

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

FOUNDATION

MAGAZINE | VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 2 | SPRING 2022





YOU CAN CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

When **David '68 and Aileen (Askegard) '69 Clough** wanted to retire from farming, they held an online auction. The profits from that auction allowed them to establish a charitable remainder unitrust (CRUT) with the NDSU Foundation for the benefit of NDSU.

“By giving to NDSU, you’re investing in the future of these young minds to be exposed to quality research and quality faculty using developing and changing techniques. It is a wise and very good investment,” Aileen said. “We may not realize how many things will be touched in our life by donating dollars to NDSU.”

In establishing the CRUT, David and Aileen were able to designate how their investment will be used within the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources and the College of Human Sciences and Education. By documenting a planned gift with the NDSU Foundation, you’ll have peace of mind in knowing that when the time comes, your money will be used as directed.

For more information about how to establish your legacy through planned giving, contact Curtis Cox, senior director of gift planning for the NDSU Foundation, at Curtis.Cox@NDSUFoundation.com or by calling 701.231.6837.

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MAGAZINE**

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NDSU | FOUNDATION



Bison Family,

YOU did it! And then some! How does MORE than half-a-billion for North Dakota State University sound?! Thank you!

In Our Hands: The Campaign for North Dakota State University was the fifth multi-year comprehensive fundraising initiative in University history. Each campaign, in its moment, lifted up our students, faculty, and programs. Each built upon the previous milestone. To all those involved at varying points along the Bison journey, we extend our gratitude.

I'd like to give a special thanks to NDSU President Dean L. Bresciani, Sheila and Robert Challey, and Mary Anne and Steve Swiontek for their vision and leadership support of this campaign.

When we originally set the lofty goal of \$400 million, people thought that was ambitious, but I'm not surprised you went above and beyond — that's the Bison way.

The numbers of this six-year, \$587 million campaign are remarkable.

When we read or hear about peer or aspirant university fundraising campaigns near and far, most of those efforts count gifts over a seven-, eight-, even nine-year period. Bison Nation raised a record number of dollars for higher education in the state of North Dakota in just six years (2016-2021).

Two of those years recorded record fundraising through the NDSU Foundation of \$160.3 million (2019) and \$197.2 million (2021). This is evidence of the belief and confidence NDSU alumni and friends have in the University.

Since 2016, the Foundation's endowment has skyrocketed to \$457 million as of Dec. 31, 2021. Prior to the campaign's start, it numbered \$134 million. Calculated another way, on Jan. 1, 2016, the average endowment dollar per student was \$9,107; today, it is \$36,710.

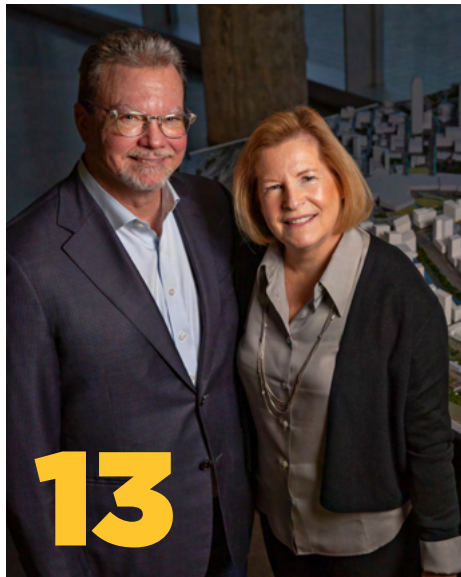
Your philanthropy from the *In Our Hands* campaign is already at work impacting the lives of students and faculty and enhancing facilities and programs. Because of your belief in and support of this University, NDSU's future is brighter than ever!

Go Bison,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John R. Glover".

John R. Glover
President/CEO
NDSU Foundation

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For more than 70 years, NDSU Team Makers has been leading the fundraising effort to enhance the student-athlete experience.

About The Cover



We couldn't let the *In Our Hands* campaign conclude without one hands-centric photo project. The cover photo was shot by Ann Arbor Miller in the Diederich Atrium of the McGovern Alumni Center. Thank you to our hand models: Stacey Ackerman (NDSU Foundation Trustee), Dan Dunn (NDSU Foundation Trustee), Ying Huang (NDSU faculty), Austin Kurisu (NDSU student), Seinquis Leinen (NDSU admissions), Brianna Maddock (NDSU student), Onnolee Nordstrom (NDSU faculty), Charles D. Peterson (Dean of the College of Health Professions), Macy Scharmer (NDSU student), and Mike Vipond (NDSU Foundation Trustee).

NDSU FOUNDATION

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS



1901

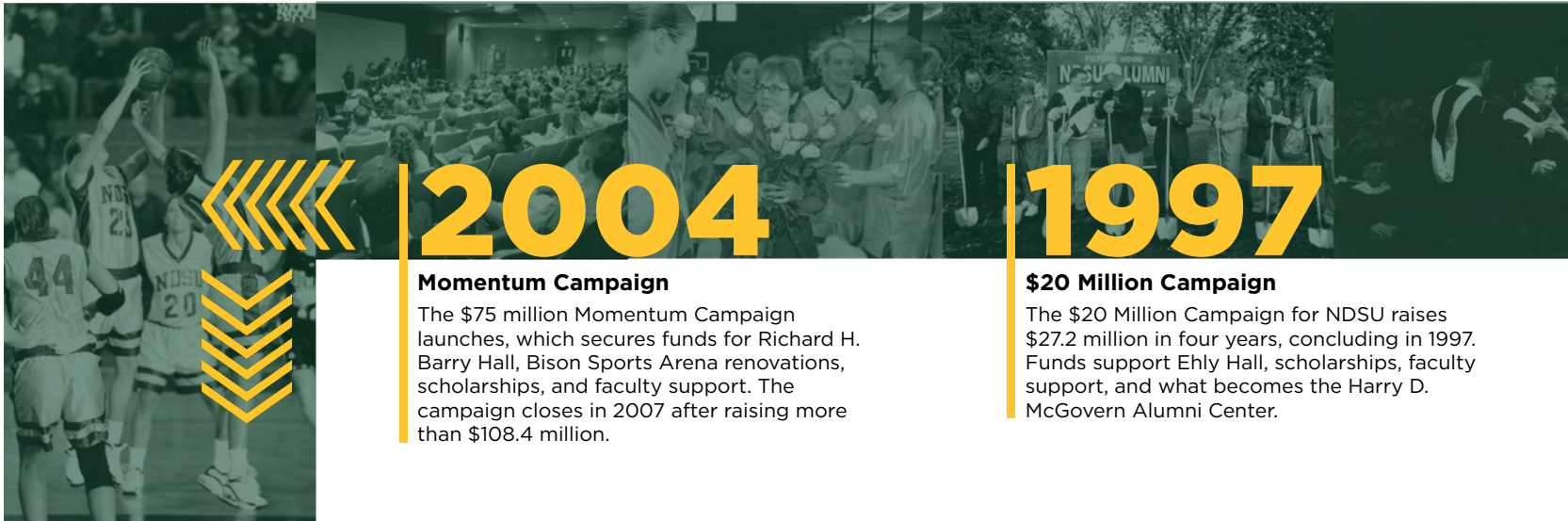
NDAC Alumni Association
The NDAC Alumni Association is founded.

1948

NDAC Memorial Foundation
The NDAC Memorial Foundation is incorporated.

1961

NDAC Foundation
The NDAC Foundation is formed.



2004

Momentum Campaign
The \$75 million Momentum Campaign launches, which secures funds for Richard H. Barry Hall, Bison Sports Arena renovations, scholarships, and faculty support. The campaign closes in 2007 after raising more than \$108.4 million.

1997

\$20 Million Campaign
The \$20 Million Campaign for NDSU raises \$27.2 million in four years, concluding in 1997. Funds support Ehly Hall, scholarships, faculty support, and what becomes the Harry D. McGovern Alumni Center.



2016

Giving Day
NDSU's Giving Day is established, encouraging alumni, faculty, staff, and friends to come together and support the university in a one-day giving blitz.

2017

Trustees
NDSU Foundation Trustees and Alumni Directors approve governance changes to combine volunteer bodies under one name called Trustees.

2019

SHAPING
THE
GROUND



DACOTAH FIELD

ASKANASE HALL

EHLI HALL

McGOVERN ALUMNI CENTER

WALLMAN WELLNESS CENTER

RICHARD H. BARRY HALL

Today's North Dakota State University Foundation — and its heritage organizations prior — can be traced back to the early years of North Dakota Agricultural College (NDAC). NDSU benefactors have a long history of supporting the University. Track a brief history of philanthropic support to NDSU in the timeline below.



1963

NDSU Memorial Foundation

NDAC Memorial Foundation changes to NDSU Memorial Foundation.

1971

NDSU Development Foundation

'SU 75 Board of Trustees creates the NDSU Development Foundation. The Memorial Foundation and NDSU Alumni Achievement Foundation become part of the NDSU Development Foundation, which forged a strategic alignment with the NDSU Alumni Association.



1989

Centennial Campaign

The Centennial Campaign finishes six months ahead of schedule, raising \$9.35 million. The goal of the campaign is to enhance NDSU through the development of endowed scholarships, endowed faculty development programs, and funding for equipment purchases.

1975

First Major Capital Campaign

The first major capital campaign, 'SU 75, reaches its \$4 million goal on schedule. The campaign contributions help in building Askanase Hall, a new field house, an all-weather 400-meter track, and improvements to Dacotah Field.



2021

In Our Hands Campaign

The \$400 million *In Our Hands* campaign publicly launches, pursuing private gift support to advance priority initiatives in scholarships, named faculty positions, facility projects, and programs.

Largest Single Gift Announced

Robert '67 and Sheila Challey commit a \$75 million gift to NDSU — the single largest publicly-announced gift in university history. The gift supports performing arts, the Challey Institute, scholarships, and other priorities.

In Our Hands Surpasses Goal

The Foundation announces the campaign reached \$413 million in May 2021, 20 months ahead of schedule. The campaign is set to finish Dec. 31, 2021.



