

ARTS & SCIENCES SEMESTER STORIES

June 2023

A sampling of news, happenings and updates around the college.



Have you seen UND's campus lately? The view from this conference room in O'Kelly Hall is spectacular. Not only is the quad refreshed, but from here I can see that renovations have begun at Merrifield Hall. When Merrifield opens next year it will be the perfect enhancement to the heart of campus. With a beautiful new windowed entrance outside (see rendering below) as well as modernization with a nod to the classic features of the building, the updated home to English, Philosophy & Ethics, Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures, and the Honors Program will be something to see. In the meantime, watch for opportunities to tour the building during construction and feel free to stop by campus whenever you can - we'd be happy to show you around!

As we enjoy summer on campus, we've gathered for you here a few highlights from the impactful work of the A&S community. It is my great privilege to lead such an amazing team and impressive students.

Best wishes for happy adventures this summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Brad Rundquist.

Brad Rundquist, Ph.D.
Dean & Professor of Geography



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Want to explore more? Be sure to follow the links underlined in UND green for the stories.



Gamble Hall will be home to some departments while Merrifield is under construction.
[Read about the Ramble to Gamble](#)



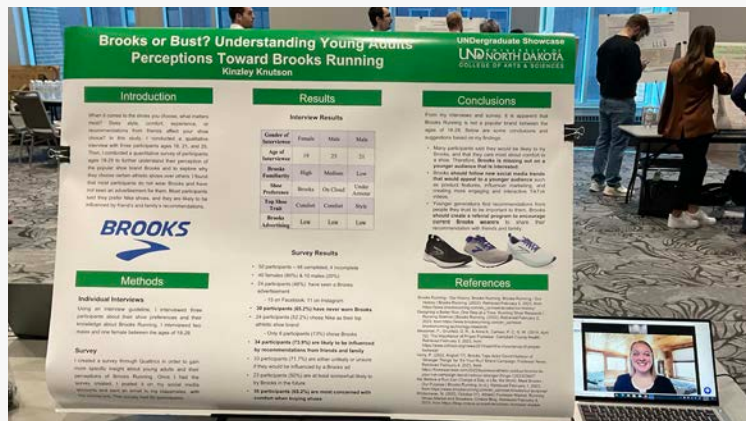
College of
Arts & Sciences
University of North Dakota.

ARTS & SCIENCES STUDENT NEWS

Celebrating Undergraduate Research

The spring Undergraduate Showcase featured 150 students presenting nearly 100 research projects - more than double than in the fall. Students from 44 different majors across A&S and UND participated and presented on topics from assembling table-top quantum-photonics experiments to the feminist snap to vaping.

The showcase, held at the end of each fall and spring semester, provides an opportunity for students to present their work to non-specialists, helping to develop skills that will be valuable after graduation.



This semester's showcase included live presentations from online students using virtual meeting technology.

A&S is committed to nurturing a sense of wonder and intellectual growth in undergraduate students. Providing opportunities to both participate in and showcase research projects empowers students to experience unique hands-on learning.

View the showcase [program](#) and [read more](#) about the event.

Fulbright Scholar Heading to N. Macedonia

Jacob Moll, graduate student in Geography, has been selected for the Fulbright North Macedonia ETA Scholarship, a highly prestigious international exchange program.

His selection reflects Jacob's demonstration of leadership and contribution to his community. Jacob has been offered a fully funded immersive learning experience to help students in North Macedonia higher education classrooms learn and use conversational English to understand norms and culture in the United States.



READ ABOUT JACOB AND OTHER TOP UND SCHOLARS

Clare Arneson Heads to NYU Summer Program



Clare Arneson is an English major who hopes to pursue a career in publishing. When she went looking for opportunities to gain experience in support of her dream, her path led her to pursue scholarships for high-powered east coast programs. The process of applying for competitive national scholarships, with assistance from UND's Academic Support & Fellowship Opportunities Coordinator, Yee Han Chu, helped her identify and earn her spot. "Through the help of Dr. Chu, I was able to create a strong personal statement and gain confidence in my ability to put myself in the running for competitive programs," Clare said. Accepted into programs at both Columbia University and New York University, Clare chose a spot at NYU's Summer Publishing Institute this summer and is excited to get hands-on experience working with professionals in the publishing industry in the heart of New York City.

