Heitkamp visits UND campus

Marie Monson
The Dakota Student

Last Tuesday, U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D - N.D., made a visit to UND, bringing U.S. Department of Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to talk about hurdles the state is facing, and to inform students of opportunities to work for the government.

After being introduced by Heitkamp, Mayorkas stood at the front of the room for most of the presentation and talked about what public service is, why he admires it and how we can benefit by taking jobs in that sector.

"Ask yourself, what would make you feel fulfilled, and to pursue that wherever that leads you," Mayorkas said.

Mayorkas, former U.S. Attorney, has also worked in the private sector before taking his current position as the number two official at DHS. He said that has helped him compare the two types of jobs and decide public service was the right fit for him.

"What matters to us is how we are engaging with the country and the rest of the world," he said. "When we come together, when we work together, that's when we are the most powerful."

Heitkamp and Mayorkas have toured the unmanned aerial systems research locations at the Grand Forks Air Force Base and have also talked to several officials regarding limitations on the research and a need for more understanding and cooperation from law enforcement on both local and federal levels. The two officials are working to lift some of the restrictions on the research so researchers can push forward at a quicker rate.

After discussing these issues, the two guests opened the room filled with more than 100 students and professors — for questions on any topic, which led to inquiries about cybersecurity, personal airspace and trackers and phone apps. Mayorkas took the lead on most of the answers as the overall concern pertained to safety, and he brought the focus back to cooperation in each answer.

Senate approves Powwow funding

Megan Hoffman
The Dakota Student

The first meeting back from spring break for the Student Senate saw one bill approved to fund the buffalo feed at the annual Wacipi Powwow. The event, which is sponsored by the UND Indian Association, takes place at the end of Time Out Week during the month of April.

"We are requesting funding for the food itself," Vice President of UNDIA RJ Morin said. "When we invite visitors to our house, in our culture, the first thing we do is feed them."

The powwow, which takes place at the Hyslop Sports Center, is free to all UND students with a student ID. The bill requested $4,000 from senate. There was some discussion over the amount of money UNDIA has in its account, which is more than what the event will cost in total.

"Having a little cushion in there is a nice thing," Morin said. "We sponsor different programming events throughout the year."

Heitkamp and Mayorkas

Elizabeth Smart shares her story with full auditorium

— Kidnapping survivor speaks on campus as part of the Delta Gamma Lectureship Series on Values and Ethics

Marie Monson
The Dakota Student

Elizabeth Smart, a kidnapping survivor and public speaker, traveled to Grand Forks last Monday night to share her nationally-followed story of abduction and escape, and the Chester Fritz Auditorium was over capacity as thousands of supporters eagerly waited to hear about her hardship.

Smart’s appearance was part of the Delta Gamma Lectureship Series on Values and Ethics, and organizers Stephanie LaDue and Sonja Collin were pleased with how the event turned out.

"She couldn’t have been more wonderful," LaDue said. "We wanted to bring a speaker in to talk about values, ethics and doing good things, and (Smart) certainly met that goal. We hope everyone gained something from this lectureship and the ones moving forward."

Smart, a Salt Lake City, Utah native, began her speech by talking a little bit about her large and loving family. The second-eldest of five kids, she had a busy and loud life.

She told the audience, which was one of the largest she’s ever spoken to, how when she was 14, she was lying in bed on a normal night at home when a man appeared and held a knife to her throat, threatening to kill her.

He proceeded to lead her out of the house and take her to his remote campsite in the mountains, where he abused her.
Jeff and Steph had been dating for a several weeks now, and Jeff felt like a new fire was lit inside of him. They hung out just about everyday, although rarely at night. Steph saved the evenings for her friends most of the time. They were sitting on the couch studying together at Steph’s house. Jeff had gotten tired of studying and started to doodle in his notebook. He started to draw little stick figures fight each other like they were in a war. He enjoyed watching the battle play out as he created it, but he had not drawn in front of her yet which made him nervous. Bodies were blown apart and bullets flew across the paper with black blotches showing where all the blood was. Steph sat up and laid across his lap while grabbing the notebook. “These aren’t notes!” she said jokingly. Jeff reached for the notebook embarrassingly, but she kept it and started to draw on the page without letting him see. He was worried she would find him weird or immature as he sat there in anticipation of what she was writing. “Come on Stephanie, let me have my notebook back.” “Hold your horses nerdboy” Steph responded. A moment later she tossed it back to him to show what she added to it and said “You should add some guys with swords.”
"Accomplishments of one are possible because of the contributions of many," he said near the end of the discussion.