PRESIDENT'S HOUSE

JACK DALRYMPLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COMPLEX

SANFORD HEALTH ATHLETIC COMPLEX

ALDEVRON TOWER

NDDAK INSURANCE COMPANY FOOTBALL PERFORMANCE COMPLEX

PELTIER COMPLEX



THE *IN OUR HANDS* CAMPAIGN

BY THE NUMBERS

\$586,651,144



SCHOLARSHIPS
\$238.3M
FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

FACULTY
\$40.7M
FOR FACULTY

PROGRAMS
\$178M
FOR PROGRAMS

FACILITIES
\$129.7M
FOR FACILITIES

22
NEW NAMED
FACULTY POSITIONS

\$104.7M
SUPPORT TO CAMPUS
SINCE 1/1/16

\$457M
ENDOWMENT VALUE 12/31/21
241%
ENDOWMENT GROWTH
FROM 12/31/15 TO 12/31/21

1,506
FUNDS RECEIVED
GIFTS

15,068
DONORS PARTICIPATED
OF WHOM
4,263 WERE FIRST-TIME DONORS

\$41.9M
RAISED BY TEAM MAKERS

506
NEW
SCHOLARSHIPS

A COLLEGE CATALYZED BY PHILANTHROPY

The College of Business is a microcosm of the *In Our Hands* campaign success. Scott Beaulier's hiring as dean aligned with the start of the campaign; benefactors rallied around his vision for what it means to study business at NDSU and began investing.

Story by Nicole Thom-Arens

Illustrations by Leah Ecklund

Scott Beaulier, Ronald and Kaye Olson Dean of Business, started at NDSU the same year *In Our Hands: The Campaign for North Dakota State University* began — 2016. Scott came to NDSU from Arizona State University where he was the executive director of the Center for Economic Liberty. When he started as dean, he was confident he could work to build and improve community partnerships by getting to know people and major executives in the Fargo-Moorhead community and by listening to their needs, concerns, and ideas. By the public launch of the *In Our Hands* campaign in 2019, the College of Business had built tremendous success within its curriculum and in building relationships with industry leaders and benefactors.

"We framed ourselves as a college that gets things done," Scott said. "We help our students get here, get through, and graduate, and we do it at a very rapid rate. We have a business-like curriculum; we

redesigned everything we were doing in light of feedback from the industry."

In response to that feedback and in an attempt to meet regional needs, Scott drafted a proposal for a new center at NDSU that would tackle important questions and work to address challenges facing the Midwest, particularly the upper Midwest.

"The key problems in my mind at the time were trade, which was a hot issue politically and remains so. Another one was opportunity. How do we attract more people to the upper Midwest, and how do we unleash their full potential to make this economy as great as it possibly can be? The third pillar was entrepreneurship and innovation and trying to help people get rid of barriers that are getting in the way of them being the best versions of themselves that they can be," Scott said.

THE CHALLEY INSTITUTE

Within just six months of the proposal, the College launched the \$30 million Sheila and Robert Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth (Challey Institute) in early 2019. A major part of the Challey Institute is gathering faculty from diverse

academic backgrounds to tackle issues important to the Institute's mission in alignment with the student-focused, land-grant, research mission of NDSU.

In fall 2020, the Menard Family announced a \$5.5 million gift to the Challey Institute. With that gift, the Institute launched the Menard Family Distinguished Speaker Series, which hosts world thought leaders to share their ideas on big questions that explore ways to improve the human condition and create economic opportunity.

"That caliber of speakers is something we've not seen at NDSU, and I think it's something we can point to in the Challey Institute and say before, nothing like this — and after, something really big," Scott said.

In the three years since its inception, the Institute has funded 39 Challey fellowships. The fellowships help fund faculty research across campus that aligns with the mission of the Institute; the fellowships last a year but are renewable. The Institute also houses 13 Challey Scholars, who are long-term faculty members within the Institute supported by philanthropy.

"What John Bitzan, Menard Family Director of the Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth, has done with





Scott Beaulier holds the Ronald and Kaye Olson Deanship in the College of Business.

the fellows program is try to show that we are breaking bread with a lot of campus,” Scott said. “There are partners in every college, and we want to work with anyone who wants to do work overlapping with the Institute.”

In many ways the Institute is still in its infancy. There are faculty to be added to the team, but recruiting someone in the area of trade has been challenging, so the Institute has shifted its direction slightly to focus on Midwestern opportunity. An original inspiration for the Institute, the late Mancur Olson, a 1954 graduate of NDSU who went on to become an economist and intellectual giant, continues to influence the direction of the Institute.

“We’re having success in recruitment in part because there’s an exciting vision, and now we have this mass of people we’ve brought in who are hanging out together and writing together; there’s energy from having a cluster of people, and I think the next few faculty hires will be easier because of the group we already have,” Scott said.

A FOCUS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In early 2019, the College of Business launched what is now known as the Center for Entrepreneurship and Family Business (formerly known as the Nice Center), under the direction of Onnol-

ee Nordstrom, the President Jim Ozbun Endowed Chair of Entrepreneurship. While the Center does similar high-powered research like the Challey Institute, it’s mission also involves spreading entrepreneurship education throughout the state.

“They’re trying to reach every high school with entrepreneurship programming, and they’re trying to alert people to our entrepreneurship offerings to make them aware that NDSU is a place you can study entrepreneurship,” Scott said.

Entrepreneurship is a young field and very open in its approaches, which offers a different experience from traditional business classes. While only 2% of people will become entrepreneurs, it’s a field of study from which Scott and his team believe all students can benefit.

“It’s a program that should make students feel uncomfortable and open them to challenges — reinventing and failing and reinventing and failing over and over,” Scott said. “We’ve tried to ingrain that idea in our curriculum because it’s something that we think is important even if you’re not an entrepreneur, but we also want to encourage students to take that leap and consider going from NDSU and into launching something — becoming the next Aldevron, becoming the next Bushel.”

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Since the start of the *In Our Hands* campaign, 26 new scholarships have been added to the College. This additional support for students, according to Scott, has helped maintain enrollment. Scott and his team had noticed an alarming concern within the College: one in four of majors will take a semester off. These new scholarships are helping keep students enrolled for consecutive semesters.

“We want students to go through and maintain knowledge and graduate. I think anytime you take a break, you might not come back,” Scott said. “The scholarships are helping bridge that risk, and we’d like to have more of them to prevent that dropping out scenario. Scholarships are also helping

us advance diversity in the College and really focus on social mobility, as well. The Olson/Challey scholarship is an example of really being able to dial in on a disenfranchised group and move the needle there.”

The Olson/Challey First-Generation Business Scholarship is funded by part of Scott’s Ronald and Kaye Olson Deanship and the Challey Institute. It is a one-time award for incoming first-generation students. Both Scott and Ronald are first-generation college students and relate to the unique challenges associated with being first-generation. In 2021, 70 first-generation students were awarded the Olson/Challey scholarship.

“I deeply benefited from higher education myself as a student and really worried about the cost of attendance,” Scott said. “I don’t want students to be taking on really big financial burdens and philanthropy is really helping control that piece for them, as well. It’s an amazing value proposition that we offer at NDSU.”

The philanthropic support from the deanship allows Scott flexibility in determining how funding is distributed within the College, which allows him to pivot to meet critical needs and support initiatives that vary from year to year. The combined philanthropic support to the College throughout the *In Our Hands* campaign has been transformative. It has allowed for rapid change so that it may better position itself to meet the needs of students, future employers, and the regional economy.

“Quite honestly, I think philanthropy has saved the College of Business,” Scott said. “It’s also injecting this tremendous new energy into the College that’s helping us redefine ourselves.” 🐘



FINDING MEANING MEETS MAIN STREET

Story by Nicole Thom-Arens



**DR. CLAY
ROUTLEDGE SPENT
TWO DECADES
RESEARCHING
MEANING IN LIFE.
NOW, HE'S TAKING
HIS RESEARCH
BEYOND THE
LAB TO IMPROVE
COMMUNITIES.**

Many of us often consider our own happiness, but it's rarer for us to consider whether our lives have meaning — the two, according to Dr. Clay Routledge, are not the same. Clay, the Arden and Donna Hetland Distinguished Professor of Business at NDSU, has spent his career studying meaning in life.

“It is wonderful that the world is generally getting richer. This means less poverty, less starvation and malnutrition, more education, better healthcare, more free time, and so on; however, civilizational progress creates unique challenges that we should care about in order to continue to advance progress. The more affluent a society is, the easier it is for people to become disconnected from each other and to doubt the meaningfulness of their lives,” Clay said. “People are trying to connect with something that makes a difference in

other people's lives. That's one of the things that people often misunderstand about meaning. Meaning isn't the same thing as pleasure. It doesn't mean you're happy all the time. Meaning is that feeling of significance and even transcendence that comes from making a difference in the world and in the lives of those you deeply care about.”

As a Challey Scholar in the Sheila and Robert Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth (Challey Institute), Clay's goal is “to help individuals and organizations understand and apply psychological science to promote progress and flourishing.” Clay spent 13 years teaching and conducting research in NDSU's psychology department where he focused on the “basic science” of psychology and trying to understand how the mind works. In a laboratory setting, Clay asked people questions about the different cognitive processes involved in how they make meaning and what makes their lives meaningful. Becoming a Challey Scholar allowed Clay to take his 20 years of research and apply it to real world challenges and issues in order to help people.

“Most of my research is focused on how human beings grapple with big existential questions that result from our advanced cognitive capacities. We are uniquely able to reflect on the nature of existence and to seek meaning that transcends our individual mortality. We want to have an enduring impact and to feel like we are part of something that outlasts our brief time as physical organisms,” Clay said. “In the College of Business, I really apply those questions to the business community and more broadly to the economic world because a lot of the jobs people choose, the entrepreneurial goals people have, the pro-social behavior they engage in to give back to their communities, and many of their financial decisions are very much connected to their existential lives and the desire to find and maintain meaning.”

Meaning in life is certainly a nuanced concept, but there are commonalities across demographics.

“In general, the more people feel

“One of the challenges we have in our culture is that there is such an emphasis on following your dream and doing stuff to fulfill individual passions. All of that’s great, but I think sometimes what’s lost is a message of, ‘How do I serve others?’”

DR. CLAY ROUTLEDGE

socially connected, the more likely they are to view their lives as meaningful,” Clay wrote in the May 2020 article, “Why Meaning Matters for Freedom and Flourishing.” Clay, who was born in Africa to missionary parents, encourages people to make an effort to form a connection to other people.

“Meaning is very social — turns out that’s the case around the world,” Clay said. “It really is that sense of mattering in a relationship and to a group. I suspect there’s an ancient explanation for this — like your value to the tribe and those who help you survive and thrive. You need to feel like you’re important to the functioning of the group and your family.”

As our societies progress and humans rely less and less on each other — especially in highly individualistic cultures like in the U.S. — there can be a loss of meaning, and that’s a problem for us all because meaning is critical for mental and physical health.

