

The UND COMMUNICATOR

UND Department of Communication's Newsletter | Fall 2023, Vol. 2, No. 2

Department of Communication
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Chair's Column

by Soojung Kim (Department Chair & Graduate Director)



Greetings from the UND Communication Department!

As we approach the end of another successful year, I am filled with a sense of pride and gratitude when reflecting on news from our alumni. I've heard that many of you have retired from impressive professional careers, made a significant impact on your community through your work and public service, started your first full-time position as a communication professional, got married, or welcomed little bundles of joy.


The Communication Department continues to evolve and grow, inspired by the achievements of alumni like you. As of late December, the proposals for the B.A. and Minor in Journalism have been approved at the university level, and they will be reviewed by the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education in early January. I can't wait to share (hopefully) approval news in January 2024. In addition, several Communication majors and minors got together to create a student organization, The Communication Club, to build a stronger community among students and educate the campus community about the importance of communication. What a wonderful initiative! Moreover, our students, like Sydney and Toyosi received nationally competitive scholarships. Finally, our faculty continue to be committed educators, pouring their hearts into students, helping them to learn and grow. In fact, two faculty members, Drs. Lee and Schanilec-Gowan, were nominated by students for university-level teaching awards.

Our centennial celebration event is just around the corner, scheduled for April 25, 2024. This event will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with former classmates, faculty members, and current students. I am looking forward to celebrating your memories and accomplishments and sharing our visions for the next 100 years and more.

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support. Your contributions, whether through mentorship, collaboration, or simply staying connected, are invaluable to us. Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year. I look forward to the opportunity to reconnect with many of you during our centennial celebration.

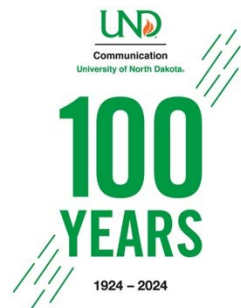
Best wishes,

Soojung Kim

Soojung Kim, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Chair & Graduate Program Director
Associate Professor of Communication 

Department News

Centennial Celebration on April 25, 2024



The UND Department of Communication will celebrate its Centennial by hosting the 2024 Communication Appreciation Day on April 25, 2024 in the Memorial Union at the University of North Dakota.

The Centennial Event Committee chaired by Dr. Joonghwa Lee consists of five faculty members, four undergraduate students, and one graduate student. Since the beginning of fall 2023, the committee has been meeting weekly to prepare the event.



There will be various programs to celebrate the department's history and memories.



As part of this event, the UND Department of Communication offers the Alumni Mentorship Program for current communication majors/minors as well as students in the College of Arts & Sciences.

SCHEDULE

- 2:00am–4:00pm*: Opening, Hagerty Lecture, & Communication Class Showcase
- 4:00pm–5:00pm: Scholarship Ceremony
- 5:00pm–6:00pm: Department of Communication Tour
- 6:00pm–7:00pm: Reception (RSVP Required)
- 7:00pm–9:00pm: Evening Party

*Note: The session will be broadcasted via Zoom.

For more information, please visit the event page: <https://bit.ly/UNDCommCentennialPage>

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Joonghwa Lee at joonghwa.lee@und.edu.

The Hagerty Lecture



The Hagerty Lecture speaker is Mike Nowatzki. Mike Nowatzki has served as communications director for the Office of the Governor since Gov. Doug Burgum took office in

December 2016. A native of Edinburg, N.D., Nowatzki earned a bachelor's degree in journalism with a minor in psychology from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. He worked in the newspaper industry for more than 18 years in North Dakota and Minnesota as a reporter for Forum Communications Co., covering a variety of beats including government, agriculture, business, criminal justice and higher education. Prior to joining the Governor's Office, he covered state government and the Legislature in Bismarck. As communications director, Nowatzki serves as the governor's spokesman and the media's primary point of contact with the Governor's Office, in addition to coordinating communications among the administration's 19 cabinet agencies. He and his wife, Jamie, live in Bismarck with their two daughters. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, coaching, music and pretending to know how to fish. The title of Hagerty Lecture is "Just the facts: Observations from the 'dark side' on the demise of objectivity in journalism."

Digital Media Storytelling Camp



Drs. Joonghwa Lee (Principal Investigator), Emily Buteau (Co-PI), and Soojung Kim (Co-PI) have been awarded a \$21,781 grant from the North Dakota Newspaper Association Education Foundation and the UND College of Arts and

Sciences. This grant will support the UND Communication Department in their efforts to host a digital storytelling camp in Summer 2024. The camp will provide high school students from across the region with a chance to learn more about communication, journalism, and digital media in an interactive and professional environment. Stay tuned for more information.

Department's Merch Site!



Christmas shopping doesn't have to end before Christmas! We are excited to open the limited-time online store offering exclusive Department of Communication merchandise. Students, alumni, families, and communicators across the world can now represent the department by

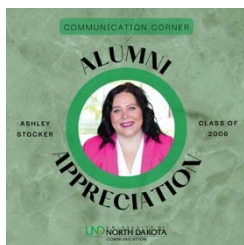
sporting our new t-shirts, hoodies, blankets, hats, and even engraved Stanley tumblers by January 15, 2024! You can order here by clicking the link or scan the QR code below: <https://www.maximumimpactpromotions.com/sr/3414093>



The department's merch site.

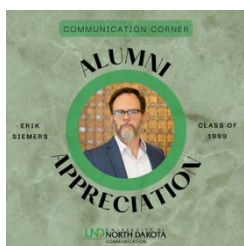
Alumni Appreciation

by Sinead Goulding (Social Media Coordinator, Senior)



Ashley Stocker from Grand Forks, North Dakota! Ashley graduated in 2006 and majored in Communication. At UND, she is the Director of Development for the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) at the UND

Alumni Association & Foundation. Her role is the major gift fundraising for the CEHD and the University of North Dakota. When she was asked what she enjoyed most about the UND Communication Department, Ashley said, "My best memory of the Communication Department was an Interpersonal Communication class I had with Prof. Mary Haslerud-Opp. She created genuine connections and provided strong encouragement to her students."



Erik Siemers is from Aitkin, Minnesota and is currently the Editor-in-Chief for the St. Louis Business Journal. He graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1999 with a Bachelor's degree in Communication. In his time here,

he was an editor for the Dakota Student for two years. The Dakota Student staff proudly won the 1998 Mark of Excellence Award from the Society of Professional Journalists for the best non-daily college newspaper in the country. When asked what he enjoyed most about the UND Communication Department, he said, "I spent a significant part of my college years working as a full-time journalist, whether it be as a reporter for the Grand Forks Herald from the fall of 1996 through the aftermath of

the '97 flood, or as editor of the Dakota Student through my final two years at UND. Throughout that time, I enjoyed the support and appreciation of the UND comms department, whose faculty recognized that the value of my work practicing journalism was a perfect complement to what they were teaching in the classroom."



Allyson Bento is a 2019 graduate from Winnipeg, Manitoba! At UND, Allyson majored in Communication and double minored in Sports Business and Sociology. Her passion led her to continue her education, and she earned her

Master's degree at the UND Department of Communication in the Fall of 2022. Her master's thesis focused on Immersive Sports Journalism in the Post-COVID Arena: Towards Augmented Fan Experiences and Enhanced Audience Engagement. Allyson is now the Digital Content Producer for WMBF News in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. She was incredibly involved on campus with her participation in many clubs and organizations. "I spent all four years of my undergraduate at the Dakota Student and held titles including Sportswriter, Sports Editor, Managing Editor, Podcast Host, and Editor-in-Chief. I also was a member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority on campus, where I held the Vice President of Public Relations and Marketing position. I interned for the UND Television Center as a Video Journalist and at the UND Insider as a camera operator and a sideline reporter." When asked what she enjoyed most about the UND Communication Department, Allyson said, "I loved the

camaraderie of the communication students during my undergrad, you tend to see the same people in different classes and watching us grow (and sometimes struggle) as a group brought a sense of togetherness. I loved taking any course Dr. Jess Schanilec-Gowan or Prof. Chuck Haga was teaching. Those two and the way they teach made me feel like I had a purpose. Anything you can learn from Prof. Haga is valuable."



This week's Alumni Appreciation features Bilal Suleiman! He is a 2020 graduate, born and raised in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He changed his major several times at UND, but ended pursuing a Bachelor's degree in

Communication. Bilal is currently the Marketing Manager at Ember Valley, a California cannabis cultivator and top cannabis brand in the state. He is responsible for overseeing all marketing activities and initiatives for the brand. While at UND, he was involved in the Poolman Leadership Academy and the Poolman Leadership Academy 2.0. He was also a staff writer for the Dakota Student during his senior year. Bilal said, "I can't say enough positive things about these programs. The experience has helped me tremendously throughout my professional life." When he was asked his favorite part of the UND Communication Department, he said, "The professors were by far the best highlight of my time in the program - shoutout to Dr. Joonghwa Lee, Dr. Soojung Kim, Dr. Jess Schanilac-Gowan, Dr. Timothy Pasch and Dr. Pamela Kalbfleisch for being generous with their time and knowledge. And an extra special shoutout to Professor Chuck Haga, for imparting his love for the noble profession of journalism onto me, and for being an incredible mentor, editor, friend and grandpa."



