Homecoming 2015: a huge success by all measures  
~ article by Staff Senator Mark Danes

The University of North Dakota celebrated its 99th Homecoming anniversary October 5-11. And, the energy and spirit on campus was unmistakable! The week was full of student activities and a variety of alumni-focused events.

From Monday’s kick-off through the “Frozen Feed,” “Spirit Showdown,” “Sioux Awards” and Saturday’s Homecoming brunch, parade and football game, the UND spirit was palpable on campus and in town.

According to UND’s Alumni Association & Foundation, this year’s series of events went very well and had terrific participation, said Spring Bakke and Lisa Schuster. “The goal is always to make sure we prominently spotlight UND’s successes for our alumni and donors, and together with the University staff we did just that,” said Schuster. Despite the possible weather challenges in October, the campus couldn’t have ordered up a better week of sunshine and mild temperatures.

Staff Senate is proud to recognize the many staff members across campus who helped make the events successful and fun for all. Staff Senate Executive Committee Member-At-Large, Jim Hanson of Facilities Management and Chair of the Parades Committee said, “building this year’s parade float was a lot of fun, made more so with the teamwork of about 15 members of staff and staff senate. Every year, this is a great time to showcase our UND spirit and enjoy the friendly competition put on by the owners of different entries in the parade. It’s just what you need to rally for the big game!”

In terms of numbers served during the week:
- Monday’s kick-off event (Taco-In-A-Bag): 750 people (Followed by the coronation of the Homecoming King & Queen: Kylie Idso and Luke Schields.)
- Tuesday’s Frozen Feed (Cass-Clay): 1,100
- Wednesday’s Spirit Showdown (Pizza): 350
- Thursday’s Sioux Awards (Alerus Center): 375 (86 students)

That kind of service takes many helping hands.

“I am very proud of the performance the Student Ambassadors showed in their partnership with the Alumni Association & Foundation,” said Kristi Okerlund of UND’s Office of Student Involvement & Leadership. “Our participation numbers were strong all week and the Student Ambassador Executive Board Members worked hard to make sure the returning Alumni re-engaged with their University and felt the incredible campus spirit.”

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year because that will be a big one marking the 100th Anniversary of the Alumni Association & Foundation! “We have already been busy planning for lots of fun, recognition and alumni engagement next year,” said Spring Bakke, Director of Engagement & Alumni Relations for the AA&F.

2016 Denim Day Funding Applications Available

Applications for local non-profit organizations seeking 2016 Denim Day funding are now available on the Staff Senate Denim Day website; or by calling Cheri Williams, 701.777.2121. The application deadline is November 15, 2015. Please encourage your favorite local non-profit to apply now!
Members of the University of North Dakota (UND) Presidential Search Committee will identify candidates for the position. The Committee is co-chaired by Hesham El-Rewini, Dean and Professor, UND College of Engineering & Mines and Grant Shaft, former member of the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education. The committee comprises students, faculty and staff from UND, as well as community leaders.

Staff Senate encourages all staff members to use the Staff Senate Suggestion Box to provide any comments, suggestions, or questions regarding the UND Presidential Search. We value your input and want to hear from staff regarding this important topic. All suggestions will be sent to the staff representatives on the search committee, Shari Nelson and Angela Morgan.

**Committee Members**
- **Dr. Hesham El-Rewini**, Dean of the College of Engineering & Mines, UND
- **Grant Shaft**, State Board of Higher Education
- **Kathy Neset**, Chair, State Board of Higher Education
- **Nick Hacker**, State Board of Higher Education
- **Dr. Alena Kubatova**, Professor and Director of Recruitment, UND Department of Chemistry
- **Leon Osborne, Jr.**, Professor, UND Department of Atmospheric Sciences
- **Angela Morgan**, Administrative Assistant, UND Energy & Environmental Research Center
- **Shari Nelson**, Associate Director, UND Learning Services & Student Success Center
- **Dr. Linda Neuerburg**, Assistant Director, UND American Indian Student Services
- **Matt Kopp**, Undergraduate Student, UND
- **Samantha Perrin**, Graduate Student, UND
- **Jim Poolman**, President, Jim Poolman Consulting, Bismarck
- **Dr. Larry Skogen**, President, Bismarck State College
- **Dr. Mark Hagerott**, Chancellor, North Dakota University System

~ article by Staff Senate President Sharley Kurtz

**Have a Suggestion?**
Staff Senate welcomes questions and ideas! Please visit our Suggestion Box at the bottom of our web page!  
[UND.edu/staff-senate/](http://UND.edu/staff-senate/)
State Employee Recognition Week

September 14-18, 2015 marked State Employee Recognition Week. UND Staff Senate, in conjunction with University Senate, held several events to celebrate the week. On Monday, a coffee social hour was held in the Memorial Union Loading Dock and University Place. A free lunch and benefits fair was held in the Memorial Union Ballroom on Tuesday. Work Well generously provided fruit, vegetables and door prizes for the lunch, while Staff Senate provided the first 150 attendees with a free water bottle or stress ball. The lunch was a huge success with roughly 475 staff members attending. A breakfast for the night staff took place on Wednesday in the Terrace Dining Center. Seventy-four staff members attended the event, with the first 50 attendees receiving a free water bottle or stress ball. On Thursday, the Division of University & Public Affairs sponsored a pie and ice cream social in Carnegie. Three-hundred staff members attended the event. Sponsors of the week’s events include: Dining Services, The President’s Office, University Federal Credit Union, UND Bookstore, UND Facilities, University Senate, VPAA Office, Work Well, and Staff Senate. A special thank you to all of our sponsors and everyone involved in making this a huge success to staff and faculty.