Continuing the efforts of Heitkamp’s Strong & Safe Communities Initiative, Heitkamp — a subcommittee ranking member on the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs — and Mayorkas toured Port of Entry and Border Patrol facilities in Pembina, N.D., and held a roundtable discussion with officials from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, local sheriffs and tribal law enforcement.

The meeting provided an opportunity for North Dakotans, who address these issues every day on the ground in the state, to discuss with Mayorkas the need for more local and federal law enforcement collaboration so they can better address the pressing challenges they face as they work to keep the northern border secure and North Dakota communities safe.
I recently made the long trip back to the high school. It had been less than a year since I last walked through the halls (to my classes, and it was my assumption that things wouldn’t have changed that much.)

However, when I arrived at the doors, the experience was entirely different. I went through the standard security check, turned over my visitors badge and entered the halls, and immediately it hit me. I used to belong to this place, but now I was an outsider. It was an ambivalent feeling of discomfort and freedom. There were no rules that had to be followed, no punishments to be handed out for disobedience, and no need to go anywhere in particular. At the same time, I felt that this was a place that I didn’t belong.

I wondered for a bit, visiting the teachers that I had intended to visit, and discussing whatever needed to be discussed with them, all the time noticing that sense of ambivalence. It seemed like I was connected and disconnected from this place.

Later I noticed that two banners that had my picture on it as part of a state championship team had been taken down. This was right before the old teacher of mine asked me to speak to her class of sophomores, none of whom knew my name, and no one recognized it when they heard it.

It was at this point that I realized that this place had forgotten me. Sure there were some people still there who remember me, however, most have already forgotten, and it will only become more prevalent until I am completely forgotten there.

The connection that I had to my high school was not a connection to the place itself, but a connection to the people that were there. Now that those people are gone, those memories and those connections are gone too.

And the same thing will happen at college. The school will forget and will move on. New students will come and take your place. The connections that you make with other people will be all that signifies you were there. Well, that and your diploma.
Leaving memories behind

Kjerstine Trooien
The Dakota Student

My great-uncle, Trygve Trooien, passed away just after twelve a.m. on the fifth of April. He died peacefully. I would be willing to bet that none of you reading this have heard of Trygve Trooien. I’d be willing to bet even more money that most of you wouldn’t even know how to pronounce his name.

And honestly, there isn’t any reason for you to know an uncle of mine. He was a farmer who ran a small dairy in the Buffalo Ridge area of Minnesota and South Dakota. His farm was on the edge of a small lake. His peace was handed down from generation to generation. For those of you familiar with the “Norwegian Bachelor Farmer” type that Garrison Keillor popularized in his radio show “A Prairie Home Companion,” you probably already know more about Tryg than I could ever tell you.

Tryg was a staple at every family meal that I can remember. He was my grandfather’s youngest brother, and lived only a mile from my grandmother’s homestead. He had a special love for my grandmother’s mashed potatoes. Dinner would be spent talking about the gossip of the area — Tryg was always privy to the juiciest, whether it was new gossip or old gossip that he found in farming journals from the late 1800s. Dinners would be spent with most of the family quietly listening while Tryg pontificated. I won’t lie, sometimes it got a bit tedious — I wasn’t interested in the local history as a teenager — I didn’t value just how much I was ignoring while trying to drone through another piece of lit or not.

