

The UND COMMUNICATOR

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Department of Communication
O'Kelly Hall Room 202
221 Centennial Drive Stop 7169
Grand Forks ND 58202-7169
701.777.2159



Chair's Column

by Soojung Kim (Department Chair & Graduate Director)



Greetings from the UND Communication Department!

A long-awaited summer is finally here in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

On April 20, 2023, more than 100 students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members attended the Communication Appreciation Day. The April snow did not stop us from celebrating our alumni, students, and faculty. A featured article can be found on Page 2 of this newsletter.

In my interactions with alumni, many identify themselves as UND "journalism" alumni, which reflects the changes from the Department of Journalism to the School/Department of Communication in the 1980s. Our journalism alumni will soon welcome a new generation of journalism students and alumni. Our proposal to revive journalism education and offer a new degree program – B.A. in Journalism – was selected as one of the UND President's Strategic Initiatives. With nearly \$1 million from the Strategic Initiative Funds, we will hire three full-time tenure-track faculty members and three part-time instructors for the journalism degree program to be launched in fall 2024!

This exciting news could not have come at a better time as we will celebrate the Centennial of the Communication Department on April 25, 2024. More information about the Centennial Celebration can be found on Page 5 of this newsletter.

Steve Andrist ('76), former Executive Director of the North Dakota Newspaper Association, wrote a letter of support for the program proposal. Steve and I shared our excitement for the new journalism degree program over coffee when he visited Grand Forks. By the way, if you are in town, please feel free to reach out to me at soojung.kim@und.edu or (701) 777-2473. The coffee is on me!


Last but not least, we are so thrilled to welcome our new faculty members: Qian Huang, Xudong Yu, Ian Berry, Emily Gibbens-Buteau, and EllaMarie Powell. Short bios for the new faculty members can be found on Page 5 of this newsletter. Our students are lucky to have them!



As we finish another successful academic year, I am so thankful for your support of the department and our students. Best wishes for exciting summer!

Sincerely,

Soojung Kim

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

2023 Communication Appreciation Day

Appreciation for all things Communication at UND

by Evan M. Whitford (Department Intern, Senior)

UND's Communication Appreciation Day is a celebration of Communication students, faculty and alumni



Group photo of the 2023 Communication Appreciation Day participants. Photo by Tieler Friedline, sophomore, Communication major

On April 20, more than 100 students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members attended the student and faculty-organized celebration, held at the Memorial Union and the Gorecki Alumni Center. The event also serves to demystify the communication degree itself.

This year's Communication Appreciation Day included a Networking Social and a first-ever Alumni Luncheon, which served to provide an open dialogue between alumni and the department. Alumni said they are proud of the program and its tradition of excellence. They are committed to giving back to UND and helping to ensure that future generations have the same opportunities that they did.

Laura McCallum, Communication class of 1989 and the Politics and Government Editor at the Star Tribune, Minnesota's largest newspaper, gave the keynote address at the celebratory event. She spoke of her long career in journalism, working at newspapers and TV stations across North Dakota and then a lengthy stint at Minnesota Public Radio, before joining the Star Tribune.

McCallum pointed out that not landing a sought-after summer fellowship program by the International Radio and Television Society didn't get her down or dampen her hopes. She doubled down, got that fellowship the following

year and spent the summer in New York City, which helped launch her career. And younger Communication students today, she said, have the needed digital skills to get well-paying jobs in her field.

She drew laughs when quoting one of her professors from her broadcast journalism studies:

"I don't want to hear 'git,' 'jist' or 'fer'," she recalled the professor saying. "It's 'get,' 'just' and 'for!'"



Laura McCallum, class of '89 and the Politics and Government Editor at the Star Tribune, gave the keynote address at the celebratory event. Photo by Adam Kurtz/UND Today

Preceding McCallum were Brad Rundquist, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Soojung Kim, chair of the Communication Department, who gave opening remarks.

"Communication Appreciation Day is a wonderful way for alumni to connect with students and faculty of the Department of Communication," Rundquist said. "It's a great opportunity for alumni looking to help make a difference in the education and success of UND students. One of the best things about Communication Appreciation Day is that it is student-run. I would like people to know the amount of time and energy students put into planning and hosting this excellent event. It is significant."

Kim said she is always delighted to speak with Communication alumni, and said she is grateful they participate in a mentorship program with current students.

As for those students, Kim said they gain important experience working with Communication faculty like Joonghwa Lee, in producing the event, as part of their education.

“Our faculty have just been super willing to help out and get them to have a meaningful experience while they’re putting on this event,” she said.



Brad Rundquist, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, speaks at the Communication Appreciation Day event. Photo by Adam Kurtz/UND Today

The event is spearheaded by Lee and his students. He said he is grateful to returning alumni for attending the event, and for sharing their experiences. Meeting those alumni, he said, shows the diverse career opportunities that exist for UND Communication students. Lee also said the day showcases the dedicated community the department creates, both on campus and off.

“I would like all attendees to learn that the UND Communication Department is a close-knit community consisting of supportive alumni, motivated students and their families, and passionate faculty,” he said.

UND Students and Communication program interns Charlotte Sonterre and Trandon Lehrer helped to plan, organize, and curate this year’s event. Lehrer said he was thankful for the chance to work with Lee in producing the event, and the experience it gave him.

“Dr. Lee is amazing,” Lehrer said. “I could not be more thankful for him. He’s so understanding, and it just gives you such a great experience and teaches you how it’s actually going to be out in the real world.”



UND Students and Communication program interns Charlotte Sonterre and Trandon Lehrer helped to plan, organize, and curate this year’s event. Photo by Adam Kurtz/UND Today

And then there are the scholarships.

When students achieve something, UND celebrates their success. Thirty-four students were awarded \$42,830 in scholarships. Rachael Erickson attended the event to present about an internship she completed at the Northlands Rescue Mission. She said that events like these are great for networking, and presenting has given her an appreciation for taking pride in the work she has done.



Group photo of the 2023 Communication Scholarship recipients at the Communication Networking Social. Photo by Tieler Friedline, sophomore, Communication major

A communication degree at UND is more than just learning how to write and speak well. It is also about learning how to think critically and solve problems. Students gain affinity in researching, analyzing information and presenting their ideas. Hailey Thorlakson, sitting on a student/alumni panel at the event, said that a common misconception regarding a communication degree is that it is only used to pursue careers in advertising or journalism. She noted that a

degree in communication has equipped her with the skills to communicate effectively in both her personal and professional life.

Also participating in the panel was alumnus Matt Mamura, who said he wants people to know that this program is a good path toward a valuable universal degree. Mamura uses his studies in the UND communication program in his current position as an Aviation Market Manager in Airport Engineering and Planning Services. He said he enjoyed being a panelist this year, as it gave him the opportunity to inspire an audience of young people at his alma mater.



Communication Alumni Matt Mamura, aviation market manager in Airport Engineering and Planning Services, speaks with a student about a communication project. Photo by Adam Kurtz/UND Today

During the session, Matthew Hjelmstad told the audience that they can go into just about any field that they want with a communication degree. He highlighted the importance of communication certificates being accessible even for those who are not majoring in communication, and how the knowledge and skills gained in the courses that lead to the certificates are not only useful but look great on a resume.

Said Emily Buteau, an alumna and incoming teaching assistant professor in the Communication Department: "I think the public needs to know more about the communication field in general. When people ask me what my degree is in, I still have to explain what communication is most of the time. If we could encourage the public to attend this event, they could learn what communication is all about, and that would be great!"

Next year will be the 100th anniversary of the Communication Department and a lot of planning is already in the works. In addition to celebrating the accomplishments of UND students and alumni, participants will be set to gain a deeper understanding of

the communication degree, gain valuable insight from professionals, and build relationships with potential mentors. Kim said she encourages all Communication students, past, present and prospective, to plan on attending next year's festivities.