Michaela Fung is a 2019 graduate from Monticello, Minnesota. She majored in Communication with a minor in Leadership. Michaela is currently the Receptionist/Client Service Advocate at Quantum Financial Planning Services in

Spokane, Washington. On campus, she was involved in UND Chi Alpha. When Michaela was asked what she enjoyed most about the UND Communication Department, she said, "I enjoyed the requirement to either be a TA or do an internship! I really enjoyed the internship that I was able to do! Helped get some real-world experience!"



Charlotte Sonterre is a recent graduate in May of 2023. She majored in Communication with a minor in Sports Business. Charlotte is currently working at the Ralph Engelstad Arena as the Game Presentation Coordinator. On

campus, she was a part of Student Ambassadors, Dance Marathon, helped with the planning of Communication Appreciation Day 2023, and worked with UND Athletics. When Charlotte was asked what she enjoyed about the UND Communication Department, she said, "I enjoyed learning from such knowledgeable professors and professors that want to see you succeed and prosper in your future endeavors. I have been able to build life-long relationships with these professors that have helped me get to this point in my career! Dr. Emily Buteau and Dr. Joonghwa Lee have been great mentors and role models as a young professional!"



Stephanie Davidsmeyer is from Thief River Falls, Minnesota. She graduated with her Bachelor's in Communication in 2010, then went on to get her Master's in English in 2013 from the University of North Dakota. She is currently the

Director of Communication at the Washington State Board of Education. When Stephanie attended UND, she was the Opinion Editor at the Dakota Student and also was involved with Studio One. When Stephanie was asked what she enjoyed most about the UND Communication Department, she said, "I think having the ability to apply what we learned in class, in theory, in actual media outlets like the Dakota Student, made a difference in my educational experience. It gave me the drive to try other paid positions and internships that led me to each career milestone I have experienced so far."



Geri Adair was born and raised in Grand Forks, ND and graduated in 2011. Geri majored in Communication with an emphasis in Public Relations and a minor in Sociology. She is currently a Realtor and Property Manager with

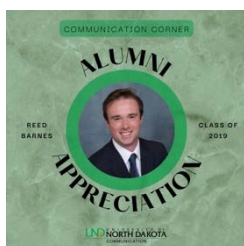
Oxford Realty. While she was at UND, she was a member of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). She said, "The resources available through the PRSSA provided professional development opportunities

to help launch my career." When Geri was asked her favorite thing about the UND Communication Department, she said, "I loved the connections and lifelong friendships I made during my time in the Communication Department. My favorite professor was Dr. Richard Fiordo. I had him for Advertising and Society. I gained a lot of knowledge in the marketing and advertising industry which has helped me in past professional positions and increased the growth of my real estate business."



Kaitlin Ring graduated in 2011 double majoring in Communication and English. She also earned a certificate in Writing and Editing and a Paralegal certificate. Kaitlin is currently an attorney at Neff Eiken & Neff, PC in Williston, North

Dakota. At UND, she was involved in the Dakota Student as a reporter. She took advantage of internship opportunities through the Communication Department, which eventually turned into a job with the Grand Forks Herald. She became a reporter and a night online editor for GrandForksHerald.com. She was also a UND tour guide and did a work study job in the Computer Science Department and at the Law library. When she was asked her favorite part of the UND Communication Department, she said, "I had amazing mentorship from professors who supported my career ambitions. From encouraging me to establish a blog that went "late 2000s viral" through an independent study course, to supporting my shifting career goals and helping me utilize skills gained through Communication courses to pursue a legal career, the people of the UND Communication Department created a unique and unmatched experience."



Reed Barnes is originally from Apple Valley, Minnesota and now lives in St. Paul, Minnesota and works as a Customer Experience Specialist at US Bank. Reed graduated from the University of North Dakota in 2019 majoring in

Communication. He was involved with playing Intramural Basketball and Soccer. Reed was also a Marketing Intern for the athletic department. When Reed was asked his favorite thing about the UND Communication department, he said, "It's hard to say what I enjoyed most about the communication department. I made so many valuable connections that have helped me along my career journey. If I had to say my favorite memory, it would have to be my

senior capstone project! Our group conducted multiple focus groups, interviews, and surveys about how we could increase student attendance at athletic events. This was really enjoyable because it was a topic a lot of student athletes were passionate about, and it felt like we were making an immediate impact!"



Sarah Dignan is from Warroad, Minnesota. She graduated this past Spring with a Bachelor's degree in Communication, as well as 6 Communication certificates and minors in Graphic Design and English. Sarah is currently working

as the Marketing Director for Opp Construction. "I founded the Robot in 3 Days Club with other UND students my freshman year and was the Vice President for all four years. I was also a volunteer mentor for a local high school robotics team (FIRST Robotics Team #8188 Grand Force) for four years (and continue to volunteer as the team's Lead Mentor now). I have also been a volunteer with the Grand Forks Children's Museum within the last couple of years for their event, Full STEAM Ahead." "My favorite thing about the UND Communication Department was the incredible opportunities that were given to me," Sarah said. "I was constantly presented with internship opportunities, volunteering opportunities, and the professors were truly the greatest part of the program! They work hard to show how much they truly care for their students and want to stay in contact, even after taking their classes. Shout out to Dr. Joonghwa Lee for helping me be a better student and always presenting me with opportunities to grow! Other professors that made my time in the UND Comm department great were Dr. Jess Gowan, Professor Chuck Haga, and Dr. Emily Buteau! I am so grateful for everything they taught me!"



Michael Linnell is from Sunburst, Montana. He graduated in 2002, majoring in Communication. Michael has been the Director of University Communications at Minot State University for six years. He is also the Sports Information Director

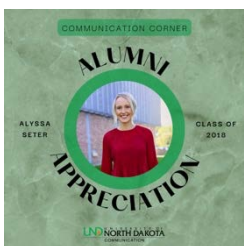
and the Staff Advisor to the State Board of Higher Education. At UND, he was a writer for the Dakota Student. "The Communication Department at UND helped me figure out who I wanted to be," Michael said. "I started as a business major, took a semester off, transferred schools, went on and off while at UND, and just wasn't

sure who I wanted to be. Working under the tutelage of Peter Johnson and the hands-on experience I got in his classes, at the Dakota Student, and working at the Grand Forks Herald finally gave me some direction."



Brian Hvinden is from Garrison, North Dakota and received a Bachelor's degree in Journalism in 1996 from UND. He is now a Crisis Communication Specialist for FEMA. "While at UND, I spent three years at the Dakota Student, writing sports

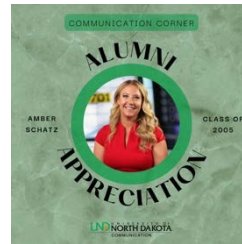
and movie reviews. I was also the chair of the Board of Student Publications and interned in the Sports Information department. I was also a member of the UND chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. On the side, I wrote for The Forum and the Associated Press. The team at the Dakota Student was like a family and produced countless amazing journalists and communicators, now working all over the country," Brian said. "My time at UND was one of excitement and change. As the Communication Department had just moved into O'Kelly Hall, the Internet was gradually becoming mainstream, and then in my first year of graduate school, the '97 flood hit. It was literally the story of the century in Grand Forks and pushed me into a career in public service, spending the past 26 years working in various communications roles with FEMA," Brian said. "The skills and experiences gained from my time at UND have been vital to my career. I also remember fondly classes with Victoria Holden, Marwan Kraidy and Dr. Richard Shafer, who were always supportive and encouraged students to follow their dreams. As a second-generation Journalism/Communication graduate, the school is an integral part of part of who I am, and I'll forever be UND Proud."



Alyssa Seter is from Leeds, North Dakota. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Communication in 2018. She is currently working for the University of Colorado Boulder as the Senior Stewardship Manager in Donor

Relations. At UND, she was on the Track & Field and the cross-country teams. When Alyssa was asked her favorite part of the UND Communication Department, she said, "I truly just loved being a part of Dr. Joonghwa Lee and Dr. Soojung Kim's classes! They truly care about their students both in and out of the classroom and want each and every one of them to succeed. I was a TA under Dr. Lee for a semester and it was so fun getting the

opportunity to tap into my public speaking skills and getting to help present some lessons to the class. I learned so much from both Dr. Kim and Dr. Lee and would say that's where most of my fondest memories fall during my time with the Communication department. They go above and beyond to create an exceptional learning experience that's fun and creative for their students."



