The Financial Wellness Center, created in 2013 to provide free financial counseling and education to students, will be closing permanently on May 31.

The news came suddenly for Shafi q Khan, who was hired as coordinator of the center in December. The employees of the office were reportedly told of their imminent closure in late March.

"Nobody told us anything. (...) They need to be more transparent," Khan said of the administration’s treatment of the office.

The Financial Wellness Department is under the supervision of Alex Pokornowski, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Students’ Rights and Responsibilities. According to Pokornowski, “the participation and usage of the department was low,” and in a time of difficult decision-making, the school felt keeping the office open was an unjustifiable expense.

Khan and several student employees of the center (who choose to remain anonymous) disagree with this reasoning.

“They are basing it on the wrong data,” said Khan, referring to the fact that the administration has been focused solely on the number of students coming in for one-on-one consultations.

Khan explains the center is focused on a three-pronged approach when it comes to the financial wellness of students. While one is peer-to-peer consultation, the office also focuses on outreach and educational presentations.

“We are based on education, that part is going to be missing,” Khan said.

According to one student employee, in the last semester, the center has given multiple presentations to athletics programs and graduate students.

The student employees of the center also stress that in their opinion, the school is making a financial misstep in closing the office without looking into other avenues.

“We help with student retention. (...) We bring money into the university by helping students stay here,” said one employee.

Another claimed she has met with many students who were ready to drop out of school because of their poor personal finance skills before coming into the center.

Students come together to “do work” for BIG Event this spring

Connor Johnson
The Dakota Student

Over 900 students from the University of North Dakota participated in a day of community service on Saturday, April 29.

The day, known as the BIG Event, started at 9:30 a.m. at the Wellness Center and went on until 2 p.m. Volunteers received free T-shirts, food and the satisfaction of cleaning up the Grand Forks area.

“I think it really benefits the community,” said Stephanie Frey, co-president of the BIG Event, “and it’s just a great way to give back to them.”

Frey, a communication sciences and disorders senior from Bemidji, was one of the student leaders along with her roommate Shelly Vail, a biology senior from Elk River. Both seniors were on the committee for two years, but this was the first time they were in command.

“It’s challenging, but it’s a lot of fun,” said Frey. “It has its rewards.”

A total of 902 students were registered for the BIG Event.

The Financial Wellness Center employee (

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The Financial Wellness Center employee (375x24)

Nick Nelson / Dakota Student

Students gather after registering for the Big Event on Saturday, April 29, 2017.

(From right to left) Shiny Mahlum, Adam Remde, Paige Hanson and Bradley Engels paint flag poles as part of their Big Event service on Saturday, April 29, 2017.
UND Financial Wellness was recently announced to cease operations and close on May 31, 2017.

Elderly citizens’ private

Volunteers

According to the Grand Forks Historical Society.

The Grand Forks Herald, part of the Grand Army and the Myra Museum, part of the Grand Forks Historical Society. According to the Grand Forks Herald, over 120 job sites were selected for volunteers.

Volunteers could sign up as groups, such as the Forensic Science Club and Greek life housing, or could work individually.

The BIG Event was first created by Texas A&M University in 1982, and was picked up by UND in 2005. The Event is run by The BIG Event Committee, which works year-round to plan for such annual event. Sub-committees, according to their page on UND’s website, include Promotions, Sponsorship, and Volunteer Projects. The committee’s goal is to “ensure that volunteers have a fun and fulfilling experience while building and sustaining positive relationships between the University community and the Greater Grand Forks community.”

The BIG Event committee can be reached via email at und.shebegis@und.edu.

Genie Johnson is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. You can be reached at corrinejohnson@UND.edu.

UND students line up to register for the Big Event outside the Wellness Center on Saturday, April 29, 2017.

1 | BIG Event

according to advisor Kristi Okerlund, up from 730 during last year’s event. Responsibilities for volunteers were generally cleaning and maintenance, such as cleaning gutters and windows, and raking yards. Along with elderly citizens’ private

1 | Financial

the center for help.

Khanna also pointed out that, as a relatively new program, the center had significant start-up costs associated with it and in closing the office now, “the university is just wasting that money.”

“We are willing to cut our budget 50 percent. jobs, but also because they believe it offers an invaluable service to students in need. “From all of us: if you want to lay off our employees, do it, but you need an alternative,” one employee said about their “very, very unique service.”

The employees had a meeting on April 24 with Student Body President Cole Bachmeier about the possibilities of continuing some of the services offered by the center elsewhere. Bachmeier said that they showed him “a side of the story the numbers couldn’t tell,” and that “the number one thing (he) got from the students is that (they) were selves.”

He stated he has been in contact with the Vice President of Student Financial Aid about that “it sounds like One-Stop can handle the large bulk of these conversations” and retain “the human interaction piece.”

Pokorny says that he believes the redistribution of some of these services “provides an opportunity for One-Stop and other support units to do some of the work that occurred at One-Stop and Student Financial Aid.”