Event keynote speaker Laura McCallum speaks with a communication student about a project. Photo by Adam Kurtz/UND Today

*This article was featured in *UND Today*:
<https://blogs.und.edu/und-today/2023/04/appreciation-for-all-things-communication-at-und/>

Share your career and life updates!

Submit your news items to the survey by November 30, 2023: <https://bit.ly/UNDCommNewsItem-F2023>

Or scan the QR code:



Department News

Welcome New Faculty Members

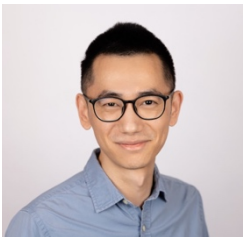
The UND Department of Communication welcomes five new faculty members.



Qian Huang, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Qian Huang is an incoming Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication. Qian has an interdisciplinary background in journalism, communication, and public health. Before coming to UND, she was an assistant professor at Miami

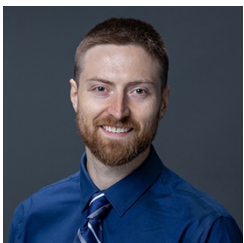
University (OH) after completing her postdoc training at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests primarily lie in three areas: 1) cues to action in health behaviors, especially vaccination, in collaboration with the CDC, 2) novel approaches to improve patient-provider communications, and 3) risk communication. Her research projects have been funded by Miami University internal grants and the CDC.



Xudong Yu, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Hello everyone! I'm Xudong, and I'm super excited to join the department as an Assistant Professor this fall. Originally from China, I obtained my Ph.D. in Communication with an emphasis in computational social science from the University of California,

Davis in 2022. Currently, I am concluding my role as a postdoc researcher at the University of Amsterdam, which will come to an end in July. Relying on both experimental and computational methods, my research focuses on the use and effects of new information technologies on society. When I'm not working, I enjoy playing video games and cooking, which help me relax and recharge.



Ian Berry, Ph.D.
Teaching Assistant Professor

My name is Ian Berry, and I am a Teaching Assistant Professor at the University of North Dakota. I joined the Department of Communication in August of 2022 and completed my doctoral degree in media communication in the spring of 2023 from North Dakota State

University. My concentration is on visual communication, specifically semiotic critical research. As for teaching, my pedagogy focuses on all areas of media, including mass communication, advertising, and social media. Outside of academia, I am an avid hockey player and play in various leagues and drop-ins throughout the Fargo area. I have two children and a wonderful wife, and I am excited to be part of the Department of Communication at UND.



Emily Gibbens-Buteau,
Ph.D.
Teaching Assistant Professor

I am very excited to join the UND Department of Communication as a Teaching Assistant Professor in the fall! I am a proud native North Dakotan and UND Communication alum. I earned my BA in 2017 and MA in 2019. I will graduate with my Ph.D. in August. My favorite part about teaching is getting to know my students and seeing their progress in class and in life. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my husband, Eric, and my 9-month-old daughter, Sawyer, watching hockey, and reading.



EllaMarie Powell, M.P.S.
Teaching Assistant Professor
& Public Speaking Director

EllaMarie Powell is the incoming Public Speaking Director and Teaching Assistant Professor at the University of North Dakota. She received an M.P.S. in Organization Development and Change Management from Pennsylvania State University and a B.A. in Psychology from American Military University. She is passionate about the way communication functions to develop critical thinking skills and the vital role communication plays in one's academic and professional development. She has extensive leadership experience in staff development, process and productivity improvements, performance management, and curriculum design.

Centennial Celebration in April 2024!

The UND Department Communication will celebrate its Centennial on April 25, 2024 in the Memorial Union at the University of North Dakota. It will be a full-day event, including a keynote speaker session, various sessions/presentations from current students and alumni, followed by dinner and dance party. There is a "rumor" that dinner



and dance party will be hosted with a cash bar. Details will be distributed with an invitation in fall 2023. The Centennial Planning Committee will reach out to alumni to collect photos/videos and memories with the Department of Journalism and School/Department of Communication.

Affairs, which will support her to study abroad this summer at the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) Global Education Center in Florence, Italy. Sydney said, "I am excited to engage myself in Italian culture by taking all opportunities to become involved. With this experience, I plan to solidify my future professional goals in Communication, Graphic Design, and Social Media." Sydney won the Communication Study Abroad Scholarship AND the Beulah Rom Gullekson Scholarship from the UND Communication Department as well.

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship



Sydney Smith, a senior majoring in communication and minoring in graphic design, won the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. The Gilman program is a program of the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural

Alumni Appreciation

by Kennedy Anderson (Social Media Coordinator, Senior)



Jena Pierce is originally from Grand Forks, North Dakota. She graduated from UND in 2001 majoring in Public Relations and Journalism and minoring in English. While at UND, she wrote for the Dakota Student newspaper and

was on the marketing team for Studio One. She is currently the Communications Manager for the UND Center for Rural Health. Jena said she learned many skills while at UND, including "how to write for media, how to write feature stories, and how to talk with working professionals." She said UND allowed her to have real-world experiences that prepared her for the fulfilling career she currently has.

Grand Forks Herald. Dave is currently the President and CEO of the Minnesota Twins Baseball Club. He said, "UND played an integral role in my career journey. The UND community helped shape me as a professional and leader – ensuring readiness in core skills, relationship building, and overall business acumen. My time working within the UND Athletics Department provided incredibly valuable access and learning in dealing with media, coaches, student athletes, and fans."



Dave St. Peter is originally from Bismarck, North Dakota. He graduated from UND in 1989 majoring in Communication with an emphasis in Public Relations. While at UND, he was very involved. He was a Student Assistant for the

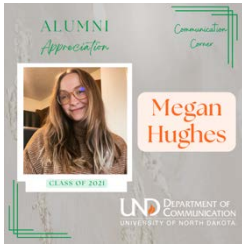
UND Sports Information Department, a Reporter for the Dakota Student newspaper, and a Copy Desk for the



Brian Shawn is originally from Bloomington, Minnesota, and graduated from UND in 2002 majoring in Communication with an emphasis on Broadcast Journalism. While at UND, he was a member of Studio One and the Sigma Phi

Epsilon Fraternity. He said, "Without these organizations, I would definitely not be where I am now, and I cherish the relationships and friendships I built that still continue today." Brian currently works as On-Air Talent. He is a Storyteller for Midco Sports and a Play-By-Play Announcer and Host for University of North Dakota football and men's/women's basketball games. He said, "I was very

fortunate that I had great instructors and staff members at UND that not only taught course material but also provided opportunities for hands-on experience."



Megan Hughes is originally from Fredericksburg, Virginia, and graduated from UND in 2021 with a bachelor's degree in Communication and a certificate in Social Media Strategies. Megan is currently a Digital Marketing

Specialist at Design Wizards. While at UND, she was a member of Pi Beta Phi. Megan said "My classes at UND prepared me for the workforce, truly. From COMM 430 AD/PR Campaigns (instructor: Dr. Joonghwa Lee) to basic 100-level Communication classes, I learned everything from how to talk to clients and coworkers to how to successfully run a digital marketing campaign."



Jake Greener is originally from Fargo, ND, and graduated from UND in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in Communication. While at UND, he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Jake is currently the Senior

Manager of Client Services at SiriusXM Media (SXM)! He said, "I'm forever grateful for my time at UND and within the Communication Department. The sense of community exemplified within the department has stood the test of time, allowing me to draw on and apply, even now, in my daily life. In an ever-evolving media landscape, leveraging foundational elements is critical for success and I gained that insight from my professors and peers."



Lacey Erickson is originally from Pelican Rapids, Minnesota. She graduated from UND in 2006 majoring in Communication and Sociology. She is currently the Program Manager for Medtronic, working in Employee Relations.

