

# CHASE-ING THE MONEY



Dakota Student File Photo

Chase Johnson formerly represented the Honors Program as a senator on UND Student Government.

# Student body treasurer charged with embezzlement

## Jacob Notermann

Dakota Student

Chase Johnson, student government treasurer, was arrested Thursday night for misapplication of entrusted property and is being held at the Grand Forks County Correctional Center.

According to the University of North Dakota Police Department, Johnson was arrested and

charged with a class B felony after allegedly embezzling between \$10,000 and \$50,000 from his fraternity. Johnson is the former treasurer of Phi Delta Theta.

According to Phi Delta Theta, the chapter reported these accusations to police.

Cole Bachmeier, UND Student Body President, said there is no reason to believe his former treasurer had been tamper-

ing with student government funds. The Student Government has a budget of roughly \$550,000.

"We're doing our due diligence and even though, like I said, there's no reason to believe there's been misappropriation we've sent it through internal auditing and we'll just make sure," Bachmeier said.

Bachmeier has previously served as president of Phi Delta Theta. According to the Grand Forks Herald, he is listed as a witness for the prosecution.

About a month before the arrest, a student government official met with the Dakota Student regarding allegations regarding Johnson. In this meeting, the official was asked if student government was aware of the allegations against the treasurer and certain specifics regarding the accusations.

It is unclear whether or not Phi Delta Theta President Eric Gefroh had discovered some of Johnson's alleged purchases in old boxes under a different name. The Dakota Student acquired this intelligence via a tip from someone familiar with the allegations. Despite the source alleging the student official was aware of the accusations and the circumstances, the student official did not respond to questioning.

Johnson, a senior, was a heavily involved student. In 2016, Johnson served as Vice President

of the Interfraternity Council (IFC). According to the IFC Fraternity and Sorority Life webpage, the treasurer position was

In his Senator role, he authored a number of bills which included refunding and or altering the bylaws of the Student

**“We’re doing our due diligence and even though, like I said, there’s no reason to believe there’s been misappropriation we’ve sent it through internal auditing and we’ll just make sure.”**

**Cole Bachmeier**, Student Body President

vacant during Johnson's term.

During his time at UND, his positions and experiences commonly involved university funds and or other financial reserves.

Johnson has served a role in the UND Student Government since 2015, when he served as the Honors Program Student Senator. In this position, he played a fundamental role in bringing Uber to Grand Forks and wrote a bill to spend \$3,000 from the Student Government General Account Fund “to introduce a marketing campaign supporting Uber.” This bill passed in November 2015.

Organization Funding Agency.

His Facebook page consists of regular posts and pictures regarding political and social work he was regularly involved in. He also posted his former positions as Government Affairs Commissioner at UND as well as an internship for Congressman Kevin Cramer.

The preliminary hearing and or arraignment for Johnson is scheduled for April 4.

**Jacob Notermann** is a staff writer for Dakota Student. He can be reached at [jacob.notermann@und.edu](mailto:jacob.notermann@und.edu)



## Chase Alexander Johnson booking photo





Dakota Student File Photo

UND President Mark Kennedy is a finalist for the vacant president position at the University of Central Florida.

# UND president moves forward in Florida university’s presidential search

André Washington  
Dakota Student

The University of North Dakota’s president may become the University of Central Florida’s president. Last week, President Mark Kennedy and other candidates for the position were in Orlando on the campus of UCF, interviewing in front of a 15-person UCF search committee. At the UCF interview, Kennedy was the only

candidate with a non-academic background. Two years ago, Kennedy

was also the only candidate without an academic background interviewing

for the UND presidency, but Kennedy is not one to shy away from his lack of

from the other three finalists’ two-page traditional cover letters.

Following the interview, UCF’s 15-person search committee selected Kennedy as a finalist and invited him back to UCF for one final meet and greet with the UCF community. Next Wednesday, March 7 at 11 a.m., President Kennedy is scheduled to present his qualifications and intentions for the UCF presidency at an open forum. The UCF community and public will be in attendance.

