND MODELING DATA FROM PLASMA DERIVED MARKERS IN ORDER TO SCREEN 16 CANCERS FROM A SINGLE BLOOD DRAW. OUTSIDE OF WORK, HE IS INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY AND HAS COACHED 2 YOUTH FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS, IS THE PROUD FATHER OF TWO THRIVING ADULTS, AND RECENTLY HAS BECOME AN OVERZEALOUS GRANDFATHER OF TWIN GIRLS WHICH HE FREQUENTLY VISITS IN OREGON.



# BOARD OF ADVISORS



## **SHELLI MCGUIRE**

NDSU ('91) BS IN PSYCHOLOGY

U OF MN – MA INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

SPENT 16 YEARS AT DATACARD IN MANY DIFFERENT HR AND IT ROLES; FOUND MY PASSION FOR HRIS DURING Y2K AND THEN MOVED INTO BROADER ROLES WITHIN HR LEADING VARIOUS TEAMS. CURRENTLY VP OF TOTAL REWARDS AT STARKEY HEARING. MY TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, HR TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATIONS, PAYROLL AND FOOD SERVICES. I LOVE BUILDING HIGH PERFORMING TEAMS AND HELPING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FIND THEIR PASSION. IT'S WHY I'M INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF THE BOARD OF ADVISORS FOR THE COLLEGE OF MATH AND SCIENCE AT NDSU. WE'VE OWNED MY FAMILY'S RESTAURANT FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS, BUT I KNEW THAT WASN'T WHERE I WANTED TO SPEND MY CAREER ☺ WE LOVE SPENDING TIME AT OUR CABIN IN ALEXANDRIA, MN, AND FOLLOWING THE BISON.



## **KRISTEN SETIEN, CHAIR OF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

KRISTEN EARNED HER BS IN CHEMISTRY AT NDSU ('20) AND A MS IN COATINGS AND POLYMERIC MATERIALS ('21) AT NDSU.



## **MEDORA SLETTEN LAUF**

MEDORA IS A PROUD BORN AND RAISED NORTH DAKOTAN. SHE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS (MN) IN 2010 WITH A DEGREE IN COMMUNICATIONS AND JOURNALISM. SHE SPLITS HER TIME WORKING AND VOLUNTEERING FOR YOUNG LIFE. IN A WORLD THAT IS TELLING TEENAGERS THEY ARE GROWING UP TOO FAST AND TOO SLOW, YOUNG LIFE SEEKS TO TELL KIDS IN A JOYFUL WAY THAT THEY MATTER, AND JESUS LOVES THEM RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE. SHE IS CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT MEDORA FOUNDATION. MEDORA LIVES IN BISMARCK, ND WITH HER HUSBAND ROBBIE. DURING THE SUMMER THEY ENJOY TRAVELING ACROSS THE I-94 CORRIDOR BETWEEN THE NORTH DAKOTA BADLANDS AND THE LAKES OF MINNESOTA.



## **ALEXIS WOLF, SECRETARY**

I GREW UP ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE TWIN CITIES IN OAKDALE, MN. I ATTENDED NDSU FROM 2007 TO 2011, GRADUATING WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE AS A DOUBLE MAJOR IN MATHEMATICS AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION. DURING MY TIME AT NDSU, I WORKED IN RESIDENCE LIFE, ADMISSIONS, AT THE LIBRARY, WAS A TA FOR THE MATH DEPARTMENT, AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE COAR TEAM. I RECEIVED MY MASTER'S DEGREE FROM UW-RIVER FALLS IN 2015 WITH A FOCUS IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION. MY CURRENT POSITION IS TEACHING 7TH GRADE MATHEMATICS AT JOHN GLENN MIDDLE SCHOOL IN THE NORTH ST. PAUL-MAPLEWOOD-OAKDALE DISTRICT. I RESIDE IN STILLWATER, MN WITH MY HUSBAND OF 9 YEARS AND TWO SONS, FRANKLIN (5) AND OLIVER (2)

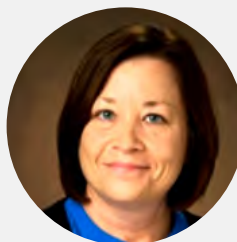
# DEANS OFFICE & CHAIRS

WHAT SONG MAKES THEM HAPPY?



*KIMBERLY WALLIN, DEAN*

"Happy" by Pharrell Williams



*DIANE GOEDE, ASSISTANT TO THE DEAN*

"Sweet Talkin' Women" by Electric Light Orchestra (ELO)



*NADEJE ALEXANDRE, ASSISTANT DEAN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS*

"High Hopes" by Frank Sinatra



*JESS JUNG, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR FACULTY AFFAIRS AND SUCCESS*

"Helpless" from Hamilton



*NICK BAUROTH, POLITICAL SCIENCE*

"Billion Dollar Babies" by Alice Cooper



*STEPHENSON BECK, COMMUNICATION*

"Scarecrow" by Counting Crows



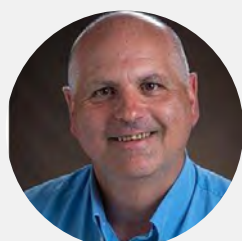
*BRADLEY BENTON, ENGLISH*

"3 Nights" by Dominic Fike



*JULIA BOWSHER, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES*

"Feeling Good As Hell" by Lizzo



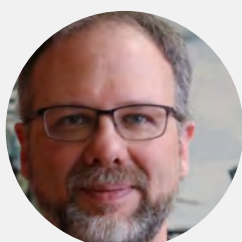
*GREG COOK, CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY*

"What A Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong



*DENNIS COOLEY, HUMANITIES*

"A Tisket, A Tasket" sung by Ella Fitzgerald



*MARK ENGLER, DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS*

"Bertha" by Grateful Dead



*DOMINIC FISCHER, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, DISASTER RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT*

"Love You More" by Tess Henley



# DEANS OFFICE & CHAIRS

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*CLAYTON HILMERT,  
PSYCHOLOGY*

"Lively Up Yourself" by Bob  
Marley and the Wailers



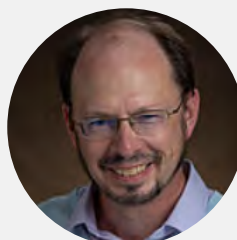
*SUSAN KLIMAN,  
ARCHITECTURE*

"Girls Just Want to Have Fun"  
by Cyndi Lauper



*JENNY LINKER EDUCATION*

"Our House" by Madness



*FRIEDRICH LITTMANN,  
MATHEMATICS*

"Killing All the Flies" by Mogwai



*RHONDA MAGEL, STATISTICS*

"Help Me Rhonda" by The Beach  
Boys



*SYLVIO MAY, PHYSICS*

"Democracy" by Leonard  
Cohen



*JOHN MILLER, DIVISION OF  
PERFORMING ARTS*

My spouse would say "The Chicken  
Dance."



*SUSAN RAY-DEGGES,  
INTERIOR DESIGN*

"Humble and Kind" by Tim  
McGraw



*AMY STICHMAN, CRIMINAL JUSTICE*

"One Night in Bangkok" by Murray  
Head



*MICHAEL STRAND, ART AND  
DESIGN*

"Three Little Birds" by Bob  
Marley



*CHRIS WHITZEL, SOCIOLOGY  
AND ANTHROPOLOGY*

"Vogue" by Madonna



*DEAN WEBSTER, COATINGS  
AND POLYMERIC MATERIALS*

"Happy" by Pharrell Williams

# NEW FACULTY

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The College of Arts and Sciences welcomed 11 new faculty members over the 2024-2025 academic year, across several disciplines.



**Olivia Altstadt**  
Chemistry &  
Biochemistry



**Anna Finley**  
Psychology



**Dwight Jilik**  
Music



**Connie Koski**  
Criminal  
Justice



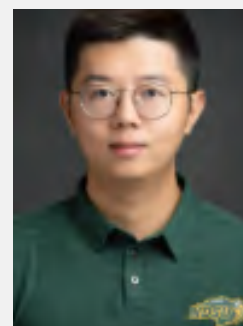
**Bruce Kovanen**  
English



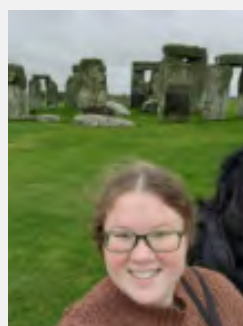
**Daniel Lee**  
Music



**Boya Liu**  
Mathematics



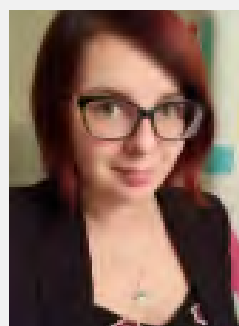
**Juncheng Lu**  
LADREM\*



**Lydia Nixon**  
Biological  
Sciences



**Emmanuel  
Nojang**  
LADREM\*



**Ashleah  
Wimberly**  
English

\*Landscape Architecture, Disaster Resilience and Emergency Management

# NEW FACULTY

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## Biological Sciences New Faculty Member Dr. Tara Slominski

Dr. Tara Slominski has been here at NDSU since the start of her undergraduate education in 2006, and now she is taking on the teaching position for Anatomy and Physiology. Dr. Slominski never imagined she'd end up teaching. Initially focused on a career in medicine, she found herself increasingly drawn to the specific physiological topics that sparked her interest. As her education advanced, she realized she could combine her passion for science with a desire to teach, specifically through evidence-based methods. Now, she's focused on helping students develop a growth mindset, believing that even if they're not great at something at first, they have the ability to improve and succeed over time.

Excited about her new role, Dr. Slominski is eager to work alongside Mary Jo, learning from her experience and applying the evidence-based strategies she's gained in her graduate studies. She encourages struggling students to recognize when they need help and to not get stuck in frustration. "Don't be discouraged by the struggle, but don't sit in it too long," she says, reminding students that every challenge is an opportunity to learn and grow.





# PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

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Kaitlyn Alme-Hjelseth, Lead Advisor

To be determined

What is a song that puts you in a good mood?

“Don’t Stop Me Now” by Queen



Linda Fricker, Academic Advisor

Anthropology, Business Education, Criminal Justice, Emergency Management, English and English Education, Philosophy/Ethics, Political Science, and Sociology

What is a song that puts you in a good mood?

“1812 Overture” by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky



Rob Glarum, Academic Advisor

Architecture, Environmental Design, Landscape Architecture

What is a song that puts you in a good mood?

"It's My Life" by Bon Jovi



Andrea Hein, Associate Director, Career and Advising Center

Behavioral Statistics, Mathematics and Mathematics Education, and Statistics

What is a song that puts you in a good mood?

“Go” by The Black Keys

# PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

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Jill Lodde-Greives, Academic Advisor/Lecturer

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Biological Science Education, Chemistry and Chemistry Education, Comprehensive Science Education, Earth Science Education, and Pre-Med and Pre-Professional

What is a song that puts you in a good mood?

“Divisionary (Do the Right Thing)” by Ages and Ages



Kelsey Seeba, Academic Advisor

Agricultural Communication, Apparel, Retail Merchandising and Design, Art and Art Education, Health Education, History and History Education, Interior Design, Journalism, Management Communication, Physical Education, Public History, Social Science Education, Spanish and Spanish Education, and Strategic Communication

What is a song that puts you in a good mood?

“Here” by Briggs and Caiti Baker



Patti Seidler, Academic Advisor

Psychology, Theatre, & Women and Gender Studies

What is a song that puts you in a good mood?

“Beautiful Day” by Jamie Grace



Polly Olson, Academic Advisor/Lecturer

Biological Sciences, Physics and Physics Education

What is a song that puts you in a good mood?

“YMCA” by Village People



# COLLEGE EVENTS

## 2024-2025

### CREATIVE WRITING CAMP

BY JAMEE LARSON

This summer, the 2024 Teen Creative Writing Camp session taught a total of 99 students, including 11 young writers in grades 4-6, a new addition this year. These writers were given a safe space to explore creative writing, create new work, and elevate their voices in the weeklong camp. Director Jamee Larson focused on the importance of embracing and uplifting diverse voices, backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.

From poetry to graphic novels, screenwriting to songwriting, the camp sessions provided students with a comprehensive look at different forms of writing, encouraging them to experiment with genres they had never tried before.

In addition to creative writing, campers also learned to navigate the competitive world of writing scholarship essays. These sessions were led by an impressive lineup of instructors, including professors from local universities like North Dakota State University (NDSU), Valley City State University (VCSU), University of North Dakota (UND), and Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM), alongside local and national writers.

One of the highlights of the camp was a horror writing workshop led by *New York Times* bestselling author Jonathan Maberry. Known for his horror novels and comic book characters, Jonathan also shared his experience at the recent red carpet event for the *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, which included a character he created. Another standout session was "Writing Villains," led by Jennifer Brody, the author behind the popular *Disney Chills* series. In this workshop, students explored the psychology of villains, learning that complex, relatable characters need to be more than just evil. National touring artist Joe Davis brought spoken word poetry to life with his dynamic performance workshop. Davis encouraged students to use spoken word as a tool for self-expression, empowerment, and advocacy.







One of the most significant themes throughout the camp was the focus on diversity and inclusion. Larson aimed to create an environment where all voices were welcome, encouraging teens to embrace their cultural backgrounds, personal experiences, and perspectives in their work. By highlighting underrepresented voices, the camp reinforced the message that storytelling is for everyone and that literature is enriched by diversity.

*This* camp was more than just a learning experience; it was a celebration of creativity, inclusivity, and the transformative power of storytelling. By offering teens the tools and inspiration to tell their stories, the camp ensured that the future of literature will be bright, bold, and representative of a wider range of voices than ever before. Keep a look out for the 2025 camp session dates. Coming soon!



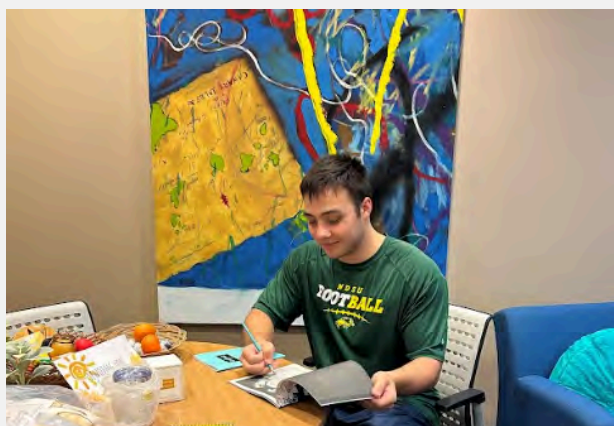


## WEEK OF WELLBEING

BY KATRINA CYSEWSKI

Hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences and Student Ambassadors, Week of Wellbeing is an event that takes place in October in the Student Engagement Space in Minard Hall – just in time for Midterms!

A different event for each day, including Art Therapy, Yoga, and Puppy Therapy, my favorite day! Three different professors brought their dogs for students to play with. Psychology Professor Kat Duggan brought her dog Tinkerbell, History Professor Tracy Barrett brought her dogs Ike and Yeti, and Physics Professor Alexander Wagner brought his dogs Skye and Brooke. A number of students came throughout the day and were able to meet and play with the dogs. Students said that they enjoyed this unique event to relax and have fun, and many said that it was a great way to help with missing their pets at home. We are petitioning that each day of Week of Wellbeing next year be Puppy Therapy Day!



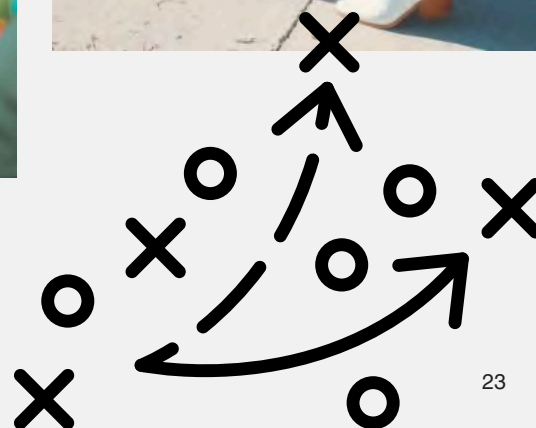




## BRIGHT NIGHT - HOMECOMING 2024

BY JESSICA BROWN

2024 Homecoming at NDSU was one to remember! The week was filled with events, volunteering, and many opportunities to celebrate NDSU. The annual Blue Key Homecoming Show raised funds for the non-profit Hope inc this year. The parade on Friday consisted of many floats including new ones that caught the eye of community members. The Bison Bash also created a space for community members to come together on campus and celebrate Homecoming Week. The week ended with the Bison football team beating Towson 41-24. It was a great week celebrating the campus and community we have all created and been a part of.





## GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL RETURNS TO NDSU!



During June 2024, NDSU welcomed high school students from across North Dakota to campus for an immersive scholarly experience. Students lived on campus in the residence halls and got a taste of what college life was like, while participating in scholarly research and creative activity with faculty mentors. Students were able to get experience in an array of STEM subjects, including Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Materials Science, Pharmacy, Geosciences, Physics, Psychology, Computer Sciences, Engineering, and Math. The program was hosted by the NDSU Office of Teaching and Learning, and most faculty mentors were from the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). Students spent their first week learning laboratory safety and bench science research methods, and then proceeded to work with their assigned faculty mentors for a three week apprenticeship. Students participated in field trips -- including to the Microsoft and 3M campuses, as well as "fun" trips kayaking on the Red River -- as part of the experience. The program culminated at the end of June with a scholarly poster and live demonstration session, followed by a closing ceremony where the students' efforts were recognized individually by leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.





## COMMUNICATION ICE CREAM SOCIAL

At the start of the school year, the Department of Communication holds their annual ice cream social. In addition to eating Blizzards and Dilly Bars made by the Moorhead Dairy Queen, students have a chance to meet and visit with faculty about major requirements, internships, and career opportunities in Communication. Students are also encouraged to meet and visit with other students outside of their cohort.



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAREER FAIR

BY DR. KEVIN THOMPSON, CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The 14th annual Criminal Justice Career Fair attracted 38 federal, state, and local agencies and was attended by roughly 240 students. Agencies represented included agents from North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Federal agencies included the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, and U.S. Probation and Trial Services, among others. State agencies represented include Highway Patrol, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, among others. Local agencies include city and county law enforcement units from all three states. The Fair also attracted representatives from several law schools, social service agencies, and military units. See you next September!

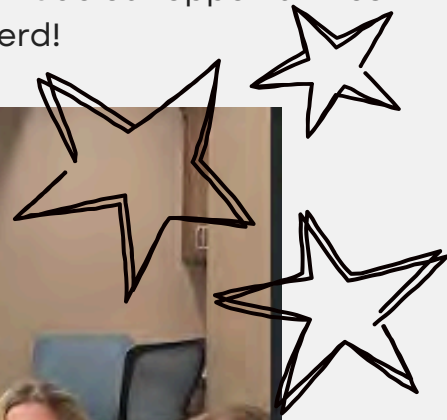


## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES GIVING DAY

BY ELLEE PASTWA

Giving Day hosted at NDSU is an opportunity for donors to invest in the university and enrich the lives of NDSU students! Our gracious donors choose a college, department, or program they have a special interest or passion in, and the gifts are used to provide funds for innovative research, diversification of education tools and equipment, and unparalleled opportunities for our students and faculty.

On 3 December 2024, NDSU raised over \$1.5 million dollars through the generous contributions of 2,000 donors and 2,500 gifts! The College of Arts and Science Ambassadors gathered to write personalized thank you notes to all our wonderful donors (and to excitedly discuss winter break right around the corner). We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to all of our gracious donors who have made our opportunities and achievements possible! What a great day to be part of the herd!







