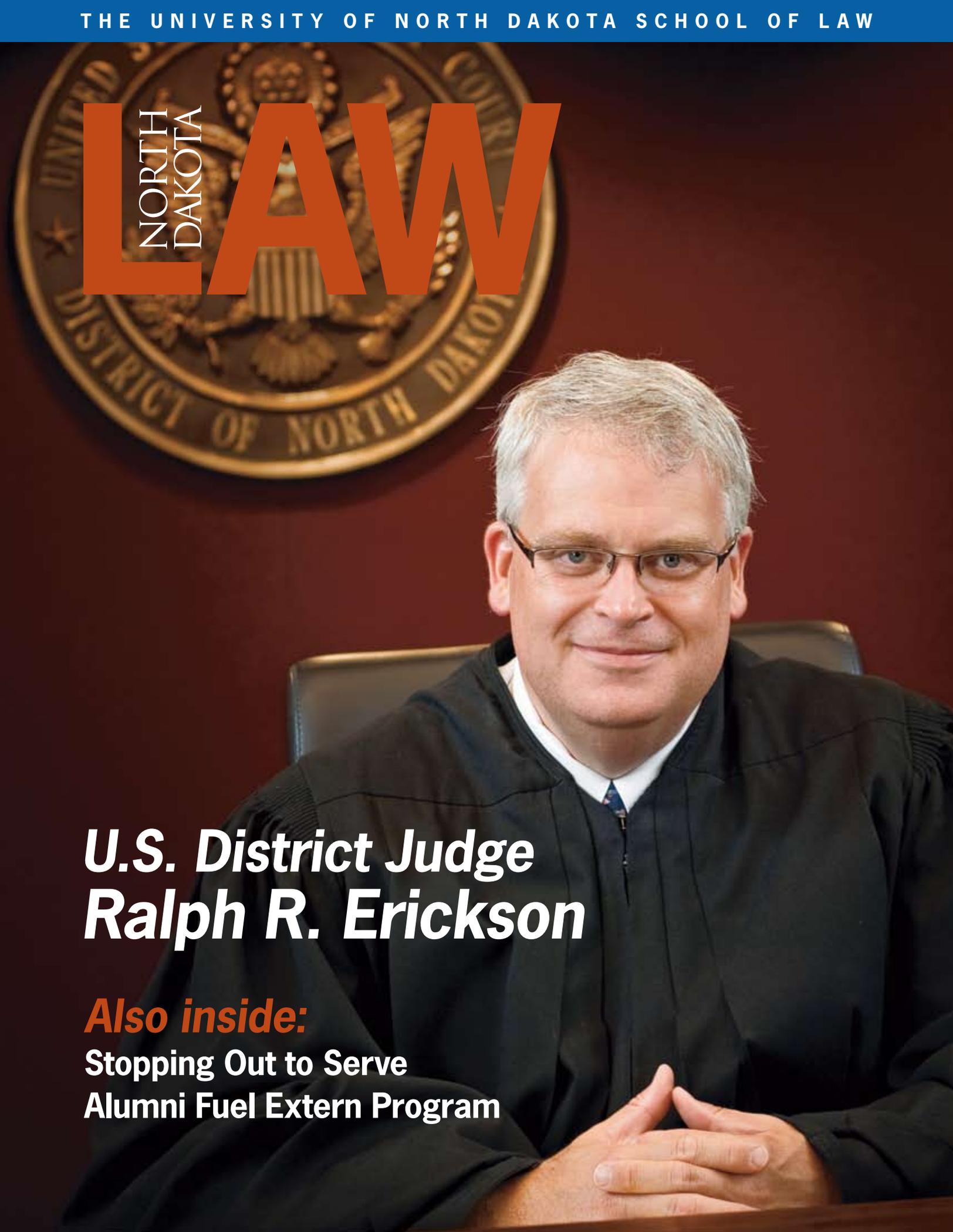


NORTH
DAKOTA
LAW



***U.S. District Judge
Ralph R. Erickson***

Also inside:

**Stopping Out to Serve
Alumni Fuel Extern Program**



FROM THE DEAN

“OUR ALUMNI: GIVING BACK”

From the first day of Orientation Week, our students receive a consistent message about the profession they have chosen. A legal education opens the way to a position of considerable privilege within our society, but that position also carries with it a responsibility to use their talents in a way that improves the communities in which they live.

The abstraction of the need to give back is made concrete for our students by the lessons found in the lives of our alumni. We could fill each volume of NORTH DAKOTA LAW with lists of the many ways in which you use the skills and strengths of your professional training to make a difference. At our State Bar Association of North Dakota (SBAND) annual meeting in June, the top two awards for contributions to the law were given to alumni of our law school. Jack Marcil (JD 1968) received the Distinguished Service Award, honoring the many contributions he has made to the profession and to the public. The contributions made by Jim Leahy (JD 1949) to legal and civic education were recognized through the Liberty Bell Award.

The professional callings of many of our alumni take them into public sector and public service careers in which their day-to-day work exemplifies the spirit of giving back. I think of our judges and our lawyers in government agencies, who have the public interest as the touchstone against which their professional decision making and advice is measured. I think also of those whose practice is in public interest work of various sorts, with their dedication to having a positive effect on the lives of the least privileged members of our society.

The ways in which our alumni give back to the broader society extend well beyond those whose employment is in public service and public interest work. I think of those who volunteer their professional expertise in the representation of clients who cannot afford to hire a lawyer. Three of our alumni, Bonnie Humphrey (JD 1992) of Minot, Bob Keogh (JD 1971) of Dickinson, and Cynthia Schaar (JD 1990) of Jamestown, were recognized at this year's annual meeting of SBAND for the extraordinary number of pro bono hours they had contributed. I think as well of those who play important roles in the civic organizations that contribute to the quality of life. Again at the SBAND annual meeting, the recipients of this year's Community Service Awards include our alumni Mark Butz (JD 1963), Peter Hankla (JD 1991), Daniel Kuntz (JD 1978), Jeffrey Leadbetter (JD 1985), and Brenda Rosten (JD 1997). All of us at the law school are also proud of the recognition given to our colleague, Professor Margaret Moore Jackson, who received the Community Service Award in our judicial district.

Another significant way in which our alumni give back is their support of the law school. Our adjunct faculty members enable us to offer a wide range of courses even though we have one of the smallest faculties in the country. The experience and expertise of our alumni also enrich the education of our students through special appearances in classes, coaching and judging our advocacy teams and competitions, and serving as mentors.

The financial support of our alumni and friends is an increasingly important part of the law school operation. For the fiscal year that just ended, the final calculation of the fundraising totaled in the neighborhood of \$700,000. That impressive number consists of a number of categories: unrestricted annual giving, gifts for special projects such as classroom renovation, gifts to endowments, and planned or deferred giving plans that have matured.

Each of those categories is critical. Endowments generate a payout (approximately 4% per year) that is available to the law school to carry out the donor's purposes in perpetuity. A healthy endowment provides the law school with predictable funding for scholarships, faculty support, and programs that enhance the educational experience. Although endowments provide a continuing source of income to the law school, annual gifts can be spent immediately to improve our school's quality. Annual giving provides our students, staff and faculty with opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable.

A final point about annual giving: no gift is insignificant. To put annual gifts in perspective, it might be helpful to recognize that the roughly \$85,000 you contributed in annual giving in the last fiscal year would require an endowment of \$2,125,000 to generate an equivalent amount of funding for the law school. When you consider how the law school fits into your charitable giving plans for the coming year, remember that each dollar you contribute to the annual giving campaign has the purchasing power of \$25 in endowment giving. Another way of illustrating the point: doubling the law school's endowment would be necessary to have the same impact as the annual giving that we received last year.

Increasing the law school's endowment is important. We have ambitious plans for addressing our needs, and endowment growth is an essential part of those plans. But just as vital in the law school's continued advance is sustained growth in our annual giving. You make a difference!

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The Case of a Lifetime



North Dakota U.S. District Judge Ralph Erickson, class of 1984, has faced many challenges. At the age of 48, he is a federal judge; he has battled adversity in his personal life and has presided over several high-profile cases including one--the first death penalty case in the state of North Dakota since 1913--that forever changed his life.