While at UND, she was involved in multiple programs and organizations. She was a member of Studio One, the UND Sports Show, Emceed Football and Hockey for UND Athletics, and the University Programming Council. Lacey said, "I absolutely loved my tenure at UND. I decided last minute to change from University of Minnesota-Twin Cities to UND because of the smaller classes, easier commutes and accessibility and the feeling of community when I

visited there. That rang true throughout my 10 years of living in Grand Forks. After graduation I had the honor of working for my alma-mater in the UND Athletics, Marketing and Communications, and the Health & Wellness departments. My experiences alone in Studio One, the UND Sports Show and the other organizations I was a part of were hands down the best type of education I could ever receive. In addition, I worked at Blue Moose and FedEx which also helped shape my skills and experiences as a working student. I highly encourage all students to seriously take a look at how to get involved while you are studying. Your experiences are what people look at."



Lindsay Cadigan is originally from Burnsville, Massachusetts. She graduated from UND in 2007 double majoring in Communication and English. She is currently the Director of Events and Consumer Marketing for the Boston Magazine!

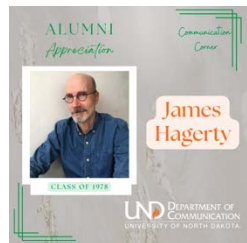
She is also the Children's Picture Book Author of Betty The Confetti Yeti. While at UND, Lucy was very involved. She was a member of the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, PRSSA, Studio One, and Relay for Life. She co-chaired the first Relay for Life event on campus! She said, "I adored my years at the University of North Dakota. The people, support, and ample real-world experiences given to students were extraordinary. UND gave me the confidence to move across the country to Boston where I've lived for the last 14 years building my career. My first job out of school was in professional sports that led to a career in special events and now in publishing. I love connecting with alumni and current students and can be followed on Instagram @confeticadigan for anyone that wants to connect."



Lucy Dalglish is originally from Grand Forks, North Dakota and graduated from UND in 1980 majoring in Journalism. Lucy is currently the Dean of the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland! While at

UND, she was extremely involved! She was the managing editor of the Dakota Student; President of the Society of Professional Journalists student chapter; President of Mortar Board; and Lay minister at the Newman Center. She worked as a reporter and editor at the Grand Forks Herald during her final year at UND. She was awarded Outstanding Journalism Graduate in 1980. Lucy said, "I

grew up three blocks from campus, so UND always felt like home. There were many activities to catch my attention, but the Journalism Department faculty created an almost family-like community. Dr. Vern Keel (the department chair) ignited my passion for media and First Amendment law. I developed a passion for promoting the role journalism plays in civil society. My journalism education was terrific preparation for law school."



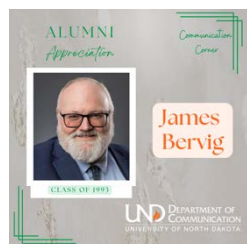
James Hagerty is originally from Grand Forks, North Dakota and graduated from UND in 1978. He double majored in Journalism and Economics. James currently works as a staff reporter for the Wall Street Journal. He is also the author

of a newly published guide to writing life stories, titled "Yours Truly." While at UND, he was an editor for the Dakota Student newspaper. He said "Louis Palanca's impassioned instruction in Latin" was one of his favorite things about UND. He also said, "The economics professors showed me their subject wasn't as baffling as it may seem."



Courtney Barstad Logan is originally from Williston, North Dakota. She graduated from UND in 2004 majoring in Communication then went on to receive her Master's in Educational Leadership. She graduated with her Master's degree

in 2006. She is currently a realtor at RE/MAX Grand. While at UND, she was a member of Alpha Chi Omega, PRSSA, and Dance Marathon. She also worked as a Memorial Union Student Employee. Courtney said, "I loved that UND was a large campus that always felt small because of how easy it was to make connections. The professors and university staff were all so caring and genuinely got to know you as an individual and were focused on your success. I'm forever thankful for my time at UND!"



James Bervig is originally from Williston, North Dakota. He graduated from UND in 1993 majoring in Public Relations and minoring in Geology. He is currently the Assistant Vice President at First International Bank and the Trust/

Commissioner for the City of Williston. While at UND, he was a member of the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity. He said, "I

liked the size of the campus and all of the activities going on throughout my college career. My professors took the time to help me be my best every day."



Kirsten Stromsodt is originally from Mekinock, North Dakota. She graduated from UND in 2001 majoring in Communication and minoring in Religion. She is currently the Executive Editor at Forum Communications! While at

UND, she was a member of Studio One, which was a television program produced by students at UND. She said, "My time at UND was formative. It gave me both the skills and confidence to find my identity as a person and a leader. I'll be forever grateful to the university and everyone who works to make it such a great institution."



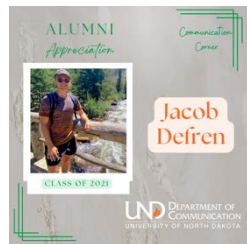
Anthony Stein is originally from Cogswell, North Dakota. He graduated from UND in 2000 double majoring in Communication and Sociology. He is currently the Regional Sales Manager for Channel Partners at Oracle

NetSuite. He was very involved while at UND. He was a member of Studio One, PRSSA, and was the quarterback for the UND football team from 1995 to 1999! He said, "UND challenged me, helped me grow into a young adult and encouraged me to make adulting decisions of time management, commitment, dedication and responsibility. In particular, I appreciated faculty professors like Curt Stofferahn (Sociology) and Lucy Ganje (Communication) who really encouraged a growth mindset while in their classes. The fun, inviting, and dedicated team at Studio One was always a highlight of my time at UND as well. Of course, it is easy to go on a "Uncle Rico" tangent of throwing footballs at UND and yes, it will always be cherished; but truthfully, I appreciated all things of being a student-athlete at UND. The classes, students, professors, coaches, and teammates all remind me of what I'm thankful for."



Tara Ekren is originally from Langdon, North Dakota. She graduated from UND in 2000 majoring in Communication. She is currently the Public Relations and Social Media Manager for Flint Group in Fargo! While at UND, she

was a member of the University Programming Council and the Mortar Board Honor Society. Tara said, "I absolutely loved my time at the University of North Dakota! From the things I learned in classes, to the friends I made throughout my time on campus, to the leadership concepts I learned on various projects, to the connections I was able to develop will stay with me always. UND remains a "home" to me and I love visiting campus and taking in hockey, football and basketball games any chance I get!"



Jacob Defren is originally from Wayzata, Minnesota. He graduated from UND in 2021 majoring in Marketing and minoring in Communication. He currently works as a Marketing Analyst for Life Time Inc. While at UND, he was a

fraternity member of Delta Tau Delta and a member of Marketing Club. He was also involved in Intramural Hockey and Business Leadership Club! Jacob said, "The saying "you get out what you put in"... is exactly what the University of North Dakota has provided for me as a student and onward to post-graduation. My biggest tip is to get involved on campus and in the community as much as you can. Don't be afraid to reach out to people in your

classes, teachers, or academic advisors as you never know, they could help you find new opportunities and be the biggest supporters of the goals you have. UND has furthered my academic career and provided a strong network of friends, peers, and professionals in my working career. Meeting anybody who went/goes to UND always puts a smile on my face."