# RAINBOW PROM

BY JAMEE LARSON

## Through the Looking Glass: The Magic of 2025 Rainbow Prom

The 2025 Rainbow Prom wasn't just a dance—it was a night we'll never forget. More than 100 students from NDSU, MSUM, and Concordia came together to celebrate life, love, and authenticity, stepping through the looking glass into a world of wonder with this year's theme: Masquerade: Alice in Wonderland.

From the moment people arrived, you could feel it—this wasn't your typical prom. The venue was transformed into something straight out of a storybook, and students showed up ready to own the night. Each mask was hand-designed, and it was incredible to see just how much creativity and personality went into every detail. Some wore elegant, shimmering masks that exuded glamour, while others fully embraced the Wonderland theme with whimsical, quirky designs that felt like they'd been plucked right from the Mad Hatter's tea party. No two outfits were the same—gowns, suits, vintage styles, bold colors—it was all there, and it was stunning.

And the energy? Unreal. The dance floor stayed packed from start to finish. People were laughing, dancing, and just letting go in a space where they knew they could be themselves without hesitation or judgment. Between songs, you'd see students gathering in cozy groups, sharing snacks, snapping pictures, and creating memories that will last long after the music faded.

This prom was so much more than a party—it was a place to breathe, to connect, to belong. It reminded all of us why spaces like Rainbow Prom matter. For one incredible night, we were in Wonderland, and we were exactly where we were meant to be.

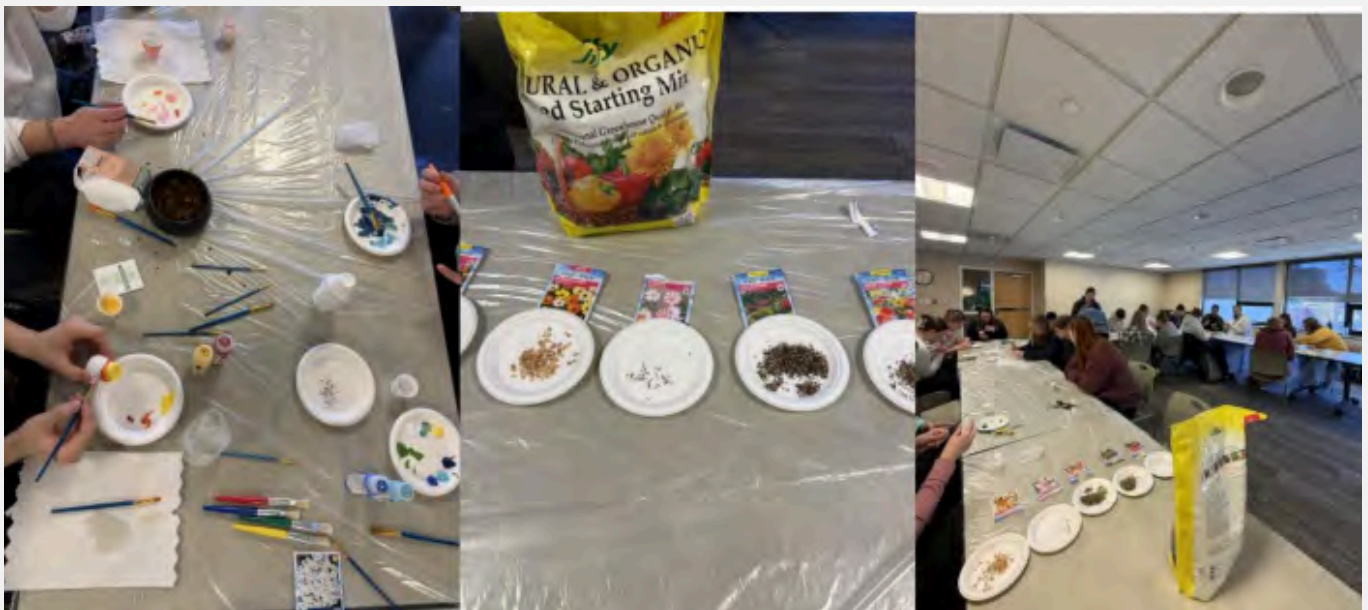


## PAINT AND PLANT

BY KATELYN HANSON

Spring has sprung in Fargo, North Dakota! As students completed the first week back from spring break, the College of Arts and Sciences hosted the paint and plant event open to all students. This event has been loved by students for years prior, and this year was no exception. Students from across all disciplines had a large presence at this event. A couple of the ambassadors even had to run mid event to get more pots and paint to ensure nobody had to miss out on the fun!

When students walked in, they were able to grab a pot and begin to paint. We saw everything from intricate floral designs to multi-dimensional fiery flames. It was so amazing to see everyone relax and let their creativity flow on a Friday afternoon after a long week. After the pots were painted, they could pick from an array of flower seeds to plant- daisies, cosmos, wildflowers and pansies just to name a few. Flowers have been known to boost mood and can be a symbol of spring, making this event a perfect project at this point in the semester. Oh happy day!





# STUDENT SUCCESS

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT SPACE

BY DR. NADEJE ALEXANDRE

Welcome to the College of Arts and Sciences Student Engagement Space in the Dean's Suite! This is where students come to relax, do homework, do puzzles, meet with an Academic Advisor, Peer Mentors and Statistics Tutors. The office is marveled in beautiful art, graciously donated by recently retired Art Faculty, Kimble Bromley. Artwork was carefully curated by School of Design, Architecture, and Art alum, Edwin Degges (son of CAS Professors Ron & Susan Degges), the vibrant colors of the art create a lively and positive environment. Thank you Dr. Bromley and Edwin!





## STATISTICS TUTORING PROGRAM

BY IRIN RAHMAN

### The Joy of Teaching: A Tutor's Perspective

As a second-year PhD student in Statistics and a graduate teaching assistant, I have the privilege of tutoring undergraduate students. Teaching has always been a passion of mine, not just because I love statistics, but because I deeply enjoy interacting with students and understanding their thought processes. Each tutoring session is an opportunity to bridge gaps in knowledge, build confidence, and make statistics feel less intimidating and more practical.



I would like to share a memorable experience with one of the students. She came to my tutoring session feeling frustrated and overwhelmed by the course material. However, as we discussed the topics together, her frustration gradually faded. By the end of the session, she left with a smile on her face. I will never forget that day. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to help students who need support in understanding statistics. I truly enjoy studying statistics because I find it to be a highly practical field. It allows me to apply analytical techniques to real-world problems, turning data into meaningful insights. The ability to uncover patterns, make informed decisions, and solve complex challenges through statistical analysis is what makes this field so fascinating to me.

## PEER MENTORS

BY CADENCE KLINE

Working as a Peer Mentor for the College of Arts and Sciences this year, alongside Grace Gora and Jessica Brown, has been an incredibly rewarding experience. We have spent this year helping students succeed by assisting students in finding a balanced schedule between their academics and extracurriculars, reviewing and refining resumes, and offering advice to first year students about clubs and campus involvement. Additionally, we have been a friendly presence for any student looking for a place to hang out and chat. It has been amazing to connect with different students, and I look forward to continuing my support for my peers in the future!



## POLITICAL SCIENCE VISITS LEGISLATURE

BY KELLBI PRITCHETT

Following this trip, all I can say is WOW! This trip was one of the most educational experiences I have had. I believe experience takes us further than any classroom learning will, and this trip was a great opportunity to apply my learning to various professional environments. Over the course of three days in Bismarck myself, along with other students had the opportunity to meet with the governor of ND, a district, supreme, and federal court judge, two incredible law firms, multiple law clerks and lawyers, and a lobbyist.



All of which provided us with details of what their job entails, and the paths taken to get them where they are today. However, in my opinion the best part of the trip was the opportunity we each had to take part in the legislative assembly and join North Dakota representatives and senators on the floor during session. I know we all were beyond excited to be a part of that and see first-hand what goes on at the capitol, and even more excited to have an opportunity to network with local officials! Overall, this trip was truly one of a kind and so valuable for a student like me to attend and learn from. It is opportunities like this that take our learning to the next level. So fun to take pictures with NDSU President David Cook, along with other state officials.





## HONOR'S DAY

BY JESSICA BROWN

### Donor Thank You

A huge thank you to all the amazing donors for all their generosity. You all have made it possible for so many students to continue pursuing their education. You continue to make a difference in the lives of so many NDSU students, including mine, with your kindness. We cannot thank you enough for your investment in the next generation and the potential you see in us. I have been honored to receive the Dr. Patricia A. Beatty Endowed Scholarship this year for financial support. By receiving this I have been given an opportunity to continue my education and keep working towards my goal of becoming a Physician Assistant. This gift allows me to lessen my financial burden and continue to increase my involvement on campus exploring my passions. I am so thankful for this opportunity and the gifts I have received. I cannot express my gratitude for having someone believe in what I can do and accomplish. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for joining us today to celebrate the generosity of all our donors. Thank you for empowering us and believing in all of us!



### CASA Ambassador Excellence Award

The College of Arts and Sciences Ambassadors would like to present our Ambassador Award of Excellence to Gregory Cook, PhD. Dr. Cook has been selected by fellow ambassadors as a professor who truly cares about his students and constantly pours into them. He wants his students to truly understand and succeed in not only their Chemistry courses, but in their lives and academic journeys. He is enthusiastic and kind to all he encounters. We would like him to know he has made an impact on many of us, and we greatly appreciate all he does. Thank you, Dr. Cook, for being an excellent professor!



