FOUNDERS DAY 2017

134TH ANNIVERSARY
FEBRUARY 23, 2017
FOUNDERS DAY 2017

6 p.m. Thursday, February 23, 2017, in the Memorial Union Ballroom

WELCOME
Thomas DiLorenzo, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT
Matthew Lorenz

DINNER

OPENING REMARKS
Provost Thomas DiLorenzo

PRESENTATIONS TO HONORED GUESTS
Introductions of Retired and Retiring Faculty and Staff
Introductions of Faculty and Staff With 25 Years of Service
Peter Johnson, Interim Vice President for University and Public Affairs

FACULTY AND DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS
Thomas DiLorenzo, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Grant McGimpsey, Vice President for Research and Economic Development

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS
Laura Block, Chief Financial Officer, UND Alumni Association & Foundation

CLOSING REMARKS
Provost Thomas DiLorenzo

ON THE COVER: The Chester Fritz Library is the academic heart of the University of North Dakota.
FACULTY AND DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

The UND Foundation/McDermott Faculty Award for Individual Excellence in Teaching
SUSAN ELLIS-FELEGE
Assistant Professor of Biology

The UND Foundation/Lydia and Arthur Saiki Faculty Award for Individual Excellence in Teaching
ROBERT WOOD
Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Administration

The UND Foundation/Thomas J. Clifford Faculty Award for Graduate or Professional Teaching Excellence
ANNE MULLINS
Assistant Professor of Law

The UND Foundation/Karleen Home Rosaaen Award for Excellence in Academic Advising
FRED REMER
Associate Professor of Atmospheric Sciences

The UND Foundation/Thomas J. Clifford Faculty Achievement Award for Outstanding Faculty Development and Service
MELISSA GJELLSTAD
Associate Professor of Languages

The UND Foundation/Thomas J. Clifford Faculty Achievement Award for Excellence in Research
OTHMAN GHIRIBI
Professor of Biomedical Sciences, School of Medicine and Health Sciences

The UND Award for Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Research or Creative Work
CHRISTINE HARSELL
Clinical Instructor, Family Nurse Practitioner Program
MARIDEE SHOGREN
Director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program
JACQUELINE DEVINE-ROBERTS
Clinical Assistant Professor, Family Nurse Practitioner Program
THOMASINE HEITKAMP
Professor of Social Work
ANGELA MUHS
Assistant Professor of Social Work
JOSEPH MILLER
Associate Professor of Psychology

The UND Award for Departmental Excellence in Teaching
THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

The UND Award for Departmental Excellence in Research
THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

The UND Award for Departmental Excellence in Service
THE DEPARTMENT OF ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

The UND Foundation/B.C. Gamble Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, Research or Creative Activity, and Service
GRETCHEL MULLENDORE
Associate Professor of Atmospheric Sciences
Another former student who now works for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department agreed that Ellis-Felege taught important skills necessary in the workforce.

“I am noticing a trend here that the things you made me do that were annoying and at time seemed silly are really being recognized by the people in my office,” the former student wrote, “so thank you!”

It’s clear that Ellis-Felege really cares about her students, and that’s obvious to their parents as well, in good times and bad.

“Dr. Ellis-Felege clearly cares deeply about her students, based on the extensive efforts she puts toward their personal and career development,” said Peter Meberg, chair of the Biology Department. “Last year there was a tragic death of one of the students in our department. Dr. Ellis-Felege was immediately in communication with the student’s parents, informed other faculty, collaborated with counseling professionals at UND to have them meet with students in her and other FWB (Fishing and Wildlife Biology) classes, and organized transportation for students to the Twin Cities area for the funeral. The department received a letter from the student’s mother thanking the department, and Dr. Ellis-Felege in particular, for the helpful and sympathetic response.”

It’s not the first time a parent has been touched by the Ellis-Felege’s efforts and compassion. “Another example of Dr. Ellis-Felege’s effect on students came from another parent whose son had graduated this past year,” Meberg said. “Despite not being alumni, they donated $1,000 to the department and specifically contacted Dr. Ellis Felege to state how appreciative they were for what had been done for their son during his time at UND.”

A consummate professional, Ellis-Felege takes her job seriously and does her very best for her students. She doesn’t lose sight of her mission.

“Teaching and mentoring students is one of the greatest responsibilities of my position as faculty at the University of North Dakota and the primary reason I became an academic,” she said. “Students, both as citizens and biologists, are the future to protecting and enhancing the natural resources that contribute so significantly to overall ecosystem health, human health, and recreational activities that are so important to North Dakotans, Americans, and people worldwide.”

The UND Foundation/Lydia and Arthur Saiki Faculty Award for Individual Excellence in Teaching

Robert Wood
Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Administration

Robert Wood of the Political Science Department has earned a reputation as an innovative teacher who has adapted technology to the classroom in educationally productive ways.

“He is a leader in the integration of technology in the classroom in the use of simulations and in the implementation of new testing techniques,” said faculty member Mark Jendrysik. “Since his arrival at UND in 2003, he has worked to keep his colleagues informed of new teaching technology and methods.”

Wood also was an early leader in online education on campus and recently designed a new course, Guns, Climate, and Immigration: Politics and Policy Synthesis. Offered in two versions — for graduate and for undergraduate students — the course addresses pressing policy issues of the day while identifying common themes and analytic tools for understanding and designing public policy.

“The course is highly innovative with students working on issues in teams that simulate the policy-making process,” said Paul Sum, professor and department chair. “The course also aligns well with our positioning as a department to emphasize policy studies.”
For his hard work and dedication to his students, Wood has earned the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award.

It's not the first recognition that Wood has earned for his work in the classroom. He has garnered the CoBPA Outstanding Teaching Award as well as American Political Science Association/PI Sigma Alpha recognition for outstanding teaching. In October 2016, Wood also earned the Charles and Betty Corwin Award for Teaching Excellence from the UND College of Business and Public Administration, and he has been named a Faculty Star.

“My approach to teaching is grounded in the belief that an active learning environment promotes great long-term retention of material,” Wood said. “I consciously design each course to help students think beyond the grade and engage with the material in a way that will be memorable and remain with them throughout their lives.”

Through the years, Wood has developed some very successful techniques. For example, in his Political Behavior course, the midterm is an oral exam.

“With this approach, I find I can more easily identify and correct misconceptions among my struggling students, I can more effectively challenge my best students, and I can provide useful feedback that helps improve their long-term retention of the material — all without significantly increasing my own time commitment,” he said.

In the same course, the final project is an informational video rather than just a paper. Students produce the video on a topic of their choosing.

“The videos from each group are shown on the last day of the semester, and students provide feedback to each other on their work,” Wood said. “Many students comment on this assignment in their reflective essays, and two comments that stand out consistently are: one, that it takes as much time or more to complete as a traditional research paper; and two, that it is a refreshing alternative for seniors who have learned how to punch out a research paper with little thought.”

Wood also uses social media, including Facebook groups and Twitter accounts, to promote active learning among his students.

Evaluations from students rank Wood very high, which is even more remarkable because of his teaching load. Since he was promoted to associate professor and tenured in 2009, he has taught multiple sections of seven different courses.

“These sections include traditional on-campus undergraduate courses and hybrid graduate-level courses,” Sum said. “He also customarily teaches at least one section of Pols 115: American Government in an online format, including summer, as a course over his contractual teaching responsibilities.”

The fact that Wood loves teaching is evident in the comments from his students.

“I have no complaints and nothing but praise for Dr. Wood,” one student said. “This is the first class I have taken at UND that really made me want to do more and give more.”

The UND Foundation/Thomas J. Clifford Faculty Award for Graduate or Professional Teaching Excellence

Anne Mullins
Assistant Professor of Law

Since joining the School of Law's faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor in July 2013, Anne Mullins has proven herself a highly effective and innovative teacher who connects with law students on both a professional and personal level. She works hard to promote student engagement and learning. In 2014, she was awarded a Summer Instructional Development Professorship to research and implement Team-Based Learning (TBL), an idea new to law schools.

“It has transformed my classroom into a place of highly effective collaborative learning,” she said.

For her hard work and dedication, Mullins has earned the Outstanding Graduate or Professional Teaching Award.

Mullins also implemented several changes into the first-year Lawyering Skills curriculum in order to promote deep fundamental skills development.

“Professor Mullins’ proficiency in legal writing and research instruction — the main topics of Lawyering Skills — was one of the key reasons we hired her, as students’ ability to master these foundational skills is necessary to not only their success in law school, but their success as lawyers after graduation,” said Kathryn Rand, dean of the School of Law. “These are not easy courses to teach. They demand a great deal of time and effort to maximize successful learning outcomes for students. Professor Mullins embraces this aspect of Lawyering Skills. She works to reach every student, guiding each to attain her or his full potential as an aspiring attorney.”

Mullins also serves UND Law on the Curriculum and Assessment Committee, which is working on a curricular redesign. In addition, she is an active participant in professional development in teaching at UND and in her discipline.

Along with implementing new teaching techniques, Mullins has created a new and valuable class as well. “I developed Judicial Writing, a new course at UND, and one that students appreciate for the way it pushes them to develop advanced practical skills in a highly demanding environment,” she said.

Mullins co-authored UND's core instructional research text and has published articles on legal writing pedagogy. She also presents nationally on topics ranging from big-picture pedagogical approaches, such as TBL, and the flipped classroom, to empowering students to be more effective learners through developing self-direction in learning and cultivating a growth mindset. She has also presented on how to prepare students for life after law school through intentionally developing professional identity.

Mullins has used her expertise to help teachers throughout the United States. She has served on the Legal Writing Institute's Teaching Resources Committee, which developed and disseminated teaching materials to professors across the country. She was asked to serve as program committee chair of the major national legal writing conference this year as well.

“Our conferences focus on teaching and learning. This year’s particular emphasis will be on diversity and inclusion in the classroom and curriculum,” she said.

Mullins’ classes are challenging, but students consistently give her strong evaluations. It’s clear she truly tries to connect with and engage her students.

“This class was great. It was hard, but I believe it has and will help me more than any other class,” one student commented. “Mullins is by far one of the best professors I’ve ever had.”

Glowing comments such as these are repeated again and again.

“Professor Mullins expects more than any other professor does. This motivated me to go the extra mile to put forth my best effort,” another student said. “Prof. M., thank you for everything. I feel lucky to be in your class. You are empowering, thoughtful, well-spoken, and it’s easy to see you love what you do.”

Though she obviously works hard to provide her students with the best possible learning experience, Mullins is quick to share any credit she gets with those around her.

“Ultimately, I am a product of a law faculty and a discipline that both value teaching above all else,” she said. “This is very unique in the legal academy. It is due to my colleagues’ support and my students’ willingness to work exceptionally hard that I have had any measure of success in the classroom.”

The UND Foundation/Karleen Home Rosaaen Award for Excellence in Academic Advising

Fred Remer
Associate Professor of Atmospheric Sciences

As an associate professor in atmospheric sciences at the University of North Dakota, Fred Remer has earned a reputation as a top-notch advisor who works tirelessly for his students.

“Fred not only has outstanding communication skills, provides trusting relationships with students, and is constantly enthusiastic and motivational, but he indeed goes above and beyond for his students,” one student wrote. “That man works multiple jobs in addition to his teaching at this institution. He averages three to five hours of sleep, no matter how long his day is, just to ensure his work is complete and his students are getting the attention they need to succeed.”

This includes working with many nontraditional students who may need more of his time.

“My friend was a transfer student who wanted to get her degree in atmospheric sciences without having to start completely over,” another student...
explained. “She already had a bachelor’s degree in a similar field, so Fred did everything he could to get classes waived and make sure she was getting the best experience she could have.”

Remer always puts his students first.

“Fred has walked me to impromptu meetings with faculty at the drop of a hat multiple times. This included getting me to see the director of the department without an appointment within minutes to settle a time-sensitive matter for me,” one of his students said. “He always finds a solution to the scheduling or paperwork conflict. He helped me understand what I need to do and made me feel comfortable as a returning student changing to a new major.”

For his dedication to his students, Remer has earned the UND Foundation/ Karleen Home Rosaeen Award for Excellence in Academic Advising.

Remer earned a bachelor’s degree from the School of Meteorology at the University of Oklahoma in 1982 and a master’s degree from the Atmospheric Science Department at the University of Wyoming in 1989. Before becoming an associate professor in the Atmospheric Sciences Department at UND, Remer was the chief meteorologist for Weather Modification Inc. and a broadcast meteorologist for KXJB TV-4, both in Fargo. He also is a certificated flight instructor and an active pilot.

His experience includes undergraduate research at the National Severe Storm Laboratory in Norman, Okla., as well as graduate research with the University of Wyoming King Air during the Joint Airport Weather Studies program.

Remer flew on several research projects with the UND’s Cessna Citation II research aircraft both as co-pilot and as flight scientist. His research interests include weather modification and aviation weather hazards.

Remer also serves as the executive producer of the broadcast meteorology program for Studio One and UND’s Weather Update.

Despite his busy schedule, Remer’s dedication to his students never waivers. He always finds time for his students when they need him — and he knows them by name.

“I’ve been up to see him far more frequently than … required,” one of his advisees said. “And every time, it’s the same smile, same question, same excitement. … He sees us students as his friends. And as my friend, he advises me to take the hard classes so that I can learn the right stuff, asks me questions about what courses I enjoyed or didn’t enjoy and why, and really listens to what I have to say when I have to say it.”

Remer encourages his students to push themselves to get the very best learning experience, and he’s there to listen if they have struggles.

“I have had my share of hardships during my college journey, and Fred was always one person who stuck out and supported me through it all,” a student said. “He was willing to meet inside and or outside of UND to check in personally and to also make sure I had a fair chance to understand material. He supported me when I took time from school and encouraged me [and] helped me get back on track when I came back. He isn’t a professor who just pushes people through. He sincerely cares for his students and their well-being in addition to their success here at this institution. I am lucky to not only know him as a professor [and] mentor, but also a friend.”

The UND Foundation/Thomas J. Clifford Faculty Achievement Award for Outstanding Faculty Development and Service

Melissa Gjellstad
Associate Professor of Languages

Melissa Gjellstad has set the bar for service incredibly high. For her exceptional track record of service to her department and beyond, she has earned the Award for Outstanding Faculty Development and Service.

Since coming to the University of North Dakota in 2008 as an assistant professor, Gjellstad has proved to be quite a find. In 2014, she was promoted to associate professor of languages in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures (MCLL). She also has served as assistant faculty in the UND School of Graduate Studies, an affiliate faculty member in the Gender and Women Studies Program, and a faculty fellow on curricular projects for the UND Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

“You might have seen Professor Gjellstad at work at work as one of the architects of the SOAR process,” said Rebecca Weaver-Hightower, professor of English. “Much of [the] work of creating and leading SOAR fell to Melissa and her colleague Ryan Zerr, and both deserve the campus gratitude for the two years of hard labor they put into the process. I saw Melissa running from meeting to meeting in those two years, giant binder with SOAR materials under one arm, another giant binder with [University] Senate materials under the other. She must have slept in her office some nights, because she was on campus for long meetings very late and then here again early the next morning for another meeting. I honestly haven’t seen anyone work harder for this campus than she did in those two years.”

During her career, Gjellstad has been involved in dozens of curriculum development activities as well as long lists of committees within her program, department, college, and the University. She continues to serve as the Norwegian Program coordinator, a position she’s held since starting at UND; a member of the MCLL Executive Committee and the Arneberg-Larsen Scholarship Committee; as faculty advisor for both the UND NORSK and ANSA ND student organizations; and chair of the Norwegian Majors and Minors Scholarship Committee. She evaluates lecturers in the Norwegian Program and has created and maintained the Norwegian Program Web page. And that’s just her current service in her own department.

“I strongly believe that my position as a faculty member at this university empowers me as an academic citizen of our community, inside and outside the boundaries of our institution,” Gjellstad said.

At the college level, her biggest areas of service — and there are many — are focused on curriculum, primarily in service to the Women and Gender Studies program and the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee. She also partnered with the Humanities and Integrated Studies Program to foster the programs’ mutual interests in study abroad and language learning.

“My first forays into university-level service work were to represent UND in Norway as a destination for incoming students, to envision how UND might generate new institutional research partnerships in Norway, and to pilot the first-year seminar program to bring an innovative, high-impact practice to all UND students,” Gjellstad said. “These endeavors have enabled me to see the University from a variety of perspectives, to advocate for the quality of education and scholarship at UND to an external and an internal audience, and to learn how to operationalize good plans and minimize administrative hurdles along the way.”

Gjellstad also has been a very active member of the University Senate, serving as vice chair in 2013-14 and chair in 2014-15.

“Melissa has done a huge — almost unbelievable — amount of service work,” said Ryan Zerr, director of Essential Studies at UND. “This has been done largely as a selfless act on behalf of her colleagues, and much of it can go unrecognized. Although many of my colleagues work incredibly hard … there is no one on campus whom I’m aware who has put more effort into service over the past few years than Melissa Gjellstad.”

In the community and region, Gjellstad has served on the North Dakota Humanities Council, often giving of her time to serve as an officer or on a board or committee; the Downtown Grand Forks Rotary Club; the North Dakota Historical Society; and the Scandinavian Heritage Association, among many other groups. Her professional associations include the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, the Norwegian Research and Teachers Association of North America, The Ibsen Society of America, the Modern Language Association, and the International Association of Scandinavian Studies. Again, in many of these organizations, Gjellstad has served in leadership roles and various committees and boards as well.

“To say that her service efforts since coming to UND have been impressive would be quite an understatement,” said Jeffrey Weatherly, chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures.

In his 18 years at UND, Weatherly said he has seen many people who give a great deal of themselves to service. They are dedicated to their departments, students, and fields.

“I will say, however, that I have not, in my experience at UND, run across someone who takes on and accomplishes more service duties than Dr. Gjellstad,” he said. “In fact, I have told her myriad times over the years to reduce her time in the area of service! I think the department and University have benefited by the fact that she has not taken my advice.”
The UND Foundation/Thomas J. Clifford Faculty Achievement Award for Excellence in Research

Othman Ghribi
Professor of Biomedical Sciences

At a time when grant money can be hard to come by, Othman Ghribi has proved he not only has a knack for securing funding, he's using the grants to really make an impact.

"He pioneered the use of the high cholesterol-fed rabbit model of Alzheimer's disease that has resulted in very successful extramural support for his lab as well as numerous high-impact publications and international recognition for his work," said Colin Combs, professor and chair of the Biomedical Sciences Department.

Ghribi has experienced tremendous success in securing grants with the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He was a project leader for five years on a Neuroscience COBRE grant and completed a five-year NIH grant as the principal investigator. He recently secured another five-year NIH grant as the principal investigator to sustain his program. In addition, he has had many intramural awards and was involved in an NIH equipment grant.

"This is truly outstanding grant success at a time when many of the faculty in our department and school bemoan the poor success rate at NIH," Combs pointed out. "This decreasing federal fund availability has not slowed Dr. Ghribi down a bit as he has continued to prosper."

Ghribi is a full professor in the Biomedical Sciences Department in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. He joined the department in 2003 and has proved to be one of the most active researchers. He's been involved in both independent and collaborative efforts across a wide range of publication interests, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and cancer.

For his exemplary record in research, Ghribi has garnered the UND Foundation/Thomas J. Clifford Faculty Achievement Award for Excellence in Research. While at UND, Ghribi has authored 56 manuscripts and reviews, published two book chapters, and submitted a patent application. An internationally recognized researcher, he also serves as editor for 13 scientific journals and reviews grant proposals for many national and international committees each year.

"Traveling to Washington, D.C., multiple times a year to review grants for the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration, and the National Institutes of Health is a clear recognition of the national stature of his reputation," Combs said.

But Ghribi's work isn't limited to securing grants, publishing papers, and serving on committees.

"He also believes strongly in mentoring graduate, undergraduate, and medical students in research," Combs said. "In fact, his laboratory is one of the most well-known in the department for providing a nurturing, vibrant environment for young minds."

Ghribi has earned many awards, including the H. David Wilson Award in Neuroscience and the North Dakota Spirit Faculty Achievement Award. He also has been named a North Dakota Faculty Star. According to his colleagues, Ghribi is recognized as an inspiration for young investigators at UND.

"Besides having an active research program, Dr. Ghribi has also been very active in mentoring other individuals at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, where he has not only worked with many individuals here at UND, but has also critically evaluated the grants that were submitted by various investigators," said Professor Brij Singh. "The comments and his style of writing helped junior investigators tremendously in understanding how to write a good proposal, and it is my judgment that because of his insight, many junior investigators were able to obtain federal support. In addition, almost all of his graduate students have received fellowships and other awards that speak about the high quality of research that is performed in his lab."

Ghribi's colleagues also know him as an excellent teacher and often go to him for advice.

"I personally believe that Dr. Ghribi is not only an excellent researcher, but also an excellent teacher," Singh said. "I have often discussed this aspect with him, too, and was happy to get his advice and comments. I am confident that he has done a phenomenal job at our department/school, and I cannot think of any other person who is either capable of doing what he has done or [more] worthy of this distinguished award."

The UND Foundation/B.C. Gamble Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, Research or Creative Activity, and Service

Gretchen Mullendore
Associate Professor of Atmospheric Sciences

Gretchen Mullendore, associate professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, has maintained a record of excellence in teaching, research, and service while at the University of North Dakota. Not only has she earned the respect of her students and colleagues, she's been awarded a host of grants, been published in peer-reviewed journals, and been invited to give numerous talks and presentations at scientific conferences. All of these facts make her a very deserving choice for the Faculty Scholar Award.

Mullendore came to UND as an assistant professor in August 2007. Six years later, she was promoted to associate professor. The foci of her scientific and teaching career have been research leading to a better understanding of the mechanics of severe storms and teaching and outreach leading to more hands-on science investigation for students from all backgrounds.

"An exciting component of any research project is sharing the work with colleagues," Mullendore said. "I strongly believe that approaching students with high expectations leads to them challenging themselves and, ultimately, helps them accomplish their goals. Therefore, I tell students, from undergraduate environmental science majors at United Tribes Technical College to doctoral students in the Atmospheric Sciences Department at UND — and everyone in between — that although they may be early in their scientific careers, they are already scientific colleagues and that I look forward to learning from them as they learn from me."

Through her various research interests, Mullendore has been able to provide experiential learning opportunities for her students. Two recent examples are her work in the Deep Convective Clouds and Chemistry (DC3) campaign and her involvement in the Big Weather Web.

"The 2012 DC3 field campaign was a multi-agency, multi-university effort to study deep convective transport in several regions of the U.S.,” Mullendore explained. “I was able to get funding from NSF to teach a special topics class at UND involving 11 upper-division undergraduates and send six of those students to participate in the Alabama component of the campaign for several weeks. We also published our assessments of the student integration into the campaign in a peer-reviewed journal."

The current NSF Big Weather Web project also is a multi-agency, multi-university project. Its goals are increasing accessibility, efficiency, and reproducibility of ensemble forecasting.

"My specific roles are management of the seven atmospheric science university partners and leading the educational efforts,” Mullendore said.

Students have been excited to participate in both projects.

"I have had countless experiences with Dr. Mullendore over the past four years,” said student Emily Maddox. “She has helped me grow as a person, feel confident in my work, and has taught me how to be a good researcher. She always finds ways to help her students learn and doesn’t give up if a student doesn’t understand a concept. She truly cares about her students, about doing good research, and improving our research communication. I am thankful to have met her and to be working under her."

Along with her regular teaching responsibilities, Mullendore advises eight to 11 undergraduates per semester and employs up to six undergraduate researchers at any given time. She’s been an advisor for numerous undergraduate internships and senior projects. She also has served on a number of doctoral dissertation committees — twice as chair — and master’s thesis committees, 10 times as chair. In addition, she’s been on several departmental and university committees, including the IT committee, which helps colleagues and students manage all the computer needs of her department, and the Committee on Unmanned Aircraft Systems Research Ethics and Privacy. In addition, she led the formation of UND Women in Science in 2011.

During her career, Mullendore has earned numerous honors and awards. The UND student chapter of the American Meteorological Society has named her an Outstanding Professor on five occasions. The same group has honored her with the Best Advisor Award twice and named her the Most Available Professor three times. In 2010, Mullendore garnered the North Dakota Spirit Faculty Award.
“I have known Dr. Mullendore since her first year as a junior faculty member at UND, when she asked me to serve as her mentor for the Alice Clark Program,” said Dr. Michael Poclot, chair of the Atmospheric Sciences Department. “As her mentor, and now as her colleague, I have come to know her as a dedicated, innovative, and productive scholar with a passionate record of performance and commitment to teaching, research, and service.”

The UND Award for Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Research or Creative Work

Christine Harsell
Clinical Instructor, Family Nurse Practitioner Program

Maridee Shogren
Director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

Jacqueline Devine-Roberts
Clinical Assistant Professor, Family Nurse Practitioner Program

Thomaisne Heitkamp
Professor of Social Work

Angela Muhs
Assistant Professor of Social Work

Joseph Miller
Associate Professor of Psychology

A team of faculty at the University of North Dakota has been working together in an inter-professional manner to model an interdisciplinary approach in the classroom and in the practice community when it comes to substance abuse. The team's goal is to train, across a wide range of disciplines, medical, behavioral, and other health support workers in an empirically supported method for identifying substance abuse problems, enhancing motivation for reduction of substance abuse, and making the appropriate referrals for treatment.

Those on the team include Christine Harsell and Jackie Roberts from the Family Nurse Practitioner program, Maridee Shogren from the Doctor of Nursing Practice program, Thomasine Heitkamp and Angie Muhs from the Social Work Department, and Joseph Miller from the Psychology Department.

The work done by the team has far exceeded expectations. For the amazing results on the collaborative work they've done, the team has earned the Award for Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Research or Creative Work.

The collaboration began after the College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines was awarded $556,231 in October 2014 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The funding, provided for three years, was earmarked to start training and education in North Dakota for students and professionals to engage in a paradigm shift in the field of addiction using Screening and Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). SBIRT is a comprehensive, integrated public health model designed to provide universal screenings, secondary prevention, early intervention and timely referral, and treatment for people with substance use disorders.

Already, the project has trained 352 people in North Dakota, including graduate students in primary care nurse practitioner tracks, master of social work students, and health and human service professionals on how to use SBIRT techniques in clinical settings.

“Their supporting grant has enabled them to efficiently disseminate empirically supported screening, intervention, and referral methods to practitioners and students across a wide range of disciplines and specialties, with observable improvements, among trainees, in expressed attitudes toward work patients/clients who abuse substances, interest in inter-professional work, and knowledge of substance abuse and its impact on general and behavioral health,” said Jeff Holm, chair of the Psychology Department.

The main focus of the outreach has been to establish sustainability for SBIRT implementation in the state. The team has trained in the most underserved areas with the greatest health disparities in North Dakota, including the Bakken oil patch and in tribal communities.

“My past outreach efforts on tribal lands and in the Bakken oil patch have created opportunities for the team to conceptualize, and actualize, training in communities that experience the greatest health disparities in North Dakota,” Heitkamp said. “The training was adapted to ensure it is culturally responsive in the communities where training occurs and that it addresses the resources in those communities. The outreach effort has exceeded the expectations of our funder.”

Harsell has served at the project director for the SBIRT grant team. Along with managing the team, she has actively participated in the training efforts of the project along with the rest of the group.

“The work of this team over the last three years has been a source of energy and inspiration for me,” she said. “The team has trained hundreds of student and community members, and not one member ever questioned the work involved. The team has had a consistent and shared vision of the change that can and does occur with SBIRT. The shared commitment … and the absence of ego in meeting our goals has been a key factor to the team’s success so far. This experience has been a true model for how an inter-professional team should operate.”

The benefits of the project have gone beyond even what was initially intended.

“When faculty practically and conceptually engage in cross-disciplinary efforts, this serves as a model for student engagement in future professional practice,” Heitkamp said. “[And] while the focus of the grant is not primarily research, it has been responsive to the need for advancing behavioral health workforce development in North Dakota.”