Out in the Woods: Research Just the Way He Likes It

Biology doctoral student Talon Stammen has spent parts of four summers in Voyageurs National Park monitoring beaver ponds, collecting samples, and gathering data for his doctoral dissertation. With a natural affinity for spending time in the wilderness, Stammen was able to design field work well-suited to both his personal and research interests. He also had an opportunity to present his research, "Beaver Crafted Wetlands: Amphibian and Invertebrate Communities in the Boreal Forest," in Grand Marais, MN, at this year's Northern Landscapes Festival.

[Read about Talon in Voyageurs National Park](#)



Rocketry Team Competes Again

The UND Advanced Rocketry Club (ARC) competed, for the twelfth time, in the NASA Student Launch Competition. In March, the team successfully launched their eleven foot long competition rocket in a field in Harwood, ND, fulfilling the first requirement that the rocket has a stable launch, a dual-deploy recovery, and is re-launchable. The competition season culminated in April in Huntsville, AL, where they competed against 60 other universities and their rocket achieved an impressive altitude of 5,156 feet. NASA will announce award winners on June 6 during a virtual ceremony broadcast on their [Facebook page](#).

ARTS & SCIENCES COLLEGE NEWS & UPDATES

Program Spotlight: Forensic Science



One of the fastest growing programs in A&S is the Forensic Science Bachelor of Science degree program. Originally launched in 2000 and one of only two four-year programs in the region, the A&S program welcomed a new director, Lavinia Iancu, in 2021. Dr. Iancu has prioritized refining the curriculum to ensure professional readiness for students, including providing hands-on learning at every opportunity. She has established partnerships with several departments across UND, the North Dakota State Crime Lab, University Police and the Grand Forks County Courthouse. Committed to ensuring the rigor and effectiveness of the program, the college's goal is to work toward achieving accreditation from the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC).

This February, Dr. Iancu became a fellow of the Pathology/Biology Section of the American Academy of Forensic Scientists, the highest rank of the largest association of forensic scientists. A passion for science and justice lead her to a career in Forensic Science, and her desire to prepare future forensic scientists is guiding her work to make UND the premier option to continue the important work of pursuing justice.

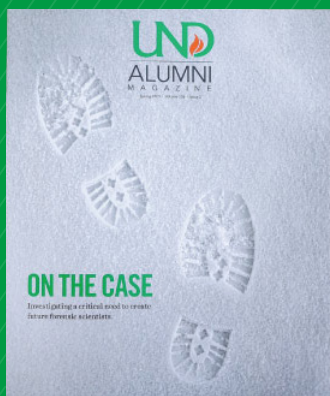
More Forensic Science stories at UND Today



[From clues ... to facts ... to convictions](#)
[Was it the knife, the candlestick or the rope?](#)
[A little fly told her](#)



**Director
Dr. Lavinia
Iancu and
spring grad
Nicolette Ras
appeared on
Prairie Public
Radio's
Main Street
[LISTEN](#)**



**The Forensic
Science program
was featured in a
recent edition of
the UND Alumni
Magazine.
[READ THE STORY](#)**



**May '23 grad
Nicolette Ras is
featured as a
UND Leader in Action
[MEET NICOLETTE](#)**

Strategic Planning Updates

On a Friday in January hundreds of UND faculty, staff, students, and friends gathered in the Memorial Union ballroom to witness the launch of [UND LEADS](#), the university's new strategic plan. A&S faculty and staff participated in the kickoff event. [Read about the Launch](#)

A&S's own [Ryan Zerr](#), professor of Math and associate dean, will be instrumental in helping the university live the plan. Zerr will serve as associate vice president for Strategy & Implementation beginning in July. In the role he will be the chief administrator charged with implementing, tracking and reporting on UND LEADS.

Meanwhile at A&S, work on the college's strategic plan has reached an important stage. The draft plan is now available for review and feedback.