Drew Helten is originally from Bismarck, North Dakota. She graduated from UND in 2021 double majoring in Communication and Graphic Design. She is currently a Graphic Designer at Starion Bank. While at UND, she

was the Vice President of PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America). She said, "I absolutely loved UND, the culture of the University really made Grand Forks feel like home. Communication classes taught me so much about professionalism, public speaking, research, analysis, and marketing skills. These, as well as impactful real-life experiences in classes like COMM 430 AD/PR Campaigns (instructor: Dr. Joonghwa Lee), really prepared me for what a job in marketing was going to be. I cannot recommend taking Communication classes enough." 🍷

Spectacular Students & Incredible Interns

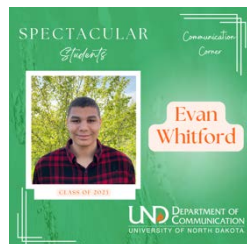
by Kennedy Anderson (Social Media Coordinator, Senior)



Caitlyn Inman is originally from Bismarck, North Dakota. She plans to graduate in May of 2023 majoring in Communication. She is currently a writing intern at Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck. Caitlyn said, "The

Communication Department at UND is full of great professors who care about the success and future of their students. I have never enjoyed learning as much as I have since I joined the department."

in 2021 and will apply to the online Master's Program in Communication at UND to further his education. His favorite courses at UND have been U.S. Military History and COMM 374: Principles of Strategic Communication (instructor: Dr. Joonghwa Lee). He looks forward to completing an internship with Dr. Joonghwa Lee during Spring 2023.



Evan Whitford is a 4th year student at UND and is originally from Twentynine Palms, California. He expects to graduate in May of 2023 with his bachelor's degree in Communication. He completed the Air Force Aim High Flight Academy



Kinzley Knutson is a fully online student at UND and is originally from Cando, North Dakota. She is majoring in Communication and expects to graduate in May 2023. Kinzley was the Social Media Coordinator for the Communication

Department (Supervisor: Dr. Joonghwa Lee) during the Fall 2022 semester. She has also been a teaching assistant twice for Dr. Jess Schanilec-Gowan. Kinzley said, "I have really enjoyed my time at UND and am appreciative

of all the help that Dr. Joonghwa Lee and Dr. Jess Schanilec-Gowan have given me during my time at UND. I have really enjoyed working with them as well as taking their classes!"

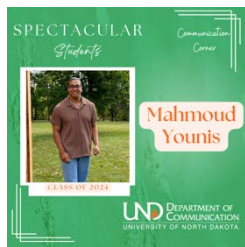


Dominic Calvillo is originally from Walhalla, North Dakota. He plans to graduate in May of 2023 majoring in Communication. Dominic said, "I've had a very good experience in the UND Communication Department. All of the faculty have been very helpful and are very dedicated. I've had numerous professors help me build confidence and teach me necessary skills that will help me in the future!"



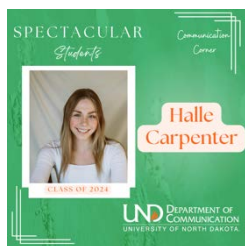
Mia Kowalski is originally from Daytona Beach, Florida. She is a 4th year student at UND majoring in Communication and minoring in Leadership and expects to graduate in December 2023. Mia said, "UND's Communication Department

has provided me with many unique opportunities to further my career as both a student and professional. The professors go above and beyond to engage with students and share valuable advice that resonates with the class. I consider myself lucky to be a part of a learning environment that enables me to perform to the best of my ability."



Mahmoud Younis is originally from Fargo, North Dakota. He plans to graduate in 2024 double majoring in Communication and Criminal Justice. Mahmoud said, "The Communication Department is the most loving and welcoming

department at UND! I've learned so much about my future within this field of study but also about real life problems which are not as taught as some may think. I'm very grateful for all professors in the Communication Department."



Halle Carpenter is originally from East Grand Forks, Minnesota. She plans to graduate in May of 2024 double majoring in Communication and Health Studies and minoring in Leadership. She is currently a UND Student Ambassador, a member of

Women in Business, and a FOCUS Student Leader. Halle

said, "The Communication Department really feels like a community here at UND. The professors work closely with each student to help them succeed, and I am very grateful to be a part of it!"



Katie Elliot is originally from Grand Forks, North Dakota. She expects to graduate in December of 2023 majoring in Communication with certificates in Conflict Mediation, Social Media Strategy in

Communication, and Professional & Executive Communication. She already has a degree in Emergency Management and minors in Human Development & Family Science and Sociology. She is currently involved in Women in Business, a student organization here at UND. She said, "I appreciate how passionate the faculty is about helping us succeed. Dr. Joonghwa Lee especially has been so helpful in making sure I do not fall through the cracks like I did at my previous university."



Amanda Gorecki has called Grand Forks home for 13 years. She plans to graduate in May of 2023 majoring in Communication with certificates in Social Media Strategies, Digital Media Production, and Sports Communication. She

said, "I've loved my time at UND. Whether it was expanding my video editing skills with Dr. Timothy Pasch or becoming less afraid of Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator with Dr. Jessica Schanilec-Gowan, the faculty here has helped me grow and learn more about myself."



Petros Alex is originally from Chania, Greece! He plans to graduate in May of 2023 majoring in the Communication and will continue to pursue a Master's in Communication here at UND. Petros is on the accelerated 4+1 Track where he can

earn a M.A. in Communication in just one year! Petros is a student-athlete, playing for the UND men's tennis team. Petros said, "The Communication Department has impacted my life in so many positive ways. The professors have taught me valuable life lessons and I've made multiple positive friendships. I'm forever grateful for everything the UND Communication Department has done for me!"



Chelsea Timmerman is originally from Rogers, Minnesota. She plans to graduate in May of 2023 double majoring in Environmental Studies and Communication and minoring in Sustainability Studies. Chelsea served as Club President for UND

Club Swim in 2022 and she is currently still active in the club. She is also the current Social Media Coordinator for UND Students for Sustainability. She said, "Coming into UND, I didn't know I wanted to pursue Communication until I took COMM 360 Communicating Science with Dr. Soojung Kim, which I needed for my Environmental Studies major. Once the course was complete, I knew I wanted to continue doing communication work, so I decided to declare a Communication Major. I have enjoyed every single class I've taken while in the Communication Department and, I have met some great friends, mentors, and professors!"



Grace Anderson is originally from Bismarck, North Dakota. She plans to graduate in May of 2023 majoring in Marketing and minoring in Communication. Grace said, "I have truly enjoyed the Communication Department and

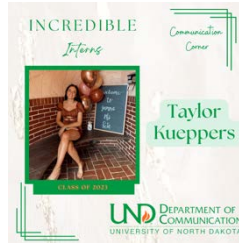
feel that I have learned a lot from each Communication class I have taken. They have set me up well for future endeavors. Some classes went hand in hand with the job I currently have at Kittsona (fashion boutique in Grand Forks), because they taught me how to communicate with others in a social and professional setting and how to conduct optimal, personalized customer service."



Shannon Dutra is originally from Campbell, California. She is majoring in Communication online and expects to graduate in May. Shannon interned for the Campbell Historical Museum last semester. At her internship, she "assisted in

researching, creating, scheduling, and monitoring content for the Museum's social media platforms to help increase the visibility of the Museum's exhibitions, programs, and collection; created content for the Museum's social media platforms including event photography, videos, Instagram reels, and more; updated website content; helped the Museum create and update their social media strategy to capitalize on social media platform changes and updates." She was very busy! She really enjoyed her time at this

internship, saying "my colleagues were so supportive and thoughtful. The museum gave me a lot of creative freedom during my internship by letting me explore new ideas and ways of creating content. It was a lot of work but also a lot of fun."



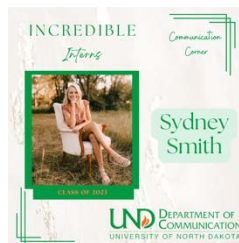
Taylor Kueppers is originally from White Bear Lake, Minnesota. She is majoring in Communication and working towards multiple certifications, one of which is Social Media Communication Strategies. She expects to graduate in May of

2023. Taylor was an intern for GreekHouse. Taylor explained that "GreekHouse is an Inc. 5000 company that supplies custom merchandise to collegiate Greek houses, clubs, sports, and local companies." During her internship, she said "I was able to learn all about sales, marketing, and the design process. I also reached out to people in the community to close sales! Being a GreekHouse intern was an amazing experience that gave me real-world experience and helped me gain confidence in my ability to work in these fields."