Amber Schatz is a 2005 graduate from New England, North Dakota. She received her Bachelor's in Mass Communication and had a minor in English. Amber said, "My career includes more than 11 years working as a news

reporter/producer/anchor at TV stations in both Rapid City, SD and Bismarck, ND. I recently celebrated 3 years working as a lifestyle host and producer of the newest morning lifestyle show launched in North Dakota, Studio 701 on KX News (CBS affiliate)." When she was at UND, she wrote for the Dakota Student and did work-study jobs at Chester Fritz Library, Wilkerson and was an equipment manager for the football team. Amber also did an internship for Studio One, which is where she found her passion. "What I really enjoyed most about the UND Communication Department was the variety of classes offered, and the real-world connections made. Not to be somber, but 9/11 happened my freshman year of college. The Communications Department was not only where I went to complete my classes, but my guide in interpreting what was happening, and my real-world navigation tool in studying response to the unthinkable. Many thought-provoking discussions about the world are forever ingrained in my being."



Anne Hook is from Thief River Falls, Minnesota. She graduated in 2013, receiving her Bachelor's degree in Communication, with a minor in Political Science. Then went on to get her Master's degree in 2018. She is currently the Director of

Admissions & Recruitment at Bismarck State College. At UND, she was involved in Studio One and was a Student Ambassador Team Leader, a Campus Tour Guide, and an Orientation Leader. "I cannot say enough how this department shaped me in finding my vocational passion for Communication as a discipline as a Ph.D. student, love for teaching, and mentors who advocated for me to be my best," Anne said. "One of the pinnacle memories of my

senior year was the opportunity to interview Karen Nyberg, also a UND alumni, via live satellite from NASA when she returned from the international space station. Also, I will always cherish Studio One because it ingrained in me to strive for quality, professionalism, and community. My fellow co-anchor is still one of my best friends to this day and ironically introduced me to my husband! I was also proud to give back to this department by teaching as a COMM 110 adjunct faculty for several years.”



Claire Weltz is from Minot, North Dakota. She graduated in 2022 majoring in Communication and minoring in Graphic Design. Claire is now the Social Media Coordinator for the Training HAUS, located in the Twin Cities. She also

works in a contract capacity with Minnesota Aurora FC, the pre-professional women’s soccer team. At UND, she was the Sports Editor for the Dakota Student covering the university’s athletic program. She also oversaw social/digital media for UND’s Swing Dance Club. Claire said, “UND Communication Department is brimming with staff and faculty who want their students to succeed and offer help in any way they can. From writing feedback to networking, there was always a professor who could assist.”

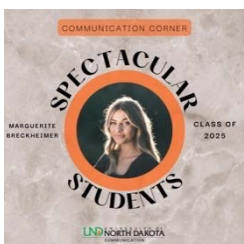
Spectacular Students & Incredible Interns

by Sinead Goulding (Social Media Coordinator, Senior)



Makenna Satrom is from Page, North Dakota. She will be graduating this semester majoring in Marketing and minoring in Communication. Makenna is very involved on campus as a member of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority,

Letters of Love and Student Ambassadors. Makenna said, “What I enjoy most about the UND Communication Department is the unique class offerings and the real-world experiences through projects. The professors and courses I have taken will allow me to succeed within my future career.”



Marguerite Breckheimer is a junior from Minnetonka, Minnesota. Marguerite is majoring in Communication with a minor in Leadership, and working towards earning a certificate in Strategic Communication, Advertising, and

Public Relations. She is an online student and is planning on graduating in the fall of 2025. When Marguerite was asked what she enjoyed most about the UND Communication Department, she said, “My favorite thing about the UND Communication Department is the flexibility

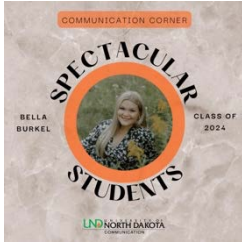
you are able to have with this major. You are so easily able to customize this major in order to study things you are truly passionate about. You can cater your classes to your interest and do projects and assignments that will prepare you for your future career. A great memory I have is the Professional Interview Project I worked on in Dr. Joonghwa Lee’s COMM 374 Principles of Strategic Communication course. I was able to get out of my comfort zone and learn about a career I’m interested in from someone who’s in the field themselves.”



Kaylee Kriha is from Oshkosh, Wisconsin. She will be graduating in December 2025 double majoring in Communication and Aviation Safety and Operations. Kaylee serves as an Off-Campus Housing Senator for student government as

the secretary of the Business Leadership Club. In addition to those roles, Kaylee is the Director of Public Relations in the Veteran and Military Community and works as a Facility Manager and the UND Wellness Center. “I have established meaningful connections and valuable opportunities that the communication department has given me. The professors and courses within the

department have equipped me with skills that I can apply in both my academic pursuits and internships," said Kaylee.



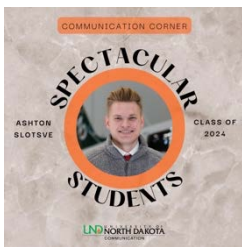
Bella Burkel is from Greenbush, Minnesota. She is majoring in Communication and is minoring in Non-Profit Administration. Bella is planning on graduating in the Fall of 2024. Bella is extremely involved on campus as a part of Women in

Business, being the Sponsorship and Outreach Director for Letters of Love, and also a Marketing Intern at the Pancratz Career Development Center. Bella said, "The UND Communication Department gave me an instant home. When I arrived here, I had plans in one area, and through the diverse exploration provided to me through Communication courses, I switched specialties and found my dream career path. I now plan to continue growing my foundation of knowledge in Health Communication in the Master's Communication program in Spring 2025!"



Emily Johnson is a junior from St. Michael, Minnesota and planning to graduate in the Spring of 2025. She is majoring in Communication and is very involved with her many certificates, those including Conflict Mediation, Professional and

Executive Communication, Strategic Communication and Advertising and Public Relations. Emily said, "I have loved my experience at UND so far and believe a large part of that is the professors in the communications department. Each professor is so helpful and kind which makes class more enjoyable."



Ashton Slotsve is from Blaine, Minnesota. He is a junior planning to graduate in August 2024. Ashton is majoring in Commercial Aviation and minoring in Communication. At UND, Ashton is very involved. He said, "I'm a Teaching Assistant for

COMM 102: Intro to Communication and a tutor in the Aerospace Learning Center. In the past, I have been involved in several aviation clubs including being the social media manager for the Aviation Safety Association. I also attend a few Christian clubs on campus." When Ashton was asked his favorite thing about the UND Communication Department, he said, "My most enjoyable experience in the Communication Department has been taking a class with

and being a Teaching Assistant for Dr. Joonghwa Lee. With Dr. Lee, I have gotten to see the job market differently. For example, he has shown us what qualities employers look for in students. He has established himself in my mind as a dedicated professor and great example because of how he presents himself to students. He is eager to be a resource and a helper to them."



Faith Greywind is from Fargo, North Dakota! She is graduating this fall with a Bachelor's degree in Communication and a minor in Spanish. At UND, Faith works on campus at the Memorial Union where she is an Information and

Events Scheduling Assistant. She helps with event coordination for students and faculty members. When Faith was asked her favorite thing about UND's Communication Department, she said, "The UND Communication Department has always been a place where I feel I can really grow in terms of my writing, speaking and creativity. Throughout the years of being a communication student, I have refined the skills that I will use in my future careers and am very thankful for that. I am forever grateful to the communication department for the memories and friends that I have made along my undergraduate journey."



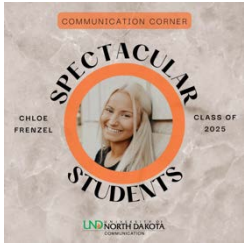
Payton Bergman is from Bismarck, North Dakota. Payton is a Junior majoring in Communication and will graduate in the Spring of 2025. She plans to pursue a Master's degree in Communication as well. Outside of classes, she is involved in the

UND Theatre Department as a stage manager. She said that her favorite part about the communication program is, "How supportive the professors are and how willing they are to help." She also loves that all of the classes she takes feel very applicable to her life and teach real-world skills. She has also enjoyed learning about the different career opportunities available with a degree in Communication.



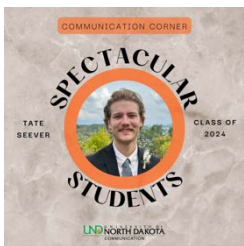
Mya Wyganowski is a Sophomore from Fargo, North Dakota. She is majoring in Computer Science and planning to graduate in the Spring of 2026. On campus Mya is involved in Wind Ensemble and the Music Students of UND. When Mya

was asked what she enjoys most about the Communication Department, she said, "The thing I enjoy most about the UND Communication Department is how welcoming and diverse the community is. There are so many people who have had so many different experiences and it is a great place to expand your worldview and meet unique people."