The UND Foundation/Thomas J. Clifford Award for Departmental Excellence in Teaching

The Department of Psychology

Jeffrey Holm, Professor and Department Chair
April Bradley, Associate Professor
Adam Derenne, Associate Professor
F. Richard Ferraro, Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor
Brett Holfeld, Instructor
Andre Kehn, Assistant Professor
Alison Kelly, Assistant Professor
Alan King, Professor
John-Paul Legerksi, Assistant Professor
Doug McDonald, Director, Indians into Psychology

Doctoral Education (INPSYDE)

Joseph Miller, Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Training
Thomas Petros, Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor
Karyn Plumm, Associate Professor
Dmitri Poltavski, Assistant Professor
Joelle Ruthig, Associate Professor
Cheryl Terrance, Professor and Director of Forensic Psychology Programs
Heather Terrell, Assistant Professor and Director of the Undergraduate Program

Jeffrey Weatherly, Professor, Administrative Fellow for the College of Arts and Sciences, and Interim Chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures
Richard Wise, Associate Professor
Chelsea Mellenthin, Undergraduate Psychology Advisor

The Department of Psychology faculty — as a whole and individually — have proven they are committed to undergraduate and graduate education. They are known to be dedicated to assessment processes and maintenance of best practices while being open and welcoming to innovative possibilities. Because of this commitment and dedication, the Psychology Department has earned the Award for Departmental Excellence in Teaching.

The Psychology Department is involved in the instruction of the University of North Dakota in so many ways that it would be easy to overlook some of the many things the department's faculty do to make sure their students get the best possible learning experiences. The department impacts undergraduate instruction at the University in Essential Studies courses, service to other major and
minor programs, and through its own major and minor programs. It provides Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science major programs to more than 500 majors. Students can complete these majors on campus or online.

“Recently modified our B.A. and B.S. programs to enhance their alignment with the developing standards of the American Psychological Association and to better differentiate and strengthen the two majors,” said Jeffrey Holm, professor and department chair.

The department also provides the psychology minor to more than 200 students majoring in other programs across campus. Though it’s a large department, Psychology faculty strive to provide individualized instruction to many undergraduates in readings, research experience, practical experience, and teaching assistantships.

In addition, the Psychology Department offers two master’s and two doctoral programs. It provides graduate education in traditional scientific pursuits and in more applied professional service areas. As such, many of the faculty members maintain both active research programs or laboratories and licensed behavioral healthcare services. Most doctoral students receive both academic and research training and supervision in applied, practical service provision as well. In the last 30 years, the department has graduated more than 225 students with doctoral degrees.

The Psychology Department also is a frontrunner in a number of areas. For instance, the department provides training in rural and American Indian-focused behavioral healthcare that is without equal in the United States. In addition, the Indians in Psychology Doctoral Education (INPSYDE) program has helped the department recruit, prepare, and graduate American Indians in psychology and provide appropriate, culturally sensitive training experiences to non-American Indian psychology students for more than two decades.

The department has been successful in using technology as well. “Our online graduate program in forensic psychology has been recognized by several sources as the best online graduate program in forensic psychology in the country,” Holm said.

Having online options has allowed some students to take their educations beyond what they ever dreamed possible.

“After deciding to pursue an undergraduate degree in psychology, the online delivery method offered at a superior school such as UND was the greatest choice I could have ever made,” said student Brooke Dahl. “Without the online delivery, I would never have extended my education this far, much less have chosen the U of N as my choice. My journey through my career and have gained a much broader understanding of the science of psychology. I am proud to say that I will be graduating this spring with my B.S. in psychology from UND, but also sad that I will be leaving such a supportive and empowering program behind. I have great respect for the department as a whole, as well as the amazing faculty that have assisted me throughout my journey.”

The UND Award for Departmental Excellence in Research

The Department of Chemistry

Harmon Abrahamson, Professor and Department Chair
Julie Abrahamson, Assistant Professor
Qianli (Rick) Chu, Associate Professor
Jerome Delhommelle, Associate Professor
Guodong Du, Associate Professor
Mark Hoffmann, Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor
Evgenii Kozliak, Professor
Alena Kubatova, Professor and Director of Recruitment
Shaina Mattingly, Lecturer
Alexi Novikov, Associate Professor
David Pierce, Professor
Irina Smoliakova, Professor
Lothar Stahl, Professor
Kathryn Thomasson, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Michael Whitney, Lecturer and Director of General Chemistry Laboratories
Julia Xiaojun Zhao, Professor

Michael Bukowski, Adjunct Associate Professor
Archana Dhasarathy, Adjunct Assistant Professor
Timothy Dudley, Adjunct Assistant Professor
James Foster, Adjunct Assistant Professor
L. Keith Henry, Adjunct Associate Professor
Matthew Picklo, Adjunct Associate Professor
Min Wu, Adjunct Associate Professor
Simona Ciobotarescu, Research Associate
Gopalasamy Karuppasamy, Postdoctoral Research Associate
Irais Valencia Jaime, Postdoctoral Research Associate
Yiqiang Wang, Research Associate
Xuefei Zhang, Postdoctoral Research Associate
Kate Ying Zhang, Postdoctoral Research Associate

Within the College of Arts and Sciences, the Chemistry Department is among the most active research departments. It is consistently at the top in terms of external grant funding, peer-reviewed publications, and research presentations. For it’s amazing track record in research, the Chemistry Department has garnered the UND Award for Departmental Excellence in Research.

From Jan. 1, 2012, to Dec. 31, 2016, Chemistry faculty authored 150 research publications or book chapters, often co-authored with their graduate students. That’s an average of more than two publications per year for each of the 14 research-active faculty members represented.

Beyond that, the research presented in the publications resulted in the awarding of 14 M.S. and 15 Ph.D. degrees during that time. In addition, department faculty and graduate students gave more than 260 research presentations in that timespan.

At a time when funding can be tough to come by, the Chemistry Department has been very successful in finding research dollars. From 2012 to 2016, the department had $4.7 million in active external grants and more than $11 million in external funding for joint projects with faculty from other departments. The Chemistry Department garnered nearly $1.2 million from ND EPSCoR and other state agencies as well as more than $150,000 from internal sources.

“Conducting research at this level requires funding, and our department has done well securing funding from both external and internal sources,” said Harmon Abrahamson, professor and department chair.

And, as noted, almost all of the research is done in collaboration with graduate and undergraduate researchers.

“A large part of our mission is to shepherd their learning and development into the next generation of scientists,” Abrahamson said.

Others have taken note of what the department has been doing as well. Seven faculty in the department have earned research-related awards. Abrahamson was named a Fellow of the American Chemical Society in 2013. Four faculty have received Founders Day awards, two of which were for collaborative research.

In addition, since 2012, four faculty members from international institutions have chosen to come to UND to spend their sabbatical leaves with faculty in the Chemistry Department.
While they excel at research, Chemistry faculty make sure their work in the classroom and as advisors to students remains top-notch as well. “Chemistry faculty consistently perform at a high level when it comes to classroom teaching and advising graduate students, which makes their research statistics even more notable,” said Debbie Storrs, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “Seven Chemistry faculty have received 12 different honors from international, national, and UND organizations since Jan. 1, 2012.”

The Chemistry Department strives to do its best in all of its missions and is especially proud of its successes in research. “We are proud to be one of the strong research departments in the College of Arts and Sciences,” Abrahamson said.

The UND Award for Departmental Excellence in Service

The Department of Atmospheric Sciences

Michael Poellot, Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor and Department Chair
Mark Askelson, Professor
Alan Borho, Instructor
Matthew Gilmore, Associate Professor
Aaron Kennedy, Assistant Professor
Gretchen Mullendore, Associate Professor
Leon Osborne, Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor
Fred Remer, Associate Professor
Jianglong Zhang, Associate Professor
Cedric (Tony) Grainger, Professor Emeritus
Xiquan Dong, Adjunct Professor
David Delene, Associate Research Professor
Baike Xi, Associate Research Professor

The mission of the Atmospheric Sciences Department is to provide a top-quality undergraduate and graduate education, serve the community, and conduct significant research. While this mission is ongoing, it’s definitely a mission that’s accomplished every day, and because of that, the department has earned the Departmental Excellence in Service Award.

“The faculty of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences have a commitment to and a genuine concern for student success, the University community, public science awareness, and our professional discipline,” said Michael Poellot, Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor and chair of the department. “This commitment … extends well beyond what might be considered a minimum level of activity for University faculty members. There is not only a depth of service by individual faculty members but a breadth of service across all department faculty and a wide range of activities and beneficiaries.”

The department’s vision is to become a national center of atmospheric sciences research and education, providing education and training and developing new knowledge to protect and enhance quality of life.

“The faculty, staff, and students of this department are deeply committed to fulfilling the service of our mission,” according to the executive summary for the award nomination. “The impacts of this service extend to a broad audience that includes the campus community, the people of our state and region, and our profession.”

The Atmospheric Sciences Department is made up of eight tenure-line faculty who carry a load of undergraduate and graduate teaching, two non-tenured faculty who teach undergraduate classes, and two non-tenured faculty who are primarily involved in conducting research. The department currently includes 59 undergraduate and 38 graduate students, the latter including 10 Ph.D. and 28 master’s degree candidates.

The faculty maintain active research programs, with about $2 million per year in new awards and nearly $5 million in 25 active grants and contracts. Twenty-five graduate students and three full-time research staff are supported by this funding.

On the college and university level, Atmospheric Sciences faculty have served on numerous committees, including Odegard School Promotion and Tenure, Space Utilization, Curriculum, IT, the Dean’s Search Committee, the President’s Search Committee, the Intercollegiate Activities Committee, the CILT Academic Advisory Committee, and the Committee on Unmanned Aircraft Systems Research Ethics and Privacy. A department faculty member has served as chair of the Senate Intellectual Property Committee for several years, and the department also represents the University on the North Dakota EPSCoR Steering Committee.

Faculty from Atmospheric Sciences also serve as advisors for a number of student organizations, including the North Dakota Chapter of the American Meteorological Society, UND Women in Science, the Atmospheric Sciences Graduate Student Association, and the UND Snowkiting Club. A faculty member also was part of the Studio One Executive Committee and continues to mentor students who produce a daily weather show broadcast locally and on the Internet.

The department’s public service mainly has involved a variety of outreach activities. Faculty have given talks and demonstrations in public forums, in K-12 settings, and at organizational gatherings. Leon Osborne, for example, has talked about agricultural weather and climate to more than 6,000 farmers and ranchers from across the United States. In coordination with the North Dakota State University Extension Service, the presentations were held in five states and one foreign country.

In addition, Matt Gilmore has trained K-12 teachers in Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE), an international science and education program. The training included 10 teachers at Turtle Mountain Middle School in Belcourt, N.D., two teachers at Standing Rock Middle School in Fort Yates, N.D., and seven teachers at Valley Middle School in Grand Forks. He also has consulted on the development of an alternative energy curriculum for public schools in Grand Forks and Bismarck.

Department faculty also have provided extensive service to the atmospheric and related sciences through reviews, committee work, and editorial activities. In the last year, faculty reviewed about 40 manuscripts in high-ranking journals, both in the United States and internationally.

At the national level, faculty have served on many committees. Among them are the Satellite Meteorology Committee and the Intelligent Transportation Systems/Surface Transportation Committee of the American Meteorological Society; the National Academy of Sciences Transportation Research Board’s Surface Transportation Weather Committee; and the Atmospheric Water Management Standards Committee of the American Society of Engineers.

The faculty have worked collaboratively as well. Along with sharing the responsibility of advising students and serving on committees, the department co-sponsors the Northern Plains Convective Workshop. This annual event brings together professional meteorologists from around the region to present and learn more about thunderstorms and related phenomena in the area. Faculty and students work together to plan and host this event.

Old Main, UND’s first building, in 1904. In the background is Macnie Hall, then known as the Cottage.
Since 1967, the presentation of faculty honors has been a highlight of the Founders Day celebration. From 1967 to 1979, the awards were supported by the Amoco Foundation. In 1978, the Fellows of the University of North Dakota, Inc., began to sponsor an individual award, which in 1985 became a departmental citation. In 1980 the University of North Dakota Alumni Association and Foundation expanded and turned over to the committee its existing faculty recognition program and has supported individual and departmental awards since. Funding for the awards presented tonight is provided by the UND Foundation and the University of North Dakota.

The Outstanding Faculty Awards Committee, composed of students and faculty, screens nominations and selects recipients for individual and departmental honors for teaching, service, and overall scholarly excellence.

Recipients of honors for excellence in research are selected by a committee composed of research administrators and faculty.

The recipients of awards for academic advising are selected by the Academic Advising Committee.

### Individual Faculty Awards for Teaching, Research, Service, and Advising

#### 2003:
- David O. Lambeth, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Patrick B. O’Neill, Economics; Warren C. Jensen, Aviation; Ralph G. Koprince, Languages; Margie J. Hansen, Family and Community Nursing; Joan I. Hawthorne, Writing Across the Curriculum, Writing Center, and the University Writing Program; Jody A. Rada, Anatomy and Cell Biology; Jay Meek, English.

#### 2004:
- Roxanne A. Vaughan, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; David T. Pierce, Chemistry; Mary N. Haslerud Opp, School of Communication; Karen B. Wettersten, Counseling; Melinda Leach, Anthropology; Manuchair (Mike) Ebadi, Neuroscience and Pharmacology, Physiology and Therapeutics; Audrey M. Glick, Communication Sciences and Disorders.

#### 2005:
- Mark D. Grabe, Psychology; John Erijaeve, Chemical Engineering; Vikki L. McCleary, Pharmacology, Physiology, and Therapeutics; Kenneth G. Ruit, Anatomy and Cell Biology; Gregory O. Gagnon, Indian Studies; F. Richard Ferraro, Psychology; Douglas C. Munski, Geography.

#### 2006:
- Glenda N. Lindseth, Nursing; Darrin S. Muggli, Chemical Engineering; Carl D. Barrentine, Humanities; Patti Alleva, Law; Richard G. Landry, Educational Foundations and Research; Albert J. Fivizzani, Biology; Michael D. Mann, Chemical Engineering; Elizabeth I. Bjerke, Aviation.

#### 2007:
- Daphne Pedersen Stevens, Sociology; Jack Weinstein, Philosophy and Religion; Thomas Hill, Microbiology and Immunology; Steven Light, Political Science and Public Administration; Kathryn R.L. Rand, Law; Michael Gaffey, Space Studies; Wayne Seames, Chemical Engineering; Francis White, Sociology.

#### 2008:
- Mark Guy, Teaching and Learning; Ryan Zerr, Mathematics; Jeffrey Sun, Educational Leadership; Donald Sens, Pathology; Janice Goodwin, Nutrition and Dietetics; Manohar Kulkarni, Mechanical Engineering.

#### 2009:
- Rebecca Simmons, Biology; Michael Atkinson, Occupational Therapy; Anatomy and Cell Biology; Patrick Carr, Anatomy and Cell Biology; Jeffrey Weatherly, Psychology; Eric Murphy, Pharmacology, Physiology and Therapeutics; Lori Robison, English; Travis Heggie, Recreation and Tourism Studies.

#### 2010:
- Amanda Boyd, Languages; Krista Minnott, Sociology; Jason Jenson, Political Science and Public Administration; Mary Ann Sens, Pathology; Vasyl Tkach, Biology; Thomas Steen, Physical Education, Exercise Science and Wellness; Richard “Rocky” Graziano, Aviation.

#### 2011:
- Melissa Gjellstad, Languages; Kanishka Marasinghe, Physics and Astrophysics; Rebecca Weaver-Hightower, English; James Mochoruk, History; Sandra Donaldson, English; Michael Blake, Music; Sagini Keengwe, Teaching and Learning; Mark Askelson, Atmospheric Sciences; Richard Schultz, Electrical Engineering; William Semke, Mechanical Engineering.

#### 2012:
- Diane Darland, Biology; James Popejoy, Music; Marcus Weaver-Hightower, Educational Foundations and Research; Lowell Stanlake, Mechanical Engineering; Brett Goodwin, Biology; Sandra Short, Physical Education, Exercise Science and Wellness; Cindy Anderson, Nursing; Wayne Seames, Chemical Engineering; Evgenii Kozliak, Chemistry.

#### 2013:
- Joshua Bronfman, Music; Sheryl O’Donnell, English; Paul Hardersen, Space Studies; Meganne Masko, Music; Elizabeth Bjerke, Aviation; Mark Hoffmann, Chemistry; Holly Brown-Borg, Pharmacology, Physiology, and Therapeutics; Wayne Seames, Chemical Engineering; Min Wu, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Julia Zhao, Chemistry.

#### 2014:
- Christopher Felege, Biology; Wesley Lawrence, Music; Anne Haskins, Occupational Therapy; Rebecca Simmons, Biology; Thomasine Heitkamp, Social Work; Alena Kubatova, Chemistry; Jefferson Vaughan, Biology; Paul Sum, Political Science and Public Administration; William Gosnold, Geology and Geological Engineering; Richard LeFever, Geology and Geological Engineering; Michael Mann, Chemical Engineering; Hossein Salehfar, Electrical Engineering.

#### 2015:
- Brian Darby, Biology; Cheryl Terrance, Psychology; Dana Harsell, Political Science and Public Administration; Kimberly Cowden, Communication; Chelsea Mellentin, Psychology; Curtis Stofferahn, Sociology; Jonathan Geiger, Pharmacology, Physiology and Therapeutics; Alena Kubatova, Chemistry; F. Richard Ferraro, Psychology; Glenda Lindseth, Nursing; Paul Lindseth, Aviation; Thomas Petros, Psychology; William Semke, Mechanical Engineering; Benjamin Trapnell, Aviation.

#### 2016:
- Steven Ralph, Biology; Brian Urcacher, Political Science and Public Administration; Cheryl Hunter, Educational Foundations and Research; Makoto Tsuchiya, Sports Medicine; Leilani Moen, Social Work; Margaret Healy, Educational Leadership; Michelle Sauer, English; Brij Singh, Biomedical Sciences; Naima Kaabouch, Electrical Engineering; Kim Fink, Art and Design; Lucy Ganje, Art and Design.

### Departmental Awards for Teaching, Research, and Service

#### Departmental Awards for Excellence in Teaching: Humanities and Integrated Studies, 2003; Theatre Arts, 2004; Space Studies, 2005; Physician Assistant Program, 2006; Political Science and Public Administration, 2006; Chemical Engineering, 2007; Sociology, 2008; Occupational Therapy, 2009; Biology, 2010; Honors Program, 2011; Educational Foundations and Research, 2012; Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, 2013; Space Studies, 2014; Biology, 2015; Chemical Engineering, 2016.


#### Departmental Awards for Excellence in Research: English, 2003; Microbiology and Immunology, 2004; Chemical Engineering, 2005; no award, 2006; no award, 2007; Psychology, 2008; Chemistry, 2009; Pharmacology, Physiology and Therapeutics, and Biology, 2010 (two recipients); Chemical Engineering, 2011; Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, 2012; Center for Rural Health, 2013; Atmospheric Sciences, 2014; Sociology, 2015; Biology, 2016.
Vernon Anderson  
HVAC Supervisor, Facilities Management

Fatholla Bagheri  
Professor Emeritus of Economics

Gary Bartelson  
Lecturer in the Air Traffic Control Program, Department of Aviation

Suzanne Belyea  
Associate Director of Housing/Residence Services

Jerald Benda  
Line Service Operator, Flight Operations, John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences

Diane Blue  
Administrative Secretary, Department of Finance

Claudia Boettcher  
Accounts Receivable Clerk, Minot Center for Family Medicine

Patricia Bohnet  
Executive Assistant to the President

Jeanne Boppre  
Administrative Secretary, Instructional Development

Ardell Byzewski  
Building Services Technician, Facilities Management

Lyne Chalmers  
Professor of Teaching and Learning

Terri Clark  
Director of Fiscal Affairs, John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences

Jane Crocker  
Director of Health/Wellness Promotion, Health and Wellness

Terry Cultice  
Desktop Support Specialist, Center for Instructional and Learning Technologies

Jana Diemert  
Coordinating Assistant, University Writing Program

David Diseth  
Building Services Technician, Facilities Management

Gary Dubuque  
Research Specialist, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Dennis Elbert  
Professor of Marketing and Dean Emeritus of the College of Business and Public Administration

Donna Ellertson  
Office Manager, Career Services and Disability Services for Students

Tracy Fetter  
Bakery Manager, Dining Support Services

Kim Fink  
Professor Emeritus of Art and Design

Elizabeth Fletcher Lamb  
Learning Disabilities Specialist, Disability Services for Students

Ann Flower  
Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences

Lucy Ganje  
Professor Emerita of Art and Design

Darlene Goulet  
Building Services Technician, Facilities Management

Mary Ann Gregoire  
Administrative Secretary, Department of Atmospheric Sciences

Harvey Gullicks  
Associate Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering

Mark Guy  
Professor of Teaching and Learning

Janice Hallin  
Assistant to the Director, Facilities Management

Lannie Hallin  
Facility Planner, Housing/Residence, Housing Office

James Haskins  
Assistant Professor of Finance
M. Bruce Helgerud  
Financial Aid Administrator, Student Financial Aid

Thomas Hill  
Professor of Biomedical Sciences

Sally Horner  
Senior Grants and Contracts Officer, Grants and Contracts Administration

Linda Hurst-Torgerson  
Program Manager, Human Nutrition Research Center

Gary Johnson  
Desktop Support Specialist, Center for Instructional and Learning Technologies

Laurel Johnson  
Instructor/Advisor, TRIO Programs – Talent Search

LuAnn Johnson  
Statistician, Human Nutrition Research Center

Ralph Johnson  
Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Sharon Johnson  
Administrative Secretary, Department of Educational Foundations and Research

Dorothy Keyser  
Associate Professor of Music (Musicology)

William King  
Safety Officer, Flight Operations, John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences

Kathryn Klemisch  
Administration Secretary, Department of Information Systems and Business Education

Dawn Korynta  
Clinical Laboratory Scientist and Co-Manager, Student Health Services, Health and Wellness

Kap Lee  
Director, Center for Biomedical Research, and Professor of Biomedical Sciences

Richard Lefever  
Associate Professor Emeritus of Geology and Geological Engineering

Alan Lilke  
Technology Development Mechanic Supervisor, Energy and Environmental Research Center

Deborah Lindgren  
Journey Electrician, Facilities Management

Susan Logan Nelson  
Professor of Finance

Mark Magness  
Assistant Professor of Humanities and Integrated Studies

Richard Mahowald  
Building Services Technician, Facilities Management

Connie Marshall  
 Administrative Secretary, Department of English

Gloria Matejcek  
Accommodations Coordinator, Disability Services for Students

Rosanne McBride  
Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine

DeLaine McGurran  
Administrative Assistant, University Children’s Learning Center

Kathleen McLennan  
Professor Emerita of Theatre Arts

Debbie Merrill  
Assistant to the Associate Director of Facilities, Facilities Management

Mary Metcalf  
Manager, Transportation Department

Sharon Metzger  
Supervisor, Duplicating Services

Gwendlyn Molsbarger  
Building Services Technician, Facilities Management

Linda Olson  
Director of Program Development and Associate Professor, Office of Medical Education, School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Thomas O’Neil  
Associate Professor of Computer Science

Alan Palmer  
Director of Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Department of Aviation

Linda Palmiscno  
Medical Office Manager, Health and Wellness

Garry Pearson  
Lecturer, School of Law
Lila Pederson
Director, Harley E. French Library of the Health Sciences, School of Medicine and Health Sciences

David Poppke
Electrical Equipment Technician, Department of Electrical Engineering

Loretta Prather
Financial Aid Advisor, Student Financial Aid

Kaaren Pupino
Head of Technical Services, Olaf Thormodsgard Law Library, School of Law

DeAnn Purcell
Medical Transcriptionist, Student Health Services

Lana Rakow
Professor Emerita of Communication and Director of the Center for Community Engagement

Daniel Rice
Professor Emeritus of Educational Leadership

Nancy Rice
Office Manager and Administrative Secretary, Department of Computer Science

Charles Robertson
Associate Professor of Aviation

Linda Sander
Resource Center Supervisor, John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences

Isaac Schlosser
Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor of Biology

Frances Scholand
Lead Cook, Squires and Wilkerson Dining Centers

Myron Scott
Journey Electrician, Facilities Management

Richard Shafer
Professor Emeritus of English

Bruce Smith
Dean Emeritus, John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences

Bonnie Solberg
Associate Director, Memorial Union

Kathleen Spencer
Information Specialist, Center for Rural Health

Richard Suggs
Student Supervisor Manager, Documents, Patents, Trademarks and Periodicals, Chester Fritz Library

Barbara Swann
Clerkship Administrator, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical Education Center, Fargo

Eric Thorell
Building Services Manager, Facilities Management

John Vitton
Professor Emeritus of Management

Vicki Von Harz
Administrative Secretary, Office of Procurement and Payment Services

Mary Lou Wavra
Clinical Laboratory Scientist and Co-Manager, Student Health Services

David Whitcomb
Assistant Professor of Counseling

James Whitehead
Professor of Kinesiology and Public Health Education

Dale Wilhelmi
Maintenance Coordinator, Facilities Management

Kem (Neal) Wilkerson
Electronic Technician, Department of Chemistry

Carmen Williams
Director of Institutional Research

Sharon Wilsnack
Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science

Carol Winkels
Administrative Secretary, Department of Social Work

Constance Wixo
Assistant to the Department Chair, Department of Chemical Engineering

Pamela Zimbelman
Communication Center Supervisor, Emergency Management, Facilities Management

Larry Zitzow
Director of Facilities
VERNON ANDERSON
HVAC Supervisor, Facilities Management

Vern Anderson recalls a winter night in the early 1990s when he got a call he could hardly believe. It was 30 below, and the power plant at the University of North Dakota had lost steam to the whole campus.

“I remember them calling me up and saying we’d lost steam. I could hardly even process losing steam on the whole campus,” he said.

The problem persisted for about 24 hours, he recalls. They dealt with many freeze-ups that night.

“We kept putting out fires that night so to speak,” he said. “It was kind of crazy. There was a lot of damage from losing heat and no steam. I think we were out all night. That was the worst call I can remember.”

Vern graduated from Larimore High School and went on to the North Dakota State School of Science in Wahpeton, where he earned a two-year trade school diploma. After earning his degree in air conditioning and refrigeration, he served in the Army for three years. Shortly after his discharge from the service, he applied at UND.

“I figured I’d be here a couple of years,” he said. “I didn’t really figure I’d stick around the area. Forty-nine years later, here I am.”

Vern joined the HVAC crew at UND in February 1968.

“There were only two of us,” he said. “Now we have 10.”

Until his retirement Jan. 31, 2017, Vern served as supervisor, a position he’d held since 1996. His department’s duties involved all the heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration as well as sheet metal in Housing and Academics.

“I enjoy what I do, the trade itself,” he said. “And UND is a good place to work.”

But there were trying times, such as the night they lost steam. And the floods of 1979 and 1997 were tough, although 1997 was more devastating. It was a difficult time.

“I lived 10 miles west then, so I could go home and have a hot meal and hot shower every night,” Vern said. “I spent about 15 hours a day here [on campus].”

Along with dealing with the damage after the flood, Vern also attended a lot of hearings afterward to justify the costs of the flood.

Vern has seen a number of changes during his career as well.

“I went through seven presidents,” he said. “I started with Starcher and ended up with Kennedy now.”

He’s also been through three name changes with his department: Buildings and Grounds, Plant Services, and now Facilities. In addition, his shop has moved three or four times. And technology has changed his job a lot. When he started, they used to have all pneumatic controls; now they are switching them all to direct digital controls. A computerized system has replaced handwritten time cards, and everyone now carries an iPad.

“The advancement of the HVAC trade has grown to another level in the past years through ‘smart’ technologies,” Vern said.

During his career, Vern was a member of the Refrigeration Society of Engineers. He earned a Meritorious Service Award in 2010.

In retirement, Vern wants to travel, try golf, and stay fit and healthy. He also plans to see if he enjoys spending winters in Arizona. He plans to do more fishing now that he will have more free time.

Vern’s significant other, Carol, worked in food service at UND before her retirement. She has three children and five grandchildren. “They have become my family also,” Vern said.

FATHOLLAH BAGHERI
Professor Emeritus of Economics

While Fathollah Bagheri loved teaching at the University of North Dakota and his time in Grand Forks, he won’t miss the winter weather. “I loved my students,” he said. “I loved the people in the community.”