UND
LEADS

And we'd like to hear from YOU! The draft can be viewed [on the A&S website](#) and your feedback can be provided [online](#). Thank you for taking the time to provide your perspective!



Major Milestone Celebration

Psychology has been an integral part of the College of Arts & Sciences for most of its history. And this year in April a festive celebration marked the department's [100 year anniversary](#), 50 years of uninterrupted national accreditation of the Clinical Psychology program, and 30 years of the INPSYDE program (Indians into Psychology Doctoral Education). Hundreds of students are enrolled in Psychology programs every year and department faculty have active and successful research programs.

The festivities included an open house at Columbia Hall where alumni and friends toured the clinical and research spaces, heard from current students and faculty, reminisced about days gone by, and learned about the department's bright future. As evening approached, a crowd of 150 made up of alumni, former faculty, current faculty and students, the dean, provost and president gathered in Memorial Union to mark the occasion with dinner, dancing and a roast honoring professor Tom Petros. The room was abuzz with conversation and laughter as the remarkable legacy of the department was celebrated. [Read More About the Celebration](#)



ARTS & SCIENCES ALUMNI NEWS

Alum Brad Schlossman Presents Hagerty Lecture

Brad Schlossman, '04, presented this year's Hagerty Lecture, "Writing from Rinkside," at UND Memorial Union in April. Schlossman shared about his journey from 2004 Communication grad to Hockey beat writer. He credits help from mentors like Mike Jacobs and Virg Foss (pictured at right with Schlossman at the lecture) as important to his learning that the most important part of being a successful sportswriter is to keep learning.

The Hagerty lecture series is named for the late Jack Hagerty, longtime editor of the Grand Forks Herald. Since its inception, the lecture series has welcomed several Pulitzer Prize winning journalists as well as journalists from regional and national organizations. Last held in 2018, lecture topics have addressed contemporary media issues from writing about science for children to compassion and caring in journalism to covering international economic and political issues. And here in Grand Forks, what better topic than Hockey? Sports journalism is a multi-faceted enterprise, and A&S was honored to welcome one of its own successful alumni to campus to share his perspective. [Read About the Event](#)



UND Philosophy Alum Flourishes

After graduating from UND with a philosophy undergrad degree, Benjamin Davis, '16, earned a PhD in Philosophy from Emory University in 2020. Subsequently he served as Post-doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Ethics at the University of Toronto and is currently serving a two-year Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of African American Studies at St. Louis University. In 2023 he will publish two books—Simone Weil's Political Philosophy: Field Notes from the Margins (Rowman & Littlefield, 2023) and Choose Your Bearing: Édouard Glissant, Human Rights, and Decolonial Ethics (Edinburgh University Press, 2023). In addition, he is at work co-editing a third book while also publishing numerous peer-reviewed book chapters and articles. [Learn More About His Work](#)



A&S Alum Named Pheasants Forever CEO

On April 25, more than 150 guests filled the Gorecki Alumni Center's Gransberg Community Room to listen to Broadcasting alumna Marilyn (Koble) Vetter, '88, as part of the Women for Philanthropy luncheon, a premier networking opportunity for female leaders and philanthropists.



Vetter recently was named president and CEO of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever — the nation's leading upland habitat conservation organization and the number one hiring organization for wildlife biologists. She is the first female to hold the position. She's also the president and owner of Inspired Strategic Solutions, LLC, a consulting firm that specializes in helping businesses craft comprehensive strategic approaches that drive progress and create measurable results. [Read About the Event](#)



ARTS & SCIENCES FACULTY SUCCESS



Theatre Professor Takes Skills from Stage to Screen

Brad Reissig, associate professor in Theatre Arts, served as creative director for the historical drama “End of the Rope” about a notorious 1931 crime in Schafer, ND. His work in creating visual cohesiveness and authenticity help to enhance the audience’s experience. The film debuted in Grand Forks at the Chester Fritz Auditorium in April.