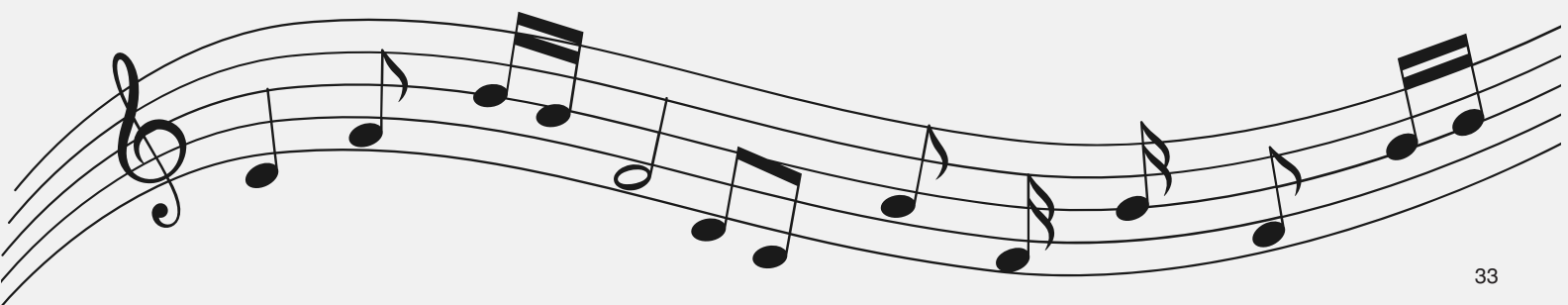
## CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHT

BY SYLVIE WINJE

I'm currently a senior at NDSU, where I'm pursuing a degree in piano performance. My parents were determined for each of their four children to learn a musical instrument, so I began piano lessons at the age of six. I was initially thrilled to start, having watched my older sister take lessons before me. However, when I began, I found myself surprisingly disheartened. My first teacher did not inspire me, and the lessons felt more like a chore than a joy. Fortunately, my parents were committed to my musical education and found a new teacher. That change made all the difference. My new instructor, Ms. Jan, had a profound love for music and her passion was contagious. Under her guidance, I quickly developed a love for the piano that has stayed with me ever since. Ms. Jan also played a pivotal role in inspiring me to become a piano teacher myself, and her influence is a big part of why I enjoy teaching piano today.



At NDSU, I've had the privilege of participating in a variety of performance opportunities. Each fall, the piano faculty at the Challey School of Music invites world-renowned instrumentalists to collaborate with student pianists in smaller ensembles. During the first two weeks of the semester, NDSU pianists rehearse with these instrumentalists in small groups, culminating in a final performance at the end of the festival. I've had the chance to be a part of the chamber festival three times throughout my college years. Each experience has been incredibly enriching, despite the extensive summer practice required. These festivals have allowed me to forge lifelong connections with many exceptional musicians, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunities they have provided.





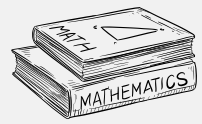
## SPRING MUSIC PERFORMANCE

BY ALEXIA THREATT



Alexia Threatt grew up in the Midwest and is currently attending NDSU working to graduate with a B.S. in Music and Psychology. She recently performed in a recital with Zoe Kyes. Alexia's hobbies include fiber arts, reading, and practicing her clarinet. One of the pieces she performed was the 2nd and 3rd movement of the Weber Clarinet Concerto No. 2 in E-flat major. The piece was initially written in the 1800s for Heinrich Bormann and is a staple of clarinet literature to this day!





## THE JERRY HEUER MAA-NCS TEAM COMPETITION

Congratulations to the NDSU Mathematics team 'Excessively Complex Analysis!' Three undergraduate students Nolan Severance (Statistics/Mathematics), George Pasche (Physics/Mathematics), and Chance Bowlinger (Computer Science/Mathematics) participated in the *2024 Heuer Team Contest of the North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America* and obtained an excellent 5th place among 66 teams.

“U of M Twin Cities has dominated these contests in recent years, so putting up the best score outside of their teams was a result I was personally very happy with” stated George Pasche.

## ARCHITECTURE STUDIO VISITS BISMARCK, ND

Activities included touring the Breuer buildings at the University of Mary; a reception for NDSU Architecture alums hosted by AIA North Dakota. Students got to hear about the career paths of several alums and ask questions. A visit to the North Dakota Heritage Center, the State Archives, and a tour of the Capitol. Students and faculty were treated to visits with Governor Armstrong, Senator Mathern and Representative Christy. The adventure ended with a panel discussion that included representatives from Sanford, the City of Bismarck, AARP North Dakota, and the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency.





# STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

BY TASHA CARY-WASELK

## Taking your education beyond the classroom

NDSU offers over 500 study abroad programs in 70+ countries, including options right here in the U.S. Whether you want to immerse yourself in a spring break adventure or spend an entire academic year exploring the world.

No matter your major, study abroad is a possibility. All you have to do is meet with your study abroad advisor to get started. Plus, you can use your financial aid and scholarships (including those we offer) to help make your global journey a reality. Stop by the Study Abroad Office, right next to Caribou to start planning your life-changing experience!



"I learned so much from the classes I took there. From the hands-on nature of them to the very involved discussions, I feel my skills increased immensely, and I learned a lot."





# WALK TO END ALZHEIMERS



BY ELLEE PASTWA

## "Walking Toward a Cure: CAS Student Ambassadors Join the Fight Against Alzheimer's"

Walk to End Alzheimer's is hosted by the Alzheimer's Association in more 600 different communities throughout the nation! This past Fall, ambassadors of the College of Arts and Sciences were able to join in the fight against Alzheimer's by fundraising for research, care, and support all individuals affected by this disease. As participants came to support the event, they carried flowers from the Promise Garden, with each color symbolizing their personal connection with the disease. The blue flowers represent those who are currently living with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia. Purple flowers represent individuals who have lost a loved one due to Alzheimer's. Yellow flowers represent those who are currently supporting or caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease. The orange flowers represent advocates who are participating to support the cause and a future vision of a world without Alzheimer's. Although no one carries a white flower in the Promise Garden yet, it represents the hope for a cure, and the first survivor of Alzheimer's. As the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's disease, participants and donors were able to raise over \$142,000 in the Fargo/Moorhead area! As we continue to advocate and support those affected by Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative disorders, we can uphold the immense hope that the first survivor of Alzheimer's will soon receive a white flower to add to the Promise Garden.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: HANNAH KHAN

After graduating from NDSU I embarked on an exciting new chapter by moving to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania after graduating last year. Earlier that year I had been accepted to the very first Oncology Graduate Program (OGP) at the University of Pittsburgh. In late August, alongside 15 other driven and passionate individuals (the OG's), I officially began my PhD journey.

My passion for research began when I was in high school and began conducting research in a barley genomics lab at NDSU. It was furthered during my time at NDSU in Dr. Katie Reindl's lab where I studied pancreatic cancer. I always knew I wanted to explore women's health more deeply, and Pitt gave me this opportunity.



Since starting graduate school, I have had the chance to dive further into this passion through my lab rotations. The focus of my first rotation was cellular senescence and metabolism in ovarian cancer. My second rotation focused on the metastasis and tumor progression of ovarian cancer, with a specific emphasis on the mitochondria - which is so much more than just the powerhouse of the cell! This Spring, I have my third rotation which studies breast cancer with a focus on the mechanisms of resistance to endocrine therapy and innovative approaches to block breast cancer metastasis through precision medicine.



One of the most impactful parts of my graduate experience thus far has been my Clinical Oncology class. In this course, MDs, MD/PhDs, and their cancer patients speak to our class about their journeys and the treatments they have undergone. While I have had family and friends who were diagnosed with cancer, hearing these firsthand accounts on a regular basis has been incredibly moving. It is a powerful reminder of why we spend countless hours in the lab - and it has only strengthened my motivation for the work I do.

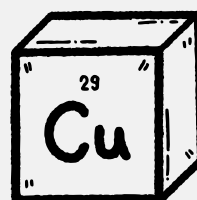
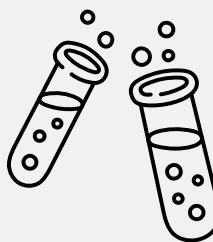
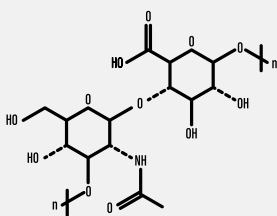
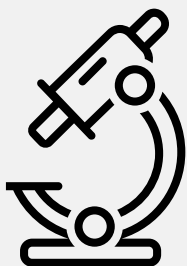
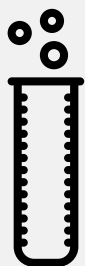




## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: HANNAH KHAN

While this new journey has its fair share of lab work and classes - it has also been about building community. My cohort and I have become a tight-knit group with many memories already made and many more to make over these next five years. From backyard barbecues, attending football games, watching the northern lights, to exploring Pittsburgh, we have found a balance between hard work and fun.

As I reflect on how I got here, I am incredibly grateful for the experience and mentorship I received at NDSU. The research opportunities, leadership experiences, and guidance from faculty have prepared me well for this next chapter. I am excited for the discoveries and contributions I hope to make in the field of women's cancer research and am optimistic about the impact our work can have.



## LEARNING ASSISTANTS

BY SAM LIES

Last fall, I had the incredible opportunity and privilege to serve as a Learning Assistant (LA) for Organic Chemistry. This role not only allowed me to assist students in their learning journey but also provided me with a chance to strengthen my own understanding of the subject. The role would involve answering questions, holding office hours and review sessions, and assisting with in-class activities.

My overall experience was fantastic. I not only had the chance to engage with students and help them develop their understanding of Organic Chemistry, but I also benefited personally from this role. It was rewarding to watch students progress and grasp challenging concepts, knowing I played a part in their learning process. Additionally, the position allowed me to build a stronger relationship with the professor, Dr. Leontyev. Having access to his expertise meant I could ask questions whenever I was uncertain about content, which contributed significantly to my growth and confidence in the material.