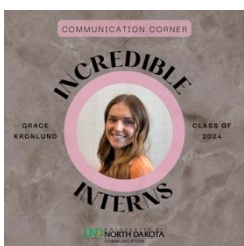
Chloe Frenzel is from Bemidji, Minnesota. She will graduate with a Communication degree in Spring of 2025. On campus Chloe is very involved in Greek life as a member of the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority. She was recently elected as the

Communications Vice President for the Panhellenic Council. She is also a part of Letters of Love. Chloe said, "The UND Communications department has provided me with a variety of engaging courses and learning experiences that I'm incredibly thankful for. I love how dedicated the professors, faculty, and staff are in helping students succeed at their fullest potential."



Tate Seever is from Oakdale, Minnesota and planning on graduating in the Spring of 2024. Tate is majoring in Communication with a focus of Public Relations. On campus, he is involved in the Greek community as a member in the

Delta Tau Delta fraternity. When Tate was asked what he enjoys most about the UND Communication Department, he said, "I enjoy the UND Communication Department community and how close all the students are, regardless of background. I feel that I can get along with anyone and that it is extremely easy to work with one another. Working with all the instructors and professors has been a pleasure as I have been able to trust and build a relationship with them. Being able to have projects that relate to my potential future has not only been helpful, but very fun as well!"



Grace Kronlund is from East Grand Forks, Minnesota! Grace is double majoring in Communication and Marketing and planning to graduate in the Spring of 2024. On campus, Grace is involved in Women in Business. This summer, Grace

interned at Special Olympics North Dakota as their Special

Events and Marketing intern. She said, "I was able to attend their annual Summer Games event, and it was one of the most rewarding and memorable experiences I have ever been a part of! I would encourage anyone who has the time or chance to volunteer at a Special Olympics event, you will not regret it!" When Grace was asked her favorite thing about the UND Communication Department, she said, "I really enjoy the professors in the UND Communication Department! They are all extremely helpful and make going to classes and learning every day more enjoyable. I feel like each professor truly cares about my growth as a student and helping set me up for success!"



Brandon McGarry is from Grand Forks, North Dakota. He is a senior majoring in Communication, planning to graduate in 2024. Brandon is on the golf team at UND. He was the Event

Coordinator for the King's Walk Golf Course. When Brandon was asked his favorite thing about the UND Communication Department, he said, "I love the Communication Department, and everyone in it. I have met so many new people throughout my four years in my Communication classes. I wouldn't change it for anything!"



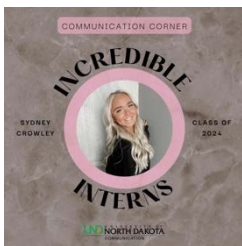
Grace Scott is from Northwood, ND! She is a senior pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Communication and planning to graduate this December. When Grace was asked about her internship she said, "I am currently

interning as the market manager for the Town Square Farmer's Market. It is a large role being the manager, but it had led me to see what my strengths are and what I would like to pursue in my future career." At UND, Grace is involved in the National Society of Leadership and Success. She said, "The UND Communication Department has been a great experience for me thus far. Before coming back to school for communication, I was going for nursing, and it never seemed like the right fit for me. Since being at UND for communication, I have felt this is where I was supposed to be the whole time. Dr. Joonghwa Lee has been a great teacher and someone who pushed me to continue this course of study, and for that I am grateful. Within the Communication Department, I have met great teachers, advisors, and mentors that will stick with me for a lifetime!"



Abigail Bjornson is from Bismarck, North Dakota. She is a senior double majoring in Communication and Political Science. Abigail is an intern at Leighton Broadcasting, and she said, "My internship is giving me the opportunity to explore

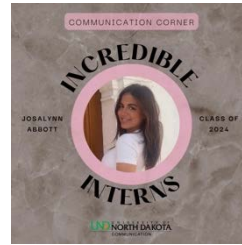
careers in the Communication field and find my interests! There are several communication aspects that I get to explore in my internship including, curating content for social media platforms, planning and executing events, and becoming familiar with sports broadcasting and interview skills with players and coaches." When she was asked her favorite part about the UND Communication Department, she said, "My favorite part is the many opportunities for students to get creative and learn about the careers in the communication realm. Some of my favorite assignments were in my media writing class where I was able to get creative with my writing. It is not often that we get the chance to write "fun" papers or prompts in college, so it was a nice change!"



Sydney Crowley is from Apple Valley, Minnesota. She is graduating this Spring, majoring in Communication. Sydney is currently the marketing and event coordinator. intern for Sublime Professional Medical Spa. When

Sydney was asked what her favorite thing about the UND Communication Department, she said, "What I enjoy most is being able to explore and learn from so many different options in the communication field. I have been able to learn many different skills, and it really is going to benefit me in the future with any career I decide to do. What makes it even better is that every professor in the department is always so helpful and friendly, and it really

makes our experience as students worth it. I wouldn't have it any other way!"



Josalynn Abbott is from Eagan, Minnesota. She is graduating this Spring majoring in Communication. She is very involved on campus, being a member of the Alpha Phi sorority, a part of UND's Letters of Love club and was on the UND

women's golf team for two and a half years. She was also the Social Media and Special Event Intern for The Herb Brooks Foundation. When Josalynn was asked her favorite part about the UND Communication Department, she said, "I enjoy all the diverse and fun classes they have. We are able to take communication courses related to business, risk and law, science, sports, international/ cultural relations, and more which gives us a wide variety of learning and career opportunities." 🍷

Share your career and life updates!

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The First Graduate of the Communicating Science Graduate Certificate Program

by Kyra Younce (Outreach Specialist Intern, Sophomore)



Tabitha Bartoe, a master's candidate from Plain City, Ohio has become the first graduate of the Communicating Science Graduate Certificate program. In a recent interview with Kyra Younce, a Communication major and Outreach Specialist Intern for the Department, Tabitha explained her

decision to choose UND's programs, praising the opportunity to specialize in her field of interest.

Tabitha highlighted the flexibility and openness of the online program, allowing students to tailor their courses to their specific areas of interests as her favorite part of the program. She expressed her gratitude for Dr. Berry, a

professor who made a lasting impression with his humorous and engaging teaching styles.

When asked about her professional goals, Tabitha shared her dream of working with NASA in public relations and communication. She sees the combination of communication and science being integral to her success. Tabitha stressed the importance of a master's degree for government positions. "Having a master's degree is extremely important, especially nowadays if you want to go into higher positions," Tabitha said.

Offering advice to students, "even if you think 'I don't know if I should do this,' I highly recommend looking into it the online master's programs at UND," Tabitha said. She emphasized the flexibility in both time and coursework and how adaptable the program is for students with any interest or passion. 🍀

The First Graduate of the Online Master's in Communication Program

by Kyra Younce (Outreach Specialist Intern, Sophomore)



A Sioux Falls native Andrew Tverberg has recently become the first graduate of the University of North Dakota's online Master's in Communication program. Originally joining the U.S. Air Force after high school, Andrew pursued full-time service for two years before transitioning to college basketball. This experience

led him to pursue coaching at UND where he was motivated to pursue the Master's in Communication degree.

Andrew chose this program for its versatility and highlighted the flexibility of the online program and its adaptability to his schedule. As he navigated his current career in robotic painting sales spanning North and Central America, Andrew credits the program for equipping him with communication skills crucial in dealing with a diverse set of clients. "I meet people from Canada and South America. As I've been starting this career, having the ability to communicate people from other places without struggling to understand their nuances has definitely benefitted me," Andrew said. Andrew acknowledges the program contributed to his long-term goal of leading a sales department as he now better understands how to communicate effectively and professionally with diverse groups of individuals. 🍀

Donor Appreciation

by Kyra Younce (Outreach Specialist Intern, Sophomore)



Boyd Christenson - Photo courtesy of the Christenson family.

Boyd's professional journey included roles as the assistant news director at a local TV station, a sports director in Fargo, and host of many public television productions. His humility, intelligence and dedication to honest journalism earned him the title of "Fargo's Mr. Nice Guy." Marlene fondly recalls Boyd's commitment to thorough research for his interviews, emphasizing the importance of knowing one's subject. Marlene remembers what Boyd used to say, "We all have biases, reporters all have biases, but the best thing a reporter can do is to be fair to put the bias aside and try to be fair." His advice to be fair and unbiased still resonates with many people, reflecting his deep understanding and care for the journalism industry.