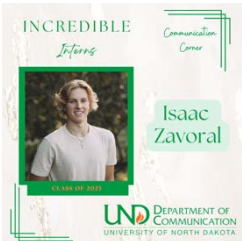
Colleen Buckingham is originally from Lakeville, Minnesota. She is majoring in Communication and expects to graduate in 2024. Colleen is currently an intern for Brandl Anderson Homes. She said, "Brandl Anderson is a new home

builder, with a handful of new developments in the south metro area of Minnesota. They are a semi-custom home builder that provides people with the opportunity to build their dream house from scratch, in brand new neighborhoods. My internship is a Sales Associate position for the sales agents in our neighborhoods. I work in the field of model homes, gathering prospect information, setting appointments, and attending meetings with buyers. I'm in the process of attaining my real estate license, to eventually represent one of our communities as a Professional New Home Consultant after graduation."



Sydney Smith is originally from Horace, ND. She is currently majoring in Communication and Graphic Design and expects to graduate in December. Sydney is an intern for the UND Center for Innovation. She is responsible for

the Centers' photography and videography which includes staff headshots, event photos, interviews, and more. She also helps with creating graphics for social media use and event signage. Sydney said, "The Center for Innovation has given me the opportunity to express my creativity and create a professional portfolio for myself before graduating. I am extremely grateful for the hardworking team I get to be involved with every day."



Isaac Zavoral is originally from East Grand Forks, North Dakota. He is majoring in Communication and expects to graduate in 2025. Isaac is currently an intern for the University of North Dakota's Athletic Communications Department. He

said, "Athletic Communications Department helps sports fans keep up with their favorite teams. By updating the athletics website, running social media, facilitating interviews and press conferences, and providing general information to the public, we keep fans engaged with their sports teams." Isaac would like to thank his supervisors: Alec Stocker Johnson, Tyler Wells, Kelsey Lee Sagvold, and Josh McSwain, for providing him the opportunity to learn under them. 🌱

Donors' Notes

by Gunnar Moeller (Newsletter Editor, Senior)

David Beach Scholarship



Elijah Fricke and Camden VanWechel, this year's David Beach scholarship recipients, had a chance to visit with Barbara Beach to share their appreciation.

Boyd Christenson Scholarship

Marlene Christenson noted that "UND is near and dear to the hearts of my husband and me. We both enrolled in 1955 and my husband left in 1958 when presented with an

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VISIT PROGRAM PAGE



employment opportunity in broadcasting. He did return to receive his degree in 1987 and graduated with our son, Mark, who is still with UND. Boyd always credited his professional success to his education at UND along with his God-given talents and the ND work ethic."

Ellen Dahl Scholarship

Harv Dahl noted that "My mother was a summer school student at UND in the 1920s during her teaching years. When she was in her early 90s (she died shortly before her 97th birthday), she decided to establish the scholarship in appreciation of my wife and I getting our journalism degrees. She would be very proud of the accomplishments of each of the scholarship recipients and pleased that she could help them achieve their goals." 🌱

Faculty Spotlight

by Gunnar Moeller (Newsletter Editor, Senior)



Dr. Timothy Pasch is a Professor of Communication at UND. His Ph.D. is in Communication from the University of Washington (Seattle). He is a dual US-Canadian citizen fluent in French and Japanese with some ability in Inuktitut, the indigenous language of the Inuit people. He recently

passed the FAA Part 107 Drone Pilot certification and will conduct fieldwork this summer in one of the most Northern communities in Alaska (Utquiagvik) as well as central Alaska near the Yukon River.

Dr. Pasch conducts research on digital communication in the Arctic and other remote regions. On the social scientific side, he works with Arctic communities in Alaska, Canada, and Scandinavia helping to develop, teach and train skills on digital infrastructure, software, and tools to help build economic resilience through small business development ([NSF Award # 1758781](#)). From a geoscientific quantitative perspective, Dr. Pasch is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense on an [Arctic project](#) focused on remote sensing using advanced drone- and ground-based technologies to develop predictive analytic tools. The Arctic has changed significantly since he first began his dissertation research, including developments such as global satellite Internet communication. He believes strongly in the importance of Communication in these research areas and is proud to be working with some of the world's best scientists and extraordinary collaborators.

His favorite things about the UND Communication Department are incredible faculty, students, staff members, and alumni. He also mentioned that we have a superb internship program as well as excellent certificate programs, and both an M.A. and Doctoral graduate program. He emphasized that we are one of the few Departments on campus that offers an entirely online track through our degree and that we offer courses that train our students in skills in high demand in industry and academic environments. He believes that students who major, double major, or minor in Communication set themselves

up for success in whichever industry or academic discipline they select.

He was recently promoted to Full Professor at UND, which has opened up new opportunities for collaboration. He is excited to be working with multiple external funding agencies, and especially regarding how this allows him to leverage these opportunities with funding for undergraduate and graduate student research assistantships, post-doctoral researchers, and other faculty collaborations. He is especially enthusiastic to find himself at the center of collaborations with UND colleagues in the College of Engineering and Mines (CEM) (Computer Science, Geology, and Mechanical Engineering) and RIAS at UND Aerospace, as well as collaborations with other Universities including the University of Washington, Virginia Tech, Stonybrook, UCSB, and the University of Minnesota and MCAD.

Dr. Pasch would like to give advice to communication students: "We in Communication are in high demand in industry as well as in academic research and teaching environments. In all projects I am engaged with presently, a Communication scholar is desirable for our strong digital expertise, ability to persuasively communicate science and technology, ability to produce high quality writing, proposals and publications, and understanding of Communication Theory. Ability to speak other languages is also an asset. For those of you who are undergraduate or graduate students now, I suggest that you get to know your faculty members beyond just the classroom. See whether they have projects or opportunities to share with you. Learn as much as you can regrading computational communication (R; Python; other coding). I suggest you also learn Apple ProApps and the Adobe Creative Cloud. Become an outstanding writer! Don't rely solely on digital tools (Grammarly, ChatGPT, etc): become a confident writer who can generate outstanding work even when you're not connected to the Internet. Gain experience with grants of some kind while an undergraduate, if you can. Volunteer in your community wherever you may find yourself: these and all of your collaborative networks will be of great helpfulness in your future careers! Stay in touch with us: we are proud of our alums!" 🍷

Faculty News



Dr. Pamela Kalbfleisch was chosen to receive the Karleen Home Rosaaen Award for Excellence in Academic Advising during at the 2023 UND Founders Day Celebration.



Dr. Soojung Kim served as the Lead Trainer to organize 3MT (Three Minute Thesis competition) in 2022-2023. [A UND Today article featuring Dr. Kim's involvement with 3MT](#) was published on January 31, 2023.

Dr. Soojung Kim and Dr. Gary Schwartz in the Department of Population Health at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences made 40 digital radon detectors available at the Grand Forks Public Library. This initiative is supported by the National Center for Healthy Housing and Airthings. [A UND Today article featuring Dr. Kim's research](#) was published on April 13, 2023.



Dr. Joonghwa Lee spoke at the UND LEADS Strategic Plan launch event as a speaker focusing on the first pillar (L – Learning) among the five pillars of LEADS (i.e., Learning, Equity, Affinity, Discovery and Service). He shared his experiences and passion for experiential learning, community engagement, and alumni relations inside and outside of his classes. [A UND Today article featuring Dr. Lee's involvement with UND LEADS](#) was published on January 24, 2023.