“If someone is pessimistic, if they don’t feel like they have any control over their life, if they don’t regulate their behavior appropriately, then all those external resources aren’t going to help them thrive,” Clay said. “I’m interested in that piece — the internal resources piece. How do we cultivate a society that helps individuals not only with external supports but also with their ability to marshal their own resources toward goals?”

Work can promote meaning in life by helping people support themselves and their families. One of Clay’s studies found income was significantly related to meaning only to the point of economic security. This is where Clay’s research aligns with the College of Business. Healthy economies need healthy workers and innovation requires people with resilience, self-control, persistence, optimism, and problem solving.

“I’m interested in what benefits people, what helps people flourish. That’s going to help businesses flourish and society flourish,” Clay said. “There’s an intimate connection between individuals and the business world and the broader organizational world. We need functioning government, we need functioning businesses, we need ethical government, ethical businesses, and other types of organizations. I’m really interested in these human needs, particularly how meaning in life is channeled into these different spheres including the business world.”

One of the pillars of the Challey Institute is to create economic opportunity in the upper Midwest. Clay came to the Institute with extensive scholarly experience and has been incredibly influential in its progression.

“Clay brought us research excellence,” Scott Beaulier, Ronald and Kaye Olson Dean of the College of Business, said. “Clay is someone many of our junior faculty in the College look up to. He is extremely impactful. He’s highly cited; he may go down in the history of NDSU as the most cited professor we’ve ever had. He’s young and on an amazing trajectory. We are thrilled to have someone like Clay in our college.”

Another pillar of the Challey

Institute is entrepreneurship and innovation.

“We’re trying to help people get rid of barriers that deprive them of being the best versions of themselves,” Scott said. “Clay’s work intersects with this focus area in that finding meaning in life is far more difficult when countless obstacles are thrown in your way.”

Identifying barriers to success involves exploring the age-old question of nature versus nurture. Each of us is wired differently, but research shows our environment can influence some of our psychological traits. An area of continued growth in the College of Business is creating an environment of entrepreneurship, that helps nurture skills that lead to success. The mission of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Family Business (formerly called the Nice Center) is to reach every NDSU student because the lessons of entrepreneurship exceed the parameters of startups and the fundamentals of running a business.

“Entrepreneurs have high failure rates, so they require a lot of resilience, a lot of persistence,” Clay said. “If you think about these psychology traits, they are good for anyone in business and in life more generally.”

Teaching those skills is possible. We don’t have to be born entrepreneurs. We can learn to be entrepreneurs and in doing so, strengthen the psychological traits that lead to greater meaning in life; however, many struggle to connect their work with meaning.

“One of the challenges we have in our culture is that there is such an emphasis on following your dream and doing stuff to fulfill individual passions. All of that’s great, but I think sometimes what’s lost is a message of, ‘How do I serve others?’” Clay said. “Jobs can be great sources of meaning, especially if people are using the job to help others in some way, but it is also important to remember that a lot of the labor people do that’s meaningful to them isn’t paid. It’s taking care of people and helping people. If you honestly think what you’re doing is in no way contributing, then find some space to do something that’s serving other people.” 🐾



THE NDSU EXPERIMENT

How Brianna Maddock '22 went from Davenport, a small town of fewer than 300 people, to Aldevron, a cutting-edge biotechnology company that employs nearly 1,000.

Story by Micaela Gerhardt

Brianna Maddock '22, a biotechnology major with minors in microbiology and chemistry, comes from a family of agriculturalists — her grandparents, aunts, uncles, and parents all have ties to agricultural production and education. When Brianna was 7 years old, her dad accepted a faculty position in the animal sciences department at NDSU, and she and her family moved from Brookings, South Dakota, to Davenport, North Dakota, a rural community about 30 miles southwest of Fargo.

In the eighth grade, Brianna got involved in the National FFA Organization (formerly Future Farmers of America), a student-led organization that teaches agricultural education and provides leadership opportunities to young people across the state. She began participating in the Agriscience Fair, where she was asked to conduct and present original, ag-related research. Her use of the scientific method began there: by asking a question about something she observed. Her family raised chickens, and one day, as she washed the dirt and grime off

each of the eggs, she wondered if she was doing it as effectively as possible.

“We had this one method of washing eggs, and I was like, ‘Well, is this the best method?’” Brianna recalled. “I did a pretty simple study where I washed the eggs using different methods, swabbed the eggshells, put the samples on a petri plate, and then let them grow to see which one was the most effective at getting rid of the bacteria. I think it’s funny now, because that was really my first exposure to microbiology, and I didn’t come back to it until I came to college.”

When it came time for her to choose a college to attend, Brianna had every reason to pick NDSU. Her parents, Robert '95, '98 and Tamra '99, are NDSU grads, and both her dad and aunt, Kasey Maddock Carlin '99, teach in NDSU’s animal sciences department, but Brianna had reservations. NDSU and the city of Fargo were almost too familiar, too comfortable. She felt she should go further outside of her comfort zone as she pursued a degree — until NDSU’s research opportunities and scholarship support changed her mind.

“It was really easy for me to be like, ‘Oh, it’s just NDSU,’ but when I really started to look into some of the programs and research opportunities for undergraduates, that’s when I got excited; that’s when I was like, ‘OK, I can come to NDSU, I can get an awesome experience here, and with scholarships, I can do it debt-free,’” Brianna said. “That made me recognize that NDSU was home — not because Fargo was home — but because of those opportunities.”

Brianna has been highly involved in undergraduate research every year of her college experience. As a freshman, she conducted basic crop research in an agricultural and biosystems engineering lab, which taught her the scientific process, showed her the importance of each role within a lab, and served as a great stepping-stone for more complex research. Next, she characterized proteins found in beef to help create a better end-product for producers and consumers in an animal sciences lab whose principal investigator was her aunt.

Her research experiences helped open doors beyond — and connected

to — NDSU. Aldevron, the Fargo-based biotechnology company founded by NDSU graduates Michael Chambers '97 and John Ballantyne '97 chose Brianna to serve as its NDSU campus ambassador. In this internship role, Brianna actively assists her peers by helping them pursue meaningful careers at Aldevron and helps Aldevron by introducing the company to high-quality job candidates from NDSU. She also earned a summer internship working in Aldevron's research and development department.

Michael, Aldevron's founding CEO, was a biotechnology and microbiology student like Brianna. His work as an undergraduate researcher at NDSU led him to study a new field, at the time, called DNA vaccines. Today, among other services, Aldevron supplies high-quality plasmid DNA that serves as the genetic template for mRNA vaccines.

"The foundational work of the company, the foundational research, was done in Sudro Hall," Michael said in the Spring 2021 issue of the NDSU Foundation Digital Magazine. "Our professors provided a research experience that allowed us to develop the technology that today is helping millions of people around the world. One of the best things about NDSU is the research experience it provides undergraduates."

Now, Brianna is in her senior year at NDSU.

She's preparing to graduate and has accepted a position as an assistant scientist in Aldevron's research and development department. She says the most appealing part of working for Aldevron is the company's mission-driven focus.

"Aldevron's values include, 'We innovate and advance; We collaborate; We serve; and We make lives better.' Through my internship, I was able to see these values in action," Brianna said. "Aldevron employees continually keep the end-client in mind as they work. The end-client is the patient who will benefit from the work they're doing, and the work Aldevron does gives hope to these patients and their families."

Brianna says an essential part of being a passionate scientist is being able to connect the minutiae of the lab processes, which can be monotonous and must always be precise (think measuring and transferring very specific amounts of liquid from one place to another over and over, for one example), to a greater cause.

"Sometimes, with lab work, it's easy to think that you're merely isolating DNA or creating a gel, but when you work at a mission-driven and values-inspired company, it's easier to recognize the importance of the role you're playing," Brianna said. "When

I think about the joy that science gives me, I always go back to, 'Why does it matter? How does this research I'm doing affect

"WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE JOY THAT SCIENCE GIVES ME, I ALWAYS GO BACK TO, 'WHY DOES IT MATTER? HOW DOES THIS RESEARCH I'M DOING AFFECT PEOPLE?'"

BRIANNA MADDOCK

people?"

It's a cause-and-effect process she's currently putting into practice in her microbiology research lab. With a team of fellow NDSU students and Dr. Glenn Dorsam, Brianna is conducting discovery research on how vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP) impact gut health.

When Brianna considers the VIP research, she asks herself questions like, "Does the research we're doing show that the gut microbiome has to have certain components needed for humans to be healthy?" or "Do the results we're showing give us a better model for studying different human diseases?" These questions take time to answer, and one element of being a scientist is accepting that you may never actually realize the long-term effects of your research.

"Research requires so much patience and just having a little bit of faith that what you're doing is eventually going to make an impact," Brianna said, "or being able to realize that what you're doing might *not* have an impact and being able to move on to something else. It can definitely test your patience, so you have to really love and believe in what you're doing in order to want to continue it."

Her undergraduate research experiences at NDSU and internship with Aldevron have helped Brianna make connections between the long hours spent in the lab and life-enhancing results, like higher-quality agricultural products and innovative vaccines. She is reminded every day of the why behind her work, which is to help people.

"I no longer say I love science — I really enjoy science — but what I've come to realize is that I love people, and I want to use science to help people," Brianna said. "That connection is what really makes me excited." 🐛





DESIGNING THE SKYLINE

Winston Churchill said, “We shape our buildings, and afterwards our buildings shape us.” For architects Ann and Dan Noble, shaping a skyline is a humbling responsibility, so they’re doing more to better serve people in the spaces they design.

Story by Nicole Thom-Arens

About 10 years ago, Dan Noble '82 found himself riding in a handmade 750 BMW in Dubai. He traveled there from Dallas, Texas, on business for HKS Architecture, where he is now chairman, president, and CEO. He turned to the driver — dressed in a white Kandura — who was leaned way back in his seat and smoking a cigarette. Behind him, through the driver’s window, Dan could see the Dubai skyline. It was in that moment that he wondered, “How did I get here?”

When I flew into Dallas from Fargo, North Dakota, to interview Dan and Ann (Skjerven) Noble '82, I got caught in rush hour traffic on the freeway while making my way from the airport to downtown Dallas. As I drove into the city filled with brightly lit high-rises, I wondered if the stark contrast of life in Fargo and life in one of the largest metro areas in the U.S. ever made either of them take pause, so I asked.

“Where it really strikes me is when we travel,” Dan, who grew up in Aberdeen, South Dakota, said. “We

have offices in Dubai, Shanghai, India, London, Mexico City, Singapore. When you look at it through that context, Dallas seems like an easy jump. How did we end up here? OK, I can get that. How did we end up in India?”