Alfonso Rodriguez, Jr. Trial

On November 22, 2003, Dru Sjodin, a University of North Dakota student, was abducted from a Grand Forks mall parking lot. Her body was later found near Crookston, Minnesota. Alfonso Rodriguez Jr. was charged with kidnapping and murdering Sjodin. When Rodriguez was indicted in federal court in 2004, it was assigned to Erickson. This was the first death penalty trial in the state of North Dakota since 1913.

This had not been Erickson's first significant, front-page case. As a North Dakota State District Judge in Cass County, he presided over the trial of Barry Garcia. Garcia, who was 16 at the time, was charged with the 1995 murder of Cheryl Tendeland. The difference between this and the Rodriguez case is the potential penalty was death. No North Dakota judge had tried a death penalty case since

1913. The states of North Dakota and Minnesota do not have a death penalty. The Federal Death Penalty Act was fairly new, with few cases being tried anywhere in the United States. Additionally, both the local and national media were very interested in the case, closely following each phase. "You are working under the glare of everyone paying attention and it is something you have not done before, so that is always kind of scary," said Erickson.

Because the case would be filed in eastern North Dakota, Erickson knew the likelihood of the case being assigned to him was high, so he immediately began to prepare. Preparation for a death penalty case is very different. He contacted a judge in Iowa who had experience with these cases to talk about procedure, attended a weeklong death penalty seminar, and read everything he could get his hands on relating to the death penalty and process.

This case took all of Erickson's time for half a year. He and his clerks worked on the Rodriguez trial Monday through Thursday, and did catch up work on Fridays. During that time, he was grateful for Judge Daniel Hovland, '79, Magistrate Judge Karen Klein, '77, Magistrate Judge Alice Senechal, and particularly Judge Rodney Webb, '59, who took his non-Rodriguez case load and carried it for the three months of the trial. Because of this, Erickson was able to take some time-off after the Rodriguez trial ended. "I was able to take some time to decompress and I am not sure if I would have been able to do that if they had not taken my case load - if not, I am not sure mentally how my health would have been afterward. I don't know what I would have done without them," he said.

Erickson's job during the trial was to make sure the trial was scrupulously fair. He made sure the rules were followed, that everybody

did what they were supposed to do and that no decisions were made before the time to make each decision. He ensured the jury was instructed appropriately on the law and kept the trial from turning into

it until you have lived through it."

For Erickson the trial was a gut wrenching experience, seeing the suffering by the Sjodin family, the jurors, as well as that of the mother

"I don't know if I could try that case any better than I did."

a circus. "We will see if, when the court of appeals gets done, whether I did it right or not. But I will tell you this, I don't know if I could try that case any better than I did," said Erickson.

The Trial Changed His Life

When seeking advice from another judge prior to the trial, Erickson was told "There will be the moment in the still of the night where you will ask yourself 'is there really justice in this?' and 'whatever answers you come up with, they are going to be unsatisfying.' You just can't explain

and sisters of Alfonso Rodriguez. "It was the most tragic thing that I have seen play out in a courtroom since I have been a judge," said Erickson. "The pain and suffering of all the people involved was so obvious, the lawyers, prosecutors, defense lawyers, witnesses, families; it was just a bad deal."

When the time came to read the sentence, Erickson said, "It was the worst day of my life, and I have lived through some days that I thought were bad." Before the reading of a sentence, the judge has the option to make a statement. In many death penalty cases, the judge refrains from saying anything, but in this case Erickson felt that in light of the historic nature of the case and with the amount of attention and discussion the death penalty had received it was important for him to speak. He made a powerful statement about the effect the case had on him when he said, "I would gladly lay down my own life to have had this whole ordeal avoided, to have Dru Sjodin back with her family, to have never



Photo: Judge Ralph Erickson with his family. From left: wife Michele, daughter Hannah, Ralph and daughter Elizabeth



heard of you, Mr. Rodriguez. The life of one federal judge more or less pales in comparison to the pain that this crime has inflicted on so many people.”

Later, describing the difficulty of the case, Erickson said, “All the suffering that comes with it, all from one senseless act, the meaning of it is so beyond my ability to wrap my mind around it. When you have a death of a loved one you can usually find meaning it. The death of Dru makes no sense to me and the process is just not satisfying at any level.”

Ralph Erickson The Person

Erickson is a fairly uncomplicated person who enjoys reading history, philosophy, and theology as well as the law. His friends describe him as easy-going and a wonderful storyteller. Family is an extremely important part of his life. He enjoys spending time with his wife Michele and their two daughters. Together they enjoy attending their daughters’ games and other activities.

He has faced adversity in his life due to alcoholism. Erickson is proud of the fact that he is a recovering alcoholic and has been sober for seventeen years. He credits his victory over alcohol as one of his greatest strengths. “It has made me a better man, a better husband, a better father, and frankly a better judge,” said Erickson. “I have an insight into personal failures that I would not have if I had not had this particular problem, and as a judge it allows me to refrain from judging other people.”

From the time he was a sixth grader, growing up in Rugby, N.D., Erickson told people he wanted to be a lawyer. After completing an undergraduate degree at Jamestown College in N.D., his focus turned to law school. This was a perfect fit. He enjoyed his law school years, made many lifelong friends, and remembered the traumatic experience of being called on by Professor Rick Lord on the first day of contracts class. He credits Lord, and other faculty members - Al Bott, Randy Lee, Tom Lockney, Marsha O’Kelly, ’71, Mike Ahlen, Bruce Bohlman, ’69, Bill Thoms, and Dean Jerry Davis - for giving him the tools necessary for success. “They taught me to think like



Photo Above: Ralph Erickson in his third year at the UND Law School.

Photo Above Left: Erickson with his brothers during a family vacation at Red Willow Lake N.D. (from left) Craig, Mark, Paul, and Ralph. Not pictured are his sister Robyn, and brothers John and Steve

a lawyer, to do basic legal research, and how to write in the way that lawyers and judges write,” he said. “I would say my law school experience was very positive, and aside from finals weeks, it was not too stressful.”

Building a Successful Career

After completing law school in 1984, Erickson went to work with Ohnstad Twichell, P.C., a small firm in West Fargo, N.D. primarily doing trial practice in the areas of personal injury, workers comp, and divorce. He also prosecuted for the city of West Fargo. The firm provided him with a perfect environment to learn the business of practicing law. Colleague Duane Breitling, '65, taught him to think creatively and look at the law with fresh eyes, and Mike Nelson, '76, helped him understand the value of working hard and always doing your best. He also credits Mary Maring, '75, for teaching him tenacity. She used to say, “The only thing standing between your client and disaster is you, so you had better give it your all.” However, it is Manfred Ohnstad that Erickson cites as his personal mentor. “He was mostly retired at that time and he would come in and just talk to me about things, said Erickson. “He would like to talk about the law but liked to talk about life too.”

In 1992, Erickson decided to make a run for the North Dakota state legislature, so he left the firm to focus on the campaign and start his own practice which involved doing more broad based general legal work. He said, “I learned a lot about office practice which has been helpful to me as a judge to have some idea of what the entire practice of law is.”

Becoming A Judge

Erickson had no thoughts of ever becoming a judge. He joked, “If somebody said you were going to be a judge I would have thought I was not suited for it temperamentally, and I would have thought it looks like boring stuff to me.” It was a need for a county magistrate judge that ultimately gave him his first taste of the bench. It took lots of convincing from two judges and even some pressure to apply for the position from his wife Michele before he agreed to take the position. He accepted only with a promise he could resign after serving for six months.

The transition from attorney to judge involved a steep learning curve including how you listen to what is happening in a trial. He remembers one

“I would gladly lay down my own life to have had this whole ordeal avoided, to have Dru Sjodin back with her family, to have never heard of you Mr. Rodriguez.”

of the most shocking things early on as a magistrate judge is they were trying a little case and one of the lawyers made an objection. He remembers, "The whole courtroom went silent and they all look at me, and it dawns on me they want me to answer their question. I quickly realized I was not listening to the question." As an attorney you tend to listen more to the answers and not the questions.

After experiencing the bench, he decided to pursue the judgeship in Hillsboro, N.D. and filed for it. As probably the only judge to benefit from court unification, Erickson was appointed to the county judgeship, due in part to the previous judge's resignation to run for State's Attorney. He sat as county or district judge in Trail, Steel, Nelson, Griggs, and Cass County in North Dakota from July 1, 1994 until being appointed to his present position.