My father and Tryg were especially close. Even though Tryg was my grandfather’s brother, he and my father were only ten years apart in age. I can’t even begin to describe the depth of their relationship not only to I not fully understand it, but I would be violating a privacy that I can’t really comprehend.

Since my Dad, Mom and I moved back to the area, Dad was always helping Tryg out around the farm. In the late spring, we became accustomed to getting calls at all hours of the night from Tryg. Sometimes it was a calf that decided to come into the world backwards. Sometimes it was a calf who was stuck in the birth canal and Tryg needed someone slight-of-build to sit on a rope — an old technique where one end of the rope was tied to the stuck calf, the other to a post in the barn, weight would be added slowly to the rope to help ease the calf out of the birth canal. Dad’s little frame was the perfect amount of weight to easily ease the calf out of the pen while the rest of us would catch the occasional Bess that decided to make a break for a deadend away from the herd. I have no proof to back up this statement, but my gut tells me that Tryg took a bit of enjoyment in herding the cattle back into the pasture while the rest of us would catch the occasional Bess that decided to make a break for a deadend away from the herd. I have no proof to back up this statement, but my gut tells me that Tryg took a bit of enjoyment in herding the cattle back into the pasture — they were like his children, living things who got into all sorts of harmless trouble.

If you showed up at Tryg’s place for any reason, whether to pet the barn cats, see the newborn calf or just say hi, you were put to work. I’ve lost count of how many time Tryg had me whitewash one of the doors in this barn (and it was always the same door!). Baking season had my father and I on a Friday for hours at a time while Tryg drove the tractor around in the 100 degree plus heat while we stacked the newly baled hay.

Trygve, or at least the Tryg I knew, was a hard worker — not because he had to be, but because he truly loved what he did. When he finally retired, it was not done lightly. And retirement for Tryg didn’t involve going to exotic bird shows or family gatherings specials — he stayed on his dairy. He dried up his milking cows, but he didn’t leave. He simply had his nephews pull more hours and hired more help. My father, who has a full time job as a professor at SDSU, helped on the weekends.

Tryg’s story isn’t spectacular nor is it a story that will change your life by reading it. I won’t deny that part of the reason I’m writing this article is for me, to aid in my grieving process. But that’s not my only reason.

I never valued Trygve’s legacy as much as I should have. The world hasn’t just lost a small-town farmer, but one whose ways are quickly dying out. Trygve valued history and the way things used to be done. His farm operated on these values, only accepting new technology when absolutely necessary. With him, traditions have ended, knowledge has been lost.

Maybe I’m in shock — I’m writing this about 24 hours after I got the call from my mother while she and my father were waiting for the coroner. Maybe that’s why I keep trying to find a lesson or a silver lining I can pass on to you, dear reader. But maybe that’s the problem — life isn’t a sitcom where every ending comes with a lesson.

What I can say for sure, and what I can pass onto you — not in the form of a lesson, but more of a thought — is that Tryg left this world with his hands on. He never stopped doing what he loved — even down to drinking the Mountain Dew that exhilarated his gout. He never left the farm. He never left the family. And this wasn’t a bad thing — he didn’t want to leave; he embraced the happiness where he found it.

And I don’t think I can end my story — or he could have let his end — any better.

Democracy’s Problems

Alex Bertsch
The Dakota Student

This may come as a shock to many, but democracy isn’t always the solution to any problem. It seems too often that I hear of systems that are broken or ineffective defended on the basis that they are democratic. However, what we refuse to discuss, or even acknowledge are the shortcomings that democracy creates.

Take for example the idea of a local school board. These boards are responsible for making decisions about the education of the students in the schools they represent. However these are often elected positions, which often means that the people on the school board have little to no experience in education at all.

Meanwhile, the superintendent of the school district, more often in larger districts, has an advanced degree in education, but still needs to answer to people who know less than I do about education. School board members may be opposed to increases in funding for technology that is becoming necessary for education, or may not support launching a new class to better broaden the learning experience. More often than not, these people have no idea what they are doing, and yet we put them in charge.