Throughout the semester, I noticed significant improvements in my own understanding of Organic Chemistry. I no longer just memorized reactions and mechanisms but developed a deeper conceptual grasp of the subject. The ability to explain complex topics to others also helped reinforce my knowledge and improved my communication skills. This experience taught me valuable skills in teaching, patience, and critical thinking, skills I plan to carry with me in future academic and professional pursuits.





# CREATIVITY & INNOVATION

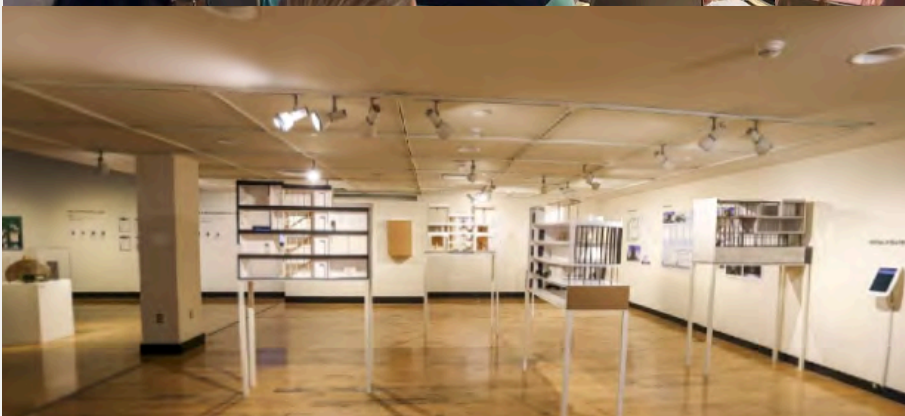
## NDSU'S FIRST MUSEUM



### NDSU's First Museum - over a million artifacts

NDSU's Museum and Collections (MAC) is a collaborative concept that links over 17 collections from across campus with teaching, research, and public outreach initiatives. The MAC concept connects specimens, artifacts, and art across the learning community in a non-hierarchical manner that reaches beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries. The MAC experience consists of: 1. Portals, which are small public displays that introduce collections in unexpected ways on and off campus, 2. Exhibitions that share the breadth of collections across departments, 3. Relationships, collaboration and curiosity facilitated both regionally and beyond.

Michael Strand (Director, School of Design, Architecture and Art), Kimberly Wallin (Dean, College of Arts and Sciences), and Jolie Graybill (Dean of Libraries), applied for and received an Impact Grant from the NDSU Foundation, which was awarded for the development of a university-wide Museum. This grant has been instrumental in forming a Founding Committee to identify campus collections, as well as in hiring student fellows to brand, promote, research, and inventory artifacts. These efforts have prepared the learning community for the next phase of the Museum's growth. A special thank you to the Museum Fellows, Founding Committee, Campus Partners, NDSU Foundation Board of Trustees, Plains Art Museum, NDSU Facilities, Vectr 3D, and President David Cook for support and faith in the potential of this project to transform the way we collect, manage and share our resources for the good of our learning community.







# FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE COURSE

BY DR. NADEJE ALEXANDRE



## College of Arts and Sciences First Year Experience

The implementation of the First Year Experience (FYE) represents a significant initiative aimed at enhancing the transition and overall success of incoming first year students to the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). It is a critical component of CAS' commitment to fostering a successful transition to college life, ensuring that first year students have a positive and enriching academic and personal experience, and setting each and every one of them up for success. Students enjoyed making connections, forming new friendships while preparing for their academic journey ahead. Interactive activities and movement kept them engaged and gave them a sense of belonging.

### Student Comments:

"Some of my favorite lessons were on growth mindset and resilience."

"The small group activities helped me create bonds with new people."



## PARTNERSHIP WITH WEST FARGO PARKS

BY DR. NADEJE ALEXANDRE

This past year, College of Arts and Sciences partnered with West Fargo Parks to provide workshops for their youth and adult activities program for their Fall/Winter Season as well as their Spring/Summer Season.

Three of our academic departments created fun and engaging spaces for all to learn through hands-on activities.



### Physics

- Fly a Drone with your Mind

### School of Architecture, Design, Art +

- Date Night Ceramics
- Express Yourself Through Sewing + Design,
- Expressive World of Watercolor!

### Chemistry

- Wine Tasting - The Chemistry of Cold Climate Grapes







# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ACADEMIA

BY DR. DENNIS COOLEY

To say that AI and the scholarship exploring it are hot commodities is like saying an erupting volcano is a little too warm to stand near. The technology has far outpaced efforts to educate folks about how it works, what it does, and the ethical challenges it poses to universities, stakeholders, and our communities. We are also struggling to answer those challenges in a meaningful, well-informed way.

Besides having conversations with various campus and community groups about ethics and AI, Cooley and Chancellor Mark Hagerott's "History and Philosophy of AI" seminar's students have been considering the implications of various forms of AI chatbots, including ghostbots. Ghostbots use a deceased person's image, voice, and other data to simulate the deceased. With enough data and improved technology, at some point in time, ghostbots will be able to fool even those who knew the dead person best. It may be that AI could resurrect the dead, in other words. The outcome could be immortality for those who have access to the technology and the means to pay for it.

So, what does that mean for us? AI ghostbots definitely raise dilemmas about how we should ethically and legally treat such a being, whether that "person" can continue to make decisions about itself and others the way the embodied person did, and so on. More difficult questions arise if several of these AI persons were created, especially when the embodied person is still alive. Who or which one is the "real" person, if any?! Should we be using this technology to remove human flaws – trans-humans – or replace humans altogether – post-humans. Given the technology's impact on all people and our right to flourish, these and other questions need to be answered before the technology controls us instead of we controlling the technology. Which is something the new NDSU AI and Humanities undergraduate certificate will help do!





# HISTORY STUDENTS BRING THE STORY OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY LANDSCAPE AND HISTORY TO LIFE IN DOCUMENTARY

BY DR. ANGELA SMITH

During Fall semester, history students embarked on an ambitious project to explore the evolution of the Red River Valley of the North. Under the guidance of history professor Dr. Angela Smith, graduate and undergraduate students in a Digital History class collaborated to research, shape, script, and film a compelling documentary titled *Glacier Prairie Farm: The Evolution of the Red River Valley of the North*.

The 50-minute documentary, which premiered in December 2024 at The Fargo Theatre, delves into the region's geographical, agricultural, and historical transformations. Through interviews, archival research, and fieldwork, the students explored the valley's landscape and the broader environmental, historical, sociological, and economic factors that have shaped its development.

Smith and her students worked to locate experts from the Fargo-Moorhead area who could offer insight into the region's past and present. Historians and community members provided valuable perspectives, helping to weave a nuanced narrative of the Red River Valley's evolution. The project not only highlighted the resilience of those who have lived and worked on the land but also underscored the intersection of history, environment, and community in understanding regional history.

This documentary represents more than just an academic exercise—it is a bridge between the past and present, offering viewers a chance to reflect on the forces that continue to shape the Red River Valley. By combining research with creative storytelling, NDSU's history students have demonstrated the power of history to inform and inspire.



# INTERIOR DESIGN INSPIRED KITCHEN CHALLENGE

BY ALETHA LIPPAY

This Inspired Kitchens Design Challenge is a collaboration between the North Dakota State University Interior Design Department, Building Industry Association of the RRV (formerly Home Builders Association) and Accent Kitchen & Bath on a feature for the 2025 Red River Valley Home & Garden Show.

The competition, open to 2nd and 3rd year interior design students, is a self-directed student team competition to create mood boards, renderings and a design concept reimagining an outdated kitchen, all while completing for a \$2,000 scholarship prize. The competition is limited to four total teams of two to three interior design students each. All teams use the same kitchen and actual images, floor plan and dimensions are provided. Accent Kitchen & Bath open its showroom to the student teams to provide products to use for selections, with Interior Designer Jessica Holen available to assist. Students gain valuable real-world experience, are showcased as part of the BIA-RRV's flagship community event and highlighted during the show's workshops as co-presenters with Accent Kitchen & Bath. Projects are displayed at the Show and on the event website, inviting the public to vote on their favorite. The team/project receiving the most votes are announced on March 31 and receive scholarships from Home Builders Care of F-M Foundation, the BIA-RRV's charity.



## Winning Team

The winning student team was "Organic Vintage" by Shler Mohammed and Ashten Wolfe, Interior Design 2nd year students. Overall, more than 840 votes were cast. The BIA noted that they received much praise from show attendees and exhibitors on the project and that the students did an excellent job presenting their projects all weekend.



# EMOTIVE URBAN SPACES BY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

BY TYLER MARTIN

This project, Emotive Urban Design - Rifted Gardens, gave me new insights into wholistic design through a process that necessitated outlining a natural landscape based off of an urban landscape. I was tasked with researching plant life native to Fargo but had the more difficult challenge of finding shade reliant plants that would thrive in an urban setting. One of the more enjoyable parts of the project was creating the planting map, which outlined where chosen flowers, shrubs, and trees would be placed. The map had to align with the needs for the space while creating a beautiful, aesthetic landscape that matched the emotional experience my team chose to convey: frenzy contrasting stillness. The solution chosen to represent these emotions included quaking aspen trees, whose moving leaves made the sound frenzy, colorful flowers that provided relaxing garden spaces for occupants, and lilac bushes which blocked out unpleasant views and created meditation through sense of smell. Overall, the design process pushed my limits and offered me a new perspective on the necessity of well incorporated natural design within an urban world.



## THEATRE ARTS 2024-2025 SEASON

*Little Women: The Broadway Musical*, Book by Allan Knee, Music by Jason Howland, Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein



“The March sisters forever...Forever!!” - The March family and Laurie share a touching moment in the heartfelt number, ‘Five Forever’, in *Little Women: The Broadway Musical*.

Photo Credit: Kensie Wallner Photography

*‘Twas the Night Before Christmas* by Ken Ludwig



“Hold on tight! We’re going through sideways!!” - Calliope, Emily, and Amos take an adventurous flight in Ken Ludwig’s *Twas the Night Before Christmas*.