"I tell people all the time if you want to be a federal judge it is easy, it is sort of like getting struck by lightning twice," Erickson joked. The process is a complicated one. First he had to fill out an online application with the White House then send it along with a resume to the governor of North Dakota. The governor then sent a group of names to the President of the

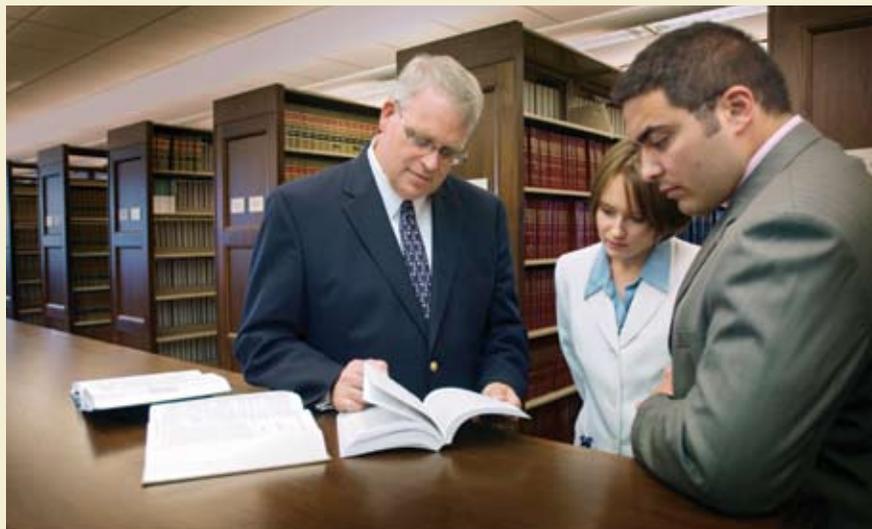


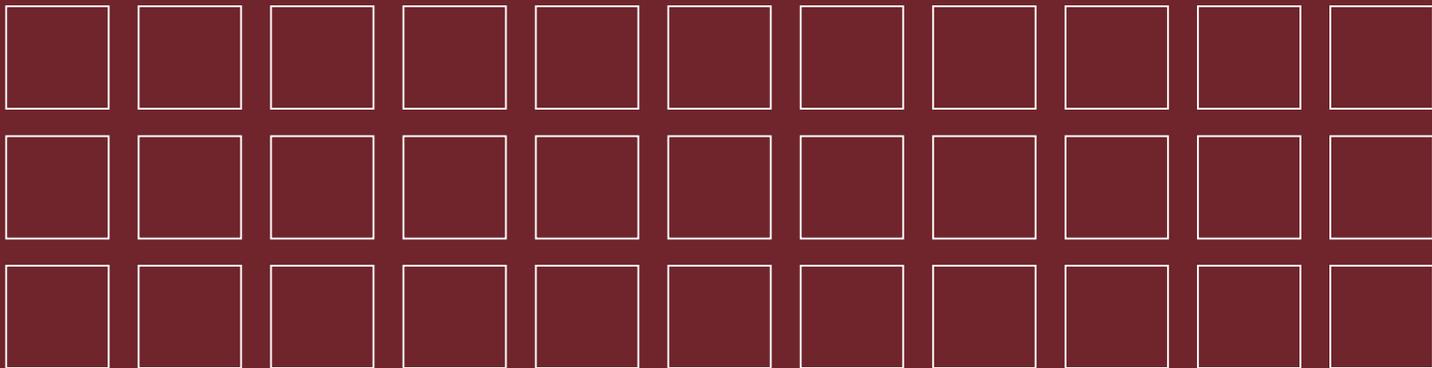
Photo: Judge Ralph Erickson advises law clerks Carlye Gast, '05, and Nicholas Ganjei in the Federal Courthouse library.

United States. Erickson was one of six or seven applicants invited by the Office of the White House Counsel to Washington D.C. for an interview. He called it a fascinating experience when he interviewed in the west wing of the White House. "I went in there believing there was a zero percent chance I would get picked, so I was very surprised when I heard from the White House that President George W. Bush intended to nominate me," said Erickson.

The first nomination he received to become a federal judge literally died in committee because of a filibuster taking place to block the Miguel Estrada nomination. The President resubmitted his nomination after the election in 2002. In a February

hearing his name received a favorable recommendation in committee and moved on to the full Senate. He ultimately was confirmed by unanimous consent and sworn in on March 14, 2003, replacing Judge Webb. About the nomination he said, "I was nobody's front runner when the process started, it was all just a matter of being in the right place at the right time and knowing the right people."

Erickson has come a long way from his days in Rugby, and believes he is about halfway through his career as a judge. He has faced many challenges and through it all has positively affected the bench in North Dakota and the nation.■



Externs Gain Experience from Alumni and Friends

The American Bar Association continues to press law schools around the country to provide students with more opportunities for real-life lawyering experiences while in school. The Externship Program at the UND School of Law fulfills this need. The alumni and friends of the law school, like Judge Joel Medd and Stephen Bott pictured left, give back to their alma mater in many ways. It is their gifts of time and talent that make this program an invaluable experience for our students. For more than 25 years, our alumni have provided opportunities for law students to gain real-life experience by participating in an externship.

Twenty Five Years of Success

The Externship program at the UND School of Law started out with as few as five students; some of the earliest sites offering externships are the Grand Forks County State's Attorney Office working with Tom Falck, the Northeast Central Judicial District Court; the Grand Forks Air Force Base in its civil law office; and the Area Defense Counsel. Falck and District Court Judge Joel Medd, both 1975 graduates of the UND Law School, are the longest-serving supervisors in the program. Medd, an avid supporter of the externs, has worked with about 80 students since 1980. "I think it is fantastic that the law school works with us on the externship program, and I have been extremely satisfied with the results we have received and the quality of the students we have worked with," he said. Law alumni such as Lauris Molbert, '83, Sonja Clapp, '87, Lawrence King, '92, Jim Smith, '96, and Ryan Bernstein, '04, all who have gone on to successful careers, have worked as law students with Medd.

Bernstein felt his externship experience helped fuel his interest in the law and reinforced his desire to become an attorney. He said, "I enjoyed working with Judge Medd—he was a great mentor. He allowed me to sit in on court hearings and involved me in the entire process. He was willing to give advice on your career, and he was just a good guy to talk with about life in general." After his experience with Medd, Bernstein accepted an externship at the U.S. Attorney's Office with Drew Wrigley and Shon Hastings, '93. It was a valuable experience that provided him a look at the prosecution and enforcement side of the law. Working with Medd, he experienced the other side of how a judge takes evidence and arguments and turns it into an opinion.

Medd tries to give the externs a real life experience working with the court covering all aspects of the position. Each day, he provides an educational experience to students by involving them in the court cases, attending pretrial conferences, conducting research, working up drafts of memorandum decisions,



Photo: Eighth Circuit Judge Kermit Bye with his most recent extern Amy Oster, second-year student from Velva, N.D.

“All of us at the law school owe a debt of gratitude to the many attorneys and judges who have given their time to teach and supervise students.”

and participating in discussions with him on the law and how he sees specific issues. He also helps them understand the judge’s philosophy on issues such as what goes on in court and the judge’s observations on practices in court specifically with attorney conduct and approach.

Layne Chiodo, a current student who recently finished an externship with Medd, said, “Working with a judge provided me with an invaluable, hands-on opportunity to gain knowledge about the legal field that has already been beneficial in guiding me through the beginning of my career.” Each semester Medd and the other District Judges work with staff attorney Stephen Bott to interview, select, and coordinate the workload for the externship students.

Continued Growth In Opportunities

The program has expanded in recent years to include more than 20 placements. Under the supervision of Jeanne McLean, ‘85, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Externship Program Supervisor, the Academic Affairs Committee at the law school has approved student placements at the Walsh County State’s Attorneys Office and the Cass County State’s Attorneys Office. Beginning this fall, students will be placed in Fargo at the Legal Services of North Dakota office in its general civil law and immigration law areas, and there is a new placement in Grand Forks at the Indigent Defense Office.

McLean attributes the success and expansion of the program to the dedicated support of our law alumni and friends. “I can always count on our alumni to give back in this special way by providing the educational opportunities,” said McLean. “All of us at the law

school owe a debt of gratitude to the many attorneys and judges who have given their time to teach and supervise students in these various placements.”

The externship includes the work component, but since 2003, it has also included a classroom component. The student externs are enrolled in a one-credit class covering a variety of seminar subjects such as professionalism, confidentiality, time management, client counseling, and negotiation skills. In addition, they write a summary of their experience at the end of their externship which is shared with McLean as well as the attorney or judge at the site.