This is one of democracy’s greatest failings, it’s ability to put people who lack any expertise in charge of those who are trained in the subject. These are problems that other governing systems don’t face. For example, oligarchies

 Democracy’s Problems

Alex Bertsch is the opinion editor for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at alexander.j.bertsch@my.und.edu
Elizabeth Smart presents at the Chester Fritz Auditorium. Photos by Jennifer Friese/The Dakota Student.

SMART FROM PAGE 1

Smart said she wanted to die after the nine months of hell, but thoughts of her family made her promise herself she would do whatever it took to get back home alive, which she did. After moving to California with her captors, Brian Mitchell and Wanda Barzee, Smart told the two she had been praying and God told her they needed to go back to Utah. Mitchell claimed to be very religious and wanted Smart to really see God, so he took this as a sign and returned to her home state, where three people called the police within minutes of each other to report suspicions about seeing Smart.

After police found them and she finally admitted her identity, Smart went back to a fairly normal life at home, but she said her experience got her to look further into trafficking and slavery around the world, and the staggering statistics drove her to share her story and advocate for those without voices.

"Today there are 18 million people in slavery — more than ever," Smart said. "If you asked me 14 years ago where I'd be, I never would have dreamed that I would be here."

Smart, now 27, has been very involved politically, advocating for the AMBER Alert system and then starting the Elizabeth Smart Foundation, which works to educate citizens and prevent abductions from occurring. The foundation is now partnering with Operation Underground Railroad, which sends out sting operations to rescue trafficked people around the world.

Smart said her story has allowed her to connect with thousands of other people, and there is still a lot more work to be done.

Marie Monson is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. She can be reached at marie.iva.monson@my.und.edu
Thousands of fans drove from all directions Tuesday night to see Eric Church perform at the Ralph Engelstad Arena as a part of his The Outsiders World Tour.

The famous country singer played for almost three hours, telling the crowd if it kept cheering, he’d keep playing.

The concert started out with a bang, and fans grabbed their beers and got on their feet for “The Outsiders,” as the crowd on the floor aggressively worked to make it to the front in order to be one of the lucky few to shake hands with Church.

The stage was set up in a big loop with two long runways jutting out into the floor crowd, but Church made sure to walk around and change locations for each song so that everyone got a view of his just-tight-enough light wash jeans, black T-shirt and tan cowboy boots.

Church’s band members all got their time in the spotlight, too, with various solos throughout the performance, and Church’s energy keeping the whole group ablaze with life.

The lights at the show were a performance in and of themselves, with a rainbow of colors and shapes dancing around the crowd and stage — it’s no wonder Church wears his aviator sunglasses at every concert.

A large jumbotron located directly above the drummer, center stage, displayed a vast number of camera views, with different filters adding to the effect, making the whole performance a well-produced music video.

Even with a constant stream of energy emanating from him, Church was able to drastically change the mood in the arena by slowing it down with songs such as his No. 1 hit “Homeboy.”

The North Carolina native made an extra effort to connect with the crowd. Early on in the concert, Church bent down and asked a girl in the crowd what song she would like him to sing, and she picked “Chevy Van.”

Church also pulled out a sharpie and signed two fans’ cowboy boots that were thrown on stage during his song, “These Boots.”

He also played “Cold One,” “Drink in my Hand” and “Smoke a Little Smoke,” a few of his more popular singles, which kept fans on their feet for the duration of the performance, though their balance at the end of the concert was not as stable as when it started.

Around 10:30 p.m. Church told the audience, “This is the part where we decide how long we want to play,” and the response of deafening screams from the crowd got him to go for another hour.

Before his last song, “Springsteen,” Church got serious and told the audience why he finds music so special.

“Music captures a moment in time,” Church said. “You hear a song and you’re that age again … that’s what tonight’s about. And it’s about right now.”

Although I’ve never been a fan of country music, Eric Church may have just changed my mind.

Other than my difficulty understanding parts of what he said or sang, the concert was a thrilling ride from melancholic memories to a celebration of the here and now. I give this performance a 4 out of 5 stars.