Photo Credit: Justin Eiler



## THEATRE ARTS 2024-2025 SEASON

### Dr. Ride's American Beach House by Liza Birkenmeier



“I want you to smile, like you really know me” Harriet and Matilda laugh while telling one another stories in *Dr. Ride's American Beach House* by Liza Birkenmeier.

Photo Credit: Justin Eiler

### The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde



“Algernon, I have already told you to go. I don't want you here. Why don't you go?” Jack pleads for Algernon to leave in *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde.

Photo Credit: Justin Eiler

# THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

BY MARIAH CHRISTIAN

College of Arts and Sciences Performing Arts division delighted audiences with its production of Gilbert and Sullivan's comedic opera *The Pirates of Penzance* at Festival Concert Hall at NDSU. A rotation of talented NDSU students brought the classic tale to life.

*The Pirates of Penzance* follows Fredric, a young man who has been apprenticed to a group of Pirates. Upon completing his indenture, he sets out on his own and falls in love with Mabel, the daughter of Major-General Stanley. When the band of pirates show up and attempt to marry Mabel and her sisters, the Major-General Stanley comes to the rescue by pretending to be an orphan to appeal to the tender-hearted nature of the Pirates of Penzance. When it is revealed that Fredric's birthday is on February 29, leap day, meaning his indenture is not up, his sense of duty places him under the pirates influence again. Major-General Stanley's lie is then revealed, leading to a comedic and chaotic grand finale.

With its energetic performances, lively music, and comedic brilliance, *The Pirates of Penzance* once again proved why NDSU's performing arts productions remain a highlight of the campus arts scene.





# SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH

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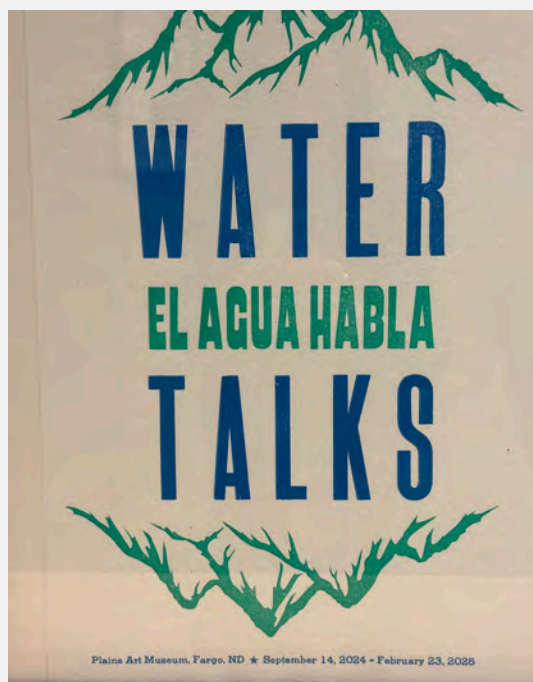
## WATER TALKS

BY DR. MARINUS OTTE

In 2020, I was fortunate enough to receive a Fulbright Specialist award. My first project started in 2021 in collaboration with Dr. Tatiana Lobato de Magalhães who is an Assistant Professor at the Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro in the state of Querétaro, Mexico. This project, which focused on access to water of good quality incorporating so-called Nature-Based Solutions for communities in the Sierra Gorda in Querétaro, has been, and still is, extremely successful.

Spanish uses many words to describe things, which is why the project was titled “Capacitación en gestión del agua y humedales en diferentes sectores sociales: comunidades rurales, gobierno y academia”. In English, we shortened that to “Water management in a karstic rural impoverished environment.” The project led to a book in Spanish and English, 1000s of photographs, short videos, and even a full-hour documentary. In Spanish, the documentary was titled “Percepciones sobre el Agua”, perception about water, but the English version was titled “Water Talks”, which therefore conveys two meanings: “talks about water”, and “the water talks”.

And now, almost four years into the project, it is also featured as an exhibition at the Plains Art Museum under the same title “Water Talks – El Agua Habla.”. Our photographs, videos, books, and documentary are featured together with the amazing photography of Tyrel Iron Eyes of Standing Rock, who recorded the protests against the Dakota Access oil pipeline in 2016. Our combined images mesh perfectly telling the story about water.



# ARCHEALOGY & CHEMISTRY FIELD SCHOOL AT WINERY

BY KIKI STEVENSON

I'm a Conservation Biology and Anthropology double major from Bismarck, ND. I took Dr. Kristen Fellows' Summer Archaeology Field School. We weren't digging for a specific item but were looking to see what could be uncovered. We found some fun stuff! There were many piles of refuse (garbage piles) full of bones, canning materials, glass, and one of large machinery parts including thresher teeth, wires, and even a spoon.





## TEACHER EDUCATION ALUM RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS MILKEN AWARD

The Milken Award honors early to mid-career educators each year from across the country for what they have achieved and what they plan to accomplish. This year the \$25,000 award was given to Katelyn Gorder, the only North Dakota recipient for 2023-24. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Family and Consumer Science Education in 2015 from the College of Arts and Sciences' School of Education. She then quickly found her first teaching job at Skyview High School in Billings, MT. She worked there for eight years and helped to launch several programs that gave students hands-on learning experiences in career exploration and development, including a student-run coffee shop and outdoor adventures club.

Katelyn was then offered a job in Grafton, ND, where she grew up. Since returning, she has developed the school's Family and Consumer Science and Career-Preparedness programs, teaching classes on independent living, nutrition, food preparation, and culinary arts. Within these courses, students learn important lessons in financial literacy, child development, staying safe online, personal health practices, cooking techniques and a lot more. She even created a course called Teaching Profession Class for students interested in pursuing a career in education.





## PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING: ALEXIS WOLFE



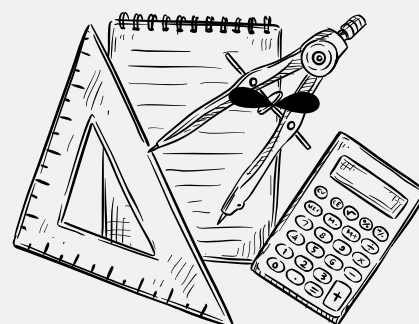
Alexis Wolf, a math educator at John Glenn Middle School in Maplewood, Minnesota, has been awarded the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching by the National Science Foundation. The honor highlights Wolf's contributions to mathematics education and her commitment to encouraging a love for learning among her students and colleagues.

“Receiving recognition for my teaching is validating and humbling,” Wolf said. “[It] is an absolute honor and energizes me to continue learning to provide the best possible educational experience for my students.”

Her approach prioritizes high expectations and encourages students to take ownership of their learning through effective questioning and note-taking strategies. This innovative teaching philosophy has helped her students excel academically and develop confidence in their ideas.

Wolf earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics and mathematics education from NDSU and a master's degree in mathematics education at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She also serves on the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is the highest recognition bestowed upon mathematics and science teachers in the United States. It celebrates educators who demonstrate outstanding teaching practices and leadership in their field.







## POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR LIZ CARLSON NAMED CLOUSTON FAMILY FELLOW IN SUPPORT OF HER RESEARCH

Policymakers have an interest in determining where and when discontent may tip over into rebellion. We have insight into the general attitudes and conditions that make people rebel, but less information on who holds these attitudes and where they are located. No global survey exists that asks whether citizens plan to take up arms. However, there are global surveys on lots of other issues, including poverty, health, politics, values and household relationships. We collected original data in Nigeria to determine whether existing data can be used to predict the likelihood of rebellion and protest.

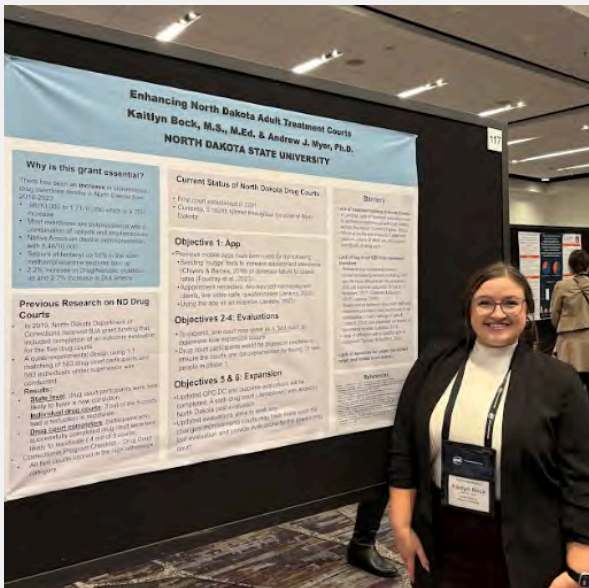
The fellowship funded original data collection, as well as supporting several graduate and undergraduate students who helped with survey design, and analysis of both quantitative and open-ended responses.