The employees of the center, the closure is not upsetting just because of the loss of their
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As someone who reads multiple papers, it is quite a few reasons. First, as a political battle, or use them to attack a state and political narrative. However, I applaud the resources to fight for a central promise of its attacks, it goes on the mainstream media outlets based on irrelevant issues because apparently someone in D.C. decided it was a great idea. The reason I graded piepkorn, ends by saying that the number is raised to 36, meaning that donald trump in addition to discussing to follow through on every campaign promise made during the 2016 election. However, I applaud his ability to persevere despite democrat opposition and the mainstream media's perpetuation of fake news.

The first 100 days with donald trump as the 45th president of the united states proved that we haven't seen anything yet. I look forward to see what else president trump will do to make America great again.

I look forward to seeing North dakota politicians in future articles from national media outlets based on irrelevant issues because apparently someone in d.c. decided it was a great idea to attack a state and politicians that don't have the resources to fight back. The times should not be ashamed of itself, not only for attacking its own political party, but for running an attack piece to destabilize an adversarially politician before the verdict is in. A word to the wise, Washington times, you would do best to recognize that the mainstream media's perpetuation of fake news.

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Last week, students had the opportunity to join the “Be the Match” registry and potentially provide a bone marrow transplant to one of the thousands of people in need. Hosted by the Medical Laboratory Science Club and the Undergraduate Medical Association, a Bone Marrow Swab Drive was held on Monday, April 24 and Wednesday the 26.

There is an extensive list of leukemia and sickle cell anemia patients in the United States who are in need of a bone marrow transplant in order to survive. However, most of them don’t have a family member that is matched in their family. “Be the Match” is an organization that works to create a registry of potential donors in the hopes of finding a compatible bone marrow and tissue types can be found for all those people on the waiting list.

For the purposes of this event, people ages 18-44 who wish to donate just had to sign up and participate in a cheek swab test. The test results all get sent in to “Be the Match” and are added to the registry.

“Most people don’t get matched, or it’s ten or fifteen years later that they get a call,” said Vice President of the MLS Club, Danielle Germundson.

It takes a very specific match to complete a successful bone marrow transplant, which contributes to the length of the waiting list for those in need. Lucky patients find a match within their family, but many people search for years for an eligible donor.

If a donor receives a call back, they will go to their local hospital to take a blood test, just to be absolutely sure that the donor and patient are matched. From there, doctors will conduct one of two processes. Peripheral blood stem cell donation involves collecting stem cells from the donor’s blood and transferring them over to the patient. Marrow donation is a more complicated process in which bone marrow is surgically extracted from the donor’s hip bone.

Germundson explained that around 50 people signed up for the drive. 30 percent of donors have to undergo an invasive surgery while the remaining 70 percent are given a substance. The process of bone marrow donation is a much longer and more personal process than blood donation, so this has been a great turnout.

“It’s more than donating blood because it changes people’s lives and it can add many years to their lifespan,” Germundson said.

Members of the “Be the Match” registry make a commitment to the possibility that one day a match will be found and they will be called in to donate. For that reason, less people may be inclined to sign up compared to doing a blood donation, but one student described it as being a more fulfilling action.

This was the first year that the MLS Club have conducted a bone marrow drive. 50 participants is pretty good for the first time, Germundson and the MLS Club hope to do it again next year and maybe make the drive an annual event.

You could be a match. The waiting list for bone marrow donation has thousands of people in need of help. Leukemia patients and those with other diseases die every year; deaths that could be prevented by a marrow transplant. The only cost to a test taker is time.

It doesn’t hurt to take the test, and somewhere down the road you could be someone’s hero. Hopefully, Be the Match and the MLS Club will put on a drive to donor and for years to come, and how the UND community could help save lives.

Ben Godfrey
The Dakota Student

Nick Nelson / Dakota Student
UND students Shananie Mountain (top) and Jacy O’Grooie (bottom) and medical lab science education specialist Paul Samson (middle) participate in the bone marrow volunteer drive on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at the new Medical School.

Ben Godfrey is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at benjamin.godfrey@und.edu

LUND students Shananie Mountain (top) and Jacy O’Grooie (bottom) and medical lab science education specialist Paul Samson (middle) participate in the bone marrow volunteer drive on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at the new Medical School.
stepped into a time
you will feel like you
from Wendy's.

diner with cheap prices
owned by Terry and Ruth
independent and home-
is one of Grand Forks'.
Swinging for scholarships:

Frank White hosts sixth annual golf tournament in his hometown

Allyson Bento
Dakota Student

After looking forward to it all year, a wide range of golfers gathered at the beautiful Walhalla Country Club for the sixth annual Frank White Golf Tournament on July 8. Amsley-Bentz said. “My favorite part about the tournament is being able to see the former students and student athletes come back that were students of Frank and the kind of respect they have for him.”

Steve Brekke - Associate AD, Development/ UND Basketball Alumni

Special guests of the Frank White Golf Tournament pose with the tournament trophies on July 8, 2017 at the Walhalla (N.D.) Golf Course.

As golfers began to tee off, the level of excitement rose even higher, the event that had officially begun and for some this was their first experience at what the tournament was all about.