Marie Monson is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. She can be reached at marie.iva.monson@my.und.edu.
By Serianna Henkel
The Dakota Student

This week, Studio One airs its 515th show. Spawning from a student’s idea in 1987, UND’s television news program had its humble beginnings in the basement of Robertson Hall. Ten years later, the production relocated to its current building, the Skalicky Tech Incubator and has been cranking out weekly shows since.

With nearly one thousand interns passing through in the groups history, Studio One is an opportunity for students to get a hands-on look at the world of television production.

The Studio One team not only consists of student interns but also a full-time staff of eight. The staff works with the students to put each week’s show together — teaching and mentoring them every step of the way.

Marketing Director Stephanie Flyger said every day is different, and there is always something to be done at Studio One. Flyger has been with the program for almost nine years, with her first two as an intern while going to school at UND.

Monte Koshel is another staff member who began as an intern. Koshel has enjoyed watching the program grow through his many years of involvement.

“There’s no other opportunity that you have here at the university where you can experience what this process is like,” Koshel said. “It gives you a lot of life experience.”

Koshel went on to describe how students are trying to balance school with jobs and other activities. Studio One operates on a flexible basis of working around its intern’s schedule.

The interns at Studio One are divided into several teams: marketing, weather, news, graphics and production.

Eirik Nilssen Bratli was the Studio One student director for Studio One on show days, and video journalist for Studio One during the week. He is currently in his third semester as an intern, his final before he graduates in May. Nilssen Bratli describes his experience at Studio One as crucial to his future.

“Before I came here, I didn’t really know what I was going to do with my life, work-wise,” Nilssen Bratli said. “I think that’s where I could ask for. It has really set me on a course for the rest of my life.”

Studio One is open to any student interested in an internship. Although the positions involve tasks mostly related to communication and marketing, the program has seen interns from many disciplines, including nursing, English and aviation.

“Students have been with the program the years through have been witness to the rapid change of technology and are constantly working to adapt,” Aman said. “It’s a really fun way that we have loved to adapt.”

“Studio One episodes are available to watch live each week, but are also available online and via social media. The staff who have been with the program through the years have been witness to the rapid change of technology and are constantly working to adapt,” Aman said. “It’s a really fun way that we have loved to adapt.”

“The staff works with the students to put each week’s show together — teaching and mentoring them every step of the way. Marketing Director Stephanie Flyger said every day is different, and there is always something to be done at Studio One. Flyger has been with the program for almost nine years, with her first two as an intern while going to school at UND.”

Monte Koshel is another staff member who began as an intern. Koshel has enjoyed watching the program grow through his many years of involvement.

“That’s the reason I’ve been here so long,” Koshel said. “Because we’re constantly trying to improve the student experience.”

Koshel went on to describe how students are trying to balance school with jobs and other activities. Studio One operates on a flexible basis of working around its intern’s schedule.

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Studio One is open to any student interested in an internship. Although the positions involve tasks mostly related to communication and marketing, the program has seen interns from many disciplines, including nursing, English and aviation. No previous television experience is required from the interns, and skills are taught on the job by the staff mentors.

Alex Aman, working as a video journalist for Studio One, is a fisheries and wildlife major and encourages students to look into the benefits that are possible with a Studio One internship.

Aman applied based on an interest in working with cameras and people and is greatly enjoying his time with the program. Aman said that Studio One is an extremely great opportunity that a lot of students may not know about.

“We have this network of people all around the country,” Director of Television and Radio Barry Brode said, who has been with Studio One since the beginning. “When we started the program 25 years ago, we never anticipated the alumni we tell these stories knowing they’ll be seen by people outside our community.”

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Violence Intervention Advocate Position will provide services to domestic violence and sexual assault victims. This position will also include duties specifically related to our emergency shelter housing and providing services to its residents. A Bachelors degree in a human service field and ND licensure preferred. Related work experience preferred. This position is part of the Light of Hope Program at the Community Violence Intervention Center and will also be responsible for coverage on CVICs 24-hour crisis line. Please view our website at www.cviconline.org or contact Jamie at 701.746.0405 or jamie@cviconline.org for application information. All positions are opened until filled.