Dr. Joonghwa Lee received a Special Recognition for his 7-year service as the newsletter editor for the American Academy of Advertising (AAA), the Journal of Interactive Advertising Best Article Award with Dr. Soojung Kim, Dr. Chang-Dae Ham, and Ayoung Seok, the AAA Research Fellowship with Dr. Regina Ahn, and the inaugural AAA childcare grant at the AAA annual conference that was held in March 2023 in Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Joonghwa Lee was selected as the 2023 recipient of the Itterman Faculty Professional Development Award. The Award (\$4,000) is given annually to one or more faculty members within the College of Arts & Sciences in recognition of exemplary teaching while maintaining excellence in research and service. A call for nominations was circulated to department chairs and program directors, and Dr. Lee was selected from a competitive pool of nominees by the College's Executive Committee.



Dr. Jessica Schanelic-Gowan and her students in COMM 380: Health Communication took a field trip to the Simulation Center located within the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences.

COMM 380 is a course that explores health communication with interpersonal sources (e.g., physicians & other providers), groups (e.g., support groups & healthcare organizations), and effective communication through mass media and digital/social media channels. 🌐

Communicators' News

Career Updates

James L. Erickson ('67) Published my second book. "Washington's Fisher Scones: An Iconic Northwest Treat Since 1911." Coming out June 26. History of the Fisher family making scones to promote its Blend Flour. Relinquished products in late 1970s to Continental Mills and Conifer Specialties (I've worked for them making scones for nearly two decades). History, interviews, even a few recipes from the Fisher cookbooks of the 1930s. Lots of photos. First book in 2020 was "Memories of Mount St.

Helens." I covered the 1980 eruption for Tacoma News Tribune. I'm the "outstanding male graduate" in journalism in 1967 from UND.

Fabrice MOUSSUS ('73) My book which describes the assassination of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat and the beginning of the Gulf war in Bagdad continues to sell a year and a half after it was published:

<https://www.amazon.com/GRAB-MOMENT-Fabrice-MOUSSUS/dp/B09SWFKKX9>

Lana Rakow ('74 & '77) I am an active professor emerita of the UND Communication Department. I have been appointed to the Forum newspapers' Readers' Board, serve on the West Fargo Planning and Zoning Commission, and chair the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Communications Committee. I have published three academic book chapters this year on topics that include gender, feminist theory, journalism and democracy: "Unraveling Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: The Role for Feminists and Media in Making Progress Last." With Laura A. Wackwitz. In Pamela Creedon and Laura A. Wackwitz, eds., *Women in Mass Communication: Equity, Diversity and Mysogyny*, 4th ed. Routledge, 2022 "Journalism and Community Engagement as if Democracy Matters." In Stuart Allan, ed., *The Routledge Companion to News and Journalism*, 2nd ed. Routledge, 2022 "A Feminist Odyssey from the Personal to the Public." In Stine Ekert and Ingrid Bachmann, *Reflections on Feminist Communication and Media Scholarship: Theory, Method, Impact*, pp. 61-73. New York: Routledge, 2022.

Gail Hagerty ('75 & '78) is serving as pastor at Heart River Lutheran Church / Bridges of Hope. The congregation gathers on the grounds of the North Dakota Youth Correctional Center and the Heart River Correctional Center (adult women) in Mandan, and worships with and serves those incarcerated and those transitioning from incarceration. Gail had served as a trial court judge in Bismarck for 33 years before her ordination and new career. She is a 1975 journalism and political science graduate and graduated from the UND Law School in 1978.

James R. (Bob) Hagerty ('78) My new book, "Yours Truly," is a guide to writing life stories and has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.



Mark Jenson ('81) I received the inaugural "Marshall Tanick" award for teaching excellence at the Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota. It recognizes efforts in the classroom with feedback from students.

And I will be promoted to Senior Lecturer this month. I have been teaching full-time at the U since January 2018 after a 30+ year career in the advertising agency business in Chicago and Minneapolis.

Tracy (Briggs) Jensen ('86) I just celebrated 35 years with Forum Communications. I started as a broadcast journalist at WDAY-TV in 1988 anchoring, producing and reporting the news. Currently, I work as a multimedia journalist, doing podcasts and writing history-related stories for Inforum and other FCC properties. I was recently nominated for two Upper Midwest Regional Emmy Awards for writing, producing and anchoring a documentary called "Liquid Gold - from the Midwest to the Mediterranean," which examined how one Moorhead, Minnesota man is building bridges with his friend in Greece by importing olive oil and promoting its health benefits, its role in sustainable agriculture and how it's helping to make the world feel like a smaller, friendlier place. (p.s. I'm a 1986 grad of UND).



Marilyn (Koble) Vetter ('88) 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. It was part of the Women for Philanthropy luncheon hosted by the UND Alumni Association & Foundation, a networking opportunity for female leaders and philanthropists. [A UND Today article featuring this event](#) was published on May 2, 2023.

Bill Rogina ('90) Brand and Creative Manager for Regis Brands.

Dan Hendrickson ('93) Earlier this year I completed an experimental short film - Nonsense is My Chicken. <https://youtube.com/watch?v=IYAN0yjpXUI&si=EnSikaIECMiOmarE>

Sharon Kay Rezac Andersen ('94) I won an award as Honored Member of the American Association of University Women after serving as President two years. My published book, "The Burden of Knowing" details a study abroad in Nicaragua. The book relates what I learned when earning my UND master's degree: Examine more than one source for accurate information, realizing that media "infotainment" instead of information has no merit or validity when trying to determine what is true. The book gives credit to the late Dr. Steve Rendahl, my UND advisor in graduate school who taught me the importance of quality oral and written communication and the value of public discourse: critical thinking at its best!



Hilary Bertsch ('94) Completed my doctorate degree earning an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Minnesota State University, Moorhead.



Christopher Kalash ('94) Chris is the Director of Membership Services at the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's state chamber of commerce. He lives in Bismarck with his wife Nicole.

Carl Clemetson ('03) Post graduation, Carl Clemetson went on to find his own company. Today his company, Clemetson Event Services, LLC, operates under a variety of brands that provide event catering, event planning, event rentals, tenting, event florals, stage production and managing event venues. In January 2023, the company took possession of the Regency Event Center in downtown Minot, ND.



Jennifer (Dobrowski) Rogers ('03) Jen Rogers spoke at the Association of College & University Policy Administrators (ACUPA) Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, in May 2023. This is the fourth time she's spoken at this conference. Rogers has been an active member of the association since 2011 including five years on its board of directors, a two-year term as board chair and two years as events planning committee chair. Rogers continues to serve on the ACUPA membership, education and events planning committees.

Barb Cooper Vigen ('95) expanded her Etsy shops of The Norway Dakota Company, Daisy Circle Studios and Gnome Life 701 by opening her gift shop within the Midtown Marketplace (formerly Kmart) in Grand Forks. Of the 5000sq ft of unique shopping that includes over 30 small businesses, Barb has 200 sq ft of items featuring her graphic designs and photography to include, embroidered clothing, stickers, keychains, mugs, tumblers, magnets, notecards, tote bags, pillows, keepsake boxes and journals, and more.

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Nathan Fields ('99) Current job: Director of Testing Services for Front Range Community College in Colorado, three campuses, Fort Collins/Longmont/Westminster.

Rachael Glaszcz ('00) After more than 22 years working in television news, I got out of the industry! I now work as a senior account manager at Kane Communications Group, a PR firm in Milwaukee, WI. I loved working in TV news but was ready to shake things up. Many of my skills transferred to PR and I couldn't be happier.

Michael Linnell ('02) I was elected as Staff Advisor to the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education in February 2022 and started to serve my one-year term in July 2022. I was re-elected at Staff Senate's January meeting and will serve a second term representing all staff from across the North Dakota University System in July 2023.



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. [A UND Today article featuring his lecture](#) was published on April 27, 2023.

Lindsay Cadigan ('07) I just published my debut Childrens Picture Book Betty The Confetti Yeti. More information is available on www.theconfettiyeti.com.