In honor of Boyd's legacy and their profound gratitude for the education they received at UND, Marlene established the Boyd Christenson Scholarship Endowment. This scholarship reflects their commitment to giving back to the university that played an important role in shaping their and their three children and eight grandchildren's lives. As the Christenson family has deep roots in the university spanning three generations of UND graduates, the scholarship aims to support the UND Communication Department's students. "It feels very privileged to be able to give back in some small way to help the education of some students," Marlene said.

Marlene Christenson, wife of the late Boyd Christenson, recently shared her insights into the life and legacy of her late husband, a distinguished UND graduate and prominent figure in the field of communication and journalism, in a recent interview with Kyra Younce, a Communication major and Outreach Specialist Intern for the Department. Boyd's journey at UND began in 1955,

where he put himself through school with part-time jobs, showcasing his strong work ethic. His dedication to the field led him to become an entertainer and radio and TV producer, leaving a lasting impact on the campus and local communities.

To the recipients of the Boyd Christenson Scholarship Endowment, Marlene wishes to say on behalf of Boyd that "Work hard, and it pays off. Always be yourself, be who you are." 🍀

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VISIT PROGRAM PAGE



Faculty Spotlight

by Kyra Younce (Outreach Specialist Intern, Sophomore)



Dr. Joonghwa Lee, Associate Professor of Communication, shared his wealth of knowledge and what drives his vision in a recent interview with Kyra Younce, a Communication major and Outreach Specialist Intern for the Department. Holding a M.A. in advertising from Michigan State University,

and a Ph.D. in Journalism from Missouri School of Journalism, Dr. Lee's academic journey has been marked by commitment to both research and teaching. Dr. Lee was recently elected as the 2024-2025 Secretary of the American Academy of Advertising, which is one of the oldest and most prestigious organizations in strategic communication.

Apart from his role as an educator, Dr. Lee is actively involved in research on a multitude of topics. His work explores the role of interactive and non-traditional media in strategic communication, such as native advertising, social media, online videos, and games. Currently expanding his interest to the realm of social media influencer and media literacy, Dr. Lee continues to contribute to the scholarship and communication practices.

Dr. Lee's dedication extends beyond research and teaching. He plays an important role in creating opportunities for students in many ways. In summer 2024, Dr. Lee will hold a Digital Media Storytelling Camp, which is jointly funded by the North Dakota Newspaper Association Education Foundation and the UND College of Arts and Sciences. It is for 50 high school students where they would work directly with a local client and undergraduate students to develop creative stories. Dr. Lee shares his excitement in that "I have thought about this digital media storytelling camp over two years, so it has been one of my biggest dreams. We would like to help students especially around rural areas to have a better education about how to find and develop good stories and how to deliver those stories through digital media. There are a lot of digital platforms, social media, and different types of visuals. Some high school students may not be familiar with how to find good stories and how to share those stories on different digital media platforms."

Dr. Lee is also the faculty advisor of the UND Korean Culture Exchange Club where he works with students to host engaging cultural events, such as the *Feel of Korea* which was sponsored by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Chicago. On top of these efforts, Dr. Lee is the chair of the Centennial Event Planning Committee and has been working tirelessly for a successful event, scheduled for April 25, 2024. He anticipates that "the centennial celebration will be one of the biggest milestones for our department."

In reflection of his journey, Dr. Lee shared a personal connection to academia, inspired by his late father, also a professor. The profound impact of seeing his father's former students publish his unfinished work fueled Dr. Lee's commitment to education and displayed the impact a professor has on their students. "It was a big moment that made me think about the meaning of his job as a professor and his relationship with his students. After seeing this, I decided in my mind to become a professor carrying on my father's legacy," Dr. Lee said.

His advice to students echoes his own experiences, encouraging them "not to limit yourself, recognize the multitude of opportunities within communication, and keep envisioning your dreams." Dr. Lee's story unfolds as that of a dedicated educator, researcher, and mentor, shaping the future of communication students at the University of North Dakota. 🌱

Public Information Basics Course L0105 Reflection

by Matthew Hjelmstad (Senior)

From the Editor: A Communication senior, Matthew Hjelmstad, had an opportunity to attend the L0105 Public Information Basics Course in Bismarck, ND in July 2023. The purpose of the Public Information Basics Course is to equip participants with the basic skills needed to be full- or part-time Public Information Officers (PIOs), including oral or written communication, media relations, and basic tools and techniques to perform effectively as a PIO, both in the proactive/advocacy times and crisis/emergency response. Hjelmstad shared key takeaways from the course.



The Public Information Basics Course that I attended on behalf of the University of North Dakota's Communication Department was a tremendous opportunity and an invaluable learning experience. As a communication major, I believe this course provided

knowledge and skills to navigate and manage crises effectively and efficiently and would be a useful resource for communication students at UND looking to find a career in crisis communication. This course also helped develop professionalism and gave an opportunity to network and relationship build. In this reflection, I will discuss key takeaways from the course material and provide additional comments and observations.

Takeaways

The PIOs are communicators. They disseminate information to the public by telling them what happened, what is being done about it, and what they should do. Public information is provided before, during, and after incidents. It is focused on communicating life and health saving information, including severity of situations and action steps that individuals and communities should have. The whole community has the right to know and the need to know. The role of public information is to empower the people to make the right decision at the right time.

The main function of a PIO is to get the right information to the right people at the right time so they can make the right decision. They must plan, be prepared for crisis situations, and maximize media exposure for their organization. PIOs use an ongoing cycle when getting information to the public. This cycle consists of (1) gathering, (2) verifying, (3) coordinating, and (4) disseminating information. Day-to-day tasks of a PIO make up 95% of their occupation. Examples of these tasks include planning and

accompanying an agency director to community events, updating media lists to include social media handles, or planning and executing a hurricane preparedness campaign. The remaining 5% of a PIO's occupation are incident tasks. Examples of incident tasks include set-up staff and activate media briefing room, prepare director to conduct news briefing on hurricane preparations, tweet hurricane shelter location information, monitor reporters' twitter handles, or issue hurricane evacuation instructions.

A PIO uses strategic communication planning to develop public awareness campaign key messages and incident communication strategies. Strategic communication planning can be completed using the 8-Step Communication Model, consisting of the following phases: (1) assess the situation, (2) set communication goals, (3) identify intended audiences, (4) develop and pretest messages, (5) select channels and activities, (6) develop an action plan, (7) develop and pretest materials, and (8) implement, evaluate, and modify plan.



Interview skills for a PIO are crucial, as providing information to the public often can be done through them. Developing a message that achieves the objective, given the

audience and medium, is accomplished through understanding the topic, developing key talking points, and practice/preparation. Nonverbal communication is also a vital component of interviews. Eye contact, tone of voice, facial expression, body positions/gestures, and attire are all factors to consider.

News conference responsibilities such as organizing and managing the conference and preparing the primary spokesperson are assumed by a PIO. The news conference cycle from the perspective of a PIO is

preparing, opening, closing, and following up. Working with media and developing relationships with reporters can be helpful for a PIO to build credibility.



Crisis/Emergency Communication is one of the most important roles a PIO possesses. Preparedness is key when dealing with a crisis event. This course highlighted the

significance of conducting risk assessments, scenario planning, and establishing communication channels in advance to ensure readiness during challenging times. Another vital aspect emphasized throughout the course was the significance of timely and transparent communication. During a crisis, it is imperative to provide accurate and up-to-date information promptly. Establishing designated spokespersons and developing consistent messaging are essential in conveying information effectively while maintaining credibility and trust.

In today's digital age, social media plays a significant role in crisis communication. The course emphasized the need to actively monitor social media platforms, engage in timely responses, and dispel/mitigate misinformation. Utilizing digital tools and platforms effectively, such as online newsrooms or dedicated crisis communication channels,

can enhance an organization's ability to disseminate information swiftly and maintain control over the narrative during a crisis. The "Golden Hour" is a rule that states a communication plan should be implemented within one hour of the crisis occurring. Social media can be a useful tool to disseminate that communication plan to the public.

A Joint Information System (JIS) serves as a crucial method for effective operation during incidents, providing coordination and ensuring the delivery of timely, accurate, accessible, and consistent messaging. It allows participating organizations to maintain their individual autonomy and responsibilities while working together. A JIC acts as a central hub that facilitates the JIS, offering a centralized location to streamline operations during and after an incident. By enhancing information coordination, minimizing misinformation, and maximizing resources, a JIC supports the overarching goal of the JIS: to deliver a unified message with a single voice.

Conclusion

Attending the Basic Public Information Course has been a transformative experience, equipping me with the knowledge and skills necessary to handle communication challenges as a PIO. This 3-day course developed my professionalism and allowed me to network and foster valuable relationships with crisis communication professionals. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow in this vital area of communication. 🌱

Faculty News



Dr. Pamela Kalbfleisch has launched her new edited book series, *Contemporary Issues in Interpersonal Communication* with Rowman and Littlefield. The First book in the series by Tina Harris, *Dismantling Racism*

One Relationship at a Time, has been published. The series was publicly presented in presentations and book displays at the annual conference of the National Communication Association in National Harbor, Maryland on November 16, 2023.