Law Enforcement Advocate. The position is a full time, benefited position. The Law Enforcement Advocate will act as a liaison between city/rural law enforcement and victims in crisis. The advocate is the primary victim contact after a crisis, making contact with victims after incidents of abuse or assault to provide immediate crisis intervention, information and coordination of services. The Law Enforcement Advocate will also provide training for new law enforcement officers and technical assistance to law enforcement in processing dangerous situations. The Law Enforcement Advocate is part of the Light of Hope Program at the Community Violence Intervention Center and will also be responsible for coverage on CVICs 24-hour crisis line. Please view our website at www.cviconline.org or contact Jamie at 701.746.0405 or jamie@cviconline.org for application information. All positions are opened until filled.

CAB
8
FROM PAGE
to educate in a creative and fun way.”
0-1-2-3 Philosophy
For those of you not lucky enough to score a ride on the Golf Cart Cash Cab, the UND Health and Wellness Hub also offers a philosophy for low risk drinking revolving around the numbers 0-1-2-3. By adhering to the following rules, students can safely avoid unsafe situations with alcohol.
0 - The number of times when a person specifically should not drink. Times like this include if you are pregnant, have to drive or have important schoolwork such as a test the following day.
1 - The number of drinks you can have per hour. It has been shown that your liver can process about one drink per hour.
2 - The maximum number of times you should drink per week. According to the National Health Service, regularly consuming alcohol can cause liver problems, reduced fertility, increased risk of various cancers and heart attacks.
3 - The maximum number of drinks you should have in a sitting. Having one drink can easily lead to having another, so it is best to set a rule that you will not consume more than three drinks each time you choose to have alcohol. For reference, one drink is considered 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine or 1.5 ounces of hard liquor.

UND Health and Wellness Hub’s “Cash cab.”
Photo by Chester Beltowski/The Dakota Student.

STUDIO
8
FROM PAGE
our alumni in hiring positions, it’s a great opportunity for our interns to connect with them.’

FOR anyone curious to see how it all comes together, Studio One provides an opportunity for an interactive experience. To watch a Studio One show, tickets are available to be a part of their live studio audience during each weekly show.

Along with watching the show live, audience members get a short history lesson on the program, and a behind the scenes tour of the facility where interns are in action preparing for the evening’s episode.

“Just today (and how long have I been here, right?), I was standing out in this hallway watching them do their thing and I thought, ‘That’s pretty amazing.’” Koshel reflects. “They do great things, you just have to power them to do that.”

Brendan McCabe is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at brendan.mccabe@my.und.edu

Studio One airs every Thursday at 5 p.m., with a tour beginning at 4:30 p.m. for its live studio audience. For more information on internships, the production or tickets to an upcoming show, please visit studio1.und.edu.

Serianna Henkel is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. She can be reached at serianna.henkel@my.und.edu

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Photo by Chester Beltowski/The Dakota Student.
UND freshman sets new record

Molli Detloff competes in hammer throw

Staff Report
The Dakota Student

For Molli Detloff, the Dakota Duals meet earlier this month meant a change to reach new heights.

The UND freshman set a new school record and the event title in the hammer throw at 187 feet, 6 inches or 57.15 meters.

“We kind of always knew that she was a diamond in the rough and would figure something out and throw really far in college,” UND coach Drew Jones told UND Sports. “With the hammer, you work hard to have a good feel for the ball, so to speak. It’s one of those things that you either get it or you don’t, and Molli gets it.”

The Elk River, Minn., native not only set a new record, but did so in a unique style. Detloff only used two turns, which left her with less time to accelerate than she would have had with more turns.

“Most Olympians throw off of three or four turns, and the record that she broke was held by a three-turn thrower,” Jones said. “To throw as far as she did off of a two-turn is incredible. She’s a heck of talent and I’m very excited to see what she can do.”