Elicia A DesLauriers ('07) The Minot Park District Board has named Elly DesLauriers the new Executive Director of the Minot Park District. DesLauriers has been an integral part of the Park District for the past ten years, serving as the Director of Marketing and Development. Her passion for the community and vision for the park district makes Elly an excellent asset to the city of Minot and the surrounding area. During her time as Director of Marketing and Development, she coined the term 'planning for the future' regarding the Park District's mission. She has done just that during her decade with the parks, assisting on projects like the MAYSA Expansion, Roosevelt Park Zoo exhibit renovations, Woodland Trail, Outdoor Recreation Area Development, greenway planning, and more. Elly has put the Minot Citizen's quality of life at the forefront of her

career. "The Commissioners of the Minot Park Board are excited for Elly to transition into her new role as the Executive Director for the district," says, Justin Hammer Vice President of the Minot Park Board. "Elly has some big shoes to fill with all the great things Ron Merritt has accomplished during his tenure as the Executive Director. The Park District has some exciting and big projects in the planning stages, and we are excited for Elly to move into this leadership role as we work through these projects and continue to offer the citizens of Minot a great parks and recreation department." DesLauriers received her degree in Communication from the University of North Dakota in 2007. In 2019 she was given the North Dakota Recreation and Parks Association's Young Professional Award and served as the NDRPA board president from 2020-2021. "It truly is an honor to have the opportunity to lead the Minot Park District and continue to improve the quality of life for our community," says Elly DesLauriers, newly appointed Executive Director of the Minot Park District. "The future is bright for the Minot Community. As we move forward planning will continue to be an integral part of our progression in maintaining our parks and facilities, completing future projects, and being a fiscally responsible organization." The Park District Board made its decision in a special meeting on March 31, 2023. DesLauriers will begin as the Executive Director on May 1, 2023.

Elizabeth "Binky" Lee ('08) In January, I celebrated one year working for Audacy in Richmond, Virginia. I'm currently the afternoon on-air personality on Q94 in Richmond and Z104 in Virginia Beach...both are Top 40 formatted radio stations.

Dylan Wohlenhaus ('09) I started my own podcast production and storytelling agency in 2020 in the Twin Cities. After being an intern at Studio One on Campus at UND, I went on to have a successful career as a journalist - reporting in three different TV news markets. I won two TV News Emmy awards and five Edward R. Murrow awards for journalism. I left TV in 2017 to pursue a career in corporate communications and, left in 2020 to launch my own business. My business website is authenci.com.

Kyle See-Rockers ('14) Associate Director of Enrollment Strategy at Collegis Education.

Chelsy Simenson ('14) I was promoted from Enrollment Specialist to Senior Enrollment Specialist in August 2022. I also had a baby named Beau in September 2022.

Averi Haugesag ('15) Director of Growth at CorralData (I live in San Francisco and have for many years, but I work remote and CorralData is based in New York)



Pictured left to right; David Potter, Allison Brenneise, Samuel Miller, and Joshua Young wearing UND colors while attending the 2023 Central States Communication Association Conference.

Joshua Young ('15) UND Comm Alumni were recently awarded honors at the 2023 Central States Communication Association Conference. Dr. Allison D. Brenneise (MA 2014) and Dr. Joshua E. Young (PhD 2015) were awarded the Douglas Trank Top Paper Award and an Inclusive Scholarship

Award, presenting their paper amongst the association-wide top inclusive papers. They were joined in being awarded the Melissa Beall Top Panel Award by alumni Dr. David Potter (PhD 2015) and Dr. Samuel Miller (PhD 2016). Drs. Brenneise and Young have recently announced a co-editorship of an upcoming special issue of Communication Teacher on critical communication assessment and have a forthcoming article in the Communication Education forum on communication education's value.

Emily Gibbens-Buteau ('17 & '19) I will be joining the UND Department of Communication as a Teaching Assistant Professor in August!

Kelsey Sagvold ('17) I started as the director of athletics communications at UND, January 5. I'll be in charge of women's basketball, soccer and web.

Maren Vangsness ('17) In September, I started with the Magic City Discovery Center in Minot, ND. North Dakota's newest hybrid children's museum STEAM center. I began as their digital media specialist and I got promoted to marketing coordinator, continuing with the digital side and taking on the public relations and communications portion as well. It's been an amazing opportunity and felt ready to take it all on thanks to all the hands-on skills I learned in Dr. Soojung Kim's class.

Kolton Brohaugh ('19) Applied for the Business Development role for North Texas/Oklahoma region with my same company and was awarded the role back in January. Was top ten producer for the 2022 year. Awarded the Quality Service Award for 2022.

Brecklyn Huntley ('19) I recently got a promotion from Media Planner to Senior Media Manager at the agency I work for - VMLY&R Commerce!



Jack Neisen (middle) directs a basketball game during the Summit League Basketball Tournament in March on Midco Sports.

Jack Neisen ('19) This year I was chosen to Direct the Summit League Basketball Tournaments for Midco Sports! We produced 16 games in 4 days in Sioux Falls, SD. It was an unforgettable experience, and I learned a lot from working

the league, teams, and coaches. One of the most fun weekends of the year for me!



Amelia Patefield ('19) I recently accepted a full-time job with the Orlando Solar Bears Hockey team as a sales representative. Go Bears!



Hanna Deml (Hosler) ('20) I have been working as a Program Technician for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for over 2 years now. I work with farmers and getting them signed up with different programs administered from the Farm Bill

Program. In January I received the 2022 nonsupervisory employee of the year for the whole state of Minnesota FSA. This was very humbling since I have come a long way since I started. I had no agricultural experience before I started with the Agency.

Tara Ekren ('20) Tara Ekren was promoted to PR + social media manager at Flint Group in Fargo.

Gabriel Jameson Hill ('20) I'm currently working as a Project Manager for my company's Small Business Supplier Implementation team. It's been very exciting and I've really enjoyed the new challenges it's presented!

Matthew Hokanson ('20) On July 1, 2022, I was promoted from Head Tennis Professional to Director of Tennis and Pickleball at West Hills Tennis and Fitness Center in Owatonna, Minnesota. Became the youngest Director of Tennis/Pickleball in the state of Minnesota. Hosted 20+

NCAA tennis events at West Hills Tennis Center along with a number of Junior and High School Tennis Matches.

Shantel Lang ('20) Promotion - Past - Supervisor, Social Media; Present - Program Manager, Social Media

Turki Ali Alrashid ('21) I have been selected as a member of a consultant in the field of communication to work in designing a communication plan for a government agency in Saudi Arabia.



Jacob Defren ('21) Graduated & began my first career in the corporate world doing personalized email and mobile marketing communications for one of my favorite companies!

Mary Vaughan ('21) was promoted in Feb. 2023 to Account Executive - Public Relations Division at Brandpoint, a Content Marketing Agency in Minneapolis, MN. After graduating from UND, Mary started at Brandpoint as an Intern and accepted a full-time role as PR Coordinator following her internship completion in Aug 2021. She has been with Brandpoint for two years now and will now sit on the Media Consulting & Sales team. In her new role, she partners with Agencies & Brands in the B2C + B2B space to consult on content creation, distribution tactics, and promotional strategies across a wide variety of industries to secure guaranteed media coverage, generate brand awareness, drive engagement, and obtain measurable results for her clients.

Madelyn Insley ('22) I recently started as the Community Relations Coordinator for Girls Inc. Sarasota.

Mya Jacobs ('22) After graduation in 2022, I was lucky enough to get a job at Front Row Digital starting 2 weeks post-graduation. I was initially hired to be a Marketing Specialist but was promoted to Graphic Design Specialist in the fall. I received a raise in December and hope to be promoted to Senior Graphic Designer by August.