Dan and Ann, who grew up in Park River, North Dakota, met at NDSU — in fact, they were in the same freshman English class — but it wasn’t until later in their academic careers that they started dating. After graduating with degrees in architecture, they went their separate ways. Ann headed to Chicago, Illinois, where her brother was living but she couldn’t find a job in the city.

“They were laying off in droves that summer,” Ann recalled. “We had a friend, one of our classmates, from Dallas, who was going up north to pick up his car at Thanksgiving who said, ‘Just drive down with me.’ I slept on his couch and had three job offers in the first week. I came down to Dallas for what was just going to be a couple of years, and that was 40 years ago.”

Dan spent the first summer after graduation earning money painting houses and organizing his portfolio. In the fall, he drove from Aberdeen to

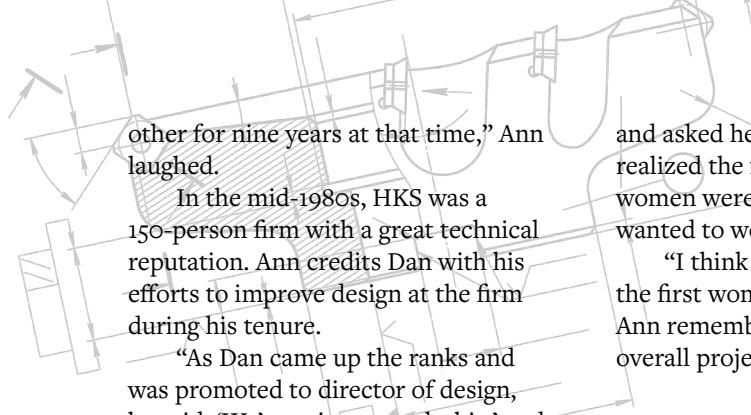
Houston, Texas, where his brother and sister were living. He found a job, but when the oil crisis hit Houston, the firm closed. After six months of waiting tables, he left Houston and headed to Dallas. He’d wanted to be an architect for as long as he could remember, so he thought he better “pursue his vocation.”

When he arrived in Dallas, he researched architecture firms in the city, noted the ones that had won the most design awards, and applied to those.

“HKS was one of those firms. I interviewed here and got the job in '83, so it’s been 39 years,” Dan said. “I was a project designer, then a senior designer, moved into healthcare, became studio director, became director of design for health, and then director of design for the whole firm, then CEO eight years ago.”

Ann started at a small firm in Dallas, Craycroft Architects, and then went to a commercial firm before landing at HKS in September 1986. People in the office were a bit confused when Ann and Dan married in January 1987.

“People thought we met and got married, but we had known each



other for nine years at that time,” Ann laughed.

In the mid-1980s, HKS was a 150-person firm with a great technical reputation. Ann credits Dan with his efforts to improve design at the firm during his tenure.

“As Dan came up the ranks and was promoted to director of design, he said, ‘We’re going to push this,’ and has really been pushing it ever since,” Ann recalled. “They had the project management and technical aspects taken care of and were known for it, so in enhancing the design, everything enhanced.”

They both agree the firm’s strong business practices are also part of its longevity. While other architecture firms in the city have closed their doors in the time Ann and Dan have been in Dallas, HKS has grown to 1,500 employees, expanded into 24 cities around the world, and been in business for more than 80 years.

“This is a profession where you can over emphasize aspirational design, ego-drive, selfish aspects of what the profession could be. All of that taken in moderation is necessary, but when it gets out of balance, it becomes a problem. It’s hard to run a business that way,” Dan said about some firms where the culture is more singularly ego-driven and less about collaboration and understanding user needs.

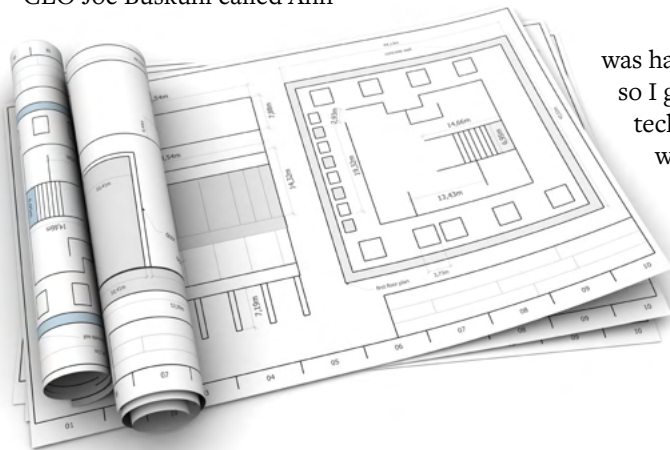
“And you’ve got a good succession plan in place,” Ann added. “In some firms, the leader gets old and doesn’t have anyone lined up to take over, so when he retires, the firm is gone.”

It’s also clear HKS is a firm that invests in its people. In 1996, Ann was pregnant with their second child and working for another company — she felt she needed a break from HKS. Former CEO Joe Buskuhl called Ann

and asked her to come back to HKS. He realized the firm was losing talent when women were starting families and he wanted to work out ways to retain them.

“I think I was, if not the first, one of the first women to try going part time,” Ann remembered. “I was involved in overall project management, which

continues the firm’s tradition of re-envisioning the workplace to meet the needs of its employees, but he is also working on ways to make the world a better place to live in. They don’t just hire architects and interior designers. The team also includes sociologists, researcher scientists, industrial



was hard to do part time, so I gravitated toward the technical side. I got involved with our quality control group and our technical specifications, which was easier to do part time. I started at 30 hours a week then went down to 20.”

As CEO, Dan

engineers, psychologists, ecologists, and anthropologists.

“HKS embodies the idea that architecture and design is a much broader field than one department and one discipline,” Michael Strand, director of NDSU’s School of Design, Architecture, and Art, said. “The holistic view of design holds multiple vantage points and is something that really shows up in what the firm does.”

HKS is the only architecture firm in the world to sign the UN Global Compact, which aims to “mobilize a global movement of sustainable companies and stakeholders to create the world we want.” They’re leading

do good and create a viable business by doing good.”

Dan is also leaning into the new business culture of a distributed workforce. The seven-floor office space is no longer filled with people in workspaces like it was prior to the pandemic.

They’re engaging in a flexible work experience and utilizing software to keep the hundreds of teams collaborative.

“We don’t have a defined eight to five you have to be in the office anymore, and we won’t. It’s about how to balance your work with your life,” Dan said.

While they encourage balance, both Ann and Dan exemplify the characteristic Midwestern work ethic. They know that sometimes work aligns with passion and balance doesn’t come every day.

In addition to building their careers and raising their family, they’ve also renovated three of their family homes, built their current home, and are now working on a lake house in Brainerd,

into her interests in building and construction — the things that first inspired her to study architecture. She and a friend started a business flipping houses.

“We’ve renovated and flipped three houses now. Three teeny, tiny houses. So, when Dan was going off to his big job, and he’d say, ‘What are you going to do today?’ I’d say, ‘I’m going to save the world — one tired little house at a time.’”

Dan’s first design project also involved construction. When he was in sixth grade, he converted the family home’s cistern into a bedroom for his brother. At NDSU, both Ann and Dan realized architecture was about more than seeing a need and fulfilling it.

“I’d never thought about the psychology of architecture, the sociology. How space effects mood. How space can improve productivity. How healthy buildings can create a happier workforce. How if you just don’t do these one-off buildings where they’re not connected, that you could create a cohesive urban environment and if you did, how much better it would be,” Dan said while crediting NDSU faculty members Roger Richmond and Al Cook for encouraging new ways of thinking about space and design.

“Michael Ward was a big influencer in conceptual design — looking at architecture as more than just buildings to shelter. It’s spaces that influence and effect people,” Ann added.

As they recall stories about their time at NDSU, the fondness they have for this place is obvious. Ann has been an NDSU Foundation Trustee since 2019, and when she and Dan make trips back to campus, they’re even more impressed with how the School has evolved since they’ve graduated, and they’re passionate about helping students graduate and find their own enriching careers in the field.

So how did the Nobles get where they are today? Dan answers his own question.

“There wasn’t a big plan. Things just sort of fell into place. We did what we loved to do, we worked hard, and were passionate about it,” he said. “We had a real sense of purpose and knew where we wanted to make a difference.” 🐼

“WE PUT A LOT OF OUR EFFORT INTO THE THINGS WE FEEL THERE’S A NEED FOR IN THE WORLD. WE’RE FINDING THERE’S A BUSINESS PROPOSITION FOR THAT. WE CAN DO GOOD AND CREATE A VIABLE BUSINESS BY DOING GOOD.”

DAN NOBLE

internal conversations about justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. They’ve created an advisory group, a sustainability group, and launched Citizen HKS, the firm’s pro bono arm, of which Ann is a member of the steering committee.

“We put a lot of our effort into the things we feel there’s a need for in the world,” Dan said. “We’re finding there’s a business proposition for that. We can

Minnesota.

“We’ve always had side projects that keep us up at night,” Dan said.

“Space effects people. It does,” Ann said. “Even the spaces that we’ve done, I think about our kids growing up in the homes that we’ve renovated, and, hopefully, it enriched them. I think it has.”

Ann retired from HKS when Dan became president and CEO. She leaned



MAKING SERVICE-MINDED MUSIC

CLARA PRESSER (OSOWSKI)

Story by Micaela Gerhardt

recognizes that a career in music has a greater purpose: building empathy and community.

“We do see the importance of how music can shape culture and how music can shape the individual, and I really think it’s so important that we performers think of ourselves as cultural ambassadors, but also empathy ambassadors,” Clara said. “We have the ability to tell someone’s story in a different way — it gives people a chance to be completely beyond themselves and to put themselves in a different position.”

Clara grew up on a farm in Turtle Lake, North Dakota, and her mom, a saxophonist and K-12 music teacher, recognized Clara’s talent and work ethic early on. She drove Clara 100 miles for voice and saxophone lessons every other week and encouraged her participation in International Music Camp. At NDSU, Clara continued to hone her musical skills.

“I knew how special the education at NDSU was, but now I think the region and the United States are starting to realize how good this program actually is and how much they care about the individual student,” Clara said.

Her career has since taken her around the world. Clara sings in professional ensembles, including Seraphic Fire, and has participated in numerous music institutes overseas to enhance her craft. She was also the first American prizewinner in the Das Lied International Song Competition in Heidelberg, Germany — one of the most prestigious voice competitions worldwide — and, in October 2021, she performed her debut recital at Wigmore Hall, a world-renowned chamber music hall in London, England.