On March 9, UCF will announce their next president. "The University of North Dakota is a great place to be and a great place to be president," Kennedy said. "I hope that the UND community understands that while this may be a momentary distraction, I am committed to moving forward with the same fervor and level of energy. My advice is for the UND community to continue to work together to reach the goals we collectively set through the One UND Strategic Plan process."

André Washington is a news writer for Dakota Student. He can be reached at [andre.m.washington@und.edu](mailto:andre.m.washington@und.edu)

## "If you want two provosts, look for someone with a traditional academic background."

Mark Kennedy, UND president



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# The rise of the athletainers

**Bilal Suleiman**  
Dakota Student

Running the fast break, he gets the ball on the left wing. After taking one hard dribble to the basket, he fakes to the left, steps to the right and goes up for the left-handed layup. The sharp sound of the whistle pierces the air as Quavo is fouled. “Quavo with a nice Eurostep, and one!” proclaimed the announcer, clearly impressed by the rapper’s moves. “Seventeen-five, same color t-shirt,” he said, in a reference to a song lyric by his rap group, the Migos. After the all-star celebrity game, Quavo was awarded with MVP honors and as a result, the basketball community on Twitter went nuts. Praise rained down on his per-

formance and Quavo promptly retweeted a photohopped image of himself on the cover of NBA 2K19, with the caption: “Should @QuavoStuntin be the first rapper on the cover @NBA2K?” On the internet, there was also a video clip of Quavo doing some fancy dribbling and pulling up for a three-point-er labeled the caption, “QUAVO TO THE CAVS.”

The lines between basketball and the music industry are becoming more blurred than ever. This isn’t a new phenomenon. Rappers and entertainers have always been trying their best to get spotted near the basketball court and basketball players have always been trying to make music. Nowadays, thanks to social media, the link between the

two groups aimed at a young, urban demographic seem to be meshing together more than ever.

Our lord and savior Drake said it best in his song titled “Thank Me Now.” “Damn, I swear sports and music are so synonymous/ ‘Cause we want to be them and they want to be us,” he rapped in the 2010 song.

Drake himself can be found courtside at many Toronto Raptors games. He, along with the Migos and many other rappers are frequently spotted on NBA courtsides. It is happening with such regularity these days that it seems like no nationally broadcasted game would be quite complete without seeing a famous rapper on the sidelines. It’s a shrewd marketing

move on their part, with many of their listeners also being NBA basketball fans. Being spotted on national TV ensures that they will receive publicity for their latest latest album, mix-tape, or concert tour. However, I believe that they are also just basketball fans at heart and are at the games simply to just enjoy themselves and their wealth.

In the opposite direction, NBA players can frequently be spotted in the rap studio. Since Shaquille O’Neal first made his attempt at rapping in 1993, there have been a litany of NBA players releasing music. From former stars like Kobe Bryant and Allen Iverson to young up-and-comers like Damian Lillard and Lonzo Ball, basketball players of all levels are using a visible platform to

promote their off-court talents. Some take it quite seriously, spending hours in the studio working on mix-tapes during the offseason.

Damian Lillard has been receiving many kudos for his ability to spit bars. On the court, the 27-year-old point guard is averaging 26.4 points along with 6.5 assists per game this season for the Portland Trailblazers. Off the court, his rapper alter ego Dame D.O.L.L.A. is averaging 149,679 monthly listeners on Spotify.

His sneaker sponsor, Adidas, seems to be embracing the point guard’s second talent. His signature basketball shoe, the Adidas Dame 4, is now also available in a Dame D.O.L.L.A. version. It is, according to Hypebeast, a “court-ready lifestyle shoe with versa-

tility that reflects Lillard and his alternate persona.” Lillard is an example of an athlete who successfully made it big as a musician, blurring the lines between music and sports.

It’s 2018 and I can’t tell the difference between basketball and music anymore. Rappers and basketball players are noticing the synergy between the two forms of entertainment and using it to their advantage. I think it’s only a matter of time before rappers start playing professional sports. One day we will hear announcers say, “And starting for the Cleveland Cavaliers, number 91, Quavo!”