Bagheri retired July 1, 2016, and plans to live in California.

Born in Taft, Iran, Bagheri attended Pahlavi University in Shiraz, Iran. An excellent student, Bagheri earned a scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business. Bagheri’s dissertation was named the best of the year, earning him the William Carey Prize in Economics. He received a doctorate in economics in 1978.

While completing his studies, Bagheri taught at Villanova University, Drexel University, and Temple University. Though he had other opportunities, Bagheri had committed to returning to Iran to teach after earning his doctorate. He returned to the university where he had initially started, which now was called Shiraz University. At first he taught undergraduate and graduate classes. He later was asked to take on an administrative position and was named vice president for personnel and financial affairs.

After three years in the new position, Bagheri took a sabbatical to the United States and began teaching at the University of Pennsylvania. He also taught at Drexel and Temple to earn extra money.

Four years later, in 1990, Bagheri came to UND as an assistant professor in the Economics Department, which is now the Economics and Finance Department. In 1992, he took a two-year leave but returned to UND in 1994. He was named an associate professor and earned tenure about three years later. Around 2009, he was promoted to full professor.

Through the years, Bagheri has published many articles in professional journals. He received consistently high evaluations from his students and colleagues. For a decade, Bagheri served as the director of International Programs in the College of Business and Public Administration. He helped develop an Applied Elements of Export Management course. The course brought in business leaders to teach students about exportation.

In addition, he directed Profiles in Entrepreneurship: North American Models of Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship. PENAMICE was a consortium involving six universities: two from Mexico, two from Canada, and two from the United States (UND and the State University of New York). Along with exchanging students through the years, UND hosted a 2014 symposium that involved faculty from all six universities.

“I was very proud I was able to organize that,” Bagheri said.

Bagheri also helped establish relationships with a university in France as well as the University of Science and Technology in Shanghai, China. Students and faculty from both universities came to UND and vice versa.

During his career, Bagheri garnered many awards. He earned four teaching excellence awards at UND and received the title of emeritus professor. He also was active in recruiting faculty and served on several committees over the years.

In his free time, Bagheri likes to listen to political news. He always enjoyed sharing information with his students and helping them see how the news applied to what they were learning in their classes.

Bagheri also loves gardening. “I see the plants like my own children,” he explained.

He also loves his family. Bagheri’s wife, Fatima, is a retired high school teacher. They have three children and five grandchildren.

In retirement, Bagheri hopes to find time to write books and articles outside the realm of economics.

GARY BARTELSON
Lecturer in the Air Traffic Control Program, Department of Aviation

Gary Bartelson never thought he’d be a college instructor, but not only was he good at it, he truly loved it. And it helped him plant some roots.

Because his father was in the Navy, Bartelson never really had a hometown as he grew up. That feeling continued as he chose to serve in the Air Force, but that was good at it, he truly loved it. And it helped him plant some roots.

Though he was still in the Air Force, Bartelson first started teaching at the University of North Dakota in 1991. He knew some air traffic controllers at the air base who were teaching part time at UND, and they were transferring to another location. Bartelson was asked to help fill the void at UND. Initially he said no, but the folks at UND were persistent enough to make him change his mind. Bartelson found he really enjoyed it. Two years later, in 1993, UND asked him to join the staff full time, but he was still in the military. Again, his initial thought was to say no, but he opted to do both — teach and continue to serve his
country. In all, Bartelson would spend 21 years in the military.

At UND, Bartelson was tasked with helping to start an Air Traffic Control program. When initially approached about it, Bartelson asked how many students were in the program and was told none, he said with a chuckle. But Bartelson was up for the challenge. The first year, seven students enrolled in the new program. The number grew to 12 the second year. At its peak, enrollment was 352 students. At the time of Bartelson’s retirement May 15, 2016, about 260 students were in the program.

Along with increases in students, Bartelson saw a number of other changes, too. He remembers the program’s first tower “simulator” was a 4 x 8 piece of plywood. They painted stripes on it as well as a runway and grass. Completing the setup were little metal toy airplanes.

“Now we have two tower simulators, the high-end is $2.2 million, the low-end is $1.3 million,” he said. “And then we have just a standard radar simulation. This is the darkened room with 32 stations that came in at right around a million and a half too. So, about $6 million worth of simulation for a little program that started with seven kids. It’s been an interesting journey, and I’ve enjoyed every minute.”

Through the years, Bartelson’s role at UND has changed. After starting as a part-time teacher, he became a full-time lecturer, and then director of the Air Traffic Control program, a position he held for 10 years. He eventually stepped down as director, but he continued as a lecturer. Bartelson said he can’t believe he was at UND for more than 25 years.

“It’s gone by in a flash,” he said.

According to Bartelson, air traffic controllers are a tight-knit group, but they enjoy joking with one another. Bartelson liked following the successes in former students’ lives as well as having the opportunity to teach current students, from freshmen to seniors.

“I liked connecting with these kids,” he said. “You don’t have to have your batteries recharged. You don’t have to take a week off or a month off to come back here. There’s something new every day with these guys. It was a blast.”

Through the years, Bartelson was recognized with advising awards. He served as an advisor for a variety of student organizations and is especially proud of his involvement with the Golden Key International Honor Society. For more than 18 years, he also was involved with Junior Achievement, teaching children in kindergarten through fifth grade about the city, state, and region.

Bartelson is active in his church and has served as president of his congregation at First Lutheran Evangelical Church in East Grand Forks. He also loves to golf. He has three memberships locally and even has a golf simulator in his garage that he uses during the winter months.

Bartelson’s wife, Robin, did daycare for more than 27 years. They’ve been married more than 40 years and have two children. Their son, Brandon, lives in Grand Forks with his son, Landon. The Bartelsons’ daughter, Heather, runs a daycare in Grand Forks. She and her husband, Donovan Mitchell, have three children: C.J., Lindsey, and Lexi. Lindsey has a daughter, Leah Jean. Brandon and Donovan work together at New Vision Truck Accessories.

In retirement, the Bartelsons sold their house a matter of days after putting it on the market. They bought an RV and plan to take it to Arizona in the winters.

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THE YELL

In the spring of 1892, the same year football play was organized, a student committee ... was appointed to compose a suitable college yell. The result, derived from the Greek and the Sioux, reflected the character and the milieu of the University of North Dakota, the embryo Yale of the prairies:

Odz-Dzo-Dzi!
Ri-Ri-Ri!
Hi-yah! Hi-yah!
North Dakota
(Sioux war cry)

Although the first line was a free adaptation of a Greek verb meaning “to cry out,” the yell was not satisfactory to a purist like [faculty member John S.] Macnie. [President Webster] Merrifield was agreeable, however, and the student body unanimously adopted it.

— University of the Northern Plains, the history of UND, by Louis Geiger

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SUZANNE BELYEAL

Associate Director of Housing/Residence Services

When Suzanne Belyea came back to North Dakota in 1976, she didn’t plan to stay for long. “I came back for one or two years and stayed one month shy of 39 years,” she said with a smile.

A native North Dakotan, Belyea graduated from high school in Rolette. She went on to the University of North Dakota, where she earned undergraduate degrees in social work and psychology. As an undergraduate, she also served as a resident assistant in the residence halls.

After graduation, Belyea and a friend headed to Europe for three months. Belyea came back to North Dakota and got a job as a social worker in Dunn County.

She returned to UND in the fall to work on a master’s degree in counseling. As a graduate student, she served as a hall director. After completing her degree, Belyea worked for a year at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse as a hall director.

But she didn’t stay away from North Dakota long. In 1976, she came back to UND as assistant director of housing. Initially, the job dealt more on the residence life side, but eventually she switched over to more apartment housing.

Through the years, Belyea saw a lot of changes in students and housing and in what students expect. "People used to come with just a carload of stuff," she said. "Now it's trailers."

She has been part of reorganizations that have taken place in Housing as well. Belyea retired June 30, 2016. Before her retirement, her responsibilities included a lot of administrative work as well as focusing much of the time on housing assignment for students. She also worked with eligibility issues for housing.

In addition, Belyea was heavily involved with a variety of transitions, such as the change to PeopleSoft. Because PeopleSoft didn’t meet Housing’s needs, a new software program had to be found. Belyea was involved throughout the process, all the way from asking for requests for proposals to implementation. She worked on major updates in the system as well.

Belyea also started the residence hall honorary on campus and was one of the three people involved with starting the apartment honorary at UND. Additionally, she was responsible for two other groups that were started with apartment governance, and she advised the ARH programming.

Belyea’s hard work didn’t go unnoticed. The TRIO Programs recognized her, as did American Indian Student Services and the two honoraries she helped start at UND. Belyea said she enjoyed working with students. And it wasn’t unusual for students and their families to thank her for helping them. She also received a Meritorious Service Award and the University Apartment Programming Board Pride Award. In addition, she was inducted as an honorary member into the National Residence Hall Honorary and the International Honorary for Leaders in University Apartment Communities.

“The UAPB Pride Award and the inductions into both honoraries are especially special to me because they came from students in those groups,” Belyea explained. Through the years, Belyea served on a number of committees. She said it was wonderful working with her colleagues from all across campus and getting to know them.

In her free time, Belyea likes reading and cooking and is a member of a dinner club. In retirement, she hopes to find more time to volunteer, particularly at the Humane Society. She is active in her church, United Lutheran, and hopes to do more volunteering there in retirement as well.

Belyea has two brothers and a sister, all of whom are UND graduates.
“UND has been a part of my life for a really long time,” she said. “Housing has been there a long time for me, too. I’ve seen a lot of students come and go.”

JERALD BENDA
Line Service Operator, Flight Operations, John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences

Through his work at the University of North Dakota, Jerald Benda met a lot of interesting people he wouldn’t have met otherwise. He remembers when Ralph Engelstad used to come through UND’s old buildings at the airport. And Bruce Smith, dean of the School of Aerospace Sciences, started at UND the year after Benda did. “It was fun,” Benda said.

Born in Nebraska, Benda joined the Air Force when he was 17. He spent 28 years in the Air Force, which is what brought him to Grand Forks.

After retiring from the military, Benda was employed for several years as a carpenter and then did concrete work. He came to UND in 1999 and worked as a line service operator for 17 years before retiring July 1, 2016. As a line service operator, he was responsible for towing and fueling training aircraft. He enjoyed the opportunity to work with students.

“It was interesting to meet some of the students from other countries, especially Taiwan, since my wife and I had been in Taiwan,” he said.

Through the years, Benda saw a lot of changes in his department. When he started, much of the equipment they used was surplus. Beginning around 2000, Benda served as a manager for seven years, and he remembers having to scrounge up tile for the office floor and paint for the walls.

Several new buildings, including various hangars, have been constructed at the airport as well. And the number of staff in Benda’s department has increased dramatically. He said that when he first started, there were about four people per shift. Now there’s about 50 altogether.

During his time at UND, Benda and his Line Service Department earned various safety awards.

In retirement, Benda plans to travel more. He also has a lot of projects waiting for him around his house.

Benda’s wife, Kathy, is also retired. They’ve been married nearly 53 years and have four children and five grandchildren. Through the years, Kathy held a variety of jobs. She used to do Hospice run, ran the hospital gift shop in Crookston, Minn., and worked for the Girl Scouts. She served as the religious education director for St. Michael’s Catholic Church, and before she retired, she did the same at the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

DIANE BLUE
Administrative Secretary, Department of Finance

During her career at the University of North Dakota, Diane Blue enjoyed the fun people with whom she worked as well as the benefits UND offered. She also appreciated being able to find positions that fit with her family life.

Blue grew up on a farm north of East Grand Forks. She went to a country school her first eight years and then to schools in Warren and Alvarado, Minn. After graduating from high school in Alvarado, Blue attended UND, where she earned a two-year associate degree in business. During her employment at UND, she also took several classes.

After taking time off to raise her children, Blue came back to UND on a limited basis, filling in when needed for about a year. Blue began working for UND in 1987, helping out the Alumni Association by stuffing envelopes for special mailings. She eventually moved on to help with registration.

Then she took a full-time position with the Admissions Office, working as a receptionist and with freshman registration.

“It was kind of scary because I’d never worked on a computer before” she recalled.

But working full time was a bit overwhelming, so when a part-time job in Financial Aid opened up, Blue jumped at the opportunity. She found an even better fit when a part-time, nine-month position became available in the Accounting and Business Law Department. In time, the Accounting and Finance departments merged. When they split again around 2000, Blue’s job with Accounting disappeared, but she moved to Finance. She retired as an administrative secretary with the department in 2016.

Every day was different in the Finance Department. Blue worked with faculty and students. She was in charge of the work-study students as well as helping with the Student Managed Investment Fund.

During her career, Blue earned a College of Business Staff Meritorious Service Award.

Blue enjoys gardening, lawn work, and being outdoors. In retirement, she plans to spend more time with her family and attending her grandchildren’s activities. Blue’s husband, Don, is self-employed. They have three children and six grandchildren.

PATRICIA BOHNET
Executive Assistant to the President

A lot of people recognize Pat Bohnet’s name because of her family’s strong ties to the University of North Dakota.

“I just loved UND,” Bohnet said. “My father was sports information director here for 35 years.”

Her father, Lee Bohnet, passed away in 1999. Her mother, Marjorie, died in 1975 but had been manager of the University Federal Credit Union. Her stepmother, Elaine, worked at UND for many years as a vocational rehabilitation counselor.

Pat Bohnet grew up in Grand Forks and graduated from Central High School. She went to UND for a year. In 1972, she took a job at the Registrar’s Office, where she worked for a couple of years until her first child was born.

In 1978, Bohnet was employed at the Rehab Hospital as an administrative secretary. She worked there until 1983, when her family moved to Williston, N.D. Bohnet continued to work with UND in Williston but in a different capacity. From 1983 to 1987 she worked as part of a pilot project at Mercy Hospital in Williston. The pilot project was based at UND through the Rehab Hospital.

After Bohnet came back to Grand Forks, she started working in the College of Education as an administrative assistant in what was then the Department of Educational Administration. She worked there a year to get back in the UND system. Then she went to the Engineering Experiment Station, which kind of combined with what is now the Center for Innovation. She stayed nine years, working as an administrative assistant.

In 1997, Bohnet was invited to apply for a new position: office manager in the President’s Office. She ended up taking the job and started her new position in January 1998. She retired Dec. 16, 2016, as the executive assistant to the president. Her responsibilities mainly revolved around providing direct support to the president. She managed the president’s schedule and served as a sort of gatekeeper, determining who should see him and who would be better served if they were directed to someone else. She also managed the president’s travel, answered questions, served as a resource for other people on campus, and supervised the other two people in the office.

During her career, Bohnet was recognized for her hard work and dedication. She earned the Meritorious Service Award as well as the President’s Medal from two presidents.

Through the years, Bohnet saw a lot of changes at UND. She remembers using carbon paper to make copies in the Registrar’s Office. And those who got to use electric typewriters thought they were really lucky at the time, she said with a smile. She also recalls the extensive remodeling project that occurred in her office between Presidents Kupchella and Kelley.

“Even though, I remember all the great students she met, particularly those in student government, and the wonderful people with whom she worked. It’s been a great job,” she said.

In her free time, Bohnet is in a book club that meets monthly. She also likes to quilt and sew. She inherited a loom from her stepmother and took lessons from a professor at UND. She hopes to find time to master the loom in retirement.
Bohnet and her husband, Lowell Liebenson, have been married 20 years and
have a blended family. Sarah Bohnet lives in St. Paul. She is a graphic designer for
the Minnesota Hospital Association. Diana earned a degree in accounting
from UND. She works as the Resident and Light Commercial Manager for Cummins, Inc. She lives in Pequot Lakes, Minn., with her husband, Steve Ver-
ville, and their boys, Logan and Wyatt. They have their own business, Iron Pines Welding. Matt just moved to Rapid City, S.D., from California. Todd teaches
classes on how to use engineering software. He lives in Fargo with his wife, Mary, who is a nurse, and their son, Ryan. Kirsten Plude lives in Maple Grove, Minn.,
with her husband, Jj, who works in computers, and their children, Josie and
Olivia. Kirsten teaches Spanish and French. Jennifer is a social worker, and her
husband, Tony Wilwerding, works in computers. They live in Omaha, Neb., with
their children, Violet and Tyrian.

**TERRI CLARK**

*Director of Fiscal Affairs, John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences and the UND Aerospace Foundation*

John Odegard used to call Terri Clark “the anchor,” and as an accountant, she
was just fine with that.

Originally from Rolette, N.D., Clark went to UND and earned a bachelor’s
degree in math and French in three years. She also got a teaching certification as
well.

During her last year of school, Clark met her future husband, Paul, who had
one year left to complete his degree. She didn’t want to leave Grand Forks, so she
approached Loren Swanson, who was vice president for operations at the time, and asked if she could get a job
on campus. As a student, Clark had worked in a resi-
dence hall office. Swanson told her, “We hire our own,”
and had her fill in for two people who had medical
leaves. When the leaves were nearly done, Swanson
told Clark he liked her “moxie” and opened an assistant
housing director position for her. That was 1972, and
she stayed there for a few years. She quit when their first
baby was born.

But Clark wasn’t away from UND long. Three
months later, she was asked to be acting director of
housing, a position she held for about six months.

Then, when her third child was 3 weeks old, Clark came back to UND to
study accounting. She earned a master’s degree in accounting and passed the
CPA exam. She was offered a job teaching in the Accounting Department at
UND, but she was pregnant with her fourth child. She eventually accepted the
教学 position in the fall of 1985. It was a good decision.

“I really, really loved teaching accounting,” she said.

But there was a problem. Without tenure, Clark could only teach full time for
three years. Then she’d have to teach part time or take a year off. “That was the
College of Business rule at the time,” she explained.

And that was the only reason she was interested when an Aerospace Founda-
tion Board member asked her to apply for a new position in that organization.

“They had just started the Aerospace Foundation, and they needed an accoun-
tant,” she said.

In December 1988, Clark went to work for the UND Aerospace Foundation.

It was quite a change.

“I was in a brand new job in a brand new organization,” she remembered.

“They didn’t have an accounting system. They didn’t have a computer system.
The office I went into had not even a pencil or a piece of paper in it, let alone any
files that you could review. There was nothing there. And I stayed at Aerospace
for 27 years.”

In the spring of 1989, Clark taught one class in Accounting. She said that
helped with the transition because for that one hour three days a week, she knew
what she was doing and that she was doing it right.

Clark first started as controller of the Aerospace Foundation. A couple of
years later, Odegard asked her to oversee the finances for the School of Aero-
space Sciences (then called the Center for Aerospace Sciences) as well as the
foundation. She stayed in that combined position until her retirement April 4, 2016. But even in retirement, she still served on the Dean Search Committee
until that was complete.

Before her retirement, Clark supervised a staff of five accountants and support staff with the Aerospace Foundation. On the college side, she supervised
four accountants, the college’s HR director, and seven paraprofessionals. “It is a
big business,” she said.

When she retired, the School of Aerospace Sciences had a budget of more
than $60 million, of which only about $8 million was appropriated. “So the rest
we had to earn,” she explained.

The Aerospace Foundation had a budget of about $40 million. The founda-
tion is a stand-alone enterprise with its own assets, revenues, payroll, and ben-
efits, and there is a vendor/customer relationship between the two organizations.

“It was very complicated,” Clark said. “At Aerospace there was never a dull
day. I learned something every day I worked there. There was always something
new.”

Clark also kept her relationships with the College of Business and Public
Administration and the Accounting Department. She was part of the College’s
Hulberg Lecture Series three times. She also spoke at career days and other
events for the Accounting Department and at the College’s 75th anniversary
observance.

Away from work, Clark has been very involved with St. Michael’s Catholic
Church in Grand Forks and serves as a member of the Diocesan Finance
Council for the Diocese of Fargo. She also has served on the Board of Directors
for the ND CPA Society and as committee chair for the CPA Society. Since her
retirement, she was able to co-chair the centennial celebration for St. Michael’s
School.

Clark’s husband, Paul, retired as associate director of facilities at UND.
They have four children and 10 grandchildren. Their daughter Lisa is a UND
graduate and works at St. Michael’s School in Grand Forks. Her husband, Josh
Christianson, also graduated from UND and works for the University. They have
three children: Will, Lauren, and Drew. The Clarks’ daughter Tricia is a nurse.
She lives in Clearwater, Minn., with her husband, Jim Sladky, and their children,
James, Ethan, Kendra, and Kate. The Clarks’ daughter Annie lives in Hammond,
Wis., with her husband, Steve Deplazes, and their children, Clark, Audrey, and
Cecelia. Steve is a UND graduate and works as a Delta pilot. The Clarks’ son,
Greg, is an architect in Minneapolis.

**JANE CROEKER**

*Director of Health and Wellness Promotion*

When Jane Croeker first came to the University of North Dakota to work
with health and wellness promotion, she pretty much started from scratch. But
once she began, she was gratified to see that people wanted to be involved.

“They truly cared about people’s health and well-being,” she said.

A small group of really committed people did
some wonderful things, Croeker said. She worked with
many departments and organizations that wanted to be
involved. “It was very rewarding,” she said.

According to Croeker, it took a team of students, faculty, staff, and administra-
tors to do all the things that have been accomplished in health and wellness on
campus.

“I just really loved working at UND,” she said. “I
was impressed by how focused people were on helping
students succeed and how willing they were to work
collectively for things they believed in.”

Croeker grew up in Washburn and Turtle Lake,
N.D., and came to UND as student in 1972. She earned a bachelor’s degree in
social work. She later continued her education while working at UND, earning
a public health certificate in the graduate program through the University of
Minnesota.

Before coming to UND, Croeker had various jobs, and she lived in Colorado,
Iowa, and Minnesota. Just prior to taking a position at UND, she worked for
Polk County Public Health as a wellness coalition coordinator. She came to UND
to do health prevention and promotion work with students.

“There wasn’t much going on at that time [in that area],” she explained.

Croeker joined UND’s Student Health in January 2000 as a health and wel-
ness promotion specialist. At the time, there was no Work Well Program for
employees and no Wellness Center on campus. At first, Croeker gathered input
from students, faculty, and staff about what the needs were.

“There was a really long list of needs,” she recalled.

But Croeker found a great deal of support, particularly from UND Presidents Charles Kupchella and Robert Kelley. Both men had backgrounds in public health and understood the needs.

In the fall of 2000, Healthy UND first started. Healthy UND is a coalition of students, faculty, and staff. “The idea is to work collaboratively across campus and to promote healthy lifestyle choices,” Croeker explained. She worked with Laurie Betting for 14 years when Betting was wellness director and associate vice president for health and wellness.

They worked on getting healthier options in the dining centers and food courts, promoted a tobacco-free campus, championed a wellness center, and designed a Work Well Program for employees. “Kind of the overall idea of everything is to make healthy choices easy choices,” Croeker said.

Through the years, Croeker earned promotions. At retirement, she was director of health and wellness promotion. Her most recent responsibilities included oversight of a team of professional staff as well as graduate and undergraduate students. They focused on priority areas of health and wellness as well as promoting the seven dimensions of health and wellness.

A health and wellness space with a self-care station and virtual health information station was located first in the Union and eventually moved to McCannel Hall. It was open to students or anyone else who dropped by. Staff connected people to services depending on their needs. Those needs involved everything from mental health issues to wanting to become more active or to stop smoking.

Most of the members of the Health and Wellness Promotion Team were students. “It was a great experience for the students, and it was wonderful working with them, to see them grow in the confidence, skills, and knowledge,” Croeker said.

In retirement, Croeker hopes to have more time to cross country ski, bike, watch birds, and read. She also is volunteering with the Metropolitan Planning Organization to develop a bike and pedestrian plan. She volunteers with the Interfaith Committee and at the Empire Arts Center as well.

Croeker’s husband, Don, died suddenly in 2014. At the time, he was working for the TRIO Programs at UND. The couple first met when they were freshmen at UND.

Croeker has two sons. Anthony lives in Superior, Wis., and has his own boat-repair business. Dylan, who went to UND, lives in the Twin Cities and works with people with disabilities.

**TERRY CULTICE**

*Desktop Support Specialist, Center for Instructional and Learning Technologies*

Terry Cultice can sum up his last job at the University of North Dakota in three simple words: “fix broken computers.”

And that’s exactly what he did for faculty and staff across most of the campus for more than 16 years with Desktop Support. He retired in June 2016.

Terry came here when he was in the United States Air Force. Serving for nearly 23 years, he retired from the Air Force in 1992 while stationed in Grand Forks. During his military service, he earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial technology from Southern Illinois University.

The job market was tough when Terry retired from the military, but he found a job with the local New Flyer. About a year later, he interviewed for a safety job at the Energy and Environmental Research Center. He was hired and started in November 1993. In 1998, he moved to the Computer Center at UND.

“When I moved, I was teaching the computer classes we offered — Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, WordPerfect and Windows,” he said.

After about a year and a half, Terry moved to Desktop Support.

“Basically when I started, it was just me and Gary Johnson, and he retired the same time as I did,” he said. “The two of us provided support to most of the main campus.” In the last five years, Desktop has added several personnel. It also moved from various facilities on campus to its present location in the Memorial Union.

**THROUGH THE YEARS**

**1883**
Territorial Gov. Nehemiah Ordway signed the legislative act establishing the University of North Dakota on Feb. 27. The cornerstone for the Main Building was laid on Oct. 2.

**1884**
The University opened its doors on Sept. 8. Eleven students registered that first day; 79 would enroll over the course of the academic year.

**1885**
The University charged no fees except $3.50 per week for board in the Main Building, which lacked a furnace and storm windows.

**1887**
A tornado damages the Main Building on June 16. Ladies Hall (later renamed Davis Hall) was built. Up to that time, all students living on campus were housed in the Main Building.

**1888**
UND’s first publication, *The Student*, a monthly magazine, appeared.

**1889**
The University’s first graduating class included six women and two men. They founded the Alumni Association and chose for school colors the pink and green of the prairie rose.

**1892**
Football was introduced, but only intramural games were played. The first intercollegiate game came two years later, against the North Dakota Agricultural College (now NDSU). UND lost 20-4.

**1895**
Harrison Bronson received UND’s first master’s degree. A financial crisis in the state prompted Gov. Roger Allin to veto most appropriations for UND. A private fund drive raised enough money to keep the University open.

In the immediate aftermath of the June 16, 1887, tornado, some officials argued for abandoning the remote, isolated campus in favor of a site closer to the city. Fearing that discussion about a move might prompt the Legislature to consider relocating the University from Grand Forks altogether, the Board of Regents opted to borrow $10,000 from local banks and proceed with repairs.
Terry has kept busy with his “to do” list since retirement. He enjoys spending summers at the lake in Bemidji, Minn., where the family has a seasonal RV and boat. His wife, Jo, retired almost two years ago. They’ve been married over 38 years. They have three daughters, two of whom attended UND, and three grandchildren.

DAVID DISETH

Building Services Technician, Facilities Management

David Diseth had a variety of jobs before coming to the University of North Dakota. But 27 years ago, he really found his place here. He really enjoyed all the people with whom he worked. He also liked that he got the chance to talk with people from other fields and trades.

“I liked working here, and there were good benefits,” he said. “I enjoyed working for the University.”

Diseth has lived in Grand Forks for most of his life. He graduated from Central High School in Grand Forks and attended UND and Aaker’s Business College.

His first job with UND was a five-month temporary position. During his third temporary job at UND, he got a permanent position as a custodian at the airport. That was in 1989.

One of his most vivid memories is of a cold January day out at the airport. He and two others had work to do in the line shack, a stand-alone building that isn’t connected to any others.

“You had to bring your water buckets and all your materials there,” he explained. “I had two guys helping me, and we were stripping the floor.”

Both of the other men got sick at the same time, so Diseth had them leave. They already had the stripper on the floor, and the line guys were coming in a couple of hours, so Diseth couldn’t just leave, too.

“So I did the cardinal sin, and I hurried,” he said. In his rush to finish the job, Diseth fell. “I got up, and I was OK, but I was covered in floor stripper. So I took a bucket of water and poured it down my back, and I finished the job.”