Clara’s global experiences and service-minded musicianship led her

to co-found Source Song Festival in 2013. Based in the Twin Cities, the art song festival provides educational masterclasses for composers, vocalists, and pianists; it also offers concerts and recitals for local audiences to enjoy.

“I KNEW HOW SPECIAL THE EDUCATION AT NDSU WAS, BUT NOW I THINK THE REGION AND THE UNITED STATES ARE STARTING TO REALIZE HOW GOOD THIS PROGRAM ACTUALLY IS AND HOW MUCH THEY CARE ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT.”

CLARA PRESSER (OSOWSKI)

“The driving factor was making sure everybody had access to this type of music education,” Clara, who serves as the festival’s artistic director, said. “My experiences overseas in similar programs inspired bringing the experience to Minnesota, knowing that it would be really well-received.”

Her approach to interpreting music — whether she’s performing a solo recital or singing with incarcerated women as part of a music residency at the Minnesota Correctional Facility — is informed by equity and the importance of empathetic communication.

“All of our feelings are so contemporary beyond time and beyond even cultural barriers at times,” Clara said. “Unlocking what those words do for the composer and what they do for the audience is a really important part of my job.” 🐘

2022 AWARD RECIPIENT HORIZON AWARD

The **Horizon Award** recognizes alumni who have graduated within the past 15 years and have attained great success in their profession or have been engaged in outstanding community service.

As an NDSU student, classical musician Clara Presser (Osowski) ’08 was inspired by Prakash Mathew, former Vice President of Student Affairs, and his commitment to servant leadership. Clara says that although performers are sometimes perceived as self-oriented people who are most interested in fame, she



ADVANCING TECHNOLOGIES TO INSPIRE INNOVATIVE MEDICINE

MICHAEL CHAMBERS AND JOHN BALLANTYNE

Story by Nicole Thom-Arens

upon research forged in NDSU labs and founded Aldevron, a company that has become a leader in advancing biological sciences, headquartered in Fargo, North Dakota.

They remember the early days of Aldevron — the long nights and early mornings required to meet a delivery time and the trust researchers placed in them to deliver the crucial DNA needed to expand medicine. The company grew organically. They built a commercial infrastructure and focused on keeping costs down while providing exceptional products that would lead to scientific breakthroughs such as mRNA vaccines and personalized medicine.

“You understand that your job is to get stuff made so the next people in the chain can make the discoveries that make the drugs that save the lives,” John said. “You don’t set out for glory or anything like that, but it is absolutely a remarkable thing to look back on when you see something that showed up 14 years ago, 12 years ago, that’s a drug now, and you can go back to your database and look at the first time it arrived and you made it. There’re not many people in the world who get to experience that.”

Aldevron produces high-quality plasmid DNA, mRNA, proteins, enzymes, antibodies, and other biologicals to scientists around the world; all of the DNA that goes into the creation of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is made by Aldevron.

“Back when we started the company, you could sort of see some of these technologies coming,” Michael said. “But all these new gene therapies we have right now — the COVID vaccine, the oncology products that will save millions of lives — didn’t exist back in the day, but you could predict it.”

By providing large quantities of highly pure nucleic acids used universally in the advancement of gene therapy, Aldevron greatly accelerated scientific progress. Aldevron’s success captured the attention of global science and technology innovator, Danaher. In June 2021, Danaher Corporation purchased Aldevron for approximately \$9.6 billion. The company joined Danaher’s Life Sciences segment.

“What is most exciting and most relevant are Aldevron’s employees, the best people in our industry. Most of our executives and impact players are NDSU graduates. These leaders have built an incredible company that is approaching 1,000 associates,” Michael said. “We are one of the flagship innovation engines in genomic medicine for Danaher Corporation, which is 80,000 associates. Many of the best people in Danaher’s genomic medicine division are NDSU graduates.”

When they look to the future, they’re excited about how NDSU and Aldevron will advance genomic medicine and how NDSU’s land-grant mission can bolster the industry by inspiring innovation. They’re looking to the horizon for the next “Aldevrons” that will create new technologies necessary to advance medicine, keep costs down, and treat diseases. John and Michael hope this award will inspire future NDSU graduates who have the drive, desire, and understanding to act on their ideas, and they believe Fargo is the perfect place.

“I don’t think of this as flyover country,” John said. “I think of this as the central part of North America. I think of it as a hub of production and capability. You’re only as good as your locale, and we’re very fortunate to be in a great one.” 🐾

2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The **Alumni Achievement Award** recognizes alumni who have attained outstanding professional accomplishments.

In 1997, Michael Chambers (B.S. Biotechnology) and John Ballantyne (Ph.D. Pharmaceutical Sciences) graduated from NDSU; in 1998, the two built



HELPING PEOPLE MOVE THROUGH ADVERSITY

KENTON KAUFMAN

Story by Micaela Gerhardt

the W. Hall Wendel Jr. Musculoskeletal Research Professor, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Professor of Orthopedics, Director of the Motion Analysis Laboratory, and a Consultant in the Departments of Orthopedic Surgery, Physiology, and Biomedical Engineering at Mayo Clinic.

Kenton grew up in Marion, South Dakota, and earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in agricultural engineering from South Dakota State University. He served as a faculty member at NDSU for 10 years, then decided to pursue his Ph.D. in biomechanical engineering at NDSU.

“As a farm boy, I was planning to design tractors, but I learned that I prefer to design humans more than tractors,” Kenton said. “I still use the same engineering principals of design and analysis, it’s just that the structure I’m analyzing is a living, biological structure, not a piece of steel.”

Kenton and a team of engineers, physical therapists, physiologists, and doctors work together to help diagnose patients with musculoskeletal conditions; treat people with limb loss or mobility impairments; optimize athletic performance; and conduct research and develop new technologies to help individuals achieve a better quality of life. They collect objective data by analyzing patients in motion, rather than examining an X-ray, MRI, CT, or ultrasound captured when a patient is at rest.

Through his work, Kenton has had the opportunity to observe the strength

of the human spirit. One of his most memorable patients was a wounded veteran who was combat-injured in each of three tours of duty. After his third injury, caused by an improvised explosive device, doctors decided to amputate his leg. He spent 10 years wearing a prosthesis that continued to cause him pain and finally sought additional care with Kenton and his team at Mayo Clinic; they gave him new technology that enabled him to run for the first time since his injury.

“He had always had pain in his leg from the prosthesis rubbing on his residual limb, and the pain reminded him, every night, that he almost lost

his life. With this new prosthesis, that pain went away, and when the pain went away, his PTSD subsided. I’ve been fortunate to win a lot of awards, but none of them match the privilege of serving those who serve us,” Kenton said.

Among numerous other accomplishments,

Kenton designed the combat boots used by the U.S. Marine Corps and advocated for medical reimbursement that changed the national policy for a microprocessor-controlled prosthesis used by people who have had an above-knee amputation. He is currently leading a national effort to develop a Limb Loss and Preservation Registry to improve prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation efforts. His career reflects the importance of continued research, innovation, and compassion for people. 🐘

“I’VE BEEN FORTUNATE TO WIN A LOT OF AWARDS, BUT NONE OF THEM MATCH THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US.”

KENTON KAUFMAN

2022 AWARD RECIPIENT HENRY L. BOLLEY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The **Henry L. Bolley Academic Achievement Award** honors individuals who have attained noted achievements in the area of education as teachers, researchers, and/or administrators.

Kenton R. Kaufman, Ph.D., P.E. ’88 helps a vast continuum of individuals — from Olympic athletes to severely wounded service members to children with cerebral palsy — improve their mobility. He serves as



A VOLUNTEER LEADING BY EXAMPLE

MIKE KRUEGER

Story by Nicole Thom-Arens

2022 AWARD RECIPIENT SERVICE AWARD

The **Service Award** recognizes individuals who have played a vital role as volunteer fundraisers.

In 1967, America was racing to the moon, and Mike Krueger '71 was graduating high school in Jamestown, North Dakota. Mike excelled in math and science, and at the height of the space race, that meant becoming an engineer, which led him to NDSU. He studied engineering for a year but disliked it, so he changed his major to speech education where he became involved in competitive speaking.

Mike volunteered for the Air Force ROTC while at NDSU to help offset tuition costs. After graduation, Mike reported to active duty in the Air Force. He and his wife, Susan (Wall) '71, moved to his first assignment in upstate New York. Following

three years in the Air Force that included stops in Mississippi and Guam, Mike and Susan returned to the Midwest where Mike worked for Cargill from 1974 to 1982.

In 1982, Mike and his family returned to Fargo, North Dakota, from Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he co-founded Agri-Mark, a grain marketing consulting company that worked with grain elevators and farmers. Agri-Mark eventually added commodity brokerage services for their clients.

“Our job essentially was to keep an eye on worldwide crop production and supply and demand issues related to the major grains and how the U.S. supply and demand for wheat and corn and soybeans would translate into price movements, higher or lower, and then we would advise our farmer clients,” Mike explained.

His work took him around the world. He’s traveled to more than 60 countries and across the U.S. to participate in conferences and seminars about commodity markets and agriculture. In 2002, Mike started The Money Farm. He sold that company in 2016 and is now semi-retired but still does some writing and consulting about commodity markets.

Mike’s volunteer work with NDSU began in the mid-1990s when he served on the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences’ Advisory Board. That led him to the Alumni Association where he served as president of

the board of directors in 2011 and 2012. In 2013, he became an NDSU Foundation Trustee and served as chair of the Executive Governing Board (EGB) for two years. His time as chair aligned with the 2019 public launch of *In Our Hands: The Campaign for North Dakota State University*. Mike knew the NDSU Foundation needed to grow its staff in order to accomplish the initial \$400 million campaign goal.

“I think one of the important contributions I made during my time on EGB and as chair was promoting the growth aspect the organization needed to do — not only among the Executive Governing Board but among the Trustees in general — and to work with other EGB members and committee chairs and staff to figure out a way to expand budgets, to hire more people, to keep our budget in the black, and to finally make this campaign as successful as it was,” Mike said.

As a volunteer fundraiser, Mike urged other benefactors to invest in the campaign by sharing his own stories of philanthropy.

“I think it’s important to set an example by giving what you can in your own right,” Mike said. “It’s tough to go and talk to people about NDSU fundraising if you haven’t participated in your own way.”

“I THINK IT’S IMPORTANT TO SET AN EXAMPLE BY GIVING WHAT YOU CAN IN YOUR OWN RIGHT.”