**Bilal Suleiman** is a columnist for Dakota Student. He can be reached at bilal.suleiman@und.edu

# Autonomous vehicles are just what society needs

**Jill Morton**  
Dakota Student

Picture this: Your alarm clock goes off at 6 a.m. You jolt out of bed and rush to get ready and out the door, still barely awake. You jump into your car, where you recline your seat and resume your night’s sleep on the way to work. Today, self-driving cars make this our reality. How cool would it be for your car to automatically drive you to wherever you wanted to go without you actually driving, with nothing but the single push of a button?

I cannot wait for this technology to become cheap enough for the average Joe to use. However, as with any new technology, people will initially be very hesitant to use it.

The way I see it, there will be two main problems for self-driving cars to become a norm for society: safety and the price tag associated with such vehicles.

First, let’s talk about safety. Before I even talk about self-driving cars, let’s think about airplanes. Every day, millions of people around the world are packed into aluminum tubes and launched into the air with no question. Yet for some reason, people are still worried about these cars, the idea of which is less far-fetched than that of giant chunks of metal flying through the clouds.

Google has been testing their autonomous cars for a while. Waymo (formerly called Google’s Self Driving Car program) has driven over two million miles around the country and has only had one at-fault accident, according

to the Huffington Post.

That is the lowest at-fault rate of any driver demographic and ten times lower than the safest driving demographic of human drivers. Seeing as how most cars don’t sip the occasional beer and text behind the wheel, drunk and distracted driving would be eliminated by these cars.

According to the same study, of all the other accidents the Waymo car has been in, human error was at fault. Self-driving cars adhere to the law, but a lot of human drivers don’t, especially after the first few months of getting their licenses. Once self-driving cars become the norm, the roads will become much safer because the vehicles on the road will be making decisions based on algorithms abiding to the same laws, not based on variable human instinct.

With technology becoming more and more advanced, I think these self-driving cars will soon be able to communicate with each other, further ensuring safety for everyone on the road. So, if a car starts to break, it will alert the cars behind it and prevent the tragic multi-car collisions that occur too often these days.

Besides increasing safety, self-driving cars will help traffic flow. For smaller cities like Grand Forks, that’s not a huge deal, but in places with major highway congestion, such as the Twin Cities area, a solution to the never-ending traffic would be embraced by all.

The other major reason why society will be hesitant in accepting self-driving cars is



Dllu / Wikimedia Commons

A self driving Volvo XC90 is parked outside 737 Harrison, the unmarked headquarters of Otto, a San Francisco, Cali. autonomous trucking company acquired by Uber in 2016.

because of how expensive they seem to be. Although they seem to be unreasonably expensive now, as technology continues to improve prices will start to get lower.

I think that they will always be more expensive than normal, non-automated cars but when insurance is considered, the price for a self-driv-

ing car might appeal to much more people. Once the autonomous cars prove to be safer than human drivers, insurance companies will have much higher fees for human-driven cars than their much more advanced counterparts.

With more acceptance of autonomous cars, insurance charges, which

any car-owner knows is a big expense, will become much more affordable. I think that this concept will play a big role in increasing the amount of self-driving cars on the road.

With the option of getting into an autonomous car in the future that promised increased safety and affordabil-

ity, I am so excited to get myself a self-driving car in the next decade or so and catch some more sleep on the way to work every morning.

**Jill Morton** is a columnist for Dakota Student. She can be reached at jill.morton@und.edu

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## Jamming in the bluegrass



Photos by Trevor Alveshere / Dakota Student

Michael Prewitt, Marcy Gross and Joe Andrus perform as The Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys during a concert Friday night at Half Brothers Brewing Company.