Diseth went back to one of the main buildings, where he showered and washed his clothes, but he had to put his wet clothes back on and head out into the January chill to get home.

“That was probably the most memorable thing,” he said with a chuckle.

Diseth worked at the airport for 10 years. Then, when a custodian retired at Odegard Hall on campus, Diseth jumped at the opportunity. Diseth had been working 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. at the airport. The position at Odegard Hall was from 4 a.m. to noon. Diseth did general custodial work as well as outside work — shoveling snow, raking leaves, and picking up trash. He also continued for many years to work at the airport a couple of days a week. In addition, he served on an employee committee for Facilities. He retired from the University June 30, 2016.

Diseth’s hard work didn’t go unnoticed. He earned the LeRoy Award with Facilities.

Now that he’s retired, Diseth continues taking Bible courses from Global University through his church, Valley Christian Church Assembly of God. On Sunday nights he helps with services at the jail. He also has been doing a lot of walking and spends time at the library and the YMCA.

DENNIS ELBERT

Professor of Marketing and Dean Emeritus of the College of Business and Public Administration

Dennis J. Elbert was appointed dean of the College of Business and Public Administration (CoBPA) at the University of North Dakota in July 1997 and served through May 2014. A longtime UND faculty member, Elbert served as a professor of marketing and as director of the Small Business Institute for many years, working with 20 to 25 businesses each year.

Elbert continues to be involved in University and community service, consulting, research, and seminar work. He has served or is serving on several boards of directors, including Noridian Insurance (Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Dakota), Noridian Administrative Services, Altru Health Systems, United Health Resources, Simmons Advertising, YMCA, Newman Parish, Chamber of Commerce, US Bank Advisory Committee, Cirrus Industries, Northern Lights Executive Council RSA, Edgewood REIT, WPS—Military & Veterans Health Council, and Gate City Bank. He served on the prestigious international Beta Gamma Sigma Board, which is recognized as the highest honor in business education. He holds the rank of dean emeritus of the college and teaches during a part-time phased retirement. He will retire in May 2017.

An enthusiastic and highly motivating speaker and facilitator, Elbert has offered more than 600 seminars throughout the Midwest and Canada in the last 25 years. In addition, Elbert has authored or co-authored more than 75 papers, monographs, textbooks, cases, and published articles.

Elbert was born in Emmetsburg, Iowa, and went to high school in Grafton, N.D. He has two degrees from UND, a B.S.B.A. (1968) and a Master of Science in marketing (1972). He earned a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri–Columbia in 1976.

A veteran of Vietnam and Cambodia, Elbert earned a Combat Infantryman Badge, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal, and other military awards. A UND ROTC graduate, Elbert retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a lieutenant colonel in 1996. Both UND Army and Air Force programs reported to Elbert as dean of the CoBPA.

In 2014, the CoBPA had about 1,700 undergraduate students and 250 graduate students. At that time, the CoBPA had several international affiliations, the largest being with the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology. The college then included nine academic departments: Accounting, Finance, Management, Marketing, Information Systems Business Communication, Political Science and Public Administration, Industrial Technology, Economics, and, just approved in 2014, the new School of Entrepreneurship. In addition to business academic programs, the college included the North Dakota Small Business Development Center in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the North Dakota Department of Commerce, the Center for Innovation, and the Army and Air Force ROTC programs.

In retirement, Elbert plans to continue his involvement in consulting and on boards. He hopes to do more traveling and spend more time with his family and at the lake.

Elbert’s wife, Dora Lea Riopelle Elbert, is a speech pathologist who earned her undergraduate degree at UND in communication disorders. She retired as a special education coordinator with the Grand Forks Public Schools. They have three children and five grandchildren. Their son, Jason, and his wife, Emilee, are both UND law graduates and are currently active duty Army MAJ-JAG officers. They have twin boys, Lucas and Benjamin. The Elberts’ daughter Christina is a UND information technology graduate who is currently the UND assistant registrar. Her husband, Jon, graduated from UND with a degree in mechanical engineering and works at Retrax Engineering. They have two children, Addison and Mason. The Elberts’ daughter Danielle earned her undergraduate and master’s degrees in education at UND. Her husband, Matt, is an active duty Air Force pilot-MAJ. They have one son, Noah.

DONNA ELLERTSON

Office Manager, Career Services and Disability Services for Students

Donna Ellertson will never forget the day when she started working for the University of North Dakota. Prior to coming to UND, Ellertson had been working for an accountant, so April was always a busy time for her. Unfortunately, her husband’s birthday is April 14. She wondered if she was ever going to be around for his special day. But in 1989, Ellertson made plans to have a big birthday dinner for him and had invited his parents. Then she was hit with the worst sinus infection she’d ever had. While contemplating whether she could still pull off the birthday festivities or if she should call his parents and cancel, she got a call from UND on April 14 asking if she could come in that day. She was one of two people still under consideration for a position for which she’d already had an interview. They really needed her to come in, even though she was sick. So she bundled up, went in, and got the job.
“But I always think of that,” she said. “I debated, ‘Should I say that I just don’t feel good?’ And now it’s more than 25 years later.” Ellertson retired from UND June 30, 2016.

Born in the state of Washington, Ellertson moved to Grand Forks with her family when she was 3. Her family moved around a lot because of her father’s job, but they always seemed to come back to Grand Forks, Ellertson said.

Before coming to UND, Ellertson had a few different jobs. It was while she was working for an accountant in Grand Forks that she met her husband, Gene. She was having car trouble and took her vehicle to a repair shop across the street from where she worked. Gene worked at the repair shop.

After she and Gene married and had four children, she was looking for a part-time job. She wanted to work, but she also wanted to be sure to be home for her children when they needed her. Ellertson took a part-time position at UND’s Disability Services in April 1989.

Ellertson started as a clerk and eventually was promoted to office manager. She did the payroll and budget and helped with in the accommodations and technology areas.

“I think that’s what kept me here, that there was so much to learn and so much to do,” she said. “I loved the challenges of making things work and helping other people. It’s just been a great place to stay.”

And Ellertson wasn’t afraid to learn new things. Over the years, she learned a lot about changes in office procedures, budget applications, and technology — both assistive technology used to provide accommodations to students with disabilities as well as just day-to-day operations. She took classes and workshops, and attended conferences to keep up with latest information. Her hard work and dedication didn’t go unnoticed. She earned the Meritorious Service Award.

Because of the reorganization of the Student Affairs Division in 2015, Ellertson was transferred to Career Services for her final year. Her focus was redirected from helping students in their academic pursuits at Disability Services for Students to helping graduating students in career options during her time with Career Services.

In her free time, Ellertson volunteers on the Credit Committee for the credit union on campus.

Ellertson’s husband, Gene, retired in December 2016 from Dempsey’s Truck and Trailer. They have four children: Tessa Stroot of East Grand Forks, Brent of Grand Forks, Jamie Greer of East Grand Forks, and Eric of Bismarck. Tessa, Brent, and Jamie all attended UND. The Ellertsons also have 10 grandchildren.

In retirement, Ellertson plans to give back to the community where needed, do more traveling, and spend more time with family and friends.

KIM FINK
Professor Emeritus of Art and Design

Along with teaching all printmaking media in the Art Department and serving as the MFA advisor at the University of North Dakota, Kim Fink has been involved in some exciting projects. In 2016, he received an AHSS Creative Research Grant for a portfolio of 12 woodcut portraits and accompanying text panels, a collaboration with fellow UND faculty Lucy Ganje and artist Daniel Heyman. The work was titled “Native Impressions: In Our Own Words.”

Originally from Reedley, Calif., Fink earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, Ore., and his M.F.A. from Tyler School of Art at Temple University, in Philadelphia, Pa., and Rome, Italy. He also attended the California College of Art and Craft in Oakland.

Before coming to UND, Fink held a number of positions. Among them, he taught art at Oregon State University in Corvallis, the Oregon School of Art and Craft in Portland, Mount Hood Community College in Gresham, Ore., the Rhode Island School of Design, Monterey (Calif.) Community College, and the Chautauqua School of Art in Chautauqua, N.Y.

Fink was hired as an assistant professor at UND in 1999 and retired as professor of art emeritus in July 2016. He also taught as a visiting professor at the Rhode Island School of Art and Design, Rome Program, Temple University Rome Program, the Chautauqua School of Art, the American University Rome Program (extension campus, Corciano, Italy), and the Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey, Calif.

Fink acquired and restored a French Brisset Star Wheel Lithography Press, believed to have been built between 1825 and 1840. One of just a handful of such presses in the United States, he made it available for use by UND art students. He also worked to make opportunities for students to meet well-known artists and study abroad.

Over his years at UND, Fink has seen a number of changes. He said the biggest was the decline of Fine Arts programming and funding in general.

Fink now lives in Salem, Ore., where he is enjoying the weather and playing tennis. His wife, Suzanne Fink, retired as the director of education at the North Dakota Museum of Art. They have two daughters, Kirsten Ellison of Salem, Ore., and Kathryn Fink of Grand Forks. Kirsten and her husband, Joshua, have three children: 13-year-old Christian and 10-year-old twins Hailey and Robert.

Kathryn earned a B.F.A. in fine art in 2015. She plans to attend graduate school soon.

ELIZABETH FLETCHER LAMB
Learning Disabilities Specialist, Disability Services for Students

Elizabeth Fletcher Lamb has had many adventures in her lifetime. Originally from British Columbia, she’s lived in 15 major locations and is now in her 28th or 29th home. She’s visited all of the states except Alaska. She’s lived in Germany and travelled extensively in Europe.

“We lived overseas for several years. My husband was an Army officer,” she explained.

Fletcher Lamb’s family moved to Grand Forks when she was in high school. She graduated from Red River High School before going on to college at the University of North Dakota, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in English education. She later continued her studies at UND, completing a master’s degree in 1991 in education, specifically in learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, and secondary education.

After working in the public school system for a couple of years, Fletcher Lamb joined UND’s Disability Services in 1993. She worked as a specialist with students with attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, head trauma, Asperger syndrome, and other learning disabilities. Among her responsibilities were analyzing and assessment, which included educational and psychological overviews of the students, and working with a team to meet the students’ needs.
Fletcher Lamb set up a three-pronged system: assessment, medication if needed, and support to think through the options with the student. She also taught faculty and staff who worked with special needs students. In addition, she taught classes that helped the students discover helpful learning strategies.

"Many students aren't aware they're missing those strategies. That's part of the difficulty," she explained. "Once they get those things down, it goes more smoothly."

Fletcher Lamb was involved with educational computing as well. She worked with CILT — the Center for Instructional and Learning Technologies — that taught faculty.

In addition, Fletcher Lamb wrote some small grants for programs "to train the trainers" on technologies to use in middle school and high school.

"We were the flagship," Fletcher Lamb said.

In 1994-95, she helped start a statewide council for disabilities in education, which still operates today. She worked with programs throughout the state to develop the same standards, so if a student came to any university in North Dakota, the continuity would help the student succeed.

Through the years, Fletcher Lamb also presented at conferences, wrote articles, and did a lot of professional development. She liked going to school, so she took additional classes as well as several summer seminars to keep learning. About halfway through her career at UND, Fletcher Lamb moved to a half-time position in Disabilities Services, but she didn't slow down. She taught writing and other classes in UND's veterans program, taught at the Multicultural Center, and worked with Education for a while.

She also ran a spirituality center for a few years in Grand Forks. While the physical center closed, it still has a few groups that meet at various places around town.

"I like serving students and clients, and I also do wellness and alternative therapy," she said.

Fletcher Lamb retired from UND in May 2016. In retirement, she is revamping her private practice in educational/wellness consulting, which she has had all along.

In her free time, Fletcher Lamb loves winter sports, including skating and skiing, and she's an avid reader. "I usually have 10 books going at the same time," she said.

She also enjoys tai chi, swimming, walking, strength training, and traveling with her husband, Jim Lamb, who is originally from Grand Forks and is an attorney in private practice. They have two sons. James lives in Minneapolis, and Thomas lives in Thailand. The couple also has two grandchildren.

**LUCY GANJE**

Professor Emerita of Art and Design

Lucy Ganje comes from a tradition of strong, groundbreaking women, so it's no surprise the 28 years she was at the University of North Dakota were groundbreaking, too.

Ganje is originally from Eagle Butte, S.D., located on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. "My parents were the editors and publishers of the local paper," she said. "I grew up in a newspaper family."

Her grandmother Lucy Till Kinning homesteaded in North Dakota and also lived in Eagle Butte and has the distinction of being the first female mortician in the Dakotas. She learned the trade by taking a correspondence course, Ganje said with a chuckle.

After graduating from high school in Eagle Butte, Ganje went to college for a year, got married, raised a family, and then went back to school. She earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in graphic design at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

Upon her return to Eagle Butte, Ganje managed the printing business for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. After working there for a couple of years, she started searching for other opportunities. The newspaper editor in town knew Ganje was looking for another job and pointed out a classified ad from UND's School of Communication. The school's director was looking for someone to start a graphic design program at the University. Ganje got the job and started working at UND in 1988. Ganje's mother, Marjorie, graduated from UND with a degree in education.
About 15 years into her tenure at UND, Ganje saw changes happening in the School of Communication and was able to transition to the Art and Design Department. There she again started a graphic design program. She developed the graphic design and new art media major and its curriculum. Before her retirement Aug. 15, 2016, she had taught most of the classes needed to earn the major.

Through the years, Ganje also has been active in a number of issues. She spent about 20 years working with other committed people to see UND's nickname retired. "The biggest issue for me over the years, and the thing that took the most energy and focus and time, was working to change the name," she said. "To see the change, that was so important to so many people and to the educational mission of the University, was huge."

She earned a number of awards during her career, but the ones that meant the most were related to issues she fought for and that remain close to her heart. Among the awards is a blanket she was given by American Indian Student Services for work she did for their students.

Working closely with the national Native American Journalists Association, Ganje started the Native American Journalists Initiative, which became the Native Media Center at UND. The center published an award-winning student newspaper, Native Directions. A founding member of the Campus Committee for Human Rights, Ganje co-authored and designed the book Storytelling Time: Native North American Art from the Collections at the University of North Dakota. Published in 2011 by Hudson Hills Press, Storytelling Time was honored with a Gold Medal and designated an "Outstanding Book of the Year" by the Independent Publishers Book Awards (IPPY). This designation went to only 13 books out of a field of nearly 4,000 books in the competition.

Through the years, Ganje saw a lot of changes in her department, particularly regarding technology. When she first started teaching, most of the artwork was done by hand. Over time, computers were incorporated into the creative process, but Ganje still wanted students to be able to do things by hand as well.

"I tried to teach students they can't depend upon the computer," she said. "They need to be able to sit down and sketch out ideas. Otherwise you can only do what the computer allows you to do, and you're not in the driver's seat."

She also taught students to combine the old and the new in their work. For example, she had students design work on the computer and print it out. Then they put it on the letterpress. "It was a combination of analog and digital technology," she said. "So we didn't leave one behind. We just adapted."

Ganje's own artwork often involves cross-cultural communications. "I look at how U.S. governmental policies affected — and continue to affect — both Indian and non-Indian people, and create art based on these perspectives," she explained. This approach grows from the fact, Ganje said, that her children and extended family are Native, but she is not. Growing up on the reservation, Ganje said, gave her a unique outlook.

Ganje and her partner, Sharon Carson, a professor in the English Department, recently celebrated their 23rd anniversary. They have co-parented four children: Amber Annis-Bercier, Heather Annis, Holly Annis, and Francis Annis. Ganje also has three grandchildren: Lucy, Chloe, and Hoksila.

During her final year at UND, Ganje collaborated with two other artists (including UND's Kim Fink) to create a suite of 26 prints that chronicle stories of individual Native people living within the tribal Nations of North Dakota. "In Our Own Words: Native Impressions" opened at the North Dakota Museum of Art and is now in the permanent collections of the Tozzer Library at Harvard University and the Beinecke Library at Yale University. The prints have been exhibited in Philadelphia, Rhode Island and New York, as well as galleries in North Dakota. Each tribal college in North Dakota was also presented with a full set of prints.

In retirement, Ganje opened a letterpress and book arts studio in Rapid City, S.D. It serves as a nonprofit, community artist space, where, according to Ganje, it fosters collaborative thinking and artistic production.

MARY ANN GREGOIRE
Administrative Secretary, Department of Atmospheric Sciences

When Mary Ann Gregoire was hired at the University of North Dakota, the Aviation Department consisted of just seven people, headed by John D. Odegard, and was located in Gamble Hall. She remembers using ditto machines and typewriters and taking messages on a notepad. A lot has changed, she said with a laugh.

GREGOIRE graduated from high school in Stephen, Minn., and went on to earn a two-year secretarial certificate at what was then the Area Vocational Technical Institute in East Grand Forks. She took a part-time job at Engineering Associates in Grand Forks after completing her program at AVTI, but she really wanted a full-time job. She found what she was looking for at UND's Aviation Department, where she was hired as a clerk/typist in November 1974.

Through the years, the Aviation Department grew, eventually becoming the School of Aerospace Sciences and adding a number of departments. Gregoire's career grew with it.

Before she retired May 15, 2016, she was the office manager for the Department of Atmospheric Sciences. Her duties included working with students and faculty, and serving as secretary to the chairman. Every day was different, but one thing didn't change.

"I just loved the people and the job," she said. "It was the best working environment ever. I am ever so grateful to have had the opportunity to work in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, headed by Mike Poelot."

Now that she's retired, Gregoire is enjoying the opportunity to travel and spend more time with family. She has three children — Tara, Travis, and Tracy — and six grandchildren.

Gregoire also likes to read, walk, bike, and spend lots of time with her grandchildren.

HARVEY GULLICKS
Associate Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering

Harvey Gullicks really enjoyed teaching, research, and working with students in the Civil Engineering Department at the University of North Dakota. Though he retired from UND June 30, 2016, he still hears from former students and even gets to work with many as he continues his consulting career with AEGIS, Inc.

A native of the Finley/Sharon, N.D., area, Gullicks graduated from Finley. He went on to UND, where he earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1976. He was hired by Union Pacific Railroad and came back to UND in July 1977 to start his master of engineering degree. After graduating in 1979, Gullicks went into consulting engineering in the Twin Cities. In 1983, he started working on his Ph.D. in civil engineering at Iowa State University. He graduated in May 1987 and went back into consulting throughout the Upper Midwest.

In 1993, Gullicks came back to UND, this time to teach. He was an associate professor at UND and also served as chair of the Civil Engineering Department from 2010 until his retirement. Gullicks' duties included assigning teaching responsibilities, evaluating faculty and staff, and dealing with student problems. All the while, he continued to teach.

He was also active in research, which mainly involved pilot studies for water and wastewater treatment facilities in the region, many for the city of Grand Forks.

From 1993 until he was named chair, Gullicks also did a lot of consulting with AEGIS, which is headquartered in Grand Forks. He is continuing to work with them full time since his retirement at UND.

Through the years, Gullicks saw a lot of changes in his department. When he first started, the department had about 100 students. Within a year, that number plummeted to about 60, but it more than recovered. In the early 2000s, an online civil engineering program was started. By the time Gullicks retired, the department had more than 300 students, over half of which were online students.

During his time at UND, Gullicks served on a variety of committees. He was part of the Hazardous Waste and Radiation Committee most of the time he was here. He also earned the North Dakota Spirit Award in 2011 and was recognized with several awards for teaching.

In his free time, Gullicks loves spending time with family and friends, and hunting and fishing.
Gullicks’ family has deep roots at UND. His wife, Jean Naismith, taught in the College of Nursing at one time and now is teaching at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Jean’s father was chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department for many years, and her mother had a long career as a registrar at UND.

“So there are pretty strong UND connections,” Gullicks said.

Those connections are continuing with the younger generation as well. Their son Donnie earned his medical degree at UND and is an OB/GYN for Sanford Health. He lives in Fargo with his wife, Monica, and their sons, Michael and Jacob. Gullicks’ son Grant earned a degree in entrepreneurship from UND. He lives in Alaska, where he is a taxidermist and works in a specialty sporting goods store. Gullicks’ daughter, Selam, attended UND and works for Simplot. She lives in Grand Forks with her husband, Lenny Antwi, who played basketball at UND. They have one daughter, Aaliyah, and are expecting their second. In addition, an older brother, Ron, a brother-in-law, several sisters-in-law, and several nieces and nephews have attended UND.

**MARK GUY**

*Professor of Teaching and Learning*

When Mark Guy came to the University of North Dakota in the fall of 1993, he really found his niche. “It’s been a very gratifying journey to be here at UND,” he said. “It’s been a good fit for myself and my family.”

Guy grew up in Nebraska. He earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology at Nebraska Wesleyan University, teaching certification at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and a master’s degree in education at Iowa State University.

He was a fourth- and fifth-grade teacher in Iowa for a number of years before he earned his Ph.D. in science education at the University of Georgia. After earning his doctorate, Guy came to UND in the fall of 1993. What attracted him to UND was that the position called for an elementary science educator to work with pre-service elementary teachers.

“And that was exactly what I wanted to do, so it was a good match,” he said. “It’s been a joy.

Meanwhile, the University would experience a significant change in leadership. Frank McVey resigned in August 1917 to accept the presidency of the University of Kentucky. Earle Babcock, senior among the deans, was appointed interim president, and a search was initiated for a new president.

World War I would impact the University in many ways beyond the decline in enrollment. The organization of the national Student Army training Corps (SATC) would effectively convert the UND campus into an army camp, with regular students having to adjust to the military’s needs. One result was the construction of the Armory, begun in September 1918 and completed the following year. Residence halls became SATC barracks, and the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house served as Army headquarters. However, the SATC would not reach full implementation before the outbreak of the great influenza epidemic and the armistice ending the war in November 1918. The epidemic claimed the lives of 29 trainees at UND and prompted the cancellation of the remainder of the fall term.

A total of 329 UND undergraduates served during World War I, and 33 students or former students died. The first was Lyle Rich, a 1914 graduate. An 1894 graduate, Lt. Col. Fred Smith, was awarded a posthumous Congressional Medal of Honor. In 1925, the Flickertail Club launched a fundraising drive for construction of a stadium as a memorial to the University’s war dead.

— Based on material extracted from *University of the Northern Plains*, the history of UND, by Louis Geiger.

**WORLD WAR I**

“War fever” stirred the UND campus before and after the American entry into World War I in 1917.

The atmosphere was already contentious, owing to sharp political divisions in the state between conservative elements (particularly in Grand Forks) and the left-leaning Nonpartisan League. Higher education in the state became a battlefield, but UND President Frank McVey managed to keep the University largely out of the fray.

Like most Americans, North Dakotans and UND leaders felt conflicting emotions before the declaration of war. Some faculty, like Vernon Squires, were vehement supporters of the Allies. William Bek would be attacked for his pleas for moderation and would see enrollment in his German courses plummet. A streak of extremism would be reflected in columns published in the Student newspaper with titles such as “The Hymn of the German Sword” and “O, Kaiser, Obsessed with Power ... Slayer of Age and Infancy”.

Once war was formally declared, the University committed itself to the effort. Enrollment fell about 11 percent for the start of the 1917 fall term, with many students leaving to enlist. Military training on campus was scheduled to begin in September but would not actually begin until November because of a lack of personnel and equipment. Only freshmen and sophomores were required to take the course, and students were expected to provide their own uniforms.

Intercollegiate athletics were briefly suspended, and numerous war activities would involve the students and faculty, from book drives and war gardens to speeches, courses, and service with federal war agencies.

Trainees, others and vehicles are gathered near Chander Hall (then called the Engineering Building) and temporary storage buildings.
After working in the same position for 24 years — and earning tenure right after the flood in 1997 — Guy will retire May 15, 2017. When talking with Guy, it’s obvious he really enjoyed the work he did at UND as well as the high-quality faculty and staff across campus. “At UND, there are many opportunities to collaborate across the campus, like in Education, collaborating with Arts and Sciences, Engineering,” he explained. “That’s been a real joy to be a collaborator and have those opportunities to seek grant support and work with teacher professional development programs.”

He also appreciated the quality of students UND attracts. Unless you’ve been a part of UND, you can’t appreciate just how great the people are, from students to faculty to staff, he noted. Guy said he is particularly grateful for the opportunities he had to work with graduate and undergraduate students.

“Being around them keeps our hearts and our minds young,” he said.

The good feelings are mutual. Through the years, Guy has earned a variety of awards and recognitions. At Founders Day in 2008, he garnered the Individual Excellence in Teaching Award. Making it even more special was that he was student-nominated.

“It was extremely rewarding and humbling. I was very grateful for that,” he said. “It keeps me wanting to do my very best.”

Guy also has earned the UND Spirit Award.

While at UND, Guy was engaged in research. He often collaborated with Timothy Young, a faculty member in the UND Department of Physics and Astrophysics. They secured National Science Foundation funding and state funding to work with tribal schools across the state to promote science that integrates Native perspectives with Western perspectives. Guy also has done a lot of work with astronomy. His department has an inflatable planetarium, and he has been able to work with a variety of instructors on teaching astronomy to students.

“My heart still lies in the elementary classroom,” Guy said.

He has seen a number of changes through the years, too. In the field, new standards have come forward that are much more performance-based. And there has been an ongoing challenge to recruit girls into science and engineering fields.

New technology has offered opportunities for improvement in learning as well. Guy said the emphasis is on continuing to use technology in new ways to support learning — not just for the sake of technology, but for the sake of better learning in science. An increased emphasis on hands-on science can lead to some pitfalls as well. Sometimes hands-on learning simply involves following a sort of “recipe.” Instead, Guy and his colleagues emphasize what they term “hands-on, minds-on” science, which promotes creativity, curiosity, engineering, and choice.

Guy’s wife, Laurie Guy, teaches social studies methods and differentiated instruction at UND. She also has a piano studio and is teaching 25 students how to play piano. The Guys have two sons. Evan lives in Austin, Texas, and is a film editor. Alex is a potter in uptown Minneapolis.

JANICE HALLIN
Assistant to the Director, Facilities Management

Originally from Thompson, N.D., Janice Hallin went to Mayville State University and earned an associate’s degree in information processing. She also attended classes at the University of North Dakota.

Hallin started her career at UND Jan. 2, 1989. She had been with Facilities, once called Plant Services, the entire time. Her first position was as an information processor. In those days, there was no Internet, voicemail, or email.

“It was so amazing when our department got a facsimile machine. Of course, this is now fairly obsolete,” she said. “There were a lot more personal conversations at that time. You got to know more people on campus.”

UND was very forward thinking when it came to recycling, and Hallin was a big part of that. Not only was she UND’s recycling coordinator for 10 years, she was part of the initial committee to form a statewide recycling association, the North Dakota Recycling and Waste Management Association.

At first, UND’s recycling program was a struggle because there was no money for it. Only cardboard and paper could be recycled, and the University’s departments had to pay for it themselves.

“So it was a huge commitment on the department’s part,” Hallin said.

Once Facilities began to fund recycling, Hallin was able to expand the program to include all academic buildings, residence halls, and family housing apartments. She had student representatives from each hall and family housing who provided support for the program. She organized annual events for Earth Day and America Recycles Day. She organized recycling competitions throughout the residence halls and a sale of donated items students left at the end of the school year. She partnered with the city of Grand Forks to hold a countywide competition for America’s Recycling Day with the support of First Lady Adele Kupchella.

“I feel UND has the most diverse recycling program of any campus I’ve visited,” Hallin said. “And I think UND, Grand Forks, and East Grand Forks do an exceptional job of making recycling easy.”

Hallin has many memories of her years with UND, but perhaps the most vivid involve the 1997 flood. She said her department was the emergency operating center for the whole city during the flood. She was living in Reynolds, N.D., at the time, so she was able to come into work.

“Our staff worked tirelessly for months before the dike broke, trying to shore up everything,” she said. “It came down to the last hour and they had to give up.”

During the cleanup, it was a difficult task locating their staff to get UND’s buildings restored. President Kendall Baker made the optimistic decision to reopen the campus for summer school, Hallin said. This left very little time for the cleanup, but Plant Services staff accomplished it with the great vision of its director then, LeRoy Sondrol, Hallin said. At that time, Hallin reported to Paul Clark, who supervised the custodial and grounds staff. Without a doubt, his leadership was one reason so much got accomplished, Hallin said.