With the goal of enhancing the superiority and effectiveness of the U.S. Army in extreme cold weather environments, the UND ARCTEK2 Lab led by Dr. Timothy Pasch brings together multiple North Dakota-

based resources and collaborations to help create the Defense Resiliency Platform against Extreme Cold Weather. This cold-weather research effort is in collaboration with Virginia Tech, Stonybrook University, the University of Minnesota, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Cold Regions Research and Engineering Lab (CRREL). ARCTEK2's research and technological innovation will assist CRREL in better understanding changes in Alaskan permafrost – the frozen layer of rock and soil that covers a significant amount of land above the Arctic Circle. Dr. Pasch and his team's tasks include conducting research fieldwork in the air and on the ground in some of the most remote and inaccessible regions of the Alaskan Arctic wilderness. This data is then analyzed through cutting-edge collaborative research in data

visualization, advanced modeling, and predictive analytics.



Dr. Soojung Kim participated in a panel titled "Women Around the World," honoring women's contributions to higher education both globally and at UND during the International Education Week at UND. [A UND Today article featuring Dr. Kim's involvement with "Women Around the World"](#) was published on November 28, 2023.

Dr. Kim attended the "The Longest Table" which is the community building event, serving as "Table Captains" to help guide the discussion between people who may not have known one another. [A UND Today article featuring Dr. Kim's involvement with "The Longest Table"](#) was published on September 19, 2023.



Dr. Joonghwa Lee has been elected as the 2024-2025 Secretary of the American Academy of Advertising (AAA). Founded in 1958, AAA is one of the oldest and most prestigious organizations in strategic communication. AAA now has over 600 members, publishes several scholarly journals, and hosts annual conferences across the globe.

Dr. Lee was nominated by students for both Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching and Outstanding Graduate/Professional Teaching Awards.



Dr. Qian Huang co-authored two articles entitled *Evaluating Variations in the Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Associated with Telehealth Use in Rural U.S. Pacific Northwest* and *When Guilt Works: A Comprehensive Meta-Analysis of Guilt Appeals in Cancer Causes & Control* and *Frontiers in Psychology*, respectively.

Dr. Huang's co-authored article entitled *Representation and Visibility of People of Color in Pro-HPV Vaccination Videos on Social Media* was selected as the Top Paper by the Communication and the Future Division during the annual conference of the National Communication Association in National Harbor, Maryland.



Dr. Jessica Schanelic-Gowan' COMM 206 Digital Fundamentals is partnering this semester with Biology 433 Aquatic Ecology to make a coloring book. At the beginning of

the semester, Dr. Schanelic-Gowan announced this plan to the students stating that "At the University of North Dakota, one of our core values is community. We will complete a joint assignment with the students in Biology 433, Aquatic Ecology, to promote collaboration and connectedness. Together, the two courses will create a kid's activity book."

Dr. Schanelic-Gowan was nominated by students for the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Dr. Schanelic-Gowan welcomed a son, Jasper Wolf Gowan, who was born in April 2023.



Dr. Ian Berry officially graduated with his Ph.D. in Communication with a concentration in Media Studies from North Dakota State University on August 4, 2023. His dissertation is titled *Mythologies of the EV truck: A semiotic analysis of the first mass-produced electric trucks in the United States*.

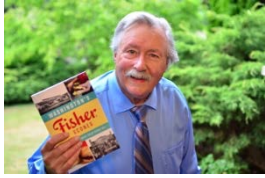


Dr. Emily Gibbens-Buteau was selected to participate in the 2023 Grand Forks Women's Fund Leadership Academy. She attended leadership training sessions throughout September and October and completed the academy on October 24, 2023.

Dr. Gibbens-Buteau's COMM 315 Persuasion and COMM 527 Persuasion & Persuasive Messaging classes attended a Communication Professional Panel Session on November 15, 2023, featuring five industry professionals who use persuasive communication in their careers. The panel included UND Communication alumni, Allyson Bento, Ryne Bigelow, Hunter Plante, and Ashley Stocker, as well as a UND sport dietician and community leader, Jennifer Haugen. 🍷

Communicators' News

Career Updates



James L. Erickson ('67) I published my second book in 2023, "Washington's Fisher Scones: An Iconic Northwest Treat since 1911." My first book in 2020 was "Memories of Mount St. Helens." I covered the eruptions of the volcano in 1980. The publisher for both is The History Press, an arm of Arcadia Publishing.

Fabrice Moussus ('73) I published my memoir of my career with ABC News called "Grab the Moment."

Lana Rakow ('74) I am a co-founder and steering committee member of the new Civic West project in West Fargo, intended to increase civic knowledge and engagement in the community. Among its initiatives is civic journalism, enabling residents to report on their community. I was honored with the Senior of the Year Community Engagement Award for the FM area in 2024.



Michael J Hinderlie ('77) I have spent 28 years of my career in sales including: Worldwide Sales Manager (US Military, Duty Free Sales and US Government Parker Pen Company & Gillette Stationary Division), Retails Sales Manager (Hawaii-Parker Pen Company & Gillette Company), North American Sales Manager Travel Retail (Coors Brewing Company), US Military Sales (Middle East - Coors Brewing Company). I have received several awards including the George Parker Award, Sales Manager of the Year and have worked with US State Department on INF Treaty Signing Pens (Gorbachev-President Reagan), Rocky Four Pen Program with Slyvester Stallone, White House Signing Pens (Presidents Reagan, Bush and Clinton), and have had a private meeting with General Colin Powell.



Nathan S Kvinge ('79) After 44 years in TV broadcast photojournalism, Nathan Kvinge retired this year from KHOU-TV in Houston, Texas, where he was employed for the last 41 years.

His work was awarded multiple Lone Star Emmys, along



with dozens of regional, state, and local photojournalism awards. His assignments took him across the United States, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, Europe, and Asia. In 1988, he shot and produced a TV documentary following a humanitarian group from Houston

bringing supplies and support to displaced villagers in the civil war zone of El Salvador. While an undergraduate at the University of North Dakota in 1977, he researched, produced, and narrated a two-hour, two-part investigative radio program about the activities in North Dakota of the controversial Korea-based Unification Church. Then prior to graduating with the class of 1979, he produced, filmed, and edited a 28-minute documentary about a multi-generation family from the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, who were spending every summer in the Red River Valley living and employed at the same family farm. The film aired on both public and commercial TV stations in Fargo. Nathan has always kept fond memories of his years at UND.



Photo courtesy of Dakota News Now, Sioux Falls.

John Henry Paulson ('79) Rev. Dr. John Paulson (BA Speech/Broadcasting 1979) is pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD, which was recently featured in two TV news stories, one regarding a neighborhood partnership and the other regarding a mortgage-burning celebration. In addition, John uses his communication training to produce videos featuring members of the congregation and its neighborhood.

Lucy Dalglish ('80) I'm on a sabbatical for one school year after serving as dean of Philip Merrill College of Journalism at UMD for 11 years. I will return to campus in Fall 2024 to return to my position as Professor.



Bryce Johnson ('88) I've been with the Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead since April of 1992. There I received the Career Achievement Award and Served as President for the National Association of Home Builders Executive Officers Council. My career has included health plan administration,

marketing, advocacy, political experiences, and more.



Debbie Friez ('89) I was promoted this year to Associate Director, Influencer and Social Media at TopRank Marketing. I am responsible for driving overall program success of influencer and social media programs.



Christopher D Kalash ('94) Christopher Kalash has recently been selected as the Director of Corporate and Business Development, located in the Bismarck, ND office. With a wealth of experience in corporate and business development, Mr. Kalash is set to lead the efforts towards fostering growth and continued business and corporate partnerships across North Dakota.

Brian Hvinden ('96) I was recognized in June for 25 years of federal service. I have been with FEMA in a variety of positions since starting as a local hire following the 1997 Red River Flood.



Naomi Yaeger ('98) I finished a creative non-fiction manuscript, and it will soon be published.



Michael Brookbank ('99) I was recently promoted to Good Morning Cleveland anchor.



James (Jim) Bush ('99) I am celebrating the fifth anniversary of my business startup which is now topping 45 employees.

Lee Harstad ('99) I recently moved away from a long-term non-profit executive director position to become the Managing Partner of a Deadwood, S.D.- based company. This company owns lodging, gambling, restaurant, and retail and saloon properties in the historic Black Hills community.



John Bernstrom ('01) As a Public Information Officer for the City of Grand Forks, I am happy to serve on the Board of Directors for the North Dakota Public Information Officer Association. This past summer we hosted our inaugural conference in Bismarck. It was a great success, and we are now planning for next summer's conference.