MIKE KRUEGER

Mike continues to be an involved Trustee for the NDSU Foundation by serving on the investment and nominating and governance committees. 🐾



ADVANCING NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURE

NEAL FISHER

Story by Micaela Gerhardt

2022 AWARD RECIPIENT HERITAGE AWARD

The **Heritage Award** recognizes alumni who have provided outstanding volunteer service for the benefit of NDSU.

Neal Fisher '73, '76 grew up on a fourth-generation grain and cattle ranch near Tappen, North Dakota, where his parents imparted the value of education, curiosity, and a strong work ethic. His father, John, enrolled at NDSU (then NDAC) in the 1930s, when business at his grain elevator was suffering due to the economic challenges of the time. After his graduation, John remained involved with NDSU and the Crop Improvement Association while teaching vocational agriculture and managing the family farm and ranch operation. He often spoke of the lifelong relationships he

cultivated at NDSU and beyond.

Neal's mother, Ruth, a former teacher and business owner, helped Neal and his two brothers succeed in school. She encouraged the use of proper grammar and often gave her sons the family's well-worn set of encyclopedias to look up answers when questions arose in conversation.

"When my brothers and I were younger, it wasn't a matter of *if* we were going to college — we knew we would because of those influences," Neal said. "We were active with projects at the ranch, school, church, sports, music, and 4-H, all of which kept us busy and allowed us to think about the future, and we knew an education could positively influence our lives going forward."

He and his brothers proceeded to graduate with degrees from NDSU that helped open doors to rewarding career opportunities. Neal earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in agricultural economics, and like his father, formed lifelong connections at NDSU with his advisors and many others.

"Those mentor relationships, and the collegial nature in the departments where I studied and worked as a student, made a lasting impression on me," Neal said.

Neal has traveled extensively as an international market development specialist and trade policy expert for more than four decades. As administrator of the North Dakota Wheat Commission since 1998, he is proud of the reputation the North Dakota wheat "brand" has achieved over the years, rising to the absolute pinnacle of quality and value in the global market — and he credits NDSU wheat quality and

performance research programs for much of this success story.

Neal has been an active proponent for North Dakota's agricultural economy. He has advocated and helped raise funds for agricultural research, which he sees as a critically important feature of the state's \$10 billion (and growing) agriculture industry. The North Dakota Wheat Commission also sponsors a variety of wheat research projects at NDSU annually and has invested in the NDSU Center for Trading and Risk, the Jack Dalrymple Agricultural Research Complex, and the Peltier Complex.

"The results of these durable, stakeholder partnerships with NDSU have been critically important to our largest industry, our state, and region," Neal said. "It's really about making things better for our producers and stakeholders, but every citizen in our state benefits economically — the ROI coming out of NDSU is terrific."

Neal has been an NDSU Foundation Trustee since 2010, serves on the compensation and nominating and governance committees, and is currently vice chair of the Executive Governing Board. Throughout his career, he has maintained active roles with NDSU, state and national policymakers, and the dedicated producers of North Dakota's farming and ranching communities. He and his wife, Deborah '76, have three grown children who earned NDSU degrees and three grandchildren; they all wear Bison gear. 🐃

A TRADITION OF DOING GOOD IN THE COMMUNITY

SCHEELS®

Story by Nicole Thom-Arens



2022 AWARD RECIPIENT PARTNER IN EXCELLENCE AWARD

The **Partner in Excellence Award** recognizes a corporation, foundation, or organization that has given significant support as well as demonstrated inspirational philanthropic giving in the university.

More than a hundred years ago, in 1902, the first Scheels store opened in Sabin, Minnesota. Friedrich A. Scheele, a German immigrant, used \$300 from his first potato harvest as a down payment on a hardware and general merchandise store. Through the next seven decades, the Scheels corporation continued to expand, opening general merchandise stores in the upper Midwest, but in 1980, Steve D. Scheel, current Board Chair and former CEO, made a decision that would take the business to an entirely new level.

“We had a young fellow in training. We chose to go down and run the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, store and I said, ‘Tim, let’s make that store all sporting goods.’ He asked, ‘Can we do that?’ I said, ‘We can do that, just don’t screw up,’” Steve, recalled. “I called Joe Pavicic, our

ad manager in Fargo, and I said, ‘Joe, I need a going out of business sale in Sioux Falls for hardware, lawn and garden, and housewares. We’re going to make the store all sporting goods.’ There was dead silence on the end of the phone. Joe said, ‘Does your dad know about that?’ I said, ‘He’ll find out sooner or later, and I’m sure he’ll just watch what happens.’”

Steve’s dad, Fred B. Scheel, was CEO at the time and had resisted selling only sporting goods. He believed sporting goods were a luxury and the first thing people could do without — fishing was something people did when they weren’t working. But Steve could sense a cultural shift and followed his gut. He could foresee a change toward sporting goods becoming a lifestyle; today, people live to fish and hunt, and they take their sports seriously.

His gamble paid off. The store didn’t fail; in fact, within a year of the change, the Sioux Falls store was having steady gains of 20-25% while the company overall, still a mix of sporting goods, hardware, housewares, and lawn and garden, was experiencing steady 4-5% gains. Soon, other Scheels locations followed suit and sold sporting goods exclusively, and in 1989, the company built its first all sporting goods store in Grand Forks, North Dakota. It was 30,000 square feet. Today, Scheels has 30 locations across 13 states, including the World’s Largest All Sports Store with The Colony, Texas, location. The 331,000 square-foot store features more than 85 specialty shops.

The Scheels company has a

strong legacy of philanthropy that’s embedded into its mission statement, which is simply, “We do good in our communities.” Steve credits his dad for instilling his passion of giving back into the company culture. Fred served as chairman in the fundraising efforts for NDSU’s Askanase Hall in the 1960s. Today, employees in every store are encouraged to give back, and Scheels leads by example.

“As a company, we take it to the next level,” Steve said. “We give back at least 5% of our profit to our local communities every year. As our stores do better and better, we have to search for ways to give that away in a meaningful manner. Not only does the company support institutions and organizations like NDSU, but the vast majority of our people do as well.”

Scheels has been Steve’s career and passion for more than 50 years, and he is proud that the success of the business allows him opportunities to invest in NDSU both personally and as a business leader. Scheels, along with Steve and his wife, Eileen, have supported NDSU Performing Arts, the College of Business, and Athletics.

“From the number of people that NDSU employs, to the number of people they bring to town for different events at different venues, to the students they produce, we’re proud to support NDSU,” Steve said. “It’s fun to support a school that provides so many opportunities for the whole community. I think NDSU probably contributes more to the community than any other business or organization.” 🐾

THE GLAMOUR AND INGENUITY OF NDSU'S FIRST MCGOVERN SCHOLAR

Young girls lose interest in STEM subjects more frequently than their male peers. By embracing her passions, young alumna Darby Beyer '20 is rewriting the narrative.

Story by Micaela Gerhardt

DARBY Beyer '20, an industrial engineering and management graduate, describes her younger self as equal parts princess and repairwoman. She wore a tiara to first grade until her teacher told her she no longer could, and she was simultaneously her dad's right-hand helper on all household projects, like fixing the vacuum and cleaning up the yard. For young Darby, enjoying dressing up as much as doing odd jobs wasn't unconventional — it's just who she was.

"I never really thought about it as being different. I'd just be all dressed up and working on stuff and that was fine. I still, to this day, love all things pretty and sparkly," Darby said. "But engineering has always been more about the math for me."

According to Martin W. Bauer, a professor at the London School of Economics, girls and women are much less likely than boys and men to express interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects in middle and high school; study STEM in college; complete Ph.D.s in STEM fields; or remain in a STEM career. A lack of encouragement, mentorship, practical experience, and visible female role models were identified as the major

factors that impact girls' declining interest in STEM subjects — but Darby is an exception to this trend.

Growing up, math was consistently her favorite subject. She liked the puzzle aspect of it, trying to solve a problem, finishing it, and knowing she'd found the correct answer. Then, in high school, while attending a theatre rehearsal, Darby saw a flier for the robotics team and decided to check it out. She learned how to program code under the wing of an upperclassman and eventually stepped into the role of programming lead, which fueled her curiosity about the field of engineering.

While applying to colleges, Darby looked for schools with strong engineering programs and competitive scholarships, and that's where the McGovern Scholarship came in.

In 2016, Harry D. McGovern '66, a civil engineering graduate — and a nephew of A. Glenn Hill, a distinguished former professor of mathematics at NDSU — made what was, at the time, the largest single-gift-commitment in NDSU history to help recruit and retain students pursuing STEM degrees by establishing the Harry D. McGovern Scholarship.

As the first recipient of this prestigious, full-tuition award, Darby enrolled in the electrical engineering

degree program at NDSU. A few months before her freshman year began, she received a handwritten letter from Lauren Singelmann, then president of NDSU's Society of Women Engineers (SWE), inviting Darby to a pizza party during Welcome Week and letting her know that if she ever needed help with anything on campus, she could reach out.

SWE's mission is to help empower and advance women engineers. At NDSU, the student-led organization prioritizes professional development and fosters leadership opportunities. They solicit professional engineers to speak at SWE's monthly meetings, work on writing and building their resumes, and attend local and national conferences. SWE also initiates community outreach programs that help introduce young girls and boys to STEM activities and invite middle and high school girls to participate in fun, engineering-driven projects and events. Darby served as treasurer and then president of SWE during her time at NDSU.

"It's interesting to see, over the age ranges, because the little girls are so into it, but when it gets up to the high school girls, they're much less willing to talk to you, much less willing to show you what they did, and nobody's like, 'I

want to show my project to the group,” Darby said. “It’s kind of sad to see that, so SWE tries to promote girls being proud of their engineering work.”

In electrical engineering classes at NDSU, before she changed her major, Darby said she felt welcomed and supported, but she was oftentimes among only two or three other women in a class of 40-50 students. Although she never felt dismissed by her male peers, Darby certainly noticed the gender discrepancy.

“I think it’s really important to get girls interested in engineering and to make sure they know the career field is one of their options,” Darby said. “I don’t like the idea that we have to make girls go into things, but it’s important to make sure they know they’re doing a good job, and if they like it, they should be confident to continue doing it.”

Darby’s own confidence, studiousness, and scholarship support took her far at NDSU. She became involved with Greek life, the Student

Government
finance
committee,
honor
societies,
and judged
a few local
and regional
robotics



competitions, all while being an active member of SWE.