“ar her dedication proved to community that UND would rebound from this disaster,” she said.

Hallin added that she will always be grateful for the opportunity to work with such great people.

Before her retirement June 30, 2016, Hallin served as the administrative assistant to the director of Facilities. Her duties included providing support for all the administration as well as working on master plans, annual reports, and special events. Every day brought something new.”There was always something going on which affected us,” she said.

Hallin’s dedication to the University was recognized. Through the years, she earned the Golden Hammer Award, recycling awards, and other recognitions.

In her free time, Hallin enjoys gardening, sewing, reading, and fishing at Lake of the Woods. In retirement, she’s looking forward to doing more traveling. She also loves spending time with her family. Hallin’s husband, Lannie, recently retired as a facilities planner with UND’s Housing Department. She has four children, and together they have 12 grandchildren.

LANNIE HALLIN
Facility Planner, Housing

Even if you don’t know Lannie Hallin, if you’ve been on the campus of the University of North Dakota, you’ve seen his work. Until his recent retirement, he was a facilities planner with the Housing Department.

He was involved with the big remodel with food service at the Memorial Union, the $19 million remodel of Wilkerson, and the $3 million remodel of the Squires cafeteria.

“My biggest project was building University Place,” Hallin said. That project carried a $20 million price tag.

A native of Alvarado, Minn., Hallin has taken some classes at UND while he’s been an employee of the University. He first started working at UND Dec. 15, 1975, as part of the grounds crew. He later moved on to food service maintenance with Facilities. Eventually he transferred to the Housing Department as a facilities planner, a position he held until his retirement June 30, 2016.

As a facilities planner, Hallin was given a budget of between $1 million and $4 million annually. He assessed housing campus facilities, including all the residence halls, and determined the projects needed for the buildings. The
projects could involve everything from painting and concrete work to roofing and remodels.

Haskins earned certification as a Food Service Professional, which provided the specifications for the design of cafeterias. At the time, he was the only person in the United States in the college setting to earn this certification.

During his career, Hallin and his staff developed some innovative projects that other universities have looked at as well. One such project was the remodel done at the Johnstone, Fulton, and Smith residence halls. They converted the bathrooms to allow privacy for the showers while still leaving common areas where students could visit while they got ready.

“It’s been very popular with the students,” Hallin said.

That came as no surprise because Hallin and his staff interviewed the students and asked for their input while planning the project.

Hallin and his crew also performed some minor miracles. For instance, when UND first took over the Dakota Motel, Hallin and the Facilities staff had just six weeks to turn it around from the time they got it until students moved in. They met their deadline.

University Place was the most costly project Hallin was involved in, but now it’s a real gem on campus. Hallin was named Finance and Operations Employee of the Year right after University Place was built.

Through the years, Hallin has worked with some really good people, he said. Among those who stick in his mind are his supervisor, Judy Sargent, and his assistant, Mary Johnson. He said that Vice President for Finance and Operations Bob Gallagher was really helpful, too.

Hallin also appreciated the Grand Forks city staff and contractors who have worked with him through the years. He worked with the city, UND Housing, UND Facilities, and many contractors to install sprinkler systems for the Housing buildings. Sprinkler systems are expensive and time consuming to install, but with the blessing of the city, UND was able to upgrade one building a year, Hallin said.

Now that he’s retired, Hallin wants to go south for the winter months. He also enjoys rebuidling old cars and going to his family’s place on Lake of the Woods. His wife, Janice, recently retired as the administrative assistant to the director of Facilities. Hallin has two grown children, and together with his wife, they have 12 grandchildren.

JAMES HASKINS
Assistant Professor of Finance

Since coming to the University of North Dakota 17 years ago, James Haskins has made quite an impact in the College of Business and Public Administration (CoBPA). He redesigned and improved finance course content — particularly the MBA managerial finance course — to be more rigorous, with more emphasis on critical thinking skills and financial modeling. In coordination with the Department of Accountancy, he obtained approval of a new major in finance and accounting that had a curriculum composed of about half finance courses and half accountancy courses and was appointed the finance coordinator for the major.

“It is a unique major among U.S. public universities,” Haskins said.

Haskins was born in Estevan, Saskatchewan, and graduated from high school in Grenora, N.D. He earned a bachelor’s degree in 1974 and a master’s degree in 1978 from North Dakota State University. He went on to finish his Ph.D. in 1991 at Colorado State University.

In the fall of 1998, Haskins began his career at UND as a tenure-track assistant professor of finance in the Division of Accounting and Finance.

“In a reorganization of the CoBPA, I continued my position in the Department of Finance,” he said.

Haskins retired from UND June 30, 2016. Prior to his separation from the University, he was primarily responsible for teaching undergraduate financial management and banking.

Haskins’ hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed. He received tenure in the Department of Finance and the CoBPA Outstanding Service Award, earned the Outstanding Advisor Award from Mortar Board International, and garnered the Outstanding Paper of the Year Award from ARMA.

Another proud moment came when he was appointed advisor to Dakota Venture Group (DVG), which established an angel capital investment company, developed policies and procedures for operating an angel fund, and provided review and advisory services for participating students.

“The exemplary students selected to work for DVG learned and engaged in angel investing of startup and early-stage private equity companies, from deal flow to due diligence reports to funding proposals,” Haskins explained.

During his career at UND, Haskins has seen a number of changes at the University. Through the years, new majors and minors have been developed in the CoBPA to serve students more effectively. CoBPA has also experienced several reorganizations, some more effective than others, he said.

Though he is retired from UND, Haskins continues to work. He is co-owner and vice president of research and valuations of HCG LLC, a North Dakota private equity firm. HCG LLC offers consulting and services to banks and parties requesting financial research and valuations.

Haskins’ wife, Susan, is president and CEO of HCG LLC. She is a strategic and operational consultant to bank boards of directors and owners. The Haskins have one son, Jason, who earned his B.B.A. and MBA, both with honors, from UND. His wife, Bonnie, earned a bachelor’s degree in atmospheric sciences, with honors, from UND. They have three children: Alexander, Logan, and Gabriel.

M. BRUCE HELGERUD
Financial Aid Administrator, Student Financial Aid

At the University of North Dakota, M. Bruce Helgerud earned a reputation as a student-oriented problem solver in Student Financial Aid. He really enjoyed working with students and found it rewarding to be able to help them.

“They were my main focus,” he said.

Through the years, Helgerud received several awards and honors for his hard work and dedication to students. These included awards from TRIO Programs, the American Indian Center, and from a group working on one of the North Dakota reservations. From the Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators he was awarded the Ron Smoot Award for Teaching and Mentoring. He also served on the RMASFAA governing board for two years and on other committees for them as well. In addition, he received recognition from the North Dakota Association of State Financial Aid Administrators for his service: one for 25 years of service to the organization and a President’s Award, given to him by NDASFAA’s president. He served as the organization’s president for two years as well.

Born in Minot, Helgerud grew up in Harvey, N.D. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree, an Army ROTC commission, and a secondary education certification all through UND.

After graduating from college, Helgerud went on active duty. He served two tours overseas — in Vietnam and Germany — and he remained in the Army Reserves until his retirement from the service. He retired as a lieutenant colonel after 28 years in the Army.

Helgerud was hired at UND in 1974 as assistant to the director in Student Financial Aid. When he first started, he was in charge of short-term loans and processing Federal Insured Loans. When he retired June 30, 2016, he was a student financial aid administrator. He had a wide range of duties during his service to the University of North Dakota and its students, including counseling and advising students, monitoring and reviewing federal regulations, and making recommendations related to compliance issues. He worked with issues involving graduate students, public assistance forms, the Canadian Assistance Program, Study Abroad and repeated coursework monitoring as well as processing special population budget appeals. He served as a liaison for the American Indian Programs, the Law School, the military veterans program, vocational rehabilitation, and teaching certification.

Through the years, Helgerud saw a number of changes in his department. When he first started, everything was done on paper. The move to computerized files was a big change. One almost constant source of change was new federal regulations. Changes in federal regulations often increased the workload in the Financial Aid Office, sometimes tremendously.
Helgerud served on a number of committees during his career. He sat on the committee for the Cultural Diversity Waiver for the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. He worked with dean of the Law School on their cultural diversity committee and did the same with the Graduate School.

While working in Financial Aid, Helgerud met people at the federal, state, professional and local level. He appreciated being able to meet and work with such interesting and talented people.

Now that he's retired, Helgerud hopes to have more time for traveling, fishing, and the grandchildren. His wife, Judy, earned a nursing degree at UND and is also retired. The Helgeruds' son, Mike, is a geophysicist for ExxonMobil. Mike's wife, Ruth, teaches at the high school and college levels. They live in The Woodlands, Texas, and have three children: Erica, Jessica, and Sarah.

SALLY HORNER
Senior Grants and Contracts Officer,
Grants and Contracts Administration

No matter where she worked, Sally Horner always took customer service very seriously.

"Every office I worked in always stressed the importance of customer service and that the 'Twamley shuffle' should end at your desk," she said. "I always tried to be a valued resource to people, and if I didn't know the answer, I'd admit it, find the answer, and get back to the individual as quickly as possible."

Originally from Courtenay, N.D., Horner earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Jamestown College. She also has taken some accounting classes through the years.

Before coming to UND, Horner was a physical education and biology teacher at Edmore Public Schools and Williston High School. She made the move to UND in 1975, working as a clerk in Financial Aid. Two years later, she was named supervisor of loan payments in the Business Office. In 1981, she became a grants and contracts officer in Grants and Contracts Administration.

Around 2006, Horner was promoted to senior grants and contracts officer, a position she held until her retirement June 30, 2016. Among her responsibilities was assisting faculty and staff principal investigators with the financial aspects of their sponsored programs, including assistance with budget preparation at the proposal stage, questions regarding allowableness of costs, and preparation of required financial reports to sponsoring agency.

Through the years, Horner saw a number of changes at UND. One of the biggest involved technology.

"When I started at UND, we filled out updates on pieces of paper and it was sent over to the Computer Center for input," she said. "Next came CRT tubes and finally computers."

Student enrollment was a huge change, too. While Horner was at UND, the student population grew from slightly over 6,000 to nearly 15,000 students today.

While at UND, Horner served on a variety of committees, including the Policy and Procedure Committee and the Summer Events and Program Committee. In addition, she served on the Staff Senate. She also was honored with a Trio Award.

Horner sees life as an adventure and plans to enjoy every minute of her retirement. Her husband, Robert (Bob), is a retired ironworker and boilermaker. They have two adult children, Bobbi and Brian.

LINDA HURST-TORGERSON
Program Manager for Finance and Human Resources,
Human Nutrition Research Center

Though she retired June 30, 2016, the University of North Dakota will always be a part of who Linda Hurst-Torgerson is.

"UND has been good to me, and it's been good for me," she said. "Over the years, beginning with the Tom Clifford/Alice T. Clark years, I have been afforded many opportunities to work with some awesome colleagues in administration, other staff, faculty members, and students."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1910
UND’s fees were $12.50 per semester, with an additional $5 in the schools of law, medicine and engineering. The “cane rush,” something of a controlled, supervised free-for-all, was organized to help cool down freshman-sophomore class rivalries. For the first time, faculty marched in cap and gown for commencement.

1912
A crowd of 250 people came to the campus on a cold winter night to witness wireless communication in Morse Code with the town of Grafton, 40 miles to the north.

1914
Solveig Sigrid Gislason became the first woman to graduate from UND’s School of Medicine.

1915
A short course in embalming was started but proved to be unsuccessful. Its connection to the School of Medicine was a source of discomfort.

1918
The great influenza epidemic in October killed 29 Student Army Training Corps trainees on campus and closed the University for the remainder of the year.

1919
The president's horses and carriage were sold and replaced with a Dodge automobile.

1920
Trains stopped at UND's depot six times a day to take students to various destinations, including Fargo for football games.

1924
The upper floors of the Main Building were removed to prevent its possible collapse. A one-story barracks building, quickly dubbed the "cow barn," was erected to provide emergency classroom space. Flickertail Follies, the campus variety show, began.
Originally from East Grand Forks, Hurst-Torgerson worked four different jobs at UND in the span of 35 years. Linda began her tenure at UND in 1981 as an administrative assistant to the dean of the College of Nursing. She managed the college budgets, supervised a staff of 12 people, served as the college’s safety coordinator, building manager, and treasurer for its faculty development committee; and handled a wide range of other responsibilities.

From 1984 to 2004, Hurst-Torgerson served as the administrative officer for UND’s Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. In May 1998, she was awarded her Bachelor of Accountancy degree from UND summa cum laude. In 1997, she received the Bernt Anderson Memorial Scholarship for Women in Accountancy. She is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma and Beta Alpha Psi.

Hurst-Torgerson spent the last part of her career as the program manager for finance and human resources at the Human Nutrition Research Center. She oversaw the human resource needs of UND employees in the federal facility. She also directed the fiscal operation of agreements between UND and the center’s federal sponsor, and prepared reports and documents related to those agreements. In addition, she was engaged in UND strategic planning and annual reporting for the center.

In addition to her program manager responsibilities, Hurst-Torgerson was also designated as interim director of the UND Research Foundation for 3½ years. During her tenure, she served as the search coordinator for several UND administrative search committees for deans of Engineering and Mines, Aerospace, Law (two searches), VP and Dean of the School of Medicine, and the presidential search committee culminating in the appointment of President Robert Kelley.

100 YEARS AGO: 1917

ATHLETIC COLORS

At a meeting of the A.B.C. [Athletic Board of Control] Jan. 4, 1917, the orange and black colors, which for some years had been the colors of University athletic teams, were officially discarded for green by board edict. At the Jan. 31, 1917, meeting, the A.B.C. decreed that an emerald-type green and white would now harmonize colors, except that track uniforms would continue as pink and green. The board decreed the official color was defined as No. 50X Hawk on the American Felt Company Card. No. 1. Football colors up to that time had been a mish-mash, but in recent games had been black with gold letters. Green jerseys would have to be purchased for football. Basketball uniforms had been emerald green before the board action unifying team colors.

— A Century of UND Sports: An Athletic History of the University of North Dakota, written and researched by Lee Bohnet

UND’s basketball team was undefeated at home en route to an 8-1 season record for the 1916-17 season.

Prior to starting her UND career, Hurst-Torgerson worked for 12 years as a legal assistant for the Robert A. Alphson Law firm in Grand Forks. And though she’s retiring, Hurst-Torgerson won’t remain idle. Years ago, she developed an interest in child custody matters and achieved certification as a parenting investigator and parenting coordinator for the state of North Dakota. She’s been taking on clients at her own pace in retirement.

She also likes to cook and plans to put together her own cookbook of recipes she’s collected over the years. She’s always been a Bible reader and is doing more of that as well. It’s like meditation for her. “I’m really enjoying that,” she said.

She’s also started playing piano again (just for her own ears for now). She reads a lot and enjoys working in her yard, especially with her cherry, apple, and pear trees.

Hurst-Torgerson and her husband, Jeff Torgerson, plan to remain in Grand Forks. Their family includes Jayson Hurst; Jeremy Hurst and his wife, Jennifer; Linsey Calkins and her husband, Casey; and Ethan Torgerson. They also have six grandchildren, Austin Hurst, Kaleb Lynch, Daniel Hurst, Tyler Hurst, Elliot Calkins, and Alexander Calkins.

LAUREL JOHNSON
Instructor/Advisor, TRIO Programs

When Laurel Johnson came to work with TRIO Programs at the University of North Dakota, she really found a home away from home.

“I really miss UND,” she said. “I loved working at UND, and I hated to leave.”

Johnson grew up in Grygla, Minn., but graduated from Oak Grove High School in Fargo. She went on to Moorhead State University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in art, K-12.

For two years, Johnson was an art teacher in Australia. She came back to the States and taught in Oslo, Minn. When the Oslo School District combined with Alvarado to form Valley North, Johnson stayed. But in 1994, the school closed.

Johnson decided to go back to school. She went to Northland Community and Technical College in East Grand Forks for a respiratory therapy degree. She worked in the medical field for several years but found the schedule was difficult with a young family. She kept her eyes open for other opportunities and saw an opening in TRIO Programs advertised in the paper. The job was in the area of Talent Search, and Johnson proved to be a perfect fit. For 16 years, she went to high schools in the area and worked with students. She retired June 15, 2016.

“I really loved it, so I thought, why change?” she said. “I wish I had two lifetimes. I’d still be working there!”

Johnson worked with students in grades six through 12. She helped them in many ways, from getting them excited about going to college to helping boost their self-esteem. She also worked with career education and computer work—searching careers and colleges. She even took students on college visits.

“It was a lot of fun,” she said.

Through the years, Johnson served on a lot of committees. Among them were a UND scholarship committee, a financial aid committee, and a wellness committee within TRIO.

“I took part in whatever I could,” she said.

She also helped students find resources to make college a reality for them. “I did a lot of work helping kids get into college, whatever that entailed,” she said.

Johnson’s hard work didn’t go unnoticed or unappreciated. She still hears from a lot of the people she helped through the years.

While she misses UND and would love to find a part-time job at the University, Johnson is keeping busy. She joined a gym and is planning a trip with some of her relatives to Hawaii. Shé like to go back to Australia, too. She also loves spending time with her family, particularly her grandchildren.

Johnson’s husband, Ray, retired from the Grand Forks Police Department. He now drives cars for Dahlstrom Motors in Oslo, Minn. The Johnsons have two sons. Steve lives in Mexico and works with the videogame Company, Xibalba Studios. Scott works at the Ralph Engelstad Arena, and his wife, Marisa, works at Amazon.com. They have three children: Caden, Carly, and Maxwell.
LUANN JOHNSON  
Statistician, Human Nutrition Research Center

LuAnn Johnson never thought she'd work at the University of North Dakota for four decades. But she really enjoyed the work she did at the Human Nutrition Research Center (HNRC).

“It was really interesting,” she said. “I got to work with all the scientists. I had a great crew that I worked with.”

Johnson grew up on a farm near Warren, Minn. After graduating from high school in Warren, she earned bachelor’s degrees in math and computer science from UND. Shortly afterward, she got a job at UND. She first worked at the Engineering Experiment Station, where she was employed for a few months.

Then, in January 1976, she moved on to the HNRC. At the HNRC, she worked as a computer programmer for a biostatistician. Eventually, he went back to med school, and Johnson earned a master’s degree in math with an emphasis in statistics at UND while still working at the HNRC. After earning her master’s degree, Johnson took over his job as a statistician and managed the IT Department. She was there until she retired Jan. 6, 2017.

“So, 41 years later,” she said with a laugh.

Johnson was involved in studies at the HNRC from beginning to end. “I worked with the scientists, helping them plan their studies from the statistical aspect, making sure the design was right to answer their research question, making sure they had the right number of people or animals in their study,” she explained.

“Then, when they were done, I did a lot of the data analysis, statistically, analyzing the data and helping them write their papers and interpret the data.”

Through the years, Johnson earned awards and honors. Among the awards was the Meritorious Service Award. She’s also been recognized for specific work she did.

“One of the papers that I worked on with a scientist ended up being heavily cited in setting the DRI for calcium,” she said. “That was exciting.”

As one might expect over so long a career, Johnson saw many changes. When she first started at the HNRC, they had to use the Computer Center at UND because there were no such things as PCs. In time, they got their own mainframe at the lab. She said she remembers when they stored data on magnetic tapes. These days, most young people don’t even know what magnetic tapes are, she said.

What the HNRC studies has changed as well. At first they worked on trace minerals, such as zinc and copper. Now they are studying obesity and the related health effects.

Johnson has been involved in local and international associations too. The American Statistical Association used to have a local chapter; she was very active in it and got an award for chapter service. She also has been involved in the International Biometrics Society. She even served as a program chair for one of its regional meetings.

In her free time, Johnson enjoys a variety of hobbies, including photography and quilting. She also likes traveling. She and her husband, Robin, also own a home near Palm Springs, Calif.

Robin continues to farm with their son, Tony. Tony’s wife, Lindsey, is a third-grade teacher in Thief River Falls, Minn. Tony and Lindsey have one son, Easton. LuAnn and Robin also have a daughter, Jessie. Jessie is an athletic trainer and is going to graduate school at Pitt. She is married to Adam Joseph, who works at the Walmart Distribution facilities in Pittsburgh.

RALPH JOHNSON  
Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering

As an assistant professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department, Ralph Johnson said his favorite part of the job was the joy of watching students grow during their time at the University.

Born in Grafton, N.D., Johnson attended the University of Idaho, where he earned a degree in chemistry. He went to Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., where he completed his master’s degree in mechanical engineering.

Johnson served in the Navy for 20 and was getting ready to retire when he was offered a job at UND. With family still in the area, he decided it was a good move. In August 1988, he began working as an assistant professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department.

He left the University for four or five years in the early 1990s but returned to his position, retiring at the end of 2016 spring semester.

Johnson has many fond memories of his time with the University. He earned an award from the Native American community for work he did with them. He also enjoyed the senior design program and being involved in the Engineering Expo.

In addition, Johnson worked with many small manufacturers in North Dakota and Minnesota, involving students in helping to solve the manufacturers’ problems. The experience was valuable for the manufacturers that needed help, and it also gave students real-world experience.

Now that he's retired, Johnson plans to do more fishing.

Johnson and his wife, Linda Marie, have been married 45 years. Linda retired after working at the Goose River Bank in Hillsboro, N.D. They have two children. Their son, Shane, went to UND and works as a lab tech in the Chemistry Department here. His wife, Lindsay, is a manager at Alerus Financial. They have one son, Corbin. The Johnsons’ daughter, Tami, went to UND and is a computer consultant in New York.

DOROTHY KEYSER  
Associate Professor of Music

It was a long and winding road that brought Dorothy Keyser to the University of North Dakota. But maybe that’s why, when her interview was postponed by the flood of 1997, she wasn’t afraid to give UND a chance.

Keyser’s father was in the Army, so the family moved a lot. They lived in Colorado, Kentucky, and even Germany for three years.

“We were all over,” Keyser said. “I grew up in the Army.”

She considers El Paso, Texas, home because that’s where her father, Maj. Harold William Keyser, retired to and where she graduated from high school.

She went on to the University of Texas at El Paso for her first stint in college. There she earned a bachelor’s degree in theater arts.

Keyser completed a master’s degree in theater (playwriting) at Southern Illinois-Carbondale. She moved to Chicago with a friend and got a job at DePaul University. Keyser worked for the chair of Performance Studies in the Music Department. When he left, he put Keyser in charge of the opera workshop because of her theater background.

“I just had the best time,” she said.

Wanting to do more of that kind of work, Keyser realized she would need another degree. She went to Northern Illinois University, where she finished a combined degree in voice performance and opera production.

After moving back to Chicago, Keyser worked as a freelance singer and at the Chicago American Dietetic Society. She moved on to employment at a college in Oklahoma for a couple of years in music and theater. Unfortunately, the politics going on behind the scenes made life miserable for Keyser.

Deciding she wanted to rise to the next level, Keyser went to the University of North Texas for her Ph.D. in musicology, the academic side of music.

Through the years, Keyser had struck up a friendship with Donna Mayer-Martin, a faculty member at Southern Methodist University. Not only did Mayer-Martin convince Keyser to come teach a class at SMU, they worked on a book together, The Thematic Catalogue of Troubadour and Trouvere Melody. Keyser finished the book and got it published after Mayer-Martin passed away.

Teaching the class at SMU proved to be a turning point for Keyser. “I did that, and that was very satisfying,” she said. “I enjoyed working with the students.”

So, in 1997, Keyser sent out résumés, including one to UND. However, prior to a scheduled interview at UND, Keyser got a call from the University telling her the whole community was underwater. Keyser’s friends warned her about the situation, but when the interview was rescheduled, Keyser had no trepidation. She came to Grand Forks for the interview and discovered the Music Department was made up of really nice people. She was offered a job as assistant professor, and she accepted.
1926
The Alumni Review is published for the first time. Radio broadcasts of basketball games began on the University's station, KFJM.

1929
Construction of Memorial Stadium was completed in time for Homecoming.

1930
Glen "Red" Jarrett was named to the All-America football team. Considerable student agitation resulted in adoption of the Sioux as a symbol for UND athletic teams, replacing Flickertails.

1933
Symbolic of the hard times across the nation, Camp Depression was established. Converted railroad cabooses were set up on campus to provide housing for 46 students, who paid rent by working for the University for four hours a week.

1936
Star football player Fritz Pollard became the first UND athlete to place on the U.S. Olympic team, winning the bronze medal in the high hurdles in Berlin, Germany.

1937
President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the campus on Oct. 4.

1941
It was reported that UND women spent approximately $105 a year on clothing; men spent about $75.

1942
World War II transformed the campus into a virtual military base, providing training to thousands of service men and women.

Through the years, the number of students in the department grew. Keyser taught a variety of classes for undergraduate and graduate students and taught graduate seminars. "It felt like I was the switch-hitter," she said with a laugh.

Keyser said she stayed with the department because she appreciated working with good people. She also earned awards and promotions. Among the honors she earned was an Excellence in Teaching Award. When Keyser retired in May 2016, she was an associate professor.

In her free time, Keyser enjoys sewing, reading, and collecting dolls.

Her father died about 10 years ago, and her mother, Mildred Baker Keyser, has passed away as well. Her brother, Fredrick William Keyser, passed away a couple of years ago. Fred's wife, Kate, survives. Keyser has two nieces, each of whom has three children.

DEBORAH LINDGREN
Journey Electrician, Facilities Management

Deborah Lindgren found opportunities at the University of North Dakota that she never expected. But each opportunity turned out to be a good fit, and she really enjoyed working here.

Lindgren grew up in East Grand Forks and went to the AVTI, where she earned a two-year business degree. Before coming to work at UND, Lindgren had a variety of jobs. For about eight years, she had a gift shop called The Primrose in the South Forks Plaza in Grand Forks. She also ran her father's business, Dakota Film & Express in Grand Forks, for two years while he was ill.

From age 17 until she was employed at UND, she also worked with her mother when she had time in the summer months. Her mother had a painting and wallpapering business.

After Lindgren's father passed away, she was approached by a neighbor who happened to be the head of the Paint Department at UND. "He asked me if I wanted to come out and work for the summer," she recalled.

Lindgren welcomed the opportunity and took a five-month temporary position in the Paint Department in 1990. Her boss told her she might be able to get on full time if they liked her work, but at the end of five months, there wasn't an opening. So, Lindgren had to take off a month in order to start another five-month temporary position in the department. During that stint, a full-time position did open up, and Lindgren got it. For the next four years, she was employed in the Paint Department, mostly working in academic buildings.

Unfortunately Lindgren developed a disease that painting fumes made worse. Her doctor suggested she try to find a different job. But by that time, Lindgren had earned a reputation as a good employee. The head of the Electrical Department let her know that two apprentice electrician positions were going to be opening up, and she should try to hang on with the Paint Department until then.

"So I stayed until those positions opened up, and I applied for it," she said. Lindgren and another painter, Myron Scott, got the jobs in 1994. Lindgren worked under a journeyman for four years. UND also sent her to some training courses. "Then I wrote my test and got my own license," she said.

Lindgren is happy she looked into the opportunity to come to UND. "I've enjoyed working for the University," she said. "They've been good.

Many memories stick in her mind from her employment at UND. One of those memories involves working for President Kendall Baker and his wife. When Lindgren was transitioning from the Paint Shop to the Electrical Shop, she worked in the Bakers' home as a painter. Shortly after they moved in, Lindgren moved to the Electrical Shop and did more work for the Bakers. The first lady liked everything white and clean, and she wanted all the home's switches and outlets replaced with white ones. Lindgren and the rest of the electrical team accomplished that task for her.

"They were very nice people," Lindgren recalled. "I still get Christmas cards from them."

Lindgren also has vivid memories of working during the 1997 flood. Her crew had to man pumps and sandbag around switches and transformers.

"It was kind of 24-7 for a long time," she remembers. "It was kind of surreal. It was almost like a war zone."