~ article by Staff Senator Amber Flynn

SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Fling ~ April 28, 2016
The University of North Dakota campus has begun the first phase of a comprehensive master planning process in response to an NDUS directive that all eleven campuses must file a master plan with the system office in February 2016. The first phase focuses primarily on learning spaces (classrooms, labs, and study/collaborative space). Stakeholder input is being garnered through student and faculty surveys of physical classroom spaces, campus open forums, and student polling via Student Government. The project management team provided an overview presentation to Student Senate on October 11th, Staff Senate on October 14, and will present to University Senate on November 5th.

The master planning work is being driven by a steering committee, comprises academic deans, campus leaders, and the Student Body President. The steering committee will forward their recommendations to the President and Executive Cabinet. Future phases of the planning process will examine all physical aspects of the campus, and will include much broader involvement from internal and external stakeholders. Additional information may be found on the Master Planning website.

~ article by the Master Planning Committee

**UND classrooms renovated during Summer 2015**

![O’Kelly 310](image)

![Babcock 108](image)

![Hughes Fine Arts Center 248](image)

![Merrifield 304](image)

![Witmer 209](image)

![Merrifield 313](image)
UND Staff Senate wins “Best UND Spirit” second year in a row

UND Staff Senate annually takes part in the Potato Bowl and Homecoming Parades. Committee Chair, Jim Hanson (facilities) and his committee, led Staff Senate to its second win for “Best UND Spirit” in the 2015 Potato Bowl Parade, with a float themed “Catch the Spirit”. Committee members include: Elizabeth Becker, Jennifer Elliott, Lisa Moore, Nancy Garcia, Diane Hillebrand, Pat Hanson, Andrew Johnson, and Sharley Kurtz. They created the float’s themes, constructed the float and walked in both parades. ~ article by Staff Senate President Sharley Kurtz

Changes to 31 Days of Glory

31 Days of Glory is a Staff Senate fundraiser held each fall. Staff Senate senators sell tickets to UND faculty and staff to be entered in a drawing for cash prizes each day during the month of December. This year, Staff Senate is selling 600 tickets and Saturday’s cash drawing will now be for $250! Raffle purchases will still have the opportunity to win $100 cash drawings Monday through Friday and $500 cash drawings on Sundays. The event will now raise money for professional development opportunities for benefited UND staff members instead of dependent scholarships. For more information about the Seeds for Staff Success program please go to the Fundraising/Scholarship page on the Staff Senate website. All benefited UND employees are encouraged to apply for a Seeds for Staff Success grant!

Scholarships for Dependents of Benefited Staff

Successful fundraising has once again enabled the UND Staff Senate to provide UND student scholarships for dependents of benefited staff for the 2016 academic year. This will be Staff Senate’s last year awarding this scholarship as they shift their focus to funding staff development.

Please encourage your dependent students admitted as full-time UND students next fall to apply for this scholarship. Check the Staff Senate website in February for application details.

~ article by Staff Senator Jessica Dunphy
Denim & Diamonds is a huge success

The annual Denim & Diamonds event was held September 25, 2015. The event was a huge success with people attending from all over campus and the Greater Grand Forks community. Attendees enjoyed mock gaming, listening to the band Wisegise, eating amazing food provided by Campus Catering, networking with peers and making new friends.

The Fundraising/Scholarship committee had more than 100 donors from the Greater Grand Forks business community and UND departments donated some wonderful items for the silent auction, which resulted in a lot of excitement and interest! Staff Senate raised $8,404, which will go towards Seeds for Staff Success grants. The President’s office matched the funds raised for a grand total of $16,808.

For more information about Denim & Diamonds and Seeds for Staff Success, including application deadlines, please visit the Staff Senate website.

~ article by Staff Senator Diane Fugleberg

Former Staff Senate Presidents Kristi Swartz (2011-2012) and Trish Young (2012-2013) count their mock gaming winnings.

Attendees at Denim & Diamonds had fun mock gaming. Winnings could be used for grat prizes throughout the night.

Denim & Diamonds attendees could bid on more than 100 silent auction items donated by UND departments and area businesses.

Wisegise provided music at this year’s Denim & Diamonds.

Campus Catering provided delicious appetizers for the event.