[Read More About Professor Reissig’s Experience](#)

Accolades at American Academy of Advertising (AAA) Conference

At the annual AAA conference in Denver this year, an article co-authored by Communication professors Soojung Kim and Joonghwa Lee received the 2023 Best Journal of Interactive Advertising Article Award. Dr. Lee (far left) and Dr. Kim (second from right), pictured with the editor of the journal Jooyoung Kim and co-author Chang-Dae Ham, attended the conference in March. Additionally, Lee’s co-authored proposal was selected for funding for the 2023 American Academy of Advertising Research Fellowship Competition, one of the most competitive research fellowships in the strategic communication/advertising research community. Lee was also honored and recognized for his seven years of service as the AAA newsletter editor. Throughout the 27 issues he edited, over 220 members at 86 universities from 14 countries contributed to newsletter columns - and he never missed a deadline!



Interdisciplinary Challenges in the High North

Led by English and Theatre Arts professor Tami Carmichael, an interdisciplinary online asynchronous course was offered this spring for UND and American College of Norway students titled “Navigating the Arctic.” A unique collaboration, the course brought together experts from US, Norway and Canada — scientists, political leaders, scientists, artists and writers. Students were able to explore opportunities and threats to cultures and resources from ongoing cataclysmic changes.

[Read More About the Course](#)





Physics Launches Podcast on YouTube

Physics professor Wayne Barkhouse and Physics lab supervisor Robert Moore have been busy this semester. First streamed live in January, Barkhouse and Moore have aired 16 episodes to date of their “Cosmic Pi” podcast on topics from galaxy formation to quantum mechanics to dark energy. The goal of the podcast is to explore the universe one slice at a time. Barkhouse and Moore converse on the latest topics in astronomy, space and physics at a level that non-experts can understand. They will also answer questions from the live chat on Tuesdays from 3:00 - 4:00 pm Central Time. You can find past livestreams on the [Department YouTube Page](#).

Sharing Pioneer Mother Monument Research for Women’s History Month



In celebration of Women’s History Month in March, the UND University Council for Women+ invited history professor Cynthia Prescott to present regarding her extensive and award-winning historical research about Pioneer Mother monuments. Prescott described the evolution of her research and the progression of western monuments over time.

[Read About the Event and Dr. Prescott’s Work](#)

Hands-On Geography at 2023 River Watch Forum

More than 200 students and teachers participated in the 28th annual River Watch Forum in Grand Forks this year, including Geography professor Gregory Vandeberg and grad student Jacob Moll. Schools competed in water quality assignments and presented information to a panel of judges. One of this year’s breakout sessions featured hands-on demonstrations in field science. Students attending the event were able to create and experiment with watersheds in the department’s virtual sand table.



Faculty Expertise and the Media

A&S faculty continue to be called upon to weigh in on contemporary topics in the media. In the quarter ending March 31, 2023, A&S faculty were mentioned **over 100 times** in a wide variety of publications and organizations across the country. From the Grand Forks Herald to Popular Mechanics to Associated Press and Marketplace.org, faculty have been sought out for and quoted on a variety of topics. Faculty from all four divisions in A&S (Fine Arts, Humanities, Math & Science, and Social Sciences) have been quoted.



Welcome New A&S Leaders

The college leadership team is welcoming two new Associate Deans in July. As Jeff Weatherly and Ryan Zerr transition out of their roles as associate deans to other duties, Daphne Pedersen and Rebecca Rozelle-Stone will join the leadership team.



Dr. Pedersen, Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor of Sociology, will serve in a leadership role in areas of budget, personnel, faculty development, and alumni relations. She joined UND in 2004 and has since served the college, university, and state in many ways, including serving as Sociology department chair.



Dr. Rozelle-Stone, Professor of Philosophy & Ethics, joined UND in 2010 and has most recently served as director of the UND Honors Program, and from 2014-2017 she directed the Women & Gender Studies program. Her primary leadership responsibilities for the college will be in the area of curriculum.

KEEP IN TOUCH

We appreciate the opportunity to share some highlights from the year. Please stay in touch and be sure to share your successes with us, too! We would love to hear from you.

Thanks for all you do for A&S and UND!
We'd love to show you the updated campus sometime. Meet me under the arch?

Brad Rundquist
Dean & Professor

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P.S. Follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) for more college news. And you can find more stories about A&S at [UND Today](#).



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