Like many people from the University, Lindgren stayed in the Thompson area during the flood. She recalls that it took a long time to fix all the damage the flood caused, but they were able to get things ready for students by the time summer school started.
Through the years, Lindgren served the University in a number of other ways as well. She was on the asbestos abatement and lead removal teams. She was a member of the Staff Senate for four years. She also served on employee committees too, once as a painter and once as an electrician.

Lindgren plans to retire May 1, 2017. In retirement, she hopes to do some travelling. She also loves to golf and go to the lake. In addition, she collects vintage snowmobiles and vintage clothing. She recently was part of the sixth annual snowmobile show in East Grand Forks. One hundred thirteen sleds were showcased this year. All of the money raised during the event goes to cancer research. Lindgren also is working on donating her 12th gallon of blood.

**SUSAN LOGAN NELSON**
Professor of Finance

After Susan Logan Nelson earned her undergraduate degree in accounting, she worked in the field for a couple of years and discovered it wasn't something she wanted to do for the rest of her life. She talked to a friend from her undergraduate days, and he asked what classes she really enjoyed as a student. The answer to that question would change her life.

Originally from Henderson, Ky., Logan Nelson went to the University of Kentucky, as had both of her parents, for her undergraduate degree in accounting. After graduation, she packed everything she had in her car and drove to Atlanta, Ga. She worked in accounting for about two years before the talk with her friend made her realize her passion was really in marketing. So, she went to Georgia State University in Atlanta and earned her MBA with a major in marketing.

As Logan Nelson was nearing completion of her MBA, one of the faculty members asked her if she'd ever thought about getting a Ph.D. She hadn't, but the seed was planted. Logan Nelson continued on to get a Ph.D. in marketing at Georgia State. She also met her future husband, Theron, in one of her classes. He was working on his Ph.D. in real estate, and he had a background in urban planning.

The couple looked for jobs in a midsize university while completing their dissertations. They ended up at Western Kentucky University, about two hours from where she grew up. They stayed four years before deciding to move on. One of their interviews was with the College of Business and Public Administration (CoBPA) at UND, and that seemed to be a good fit for all.

“We said, OK, we'll give it a couple of years and see how it goes,” Logan Nelson said. “If it doesn’t work out, at least we’ll have North Dakota stories to tell.”

That was 1983. Logan Nelson retired from UND June 30, 2016. Logan Nelson was first hired as an assistant professor of marketing and was promoted to associate professor in 1988. In 1996, she was promoted to professor.

When the chair of the Marketing Department decided to step down in 1986, the other faculty in the department asked Logan Nelson if she’d be interested in being chairperson. After talking with her husband and ensuring they were going to stay at UND, Logan Nelson accepted the role as department chair effective fall 1987 — and made history in the process.

“I was actually the first female chair of a department in the College of Business and Public Administration,” she said.

When a new dean came onboard, a four-year experiment with divisions began, and Marketing was combined with three other departments. She stepped away from being an administrator for three years, but in the fourth year, Logan Nelson was chosen as division director. All the while, she was hoping the divisions would break into departments again, and that happened a year later. Logan Nelson again served as the Marketing Department chair from 2001 until 2003. She was selected as the MBA director in 2004 and served in that role for almost three years.

One of Logan Nelson’s passions has been trying to get a sport business major going at UND. She began in the late 1990s and designed the original course on campus in sport marketing. She served as the Sport Business director and coordinator from 2003 until her retirement. Through the years, she ran into a number of roadblocks, but she did get sport business approved as a minor and remains hopeful that one day it will really take off.

During her career, Logan Nelson engaged in numerous research projects and service commitments in addition to her administrative duties. She earned the CoBPA Meritorious Teaching, Research, and Service Award for 1999-2000. “I liked being selected by my peers,” she said. “That meant a lot to me.”

Logan Nelson is proud of her committee and board service over the years. Of particular note are her service to the UND Intercollegiate Athletic Committee, the YMCA Board of Directors, the Dakota Science Center Board of Directors, and the Marketing Services Partnership for the Arts and Cultural Organizations Advisory Council. She also served on the design development team and was the marketing liaison for the CoBPA Page Family Marketing Center.

However, she most enjoyed working with her husband, Theron, who passed away in 2006. He chaired the Finance Department for many years and was one of the founders of the American Real Estate Society (ARES). The couple did most of their academic research together, which involved taking marketing concepts and applications and applying them to real estate. Some of these publications earned manuscript prizes and are on Ph.D. reading lists worldwide.

Logan Nelson became active in ARES as well. She served as the newsletter editor and was a member of the board of directors. She also served on several panels during ARES annual meetings. Logan Nelson received the 2007 Distinguished Service Award from ARES in recognition of contributions to the growth and development of the organization and mentoring new members, particularly young women.

Logan Nelson is still getting used to retirement, but now that she has more free time, she hopes to get into nature photography. She also enjoys spending time with her cats and dogs.

Logan Nelson has two grown children. Erik is a graduate of Harvey Mudd College (Claremont, Calif.) in computer science. He lives in Culver City, Calif., and works as a software developer for Gravity.com in Santa Monica. Alex, a graduate of UND in air traffic control, lives in Minneapolis and works as a supervisor at the FAA Air Route Traffic Control Center in Farmington, Minn. His wife, Tricia, is working on her master’s degree in social work at the University of Minnesota.

**GLORIA MATEJCEK**
Accommodations Coordinator, Disability Services for Students

Gloria Matejcek retired from the University of North Dakota as accommodations coordinator with Disability Services, but she is still keeping busy with family and a whole host of other activities. “I am a Young Living Member and love talking about essential oils,” she said. “I also am a Reiki Master and Access Bars practitioner.”

A native of Drayton, N.D., Matejcek went to Aaker’s Business College. She started working at Disability Services at UND in the fall of 1997.

“I loved working with the students,” she said.

Before she retired in June 2016, Matejcek was a clerical clerk with many responsibilities, including filing, answering phones, and entering data into Imogen. She also arranged the accommodations for testing — getting tests from professors and scheduling rooms — as well as for notes and audio books.

In retirement, Matejcek plans to do some traveling. She also loves spending time with her family. “I have three children — two boys and a girl — one daughter-in-law and one son-in-law, and four grandchildren,” she said. “I am a granny nanny to my twin grandsons who will be 2 in February.”

**DELAINE MCGURRAN**
Administrative Assistant, University Children’s Learning Center

DeLaine McGurran loved working with children. She loved their smiles, giggles, and hugs. She also learned a lot from the youngsters and their families at the University Children’s Learning Center. Children there not only came from North Dakota but also other states and countries.

“I really enjoyed the diversity,” McGurran said, “especially since I came from a small town.”

Originally from the Warsaw-Minto, N.D., area, McGurran graduated from high school in Minto. She went on to the University of North Dakota. In August 1977, she earned a bachelor’s degree in social work with a minor in the early childcare specialist concentration.
Just a few months later, McGurran began working as a part-time afternoon preschool teacher at what was then known as the University Children’s Center — now the University Children’s Learning Center.

Over time, McGurran progressed to become full-time teacher, which was half her job. The other half she served as a secretary at the center.

Several years later, one of the center’s directors left, and McGurran became a summer program manager. She eventually went back to being a part-time teacher but was tapped to serve as interim director when the center began looking for another director.

For the last 27 years, McGurran was an administrative assistant at the center, but she still taught when needed. “I worked as a substitute teacher also, because the children knew me,” she said. “I wasn’t a strange face. I was a grandma figure.”

McGurran had a variety of responsibilities, including enrolling children, making sure the staff/child ratio was correct in accordance with licensing standards, dealing with billing, and working with USDA’s food program to plan menus. She also worked with statistical information, keeping track of everything from the ages and races of the children to how many students, faculty, staff, and community members were served by the center.

“It was a plethora of jobs,” McGurran explained.

She retired June 30, 2016. During her career, she worked under five directors, and she appreciated each one. “I always have valued their expertise and knowledge in the field of early childhood education and doing what is best for young children,” she said.

While at the center, McGurran saw many changes. She was there when the center moved from an old basement in a residence hall to its newly built facility in 1995. “That was an exciting time,” she said.

There also have been changes in the center’s clientele. The center serves children ages 18 months to kindergarten. It used to have a regular school-aged program for those 6 to 12 years old, but now that program only runs during the summer months.

But the amazing reputation the center has built hasn’t changed. “We’ve had people from towns that were at least an hour and a half away, just because they heard so much about our center and wanted their children to learn through play, which is what we believe in. Because play is the child’s work,” McGurran said.

McGurran built quite an amazing reputation for herself as well. She earned a Meritorious Service Award and was voted Phenomenal Woman through the University Diversity Committee. She worked on the Early Childhood Committee, chaired and co-chaired various committees, served on the Immunization Coalition, and worked on the advisory council for the Foster Grandparent Program.

In her free time, McGurran enjoys cooking and baking, shopping, and traveling. She’s begun volunteering in her retirement as well, approving absentee ballots in the last election.

McGurran’s husband, David, is a retired journeyman plumber who also served in the Navy.

LINDA OLSON
Director of Program Development and Associate Professor, Office of Medical Education, School of Medicine and Health Sciences

When Linda Olson was getting her Ph.D. in education at the University of North Dakota, her graduate advisor suggested she call the dean at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Olson took her advisor’s advice and talked to the dean. After about two hours, he offered Olson a job at the Medical School.

“I didn’t know I was at a job interview,” Olson said. “I was the first person with an education background to be hired at the Medical School and that was to help develop the curriculum there.”

Originally from Rolla, N.D., Olson got all of her degrees at UND. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education in 1979. Two years later, she completed her Master of Science degree in special education.

From 1983 until 1989, Olson was a classroom teacher for preschool, multi-handicapped children for Griggs Steele Trail Counties Special Education in Mayville, N.D. She moved on to work as a project administrator in the North Dakota Early Childhood Tracking System for the State Department of Public Instruction in Bismarck from 1989 until 1996. In 1996, Olson also finished her Ph.D. in education.

After earning her doctorate, Olson was hired as an assistant professor in Community Medicine. She also served as director of the Office of Medical Education. In 2005, she was promoted to associate professor of family and community medicine and director of program development for the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She continued in those capacities until her retirement in July 2016.

“I loved my work,” she said. “I really did!”

Through the years, Olson made substantial improvements in administrative procedures, curriculum, and support for teaching and medical education research.

“In addition to facilitating small group learning, I served as an educational leader, helping the faculty to recognize and appreciate the social, organizational, and cultural dynamics of learning and teaching across the range of formal and informal settings, including the University and professional clinical settings,” Olson explained. “The focus of my research and teaching publications and presentations have been on achieving those changes needed in teachers, learners, healthcare providers, and/or institutions for producing healthcare professionals who are effective at helping their patients adopt and sustain healthy behaviors.”

In addition, Olson helped start the Norwegian Exchange Program for medical students in 2001. She helped facilitate the exchange of nine UND medical students who took a senior elective at NTNU in Trondheim, Norway, and four UND INMED students who participated in an elective in Tromso, Norway’s medical school Sami program. She also coordinated the exchange of 25 NTNU students and 12 Tromso students who studied at UND’s Medical School for six months at a time. In the spring of 2011, Olson coordinated the visit to UND’s med school for the deans and their delegates from NTNU and Tromso.

“This project has been very rewarding in that I have been able to learn firsthand about the similarities and differences in our medical education and healthcare systems as well as being a personal mentor to the foreign students,” Olson said.

Olson also was asked to write a grant regarding bioterrorism. UND’s Medical School ended up being one of just 13 medical schools nationwide to receive the grant.

“The purpose of the project was to strengthen the professional practice of health and human service practitioners, researchers, and educators about bioterrorism and disaster preparedness through a variety of instructional formats,” Olson explained. “The initial funding for BORDERS Alert and Ready was provided by a federally funded grant from the Department of Health and Human Services Program, October 2003 through September 2006.”

The total award was more than $2 million. After that, BORDERS Alert and Ready was awarded a Department of Defense contract totaling more than $460,000.

In her free time, Olson likes to travel, do crafts, and read. She enjoys volunteering as well. Olson is continuing at the Medical School as part-time teacher and also performs as a standardized patient.

Olson’s husband, Jon, retired from farming. Their daughter Tara is a journalist, and her husband, Jim DeBoer, is a product representative for Medtronics. Both went to UND and now live in Lino Lakes, Minn., with their children, Sarah, a student at the University of Minnesota, Emily, a freshman at UND, and Katie, who is in high school. The Olson’s daughter Randi is director of credit services at Alerus Financial and also went to UND. Her husband, Kevin Adams, is a farmer in Reynolds, and their daughter, Samantha, is in high school.

THOMAS O’NEIL
Associate Professor of Computer Science

Since coming to the University of North Dakota in August 1986, Tom O’Neil has proven himself a leader in the Computer Science Department.

He was first hired at UND as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in August 1995. But already in August 1988, O’Neil was named the department’s director of graduate study. He served as director for three years and again from August 1996 to January 1998.

In August 1992, O’Neil served as the undergraduate director in computer science, a position he continued until August 1995. He served a second stint as undergraduate director from August 2008 until June 2015.
O’Neil also served as chair of the Computer Science Department more than a decade, from January 1998 through August 2008. A native of the Midwest, O’Neil earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1970. He completed a Bachelor of Science degree in 1978 and a Master of Science degree three years later, both in computer science from Iowa State University. He finished his Ph.D. in computer science at Iowa State in 1985.

Before coming to UND, O’Neil worked as a teaching assistant, a temporary instructor, and a temporary assistant professor, all in computer science at Iowa State.

Through the years, O’Neil has given a number of speeches and presentations and earned numerous grants and gifts. He’s also done a variety of programming and consulting and been involved in several professional organizations as well as serving on a long list of committees, many as chair. In addition to the multitude of graduate and undergraduate classes he’s taught at UND, he also has supervised many master’s degree students and published 38 papers, including 12 articles in fully refereed conference proceedings and journals.

O’Neil’s hard work and dedication to his students has not gone unrecognized. In 2012, he garnered the Outstanding Student Organization Advisor Award. On two other occasions, he was nominated for the Outstanding Faculty Award, and in 1990, he was nominated for a UND Student Government Faculty Advisor Award.

O’Neil is married and has four children.

ALAN PALMER
Director of Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Department of Aviation

Al Palmer can trace his aviation career back about 45 years. He began his career in May 1972 when he joined the United States Air Force. That’s eventually what would bring him to Grand Forks.

“I always wanted to fly airplanes, and I got stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base," he said. “I had a re-enlistment bonus, and my wife and I were at the intersection of Airport Road and Highway 2 going out to the base, and I saw those planes overhead. I said, ‘I’m going to take my 900 bucks and learn how to fly.’ That was in 1976. I had to work during the daytime, so I took the night class, and John Odegard was the professor of that class.

“I’ve had the opportunity at Aerospace to do a lot of neat things because of John Odegard and others.”

After earning his private license, Palmer used the GI Bill to get his commercial license. He got his instructor’s ratings in 1978. He also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical studies from UND and is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Air War College.

Palmer joined the Air Force in May 1972. He left active duty in June 1981 to join UND Aerospace full time. He didn’t leave the military entirely, though. In July 1981, he joined the North Dakota Air Guard. In May 2010, he retired as the chief of staff for the North Dakota Air National Guard with the rank of brigadier general.

“It worked out very well for me,” he said.

Palmer began working at UND Aerospace in July 1978 as a line flight instructor. Through the years, he was promoted, eventually rising to the position of director of flight operations. In this position, he was responsible for one of the largest flight training operations in the United States, flying in excess of 100,000 flight training hours per year.

Before retiring from UND in August 2016, Palmer was director of the UAS Center for Education, Research, and Training. He also led the governor’s Airspace Integration Team, which resulted in North Dakota’s selection as one of six UAS test sites designated by the Federal Aviation Administration in 2013.

“We went to the Pentagon a lot and gave what I call ‘The Puzzle Brief,’” Palmer said. “North Dakota has all the pieces of the puzzle for unmanned aircraft.”

Palmer has more than 38 years of academic and flight training experience. He has accumulated more than 9,700 hours of flying time. More than 5,900 of those hours were spent as an instructor pilot. He was a designated pilot examiner for private, commercial, instrument, certified flight instructor, AMEL, ATP, BE-1900, and BE-400 for nearly three decades. He holds type ratings in six aircraft.

“I’ve been blessed with a great career,” Palmer said. “I did everything I wanted to do in aviation except go in space.”

Even in retirement, Palmer continues to serve the larger community. He co-chairs the Grand Forks Military Affairs Committee and is on the Board of Directors for the Northland Rescue Mission and the Veterans Memorial Park Committee. He serves on the Homeless Veterans working group and the governor’s task force for military affairs. In addition, he is a longtime member of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee.

75 YEARS AGO: 1942

WORLD WAR II

Twenty-five years after 1917, the University would again be seriously disrupted by war. Before the Pearl Harbor attack, the draft had caused a gradual decrease in enrollment. Thereafter, regular student enrollment dropped and became mostly women.

War training programs began in 1942. About 900 Army Air Corps glider pilots would train on the campus, along with members of a civilian pilot training ground school and a pre-science course in radio through the Signal Corps. Nearly all faculty would be involved in war training, and their families participated in numerous civilian war efforts.

Intercollegiate athletics continued at UND during the early part of World War II, but were significantly impacted. Across the nation, athletes were among the many students who cut short their studies to enlist in the armed services. Gas and tire rationing impacted both game scheduling and fan attendance. The North Central Conference suspended its rule prohibiting freshmen from playing on varsity teams. Enlistments and the draft had contributed to a labor shortage significantly affecting the harvest of crops. In response, the State Board of Higher Education delayed the starting time for the academic year, and UND delayed football practices and canceled early games. The next year, the North Central Conference suspended all athletic competition for the duration of the war.

World War II would bring tragedy through the loss of life and enormous disruption, but it also created a certain measure of “breathing space” that broke the mood of the Great Depression and temporarily pushed a number of thorny issues into the background.

— Based on material extracted from the history of UND, University of the Northern Plains, by Louis Geiger, and A Century of UND Sports: An Athletic History of the University of North Dakota, written and researched by Lee Bohnet.
In his free time, Palmer enjoys spending time on his farm near Inksler, N.D. He even created a grass runway on the property.

Palmer’s wife, Peggy, retired from Altru in 2011. She had worked in Altru’s Business Office for about 35 years. They have two children. Their daughter, Alison Palmer, and her husband, Shawn Becker, are both aviation graduates at UND. Alison works as an air traffic controller in Minneapolis. Shawn works in quality assurance for Compass and also is in the North Dakota Air National Guard. They have two sons, Ethan and Dylan. The Palmers’ son, Randy, lives in Fargo and is a manager at Domino’s Pizza. In recent months, Palmer has been dealing with some health issues related to when he was in Southeast Asia. He will have kidney transplant soon. Randy is giving his father one of his kidneys.

**LINDA PALMISCNO**
*Medical Office Manager, Health and Wellness*

Linda Palmiscno saw many changes in her career as a radiologic technologist. When she first started, she had to learn darkroom technology because X-rays were wet developed by hand or in a processor. Recent technology in digital imaging made not only the process of developing X-rays easier, but also made them more convenient to access and share with those who need to see them.

Palmiscno grew up in Mahnomen, Minn., and Grand Forks. She graduated from Red River High School in Grand Forks and went on to study radiology at the former medical school, which at the time was St. Michael’s Hospital. The hospital offered a 24-month ARRT-certified program affiliated with the University of Minnesota. “A lot of it was on-the-job-type training,” Palmiscno explained.

Palmiscno earned a diploma as a radiologic technologist in 1972. Before being employed with the University of North Dakota, Palmiscno worked at St. Michael’s Hospital. While in training, students had to be on call — something that wouldn’t be allowed today, she pointed out. After she earned her diploma, she worked mornings at St. Michael’s Hospital and continued to be on call as well.

Palmiscno started working as a radiologic technologist at UND’s Student Health in 1976. She worked full time for about 2½ years. Then she had her third child. When she returned to her job, she and the technologist who filled in for her during her maternity leave shared the job. The arrangement proved to be ideal, and they both worked part time for nearly 23 years. They planned their vacations around each other and made sure one of them was always available to work.

“It was an awesome job share,” Palmiscno said. Remembering back to when she first started with Student Health, Palmiscno also made sure she was available for football games in case of any injuries. She did that for about 10 years.

“My pay was a pair of tickets,” she said with a chuckle. Around 2000, Palmiscno became the office manager at Student Health. By this time, both she and the person she was job sharing with were ready to work full time. So, Palmiscno moved to her new position while the other radiologic technologist took on that job full time. Palmiscno was still able to serve as a backup radiologic technologist when needed.

As office manager, Palmiscno’s duties involved supervising the receptionists, coders, transcriptionists, and insurance personnel; reporting to the director; and being part of the supervisor team that met to discuss issues that came up through the years. The team included the nursing supervisor, medical director, lab, pharmacy, and radiology. In addition, she managed budget, finance, and human resources, and worked with all the contracts and business associate agreements that came through Student Health.

Palmiscno also oversaw the Student Health facility and worked with UND staff to get necessary repairs and remodeling accomplished. One of the biggest projects was the pharmacy. Palmiscno said she was proud that the pharmacy plan she and the pharmacy staff put forth turned out to be very close to what was actually done.

One of the last things Palmiscno did involved getting Student Health Services providers credentialed when NDPERS went to the Sanford health plan, instead of with Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

“I contacted Sanford, and we worked on it for many months,” she said. Palmiscno wanted to make sure that the providers had credentials in the system. She wanted to ensure that parents could look at the Sanford Health website and see that Student Health was in their network.

“They have a presence there now,” she said. She retired June 30, 2016. “It was a great place to work,” she said of Student Health. “We were a family there.”

Palmiscno is an active member of St. Mary’s church. She also enjoys sewing and spending time with her family, including her siblings. Now that she’s retired, Palmiscno has been finding more time to work on her home and refinish some furniture and windows that needed some attention.

Palmiscno’s husband, Don, is a retired physical education teacher, but he now serves as the religious education director at St. Mary’s. In the summer months, he works with his brother and another teacher in their roofing business.

The Palmiscnos have four children. Kelly is a second grade teacher. Her husband, Darin Johnson, is a real estate appraiser. They live in Grand Forks with their children, Madelyn, Katelyn, and Ellyn. Gwen is a second grade teacher as well. Her husband, Brent Collins, works with durable medical equipment. They live in South Dakota with their children, Alex, Ilyana, and Zachary. Andy is a software developer and works remotely for UND’s Energy and Environmental Research Center. He lives in Colorado with his wife, Ronda, and their children, Josie, Grady, and Nolan. Kyle is a mechanical engineer, and his wife, Rochelle, is a family physician. They live in Colorado with their child, Micah, and are expecting a baby in March. All of the Palmiscnos’ children and all but one of their children’s spouses attended UND.

**GARRY PEARSON**
*Lecturer in the School of Law*

When Garry Pearson left his hometown of Minot in 1952 to come to the University of North Dakota as a student, he wasn’t sure what degree he should pursue. A neighbor suggested he become an accountant.

“I had no idea what an accountant was,” Pearson said. But he soon found out. “I went to accounting school, and at that time, you could do a six-year program in accounting and law.”

Pearson earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting and a Juris Doctor degree, graduating as a member of the Order of the Coif. He passed the CPA exam in 1956.

In 1957 and 1958, Pearson worked as a lecturer in the Accounting Department at UND. From 1958 to 1961, he was a trial lawyer with the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Then he came back to Grand Forks, where he practiced law until 2015.

Pearson’s love of teaching brought him back to UND as well. For more than 56 years between 1957 and 2016, he taught as a lecturer at the UND School of Law. From 1962 to 1967, he also returned to the Accounting Department as a lecturer. He retired in May 2016.

Through the years, Pearson has seen a number of changes at UND. He’s seen the student population increase from around 2,500 students to about 14,000 students. And he remembers when tuition was $35 per semester. He also saw huge changes in technology. He began using PowerPoint for all of his lectures and made them available to students online. According to Pearson, he was able to cover more material more thoroughly through the use of computers.

In his free time, Pearson enjoys reading, computers, and cooking. But his biggest passion is golf. In fact, he was on the golf team as a student at UND for four years. His team won the championship his final year. Through the years, Pearson has won many golf tournaments and was inducted into the North Dakota Golf Hall of Fame.

Pearson’s wife, Rose Kitzan, is a CPA. They have four children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. So far, three of their children and one of their grandchildren attended UND.
LORETTA PRATHER
Financial Aid Advisor, Student Financial Aid

Through the years, Loretta Prather went back and forth between the Business Office and the Financial Aid Office at the University of North Dakota. But wherever she worked, she was appreciated. She earned the Meritorious Service Award while she worked in the Business Office. In 2013, she was honored at a powwow by American Indian Student Services for work she’d done with their students while with Financial Aid.

“I got a beautiful Pendleton wool blanket and a certificate,” she said. “That was pretty special.”

Originally from Grand Forks, Prather graduated from Central High School. She went on to UND, where she earned a degree in economics in 1975.

After college, Prather worked in the credit office at Norby’s, a department store in downtown Grand Forks, for 10 years. When Norby’s went out of business, Prather went across the street to First National Bank, where she was employed for 8½ years.

In August 1994, Prather returned to UND, this time as an employee. She started in the Business Office as a teller. Eventually she was promoted to head teller, but when an opportunity to become a financial aid advisor arose in around 2000, Prather jumped at the chance. She spent about 10 months there until an assistant bursar position was created in the Business Office, and she was hired for that job.

In 2007, Prather went back to Financial Aid, where she worked as a financial aid advisor until her retirement May 4, 2016. Among her duties were to meet with students and help them and their families with questions. She worked with some special populations through her involvement with the Cultural Diversity tuition waiver. She also worked with the Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physician Assistant programs so they could have a direct contact with someone in Financial Aid. This was important for the PT and PA programs because the students were often those who had been away from school for a while. The OT program was unique because of the satellite program in Caspar, Wyo.; again, it often involved students who hadn’t been in school for a while.

Prather also re-evaluated family situations that had changed to help students secure more financial assistance. In addition, she worked with the Study Abroad students.

Prather also served on the University Federal Credit Union credit committee for about 20 years. It’s something she plans to continue in retirement.

The biggest changes Prather saw during her career involved technology: When she started at the University, everything was done on paper. She remembers working long hours for at least a week when they had fee payments, especially in the fall. Boxes of paper checks had to be handed out to students in the Memorial Union Ballroom. Now that’s mostly accomplished electronically.

“It became more efficient,” Prather said.

The move to PeopleSoft was a big change was well. Prather was assistant bursar at the time. Her boss, the bursar, was on that committee, and Prather filled in for the bursar when needed, attending some of her regular meetings.

Prather said she really enjoyed being able to help students. She said she established some good relationships with students and others on campus.

Outside of work, Prather is active in her church, Augustana Lutheran. She also enjoys gardening. In addition, she works part time at an independent insurance agency in town.

KAAREN PUPINO
Head of Technical Services, Olaf Thormodsgard Law Library

As head of Technical Services at the University of North Dakota Thormodsgard Law Library, Kaaren M. Pupino has seen a lot of changes. She also has served the University, and the state, very well.

Pupino was born in Kingsport, Tenn., grew up in Iowa, and attended the University of Iowa in Iowa City for one year. When her family moved to North Dakota, Pupino decided to finish her undergraduate degree at UND. In the spring of 1973, she earned a B.S.Ed. in speech pathology and audiology. She went on to earn an M.L.S. at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kan., in December 1976.

That same month, Pupino began working at the UND Law Library as a part-

THROUGH THE YEARS

1946
With the end of World War II, enrollment soared to nearly 3,000 students; for the spring semester of 1944, just 504 students had enrolled, of whom 375 were women. Housing for students on campus and in the community became a serious problem. The Athletic Board of Control approved a move to organize hockey as a varsity sport. Intercollegiate play began the next year.

1949
Woodworth Hall was destroyed in the most spectacular fire to occur on campus.

1950
At 29, Thomas J. Clifford became the youngest dean in UND’s history when he was named to head the business school.

1951
UND hired its first full-time, uniformed security officers. The Memorial Union opened. Coffee was a nickel a cup.

1956
Many students were caught off guard when a Navy helicopter landed on the Memorial Union lawn. The occupants were on a Navy air recruiting mission.