If it wasn’t the people and the environment that brought the people together on course the glue that held them all together was the host himself, Frank “Koko” White. “My favorite part about the tournament is being able to see the former students and student athletes come back that were students of Frank and the kind of respect they have for him,” Brekke said. “They are willing to give up a day and come up to Walhalla and golf in a tournament that supports a really good cause, which is scholarships for students.”

Former student Andy Kollar, who has been coming ever since the tournament started, credit this appearance at the tournament guest list for Frank as a teacher, he does a whole lot for so many people so to help him out and help his cause is a great deal.

Not to leave out the beautiful location and the people, “The town absorbs everyone and they’re so giving and so friendly,” Kollar said.

In the six years of hosting the tournament, White has been able to establish endowed academic scholarships at Mayville State University, Lake Region Community College, and the University of North Dakota.

Thanks to the generosity of all the donors and participants, White raised over $12,000 for the endowment.

As this year’s tournament came to a close, many attendees left with new memorabilia prizes, but the coveted first place trophy was awarded to the team lead by former UND goaltending coach, Karl Goehring.

With the tournament come and gone, White is now working on next year’s plans already. Those who are interested in signing up to be a part of the special event can contact him at frank.white@und.edu.

Donations to the Frank White Endowment scholarship fund on UND’s campus can be made all year round by contacting Steve Brekke at steb@UNDfoundation.org or online at UNDalumni.org.

“nothing but blue skies made for a perfect day for golf, drinks and good times which when the course day that day. “The good people, first and foremost I just enjoy being around here and seeing the Sioux faithful,” McIntyre, who recently inked a two-year two-year deal with the Boston Bruins said.”

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Junior pitcher Kaylin VanDomelen earned her fifth Big Sky Conference Pitcher of the Week honor on Monday, April 17, 2017.

Dakota Student / Daniel Yun

Sports Q & A
ft. UND pitcher Kaylin VanDomelen

Thomas McCullough
Dakota Student

Kaylin VanDomelen is amidst the best year of her University of North Dakota playing career. A softball pitcher and outfielder, VanDomelen leads the team in both batting average (.311) and pitching earned run average (3.11) and pitching earned run average (1.86).

Additionally, she has hit seven home runs while batting in 24 runs. VanDomelen is a redshirt junior from Banks, Ore., a small town near the Pacific coast. This week the Dakota Student met with her to discuss her success on the field, and her interests off.

DS: Growing up in Oregon, how did you get recruited by UND?

KV: Our travel softball team used to play in Colorado, and while there I was approached by Eric Oakley, who at that time was the head softball coach for UND. Now he is a coach for Kent State, though.

DS: How did you get started in softball?

KV: I started T-Ball when I was five years old, and have been playing softball ever since. When I was seven I started pitching. My dad played baseball, and my grandpa played semi-professional baseball, so baseball and softball are in the family.

DS: What do you enjoy more, hitting or pitching?

KV: That’s a hard question. I didn’t pitch consistently until my senior year of high school. I played center field a lot growing up. When I got recruited it was really important for me to be able to hit in college. Even though I like to pitch, batting is also important to me and was never something I wanted to give up in college.

DS: When you’re not pitching for UND, do you usually play center field?

KV: Actually, it’s usually right field. But I haven’t played much outfield this year just because I’ve been pitching a lot.

DS: In addition to playing for a traveling team, did you play high school softball?

KV: Yes, I played for my high school in Oregon as well. The traveling team exclusively traveled to California and Colorado and played two more home tournaments in Oregon. All of our other tournaments were in those two other states so I was gone all summer. Our high school team was also successful. Even though it was a school of about 370 kids, we would consistently beat the other teams in our division, most of which had over 1200 kids. They were not happy about that. We won the 4A state tournament when I was a junior and again as a senior. As a freshman I received the 4A player of the year award, and as a senior received the pitcher of the year award. I also played volleyball and basketball, and for those we were always in the top 8 tournaments.

DS: This year at UND you’ve already amassed multiple Big Sky Pitcher of the week awards. Do those accolades add unwanted pressure, or motivate you to continue to succeed?

KV: A little bit of both. Sometimes when you get something like that, you’re like “oh okay, interesting...” but as a player you always want to get better. It hasn’t been as much pressure though, because I just want our team to win. I don’t care how I do as long as the team succeeds.

DS: Last Wednesday, the weather in Grand Forks hovered around 30 degrees and accumulated about four inches of snow. On days like this, are home games able to go on?

KV: If it’s warm enough it depends on what the umpires say. Sometimes we even play in the snow. It depends on the visibility. When it rains and the field is unplayable the games get postponed or cancelled.

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DS: Do you have any superstitions?

KV: My mom is really superstitious, so that’s where I get a little bit of it from. I try not be, because once you get one it’s hard to let go of it. I recently developed a new one the weekend we won the series against Sacramento State.

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Growing up in Oregon we would get rain delays that lasted for nine hours. If we had a home game today I don’t think we would play because of the snow and wind.

DS: Do you have any superstitions?

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I drank out of the same coffee cup both days, but I forget the coffee cup when we went to Northern Colorado and that time we didn’t do so hot.

continues on page 8