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENT RESEARCH

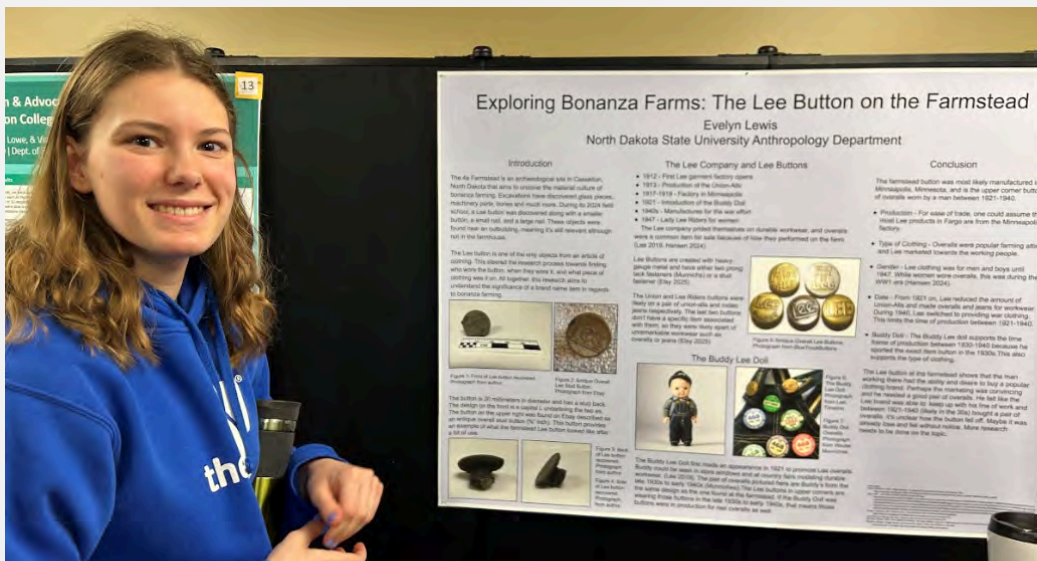
Kaitlyn Bock (Doctoral student in the Department of Criminal Justice) presented her research at a poster session at the American Society of Criminology in San Francisco. (attached photo - student with glasses)

Lauren Rahier (Double major - Criminal Justice and Psychology, with a Forensic Science minor) also presented research at the 2024 American Society of Criminology conference in San Francisco. The research project focused on police officers' perceptions of body worn cameras is led by Dr. Carol A. Archbold (Challey Institute for Global Innovation & Growth Faculty Fellow, Walter & Verna Gehrts Endowed Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice).



## SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENT RESEARCH

Sociology & Anthropology Spotlight highlights the outstanding research conducted by the department's graduate and undergraduate students, as well as showcase the department's ongoing efforts in service learning and community engagement.





## UNSEEN ECOSYSTEM

BY RHYS O'BRIEN

As an undergraduate student in the Aldrich-Wolfe Lab at NDSU, I have the opportunity to participate in research exploring soil and plant fungi and their impact on plant communities. Our lab investigates how these microorganisms function in different environments and how they influence conservation, sustainable farming, and climate change adaptation.

One project in the lab focuses on whether soil microorganisms influence the effects of drought and temperature stress on plant communities. Experiments in the field, greenhouse, and growth chamber examine how native plants like black-eyed Susan respond to changing conditions. A related project compares microbial communities in native prairie versus agricultural soils. Another area of research involves fungal endophytes—beneficial fungi that live inside plants. The lab is also investigating how fungi, important for nutrient cycling, plant disease, and plant protection are affected by different management practices in crop and forest restoration.

Field samples from Costa Rica are being analyzed to examine fungal colonization on decomposing logs, study how coffee plant fungi spread into forests, and assess how organic versus conventional farming affects fungal communities. Additionally, research is being conducted on the fungi that birds transport between different environments, specifically between forests and coffee plantations in Costa Rica.

The Aldrich-Wolfe Lab's research provides valuable insights into how belowground life influences ecosystems. By studying these microscopic communities, we aim to inform conservation efforts, sustainable farming practices, and strategies for ecosystem restoration.





## PSYCHOLOGY PUBLIC HEALTH

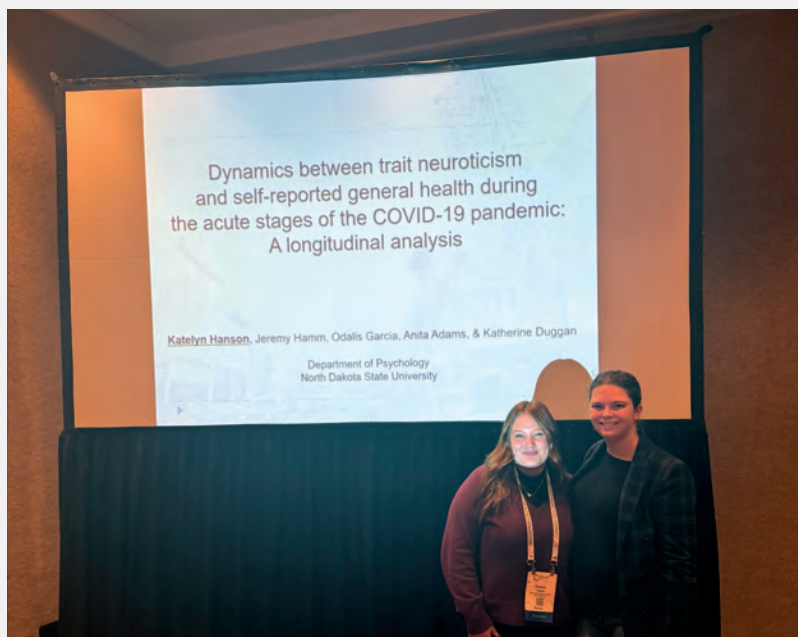
BY KATELYN HANSON

### American Public Health Association Annual Meeting

This past October, I had the opportunity to present at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. My talk was given in the psychosocial epidemiology session on my senior thesis project I have been working on with Dr. Katherine Duggan in Psychology. The theme for the meeting was, "Building Trust in Public Health and Science." This theme is related to my research which examines the relationship between neuroticism and self-reported general health during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Understanding how personality traits influence health perceptions and behaviors is important for developing effective public health interventions, particularly in times of high stress and crisis.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, trust in public health and science has become more important than ever. My research highlights the importance of understanding how psychological factors such as personality traits shape the way individuals perceive and experience health.

At the APHA conference, I had the opportunity to meet experts in epidemiology, behavioral science and public health policy, all who are working towards a common goal of improving health outcomes for the population. One key takeaway from all of the sessions I attended was that building trust in public health is not going to be built overnight. It requires transparency, communication, and a deep understanding of all of the factors that influence health, including psychological and social factors. Presenting at the conference was an invaluable experience, and I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to share my work and passion with a broader audience.





## AI FOR BIOLOGY-BASED EDUCATION

BY DR. ANGELA HODGSON



As a Professor of Practice in Biological Sciences, my scholarship has focused mainly on techniques for improving student learning in the Biological Sciences. One of these techniques that I use in my own introductory biology classroom is known as Assessment for Learning. In an Assessment for Learning classroom students are asked to solve problems or answer questions throughout the learning process. For example, I will ask my students to read text or view a video before class, and then check their understanding by answering questions. Then when they come to class, I will provide additional instruction and have them work in groups to apply what they have learned to solve a more real-world critical thinking problem. Finally, to help students determine if they have mastered the material, I will give one final set of problems they can work on as homework. All of these assessments - pre-class questions, in-class problems, after-class homework- are designed to help students stay engaged in the learning process, and at the same time they receive continuous feedback that allows them to assess whether they are achieving the learning objectives of the course. The assessments also help me to continually tailor my instruction to meet the students' needs. While there are many benefits to this evidence-based approach to learning, the biggest drawback is that an instructor is required to create a large number of assessment items for every topic that they cover throughout the semester, which is a very time-consuming task. An AI-powered search shows that the estimated time to write one high-quality multiple choice or short answer question is 30 - 90 minutes, which is in line with my own experience.

To help address this problem, I have been collaborating with the Howard Hughes Medical Institutes' (HHMI) Biointeractive program in the development of Assessment Builder, a crowdsourced online database of vetted, high-quality questions that high school and college biology instructors can use in their classrooms. Our goal is to provide a platform for instructors to share assessment resources, so that they have more time to work on important tasks such as providing students timely feedback throughout the instructional process. In addition, with the improvement of AI Large Language Models (LLM's), we have begun to investigate their potential for the generation of assessment items. As part of this project, College of Arts and Sciences, Biological Sciences student, Ellee Pastwa is currently conducting research focused on whether an LLM can produce high-quality questions that require students to employ critical thinking skills, such as the ability to apply their knowledge to, or analyze or evaluate a biological situation. In the education world, these skills are known as higher-order cognitive skills.