The success and longevity of the program have created a special group of individuals who have completed the circle of both working as an extern and now supervising others participating in the program. As mentioned earlier, Clapp completed an externship with Medd and today works side by side with him as a judge in District Court in Grand Forks.

Jim Nicolai, ‘90, is another great example of a person who has completed the circle. As a student, he worked an externship with Judge Kirk Smith, ‘57, at the District Court. Now he is a primary supervisor for the externship with the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and Judge Kermit Bye, ‘62.

“As an alumnus, I look for every opportunity I can to support the law school,” said Nicolai. “I believe the externship program is important and it provides a great experience that benefits the students at UND.” Nicolai tries to make the extern’s experience as meaningful as possible. He said, “We try to make them feel as much as we can as equal colleagues, but we know they come in with limited experience so we try to mentor them

and provide a quality leaning experience.” At the extern site in the Eighth Circuit, students get a firsthand look behind the scenes of how a judge’s chambers operates.

The Federal And Legislative Externship

The Federal Externship program began in 2001, offering a unique and exciting educational opportunity. Students earn three credits and work under the direct supervision of attorneys and judges in the Fargo office of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, US District Court in Fargo and Bismarck and the US Attorney’s Office in Fargo and Bismarck. As a UND law alumnus, Bye has been a strong supporter of the program. He gives the extern students an opportunity to work on an actual case, work up bench memos, study the briefs, make oral presentations to the clerks and judge, and sometimes prepare a preliminary draft of the opinion in the cases they are working on.

A unique experience Bye offers the externship student is the opportunity to travel with him and the court to St. Louis to hear oral arguments. He said, “On the trip, they get to see the workaday world of the Eighth Circuit, sit in on oral arguments, and get the opportunity to visit professionally and socially with the other law clerks.”

A final component of the externship program is the Legislative Internship Program which also has a long history with the law school. Each legislative year, the law school places between six and eight students with the North Dakota Legislative Council’s office in Bismarck. Students earn six credits for the semester they are in Bismarck with the opportunity to take additional classes either taught in Bismarck or over the Interactive Video Network. Students are assigned to work with legislative committees in drafting legislation and statutory interpretation. Occasionally, Bernstein, as the legal counsel for North Dakota Governor John Hoeven, has had the opportunity to work with the legislative interns. He would turn to them to provide information when he had to attend committee meetings or hearings.

As law schools are continually pushed to provide real-life lawyering experiences for students, the UND School of Law can thank its alumni and friends for their continued support of the externship program. As the only law school in the state, UND law has a special connection with those who can influence the bench and bar and continue to take advantage of the generous gifts of time and talent our alumni provide for the benefit of educating future attorneys.■

Current Externship Program Placements

Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals
Judge Kermit Bye, '62
Judge Myron Bright
Jim Nicolai, '90

United States District Court – Fargo
Judge Rodney Webb, '59
Judge Ralph Erickson, '84
Nancy Morris, '91

United States District Court – Bismarck
Judge Dan Hovland, '79
Brian Gumeringer, '00

United States Attorney- Fargo
Drew Wrigley
Shon Hastings, '93

United States Attorney Office – Bismarck
Dave Hagler, '89

Grand Forks County State's Attorney
Peter Welte, '97
Meredith Larson, '06
Tom Falck, '75

District Court
Judge Lawrence Jahnke, '66
Judge Joel Medd, '75
Judge Karen Braaten, '79
Judge Debbie Kleven, '83
Judge Sonja Clapp, '87
Stephen Bott '04

Area Defense Counsel
Captain Bill Sims

Judge Advocate General Office
Lt. Colonel Jennifer Rider

Cass County State's Attorney
Birch Burdick
Kara Schmitz Olson '02

Walsh County State's Attorney
Barbara Whelan

Indigent Defense Office
Robin Huseby, '78
Rebecca McGurran, '96
Dave Ogren, '95
Dan Borgen, '04

Legal Services of North Dakota
Linda Catalano, '74

STOPPING OUT TO SERVE



Laura Bearfield, a UND law student and sergeant in the North Dakota Army National Guard, had her legal career interrupted after completing her first year of school. She was deployed for 365 days in Afghanistan working on the security detail at Bagram Air Field. Her deployment ended just in time to return home to watch her former classmates cross the stage at graduation.

Graduation Day

May 15, 2007 was to be a special day for Laura Bearfield. It was the day she was to celebrate completion of her Juris Doctor. It turns out she was on stage that day, not as a graduate, but as a special flag marshal for the ceremony. Her classmates wanted her to be recognized because as they completed their education, she was serving her country in Afghanistan.



“It was sad to be on stage watching and weird to see them graduate,” said Bearfield. The friends, who were some of the best she had ever had, have gone in a separate direction. Bearfield and her friends no longer shared experiences or stories and were unable to laugh about what happened during the day or in class. Her classmates completed their degrees and are spreading out across the county to begin their legal careers, while for Bearfield time had stopped. Her participation in graduation served as a vivid reminder of how her military commitment interrupted her life and changed her as a person.

War Changed Her Life

When you are faced with the reality of people dying daily, and you realize that it could be someone you know, or worse yet, yourself, it changes a person. According to Bearfield, any military person who has been there has a different mind set and a warped sense of humor.

“War makes you grow up faster and look at things differently,” she said.

The fallen comrade ceremonies, a ceremony held on base when a soldier was killed, were a constant reminder of the ultimate reality of war. Most of her friends in law school had been to one or two funerals in their lifetime. Within one year, she had been to thirty fallen comrade ceremonies, including four for soldiers she knew. “It is surreal to stand there and watch the ceremony, but you always go because any given day it could be someone you know or worse, it could be you. It makes you grow up, and in a weird way, you do get a little numb to death,” said Bearfield.

Since returning to Grand Forks and law school she has noticed a change in her outlook. Bearfield also believes her perspective of what is important in life has changed. A frustration for her while deployed was to hear of people at home worrying and arguing about trivial matters

on a daily basis. After working on the perimeter all day, watching little children walk through the snow without shoes and wearing no jackets, Bearfield really realized what was important at home. She said, “You come to recognize that if something is not going to matter in life in a few years or even after a few months, it is not worth getting excited over.”

A Family Tradition

The military has always been a part of Bearfield’s life. Her father was a colonel, Chief of Staff for the North Dakota Army National Guard and served in Vietnam. Her husband Jim and her sister Nicole served in Iraq, while her sister Michelle has served in both Qatar and Iraq and is currently serving in Afghanistan. While deployed, Bearfield had pictures of each of them above her bed. She wrote, “The pictures remind me each and every day that it is important for us to be here, it is important for us to be part of this



Photo: Bearfield on the perimeter working with her team to install a fiber optic TASS sensor for base security. (Photo by SPC Denver Grubb)

operation and it is important for me to be here as well. I cannot tell you how proud I am to come from a family that has played such a role in serving our country.”

Bearfield joined the National Guard in 1995, starting out in the military police advanced training. She completed her associate’s degree at Bismarck State College in Criminal Justice and finished her bachelor’s degree at Minot State while working full time in the National Guard.

After completing her undergraduate degree, she worked in finance in the military pay section and commercial accounts for the guard in Bismarck, N.D. She also met her husband Jim while working at Camp Grafton in North Dakota. She always knew she would like to attend law school, but ultimately it took her four years to make the decision to apply.

Getting Deployed

In June 2005, shortly after completing her first year of law school, her unit was alerted that they were to be deployed. Bearfield

had planned to get out of the guard in November of 2005, to focus on completing her legal education without interruption, but once her unit was alerted, she was not able to separate.

She had watched family and friends deploy, so her notification did not come as a surprise. Although, she quickly realized it was not as welcomed as she originally thought it would be. In fact, she was upset about having to stop out of law school after working up the courage to start and disappointed to leave the best group of friends and colleagues she had ever had.

Life in Afghanistan

Bearfield’s responsibility included security for the air base in Bagram. Overall, she had a good experience, but at times she hated it. For one full year, she worked every day including holidays except for nineteen days of travel and three

Photo: One of many local children who came to the Egyptian Hospital on base to take advantage of the free clinic.

days of vacation. Many of those days she worked ten or eleven hours.