1958
UND’s 75th anniversary celebration was highlighted with the announcement of the University’s first $1 million gift, made by alumnus Chester Fritz for construction of a new library building.

1959
UND won its first NCAA national hockey championship in Troy, N.Y.

1962
UND scheduled its first official spring break for students. The previous year, students with pent-up energy from the long winter raised havoc throughout the campus with mud fights, blocking traffic, and throwing fellow students into the English Coulee.

Woodworth Hall, home of the teacher education division and the campus radio station, was destroyed by fire in March 1949.
time library technician. “I changed positions a number of times and worked technical services as well as public services when I was the circulation manager,” she said. “I also did some reference work. When I earned a master’s degree in library science, I became the acquisitions librarian and later head of Technical Services.”

Pupino’s responsibilities included overseeing the Technical Services Department where books, electronic resources, and journals are ordered, processed, and made available to the UND Law faculty and students.

Throughout the years, Pupino made a number of noteworthy contributions to the University and beyond. As a member of the North Dakota Library Association (NDLA), she worked with library leaders in the state and the Library Science Department at Emporia State University’s distance education program to offer their master’s degree in library and information management in Grand Forks. The program started in February 1974 and ended December 1978. There were 42 students in the class from across North Dakota as well as one student from Minnesota, one from South Dakota, and 11 from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

“This had a significant impact on libraries and librarianship across North Dakota,” Pupino explained.

She also served as president of the NDLA in 2000-01 and as a member of the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council at the same time. As president-elect of the NDLA, she planned and coordinated the 2000 North Dakota, South Dakota, and Mountain Plains Library Association Tri-Conference held in Fargo. In addition, she traveled to Bismarck several times during the 2001 legislative session to testify before legislative committees in support of the State Library and of libraries in North Dakota.

She also saw UND through two major floods, in 1976 and 1997.

50 YEARS AGO: 1967

ACTIVISM

Activism against the Vietnam War increased significantly in 1967. In April, 40 students signed a protest against the war, but the Student Senate declined to endorse it. By November, a “teach-in” on the war attracted 600 students. Demonstrations outside the Memorial Union (then called the University Center) brought out signs and voices on both sides. The war was covered and debated frequently in the pages of the Dakota Student newspaper. War critic Mark Hatfield, U.S. senator from Oregon, spoke at a convocation.

The questioning attitude was also reflected in University Theatre’s production of “MacBird,” a controversial play drawing on Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” and other works and featuring thinly disguised characters from the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

One of the most attention-getting incidents centered on an essay contest funded by UND alumnus Jack Stewart of Arizona. He stipulated that the essay topic would be “Our American Heritage: How Can It Be Eternally Yours?” Dakota Student editor Mike Jacobs criticized the contest with a Sept. 15 editorial titled “The Prostitution of Patriotism.” Newspapers around the state, along with the UND Alumni Association, took issue with Jacobs, and the UND Board of Student Publications narrowly voted to censure him.

A sentiment of the times sometimes voiced — seriously or not — was “don’t trust anyone over 30.” One individual well past that age, Gerald Nye, who represented North Dakota in the U.S. Senate for 20 years, expressed satisfaction with student involvement when he visited UND’s History Department in November, and called for the nation to get out of Vietnam.

In this region dominated by traditional values, the activism was troubling to some citizens. However, both UND students and administrators acted with restraint and tolerance.

— Based on material from the 1966 and 1967 editions of the Dacotah annual and A Century on the Northern Plains, the centennial history of the University, edited by Robert P. Wilkins.

“In 1997 the book collection in the basement was moved up to higher floors,” she said. “I spent the rest of the summer putting the library back together again. Thankfully, no water got into the library during the flood.”

In May 2002, she also completed courses through the Education for Pastoral Service Program (EPS) through the Fargo Catholic Diocese.

Pupino was part of two renovation projects, coordinating and executing the move of the entire collection out of the Law Library. The first was in 2006, when stacks were reconfigured to meet the requirements of Americans with Disabilities Act regulations.

“The collection ended up in seven semi-trucks on the Wilkerson parking lot for the summer,” she recalled.

The second move occurred when the UND Law School received money from the North Dakota Legislature in 2013 to renovate the building and put an addition on the north side. The move began in June 2014 when the collection was moved out to three separate campus locations. The collection was moved back into the library in July 2015.

“When it came back in the second time, the print collection had been greatly reduced to make room for all the space changes in the building,” she said. During 2015-16, Pupino also served on the University Senate and Staff Senate.

Technology caused the most striking changes at the library during Pupino’s career.

“When I began, there was not even a photocopy machine in the library. A copier was installed to preserve the collection. Now there are copiers, fax machines, computers, televisions, cameras, and video recording equipment,” she said. “The library used to bind all of the journal volumes as well as a number of newsletters. Now there is very little binding done. Much of the collection has been converted to online resources now, which, despite what many people think, are not available for free to everyone on the Internet.”

Pupino’s husband, Sam, retired from UND in June 2000. They have three children and six — soon to be seven — grandchildren. They are both very involved in their church. Pupino also enjoys knitting and crocheting, reading, and fishing.

Though she retired from UND in June 2016, Pupino was not ready to retire completely. “Sam and I moved to Bismarck in October 2016. I took a job with the University of Mary Welder Library as instructional services and interlibrary loan librarian in September,” she said. “Here I am able to serve the needs of students and faculty in Bismarck and at the numerous distance education campuses in Grand Forks, Fargo, Billings, Montana, Arizona, South America, and Rome, Italy. So the rhythm of my life still revolves around the academic year. I am enjoying working with the students and faculty at UMary. There are a number of former UND employees who work here now, so I am in good company. Sam is pursuing an undergraduate degree through UMary and is now able to take courses on campus and not only via distance education.”

DEANN PURCELL

Medical Transcriptionist, Student Health Services

DeAnn Purcell appreciated the flexibility her job allowed as well as all the wonderful people with whom she worked at Student Health Services. She also learned a lot as her job changed with technology.

Purcell was born in Grand Forks and graduated from Central High School. She went on to earn a medical secretary certificate at what was then the Area Vocational Technical Institute.

After working as a medical secretary at what was then Valley Medical, Purcell came to Student Health Services at the University of North Dakota 34 years ago. As a medical secretary at UND, most of Purcell’s job involved medical transcription. About three years ago, Student Health Services moved to electronic records, which meant a lot less work in transcription.

“It changed my job quite dramatically,” Purcell said. But she took on a variety of other responsibilities, including release of medical records, inventory, creating forms for the clinic and online, and updating website content.

“I really enjoyed working on the website,” she said. Purcell retired July 1, 2016, but she’s keeping busy.
She enjoys cooking, gardening, and spending time with her family. Her husband, Grant, is a farmer. Both of their children graduated from UND. Their daughter, Jessica Ryan, is a pediatric physical therapist. She lives in Blaine, Minn., with her husband, Johnny, who is a software engineer, and their son, Finnegan. The Purcells’ son, Lucas, is a mechanical engineer at Arctic Cat. He lives in Clearwater, Minn.

LANA RAKOW

Professor Emerita of Communication and Director of the Center for Community Engagement

Lana Rakow grew up in a small town in North Dakota, so what came next may be a bit of an unusual story. Not only did the University of North Dakota graduate earn an international academic reputation, but she also put her scholarship into practice in a program that achieved national recognition for UND. Through it all, she says, the importance of community inspired her intellectual and professional work.

Originally from Buffalo, N.D., Rakow came to UND as an undergraduate, completing majors in journalism and humanities in 1974 before earning a master’s degree in American literature. She began working in UND’s Office of University Relations as an undergraduate, and then served as news coordinator in that office and as a graduate teaching assistant in the English Department. After finishing her graduate degree, she was news director for the Minnesota Insurance Information Center in Minneapolis and community relations coordinator for Wausau Insurance Companies in Wisconsin.

Wanting to return to higher education, Rakow became an assistant professor in the Journalism Department at Franklin College in Indiana for two years before earning a Ph.D. in cultural studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her time there was a springboard to what would become a productive publishing career, including four books on feminist theory, technology, and community.

“My graduate work gave me tools to theorize the role of communication in how we think about women and the need for systems of communication that allow democratic participation at the community level and beyond,” she explained.

In 1986, Rakow joined the faculty in communication at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Through the years, she was promoted to associate professor and served as department chair before becoming associate vice chancellor for undergraduate studies, where she had responsibility for programs in advising, general education, faculty teaching development, and assessment of student learning. It was here she began publishing about curricular change, assessment, and the mission and purpose of higher education.

Rakow came back to UND in 1994, serving two years as director of the School of Communication, and then continuing as a communication professor. In 2004, she founded UND’s Center for Community Engagement, a program approved by the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education with a mission to link academic resources with community needs.

Rakow taught many undergraduate and graduate students during her career, which inspired her work with the center. “I always looked for ways to connect my own students to the community,” Rakow said. “I knew service learning was not only an effective teaching method but also one of the linchpins in a model of a university where academic knowledge is put at the service of society at large.”

Under the leadership of the center, UND achieved the prestigious “Community Engagement” designation by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Rakow served as director of the center and professor of communication until her retirement June 30, 2016.

Off campus, Rakow has been a leader in academic associations. She helped found the feminist division of the International Communication Association and served two terms as chair of the Commission on the Status of Women of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. She also chaired task forces and awards committees for the associations. She served two terms on the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and on the editorial boards for a number of academic journals.

Closer to home, Rakow sat on the Bush Foundation’s North Dakota Advisory Committee for the Bush Prize for several years. She served on the board of directors of the North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations and held two terms as president of the North Dakota Professional Communicators.

Rakow’s hard work has not gone unrecognized. She’s earned several awards, including the UND President’s Advisory Council on Women Faculty Award and the ICA Teresa Award for the Advancement of Feminist Scholarship.

As a professor emerita of communication, Rakow is now as productive as ever, researching and writing her fifth book, on the philosopher John Dewey, and presenting papers at academic conferences, most recently in Japan and Kenya. She also serves as an associate editor of Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly.

Rakow’s husband, Tony Stukel, is a UND graduate and the director of the North Dakota University System’s Online Dakota Information Network. They have two grown children, Caitlin and Jack, and a son-in-law and grandchild, all of whom live in Fargo. Their daughter earned a master’s degree in social work from UND, and Rakow’s two sisters also attended UND.

DANIEL RICE

Professor Emeritus of Educational Leadership

Originally from Newcastle, Wyo., Daniel Rice came to UND as a grad student. He earned his undergraduate degree in sociology at Dakota Wesleyan University in South Dakota and a Master of Divinity degree at Yale University. While at UND, Rice earned a Master of Science degree and Ph.D. in educational leadership.

He finished his degree at UND in 1986, the same year he took his first job with the University as the director of the UND Graduate Center in Bismarck. He also taught part time on the Grand Forks campus in educational leadership. For three years, he also flew on a UND airplane with several other faculty on Saturdays to teach in Bismarck. Everyone flew back the same day, so those Saturdays were very busy. Rice sometimes traveled with President Tom Clifford and got to know him well. Rice would later write the history of Clifford’s presidency at UND, The Clifford Years: The University of North Dakota, 1971–1992.

Rice heard about an opening in the Office of Instructional Development that sounded interesting. It was a temporary, one-year position as director, filling in for the permanent director who was on sabbatical. When that person chose not to return to UND, Rice was hired to fill the position on a permanent basis. He stayed there for nine years.

While with the OID, he created the Alice T. Clark program for new faculty. Originally funded by the UND Foundation and the Bush Foundation, the program is a yearlong orientation for new faculty members at UND. “It’s turned out to be a wonderful program,” Rice said.

Rice continued to teach part time in the Educational Leadership Department. When the department chair abruptly quit, Rice was asked to fill the position. He agreed to take the job because it also meant he’d be a full-time faculty member in the department.

A couple of years later, the dean of the College of Education and Human Development left, and Rice’s name again came up as a replacement. Rice served as interim dean while the University conducted a national search. In the meantime, Rice decided he liked the position and tossed his own hat in the ring. He was hired and served as dean from 2000 to 2012.

In 2003, Rice was appointed chair of the steering committee for the Higher Learning Commission, the body that accredits the University every 10 years. Rice also was dean when the old Education Building was renovated and the addition connecting the facility to Gillette Hall was completed. The $11.6 million project was the first project on campus funded by the state of North Dakota in decades.

During Rice’s tenure as dean, the College of Education and Human Development also reached its highest enrollment, added new graduate programs, and received the largest endowment in its history.

After his term as dean, Rice returned to the faculty in Educational Leader-
The 1960s saw an era of rising student activism on a number of issues, including civil rights and racism, the Vietnam War, and student rights. Some of these activities were disturbing to older citizens in this traditionally conservative region.

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>More than 10,000 spectators packed the Fieldhouse to hear President John F. Kennedy deliver a speech and receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.</td>
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<td>1964</td>
<td>Statewide attention followed UND geologists as they unearthed the fossilized, 70-million-year-old skull of a Triceratops dinosaur in western North Dakota.</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>When construction began on Gamble Hall, most thought nearby Oxford House, the former president’s home, would be torn down. Instead, a successful fund drive saved and restored the historic building.</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>The aviation program was founded as an academic department within the College of Business and Public Administration. John D. Odegard’s leadership created the nation’s first four-year program combining an undergraduate business degree with in-depth aviation education.</td>
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NANCY RICE  
Office Manager and Administrative Secretary,  
Department of Computer Science

Nancy Rice really loved her time at the University of North Dakota. “I was blessed that I worked in two different departments on campus, and I got the absolute best of what the University could offer,” she said. “I loved the time with Social Work. Working with Computer Science enabled me to continue to grow as a person with added responsibilities. Faculties from both departments are diverse and committed to teaching and research. I feel privileged to have been a part of their life. My commitment was absolute from my first day on the job. I wanted to be a person that helped to grow UND.”

Rice graduated from high school in Hillsboro, N.D. She went on to North Dakota State University for two years before she got married. She spent five years in the state of Virginia working as a nurse’s aide in a hospital. When she and her husband moved back to Hillsboro, they managed a hotel for a short time. Then she was employed by the government for 10 years, working as a program specialist for the Traill County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. Rice really enjoyed the work and learned a lot about farming. But when the organization had to downsize, Rice was out of a job. She worked part time while she looked for another full-time position. She found one in June 1996 at UND. She started working as part of the administrative staff with the Social Work Department. During the eight years she stayed with the department, she worked her way up from administrative secretary to administrative assistant. She loved the students and faculty with whom she worked.

“I thoroughly enjoyed my time there,” she said. She also was really fond of the other staff members: “I had friends at work. It was absolutely amazing to have that at work,” she said.

But eventually Rice decided it was time for a change, and she was hired in the Computer Science Department. Though her title was administrative secretary, she managed the whole department. “It was not a step up in title, but it was a big step up in responsibility,” she said. “I had all the budgets and all the personnel.”

She stayed with the department for about 12 years, until her retirement Nov. 1, 2016. “It was a great move,” she said. “I couldn’t have found a better home.” Rice loved working with the students. She and a member of the faculty also started summer camps for children. In addition, she was involved in some conferences, which she did also while she was with the Social Work Department. It was a joy to work with the great leadership in the Computer Science Department as well, Rice added.

And the job was never boring. The Computer Science Department kept evolving. One of the biggest changes in her job came about because more and more departments on campus got their own computer software. The move to PeopleSoft was a big change as well.

Now that she’s retired, Rice won’t have a problem keeping busy. She has a lot of things she’s stored over the years, and she wants to go through everything. She also enjoys reading, gardening, walking and exercising at a fitness center, and camping at Potato Lake in Minnesota, where she and her husband have an RV. “I have a lot to do,” she said. “I love being busy. I love to multitask.” Eventually Rice plans to volunteer too, possibly at an assisted living/nursing home facility in Hillsboro. She also wants to work with people with cancer, helping in whatever way she can. She lost her father and her only sister to cancer, and her brother battled cancer. Rice remembers how the kindness of others...
helped her loved ones and the whole family. Rice’s husband, Kerry, is semi-retired, but he works part time at an edible bean plant. Rice has three children. Shane lives in Seattle, Wash., with his wife and their three children. Tiffany lives near Tampa, Fla., with her son. Ericka lives nearby in Buxton, N.D., and has two children.

CHARLES ROBERTSON
Associate Professor of Aviation

Charles Robertson saw tremendous growth in the Aviation Department during his 28 years there. He saw the department grew from a faculty of nine to more than 50.

A native of Central City, Ky., Robertson has a bachelor’s degree in education (industrial arts), a master’s degree in education (guidance and counseling), and a Ph.D. in education, specializing in instructional design for online learners.

Before coming to UND, Robertson was in the United States Air Force from 1967 to 1988. He served as an avionics officer, VT-29 pilot, and chief of Ops and Training at RAF Mildenhall, UK; a KC-135 pilot and controller of the Consolidated Command Post at Grand Forks Air Force Base; chief of Ops and Training/airfield manager at Homestead Air Force Base in Homestead, Fla.; and chief of Ops and Training, chief of the Consolidated Command Post, and KC-135 pilot at the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

Robertson retired June 30, 2016, as an associate professor in UND’s Aviation Department. Among his achievements was serving as the primary investigator on a $2 million, multi-year research project regarding FAA Industry Training Standards. He said he particularly enjoyed teaching in the Aviation Department and the Advanced Pilot Training Program.

In his free time, Robertson enjoys flying, traveling, camping, fishing, and snowmobiling. In retirement, he hopes to find more time to travel and snowmobile. He and his wife, Rajana, have five children and 11 grandchildren.

LINDA SANDER
Resource Center Supervisor,
John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences

Before Linda Sander came to the University of North Dakota about 28 years ago, she did a variety of other interesting jobs. She did dictation for an alcohol and drug abuse clinic, worked accounts payable for a large hospital, and was a cash-room clerk doing accounts receivable for JCPenney long before computers made the job easier. But she finally found her niche when she was hired at UND’s Center for Aerospace Sciences.

“I really enjoyed my time at Aerospace,” Sander said. “It was a great place to work, and I will miss it.” Sander retired July 1, 2016.

Originally from Ohio, Sander graduated in 1982 with a degree in accounting from the Santa Barbara Business College in California. She started her career at UND Sept. 26, 1988, as an administrative secretary III working in the Aerospace Training and Research Center, which is now called Ryan Hall.

“This was for the Spectrum Ab Initio Pilot Training Program, which was a beginning pilot training program developed jointly with Northwest Airlines,” Sander explained. “I worked for the director and assistant director of this program.”

In February 1991, Sander moved to the Resource Center, which was located in Streibel Hall.

“The Resource Center was a new department, which contained items from various departments in Aerospace,” Sander said. “It operates similar to a small library. I was responsible for organizing and managing those materials.”

Over the years, Sander took a variety of library science and office management classes at UND to learn how to manage and organize the Resource Center even better.

In early 1994, Sander’s job was reclassified as an administrative assistant position. During her time at the Resource Center, she saw other changes as well.

“In the 26 years the center has been open, our collection really grew. Students are able to work on group projects, study, and get help on their research papers as well as print there,” she said. “I saw a lot of students come and go, and I can honestly say one of my favorite parts of my job was helping students find the information they needed to get their projects finished.”

In her free time, Sander and her husband, Clayton, attend UND sporting events, including hockey, which is their favorite sport. Clayton retired Jan. 1, 2016, as a block driver for Hebron Brick. They also enjoy spending time with their five children, one of whom graduated from UND, their 12 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

“When the weather permits, I enjoy tending to my various flowerbeds,” Sander said. “We always have a nice garden and make lots of salsa in the summer.”

FRANCES SCHOLAND
Lead Cook, Squires and Wilkerson Dining Centers

Frances Scholand truly enjoyed working at the University of North Dakota, but she’s finding that retirement suits her too.

“I did not believe I could be so happy not working,” she said. “I now have time for all my grandkids. If anybody needs something for one of the kids, I’m off and I run to take care of it. I love it.”

A native of Grand Forks, Scholand graduated from Central High School and took some classes at UND. She began working at UND about 28 years ago, when her youngest child was in kindergarten. She appreciated that the University provided good insurance that covered her family.

For 27 years, Scholand worked in Squires Dining. She started in desserts but was promoted to lead cook almost right away. During her last year at UND, she moved to the new dining center at Wilkerson as lead cook. She retired June 30, 2016.

“I really loved my job, and I really loved the people I worked with,” she said. Scholand added that the staff was just like family.

Scholand’s days at UND started very early. “I always got up at 3:30 in the morning,” she said. “I didn’t mind it.”

Among her many duties was to make sure the food was prepared correctly and on time. She also helped guide other employees and helped train new people.

She served on a variety of committees within Food Service, too.

“My first and most important duty was to make sure all the proper sanitation codes were enforced and followed,” she said.

Scholand saw a lot of changes during her time at UND. She remembers when Squires Dining was remodeled and saw the completion of the Wilkerson remodel. She also remembers the remodel done at the Terrace Cafeteria in the Memorial Union after the 1997 flood.

Though she is retired from UND, Scholand is still busy. Before she retired, she also had two part-time cleaning jobs, and she continues with those.

“It was really therapeutic after I left UND,” she said.

She also appreciates that she’s been able to help her family when needed. When her daughter-in-law’s mother was diagnosed with cancer, Scholand was able to help take care of the grandchildren so her daughter-in-law could help her mother. “I was so happy to be able to do that,” Scholand said.

In her free time, Scholand loves to read and to spend time at her family’s place on Cass Lake in Minnesota. She said she’s waiting for husband to retire so they can travel more.

Scholand and her husband, Victor, have been married for 45 years. He works at Farmers Union Elevator in Reynolds. They have four children. Tami and her husband, Peter Aamold, live right across the street from the Scholands in Reynolds. They have three children: Abby, Adam, and Luke. Jennifer and her husband, Mike Skold, have one son, Nick. Jennifer attended UND and also worked at UND for a while.

“And I can see their house from my house,” Scholand said.

David and his wife, Shelly, have two sons, Tony and Jake.
"I can see their house, too," Scholand said with a chuckle. The Scholands’ youngest child, Wesley, and his wife, Kelly, live in Hatton, N.D., just 18 miles away. They have five children: Josh, Michael, Hannah, Bryce, and Noah. Josh has a daughter, Haedyn.

MYRON SCOTT
Journey Electrician, Facilities Management

Myron Scott has the distinction of being part of a couple of firsts. He was part of the first graduating class at Red River High School in Grand Forks. And he was on the first Staff Senate at the University of North Dakota.

Originally from Fargo, Scott moved to Grand Forks with his family when he was 13. He attended UND for a couple of years before entering the workforce full time.

"I worked construction for 20 years and then came out here," he explained. Scott said he has always liked UND, so it seemed natural to apply here when he was looking for a more steady job. When working construction, he sometimes had to work out of town and put in long hours. And being laid off was always a concern. UND provided a more stable, secure job that allowed him to be around for his children in the evenings.

"It was 8 to 4:30, and I had young kids, so it was nice to be around for them," he said.

Scott retired in May 2016.

When he was first hired at UND about 27 years ago, Scott worked in the Paint Shop doing drywall construction. "Then I was able to go over to the Electric Shop and learn the trade there and get my license," he said. "It was a good move." That was about 22 years ago, he said.

Scott has many good memories of his years at UND. "We used to do some rather large projects, and they were a lot of fun," he said.

One of his favorite things to do was helping students. When students in the Engineering Department, for instance, needed help with wiring — something they aren't allowed to do — Scott and his department stepped in to help with their projects.

Scott said he also enjoyed working with the others in his department, many of whom have been there a long time as well. He also served on some committees, including the Staff Senate and the Facilities Department’s Employee Committee.

During his career, Scott saw a variety of changes on campus. One change that hit close to home was the advent of computers. At one time, projects were tracked on paper by someone else in the department. Over time, Scott kept track of his own projects on computer.

In his free time, Scott enjoys traveling, particularly on his motorcycle. He’s a member of the BMW Club and goes to their annual motorcycle rally. Each year it’s held in a different place. He’s been to Vermont, Washington, and Tennessee for rallies. "So that’s helped me to see a bit of the country," he said.

He also enjoys visiting Minnesota lakes and spending time with his family. He plans to do more of that in retirement.

Scott and his wife, Karla, have been married for 37 years. She works for Altru. Their daughter, Leah, and her husband, Mandar Gadgil, both went to UND and now live in Akron, Ohio, where Mandar is a chemical engineer. The Scotts’ son, Nick, attended UND as well. He lives in Grand Forks with his wife, Tiffany. Nick works for Cirrus. The Scotts also have two grandchildren: Eva Marie and Toby Jerome.

BRUCE SMITH
Dean Emeritus of the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences

When Bruce Smith was offered a scholarship to play football at the University of North Dakota, he probably didn’t realize just how deep his ties to the institution would eventually grow. After his stint as a student-athlete, his life took him elsewhere, but he would come back years later to serve as dean of Aerospace Sciences, a position he retired from in 2016.

Smith graduated from high school in St. Louis Park, Minn., in 1965. He came to UND that fall on a football scholarship. He started off as a linebacker but finished as an offensive center, garnering All-American honors his senior season. Smith excelled in the classroom as well. He graduated with a double major in math and education.

Smith moved on to Phoenix, Ariz., where he went through Air Force pilot training, eventually serving as an instructor pilot. He also earned a master’s degree in secondary education at Arizona State.

After his service in the Air Force, Smith moved to southern Alabama, where he worked as a researcher for the Army Research Institute. The proximity to Tallahassee, Fla., gave him the opportunity to earn a doctorate in educational research from Florida State.

Smith moved on and served as the director of training for Delta Airlines. In January 2000, Smith became dean of UND’s School of Aerospace Sciences, a job he clearly loved.

"I describe it as being the conductor of a beautiful symphony orchestra," he said.

Smith said he worked with a lot of really great people. "And it was a wonderful thing to be able to build on John Odegard’s legacy," he said.

During his career at UND, Smith saw great growth in the school, from a new building, new runway, and new hangars to the unmanned aircraft systems and international programs.

Smith also had the opportunity to take a sabbatical, granted by President Robert Kelley. Smith used the time to write a book, Nowhere But North Dakota, about the School of Aerospace Sciences.

Over the years, Smith has earned a number of awards and honors. He was inducted into the UND Athletics Hall of Fame in 2003. He also was part of the 1966 team that was inducted into the Hall of Fame as well. In 2015, he garnered the Football Legend Award. He also was honored with the National Guard Meritorious Service Award from the governor of North Dakota.

Another of the highlights of his career was helping to ensure that John Odegard was inducted in the Theodore Roosevelt Hall of Fame.

Now that’s retired, Smith enjoys not being tied to a schedule. He’s still busy, but he’s doing things on his own time. He likes to golf and visit with his grandchildren. He also has been working out every day, and he’s trying his hand at the guitar, a present he got for his birthday. And he will continue to make time for the annual UND football reunion in Minneapolis.

Smith has been married to his high school sweetheart, Ann, for nearly 48 years. They have two sons and six grandchildren.

BONNIE SOLBERG
Associate Director of the Memorial Union

As Bonnie Solberg looked through the classified ads of the newspaper, she couldn’t believe her eyes. The University of North Dakota was looking for a coordinator for the Craft Center in the Memorial Union.

“When I saw that ad in the paper, I thought, ‘That would be a dream job.’ I totally envisioned that you spent the day doing crafts, but that wasn’t quite the case,” she said with a laugh. “But I enjoyed the creative environment.”

Originally from Twin Valley, Minn., Solberg went to North Dakota State University and earned a degree in textiles and clothing. After graduation, she started working as a buyer/manager for Norby’s department store in Grand Forks, a position she held for about nine years.

In was in 1984 that she saw the ad for the Craft Center coordinator. Always interested in crafts, the job turned out to be a good fit. The Craft Center brought in many outside artists and hosted classes; in the process, Solberg learned more about crafts herself. Solberg continued to run the Craft Center until it closed in 2005. In addition, she took on many other responsibilities over the years. She was Greek advisor, advisor to the Multicultural Awareness Committee, worked with Sign & Design Studio, Student Government and student involvement,
KATHLEEN SPENCER
Information Specialist, Center for Rural Health

Kathleen Spencer can't believe the good fortune she's had in her education and in her career. But one thing is clear: She found the right career when she came to work at UND.