“I know a lot of people who worked one or two jobs in college and never had enough time. I know girls who couldn’t join a sorority or couldn’t come to SWE events because it conflicted with their work schedule. It impacts a lot of your experience at NDSU if you aren’t able to participate in those groups,” Darby said. “Not all your engineering learning comes from the classroom — I learned great leadership skills and technical skills by studying with other people, doing different outreach projects, and participating in student organizations — you do learn more if you have the time.”

After graduating in a virtual setting in the spring of 2020, Darby accepted a job as a systems engineer with Honeywell Aerospace in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she worked in commercial navigation and conducted project engineering to support current and up and coming aircraft technology, including urban air mobility (UAM) vehicles. In February 2022, she transitioned to a new career with Optum Health in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, where she currently works as an actuarial analyst.

When I spoke with Darby shortly after she learned she had gotten the job at Optum, she was absolutely ecstatic. I could hear her excitement as she told me that she had just ordered a textbook to prepare for her actuarial accreditation exams — the first time she had purchased one since graduating.

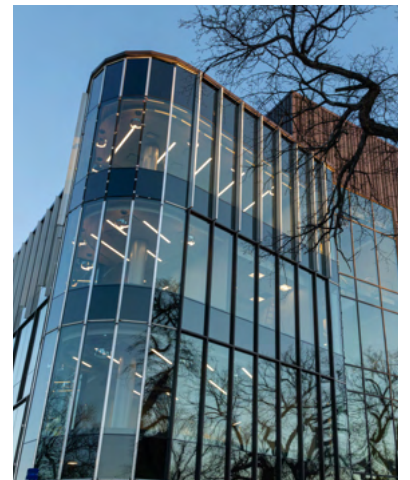
“I get to go back to studying!” Darby exclaimed. “I ordered the textbook last night, and I’m like, ‘Yes!’”

Darby, the woman who loves glitz and glam as much as she loves learning, is also absolutely delighted to be planning her upcoming wedding. Over Homecoming weekend in Fargo in 2021, she and her fiancée, Tim Straus ’19, a manufacturing engineering graduate, got engaged. She and Tim plan to continue returning to campus to tailgate and cheer on the Bison with their friends and families, who have also become big NDSU fans. 🐾

A PLACE FOR STEM AT NDSU



Constructed in 2015, the **A. Glenn Hill Center** is designed for hands-on learning and research in STEM. It’s named in honor of former NDSU professor A. Glenn Hill, who helped increase students, faculty, staff, and higher-level courses in the mathematics department over the course of his 39-year NDSU career.



Built in 2021, **Sugihara Hall** is designed to maximize learning and research in chemistry and geosciences. It’s named in honor of former administrator, professor, and researcher Dr. James M. Sugihara, who made a lasting impact on the NDSU community and mentored people including Dr. Neil C. Gudmestad, a university distinguished professor at NDSU.



NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION FIELD TRIP

NDSU TRACK AND FIELD BISON TEAM CUP

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The NDSU Foundation Magazine invites you on a field trip with NDSU President Dean L. Bresciani and alumna Kristi Hanson. Read on to experience an NDSU indoor track and field meet alongside some of NDSU's biggest fans.

Story by Micaela Gerhardt | Photos by Ann Arbor Miller | Illustrations by Leah Ecklund

On a shelf in the NDSU President's House there is a photo of a young man — red bandana tied around his head, wrists wrapped in athletic tape — standing atop the 867-foot Devils Tower. Below him, the Belle Fourche River carves through a brown landscape scattered with ponderosa pines and sagebrush. To a casual observer, he may be difficult to recognize, but the man in the photograph is, in fact, NDSU's 14th President Dean L. Bresciani.

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Dr. Bresciani was first introduced to rock climbing as a photographer; eventually, he overcame his fear of heights and exchanged his camera for a harness, chalk, and climbing shoes. He's climbed all over the western United States, including Rocky Mountain National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and the Grand Canyon. Before he received the job offer that began his career in higher education at Humboldt State University, he planned to be a professional climbing guide.

"Climbing taught me a lot about myself: first, that my fears can be overcome, and second, that the only things holding me back are my beliefs about what I can and cannot accomplish," Dr. Bresciani said.

Dr. Bresciani recognizes that same grit in NDSU student-athletes — and it's part of what makes him such a dedicated supporter of NDSU Athletics. Dr. Bresciani and his wife, Kristi Hanson '87, NDSU architecture alumna and NDSU Foundation Trustee, have

established a legacy by attending every athletic event — for every sport — they possibly can. Kristi, who has a home in California, has driven to track and field meets in Riverside and Long Beach, and she earned naming rights for the women’s track and field locker room in the Sanford Health Athletic Complex due to her philanthropic support.

“Somebody should be there to cheer student-athletes on, and I consider it a privilege to be able to do it,” Kristi said. “When you see the effort these kids are putting in, you get excited for them. I’ve just found a passion for all sports.”

On a snowy Saturday in January, I met Dr. Bresciani and Kristi at the Shelly Ellig Indoor Track and Field Facility, where, in typical fashion, they were cheering on NDSU student-athletes in the track and field Bison Team Cup.

EXPERIENCE THE BISON TEAM CUP

The meet, which included competitors from NDSU, the University of North Dakota, and South Dakota State University, began with the national anthem; the athletes and a sparse crowd placed hands over heart and sang. A brief moment of silence washed over the facility, and then, from the far corner of the field, one of NDSU’s throwers gave a loud whoop that signaled the start of the meet. Throwers and high jumpers took their places; around them, other athletes began stretching and jogging on the green and gold track, loosening up in

preparation for their events.

One thing that struck me, almost immediately, was the way the athletes drove the energy in the space. They cheered for each other — clapping slowly as high jumper Daejha Moss ’22 made her approach, speeding up their claps as Daejha’s feet pushed off the ground, holding their breath as her back arched in midair, then erupting in celebration when she cleared the bar. Throwers hollered and grunted as they gathered momentum and spun within the throwing ring, sending 20- to 35-pound weight throws soaring through the air.

Track and field offers spectators the opportunity to home in on one athlete, one performance at a time. With this unique focus, I watched as the student-athletes exhibited such graceful movements they looked almost like dancers clad in spandex and neon-bright running shoes.

While we stood cheering on the field, Kristi was approached by Sofia Naranjo Mata ’23, a multi-athlete studying architecture, who is the recipient of the Hanson/Zander Family Foundation Fund, a scholarship established by Ed and Mona Zander “in honor of a distinguished graduate and friend, Kristi Hanson.” Sofia competes in the pentathlon, which includes hurdles, long jump, shot put, high jump, and the 800-meter run, as well as the heptathlon, which adds the javelin throw and 200-meter sprint to the previous events.

“I’m an immigrant

and a first-generation college student, so just being able to go to school and not having to worry about tuition is honestly incredible,” Sofia said. “We have awesome people in the NDSU community, and I know I have people behind me no matter what. I think that really speaks to what being a Bison is about.”

The meet ebbed and flowed; by late afternoon, when the mid- and long-distance runners took their marks, the crowd nearly filled the bleachers. The music that had played over the speakers all day was muted, and a hush fell over the stands as former head coach Don Larson fired the starting pistol. In the quiet space of each race, running shoes pattered against the track, projecting the steady sound of power and speed.

Dr. Bresciani and Kristi cheered for the athletes down on the field, beside the coaches and student-athletes, shouting words of encouragement as the runners passed by, clapping as they neared the finish line. They’re proud not only of the student-athletes’ performances in competitions but in their academic successes as well. It is, in Dr. Bresciani’s opinion, what makes NDSU so successful.

“We have created a culture of comprehensive excellence. It isn’t just the sport, it’s your academic success, it’s your personal success, and we only



Above: Kristi Hanson and Sofia Naranjo Mata
Left: Daejha Moss

hire coaches who've bought into that culture," Dr. Bresciani said. "Truth be told, our coaches will say, 'Give me a good over a great athlete, but that good athlete who's disciplined, who's going to focus academically, who's a good person. I'll coach them — I'll get them athletically where they need to be.'"

Stevie Keller, director of NDSU track and field and cross country, is currently in his 22nd year of coaching at NDSU. He transitioned from assistant coach to head coach after Don Larson, former head coach of 41 years, retired in 2021. Like Dr. Bresciani, Stevie said

NDSU student-athletes must be determined academically as well as athletically to continue building the Bison tradition — and just as importantly, they must be good people.

"The upperclassmen do a really good job of teaching the youngsters

the tradition of success — how to compete, how to be a Bison: you respect the officials, respect your opponents. You must be a class act," Stevie said. "When you come to North Dakota State, the pride of being a Bison — of being a part of this athletic program — is something special, and I think the student-athletes get that. That's where your family and the culture come in, by knowing what it means to be a Bison. It comes down to finding the right kids who want to work hard."

For Don, who still volunteers at nearly every meet, helping where he's needed even in retirement, coaching at NDSU was all about family — celebrating student-athletes in their successes as well as supporting student-athletes through personal challenges, like competition anxiety and, on a few occasions, homelessness. Through it all, his priority was making sure every person he coached learned to believe in themselves, and support from Dr. Bresciani, administrators, professors, alumni, and the community helped make that possible.



Dr. Bresciani, Don Larson, and Kristi Hanson

"People would say, 'The university president goes to your meets?' and I'd say, 'Don't they all?' The answer is no," Don said. "Dr. Bresciani is just one of those people who sees the whole picture — academics, athletics, and fundraising."

Dr. Bresciani and Kristi both consider Don a good friend. The wallpaper in the men's track and field locker room includes a photo of Dr. Bresciani and Don standing side-by-side, throwing up Bison horns. In

fact, it was Dr. Bresciani who brought the "horns up" sign back to NDSU, borrowing the importance of the idea from his experience at Texas A&M University where hand signs are extremely popular. He and former NDSU Student Body President Kevin Black began reintroducing the "horns up" sign to core groups on campus to promote NDSU culture — and it just took off. Even here, at the Bison Team Cup, student-athletes and fans hold their hands up — pointer finger and pinky poised — brimming with Bison pride.

FIELD NOTES

- Head coach Stevie Keller estimates that 110 NDSU student-athletes are participating in the university's track and field program this year. About 30-40 people work each event, including coaches, meet officials, and volunteers.

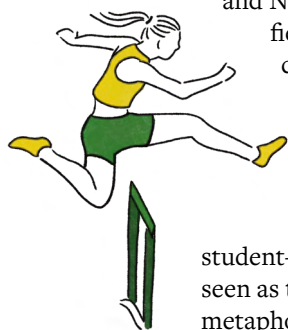
- NDSU Track and Field proudly boasts three Olympic Athletes who competed in the program. Payton Otterdahl '19 placed 10th in the men's shot put in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics; Erin Teschuk '16 competed in the women's 3,000-meter steeplechase event in the 2016 Rio De Janeiro Olympics; and Amanda Smock '05 competed in the women's triple jump in the 2012 London Olympics.