“For the first three months, I worked in the Base Defense Operation Center (BDOC) monitoring live video feed from our surveillance cameras which were used to view whatever area the Battle Captain needed to see to assist operations in and around Bagram,” said Bearfield. “Once I was moved to the Team Leader position, I was able to work outside with my team installing, maintaining, and operating the Tactical Automated Security System (TASS) which was the perimeter security system for the entire base. The sensors alert the BDOC to any disturbances on the perimeter fence and allow for a response to prevent any perimeter breaches if one should be occurring.” While she was glad to be in a safe place, Bearfield and the others she served with felt a little cheated in their war experience because they never left the base.

One war experience she did have was with a land mine. Minefields



surrounded the base so soldiers from other countries were on duty trying to eliminate the mines. She was working on the fence one morning when there was an explosion about 25 yards from her that knocked her into the fence as she was showered with rocks, dirt, and debris. At first, she had no idea what was going on but quickly realized a nearby road grader had hit a mine in a supposedly clear field. She was unable to hear for more than a day, and it shook up those she was working with.

A highlight of her time in Afghanistan was the visits by people from home. Several USO entertainers came to perform concerts and spend time greeting the soldiers. "It was great, but it was the first time I was at a concert where everyone has a gun and all you have to drink is water," joked Bearfield. She also had the opportunity to be within a few feet of President George W. Bush, when he visited the base. Other dignitaries and government officials stopped by to lend their support as well.

For Bearfield, one of the most difficult challenges was getting used to no time alone. Whether she was in the office, the barracks, or even the bathroom, there was always another person there. "You get sick of the others because you are with them 24 hours a day," she said, "If someone would knock on my hut and I talked through the wall, then they knew I didn't want to talk." It was different from life at home where you work with your co-workers, but at the end of the

day you do not go home to live with them as well.

The work and the result of the work she did was very rewarding. "To see little girls go to school again because the Taliban wouldn't let them was extremely rewarding," said Bearfield. When they were working on the sensors around the perimeter, little kids would talk with them so she knew many positive things were happening. The Egyptian Hospital on base provided humanitarian aid to the local villagers. Bearfield helped put together packages of toys and school supplies for the children that were distributed at the hospital once a week.

One lesson she learned through all of this was although it seemed as if their days never change – not every day is the same, even though it seems like it when they start.

The Future For Bearfield

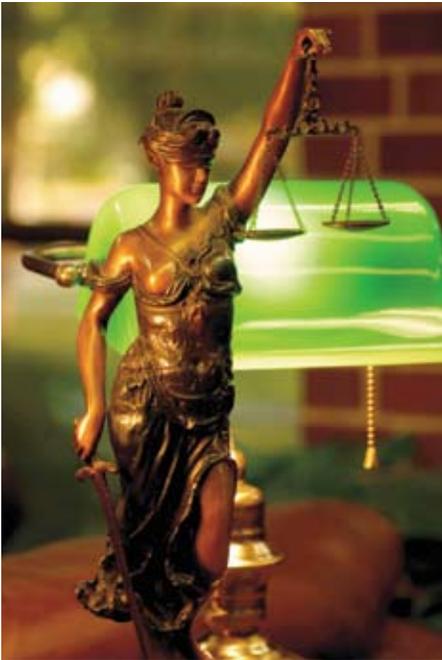
For now, Bearfield has traded back her "battle rattle" for the backpack and books of law school. Her summer included a full schedule of courses as she began her second year. She has arranged for an area defense council externship and after graduation would like to ultimately receive a Judge Advocate General commission in the National Guard.

Bearfield reenlisted a year ago in the National Guard for an additional six years, and transferred to the 191st Military Police Company. Her company recently received Alert Orders, so the potential for her to be deployed again is high. She says she would definitely go back to war if called upon again, but admits no matter where you go you will always be a little apprehensive. ■



Photo: Taken by Bearfield and printed in *Stars and Stripes*, this photo is of the North Dakota Army National Guard, along with other soldiers, rising from a moment of prayer at the end of a Fallen Comrade Ceremony for two North Dakota soldiers.

UND Law Shaping the North Dakota Bench and Bar



Since its beginning in 1899, the University of North Dakota School of Law has had a profound effect on the legal environment in the state of North Dakota. As a new state, North Dakota was badly in need of attorneys, so the law school was established at UND. Since then, UND law faculty and alumni have educated most of the lawyers and judges in the state beginning with the law school's first dean Guy S. Corliss, who also served as chief justice of the North Dakota Supreme Court.

As the sole law school in the state, the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Law has been the source of the legal education for most of North Dakota's lawyers for more than 100 years. Currently, four of five North Dakota Supreme Court justices, the majority of the state's judges, and more than 70 percent of North Dakota's lawyers are graduates of the UND School of Law. These are staggering numbers when compared to most other states and highlight the measure of influence the UND Law School has within North Dakota.

"UND Law's relationships with the bench and bar in this state are without equal anywhere else in the nation; they are a model for other states to emulate and envy," said William Neumann, director of the State Bar Association of North Dakota (SBAND).

North Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle, a 1958 UND Law graduate, has seen the legal community in North Dakota in action for more than 40 years. He has also seen the influence of the law school grow during his tenure as a result of the general public's increased demand on the legal and justice system to resolve their issues, enforce their rights, and enact legislation.

The North Dakota legislature is another arena where our graduates have an influence. Although the number of legislators who are lawyers is small, they do have a large influence on the decisions made. The Legislative Council, the research arm of the legislature, has a staff of lawyers most of whom were educated at UND Law. Influence on the government goes beyond the state borders. North Dakota's member of the U.S. House of Representatives, several federal judges, and leaders in business and industry are all UND Law educated. The law school's Tribal Judicial Institute provides training across the nation in legal issues relating to Indian law, and the Norwegian exchange program has helped educate more than 300 Norwegian attorneys in courses on the UND campus.

The law school continues to educate the state's attorneys even after they graduate by providing Continuing Legal Education (CLE) opportunities and through a variety of legal programming, lectures, and symposiums on campus. These UND-based CLE opportunities help North Dakota attorneys stay fresh and up to speed. Neumann believes that today the school has even more impact on the bench and bar. "Now it's also very much about what the law school is doing today, its CLE offerings, and its ongoing relationship with the organized bar. SBAND has a very close and cooperative relationship with UND Law, a relationship we value deeply and are very proud of," said Neumann.

While the law school is training North Dakota's lawyers, the school's community of students, faculty, and staff provide services to the attorneys, judges, and citizens of the state, as well. For example, each year the Public Interest Law Student Association runs a free tax clinic to prepare tax returns for people qualifying under the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Students, through the Legal Aid Clinic, are also involved in representing individuals in North Dakota who are unable to afford legal services.

The Central Legal Research office employs second- and third-year law students to work on current legal research questions posed by North Dakota judges, prosecutors, and court-appointed defense counsel, and the Northern Plains Indian Law Center assists tribal governments in addressing legal issues affecting tribal lands and tribal members.

The UND School of Law will continue to play a vital role in shaping the legal, justice, business, and legislative parts of the state of North Dakota for many generations to come. "I believe the quality of the bar and the bench is good, and that is due, in great part, to the UND Law School and its influence in the state," said VandeWalle. ■



Photo: From right, Justice Daniel Crothers, Justice Mary Maring, Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle, and Justice Dale Sandstrom are all alumni of the UND School of Law. Justice Carol Kapsner is the fifth member of the North Dakota Supreme Court.

Spotlight On the School of Law



Professor James Grijalva 2008 Fulbright Scholar

Professor James Grijalva, Kenneth and Frances Swenson Professor of Law & Director of the Tribal Environmental Law Project at the UND School of Law,

has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to conduct research at the University of Alberta in Edmonton for the spring semester in 2008, according to the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship board. Grijalva's Fulbright award is the second in the history of the UND School of Law.

Grijalva will conduct research in Aboriginal legal and resource rights, develop collaborations and offer occasional guest lectures at the undergraduate and graduate level with the School of Native Studies and the Faculty of Law.

His experience with Indian country environmental law in the United States is the strong foundation he will use to evaluate Canadian Law on these issues with the goal of using a comparative analysis of the two countries' approaches to expand the scholarly discussion of these issues. He hopes this increased scholarly attention "will assist indigenous communities and governments in Canada, the United States and other countries in developing and refining legal systems to treat indigenous communities equitably."