**Aimee Coons**  
Dakota Student

Bluegrass music isn't something one would think to hear in Grand Forks, North Dakota but the Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys brought an excellent musical experience to their audience at Half Brothers Brewing Company Friday. Having grown up with bluegrass and country music, I was excited to hear the Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys play. They did not disappoint. Listening to them reminded me of my grandmother's house in southern Missouri and hearing my dad play guitar on the front porch. It was like going to a home I had not been to in many years. Bluegrass music's roots

are in Kentucky. Bluegrass is a form of music blended from different cultures and is one of the first forms of traditional music in America, including country, gospel, blues, Cajun and Native American music. Watching the Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys play their music was great fun. The audience clapped and stomped out a beat to go along with the music and cheered loudly for every song. Their traditional bluegrass music had themes of love, daily life and home. Their music is easy and fun to listen to; it's something that everyone can relate to and appreciate. I spoke with Michael Prewitt and Joe Andrus after the show. Prewitt,

an English graduate student at UND, hails from Kentucky and started playing music at 8-years-old. Andrus is from Minot, North Dakota and grew up to listening and playing bluegrass. The two met at Cross Ranch Bluegrass Festival last year and have been playing together since. They explained that bluegrass is a kind of music that is fluid and can be easily improvised. This was shown during the Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys performance. Group members from the American folk band Northern Light were there and joined in with the Bluegrass Boys for a couple songs. Despite having not having played with each other before the two

bands melded together wonderfully and gave the audience a great treat to hear the blending of the two different styles. Hearing the Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys was a wonderful experience. It was something I wouldn't have expected to hear in North Dakota since Bluegrass has its

roots in the south. But Prewitt and Andrus explained "bluegrass is a family thing." Families grow and move taking their music and traditions with them. The music of the Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys is an excellent addition to the local music scene here in Grand

Forks. Bluegrass is a one of a kind sound and is best heard live. For details on their upcoming events see their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FlattMountain](http://www.facebook.com/FlattMountain).

**Aimee Coons** is an A&C writer for Dakota Student. She can be reached at [aimee.coons@und.edu](mailto:aimee.coons@und.edu)



Michael Prewitt of the band The Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys plays banjo Friday night at Half Brothers Brewing Company in downtown Grand Forks.

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# Embracing neurodiversity

**Bilal Suleiman**  
Dakota Student

For Ryan Majerus, finding out he had autism came as a surprise. “I truly did not know I had a disability until like 5th or 6th grade,” Majerus said. “(My social worker) was the one that told me I had autism and that I was different.” Despite this revelation, Majerus still had dreams of helping others by becoming a doctor. “But she (the social worker) is like ‘Ryan, you know that you have a disability. You can’t do those things. People with disabilities don’t get far in life. You would be lucky if you were to graduate high school,’” Majerus said. Majerus is a communication major at the University of North Dakota. He is identified to be on the lower end of the autism spectrum and is diagnosed with ADHD and Asperger’s. Despite this, it would be very hard to notice that he has a mental disability. People labeled as being autistic often face a litany of challenges. Autism spectrum disorder refers to a range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, speech and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors.

In addition, each case of autism comes with unique weaknesses and strengths. Temple Grandin is a famous example of what someone with autism can achieve in life. According to her website, templegrandin.com, she was unable to speak until she was three and a half years old. She was considered weird and was teased and bullied throughout high school, only making friends with people who shared her interests in horses, electronics and model rockets. Grandin is now a professor, inventor, best-selling author and a leading consultant to the livestock industry. Half of the cattle in the United States today are handled in facilities that she has designed. Her story is a good example that people with autism may struggle in certain areas but have tremendous ability in other areas. Understanding this, Ryan is a proponent of accepting others as they are. “Some people view acceptance as toleration of someone who has differences. But acceptance is being aware of people’s differences, and acknowledging them, and not criticizing them or ridiculing them because they have it. That doesn’t seem like too

much to ask,” Majerus said. Autism affects each person differently. “Every person can have different levels of autism,” Majerus said. “I couldn’t look people in the face. I couldn’t have a normal conversation. I was incredibly shy. I had absolutely no friends. I truly didn’t know how to act in social situations.” The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders is the universal authority in diagnosing mental disorders in the United States. There are many different criteria an individual must display to become diagnosed with autism. Some of these criteria include persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts and restrictive, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests and activities, according to the DSM-V. The DSM-V goes on to detail more specific examples and diagnostic criteria based on the severity of symptoms. Since each case of autism is unique, therapeutic resources must be tailored to meet specific needs for each individual. Different types of therapy “can include time spent in a developmental program, speech-language therapy,