Courtney Barstad Logan ('04 & '06) I am now an Associate Broker with eXp Realty in Grand Forks.

Patrick Wynne ('06) After 9 months with Digi-Key, I made the decision to return to my original job. I was doing some consulting work for the department since they had yet to find my replacement and realized that it was a more fulfilling job for me personally. Digi-Key had the benefit of being a better title, the people were friendly and its benefits were world class. However, you have to be excited about what you are doing and want to challenge yourself into always doing your best work. I think I went back to the better personal fit.

Lindsay Mary Cadigan ('07) My second children's book *The Confetti Yeti* was just released for pre-order in November of 2023.



Elizabeth "Binky" Lee ('08) January 2024 will mark 2 years working at Audacy Virginia. I am an on-air personality on stations in both Richmond and Virginia Beach, and loving life on the East Coast.

Lisa Martinez ('08) I was promoted to Communications Manager at the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute.

Victor Meza III ('09) I changed jobs, and I am now the Marketing Manager at the Northern Plains UAS Test Site.

Cody Klug ('11) I recently changed jobs, and I am now working for the newly formed ABM Technology Group, part of Advanced Business Methods.

Robb Jeffries ('12) I founded JK Vending, providing vending services in the Twin Cities area.

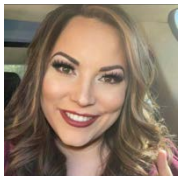
Chelsy Simenson ('14) I will be celebrating one year working on a new partner at my company.

Will Biernat ('15) I recently changed positions from being a Staff Attorney for a District Court Judge to now working in Generative AI implementation and management at Thomson Reuters. I've been very excited to pivot into the rapidly evolving Artificial Intelligence industry.



Kelsey Hildebrandt ('16) I have recently changed jobs and I now work as a Director of Alumni Relations and Signature Events at William Jewell College.

Hayley Spalding ('16) I just started a new role at Adelaide Venue Management.



Amber Bunyea ('17) I support the Missile Defense Agency's Advanced Research Center as the Communications Project Manager. I plan and oversee communication deliverables for two multi-million-dollar projects that include working with cybersecurity, network and hardware subject matter experts to form documentation involved in both redesigning and relocating missile testbed space.



Peter Monsrud ('17) At the beginning of October 2023, I was promoted from my role on our team as a Multimedia Producer - Videographer at The City of Fargo to the Community

Engagement Strategist Serving the Fargo Police Department. In this role, I manage content and content strategy for the FPD social media channels and website, and plan and execute community events. Over the summer, it was announced that a video project I produced for internal recruitment for the Red River Valley SWAT Sniper team won a Silver Telly Award.



Emma Novak ('17) I was promoted from On-Premise Manager of Las Vegas to Territory Sales Manager of South Florida for Mast-Jagermeister US. Our company broke the record of the biggest new spirit launch in history with the launch of Teremana Tequila! I also graduated from the Developing Women Leaders program through Cornell University.



Ranee Parker ('17) At the end of 2022, I decided to close my business and took a position as Copywriter at the Steinbach Credit Union. This role functions within the Marketing department of an organization with over 500 employees. I write copy for newsletters and articles as well as ad and email campaigns, and I am part of a two-person communications team, where I handle both internal and external communications, as well as crisis communications.



Abby Smith ('17) In 2023, I had the opportunity to travel a lot and live in 5 different cities: Coquille, OR, Hastings, MN, Corvallis, OR, Albany, OR, and Lebanon, OR. I feel very blessed and thankful to work for an employer that offers unlimited paid-time-off and allows me to work remotely on a full-time basis.



First day at Midtown!



First vendor show.

Abby Berg ('18) In 2023, Abby decided to take the next step with her tiny bookstore and open a booth within Midtown Marketplace. She also decided to transition from full time work to pursue her vision of a new bookstore in Grand Forks. Though Abigail's is still a micro bookstore, Abby has had immense fun learning more about running a business and interacting with customers. Hearing what others are reading and sharing a love of books is a great way to build connections and community!

Carly Cannon ('18) I graduated from law school, passed the bar, and started working as a Deputy District Attorney.



Breanna Leigh Egeland ('18) I became Associate Director of Development for the UND Alumni Association and Foundation (UNDAAF) in August of 2023. I

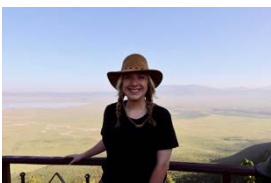
am proud to be a part of the UNDAAF and thrilled to showcase the power of UND alumni and friends' generosity, being a product of it myself. As Associate Director of Development, I work to keep our donors in the loop, providing information about what's happening on the UND campus – from programs and facilities to events and athletics, and the ever-evolving needs of students. I also communicate how the generosity of our donors positively affects the students and the University. I'm thrilled to connect with fellow alumni and friends, showcasing the remarkable impact of their generosity on students, faculty, and the Grand Forks community.



Alyssa Guck ('18) I am now a full-time Lifestyle TV Host for KY3 in Springfield, MO. I was nominated for an MBA for best feature reporting. Our show was nominated for a Mid-America Emmy for best magazine program.

Victoria Marturano ('18) I have received multiple promotions at my job.

Allyson Marie Kanuha ('19) I am a 2023 STAR Award Recipient (South Carolina Broadcasters Association) - Best Use of Digital Platform for Hurricane Ian coverage.



Alli Senger ('19) I have been with Roane Travel Design for over a year now and it has been amazing. In January/February 2023 I was fortunate enough to

travel to Tanzania for work.

Cody Carpentier ('20) I had a change of jobs. I previously spent 5 years at PlayerProfiler.com as the Head of Content and Marketing, before departing in the summer to join RosterWatch.com as an NFL Draft Analyst and SiriusXM Radio Host.

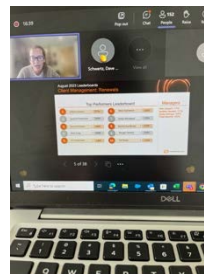


Emily Hanson ('20) As of November 1st, 2023, I was promoted to Senior Talent Director to our Healthcare Practice at Robert Half. Within my career here, this is the second promotion I have received. My

education and experience within the Communication Department, have played a tremendous role in my success within my current organization. Each day, I am partnering with healthcare organizations to strategize on talent solutions and market education while working with job seekers in tandem and advocating for both parties.

Matt Hokanson ('20) I was promoted from Head Tennis Professional to Director of Tennis & Pickleball in July of 2022.

Alan Ngo ('20) I have been inducted into the IBM Golden Circle and IBM 100% Club.



Julianna Senica ('20) I was a Q3 Top Performer at my job.



Jaden Zaun ('20) I have obtained the Financial Professional Qualified Paraplanner (FPQP) designation. I have also been taking on multiple leadership roles within our region.

Turki Alrashid ('21) I am Consultant in Communication field at my work.



Savannah Asmann ('21) I work as a Communications Coordinator at USA Wrestling and have covered World Championships overseas.

Kendall Brekken ('21) In late October 2023, I began a new position as the Department Manager of Marketing, Communication & Outreach at the NDSU Bookstore.

Megan Hughes ('21) I accepted a role at iVET360 in the middle of 2023 as a Marketing Manager.

Anna McKenna Olfelt ('21) My team and I were awarded an Emmy for our newscast in the fall of 2023.



Nicole Pica ('21) I started at a regional sports network in Reno, NV as a sports multi-media journalist. I won a Student Production Emmy in the Rocky Mountain chapter in the college video essay during my time at Arizona State obtaining my master's degree. The story was about

former UND football player Hunter Pinke and his transition to adaptive athletics.

Laura Fetzter ('22) I started a new position as Deputy Scheduler for Senator Cramer in Washington, DC.

Kaan Avci ('23) I successfully held a toy drive. For more info: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/keys-hosting-successful-fundraiser-lessons-from-cars-coffee-kaan-avci-z6rec%3FtrackingId=Taw%252FkxhcQlmcnkIB7DL%252FLw%253D%253D/?trackingId=Taw%2FkxhcQlmcnkIB7DL%2FLw%3D%3D>

Leah Breuer ('23) I recently got a bonus.

Sarah Dignan ('23) I became the Marketing Director for Opp Construction in June 2023 after my graduation from UND in May.

Peyton Grace Helt ('23) I am in the ASPIRE recent graduate leadership development program at Mohawk Industries! It is an amazing opportunity for recent graduates!



Charlotte Sonterre ('23) I recently started working at the Ralph Englestad Arena as the new Game Day Presentation Coordinator!