Jeff Campbell and Tyler Follis are at a tie for second in the conference for batting average with an even .400 average this deep into the season.

As for Campbell, he is tied for first in average of home runs per game. Campbell currently sits second in multiple categories within the WAC including slugging percentage and home runs. He also ranks fifth in on base percentage, four in total bases, and also ranks second in hits per game.

Senior infielder Follis also ranks high up in WAC ranks as he is third in batting percentage and fourth in on base percentage.

Chicago State comes in looking to turn things around after dropping three to Utah Valley. The Cougars will look to try and turn the season around as they sit toward the bottom of WAC standings with a record of 7-22 and are currently on a five-game losing streak. They’ll be looking to bounce back against a confident UND squad.

First pitch between the two is set for 2 p.m. this Friday at Kraft Field.

Jack Harvey is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at jack.harvey@my.und.edu
Troy Stecher skates at Ralph Engelstad Arena during the 2014-15 season. The sophomore leads the team with blocked shots per game this season with 2.12.

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From Page

Stecher wore No. 77 on his back for three years with the Penticton Vees in the BCHL — the same number Bourque wore in the NHL.

He was 10 or 12 when he realized hockey was what he was going to stick with. It was more than just a game to pass the time when he was young; he was going somewhere.

Eventually, the Richmond, British Columbia native was wearing a green and white jersey for UND.

"It's always been my dream school for college," Stecher said. "It was a kind of a no-brainer for me."

In his second season with North Dakota, Stecher has experienced the highs and lows of being part of a program with a high level of commitment and tradition — perhaps more highs this season than lows.

The road to the Frozen Four was once again traveled.

This year, though, Stecher is skating in the same city where his childhood idol left a legendary mark. Bourque's influence flows throughout the Boston Bruins program.

Stecher is wearing a different number this time, and he's been continuing to develop both on and off the ice.

As the only freshman to skate in all 42 games last season, Stecher came in to the program with a high level of maturity.

"He's slowly doing a great job," UND coach Dave Hakstol said. "He was a very mature young guy coming in. On the ice, I think his competitiveness and his maturity were outstanding from the day he stepped on campus. Is it improving? Absolutely. I think off the ice, every young man comes here and grows up through this time of the year, and there's no question that's the case with Troy as well."

Stecher was somewhat accustomed to the high level of commitment at UND after skating with Penticton. He walked through the doors to Ralph Engelstad Arena with Wade Murphy, and he had come in to the high level of commitment at UND after skating with Penticton.

Stecher said he knows his competitive level is so high and I think he's just a player everyone wants to have on their team.

Michael Parks
UND senior forward

Everyone loves Troy. His compete level is so high and I think he's just a player everyone wants to have on their team.

"Everyone loves Troy," senior forward Michael Parks said. "His compete level is so high and I think he's just the guy that every one wants to have on their team. I know he's just hard to play against in practice and he makes everyone around him better. We're lucky to have him."

Ending the season on the highest stage in college hockey is all Stecher knows. This was his second trip, but it felt a little different.

"Last year, we weren't ranked nearly as high," Stecher said. "We made it, so that was kind of a special run — just to know what we did together, just because we weren't expected to make it."

This year, there were high expectations.

"We followed up with our performance to make it to that level," Stecher said. "So I think this year is a little bit different. I enjoy it a lot more winning. We didn't have to go through any rough stretches like we did last year. I think with that, there was added pressure to win. I think at this program, you're always expected to win."
Kicking spring season into new gear
— UND football team embraces new challenges, uses spring practices to prepare for fall season.

By Ben Novak
The Dakota Student

As winter comes to an end in Grand Forks, the UND football team has begun to take the field for 2015 spring practices.

North Dakota, under second year head coach Bob Schweigert, has its first spring practice at Memorial Stadium on Mar. 27. Schweigert was enthusiastic with getting the players out on the field for the first time.