occupational therapy, one-on-one or small group intervention, and parent delivered intervention,” according to autismspeaks.org. Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is a widely accepted therapeutic practice for autism. According to WebMD, ABA helps teach social, motor and verbal behaviors through observation and positive reinforcement. The best results require 20-40 hours of intensive ABA therapy each week, unfortunately making this type of therapy expensive. Therapy and treatment are used to help a person with autism to navigate through life easier. As people with autism are skilled in certain areas, the goal of therapy is to help mitigate their weaknesses to allow their individual strengths to shine through. “Because of how much help I’ve gotten, how much assistance I’ve gotten, I’ve become more attuned to people, like how they body posture, how they speak, their fluctuation in their voice, how they look at people,” Majerus said.



**Bilal Suleiman** is a Columnist for Dakota Student. He can be reached at bilal.n.suleiman@und.edu

**Missy Iio / Dakota Student** Ryan Majerus, a communications student at UND, was diagnosed with Autism on the lower end of the disorder spectrum in addition to ADHD and Asperger syndrome.

# UND Theatre department tackles controversial issues



**Brad Reissig / UND Theatre Arts** Gina Uhlir, Tyler Folkedahl and Karter Dolan star in the UND Theatre Arts production of Stephen Karam’s ‘Speech & Debate’ at the Burtness Laboratory Theater.

**Maddie Ardelean**  
Dakota Student

“I was surprised to see this performed in North Dakota,” theatergoer Mike Lukes said in response to “Speech and Debate.” “It was courageous and it gives me hope for this future generation. This past week, UND’s black box theater, located in the Burtness Theater, was styled to look like a high school classroom and a cast of four actors put on a coming of age story that was anything but cliché. “Speech and Debate” was a timely choice in plays. It explores homosexuality, young adult sexuality, teen pregnancy, the fear that comes from living outside of the accepted norms and dealing with repression of who they are. This production brings a heavy emotional load to the viewer, but one actor found it easy to relate to his character. “I’m a ball of anxiety and so is Solomon,” Karter Dolan said. However, personally relating to a character doesn’t come without a struggle. Dolan struggled with finding a way to respectfully represent and portray a gay character, when he is a straight man. For Tyler Folkedahl, his role was easy to step into. “It really wasn’t hard.

Our director, Emily, was great,” Folkedahl said. “Howie is pretty savage. One of my New Year’s resolutions this year is to be gayer than ever and Howie has really facilitated that.” “Speech and Debate” is different from many UND productions when comparing the size of the cast. With three main actors and one supporting actor, there’s a different vibe on stage. All three actors agreed

“One of my New Year’s resolutions this year is to be gayer than ever and Howie has really facilitated that.”

Tyler Folkedahl, that the group had become very close, working on an intense show with a lot of sensitive subject matter. They really got to know each other in a different way and it came across to the audience.

It’s hard to build intimate relationships when working with a large cast. Gina Uhlir also prefers acting with those more intimate connections in place. It was easy to see, both on stage and off, that these three actors had bonded firmly. There was an electric connection between them on stage. Off stage, it was like watching a group of siblings interact. Scenic and lighting designer Brad Reissig also weighed in on his preference for working with the black box theater environment. He also appreciates the versatility of the stage and the creativity it allows for him. The small cast and the small size of the theater really force the audience to engage with the content of the play. It’s impossible to tune out. The actors have spent time considering what they want the takeaway from all of this work to be. UND Theatre’s next performance is April 17-21. They will be playing “Mr. Burns.” It will be in the same intimate black box theater setting as “Speech and Debate.” For more information, visit the UND Theatre website.