- Trevor Otterdahl '22, younger brother of Payton, placed first in the weight throw competition at the Bison Team Cup with a throw of 71-6



(21.79-meters), earning a place among only three men in NDSU's history to throw more than 70 feet in the weight throw event.

● In 2021, NDSU women's track and field won their 14th consecutive Summit League Indoor Championship, and NDSU men's track and field won their 11th consecutive Summit League Outdoor Championship. Due to their consistent, high-level success, NDSU student-athletes are often seen as the ones to beat; in a metaphorical sense, they have a target on their backs at the track and field meets. Stevie taped a photo of a target to both the men's and women's locker room doors to remind them to "wear it with pride."



Bison Track and Field will compete in an outdoor season that culminates with the 2022 NCAA Outdoor Championship June 8-11, 2022, in Eugene, Oregon. Visit GoBison.com to view the track and field schedule for a list of upcoming local, regional, and national events.

Bringing your kids? NDSU Track and Field home meets include opportunities for children 12 and under to run in friendly competitions, including the 60-meter dash and one-lap run. All runners are awarded a participation medal at the meet.



MAKE AN IMPACT

You can help NDSU track and field student-athletes succeed in the classroom, in competition, and beyond by making a gift to the Track and Field/ Cross Country endowment fund at NDSUFoundation.com/donate/track-and-field-endowment. 🐾

Thank you to NDSU President Dean L. Bresciani, Kristi Hanson, Stevie Keller, Don Larson, Sophia Naranjo Mata, and Daejha Moss for their help with this story and to Carleton College, whose own Field Guides inspired this series.

BACKING

THE TEAMS



Emily Dietz '21, '24

For more than 70 years, NDSU Team Makers has been leading the fundraising effort to enhance the student-athlete experience.

Story by Nicole Thom-Arens

NDSU Athletics has a long tradition of excellence. That excellence is present in competition, the classroom, and the community. In 1950, a group of local business leaders formed Team Makers, a non-profit fundraising organization to raise money for student-athlete scholarships. Since then, Team Makers has been uniting Bison fans and inspiring philanthropy to enhance the student-athlete experience at NDSU.

“It’s evolved a bit to not just scholarships but improving the student-athlete experience in any way we can in terms of facilities, academic support, and travel,” Derrick Lang ’13, NDSU associate athletic director and Team Makers

executive director, said.

Since the start of *In Our Hands: The Campaign for North Dakota State University* in 2016, Team Makers has raised \$41.9 million to support NDSU Athletics. Dollars from Team Makers fund scholarships and cost of attendance — financial support on top of tuition and room and board to cover the full costs of college attendance — for athletes in all 16 sports, which is something Derrick said is rare at this level of college athletics. That attention to the student-athlete experience is something that stood out to Emily Dietz ’21, ’24, a forward on the women’s basketball team. She said the support from Team Makers is unlike anything she experienced touring

other schools during the recruiting process.

“When I toured NDSU and got to see the support around the program from athletics, the administration, and the school as a whole, I knew it was home,” Emily said. “Just to have an organization like Team Makers that backs up a school the way that they do is something I didn’t find comparable in any other school. Team Makers is an incredible group that makes what I do every day possible.”

Each year, the fundraising resets to zero, and Team Makers must rise to meet the \$4.5 million tuition bill from the University again. Those dollars come from annual donations, season ticket sales, gaming, and memberships. The organization relies, in large part, on volunteer fundraisers like Jim Hambrick ’87 and Sherri Schmidt ’83 who have each supported Team Makers for decades and encourage other individuals and businesses to get involved.

“If you’re going to wear the colors, it’s important to support the program financially; success doesn’t just happen, growth happens with investment,” Sherri, Team Makers fund drive chair, said. Sherri has, along with her husband, Paul Tefft, established an endowed scholarship. “There are so many parts to our Bison tradition and our systems, and every dollar is vital to success.”

“In the everchanging world of athletics, you need better facilities and really quality people — not only coaches but also those helping student-athletes in the classroom. That takes time, it takes money, and it also takes enthusiasm,” Jim, Team Makers investment chair, who also has an endowed scholarship with his wife, Naomi, said. “I hope when student-athletes come on campus and check out NDSU that they appreciate there’s a huge fanbase, mostly in the form of Team Makers, that support them.”

Team Makers support doesn’t go unnoticed by Bison student-athletes. Emily, originally from West Fargo, North Dakota, takes notice of the Team Makers stickers she sees in windows of cars and businesses around the community. Being a local student-athlete, she’s also had the unique opportunity to play in the Bison Sports Arena (BSA) and the Sanford Health Athletic Complex

(SHAC) — a \$50 million extension and renovation to the BSA completed in November 2016.

“Our gym is arguably the best in the upper Midwest that I’ve ever seen or played in. It’s such an extreme blessing to be able to have these facilities as an athlete and as a program. It would not be possible without them,” Emily said.

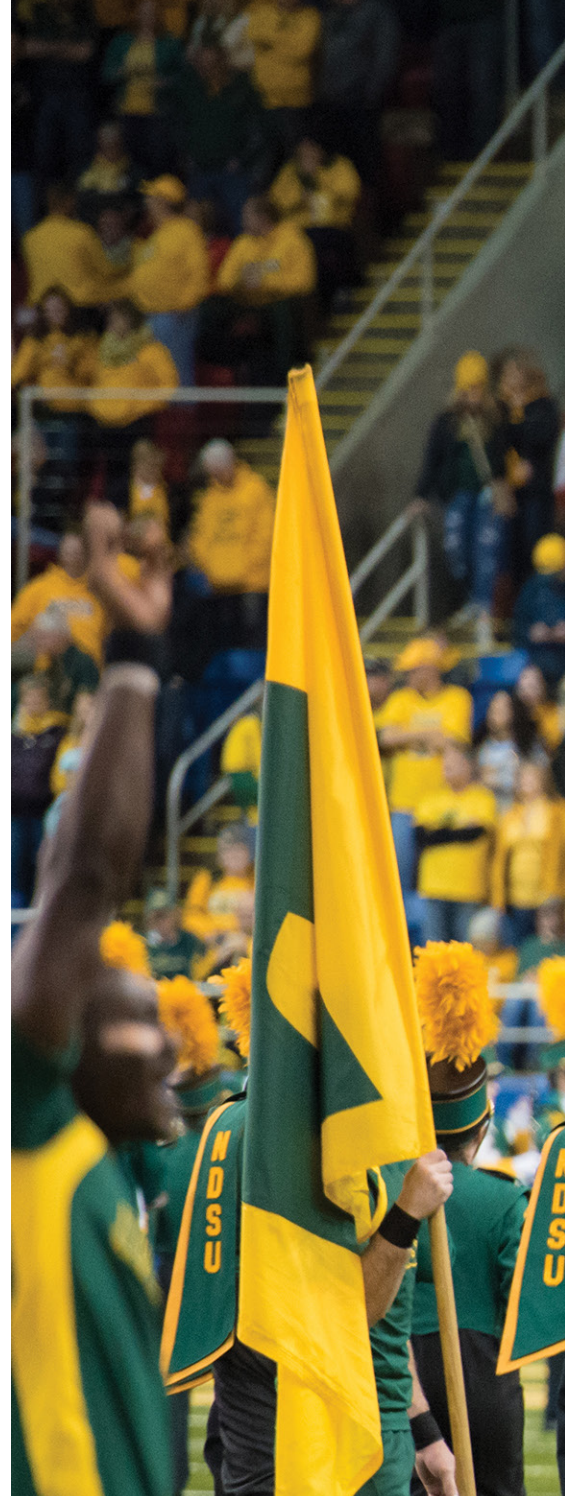
Both Jim and Sherri praise NDSU Athletics’ recruiting process, and they’re proud of the caliber of student-athletes at the University.

“We have met some of our scholarship recipients and they’re so outstanding — their demeanor, their attitude, the work ethic,” Sherri said. “Every time we meet one of them, we’re really inspired that there are great people coming out of this university.”

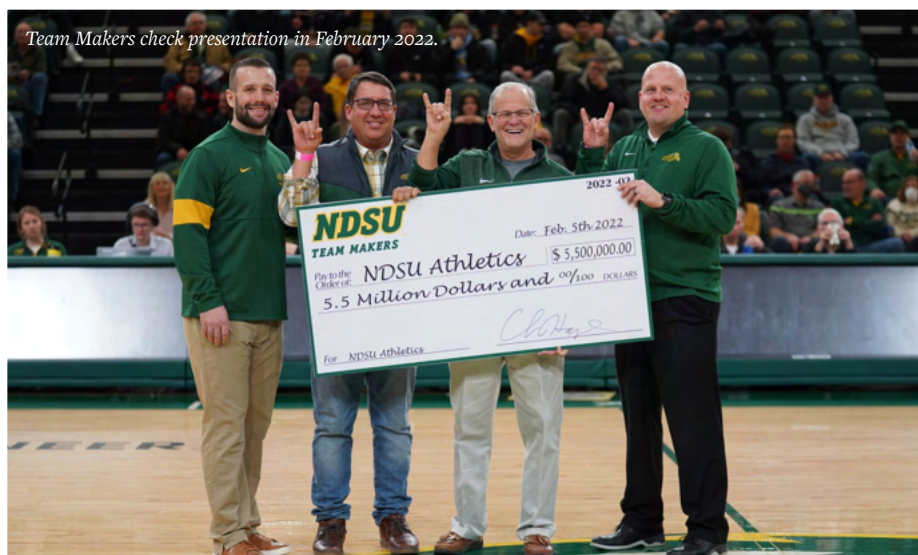
Fewer than 2% of college student-athletes go on to play professionally. Their education is top priority, and Bison student-athletes are getting it done in the classroom: 74.76% earned a 3.0 GPA or higher in fall 2021; 50.94% earned between a 3.5 and 4.0 GPA, which earned them recognition on the dean’s list; and 24.52% earned a 4.0.

“Being a college athlete takes a lot of time and a lot of effort and energy,” Emily said. “To have that support has been incredible and has allowed me to grow in ways I didn’t think I ever could.” 🐾

To learn more about how you can help support Bison student-athletes, visit the Team Makers website at NDSUAthleticFund.com.



Team Makers check presentation in February 2022.



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