Spencer grew up in St. Paul, Minn., where she graduated from high school. She was a stay-at-home mom in Oslo, Minn., when she decided to go back to school at UND. When she finished her Bachelor of Science degree in geography and library science in 1988, she began working part time at the Chester Fritz Library. Over time, she moved into a full-time position at the library, but in 1990, she transferred to the geology library, where she worked for 14 years. While there, she also earned her Master of Science degree in geography with a minor in geology at UND.

Then Spencer heard about an online program where she could get a master's degree in library science. When she was awarded a $5,000 North Dakota State Library Scholarship, she decided she couldn't pass up the opportunity to further her education. She also was awarded a $1,000 American Federation of Teachers scholarship. Spencer earned her M.L.S. from Southern Connecticut State University in 2003.

Librarians typically don't also have master's degrees in science, so Spencer was in a good position. It wasn't long before a special opportunity presented itself. "A co-worker called me and said, 'Do you know there's a job opening up for librarians over at the Center for Rural Health?' I was not familiar with the Center for Rural Health; however I'd lived rural for 40-some years. Two of my children were born in small rural hospitals. I know what it is like to travel 40 miles to receive health care or emergency services. My oldest son is deaf, and I remember services for the deaf being limited, so I definitely lived that experience. But that's all I knew," she said.

It was enough. Spencer applied for the job and got it. She's been with UND's Center for Rural Health for about 13 years now, but she will be retiring March 3, 2017.

As a librarian/information specialist, she works with a professional team to maintain a clearinghouse of rural health and human services resources through Web-based services. She also provides customized assistance to clients with rural concerns, identifies and posts potential funding opportunities, provides clients with appropriate federal or state agencies and other organizations and experts, and provides statistics, data sources, and maps that aid in grant writing. She also gives a variety of presentations at conferences.

Spencer has earned a number of certifications. In 2005, she was a medical informatics course fellow at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass. Two years later, she was a Leadership Institute fellow at the Leadership Institute in Abiquiu, N.M. In 2011, she was a rural health fellow at the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) in Washington, D.C. Currently, Spencer is serving as an elected member of the NRHA Rural Health Policy Congress.

She's also been involved in UND beyond her work experience. In the late 1990s, she was part of the UND Staff Senate Steering Committee, which was tasked with developing the constitution and bylaws for the first Staff Senate. In addition, she is a charter member of the Staff Senate.

Spencer also earned an Outstanding Support Staff award for her work at the Chester Fritz Library.

In her free time, Spencer enjoys going to the Wellness Center every day during her lunch hour. She also loves music, kayaking, hiking, and quilting. In retirement, she plans to do more traveling, spend more time outdoors, watch old movies, and read.

Spencer's husband, Eben, is an agronomist working for Archer Daniels Midland. He earned his graduate-level GIS certificate at UND. They have three children. Jesse and his wife, Jessica, live in Northfield, Minn. Jesse has master's degrees in special education from the University of Minnesota and rehabilitation counseling from Minnesota State. The Spencers' daughter, Minto, received an bachelor's degree at UND and a medical degree from UND's School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She lives in Pillager, Minn. Her husband, Jeffrey Porter, also received his medical degree from UND. They have three children: Spencer, Sophia and Samuel. The Spencers' son Eben James lives in Apple Valley, Minn., with his wife, Erica. Eben James earned a bachelor's degree in geological engineering and a master's degree in environmental engineering at UND.

JOHN VITTON
Professor Emeritus of Management

When John Vitton first came to Grand Forks, he never thought he'd stay long.

"I came up here in 1986," he recalled. "As we were landing, I looked out and saw the fields. It was about March or April. It was a rainy and ugly-looking day, and I said, 'I don't think I'll ever stay here.' So here I am 30 years later."

What kept him from leaving?

"First of all, I think it's a very good school. And it's about the right size," he said. "But it was ice hockey also."

As a former professor in the Management Department, Vitton not only is a huge hockey fan and player, he continued to be an instrumental part of a number of programs through the years.

Vitton earned a Bachelor of Science degree in metallurgical engineering at Michigan Technological University and an MBA at Ohio State University, where he founded the ice hockey program. He earned a Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1982. His doctoral areas of concentration were management theory, marketing, economics, bank finance, and human resource management.

Vitton worked at Ladish Company for two years and served in the Air Force for 28 years. He taught at the University of Nebraska in Omaha and Northwest Missouri State University before coming to UND in the fall of 1986. He also had taught at the United States Air Force Academy, the University of Dayton, the University of Maryland, the University of Georgia, and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

From 2000 to 2005, Vitton served as chair of UND's Management Department.

"I actually took an organization that was down to a
third of its strength," he said. "It took five years, but I got it back to where it's a very strong, very congenial department."

Vitton's professional affiliations included the Academy of Management, the Association of Management, the Midwest Academy of Management, the National Business and Economics Society, the North American Case Research Association, and the Society for Case Research. His hard work and dedication to UND and the larger community did not go unnoticed. He won a Spirit Award and also was invited to join the Beta Gamma Sigma Honorary Society.

While at UND, Vitton was not only able to indulge not only his love of teaching but his love of hockey as well. For many years, beginning in 1986, Vitton was a Western Collegiate Hockey Association observer, evaluating refereeing.

Along with hockey, Vitton enjoys photography, reading, traveling, and spending time with his family. His wife, Mary Lee, is a retired teacher. "She's my unpaid graduate assistant," he said with a smile. "She's a great help."

They also have a large family that is spread across the country. "We have six children — four hockey players and two figure skaters," Vitton said.

Their son Michael lives in Connecticut, and their daughter Elizabeth lives in New York City. James is in Dallas. Thomas lives in San Diego, and Chuck is in New Jersey. Their daughter Kathleen resides in Kansas City. The Vittons also have 14 grandchildren.

Vitton stepped away from the classroom in May 2016. He was honored with the title professor emeritus.

MARY LOU WAVRA
Clinical Laboratory Scientist and Co-Manager, Student Health Services

Ever since she was in high school, Mary Lou Wavra loved chemistry and wanted to work in a lab. Her wish came true at the University of North Dakota.

Wavra grew up in East Grand Forks. She went on to UND and found she loved the medical technology program. After earning a degree in medical technology, she worked at what was then United Hospital. She came back to UND in 1980, thanks to a government grant called Laboratory Education for North Dakota. She served as coordinator for about a year and a half. Then she went to Student Health, where she stayed until her retirement in June 2016.

At Student Health, Wavra always worked in the lab. She also served a stint as the supervisor. But Wavra decided she wanted her summers off, so she worked part time and gave up supervisor position. When the new supervisor passed away in 2002, Wavra became a co-supervisor.

Among her many duties were drawing blood, getting specimens, doing the testing on specimens, and managing the finances for the laboratory. She was also the safety officer for the clinic.

Wavra saw many changes in the lab through the years. Mandates changed how things were done, and lab/clinic personnel had to come up with policy books to address them. They also went paperless with electronic charts. Wavra had to figure out how to use a computer for work, but she took that in stride.

"It was a challenge," she said. "It was fun."

The lab at Student Health is accredited and inspected every other year. Through the years, the lab earned several awards for excellence.

"It is a superior lab," Wavra said. "It's excellent."

Wavra said she had fun working with students and enjoyed being with her coworkers. She said she also appreciated the great benefits UND offered and that she was afforded the opportunity to work part time.

In her free time, Wavra is a fanatical reader. She also enjoys walking, biking, and spending time at her family's lake home. She said she loves being retired and being able to go to her grandchildren's activities.

Wavra and her husband, Mark, have three children and eight grandchildren. Their daughter Joy attended UND until the flood of 1997 and then completed her studies at the University of Minnesota. She is a pharmacist at a St. Cloud, Minn., hospital. Her husband, Dave Ward, earned a master's degree in computer engineering from the University of Minnesota and is a computer consultant. The Wavras' daughter Laura attended UND. She earned a master's degree in English education from the University of Minnesota. Her husband, Dr. Randy Landa, is a dentist in Plymouth, Minn. The Wavras' son, Jim, earned a degree in agriculture from North Dakota State University and will eventually take over the family farm. His wife, Jessica, is a physical therapist aide in Crookston, Minn.

DAVID WHITCOMB
Assistant Professor of Counseling

Since leaving the University of North Dakota June 30, 2016, David H. Whitcomb has been as busy as ever.

"On June 1, 2016, I purchased Family Institute, PC, a local provider of psychological health care with offices in Grand Forks and Fargo," he said. "I am now a full-time practitioner and business owner committed to serving individuals, couples, and families of all ages. I am using my years of experience in clinical supervision at UND to train graduate students in counseling, counseling psychology, and clinical psychology at our clinic."

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, Whitcomb grew up in Fairfield County, Conn. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology in 1984 from Clark University in Worcester, Mass. He went on to complete a Master of Arts in counseling psychology in 1991 at Assumption College in Worcester. In 2000, he finished a Ph.D. in counseling psychology at the University at Buffalo (N.Y.).

Before coming to UND, Whitcomb worked in human services for 18 years, including two years as the intake coordinator/counselor at an agency providing services for substance abuse, four years as a vocational counselor for the city of Worcester, and several placements in university counseling centers and hospitals as a doctoral student.

Whitcomb was hired at UND as an assistant professor of counseling in 1998. He was tenured in 2005. Before he moved on from UND, he taught many graduate classes, including in Couples and Family Counseling, Professional Issues in Counseling, Psychology of Women, Gender, and Development; and History of Psychology. In addition, he coordinated the M.A. in counseling program for 10 years, its internship program for an additional four years, and served as an academic advisor for M.A. in counseling and Ph.D. in counseling psychology students.

Through the years, Whitcomb's research, publications, and national presentations focused on social justice in counseling psychology, including doing social justice work for the LGBTQ community, working with rural transgender communities, perceptions of male privilege, HIV prevention, and social class issues in the LGBTQ population.

“I particularly enjoyed advising master's and doctoral students, clinical supervision, coordinating practicum and internship placements for graduate students, and teaching classes on gender, sexual orientation, professional orientation, and couples and family counseling,” Whitcomb said.

He also saw many changes at UND during his career. “For many years, the University grew in the number of students and programs, and in national reputation,” he said. “I sincerely hope that recent challenges are only a brief hiatus in the strides UND was making to become a more progressive liberal arts institution serving growing and diverse communities.”

Whitcomb has been active outside of UND as well. He serves on the Board of Directors at Amazing Grains and on the steering committee of the Grand Forks Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. He served as president of the Society for the Psychological Study of Men and Masculinity, Division 51 of the American Psychological Association. He also is active in the local arts community and enjoys gardening, travel, music, and social activism.

Whitcomb's partner, Jay See, M.D., works at Sanford Health Care in Fargo.

JAMES WHITEHEAD
Professor of Kinesiology and Public Health Education

Jim Whitehead came a long way to be a professor at the University of North Dakota, but the place he comes from isn't so different.

PAGE 42  FOUNDERS DAY
Whitehead originally came from a rural community about an hour and a half north of London, England. He said the setting was very similar to North Dakota, but the weather there is a lot more temperate during the winter than it is here.

Whitehead earned a teacher’s certificate in physical education and biology from Loughborough University and a bachelor’s degree in social sciences from the Open University, both in the United Kingdom.

After serving as a public school teacher, mostly at the high school level, for nearly 13 years in England, Whitehead came to Arizona State University for his master’s and doctoral degrees. After finishing his doctorate, he applied for jobs at a number of universities and was offered a job at UND.

“It proved to be a very good place to settle down and raise a family,” he said.

Whitehead started his career as an assistant professor at the University in the fall of 1988. Now he’s a full professor in kinesiology and public health education. His responsibilities have mainly included teaching one undergraduate class every semester, and teaching a variety of graduate classes, plus keeping a research agenda going, and serving the University where he’s needed. He will retire in May 2017.

Whitehead said he stayed at UND because of his love of teaching and scholarship. “My experience shows me that the best motivational plan is the encouragement of innovation and good ideas,” he said.

In his free time, Whitehead enjoys gardening and spending time with his family. His wife, Veronica, is the autism specialist for Crookston Public Schools, and Whitehead has enjoyed helping her with field trips for special needs students. The Whiteheads have two children, Hannah and Sam.

In retirement, Whitehead wants to stay connected to UND but also plans to do more traveling — especially during the winter to places that feature beach-accessible tropical reefs and scenic hiking opportunities.

SHARON WILSNACK
Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science

When Sharon Wilsnack first went to college, she was a classical piano major. But a class she took as part of the Honors Program changed the course of her life.

Wilsnack grew up in Manhattan, Kan., where she graduated from high school. The community is home to Kansas State University, where Wilsnack did her undergraduate work in psychology. But that wasn’t her original plan.

“I started out as a classical piano major,” she explained. “So, for about a year and a half, I was a music major and I was in the Honors Program.”

Wilsnack took an Honors class on the biological basis of learning. During the class, she and the other students trained planaria to run mazes, and then they’d cut them in half, and the halves would run the mazes.

“It was just amazing,” Wilsnack recalled.

Realizing how much she looked forward to that class, Wilsnack switched her major to psychology with minors in music and German.

After graduating from KSU, Wilsnack spent a year in Germany on a Fulbright Scholarship. As fate would have it, that put her on track to start at Harvard at the same time as her future husband, Richard.

Wilsnack earned a master’s degree and Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Harvard in the Department of Social Relations. She and Richard, a sociologist, were office mates as students. Not only were they lucky to have met each other, they were fortunate to be at Harvard when they were. She said they received truly interdisciplinary training with giants in the field who were in the golden years of their careers.

“We really reaped the benefits of that,” she said. “We have always felt very fortunate to have been there during that time.”

After finishing her education at Harvard, Wilsnack went to Indiana University, where she was asked to head up an addiction treatment program. She stayed for four years. “I learned a lot,” she said.

Beginning in her third year, she also was in IU’s Psychology Department.
1986
Crowds packed the Hyslop Sports Center to hear President Ronald Reagan at a political campaign rally.

1987
Studio One, UND's live news show, made its debut on Feb. 9. After only four months on the air, the program received a first place award for special programming from the North Dakota Press Women's Association.

1994
The Nickel Trophy came back to UND after more than a month in the hands of the Fargo-Moorhead "Nickel Nabbers." The group snuck it out of the Memorial Union in hopes of resurrecting the old tradition of stealing the Nickel. IBM donated the AS/400 computer system, valued at nearly $700,000, to UND to give students and faculty more opportunities to understand the construction and use of computer technology.

1997
The UND women's basketball team won its first NCAA Division II national championship. The team repeated as national champions in 1998 and 1999, and was runner-up in 2001. The worst flooding ever to strike Greater Grand Forks and the UND campus caused the University to close for the spring semester in April. UND's initial losses and costs from the flood were estimated at over $43 million.

2001
UND's football team won the NCAA Division II national championship. Grand Forks' Alerus Center became the home field for the football team. President Bill Clinton hosted UND's national champion men's hockey team in the White House.

The NCAA logo decorated the Hyslop Sports Center floor and the bleachers were packed as the University hosted the national Division II women's basketball tournament in March of 1997. UND beat Southern Indiana University to claim the first of its three national crowns.

Then she got the chance to come to UND. The Medical School was expanding from a two-year program to a full four-year school and needed a director of psychiatry and behavioral science in Grand Forks. The chair of the department knew someone Wilsnack had known in Kansas. The chair contacted Wilsnack in Indiana and invited her to come for an interview. She was hired as director of the preclinical curriculum in psychiatry and behavioral science for first- and second-year medical students in the fall of 1978.

As luck would have it, Richard found a job in the UND Sociology Department that fit him as well. The couple knew they wanted to do research at the University too. Sharon had become interested in alcohol issues. At Harvard she was matched to an advisor who was doing research on alcohol but was only studying the effects on men. She realized there was an opportunity to examine the issue with women, too. She and Richard have had almost continual funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 1980 for their studies.

Their first study went on for 20 years and involved the drinking behavior of women in the United States. They followed the same group of women every five years from 1981 to 2001. Every 10 years they added a new group of younger women as well, as the original study panel was aging.

Their work drew international attention. In time, a three-way collaboration developed with Czech and Swedish researchers interested in doing similar studies in their own countries. Over time, the interest grew. The Wilsnacks eventually coordinated an international collaborative research project on gender and alcohol with researchers from more than 40 countries. That project has been funded by the NIH for about 20 years, receiving a new four-year grant in March 2016. Wilsnack said she and Richard will continue with the project in their retirement. Now a Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor, she retired from full-time work June 30, 2016, but continues her work as a researcher part time.

Wilsnack has published a number of books related to substance abuse in women. She also has written nearly 200 journal articles and given a number of presentations on the subject, both nationally and internationally.

Wilsnack is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and served as a member of the Institute of Medicine’s Committee to Study Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and as a member of the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism/NIH. She has been part of numerous other boards and advisory groups concerned with alcohol abuse and women’s health, and was a member and panel chair of the NIAAA Task Force on College Drinking. She also was a member of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment’s Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Consensus Panel on Special Needs of Women in Substance Abuse Treatment.

The Wilsnacks have five adult children and six grandchildren.

CAROL WINKELS
Administrative Secretary, Department of Social Work

When Carol Jean Winkels came to the University of North Dakota 31 years ago, she worked in the Financial Aid Office — in the Armory. "You were kind of baptized by fire over there," she said with a smile.

Because the main Financial Aid Office was so small, she and other College Work-Study students worked in the same building as the ROTC program. She said this seemed unusual at the time, but she did enjoy getting to meet the ROTC students as they worked in the gym area.

And that's one thing that didn't change through the years: Winkels loved working with students, something she wasn't always able to do in the various positions she's held. She retired June 30, 2016.

"The students always talked about me at their banquets," Winkels said. "The Phi Alpha and the Social Work students always made a point of saying how special and helpful I always was. And then for my retirement, they gave me a gift, and a card, and hugs, and well-wishes. They were very special. I miss the students a lot."

Originally from East Grand Forks, Winkels earned a bookkeeping receptionist degree from Aaker's Business College. Even before she graduated, she was hired by Congress Inc., a local family-owned liquor wholesaler, where she worked for 12 years. Then she came to UND and the Financial Aid Department, first
as a guaranteed student loan clerk, then as a Pell grant clerk, and finally as an administrative secretary.

“I was a spoke, then I was the hub, and then I left,” she said with a chuckle. Winkels went to the Medical School, where she’d be found for the next 12 years. She briefly worked in O’Kelly (which was where the Medical School was located at the time), moving to the NEW Medical School when it opened. Among her duties at the new Medical School was guiding tours of the facility — and she had a fun story to share with those taking the tour.

“I was born in that hospital,” Winkels said, explaining that the Medical School was once St. Michael’s Hospital. “I worked on the same floor I was born on. That was pretty cool.”

After her stint at the Medical School, Winkels took an administrative secretarial position in the Social Work Department, where she spent the last 11 years of career.

“I was the first person you saw when you came in the office. If you called the main line, you got me,” she said.

Though her duties constantly changed, Winkels was somewhat of a link between students and faculty members. She did a lot of the “behind the scenes” work to help make the Social Work Department run according to its mission statement.

“I did a lot of work with students,” she said, adding that as an administrative secretary at the Medical School, her student contact was limited. “At the Social Work Department, I was back with the students, and I loved it.”

Through the years, Winkels saw a lot of changes at UND. In the Social Work Department, physical changes, such as a new window and a lowered counter to accommodate disabled students, were very welcome. “That really made a difference,” she said of the remodels. “It spiffed it up, made it more professional and more secure.”

In her free time, Winkels is a March of Dimes supporter. She also has been a member of American Cancer Society and volunteers at St. Michael’s Catholic Church. On campus, she was involved in the Denim Day Committee, helping to choose the organizations that benefitted from the money raised on Denim Day. She’s also a hockey fan and loves to go to UND’s games. And she’s very proud of her family. “I’ve got 17 nieces and nephews, and they’re now having kids,” she said with a smile. “I like to be around people. I like to be with kids.”

Winkels and her husband, Richard, are involved in auctions, too. While she clerks, he works as an auctioneer. But that’s just a side job. For more than 30 years, Richard has worked as a plumber for the City of Grand Forks in the Wastewater Department. Winkels also loves spending time with her dog, Cheyenne.

“Spending my time with Cheyenne has been a real pleasure, and saving the kennel costs doesn’t hurt either,” she said. “Retiring is one of the best things that has happened for me. We are available to go on extended vacations and have long lunch hours with my friends — that happens often. Sleeping longer in the mornings is also a perk. I would recommend retirement for everyone.”

LARRY ZITZOW
Director of Facilities

Construction work is in Larry Zitzow’s blood. He was around it ever since he was about 9. His grandfather had a construction company. So when Zitzow took a job at the University of North Dakota as a draftsman, he didn’t expect he’d stay long. About 43 years later, in August 2016, Zitzow retired from UND’s Facilities Department. During his career, he had the opportunity to work for six presidents and seven first ladies.

“I’ve been very fortunate. It’s been a rewarding job,” he said.

Originally from Perham, Minn., Zitzow spent two years at Fergus Falls Junior College before going on to Detroit Lakes Vocational School to become an architectural draftsman. “I got hired before I even graduated from there,” he said.

Zitzow went to work for an architectural/engineering firm in Fargo. “And then the building boom quit. Everything went kind of flat, and they laid off a lot of people, including myself,” he said.

Married and with his first child on the way, Zitzow applied at UND in 1972 and was hired as a draftsman in the Facilities Department. “I thought I would stay here for a year and move on,” he recalled.

His department and the campus were pretty small when he first started. The office he worked in was so tiny, the files were stored overhead, he remembered.

He estimates that UND probably had about a million square feet at the time. By the time he retired, UND had 6.3 million square feet, and more than 300 people now work in his department.

Through the years, Zitzow earned promotions. He went from being a draftsman to being assistant director, then associate director, and finally director.

“I enjoyed administering the department,” he said. “That was my love.”

He also enjoyed the people with whom he worked and is proud of what the department has become. “I helped grow that department from what it was,” he said. “We started out with a few tradespeople who took care of problems. We never really had a construction company at all.”

It was often hard to hire contractors for the jobs they had available at UND. Zitzow said his boss, LeRoy Sondrol, saw the need for Facilities to do more of that work.

Zitzow was involved in some big projects during his career. Restoring the J. Lloyd Stone House was his project. “That was an awesome responsibility,” he said.

Then he moved on to Gustafson Hall, which was formerly a fraternity house, and restored it for Continuing Education. He also was in charge of restoring Gillette Hall, which was the Biology building at the time. “That was the biggest renovation that we ever took on,” he said. “Those three projects really were fun. We were able to handle pretty much anything that came forward. That was quite an accomplishment.”

When he retired, Zitzow was responsible for Grounds and Landscaping, Custodial Services, Laundry, Mailing Services, and the golf course. All totaled, he was responsible for about 150 people.

“There were never two days that were the same,” he said. “I loved the challenges.”

He also liked that he had a job where he could see what was accomplished every day. “There’s always an improvement,” he said. “That was fun.”

Zitzow also enjoyed being active in his profession beyond UND. As an associate director, Zitzow and his boss got very involved in the Central Association of Physical Plant Administrators (CAPPA).

“I liked that,” Zitzow said. “That was something that was new to me.”

CAPPA includes all of the central states, from Canada all the way down to Texas. They also were quite involved in the Association of Physical Plant Administrators (APPA), which is international and national organization comprising the United States and 13 other countries. Beginning in 2009, Zitzow served a seven-year term as president of CAPPA. That led to being on the APPA board for two years. The first year he was a junior representative, representing CAPPA. When he became a senior representative his second year, he was selected to be the representative for all six U.S. regions in APPA.

“That was the most rewarding thing I’ve done in my life,” Zitzow said. “It was really awesome.”

The appointment involved a lot of travel, often to Washington, D.C. “Now I’ve got friends all over the nation, in almost every state,” he said.

Zitzow also earned the Golden Hammer Award and the Meritorious Service Award at UND.

In his free time, Zitzow enjoys woodworking, taxidermy, carving, hunting, and fishing.

His wife, Linda, also is retired. They have three children and six grandchildren. Steve is a UND graduate and works in quality control for PS Doors. He is married to Livia, who is a teacher in East Grand Forks. They have two children, Lauren and Aiden, and live in Alvarado, Minn. The Zitzows’ daughter Amy is an RN at the Altru cancer center. Her husband, Darrin Werry, works at UND for Connect North Dakota. They live in Grand Forks with their children, Tristan and Bryar. The Zitzows’ daughter Becky works for Noridian. Her husband, Kory Anderson, is an IT specialist at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. They live near Climax, Minn., with their children, Abby and Kayla.
# Twenty-Five Years of Service

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Administrative Assistant, Minot Center for Family Medicine

Kenneth Ruit  
Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences and Associate Dean for Educational Administration and Faculty Affairs, School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Mark Schwieters  
Building Services Technology, Facilities Total

Rhonda Shirek  
Assistant to the Associate Director, Energy and Environmental Research Center

James Sorensen  
Senior Research Manager, Energy and Environmental Research Center

Guy Tangedahl  
Assistant Professor and Assistant Program Director, Bismarck Center for Family Medicine

Patricia Thompson  
Clinical Associate Professor, College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines

Eric Tweton  
Academic Advisor and Teacher Certificate Officer, College of Education and Human Development

Marilyn Wocken  
Administrative Clerk, Dean’s Office, College of Business and Public Administration

Cathy Ziegler  
Instructor, Physical Therapist and Clinic Coordinator for the Center for Sports Medicine, Department of Sports Medicine

IN APPRECIATION

Thank you to the Founders Day volunteers and organizations for helping with the décor and support for this year’s Founders Day banquet and awards.

Brenda Haugen, Writer
Founders Day Design on a Dime Team: Dawn Botsford, Aaron Flynn, Andrea Green, Jim Hanson, Loren Liepold, Millie Strang, Megan Wasylow, Fred Wittmann
Matthew Lorenz, Pianist

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UND Today: Richard Larson, Jan Orvik
University Catering

THE FIRST FOUNDERS DAY

The observance of Founders Day, begun in 1904 on the University’s twenty-first birthday, offered an annual opportunity for self-advertisement as well as for sober reflection on the past. The first celebration, held on Saturday, February 27, 1904, although so private as to be nearly private, received wide newspaper coverage, even headlines, and called forth many expressions of sentimental pride in the progress of the state’s only university. The observance occupied the whole day and marked the anniversary of the signing of the organic act, a date selected by the faculty as the official birthday. A debate on Friday evening opened the ceremonies. On Saturday morning Gottfried Hult, then at the Agricultural College, addressed students and faculty in the Budge Hall Armory. In the afternoon there were students’ speeches and a girls’ basketball game in which the University trounced the Fargo High School 15–4. The main program was presented in the evening at the Baptist church. Bardi Skulason (’95) spoke on “The University and the State”; the major address, “The University – Its Past,” was given by President Webster Merrifield. George Walsh, then living in Minnesota, was unable to accept an invitation to attend but submitted a long letter relating the story of the events of 1883 at Grand Forks and Yankton, which was incorporated into Merrifield’s speech; it remained for years the official version of the founding. In his address, Merrifield outlined the history of the University and emphasized his conception of the high role it must play in North Dakota...

(From University of the Northern Plains, the history of UND, by Louis Geiger, published in 1958)
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FOUNDESS DAY

UND SPIRIT WEEK

2017

February 20-24
UNDalumni.org/Spiritweek

Saying thanks. Showing appreciation. Celebrating generosity.

This week, University of North Dakota students and alumni are celebrating UND Spirit Week, which honors the generosity of alumni and friends who believe in this great institution.

Together, we’re showing our appreciation for this splendid spirit of philanthropy. Earlier this week, students showed their spirit by participating in UND trivia and answering the question, “Who believes in you?” They also took part in writing “thank you” notes to donors.

The benefits of philanthropy are found all around campus, from structures like the Chester Fritz Library and Ralph Engelstad Arena to numerous resources for enriching student learning and hundreds of scholarship programs.

Tonight’s Founders Day banquet offers the opportunity to honor those who created the UND of today, where an innovative, creative, and entrepreneurial spirit prepares graduates to become tomorrow’s leaders in North Dakota and beyond.

UNDalumni.org/Spiritweek