Life Updates

Henry G. Owen Jr. ('59) I was campus reporter for the Grand Forks Herald in my senior year and until I began two years as an Army (infantry) officer. Al Austin's J-school gave me a sound foundation in writing and editing, but my career seemed to be based on luck and being in the right place. In

the Army, I commanded our unit's headquarters company as a lieutenant, because they were short a captain or major. After the Army, I spent 1961-1963 with United Press International in Omaha and St. Louis. UPI hired me on the recommendation of Bruce Bakke, '58 who was in their Chicago bureau. From 1963-68, I was a copy editor for the Minneapolis Tribune, hired after they resurrected my 1960 CV, in the wake of some staff departures. I moved to 3M Company public relations, after a call from a former Tribune copy-desk colleague, Dave Hosokawa, who had joined 3M for a product-publicity job that became vacant when he was promoted. I told Dave I was very happy at the Tribune, but he urged, "Come out for an interview, and we'll buy you lunch; nobody buys copy editors lunch." I guess dessert was a 31-year career, from which I retired in 1999.

Jane Lien Lehr ('61) Retired in 2002 as a publications manager for Lockheed Martin in Sunnyvale, California. Moved to the Sierra foothills. World travel is my passion, having taken 55 trips with five more scheduled in the next year. Also enjoying my three children and nine grandchildren.

Lana Rakow ('74 & '77) After becoming a professor emerita of communication at UND, retiring after 22 years on the faculty, I moved to West Fargo with my husband Tony Stukel in 2018. Tony retired as director of the Online Dakota Information Network (ODIN). Our two children and three grandchildren live in Moorhead. I earned a B.A. in journalism and humanities from UND in 1974 and an M.A. in English from UND in 1977. My Ph.D. is from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (1987).

Lucy Dalglish ('80) stepped down as Dean of Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland on June 30, after serving the college for 11 years. After a sabbatical, Prof. Dalglish will join the faculty in 2024-25. She plans to focus on teaching courses and conducting research in the areas of First Amendment, media law and ethics, and Democracy.

Laurie Meier ('81) In 2021 Laurie Meier (Laurie Byrnes Class of 1981) retired from the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command in Washington, D.C. as Director, Command Services after 35 years of federal service. Laurie now lives in Odenton, Maryland.

Brian McKenty ('93) December will mark 30 years since I earned my BA (Broadcasting) from SCOMM. 30 years! I am just finishing up my 20th year teaching Physical

Education and Health at Ecole Edward Schreyer School in Beausejour, Manitoba and have handled the Athletic Director duties now for the last 7 years. My son Owen is graduating from Grade 8 next month and starts high school in the Fall. He hopes to earn a Track & Field scholarship to UND in 4 years. Keep up the great work.

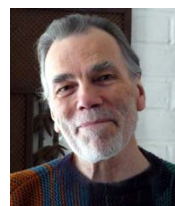


Kelly is the one in navy blue suit up front. There are several UND graduates and UND moms in the audience.

Kelly (Rahn) Radi ('93) Keynote speaker and award-winning author Kelly (Rahn) Radi '93 continues to be amazed at how often she runs into fellow UND graduates (or parents of current UND students) as she travels the country sharing

messages of resilience, empowerment, validation, and leadership. "Whether I'm speaking in the Midwest or the deep South, I always seem to find someone with a UND connection. It is one of the many joys of my job!"

Sharon Kay Rezac Andersen ('94) Now retired, I honor the value of my degree in Communication while writing a memoir of life experiences, educationally, personally, politically and professionally. I firmly believe that accurate history/herstory and classical books being challenged today need to be featured as valuable for current and future generations. My memoir begins at age four up to the present and features years of lived experiences, including my life as UND student, then Director of the UND International Centre, international student advisor and retirement years of teaching OLLI adult ed classes.



Michael Joseph Morton ('96) At the age of forty-five, after a 22-year military career, I graduated in 1996 from the Center of Teaching and Learning, with a Bachelor of Science and Education and from the College of Fine Arts and Communication

with a Bachelor of Arts degree. I was awarded the honors of Magna Cum Laude from both colleges. Although these are rather excellent distinctions, I would like you to understand that they meant a little bit more to me than perhaps many of my fellow graduates. The reason for this was founded in my grade school and high school years of struggle as exemplified by my graduating from Antigo High School in Wisconsin with a 1.5 GPA, which I was ashamed of, and later hid from my five children who I encourage to study hard and achieve as much as they could. Through the Veteran's program as part of Student Services office, I was able to get

an evaluation of my particular learning challenges from the greatly gifted, talented, and highly educated Gloria Brown. She tested, prodded, and probed my brain for many hours, for many days, in her very scientific evaluation of me and how I learn. I remember clearly the day that she called me into her office. She told me it was official and gave me a letter to take to the Student Learning Center, informing them that I indeed had several learning disabilities. When she told me that, I actually stood up and cheered for myself! Gloria said, that in all the years she had been doing this work, she had never had anybody cheer when they were told they had LDs. The education that I received at UND would, indeed, be the foundation for the rest of my life's achievements. I went on to teach high school in Arizona, where I discovered that I was not only a gifted teacher, but also that I was being sought out by my most troubled students for after-hours counseling. That prompted me to achieve a Master's in Education, Guidance, and Counseling from UW Oshkosh. I enjoyed almost 20 years as a Mental Health and Addiction therapist. None of that would have happened if it was not for UND and the dedicated, talented, and perceptive Gloria Brown. I am now retired, living in Tucson, Arizona. Thank you, UND! I would also like to acknowledge retired history professor Albert Berger and English professor James McKenzie for believing in me and guiding me very well.

Carl Clemetson ('03) graduated from the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business program May 2020 and has been featured in a Goldman Sachs ad campaign to help reach out to rural business owners to participate in the program.

Fiona Peterson ('17) New baby- Redden Peterson 11/14

Jack Stellon ('18) Recently married in December of 2022!



Amelia Patefield ('19) I recently bought a house with my boyfriend, and we couldn't be happier!

Hanna Deml (Hosler) ('20) I currently live back in my hometown of Owatonna, MN. I am now married to my high school sweetheart who I followed to UND. We are still planning a wedding for next year, Sept.

Turki Ali Alrashid ('21) and his family own a private digital media company. This company is called "Goals." It runs social media platforms. It covers soccer events and

competitions. The number of views for the content that they created exceeds 3 million views per day. We have covered huge tournaments such as the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Comments

Sharon Kay Rezac Andersen ('94) My fervent hope is that Arts and Sciences continue to be academically strong and valued for I believe it is in the humanities that we carry out this commitment of Eizabeth Cady Stanton: "The moment we begin to fear the opinions of others and hesitate to tell the truth that is in us, and from motives or policy are silent when we should speak, the divine floods off light and love no longer flow into our souls." 🌱

Support the Department

Now you can directly support the UND Department of Communication through the donation that can be specifically dedicated to the Communication Appreciation Day event. The funds we raise will go solely towards organizing the 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://undfoundation.org/comm-app-day>

or scan the QR code:



In the "comments" section, please put "Communication Appreciation Day" to support these wonderful events. 🌱

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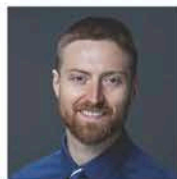
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Professor



Jessica Schanilec-Gowan, Ph.D.
Teaching Associate Professor



Ian Berry, Ph.D.
Teaching Assistant Professor

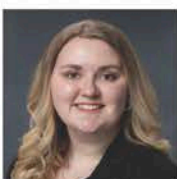
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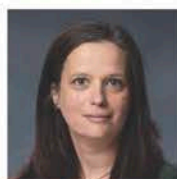
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Assistant Professor



Xudong Yu, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor



Emily Gibbens-Buteau, Ph.D.
Teaching Assistant Professor



EllaMarie Powell, M.P.S.
Teaching Assistant Professor
& Public Speaking Director

We are hiring three digital and data journalism tenure-track faculty members to start in fall 2024.



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