**Maddie Ardelean** is an A&C writer for Dakota Student. She can be reached at maddie.ardelean@und.edu

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# Foster flies high



Trevor Alveshere / Dakota Student

Kyley Foster is a pole vaulter on the UND indoor track and field team.

## The accomplished pole vaulter prepares for outdoor season

**Madison Overby**  
Dakota Student

Kyley Foster is a junior at UND who has just recently added to her long list of accomplishments by finishing third in the pole vault at the Big Sky Conference Championships for indoor track. Foster also holds the school record in both the indoor and outdoor event, with a vault of 4.01 meters (13 feet 1.75 inches) and 4.06 meters (13 feet 3.75 inches), respectively. In high school, Foster competed in a wide variety of sports. She was in basketball, soccer, swimming and diving, gymnastics and track and field. Her pole vaulting career began early at 12 years old. She was encouraged to try pole vaulting because of her background in gymnastics. "I began cannonballing over the bar when I was around 12," Foster said. "I was a gymnast, so they wanted me to try pole vaulting since they thought I'd have more upper body strength. I believe it took until my sophomore year of college before I actually had upper body strength, so it was a nice thought." Although she jokes about lacking the upper body strength necessary for pole vault, Foster

was very successful in high school as well. Her senior year she placed seventh in the Minnesota State High School Meet for Class AA with a vault of 11 feet. Following high school, Foster was able to settle on UND pretty easily after touring the campus and meeting some teammates. She knew it was the place for her. Since Foster has been at UND, she has broken the school record in the pole vault as well as her own record multiple times since then. She has also finished with all-conference honors in the past three consecutive Big Sky Conference meets (indoor 2017, outdoor 2018 and indoor 2018). Although anyone looking at her list of accomplishments could only dream of such things, Foster isn't satisfied. "I did not achieve everything I wanted during indoor season," Foster said. "I was hoping to jump somewhere around 13 feet 5 inches to 13 feet 7 inches but couldn't quite pull it off this season. I am excited for outdoor because I've had some nice attempts around the mid 13 foot range, so hopefully within these next few meets I'll reach it." Approaching outdoor season, Foster has goals

that look lofty on paper. However, by going into each meet with a strong mindset and a good support system she has the world at her fingertips. "My biggest fan is Jesus, He's always got my back," Foster said. "Closely followed by my awesome parents, whose support is incredible. They always say they come to my meets just for a hug and a smile." Anyone who has met Foster would agree that she's the first person to make sure everyone else is being supported. Putting others before herself is something that seems to come so naturally to her, but once she reaches the runway her vault becomes a completely personal experience. "Pole vault is a mental game. The technique is difficult too, but pole vault is a very mental sport. There's always a little bit a fear whenever you grab a big stick you've never jumped on or the bar raises higher than ever before. You need to be able to commit 100% to the jump. If you don't, that's when things can go wrong," Foster said.

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Dakota Student File Photo

UND placed 11th in the men’s and seventh in the women’s events at the Big Sky Indoor Track and Field Championships in Flagstaff, Arizona February 22-24, 2018.

## Fighting Hawks have modest showing at indoor track championship

**Madison Overby**  
Dakota Student

The last weekend in February marked the end of the 2018 indoor track season with the completion of the conference championship meet in Flagstaff, Arizona. The University of North Dakota track and field team saw success on both the women’s and men’s side of things. Although the events on the track did not turn out as well as everyone had hoped, the teams were kept afloat by the field events. The men’s team had

two podium finishes with Nolan Hovland finishing second in the high jump and Tyler Kolander finishing third in the weight throw. Hovland has finished all-conference three times over the last three years. His jump of 6 feet 10.75 inches was one and a half inches shy of his school record in the indoor high jump. His school record jump won him the event at the 2016 Indoor Big Sky Conference Championships. “Conference went really well and I was very happy with how I did,” Hovland said.