Grijalva's career has focused primarily on these issues. He received his J.D. with a certificate in Natural Resources and Environmental Law from Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College, a school consistently ranked at the top for those programs. As a private lawyer, he has represented tribal governments on a variety of natural resources and environmental matters, mostly notably the Puyallup Tribe in legal claims for damages to tribal natural resources caused

by hazardous substance releases in the Commencement Bay Superfund Site near Tacoma, Washington. In 1996, as a law professor, he developed the Tribal Environmental Law Project as part of the UND School of Law Indian Law Center, and since 1998, he has taught a summer course on Indian country environmental law at Vermont Law School.

The Fulbright Program, America's flagship international educational exchange program, sends U.S. faculty and professionals abroad each year. The program is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Participants of the program are chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential – with the opportunity to observe each others' political, economic, educational and cultural institutions, to exchange ideas and to embark on joint ventures of importance to the general welfare of the world's inhabitants. Professor Grijalva is one of 800 faculty and professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright Scholarship in 2008.■





Stacey Dahl, Law Student and North Dakota Legislator

As the school year winds down students anticipate the end of the term, but for Stacey Dahl, a different kind of term has come to an end. Dahl, a law student at the

University of North Dakota, recently completed her term in the House of Representatives for District 42. During the past four years she has found a unique balance between being a State Representative while being a law student.

In the fall of 2004 a position opened for a seat in the District 42 House of Representatives. "I have always had a natural interest in civics and the political process," stated Dahl, "so I jumped at the opportunity to run for an open seat." She ran for the position during her final semester as an undergraduate student at UND and took her seat in the House of Representatives. Active involvement in UND Student Government as well as the North Dakota Student Association made the transition from representing students to representing residents in the district an easy one.

In the balance of serving as a State Representative while in law school, Dahl has been able to find a median and combine both aspects of her life. "Law school has been an invaluable asset in my role as a public servant. Professors and other law school activities continually challenge students to make arguments on both sides of an issue. The analytical, rigorous process I was challenged with in my classes has helped me to ask tough questions and think through the consequences of a piece of policy."

Everyday duties during the legislative session for Dahl include committee meetings, voting on bills during floor sessions, conference committees and communicating

with constituents. During her session Dahl served on the Judiciary Committee, Government and Veteran Affairs Committee and the Constitutional Revision Committee. Another important issue for her is the issue of keeping young people in North Dakota. She has had a hand in working with policies addressing student loan rates and keeping tuition rates down.

Looking back, Dahl mentions some valuable experiences she's encountered during her term. One was the unique opportunity to work with members of both political parties from all walks of life to develop the best state policy. "Public service and community involvement benefit everyone and I encourage all law students to get involved in areas that interest them most."

As Stacey's term comes to an end she looks forward to the road ahead. Along the lines of most law students she anticipates completing her law degree and passing the bar. She and her husband love Grand Forks so she hopes to stay in town to practice law.■



By: Angie Barstad

Rod & Betty Webb

Rodney and Betty Webb established a professorship in their names to help guarantee the UND School of Law can continue to attract and retain the best and brightest faculty. As a result, their gift has a direct effect on the quality of education provided to today's students.

The Named Professorship

Rod Webb and his wife Betty wanted to give something back to the UND School of Law for providing him with a quality education. With the support of colleagues and family, they decided to establish a named professorship by making a gift through the UND Foundation. The Rodney and Betty Webb Professor of Law provides support for a faculty position and aids in retaining and recruiting the best faculty available.

Their goal in making a gift was to provide for faculty, so the professorship was an ideal option for them. Their gift, now and in the future, will enhance the educational quality of the UND School of Law. Senior professor Patti Alleva is currently serving as the Webb professor.

Not only has the gift benefited the faculty and school, it has helped the Webb family become more active with UND, more aware of the entire university, and better supporters of the university and the law school. They enjoy seeing their gift make a difference during their lifetimes.

In addition to the professorship, their gift provides support for the UND athletics program and it established the Webb Faculty Achievement Award. This award is presented annually to the faculty member who has made significant contributions to the law school in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service, and whose contributions in at least two of those areas are extraordinarily valuable to the school.



Judge for the District of North Dakota

Rod graduated from the University of North Dakota with a BSBA degree from the College of Business in 1957 and from the Law School in 1959. After graduation he practiced law in Grafton, North Dakota from 1959-1981 with the Ringsak, Webb, Rice, & Metelmann Law Firm. During this time, he was the Walsh County States Attorney and the president of the North Dakota States Attorney's Association. He then went on to become the Grafton Municipal Judge and a Special Assistant Attorney General for North Dakota.

He was appointed the United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota by President Ronald Reagan on October 8, 1981. Reagan then appointed him United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota in 1987. He became Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota on January 1, 1993, and reached Senior Status as of January 1, 2002.

A Mother, Volunteer and Public Servant

Betty grew up on a family farm north of Adams, North Dakota. She attended the College of Medical Technology in Minneapolis, where she received an education in both medical and x-ray technology. Armed with this dual expertise, Betty worked in both fields in North Dakota and Wisconsin. Betty and Rod met in 1953 and were married in 1957. They have five children, and despite the demands of a busy family, Betty has devoted much of her life to community service. In Grafton, she served as the first local President and then state Vice President of the Mrs. Jaycees. After moving to Fargo in 1987, she took on leadership roles at Hope Lutheran Church, volunteering countless hours of her time. She became the Church's funeral coordinator and represented Hope Lutheran on the boards of Churchs United for the Homeless and the Fargo-Moorhead Food Pantry.

Both Rod and Betty, in their own ways, have made public service a high priority in their lives. They have given back in so many ways, and with their special gift to establish the professorship, their generosity will ensure success for future generations at the UND School of Law. ■

Photo: Rod and Betty Webb with Associate Professor Bradley Myers, winner of the 2007 Webb Faculty Achievement Award.

Working Together

to Build the School of Law



Direct Giving...Another Simple Way to Help

Do you want to help current law students pay for their education? Would you like to help provide a gift to support external competitions or update classrooms? When you make a direct gift, you can provide funding for these things! A gift of any size will make a difference to a student, program or special project. A special way to honor the memory of a friend or loved one is through a memorial gift. When you make a gift to the UND Foundation for the benefit of the law school, YOU decide the designation. You might want to support an existing scholarship, create a named scholarship, or support priority needs for the law school. Unrestricted gifts provide funding for wherever the need is greatest. You can also support the law school through direct gifts of stock and real property.

"Making a direct gift to benefit the law school has an immediate tangible benefit!"

How to Make a Direct Gift – It's Simple!

Making a direct gift to the UND Foundation for the benefit of the UND Law School is simple and hassle free. Online giving has become an increasingly popular way to make a direct gift. It's fast, simple and most important, secure. Give online at www.law.und.edu. You can also give through the Alumni Association and Foundation website at www.undalumni.org. Direct gifts can be made over the phone by calling 1-800-543-8764. Also please watch for our annual giving letter in the coming weeks. It is easy to return the pledge card with your gift in the envelope you will receive in the mail.

For more information contact the UND Foundation at:

(800) 543-8764

Thank you for your continued support of the UND School of Law

Thank you for your generous contributions in the last year. Our donors from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 will be recognized in the next issue.



On The



1 UND Law hockey team had another successful year in the UND intramural league making it deep into the playoffs.

2 Paula Lee with the Randy H. Lee Scholarship winner Amy Strankowski, from Jamestown, N.D. Amy received the top grade in the professional responsibility class. She will begin her third year this fall.



3 The Honorable Jim Carrigan, '53 returned to campus to judge the finals of the Carrigan Cup trial advocacy competition.

5 Leah duCharme receives her hood from Professor James Grijalva and Assistant Dean Jeanne McLean during the commencement ceremony on May 15, 2007. Sixty-eight students received their J.D. during the ceremony. The commencement address was given by Laurence Gilman, a 1994 graduate of the UND Law School.

4 The Honorable Rodney S. Webb was the inaugural distinguished jurist-in-residence. During his visit he held an actual sentencing trial, gave a keynote address and lectured in classes.



Scene



6

6 A panel discussion that took place during the North Dakota Law Review's Symposium on Methamphetamine. The one-day symposium addressed meth across disciplines and jurisdictions.



7 The North Dakota Judicial Institute met for four days at the law school in June. The judges had the opportunity to see an actual human brain during a session about brain functions.



7



8

8 Seven students from Norway came to the school for the spring semester as part of the Norway Exchange program. This year will be the 25th year of the exchange program.