“We are excited,” he said. “We felt like we had a really good winter. The guys made good progress in the weight room and in the strength and conditioning areas. Communications to our strength staff and to all the players who took a good positive step which should help us on the field.”

North Dakota finished last season going 5-7, tied for eighth in the Big Sky conference.

Schweigert was impressed with certain aspects of his team, but feels there needs to be improvements made in the in other areas of the team’s game in order to be successful in the fall.

“The team that we played in 2014, I thought, really took a good step and understood how we want to play,” Schweigert said. “We stopped the run and had some pretty good statistics within our league, and yet we identified areas that we really need to improve.”

Those areas are critical in determining North Dakota’s success.

“We got to really limit the big plays,” Schweigert said. “That really was apparent late in the season, especially against some of the top teams in the Big Sky. And then we got to be better on third down, so that’s a point of emphasis.”

The Green and White lost five starters on the offensive side of the ball after the 2014 campaign. These spring practices become important as players will look to prove themselves worthy of a starting spot in September.

“We got a lot of young guys, and we want to get better in all areas, but the offensive line — we need to become much more consistent,” Schweigert said. “At receiver and quarterback, we just really got to put it all together and take a big step in the passing game.”

“We were really happy with the way we ended the year and took a good step running the football, but we need to take a huge step and get much better at throwing the football.”

Starting quarterback Joe Mollberg still will not participate in spring practices as he is recovering from a foot injury that caused him to miss the final four games of last year’s season. Mollberg completed 54.5 percent of his passes for 919 yards and three touchdowns before the injury.

“In the first full-padded practice on Mar. 30, Schweigert was impressed in the first full day of contact.”

“For the) most part, our focus was pretty good,” he said. “You always get concerned when you put pads on for the first time that you’re going to get real sloppy with enforced penalties and the ball on the ground. But for the most part, we took care of the ball — just a couple penalties — but for the most part it was good and I really liked our energy and our want was really good for the first day.”

Ben Novak is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at benjamin.novak@my.und.edu

Back on familiar ground
— North Dakota baseball team continues playing at home

By Jack Harvey
The Dakota Student

North Dakota didn’t let it sit for very long.

The UND baseball team went into Monday’s game against Minnesota Crookston with a 14-5 victory after three consecutive losses at home.

North Dakota played in Grand Forks for the first time this season after starting its first 21 games on the road. But the University of California Berkeley had plans of its own in Grand Forks.

The visitors swept the series in grand fashion, but that didn’t stop UND from coming out strong against the Golden Eagles of Crookston, winning 14-5. UND hopes the victory will help carry momentum into the coming series this weekend against Chicago State.

“It’s always good to get a win,” UND senior pitcher Ben Clark said. “Doesn’t matter who it’s against. It’s going to be big for us going forward with the rest of this homestand.”

UND plays host to Chicago State this Friday and looks to keep the bats hot and improve the pitching aspect of the game.

“We’re in a good spot,” UND coach Jeff Dodson said after Monday’s game. “We just got out pitched this past weekend. If we can swing the bats a little better, get back with our approach that we normally go with, we’ll be fine.”

Tuesday’s game against South Dakota State was postponed due to inclement weather.

After this past weekend, UND emerged with names toward the top of the statistical leaderboards in the Western Athletic Conference in hitting.

Stecher leaves mark of maturity
— UND sophomore continues improvement

By Elizabeth Erickson
The Dakota Student

His mom always called him the human Zamboni.

The 4-year-old version of Troy Stecher was putting on hockey gear in his living room for the first time when his brother handed him a pair of bright blue gloves. He was on the orange team.

People would turn their glances toward the skater that stuck out like a sore thumb. That didn’t really bother Stecher. He was in his element — following the hockey path of his dad and older brother who had both played juniors, and reinforcing his mother’s enduring compliment.

His influences came from familiar figures — a father, an older brother — and eventually it was Raymond Bourque. Stecher was going to model his game after the Canadian defenseman who played for the Boston Bruins for more than 20 seasons.

It started with the number on his jersey.