Chelsea Timmerman ('23) I was promoted to Specialty Sales Team Leader at Target where I oversee multiple areas of the store (Style, Beauty, Tech, Home, etc.) and lead a wonderful group of team members. As a leader in retail, I

use my Communication degree every single day; from interpersonal communication to managing sales goals, my days are never boring!

Mary Katherine Farrington-Lorch I have won an award, but I cannot have it publicized until it is officially announced early 2024.

Life Updates



Michael J Hinderlie ('77) My first job out of university was as an advertising account manager for the Green Bay Press Gazette. On my very first day of work our sales

manager Jack Yuenger who had just returned from a national newspaper convention in Las Vegas. The theme of the meeting, "Future of Computer Generated Newspaper Media." This was in May of 1977. The internet as we know it today did not exist. I stayed 2 years and moved on to... Working in sales selling pens 22 years and six years selling lager beer. Not very exciting? You could not be more wrong. My jobs allowed me to travel to Europe, Middle East and the Far East. I traveled to Hawaii over 60 times. I entered US Government offices & CEO's offices that I never would have dreamed of. My BA-Journalism/Public Relations degree taught me how to question my customers, develop marketing plans and media buys for the markets that I was responsible for. The world needs good journalists. And writers that ask thought provoking questions. Not propaganda pushing ideologists. The responsibility of a local small-town newspaper is in jeopardy. Today I still read the Grand Forks Herald, New York Times and The Washington Post. I read my local newspaper the Port Charlotte Sun-Port Charlotte, Florida. In 2016 this newspaper won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. I fear the future without community newspapers.



Nathan S Kvinge ('79) I have retired in Houston, Texas, with my wife Debbie, who is a nurse anesthetist at a public hospital in Harris County. I have two adult daughters who also live in Houston. I hope to be able to visit UND again in the years ahead again now that I'm retired. I love to go backpacking and kayaking.

Bryce Johnson ('88) My family includes husband and three daughters.



Naomi Yaeger ('98) In 2016, I stepped down as editor of the Duluth Budgeteer, Minnesota's largest weekly newspaper. I worked a variety of part-time jobs and assisted my mom in her journey through hospice. I completed a creative nonfiction manuscript about a little girl who grows up on the prairie of

The photo of the four of us (my husband, daughter and son-in-law) at the historic NorShore Theater in Duluth, MN, to see The Sound of Music.

southwest Minnesota during the Great Depression and comes of age during WWII — my mom. Currently, I'm freelance writing for Northern Wilds Magazine. Northern Wilds is a monthly magazine that celebrates the lifestyle of Lake Superior's North Shore, the BWCAW and northwestern Ontario with news, events, features, columns and outstanding photography. <https://northernwilds.com/>



Michael Brookbank ('99) I recently landed an interview with Ralphie Parker himself. I am a huge fan of 'A Christmas Story,' and actor Peter Billingsley, who shot his eye out, was in Cleveland for the 40th anniversary of the film. Many people probably don't know, but parts of the

Christmas classic were filmed in Cleveland. The house on good old Cleveland street is located on the city's west side and is a huge tourist attraction.



Lacey Erickson ('06) Had a baby girl on September 1, 2023. Leni Belle Lynne

Patrick Wynne ('06) My daughter Isabella has begun Kindergarten this year. My wife and I are very proud of her.

Victor Meza III ('09) During the 100th celebration, I will be on the deck of the USS Midway talking to government and industry leaders about the integration of UAS into the National Airspace.



Chelsy Simenson ('14) My son turned one in September!

Zack Worthy ('14) I will be getting married in 2024.



Kelsey Hildebrandt ('16) In April, my husband Christian and I welcomed our 1st child, Mila.



Victoria (Tori) Ahles ('17) Welcomed a baby girl this summer. Harper Rose Ahles.



Hannah Curry ('17) We celebrated the birth of our son, Caden James Curry, on May 27, 2023.

Ranee Parker ('17) My daughter moved to Paris this year. And while it was a very exciting adventure for her, I am looking forward to her coming home in December!

Abby Smith ('17) I am looking forward to the 2024 winter ski season! I won a brand-new pair of Atomic Bent 110 skis and am ready to hit the slopes with my iKon pass this year. I have plans to go skiing at several resorts including Mount Bachelor in Oregon, Crystal Mountain and Snoqualmie in Washington, Schweitzer in Idaho, and Palisades in California.



Jenna Coudreau ('19) We celebrated the birth of our first daughter, Mila Michel Coudreau.



Amelia Patefield ('19) I donated 10" of my hair to Locks of Love!



Amanda Lucas ('20) Scott Lucas and I, Amanda (then Pasierb) met as students in the UND Comm program in 2016 as Undergraduate Teaching Assistant/Graduate Teaching

Assistant for Dr. Kalbfleisch, got married in 2021, and are expecting our first UND Comm baby in Spring of 2024!



Alexandria Thoeke ('20) Alexandria and Seth Thoeke ('20, Computer Science) welcomed a baby boy named Oliver on July 4th.



Jaden Zaun ('20) My fiancé and I built a home in Fargo! We are also getting married in September of 2024!

Megan Hughes ('21) Christian and I moved to Oregon in June 2023!



Nicole Pica ('21) I got to shoot video for the Arizona Diamondbacks during the 2023 World Series in Phoenix.



Sarah Dignan ('23) I got engaged to my fiancé Derrick a week before graduation. We met freshman year at UND and got engaged just before we both

graduated with our Bachelor's Degrees in May! He now is getting his Master's in Mechanical Engineering, and I am working full time as Opp Construction's Marketing Director.



Samantha Michele Lundby I recently had a baby girl, and I went back to work after 12 weeks maternity leave on December 15, 2023.

Mary Katherine Farrington-Lorch I have continued to serve on the Board of the Grammy Award winning Phoenix Chorale and currently serve as Secretary to the Board, in addition to my active law practice.

Comments

Marjorie Hartman ('73 & '80) A round table discussion or panel of alums could be offered as part of the program to answer how they used their degree and what major courses helped them to be prepared for the work world.

Sue Berg ('82) Your continued outreach to keep me connected with Communications, Merrifield and UND is appreciated!

Jackie Howell ('84) Dakota Student alums from the early/mid-1980s were saddened by the death of Bill Alkofer, a noted photographer (St. Paul Pioneer Press, Orange County CA Register, etc.) and the photo editor at the *Dakota Student* during those years. He made an important impact in the world of photojournalism, and I think it would be nice for him to be remembered by the Communication Department for his contributions to the world of photojournalism. Stories on his battle with ALS were featured in the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Minneapolis Star-Tribune, etc. He passed away in June 2023.

Lee Harstad ('99) The Department prepared me for the real world! I started my post-college career as newspaper reporter, moved up to a newspaper editor, moved to the public relations side of things with the State of South Dakota, then back to a magazine editor, television producer, marketing executive, non-profit executive director, to my current role as a managing partner of an LLC, with real estate development on the side. In all these roles, I can look back and see the benefit of my college classes and appreciate being a part of the Department.

Peter Monsrud ('17) My Communication degree continues to pay dividends each and every day, specifically in my new role as a Community Engagement Strategist. The hands-on, practical experience I learned in my classes set me up for success. I look forward to seeing how the UND Communication Department continues to grow in 2024.

Abby Smith ('17) If you're a student and still unsure what you want to do for your career post-graduation, I highly recommend looking into exploring sales enablement opportunities! Sales enablement is FUN and even more

importantly I get to use my communication degree from UND to succeed in my role. If you're interested in learning more about enablement - this blog post I authored is a great short read: <https://www.responsive.io/blog/sales-enablement-guide/>



Chad O'Shea ('20) I led the marketing efforts for our first ever "Notes from the Nest" student gratitude event at UND. We hosted this two-day event where scholarship recipients came to the

Union to write thank you notes to the donors who support their scholarships. Almost 2,000 students attended the event! 🍷

Share your career and life updates!

Submit your news items to the survey by April 30, 2024: <https://bit.ly/UNDCommNewsItem-S2024>

Or scan the QR code:



Support the Department

Now you can directly support the UND Department of Communication through the donation that can be specifically dedicated to the Centennial Celebration event and annual Communication Appreciation Day event and Communication Networking Social. These events are crucial to help the department grow and continue to have positive impacts on students. They help us connect to current and future students and allow us to showcase what a communication degree has to offer!

Any donation would be extremely appreciated. You can donate by following this link:

<https://go.undalumni.org/communication-department>

or scan the QR code:



In the "Additional Comment(s)" section, please put "Communication Appreciation Day" to support these events. 🍷

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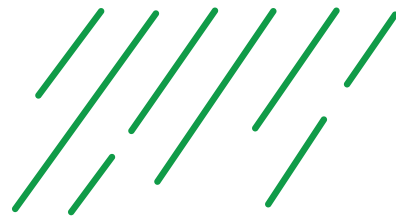
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April 25, 2024

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