ALUMNI PROFILES

1940s

Jim Leahy, 1949

received the distinguished Liberty Bell Award, one of the top awards presented at the State Bar Association of North Dakota annual meeting in June. He was recognized for the contributions he has made to legal and civic education throughout his career.

1950s



Rodney S. Webb, 1959

The United States District Court for the District of North Dakota recently dedicated the ceremonial courtroom at the Quentin N. Burdick United States Courthouse in Fargo, North Dakota, to Judge Webb. The courtroom is now known as the "Rodney S. Webb Ceremonial Courtroom." The dedication served several purposes: first, to commemorate the completion of the courtroom renovation project; second, to congratulate Judge Webb on assuming senior status; third, to honor Judge Webb's service to the district court by renaming the courtroom for him; and finally, to present Judge Webb with a portrait. Judge Webb played an integral role in the renovation of the courtroom. The goal of the renovation was to preserve the dignity and historic look of the courtroom, while integrating state-of-the-art technology to aid in the trial process.

1960s

Jack Marcil, 1968

received the Distinguished Service Award, one of the top awards presented at the State Bar Association of North Dakota annual meeting in June. This award honors the many contributions he has made to the profession and to the public in the state of North Dakota.

1970s

Thomas L. Zimney, 1970

was recently appointed to the American Arbitration Association national panel of neutrals. He has over 35 years of litigation experience involving commercial, insurance, crop insurance and construction matters and has been involved

in many mediations and arbitrations as an advocate. He has also served as an arbitrator in legal and medical malpractice cases and workers compensation issues.



John Herrick, 1975

is Chief Council for the United States Department of Energy (DOE) Golden, Colorado Field Office at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Herrick has helped structure new energy production facilities, totaling over \$3 billion, in such technology areas as hydrogen, solar, geothermal, wind, ethanol, bioenergy and synthetic fuels. He has helped form research & development partnerships with private industry, academia and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden and DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. In addition, he is an adjunct faculty member teaching at the University of Denver Sturm School of Law. He teaches a course called Renewable Energy and Project Financing which is the only alternative energy and finance course taught in the United States.

Terry L. Adkins, 1976

is the City Attorney for the city of Rochester, Minnesota. He has been in that position since December of 1990. Prior to that, he was Assistant Attorney General for the North Dakota Attorney General's Office.

Robin Huseby, 1978

has been appointed as Executive Director of the North Dakota Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents. She and her staff oversee indigent defense contractors and state public defenders across the state. The main office is in Valley City, ND.

1980s

Carole Olson Gates, 1984

In September of 2005, assumed position as Director of Risk Management & Insurance for the International Air Transport Association (IATA), a trade organization representing 250 airlines operating worldwide, headquartered in Montreal, Quebec, with offices in Geneva, Singapore, Johannesburg, Miami, Washington, D.C., and Amann.

John R. Shoemaker, 1984

Paul F. Shoemaker, 1986

are working in private practice together in the law firm of Shoemaker & Shoemaker in Edina, Minnesota. John's practice is devoted 100% to civil litigation in state and federal courts and includes representation of individuals, partnerships and corporations in a variety of civil litigation matters, including commercial and business litigation, mechanic lien and other real estate litigation, landlord-tenant matters, and personal injury actions. Paul's present practice includes representation of individuals, partnerships and corporations in a variety of state and federal civil litigation matters, including contested divorce and post-decree matters, probate proceedings, and commercial, personal injury and business litigation claims. In addition, he provides estate planning services.

1990s



Dave Unkenholz, 1992

Is Vice President/Trust Manager for Bremer Trust, N.A., in Grand Forks. He is responsible for overseeing all aspects of personal trusts and estates, for-profit and non-profit corporate and foundation

accounts, employer-sponsored benefit plans, IRAs and Investment Management Accounts. He also provides financial and estate planning reviews, as well as business formation, continuation and succession consultations for customers.



Shaun G. Jamison, 1993

earned a PhD in Education from Capella University. Earlier this spring, he successfully defended his dissertation titled "Online Law School Faculty Perceptions of Journaling as Professional Development: Influences, Barriers and Pitfalls." He currently is professor and assistant director of library services at Concord Law School where he teaches legal education online.

Gerald "Jud" E. DeLoss, 1994

has joined the Minneapolis office of Gray, Plant & Mooty (GPM.) As a principal in GPM's Health Law and Nonprofit Organizations practice groups, DeLoss focuses his practice on representing medical providers in health information technology, HIPAA, fraud and abuse issues, transactions, and regulatory compliance.



**Wayne R. Johnson
Class of 1994**

Wayne R. Johnson has been appointed chair-elect of the California State Bar's Taxation Section Executive Committee.

His term as chair-elect will run from September 30, 2007 through September 28, 2008, at which time he will become chair of the Taxation Section.

"I'm truly honored to have been appointed to this position, and I hope it will allow me to promote the Section's interests even more," said Johnson, a partner at Valensi Rose. "I believe strongly in the Section's purpose and goals, and look forward to the opportunity to continue my service to the Taxation Section."

The Taxation Section is California's only statewide tax bar association and has a current membership of approximately 3,000.

Johnson represents high net-worth individuals in planning their business and personal affairs. Prior to practicing law, Johnson was a public accountant. He holds a masters' degree in taxation law from New York University School of Law.

Law and Politics Magazine and Los Angeles Magazine named Johnson a "Rising Star" among Southern California lawyers in each of 2004, 2005 and 2006. In addition to his involvement with the California Taxation Section, Johnson currently serves as Chairman of the Board of the Los Angeles Chapter of The Make-A-Wish Foundation.

A native of Grafton, North Dakota, Johnson has been an adjunct professor of law at Western State College of Law, in Fullerton, California, and in the Graduate Tax Program of Golden Gate University School of Law. He has taught entrepreneurialism at Pepperdine University's MBA Program and is currently an adjunct professor of law at Loyola Law School.

ALUMNI PROFILES

Marie Walls, 1994

recently accepted a position as director of the child-abuse program at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk, Virginia. She works with local prosecutors to offer advice about charges in child-abuse cases. She has prosecuted several high profile child abuse cases in her former position including a case of a pregnant woman who shot herself in the stomach when full term, and prosecuted the parents of a toddler who was mauled to death by the family pit bulls.

Richard Jennings, 1999

recently joined the law firm of Griffin, Dawsey, DePaola & Jones, P.C. in Towanda, P.A. He will engage in the general practice of law. He is admitted to practice in all Pennsylvania state courts, the United States Middle District of Pennsylvania court, and the United States Northern District of New York.

2000s

Tory Langemo, 2001

is a founding partner of the national military criminal defense law firm of Gagne, Scherer & Langemo, LLC. He also recently established Langemo Law, P.A., a solo practice in Chaska, MN, where he practices criminal defense and personal injury.

Telly J. Meier, 2002

is an associate in the Washington D.C. office of Holland & Knight LLP. He focuses his practice on resolving critical tax and business organizational issues for tax-exempt and government entities, including Indian tribal governments.

Charles G. DeMakis, 2004

is an associate with Olson & Burns, P.C. in Minot, North Dakota. He joined the firm in August of 2004. He and his wife Ashley have a two year-old son.

Alexandria K.F. Doolittle, 2004

is serving as the Director of the Social Security Advocacy Program at the Seattle Community Law Center. She is also providing pro bono legal services to Futurewise, formerly 1,000 Friends of Washington.

Katrina Turman, 2005

is an attorney at DeMars & Turman Ltd. now located in the Historic Ford Building in downtown Fargo, N.D. Her practice focuses primarily on general civil litigation, commercial law, real estate, bankruptcy, and estate planning. She and **Sara Sorenson, '01**, ran the Flickertail Girls State Supreme Court held at the law school this summer. She is involved with the Ronald McDonald House as a member of the Board of Directors, is the chair of the Sweetheart Ball Committee, and is a member of the Junior League of Fargo-Moorhead.

Katie Jendro, 2006

is a family law practitioner at Runchey, Louwagie & Wellman, a small firm in Marshall, MN.



Joseph Flanders, 2007

recently had his paper titled Academic Student Dismissals accepted for publication in the third volume of the Education Law and Policy Forum and for presentation at the third national student conference to be held in

Athens, GA on September 21-22, 2007.



Kyle Kosior, 2007

is the Assistant to the President of the United States Hockey League (USHL) located in Grand Forks. He is responsible for maintaining the rosters of the teams, is actively involved in the USHL draft, works

to gain exposure for the league, and develops possible expansion opportunities for the league.