“Now for outdoor I’m hoping to get more consistent at six feet ten inches and hopefully jump seven feet.” Kolander hit a personal-best in weight throw at exactly the right moment to make podium at the conference meet. His throw of 60 feet 11.5 inches was the third best throw in UND school history and a personal best of over a foot. The women’s team had three podium finishes leading off with Katelyn Weber taking the shotput title, followed by Molli Detloff in a record setting per-

formance to take second in the weight throw and Kiley Foster taking third in the pole vault. Weber also won shotput at the indoor conference meet last year with a school record throw of 50 feet 2.75 inches. She was just shy of that throw by one foot and a quarter inch. But her throw of 49 feet 2.5 inches this year was enough to dominate the competition and bring home the victory. Detloff broke her own school record in weight throw with a throw of 68 feet 3.75 inches to place second at the conference meet. There has

only been one person in Big Sky history that has ever thrown farther than that: Northern Arizona’s Brooke Anderson, who won the event with a throw of 73 feet. Both Anderson and Detloff are a couple of the best throwers in the nation. Rounding out the podium finishes for the women was Foster, who is also the school record holder in her event. Foster vaulted 13 feet 1 inch to take third in the event. She was three-quarters of an inch off of her personal best and school record in the indoor event.

“I didn’t achieve all that I wanted to,” Foster said. “I was hoping for a personal best, but it was tough mentally and I’m glad I was able to stay in it.” Head coach Kevin Galbraith was happy with the high finishes, but hoped for more from the team as a whole. “We just didn’t have it on the track like we’ve had it in past seasons,” Galbraith said. “The jumpers and throwers were the strength of our team this weekend.”

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## Golf’s future still uncertain

**John Gregg**  
Dakota Student

After being eliminated by the university in 2016, the Fighting Hawks men’s golf team plays on after the generosity of the community. The teams captain, Jeremy Kirk stated that though the team continues to play, it faces some challenges after being eliminated and later reinstated. “For our team specifically, the initial discontinuation threw us into an unnecessary rebuild process”, said Kirk, “Apart from losing some very valuable seniors my freshman year, we also lost two or three promising recruits. And I know since, it has been hard to recruit well because of the uncertainty surrounding the program”. Kirk, a junior chemistry student from Thunder Bay, Ontario, grew up playing many different sports but ultimately decided golf was the sport for him. “I enjoyed all the sports I played, but golf

was something I had been playing and loved since I was four or five-years old,” Kirk said. The decision to choose golf over other sports wasn’t easy at first for Kirk

by UND’s program. As a freshman on the team, Kirk experienced the university’s decision to discontinue the school’s team, leaving the players without options.

**“For our team specifically, the initial discontinuation threw us into an unnecessary rebuild process”**

Jeremy Kirk, golf team captain

“Some injuries early in high school made me reevaluate all the sports I was playing,” he said. “I felt that I had the largest ceiling for development in golf and pursuing it would allow me to reach the highest level of college athletics.” After years of hard work and dedicated practice, Kirk reached college golf and was recruited

“Of course, that was a very emotional time for all of us but for me, especially being a freshman, it left my future in disarray”, said Kirk. UND athletics decided to cut both the golf and baseball programs in the spring of 2016 in an attempt to cut close to \$13 million from the school’s budget. The decision came under heavy scru-

tiny and launched crowdfunding efforts to try and reinstate the teams. Jeremy Kirk explains the time after the university’s decision saying, “after that initial discontinuation, we received extraordinary support from alumni of the program, community members, local businesses and many good-willed people. With their support, we were able to self-fundraise enough funds in a two-month period to support our program for two more years.” The two years will expire

after this season and if the team is not reinstated, it will fall to its previous fate. “We are currently working on becoming fully reinstated for next year and beyond. This process is much more difficult,” Kirk said. For the team, life after being cut and reinstated has been hard. The team also experienced a coaching change to add to the chaos. Though the team has dealt with plenty of adversity over the past few seasons, they remain optimistic that the future of the program.

“Recent times have shown a positive direction for the team as a whole,” Kirk said. “Whatever the future may hold for the golf program, I know all of us on the team have loved representing UND and would love to continue doing so.” As for Jeremy Kirk, he hopes to attend law school in Canada after he graduates from UND.

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