# AI FOR BIOLOGY-BASED EDUCATION

BY ELLEE PASTWA

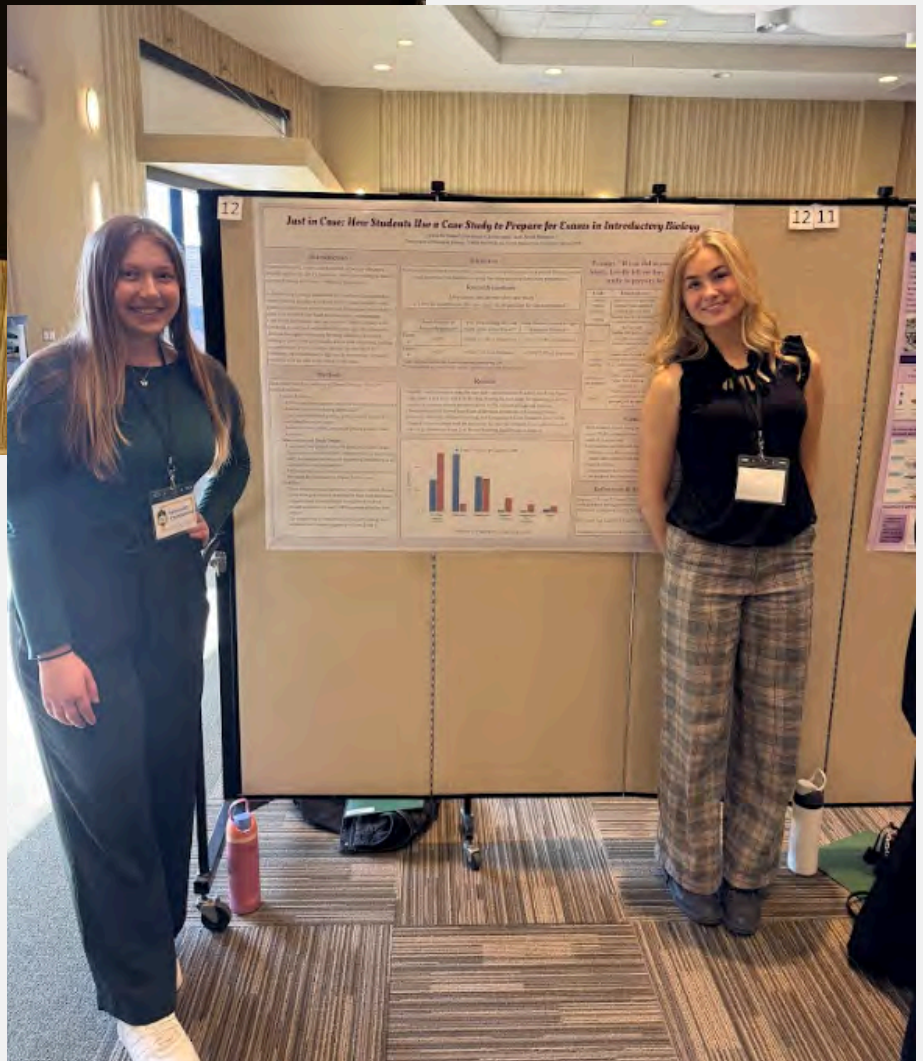
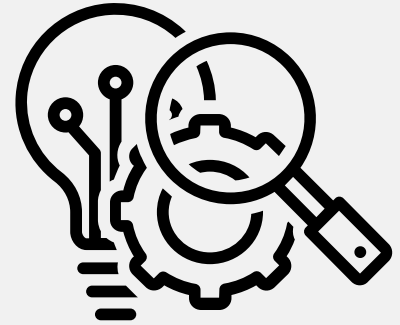
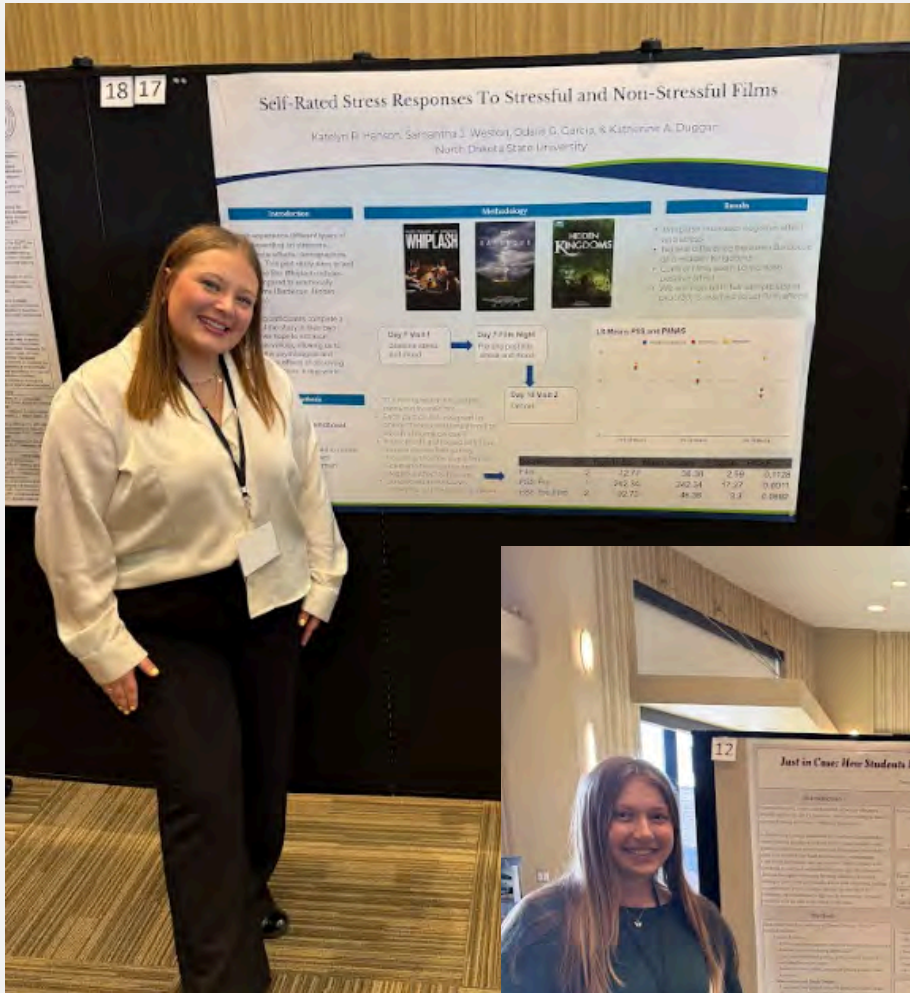
I have had the privilege of working with the esteemed Dr. Angela Hodgson on cutting-edge research regarding the use of AI for biology-based education assessment. This research topic was chosen to assess an AI-powered large language models' ability to consistently generate both lower and higher order multiple choice questions. Experts on the topic are then able to scale the questions using Bloom's taxonomy, which are then compared to the ranking of human generated biology multiple choice questions. Throughout this experiment, I have been acting as a research coordinator and am very excited to present our experiment and findings at the undergraduate research convention in April! I am very appreciative of how the experiences of this opportunity have shaped my understanding of the vital role of research positions and I aspire to continue being a part of this research team after graduation!





## STUDENT RESEARCH DAY

NDSU Student Research Days is a two-day event dedicated to providing NDSU undergraduate and graduate students an opportunity to present their research and creative works. It is a collaboration among NDSU EXPLORE, Gamma Sigma Delta, and the Graduate Student Council.



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## POST ISSUE EVENTS

### Science Olympiad



The Science Olympiad brings K-12 students together to tackle STEM-related issues.



### Beaux Arts Gala

The School of Design, Art, and Architecture Beaux Art Gala is an annual tradition that celebrates student accomplishments, alumni, and the school.





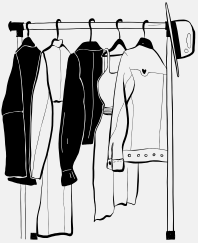
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## POST ISSUE EVENTS

### Design Week



The School of Design, Art, and Architecture highlights student projects from the semester in various events.



### Pride Week

NDSU celebrates Pride month in April, giving the opportunity to honor inclusion and diversity in the bison community.

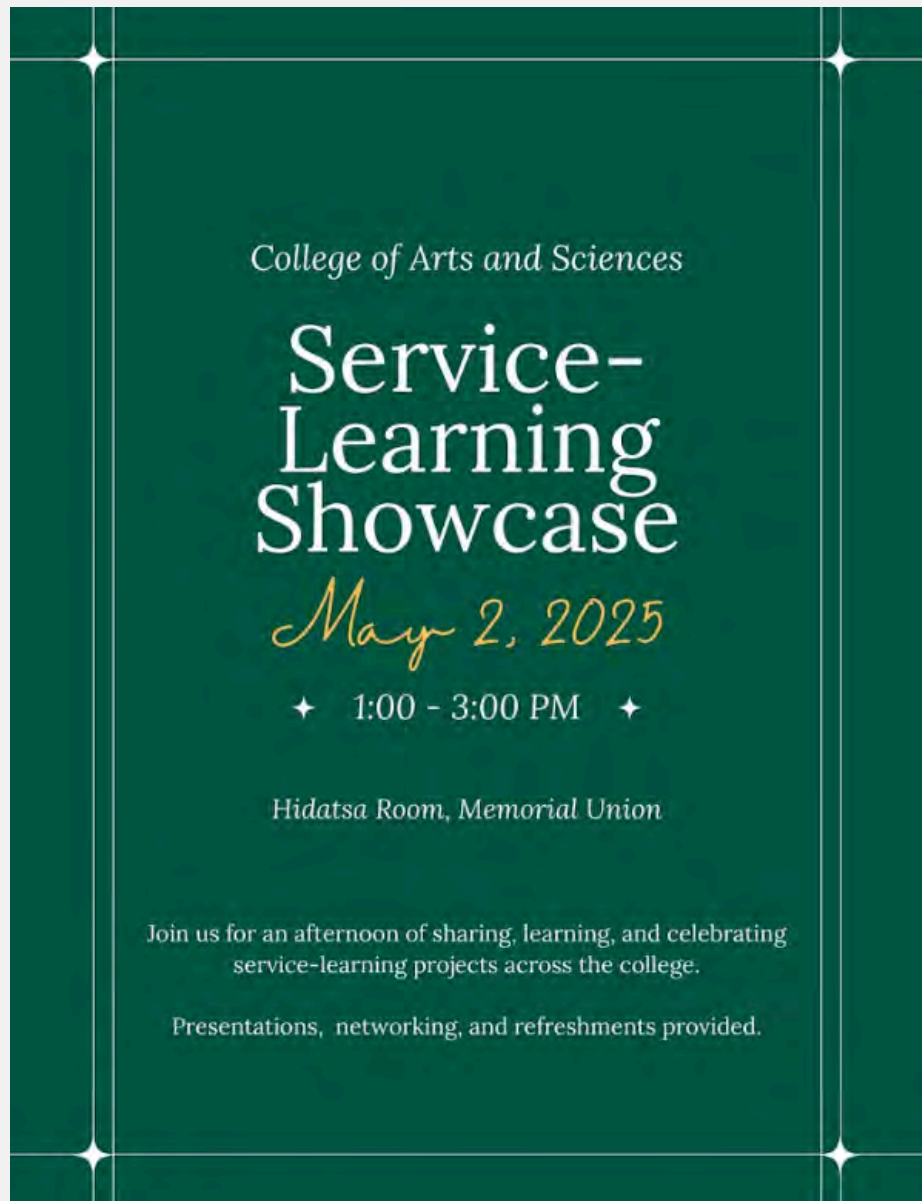




## POST ISSUE EVENTS

### Service Learning Showcase

Sharing, learning, and celebrating service learning projects across the college.







# COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



*"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."*

*-- Margaret J. Wheatley --*