KEEP US POSTED

A feature in each magazine will be an Alumni Notes section. Keep us posted on things happening in your life. Maybe it is a new job, promotion, award or other happening. Send us your news by going to the web at:

www.law.und.edu/alumni/update

and fill out our on-line form. If you have any questions or would like to have your photo included you can e-mail a high resolution copy to

alumni@law.und.edu

NEWS BRIEFS

Law School Staff Recognized for Service

Four staff members were recognized for their years of service and outstanding work at the UND Staff Recognition Ceremony in May. Pictured from left, Kathie Johnke received the Meritorious Service Award, the highest award for staff members, for her outstanding work in the Legal Aid Clinic.



Sheri Evans was recognized for 10 years of service, Kaaren Pupino for 30 years at the law school, and Mark Brickson for fifteen years of service.

Eight Inducted Into Order of the Barristers

Eight members of the Class of 2007 were selected for the National Order of the Barristers at a ceremony during the Carrigan Cup competition in April. The members include Silas V. Darden, Fayetteville, NC; Travis Finck, Towner, ND; Kara O. Gansmann, Wilmington, NC; Danielle L. Kesanen, Virginia, MN; Elizabeth Pendlay, Wasilla, AK; Haley L. Wamstad, Hatton, ND; Mark R. Western, Stanley, ND; and Brad Wiederholt, Dickinson, ND. The Order of Barristers provides national recognition for individuals who have excelled in advocacy and brief writing skills at their respective schools.

Northern Plains Inter-Tribal Court Of Appeals Holds Session At Law School

The Native American Law Students Association hosted the Northern Plains Inter-Tribal Court of Appeals in the Baker Courtroom in April. The consortia court that hears appeals from seven different Indian tribes looked at *Tex Hall v. Three Affiliated Tribes*, Business council and Election Board. The case involved an appeal from a lower court decision denying an election challenge. The lower court found the Court had no authority to overturn election results, only the Tribal Council had the authority.

Carrigan Cup Competition Revived

The Carrigan Cup returned to the UND School of Law this past April in an impressive display of trial advocacy skills.

The competition is sponsored by UND graduate Judge Jim Carrigan and requires UND students to present a full trial to a panel of scoring and presiding judges comprised of practicing members of the bench and bar. In the final round of the competition, Jamie Goulet and Silas Darden were declared champions by the prestigious scoring panel of Judge Kermit Bye, Magistrate Judge Alice Senechal, and U.S. Attorney Drew Wrigley. Silas Darden and Mark Western were declared the best oral advocates of the competition. If you would like to serve as either a scoring or presiding judge in the 2008 Carrigan Cup, please contact Assistant Professor Kate Traylor Schaffzin at kate.schaffzin@law.und.edu.

Dean LeBel Heads Search Committee



Dean Paul LeBel has been named as chair of the presidential search committee that will recommend a successor to University of North Dakota President Charles Kupchella. The sixteen member committee began the process in June.

Legislative Interns Complete Session

Nine second- and third-year law students, along with two masters in public administration students, participated in the legislative internship program during the spring semester. The students worked in Bismarck for the semester during the legislative session. They are pictured below. From left to right seated: Erica Shively, Stephanie Weis, Kyle Dawley, and Sara Dornfeld (MPA); standing: Juhl Stoesz, Matt Liephon (MPA), Dan Kelsch, Peter Zuger, Christopher Rausch, Jordan Schuetzle, Brad Wiederholt.



FACULTY NOTES

New Faculty Hired for Fall Semester

Two new tenure-track faculty have been hired and will begin teaching this August.



Joshua Fershee received his J.D. magna cum laude from Tulane Law School. He comes to UND from Penn State University's Dickinson School of Law in State College, PA, where he was a visiting professor of law. Professor Fershee writes and lectures on business associations, corporate law and governance, energy law and policy, climate change and environmental policy, law and economics, Native American law, and sports and entertainment law.



Eric E. Johnson has been a practicing attorney in Los Angeles, first as a litigator for Irell & Manella, and then as in-house counsel for Fox Sports Net. He received his J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School and his B.A. from the Plan II program at the University of Texas at Austin. Professor Johnson's areas of scholarly interest are intellectual property and entertainment law. He will be teaching Torts I, Torts II, and Entertainment Law.

In addition to Fershee and Johnson, the law school welcomes visiting faculty members **Danny Schaffzin** and **Kendra Fershee** along with **Keith Richotte**, Fellow in the Northern Plains Indian Law Center.

Professor Alleva Wins Advising Award

The Rodney & Betty Webb Professor of Law, Patti Alleva, received a 2007 Memorial Union Leadership Award as the Outstanding Student Organization Advisor. Alleva is the advisor to the Law Women's Caucus (LWC) student organization. LWC President, Danielle Kesanen, said "She is pro-active, enthusiastic, and supportive. She not only supplies us with wonderful ideas for programming and events, but is always encouraging and excited to help us make our own ideas become a reality." The Law Women's Caucus was also recognized this school term as the Volunteering and Service Efforts of 2007 Outstanding Student Organization Award.

Traylor Schaffzin Heads Trial Team

Assistant Professor Katharine Traylor Schaffzin trained UND's trial team of law students Aubrey Fiebelkorn-Zuger, Jamie Goulet, '07, and Mark Western, '07. They represented UND

Law at the regional tournament for the extremely competitive Texas Young Lawyers' Division National Trial Competition in Boulder, CO. She worked with the team through countless hours, during both the fall and spring semesters, honing their trial skills before earning the votes of four out of nine judges over the course of three trials.

Gordon Meets With Ethiopian Government

Assistant Professor Gregory S. Gordon visited Ethiopia this summer to meet with government officials about establishing a UND Ethiopian Genocide Studies Program which, as proposed, would be akin to the Yale Cambodian Genocide Program. While there, Professor Gordon was asked by the Ethiopian Minister of Justice to conduct criminal law training for a group of high-level Ethiopian federal prosecutors.

Three Law Faculty Selected for Promotion

UND President Charles Kupchella has approved the promotion of both James Grijalva and Kathryn R.L. Rand to full professor and Bradley Myers to Associate Professor. The promotions are effective in August 2007. The UND Law School community congratulates them on their outstanding accomplishment.

Dauphinais Presents In Africa

Assistant Professor Kirsten Dauphinais was selected to present at the first ever East African Conference on Legal Writing Pedagogy held in March in Nairobi, Kenya. She conducted a workshop on Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences and how using innovative classroom techniques based on principles of experiential and collaborative learning can aid East African professors in delivering effective skills education to multi-cultural classrooms which are underfunded and over enrolled.

This landmark conference with dozens of participants from both American and African law schools led to the establishment of an African branch of the Legal Writing Institute and laid the foundation for future cooperation between U.S. and African academics to promote the legal skills training necessary to creating a cadre of African lawyers who can participate in nation building and the promotion of human rights.



UND Law on the Web



The UND Law School web site has a new look and new features. Check back regularly to read the headlines happening at the school, get the schedule of upcoming events or click on the spotlight feature to read about special people and programs at the UND School of Law.

We have added special sections for future students, current students and our alumni. You can update us on information and changes in your life, send in a suggestion, make a donation, or sign-up for our new electronic newsletter.

www.law.und.edu

Tell Us Your Story. . .

Please send us any stories ideas, memories of law school or photos from the past to possibly be used in future publications.

Send your information via e-mail to:
alumni@law.und.edu

or mail to:

UND School of Law c/o Rob Carolin,
215 Centennial Drive, Stop 9003
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9003

LOOKING BACK

*Over The Years, Sports Have Provided a Break
From The Rigors of Law School.*



Bowling: (front) Dave Bossart, (back from left) Dewey Breiting, Jerry Larson, Joe Mahold; **Basketball:** 1st row (from left) Paul Johnson, Tim Ottmar, Tim Price, Steve Richards, Dan Hovland; 2nd row Terry Wils, Terry Lorrenz, Mark Beauchene, Mike Williams; **Softball:** (front from left) Gerry Gunderson, Mike Juntunen, Arnie Fleck, Doug Vang, (back) Lowell Bottrell, Tam Podolski, Debbie Gordon Kleven, Dave Ross, Mike Mahoney, Scott Bakken; **Golf:** (from left) Brad Burgum, Larry Stern, Roger Scouton, Dick McGee, Chirs Carlson.

UND THE UNIVERSITY OF
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GRAND FORKS

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